

**FEBRUARY 2010**

## **Festival of Children is February 7<sup>th</sup> in the newly renovated St. Matthew's sanctuary!**

**Children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
must arrive at 9 am to rehearse their part of the service.  
All children are invited to take part.**

**Remember to bring food or household items to donate to the Wilton Food Pantry.  
Our service has a theme of service to others which we are living out by bringing food for those who need it!  
See the list of requested items on the last page of this newsletter!**

Our Church School classes are now enthusiastically preparing for this year's Festival of Children, a joint worship service **for all ages** led by the children of both of our churches. Each grade level has a special responsibility in leading worship:

- The Kindergarten children are learning to say the Lord's Prayer in American Sign Language.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> grade class will lead the opening acclamation and prayer.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class has baked bread for communion and will give the offertory prayer.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class has studied and will lead the Nicene Creed.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> grade class has written and will lead the Prayers of the People.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> grade class has written and will lead the final blessing and will serve as ushers and greeters.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders are practicing their roles in this year's sermon/play, "Monkey See!" The sermon/play spotlights that our faith and science are not in conflict with each other and that we live out our faith by serving others.
- "Joyful Noise" children in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will sing

Our children learn about worship as they prepare to lead it, so we particularly value having your child in Church School as we prepare for the Festival of Children.

**Following the Festival of Children there will be a joint reception in the Parish Hall.**  
Please be sure to join us for this special day!

## ALONG THE WAY

*“When March is scarcely here, a color stands abroad”*

I’m writing this column the last week in January. I’m writing it for the February Newsletter. And I have my eye on the first weekend in March when, to paraphrase Emily Dickinson above, the color of spring—and of WPC will stand abroad.”

Right now I invite you to take out your personal/family calendars and open them to the first weekend—the whole weekend—in March. Because the colors of this congregation will be shining “abroad” in and beyond the Wilton community through that entire weekend..

**On Friday, March 5 at 8 PM in the WPC Sanctuary**, our music director, Al Galletly, is amassing a choir from many churches in Wilton to present a spring community choral concert. “He who sings once prays twice,” St. Augustine once wrote; and the singing in this concert will multiply our prayers several times over. There are many languages of God, but few unite people of various religious traditions more spiritually than music. It will be an ecumenical evening of high and holy spirit for the joy of God’s people...and a gift to our larger community.

**On Saturday, March 6 at 7 PM in the WHS Little Theater**, WPC (courtesy of our WPC Mission and Endowment Committees) is presenting a play, “Lonely Soldier Monologues (Voices of Women at War in Iraq),” based on a book by Helen Benedict of Columbia University and directed by William Electric Black. Several WPC members previewed this play when it was first presented at LaMama Theater in New York in the fall and came away with our hearts deepened, our consciences awakened, and our faith strengthened. It is a play focusing on a strong theme with some strong language, so it is recommended for children high school age and above. This WPC presentation of a “social justice” issue in dramatic form follows previous WPC productions of “My Soul Is A Witness” and “Jackie, Vi, and Lena” that highlighted the civil rights struggle in our nation. The struggle of women soldiers (and veterans) who have served in harm’s way to secure our freedom and to prepare a way for peace amongst others is no less a struggle. This play will be a thought-provoking gift not only for us but for our larger community!

Then **on Sunday, March 7 at 10:30 AM at Grace Baptist Church** (The Rev. Lindsay Curtis, Pastor), Wilton Presbyterians and Grace Baptists will worship together for the fourth consecutive year. Last year Grace Baptists were at WPC; this year Wilton Presbyterians will be at Grace Baptist (17 West Ave., South Norwalk). This service is, without doubt, one of the liveliest and holiest of services in our worship year; and no clearer witness happens to our faith that we are “all are one in Christ” than when we sing and pray and commune together with our African-American brothers and sisters. The service is for people of all ages, most especially our children and young people. But remember: on this Sunday we Wilton Presbyterians will be worshipping God there at Grace Baptist, not here at WPC...and at 10:30 AM.

I know it’s only February, but do get out your calendars now and mark this first weekend as a weekend not only of color in the world’s nature but of color in your faith...as we follow the way of Jesus Christ through Lent both within and beyond the walls of our own congregation and witness to the glory, justice, and love of God we know and name Jesus Christ. It is the events of just such a weekend “when March is scarcely here” that prompt my own button-busting pride and humility in serving God as your Pastor.

Grace and Peace,

David Graybill  
Your Pastor

### **BIBLE WITH THE BOYS**

Noon – 1:00 PM  
in the Alcove  
Theme: Saving Jesus

### **MORNING PRAYER**

Every Thursday  
7:15 AM  
in the Sanctuary

**WORSHIP AT WILTON**

**Sunday, February 7, 2010**  
**Epiphany 5**  
**The Service for the Lord's Day**

***THE JOINT FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN***

In  
St. Matthew's Nave  
6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Graders of Wilton Presbyterian and St. Matthew's Episcopal, preaching  
Liturgy led by the Children of the Joint Church School  
The Celebration of Eucharist

**Sunday, February 14, 2010**  
**Transfiguration Sunday**  
**The Service for the Lord's Day**

The Rev. Joan Priest , preaching

Reader: Emily & Ross Burnaman  
Scripture: Exodus 34.29-35  
Luke 9.28-36  
Ushers: Sonny Kern, Claire, Geoff & Scott Brown  
Hymns: 75 O Wondrous Sight, Vision Fair  
388 O Jesus, I Have Promised  
339 Be Thou My Vision  
Anthem: Be Thou My Vision

**Wednesday, February 17, 2010**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
**The Lounge**

David Graybill, leading

6:30 PM – Pot-luck supper for children, teens, and adults (in the Lounge)  
7:15 PM – The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (in the Sanctuary)

**Sunday, February 21, 2010**  
**Lent 1**  
**The Service for the Lord's Day**

David Graybill and DC Mission Participants, preaching

Scripture: Psalm 91.1-6; 14-16  
Luke 4.1-13  
Ushers: Beth McCain, Patty & Steve Connor  
Hymns: 81 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days  
80 Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley  
260 A Mighty Fortress is Our God  
Anthem: It Is Well With My Soul

**Sunday, February 28, 2010**  
**Lent 2**  
**The Service for the Lord's Day**  
David Graybill, preaching

Reader: Patty Connor  
Scripture: Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18  
Luke 13.31-35  
Ushers: Marianne Wilson, Katie & Kevin Nugent  
Hymns: 488 The God of Abraham Praise  
179 God is My Strong Salvation  
83 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High  
Anthem: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

The sacrament of baptism was administered to Emma Sofia Wagner, daughter of Neil and Anna Wagner, and granddaughter of Mary and Marty Wagner, in the Sanctuary on Saturday, January 23.

This sacrament will be administered on upcoming Sundays 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.

**NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM**

**The date is Friday, March 5.**

**The time is 8:00 p.m.**

**The event is our third annual Community Spring Choral Concert**

**The place is our WPC Sanctuary**

**Cost: Free! (Well, there will be a freewill offering at which time we hope you will be absurdly generous!)**

Some additional information: We started this choral concert series two years ago as a gift to the town of Wilton; and to provide an opportunity for our local church choir personnel to get together and collectively perform some wonderful music which normally our small-sized choirs don't get the opportunity to sing.

Choir members from WPC, St. Matthew's, Our Lady of Fatima, First Baptist and Wilton Congregational, and members of the Wilton Singers will be participating. The program this year promises to be very exciting and rewarding – both for the performers and listeners. The program outline is:

- Nata Lux (from Morten Lauridsen's absolutely gorgeous "Lux Aeterna")
- John Rutter's "Requiem"
- A number of spirituals selected from John Rutter's "Feel the Spirit"
- "Every River Bends" by Chris Brubeck

Rehearsals are already underway and we hope to have a chorus of 50+, along with guest instrumentalists.

So please mark your calendars. This promises to be another wonderful spring concert ... right in our own Sanctuary. Hope to see you there.

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## YOUTH EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

- Monday, February 1** High School DC Mission Trip Orientation #3, 7:00-8:00pm
- Wednesday, February 3** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group, 6-7:30pm
- Wednesday, February 10 – Tuesday, February 16**  
High School Mission Trip to Washington DC
- Wednesday, February 17, Ash Wednesday Dinner & Worship**  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class, 6:30-8:00pm
- Sunday, February 21** 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Koinonia Group, 4:30-6:00pm  
10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Katalysta Group, 4:30-6:00pm
- Tuesday, February 23** Sixers 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group, 5:30-7:00pm
- Wednesday, February 24** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group, 6-7:30pm  
(Includes 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class)
- Sunday, February 28** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class, 10:00-11:15am  
High School Habitat for Humanity Applications DUE

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, [jane@wiltonpresbyterian.org](mailto:jane@wiltonpresbyterian.org) or 762-5514 if you have any questions or concerns. If your family includes a 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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!

## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

### - Lenten Home Communion for Women -

Date: TBD

At the home of TBD

Please RSVP to Jane Field (762-5514, [jane@wiltonpresbyterian.org](mailto:jane@wiltonpresbyterian.org)) if you can join us.

### - Walking the Labyrinth -

Wednesday, February 24, 2:00 to 4:00pm & 7:30 to 9:00pm in Parish Hall

Women of the church are invited to participate in this form of "walking meditation" on a room-sized labyrinth that will be installed in Parish Hall. Participants will be self-directed in the experience, although resources and instructions will be available outside the Parish Hall doors to provide orientation and explanation. Women are welcome to come and go at their own pace any time between 2:00 and 4:00 in the afternoon or 7:30 and 9:00 in the evening. There is no need to RSVP if you plan to participate. However, we do need some volunteers to help provide light refreshments for participants—if you can help, please contact Elder Cathy Thomas (914-533-2580 or [bg1canton@aol.com](mailto:bg1canton@aol.com)).

### - Registration for Women's Retreat -

Be sure to register for the March 27 women's retreat at the Mercy Center in Madison, Connecticut. Spend a day apart at this beautiful facility overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and enjoy drawing closer to God and to sisters in the faith from your church family. For more information, or to register, contact Jane Field (762-5514, [jane@wiltonpresbyterian.org](mailto:jane@wiltonpresbyterian.org)). (If there is interest, we may get a block of rooms at a nearby hotel Friday, March 26, and make it a sleepover for those who are able to get away the night before!!!)

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES NEWS

### *February Meetings:*

Get Real! Christian Ethics Lecture Series – Joe Dionne on Business Ethics  
Tuesday, February 2, 7:30am in the Lounge

Bible with the Boys – “Saving Jesus”  
Tuesdays, 12 noon, in the Alcove

Times on Sundays (Faith & Current Events)  
Sundays at 9am in the Gathering Space Meditation Room

Back 2 Nature – Hike at Weir Farm with reception following  
home of Bill and Susan Mathews  
Sunday, February 7, 12 noon

Third Thursday Movie Group – Film TBD  
Thursday, February 18, 7:30pm in the Library

Good Book Group - Here If You Need Me by Kate Braestrup  
Wednesday, February 24, 7:30pm in the Lounge

“Race Matters” Conversation with Members of Grace Baptist Church  
Tentative Date: Thursday, February 25  
(Speak with the pastor if you are interested in participating)

Two By Two Wednesday Dinner Group  
Next Gathering: Wednesday, March 3, 6:30 PM  
at home of Pam and Chris Kelley

Two By Two Thursday Dinner Group  
Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>  
at the home of Sue and Rich Macal

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Authorized, from the Sanctuary Fund, the purchase of the pulpit in the Sanctuary of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church as an expression of our gratitude for the gift of our joint venture and in honor of the completion of the renovations to their Sanctuary to the glory of God;
- Received as information note of the beginning of discussions including WPC’s Pastor and Clerk of Session, focusing on renewal of an interim Joint Youth Ministries agreement with St. Mathew’s Episcopal and Zion’s Hill United Methodist churches;
- Received the 2009 financial report of Church Treasurer Frank Mabley for presentation to the congregation at the January 31 Annual Meeting;
- Adopted a 2010 Operating Budget for presentation to the congregation at the January 31 Annual Meeting.

Next Stated Meeting Tuesday, February 9, 2010 7:30 PM in the Lounge
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## NOTES ON PEOPLE

Carol Kern is undergoing physical rehabilitation following back surgery.

We extend our Christian sympathy to Debbie Miller, whose husband, Robert, died Tuesday, December 30 in Worcester, Massachusetts. Robert was a close friend of Sam and Claudia Halsey.

We welcomed members of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class at Temple B'nai Chaim in Georgetown (Norman Tanen, teacher; Leah Cohen, rabbi) on Sunday, January 10th. They were visiting with us as part of their study unit on world religions.

We hold close in prayer Nancy Dolnier, whose mother in Phoenix, Arizona, is recovering from a recent stroke.

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 this month 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 extend our Christian sympathy to Arne Gittleman and his daughter, Jane (both members of WPC's extended family), at the death of his wife and her mother, Marilyn "Stevie," at The Village at Waveny Care Center in New Canaan. A memorial service was held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, January 9. Her ashes will be interred in the PC Memorial Garden at a later date.

We extend our Christian sympathy to Genia Meinhold, another member of WPC's extended family, at the death of her mother, Rose Kobuskie, in Gloversville, NY last month. A funeral service was held in Gloversville, NY.

Paul Lourd, on behalf of the mission committee, thanks Anne Delmar and Erica Lourd for their help at Americares in Stamford CT on Wednesday, January 6th.

We rejoice with Frank and Judy Mabley at the arrival of their first grandson, Tariku Kevin Mabley, son of Kevin and Beth Mabley (in Fairfield, CT), on December 30, 2009.

We extend our Christian sympathy to Sheri and Gary Richards at the death of Sheri's mother, Martha O. Conley, on January 20, 2010 in Sun City West, AZ. A funeral service was held on Saturday, January 23.

We continue to hold close in prayer Gladys Bendix, mother of Bill Bendix, in hospice care at Brookdale Place in Wilton.

Susan Tannian is recovering steadily and successfully from a nasty bout with a staph infection.

Alix Williams, former WEPCO custodian and native of Haiti, writes that he has been in communication with his Uncle Eddy, Uncle Chine, and cousin Eddith. "My Uncle Eddy lost his leg, so please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. It means a lot to me. God bless!"

## NEW MEMBERS

It was with great pleasure and privilege that Session welcomed Bob Hoch and Laura Schwemm as new members on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at their Called Meeting before worship. Bob and Laura have three children: Jason, Molly (member of the current Confirmation Class) and Nora. Mary Marquardt is their Deacon. They joined by reaffirmation of faith. As you have opportunity do extend your right hand of Christian fellowship to them.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Session to receive new members will be on Sunday, February 28, 9:30 AM in the Gathering Space.

The **Festival of Children** is on **Sunday, February 7th**  
in keeping with the theme of the service  
St. Matthew's and WPC will be collecting donations of  
**Household and Grocery Items for Wilton Social Services Food Pantry**

Here's what would help most:

**Stop and Shop Gift cards** so clients can purchase fresh produce, dairy products, meat, poultry, etc.

· Paper goods (paper towels, Kleenex, napkins) · Laundry detergent · Dishwashing detergent · Fruit juice (bottles)  
· Coffee, regular and decaf, instant and ground · Tea · Toothpaste and toothbrushes · Deodorant · Shampoo and  
conditioner · Bath soap · Pasta Sauce · Dinty Moore Beef/Turkey Stew · Salad dressing, mayo, ketchup and mustard  
(small sizes) · Jam and Jelly (no grape)

**PLEASE, VERY IMPORTANT!**

NO peanut butter, No tuna, No canned tomatoes, NO tomato paste, NO canned vegetables, NO pasta, NO beans of  
any kind, NO canned salmon, NO canned soups (they have an abundance of these items) and **PLEASE**, no expired  
or dented cans.

Please bring donations to the Festival of Children service. All donated items will directly benefit Wilton families in  
need during these economically challenging times. Thank you for your generosity!