

MAY 2009

Dear WPC members,

April 22, 2009

On behalf of the Second Wave Stewardship Committee we are especially pleased to advise that our campaign has more than *doubled* our target goal of \$25,000. This limited campaign began when two members of our congregation generously came forward with two "challenge grants" of \$12,500 and \$2,500. In response, we have received from our congregation seven new initial pledges in the sum of \$18,700, plus increased pledges in the amount of \$22,220. Thus, our total wave two result is \$55,920.

As a result of this tremendously successful campaign, our deficit has been substantially reduced. Moreover, Session continues to work with energy and purpose in finding ways to close the deficit altogether. In this connection, please keep in mind our upcoming fundraising event scheduled to be held at WPC on **Saturday, June 6**. Session members and other volunteers have been busy planning this event, which promises to be an evening of good food, fun, and fellowship – an opportunity to come together as a congregation to celebrate the diversity of our strengths and commitment to WPC.

On behalf of all Second Wave Stewardship Committee members, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for such an extraordinary response, especially in the midst of a serious economic downturn. The great success of this campaign is a powerful indication of our congregation's dedication and willingness to work together to further our fundamental mission. We remain sensitive to the fact that many in our congregation have been adversely affected by current conditions. For this reason, we are particularly gratified that so many have given so generously under these difficult circumstances.

Sincerely,

Amy Roberts,
Clerk of Session

Second Wave Stewardship Committee
Dan Delmar
Max Gabrielson
Jennifer Gabrielson

REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY

- Twelve more members pledged
- Thirty other members increased their pledges
- Thus the Follow-up Stewardship Campaign raised \$77,000
- Use of the Garland Fund added \$15,000 to revenue forecast
- A Fund Raiser may eliminate the forecasted deficit
- The Capital Reserve Fund received its normal contribution
- Programs and Committees received their full budget requests
- The Church in Action mission fund received its normal contribution

	Revised 2009 <u>Budget</u>	Original 2009 <u>Budget</u>	2008 <u>Actual</u>
<u>Revenue Changes</u>			
Pledge Units	125	113	134
Contributions	\$472,000	\$395,000	\$457,000
Garland Fund	\$15,000	0	0
Fund Raiser	?	0	\$22,000
Total Revenue	\$487,000	\$395,000	\$479,000
<u>Expense Changes</u>			
Capital Reserve	\$10,000	0	\$10,000
Programs & Committees	\$10,190	\$5,950	\$21,143
Mission paid From pledges	\$20,000	0	\$18,915
Forecast Deficit	\$19,300	\$77,600	\$12,217

ALONG THE WAY

“Five Loaves and Two Fish”

The Gospel of Mark says it better than I could even pretend to say of your response as a community of disciples of Jesus Christ to Session’s Second Wave appeal. Your responses in prayer. Your responses in contributions. Your responses in faith.

“Taking the five loaves and two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand.”

(Mark 6.40-43)

A “lonely” place. Five loaves. Two fish. Five thousand people. A prayer of thanksgiving. To heaven. And a miracle of enough real food for all these real people. I thank God every day for the privilege of pastoring you in Christ’s name; the miracles God prompts in you never cease to amaze me.

Grace and Peace,

David Graybill
Your Pastor

***** **SAVE THE DATE!** *****

Saturday, June 6, 2009

**WPC’S OFFICIAL STIMULUS & RELIEF PACKAGE!
An Evening of Friends, Fun, Food, Fellowship
. . . . and yes, Fundraising**

WPC'S Relief Package has arrived! And it promises to stimulate your social life while stimulating WPC'S budget! Simplicity is the theme this year....good comfort food, simple décor, and very few but fabulous auction items. Our goal....fellowship, fun, fundraising and outreach. In addition to an invitation which you will be receiving in the mail shortly, we have sent an email to all members detailing how YOU can help. Please consider inviting your friends from outside the WPC congregation. More friends means more fun! Extra invitations are available in the Narthex at the back of the Sanctuary. (Please email Lisa the names and addresses of friends you have sent invitations to). Further, you may find extra copies of the auction item request letter that was previously emailed to you in the Narthex. This letter details how you can help with specific auction donations we are seeking in addition to requests for donated wine, beer, soda and water, and prepared appetizers and desserts.

If you have any ideas or questions, please contact Lisa Lillie at sheflillie@aol.com and consider attending our next full planning meeting on Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00 pm at WPC.

Can we count on you? Remember, *Many Hands Make Light Work*

WORSHIP AT WILTON

Sunday, May 3, 2009

Easter 4

The Service for the Lord's Day

Senior Recognition Sunday

Nicole Carta, Chase McReynolds, Eric Roberts, Matt Yanoff, preaching

Call/Worship: Michael Garland
Readers: Matt Caswell, Jason Hoch
Scripture: Psalm 23
I John 3.16-24
Ushers: Sam & Claudia Halsey, Bill & Katie Mondora
Hymns: 442 The Church's One Foundation
171 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Anthem: Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Sunday, May 10, 2009

Easter 5

The Service for the Lord's Day

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

David Graybill, preaching

Call/Worship: Geoff Brown
Reader: Elaine Shields
Scripture: I John 4.7-21
Ushers: Mark & Mary Gibson; Perry, Karen, P.J. & Kate Seelert
Hymns: 495 We Know That Christ is Raised
473 For the Beauty of the Earth
361 How Firm a Foundation
Anthem: Affirmation

Sunday, May 17, 2009

Easter 6

The Service for the Lord's Day

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Baptism

Jane Field, preaching

Call/Worship: Lisa Lillie
Reader: Ann White
Scripture: Psalm 98
John 15.9-17
Ushers: John, Chase, Parker & Mac McReynolds
Hymns: 482 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
440 In Christ There Is No East or West
525 Here I Am, Lord
Anthems: Proclamation of Service
Down By the Riverside

Sunday, May 24, 2009
Easter 7
The Service for the Lord's Day

Memorial Day Sunday
David Graybill, preaching

Call/Worship: Dan Delmar
Reader: Susan Graybill
Scripture: Acts 7.54-8.1
Ushers: Ken & Pam Fadner
Hymns: 151 Crown Him With Many Crowns
462 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
564 America the Beautiful
Anthems: For all the Saints
Lauda Anima
Sing Me To Heaven

Sunday, May 31, 2009
Pentecost
The Service for the Lord's Day

Jane Field, preaching

Call/Worship: Cathy Thomas
Reader: Sandy Shifrin
Scripture: Acts 2.1-13
Acts 2.14-21
Ushers: Hank, Cindy, Ken, Charlie & John Watkins
Hymns: 128 On Pentecost They Gathered
314 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song
313 Come Down, O Love Divine
Anthems: The Power of My Spirit
Breathe on Me, Breath of God
I Will Sing With the Spirit

MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY BULLETIN

If you would like to include names of close friends or relatives in the Memorial Day Sunday bulletin who have served or are currently serving in the military, please submit the names to the church office no later than Monday, May 18 by calling 762-5514 or emailing Susie Gross at wpchurch@snet.net. Please include their name, service branch, rank and years of service.

BIBLE WITH THE BOYS

Tuesdays
Noon – 1:00 PM
Alcove

MORNING PRAYER

Thursdays
7:00 AM
Sanctuary

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

This sacrament will be administered on upcoming Sundays May 17, and June 21, 2009. Parents wishing to present their child(ren) for this sacrament are urged to contact the church office as far in advance as possible. Ordinarily, only two baptisms are scheduled at a single service.

NOTES ON PEOPLE

We hold close in prayer Gladys Bendix, mother of Bill Bendix, who is undergoing regular radiation treatments for cancer at Yale-New Hospital. Gladys is visiting with her son's family from her home in Florida.

Thank you to Steve Connor, Max Gabrielson, Barry Gutknecht, Mac MacGregor and Elaine Ottens for volunteering to help serve, etc., at St. Matthew's auction on Saturday, March 28. They did a fantastic job.

Tim Smith, son of Kit and Nancy Smith, suffered a pulmonary embolism; he returned home on April 7th from the hospital and is recovering well.

Thank you to florist, Nancy Gorkin, for supplying the flowers and plantings for worship on Easter morning and to interior designer, Courtney Kleeman, for their arrangement in the Sanctuary.

We extend our Christian sympathy WPC friend, Robert Bourguignon, at the death of his mother, Ardele, at Waterbury (CT) Hospital on Sunday, April 12.

We hold in prayer Margret Greene's mother, Susan Furchtenicht, who was in a serious car accident and will be recuperating at her sister's house in California. She will have at least a 6 - 8 week recovery.

CAN YOU HELP A NEEDY NEIGHBOR?

Saturday, May 2, 2009

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

AmeriCares HomeFront assists area homeowners with household repairs. We clean up the house and yard, perform light carpentry, paint, plant and lift the spirits of our neighbor in need. No skills are required. Some of you have wanted to go on one of our seven Katrina trips, but couldn't take the time off. This is an opportunity to do the same type of work in our own backyard.

Our house this year is in east Norwalk. If you can't make it for a full day, a half day would be great. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space. Please help us with this hands-on volunteer effort if you can. I guarantee you that you'll feel good at the end of the day. Contact Sonny Kern at 834-7654 or Linda Rost at 858-9596 for more information.

FLAT TIRE? BRING IT ANYWAY!

WHEN: SATURDAY MAY 9TH 11:00 AM- 2:30 PM
WHAT? THE CONNECTICUT BICYCLE PROJECT
WHY? DONATE TRANSPORTATION (AND FUN!) TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE
WHAT TO BRING: ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BICYCLES, TRIKES, BIG WHEELS, WAGONS, SCOOTERS
WHERE: THE PARKING LOT OF ST. MATTHEW'S AND WILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES
WHAT DO I DO ONCE I GET THERE?
GIVE YOUR DONATION TO THE VOLUNTEERS MANNING THE TRUCK

Questions? Contact Sandy Muschler 761.8730, wepco@snet.net

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

ATTENTION ALL CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS! Teacher Appreciation Party, May 7th, “Siete de Mayo” Fiesta. On May 7th at 6:30 pm JCCEC, our Church School Committee, is hosting a special appreciation party for everyone who has taught Church School anytime during the year. Our Church School teachers are numero uno so we want to thank them with an evening of fun, fellowship, Mexican appetizers, sangria, and no lessons to be taught. It will be a time to just enjoy each other’s company. If you have taught Church School this year, come join us in the Lounge at 6:30 on Thursday, May 7th.

SPRING MISSION PROJECT: On April 26th all of the Church School classes were busy making their creation for our annual Spring Mission Project. Each class created a small gift which will be gathered together into a decorated basket to be delivered after church on May 3rd to friends within our two churches. This project is a wonderful way for our children to reach out and connect with others in our church community. Children can go with their families to deliver these spring gift baskets. **Please volunteer to deliver.**

CHURCH SCHOOL NEEDS YOU! Many families come to our two churches because they are looking for an outstanding experience for their children. We are very fortunate to have extraordinary volunteers who make church school a welcoming and fun place for our children to grow in faith.

Every Sunday each class requires two teachers, one to lead and one to assist. This year we have had severe shortage of assistants. When you sign up to teach you can choose either to assist or to lead. Our curriculum is very teacher friendly and makes preparation easy to manage.

In order to fully staff our classrooms for next year, **WE NEED YOUR HELP.** By assisting or leading you are giving the gift of your time and talent in a way that is very meaningful to both of our churches.

This year we have been very blessed to have an exceptional group of high school church teachers, eight of whom are graduating. We are looking for high school students who enjoy working with children to come be a part of our teaching teams for next year.

We will have next year’s Church School teacher sign up poster in the courtyard in the coming weeks. Please join us in keeping our Church School program nurturing and vibrant by signing up to teach next year.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its April 21 Stated Meeting, Session took actions including the following:

- Heard a report from prospective Presbytery commissioners Max Gabrielson, Amy Roberts, and Cathy Thomas concerning a March 312 “Gathering of Churches” at Darien: Noroton concerning proposed amendments to our denomination’s Book of Order regarding ordination standards for Pastors, Ruling Elders, and Deacons;
- Authorized the confirmation of members of the 2009 Confirmation Class and recognition of Inquirers at morning worship on Sunday, May 17;
- Received first quarter financial report of the Church Treasurer and a final report on the Second Wave campaign;
- Authorized a thank-you letter to the congregation from Second Wave leaders Dan Delmar, Max and Jennifer Gabrielson, and Amy Roberts in the May Newsletter;
- Approved a revised 2009 WPC Operating Budget and authorized a summary of it in the May Newsletter;
- Heard an update concerning the June 6 fun, fellowship and fundraiser event;
- Docketed a triennial visit by Presbytery Committee on Ministry with Session on June 16 and invited Presbytery Executive Dana Lindsley to meet with Session that night as well.

BIKERS JOIN WPC

You can't judge a book by its cover. Or, look again. That mild-mannered, conservative and appealing couple with two teenage sons: Lisa and Bill Caswell...he, a Deloitte CPA, she a non-practicing CPA, gardener and mother of teenagers.....their hobby: motorcycle touring.

Remember the guy who stood up during the WPC annual meeting and said something like, "If everyone in this congregation gave \$40 per person, we would cover the Presbytery Assessment and take a step toward overcoming our shortfall. For my family of four, I hereby pledge \$160 above and beyond my stewardship commitment." Everyone was really delighted, not to mention impressed.

So who are these people? Lisa and Bill grew up in small towns in Pennsylvania. Bill from Wyalusing, an hour northwest of Scranton and Lisa from a suburb of Reading, in "Pennsylvania Dutch country".

When Bill was transferred to the Deloitte national office here in Wilton, they were open to relocating to a nearby town but destiny led them to WPC. Initially, Lisa and the boys stayed in Pittsburgh, and Bill commuted home every other weekend. During those "other" weekends, Bill explored different churches in this region. It was an interesting experience because in Pennsylvania there were many Presbyterian churches to choose from. Not so in Connecticut. In the end, Wilton Presbyterian Church offered a few moments of serendipity: their eldest son's Latin teacher, Max Gabrielson, went to WPC. Their younger son's reading/writing teacher was the pastor's wife. Hmm,...could it be more than coincidence? Their move to Wilton, as Lisa poetically says, began "two Novembers ago." That's when Bill started working here in his new capacity with Deloitte. The family spent a great deal of time apart over the next 7 months, as homes were bought and sold and the boys completed their school year. They came together again when they moved into their new home in mid-June.

About their children:

Bryan, also a member of WPC, is a sophomore, loves reading, history – especially Civil War and Greco-Roman. He is active in Boy Scouts, holding the rank of Life Scout, and has his eye on Eagle Scout. He is a percussionist in the band and enjoys the social aspects as much as the music.

Matt is an 8th grader and an avid athlete, especially cross country. He also has his 2nd degree black belt in Tang Soo Do karate. Recently, he surprised himself by learning guitar and loving it. Matt is currently in our confirmation class.

But back to the motorcycle touring.....a couple of years ago, Bill and Bryan took a father-son trip throughout Maryland and Virginia visiting Civil War battlefields. "It's a great way to see the country." Their favorite vacation spot is Ohio pyle and the Laurel Highlands region in southwest Pennsylvania. According to Lisa, it is everything outdoors ranging from whitewater rafting to hiking trails to ski slopes (as well as scenic roads for motorcycle enthusiasts).

Bill's favorite music is Van Morrison, as we may recall he quoted in a recent call to worship, but he enjoys singing in our choir even more. At the risk of personal humiliation and without shame, Lisa admits that she can often be found listening to Jimmy Buffett. She also really enjoys playing in our hand bell choir. Lisa is well aware that people might be surprised by the superficial contradiction between their apparent conservative appearance and their extracurricular interests. And now for another revelation....she and Bill fell in love on the job. We'll leave it up to you to ask more questions.

So this is the Caswell Family. Get to know them on your own. Their address is 68 Boulder Brook Road, telephone number is 210-7362, and their family email is caswil@optimum.net.

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

Time for some more random thoughts:

- First, an acknowledgement to our choirs for their outstanding work this past month. Palm Sunday featured not only our Sanctuary Choir, but our fledgling Youth Choir as well. The young people were key players in two of our anthems that morning.
- I'm grateful to Ed MacEwen for his solo work in "Jerusalem Rejoices", an anthem I wrote back in the 70s. (At that time, our daughter Meg sang in the St. Peter's Cathedral Youth Choir. This past month, I allowed as how she could sing with the adults in the Sanctuary Choir.)
- And it was wonderful to have Michael Garland, along with his WHS cohort, Brian Tangney, contributing their awesome trumpet skills and adding to the excitement of the portrayal of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem that morning two millennia ago.
- The following week on Easter Sunday, we pulled out a few more stops and added our wonderful Bell Choir to the mix. In particular, I can't tell you how many comments we received regarding the Processional Alleluia that morning. Great work, folks.
- And we welcomed back our favorite flutist, Naomi Senzer, to play the beautiful introduction to "On the Third Day" (not to mention adding her talents to all the other music that morning!) ... along with another trumpet duo, Brad Ridky (Naomi's husband) and Torin Thurston who provided the soaring brass accompaniment to our festive Easter hymns and anthems.
- Then it was time for a break! Jan and I skipped town to visit our other daughter in Florida and, God bless him, Glenn Shattuck – WPC's own Renaissance Man – filled in for me and the entire choir that following Sunday. Many thanks, Glenn!
- Another resounding word of thanks goes to all of you in the congregation who have so generously contributed to the Special Music Fund at times throughout the year. Although we have an all-volunteer choir, it is your continued donations that allow us the opportunity to feature professional musicians on special occasions during the church calendar. Many thanks to each and every one of you for your support of WPC's music program.

Now for a non-random thought:

Easter has passed, the weather is improving, the temps are rising, the gardens need tending, the winter lodging needs to be closed down, the ocean beckons and shore properties need opening up ... (please feel free to add your personal favorites here!) ... but God's work goes on, the church remains open, and our music program continues. To be sure, our choir member numbers begin to dwindle a bit as well. And on some Sundays, they may dwindle a lot. But we will continue to do our best to add meaningful music to your worship experience through June.

So if you're still in town, we'd love to sing for you. Trust we'll see you soon.

Al

YOUTH NEWS FOR MAY

Sunday, May 3

Worship Honoring Graduating High School Seniors, 10am
Children's Choir Rehearsal, 11:15am
Faith In Action High School Youth Group, 4:30-6pm

Sunday, May 10

2nd Grade Sacrament Education Class, 9:00am
Children's Choir Sings in Worship, 10:00am

Thursday, May 14

Sunday, May 17

Sixers 6th Grade Youth Group, 5-6:30pm, *End-of-Year Campfire*
Confirmation Sunday Worship, 10am
Koinonia 9th Grade Youth Group, 4:30-6pm
Katalysta 10th-12th Grade Youth Group, 4:30-6pm, *End-of-Year Bonfire*

Wednesday, May 20

7th and 8th Grade Youth Group, 6-7:30pm, *End-of-Year Picnic*

Sunday, May 31

2nd Grade Sacrament Education, 9:00am
Children's Choir Rehearsal, 11:15am

WPC is a partner in the Joint Youth Ministries Program, a cooperative venture with Zion's Hill United Methodist and St. Matthew's Episcopal Churches. Please contact Director of Spiritual Formation, Jane Field, jane@wpc.net or 762-5514 if you have any questions or concerns. If your family includes a 6th-12th grader and you have not been receiving our regular email reminders or "snail-mail" postcards, please let Jane know and we'll add you to the list right away!