

JANUARY 2010

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, January 31, 2010

In the Sanctuary

10:45 AM

Immediately after morning worship

To hear 2009 mission and ministry reports
To receive 2009 financial reports of the Church Treasurer
To receive the 2010 WPC Operating Budget
To elect at-large members of 2010 Nominating Committee.

All active members of the congregation are urged to attend and participate in this meeting. Friends are invited to attend and observe the best that is Presbyterian in action.

Copies of the Annual Report will be available after morning worship on Sunday, January 24, 2010 for you to pick up.

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Committee Leaders! Please submit your committee reports to the church office no later than Friday, January 8. Remember to include the members of your committee. Please email the reports to (wpchurch@wiltonpresbyterian.org). Questions? Contact Susie Gross at the email address or call 762-5514.

ALONG THE WAY

“A Countercurrent to the Current”

The season of Advent—the four weeks before Christmas—is what it is—a rush, a dash, a frenzy, a swift current of events. Both in the church and in the community. And yet, two recent events suggest a much welcome—and appreciated—countercurrent.

The first was an ‘event’ itself: an Advent Quiet Day. Right smack in the middle of Advent: December 15, to be exact. It was, appropriately, held not on a street or in a store, not in an office, home or meeting place; it was in the Sanctuary. It was, not unexpectedly, an event to which people in these parts flocked: just three people (including me!). It was not a fly-by on the way to somewhere else or a drop-in before something else; it was three hours of time...devoted to quiet. Its theme was not terribly practical (as the world often defines practical): “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus.” It was listening to soft music. It was beholding the gentle light of candles. It was reading aloud...and alone... the Biblical Christmas story. It was restful sharing. And it was wonderful and welcome. I could write more about what we did; but somehow writing about the experience diminishes what happened during this time...quiet instead of noise, being instead of doing, receiving instead of spending. There are simply no words adequate to the gift of such a sanctuary time in the midst of secular stuff...and the gift of God’s holy, whole Spirit in Patty Connor and Jen Reese to me.

The second was not an event, but a prayer that lay at the heart of last Sunday’s worship and sermon. The prayer speaks for itself; but, judging from the responses of people to it, it struck a human chord in many on this first Sunday of the New Year. Its title? “Prayer for the Hurried” (whose author is unknown to me). It goes:

*Slow me down, Lord!
Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind.
Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal, not the temporary.
Give me, amidst the confusion of my day, the calmness of thine own peace.*

The currents of our lives move so swiftly, so quickly, so hurriedly and with such energy and passion that we often forget how deep is our human need to be quiet, to wait, to slow down, to commit ourselves to times of just being. And this is just as true for children as for grown-ups. Do you remember a book some decades ago title The Hurried Child? Do you remember that God rested on the Sabbath day? Said nothing. Was quiet. Did nothing. Rested. Gave nothing...except the Sabbath to us as a day of rest and refreshment for our world-weary spirits.

I don’t know if here will be any **outcomes** of such a Quiet Day or such a prayer. Maybe there will. Maybe there won’t. The Lord knows. But I do know **incomes** from such times—quiet and calm and peace.

January blessings,

David Graybill
Your Pastor

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

This sacrament will be administered on upcoming Sundays January 24, April 11, May 16 and June 20. 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.

MORNING PRAYER

Every Thursday
7:15 AM
The Sanctuary

WORSHIP AT WILTON

Sunday, January 10, 2010
First Sunday After Epiphany
The Service for the Lord's Day

Choral Advent Worship
Offered by the Sanctuary and Bell Choirs
Al Galletly, director
The Ordination and Installation of Officers
Ruling Elder (Class of 2010)
Mac MacGregor
Ruling Elders (Class of 2012)
Buck Burnaman Sally Carta Courtney Kleeman Ellen Mann
Deacons (Class of 2012)
Mary Bendix Hilary Jacobs Marianne Krumm George Ryder Mary Jo Zieman

Call/Worship: Tom Mann
Ushers: Buck, Deborah, Emily, Ross, Hope & JD Burnaman
Hymns: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Lord, When I Came Into This Life
Anthems: Processional Alleluia
A Mother's Carol
Two Kings
Fantasia on Christmas Carols
Pretty Baby Born in Bethlehem
Hallelujah Chorus

Sunday, January 17, 2010
Second Sunday After Epiphany
The Service for the Lord's Day

Pivot Ministries
Dave Smith, preaching

Call/Worship: Susan Boardman
Reader: Elaine Shields
Ushers: Elaine Shields, Sonny & Carol Kern
Hymns: O Beautiful for Spacious Skies
To God Be the Glory
Lift Every Voice and Sing

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Festival of Children: Our children will lead all of us in worship at the Festival of Children on February 7th. The children will learn more about worship as each class prepares to lead a different part of the service. The sermon will be a play entitled "Monkey See!" presented by the 6th/7th grade class which they have been working on since December. In January, the younger classes will be each be preparing for leading the service in different ways- writing prayers or blessings, baking bread, learning the Lord's prayer in sign language or learning hymns to sing as anthems. This special Sunday worship is planned to be meaningful for all ages. Please help your children attend Church School in January as much as possible in order for them to enjoy all the preparations!

Upcoming Dates: January 10 and 24-Joyful Noise Sundays; February 7-Festival of Children

Sunday, January 24, 2010
Third Sunday After Epiphany
The Service for the Lord's Day

The Sacrament of Baptism
David Graybill, preaching

Call/Worship: Mac MacGregor
Scripture: Psalm 19
Luke 4.14-21
Reader: Irla Landry
Ushers: John, Chase, Parker, Mac McReynolds, Elaine Shields
Hymns: All Beautiful the March of Days
Live Into Hope
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Anthem: The Lord Bless and Keep You

Sunday, January 31, 2010
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
The Service for the Lord's Day

David Graybill, preaching

Scripture: Jeremiah 1.4-10
I Corinthians 13.1-13
Ushers: Lisa, Bryan & Matthew Caswell
Hymns: Though I May Speak
Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether
Anthem: The Gift of Love

NOTE: This will be an abbreviated worship service in order to accommodate the Annual Meeting which immediately follows, beginning at 10:45 AM in the Sanctuary.

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

Happy New Year, everyone!
And welcome to our second semester of the 2009-2010 church schedule.

My note to you this month is a brief one, to wit:

Please, please, please! Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 10. We've rescheduled December's "Big Music Sunday" to the 10th of this month.

Call it a little bit of Christmas in January. Seems a wee snowstorm blew in last month and forced this little calendar adjustment. WPC's Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir (and guest artists) have put in a lot of rehearsal time. I think you'll love the music even if it has come three weeks later than expected.

Hope to see you there.

Al

NOTES ON PEOPLE

We've received notice that former WPC member Geneva (Whitney) Courtwright died in Sarasota, FL the week before Thanksgiving.

It was our pleasure and privilege to welcome former WPC members Gwen Kaplan (now living in Richmond, Virginia) and Bob and Honey Evans (now living in Williamsburg, Virginia) to worship on Sunday, November 29.

Jim Kline, Nancy Gorkin's father, is recovering at home following a lengthy hospital stay for major cancer surgery in Michigan. Both Jim and his wife, Joan, as well as Nancy herself, appreciate the prayers coming from WPC.

We extend our sympathy to Leah Cohen, Rabbi at Temple B'nai Chaim in Georgetown, at the death of her sister, Jill Strouss, in Seattle, Washington on Monday, November 30.

Congratulations to former WPC member Matt and Jennifer Bergeron at the birth of their first child, Julia Marie, on November 23, 2009 in Pasadena, California. Matt is the son of former WPC members John and Lynne Bergeron (currently living in North Carolina).

We hold close in prayer Gladys Bendix, mother of Bill Bendix, has been a recent patient at Norwalk Hospital, evaluating treatment options in her continuing against lung cancer.

We rejoice with Bob and Lynette Darken, Resident Directors of the girls' ABC house, at the birth of their third child and first daughter, Annika Elisabeth, at Norwalk Hospital on Friday, December 4.

Carol Kern is recuperating at home (and church on January 3) from recent major back surgery at Greenwich Hospital.

Congratulations to Faith Sherman who has just been nominated for a 2010 Grammy Award! The category is "Best Opera Recording" and it's for her performance as a principal artist in John Musto's Volpone with Wolf Trap Opera. The recording is of a live performance and was recently released by Wolftrap Recordings.

"The father" of our congregation was simply speechless in his gratitude for the varied Christmas gifts offered by the congregation: a temporary job offer, a present for his son and daughter, and contributions through the Good Samaritan Fund toward his purchase of gifts for his children. Thank you! Thank you!

Sheri Richards is attending her mother, Martha Conley, in Sun City, Arizona, following a recent fall.

Carrie (Stanley) Morgan, a former WPC member and now ordained Presbyterian minister, has recently concluded interim work at Hackettstown (NJ) Presbyterian Church and is beginning as Pastor at the Presbyterian Church in Morris Plains, NJ. Her home address is: 8 Heather Way, Boonton, NJ 07005-9714; her (new) home phone number: 973-265-8320.

We hold close in prayer Lisa Bettke, as she continues to recover from nasty bouts with pneumonia, followed by the flu.

YOUTH EVENTS IN JANUARY

Wednesday, January 6

Saturday, January 9

Sunday, January 10

Monday, January 11

Tuesday, January 12

7th and 8th Grade Youth Group, 6-7:30pm

8th Grade Confirmation Class Field Trip to OLF, 5:15-6:15pm

9th Grade Koinonia Group, 4:30-6:00pm

10th-12th Grade Katalysta Group, 4:30-6:00pm

High School DC Mission Trip Orientation #3, 7:00-8:00pm

Sixers 6th Grade Youth Group, 5:30-7:00pm

Wednesday, January 20
Sunday, January 24
Sunday, January 31

7th and 8th Grade Youth Group, 6-7:30pm
High School Faith In Action Group, 4:30-6:00pm
8th Grade Confirmation Class Attends WPC Annual Meeting, 10:00am-
Noon

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. Unless otherwise noted, youth groups meet at the WEPCO complex, 48 New Canaan Road. Please contact Director of Spiritual Formation, Jane Field, at jane@wiltonpresbyterian.org 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!

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES NEWS

January Meetings:

Back 2 Nature – Weir Farm	Sunday, 1/31, 12 noon
Bible with the Boys – “Saving Jesus”	Tuesdays, 12 noon, in the Alcove
Get Real! Christian Ethics - Lynn Sapphire on Health Care Reform	Tuesday, 1/5, 7:30am in the Lounge
Girlfriend's Guide to the Bible “J Term” - The Power of Forgiveness	Fridays in January, 10:30am in the Alcove
Good Book Group - <u>Three Cups of Tea</u>	Wednesday, 1/20, 7:30pm in the Lounge
Third Thursday Movie Group – “Invictus”	Thursday, 1/21, 7:30pm in the Library
Sunday with the <u>Times</u> (Faith & Current Events)	Sundays at 9am in the Gathering Space Meditation Room
Two By Two Wednesday Dinner Group	Wednesday, 1/13, 7:30pm at the Mathews' home
Two By Two Thursday Dinner Group	Thursday, 1/7, 7:30pm at the Macals' home
Women's Ministries Friday Evening Gathering –	“The Power of Forgiveness” Friday, 1/22, 7:30pm (Location TBD)

As you can see from the above list, WPC's small group ministries program is busy, busy, busy! New groups can form at any time—just contact Director of Spiritual Formation Jane Field (762-5514 or jane@wiltonpresbyterian.org) for information about how to get started. There is discussion underway to start a group for those who want to learn more about the “basics” of Christianity, perhaps to begin during Lent. Stay tuned for details, or contact Jane Field if you are interested in participating.

If you needed any incentive to get involved in the dynamic and enriching experience that small groups offer, consider this feedback from a member of the Sunday with the Times small group:

I have personally come to view our little group like what I imagine AA to be like (or Las Vegas!): a covenant of trust and confidentiality that is sacred, i.e., "what happens in the Meditation Room, stays in the Meditation Room." Among us, I have the utmost feeling of trust and feel totally safe talking about anything, even things that put me in a bad light, and I am so grateful to everyone for that. It is a very liberating feeling!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its Stated Meeting on December 19, Session took actions, including the following:

- Completed its annual review of church rolls;
- Elected Frank Mabley, Church Treasurer; Steve Connor, Assistant Treasurer; and Chip Mason, Financial Secretary, for 2010;
- Gave its advice and consent to the following Leaders and Session Liaisons of Session Standing Committees:
Note: These are the “go-to” people for you to communicate your questions, comments, and suggestions in a variety of church life areas.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Session Liaison</u>
Adult Education	Barbara Quincy	Geoff Brown
Buildings/Grounds	Steve Connor	Buck Burnaman
Children/Youth	Jane Field	Buck Burnaman
Church Life	Lelei Coyle/Loralyn Cropper (January-June, 2010)	Courtney Kleeman
Deacons	Rachelle Bernabei	Sally Carta
Endowment	Tom Mann	Phil Jacoby
Finance	Kit Smith	Cathy Thomas
Information Technology	Paul Lourd	
JCCEC (Church School)	Sheri Richards	Courtney Kleeman
Mission	Linda Rost	Dan Delmar
Nominating	Sally Carta	Steve Connor
Outreach	Patty Connor	Ellen Mann
Personnel	Sandy Shifrin	Malcolm Keers
Stewardship	TBD	Max Gabrielson
WEPCO	Steve Connor Sam Halsey David Hull	Mac MacGregor
Worship/Music	Elaine Shields	Mac MacGregor

- Approved the call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 31, 2010 immediately following an abbreviated morning worship service;
 - Elected Session Commissioners to the 2010 Stated Meetings of Presbytery;
 - Approved 2010 Communion Schedule;
 - Approved Information Technology policy;
 - Conferred with Ruling Elders- and Deacons-elect and declared them ready to assume office;
 - Received as information an update concerning the 2009 Stewardship Campaign for 2010;
 - Received as information a Preliminary 2010 Operating Budget;
 - Decided unanimously “to defer until a more opportune time and in consultation with other churches in the Presbytery, two (previously approved) overtures to Presbytery concerning constitutional changes regarding ordination standards and a General Assembly authoritative interpretation regarding permission for Presbyterian clergy to officiate at same-gender marriage in states (such as Connecticut) where such marriages are legally permissible.
 - Received as information a 2010 Stated Session Meeting schedule;
 - Received, with great appreciation for their dedicated service, the “pearls of wisdom” offered by retiring Elders Lisa Lillie, Bill Rider, Amy Roberts, Glenn Shattuck, and Hank Watkins.
- All this in a little more than two hours! Whew! And praise the Lord!

**JOINT OFFICERS' CONFERENCE
THIS SATURDAY, JANUARY 10
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW CANAAN
178 OENOKE RIDGE ROAD
NEW CANAAN**

Elders, if you've not yet responded to Nancy Gorkin, Clerk, as to your attendance (or not), as soon as you read this, phone or email her!

Deacons, if you've not yet responded to Rachelle Bernabei, Moderator, at to your attendance (or not), as soon as you read this, phone or email her!