

JUNE 2011



A Stephen Series Congregation
TIME DATED MATERIAL



The newsletter of Wallingford
Presbyterian Church

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Director of Music
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Spirit Song—JUNE

From the Pastor's desk

"Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; hold not back, lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes." Isaiah 54:2

The prophet Isaiah spoke to the people of God who were living through a difficult and seemingly barren time. The people had been in "travail" the text tells us, experiencing desolation.

Even so the word from God was that they needed to wipe their tears, wash their faces and get up to make their tents bigger! Can you imagine a people who felt as though they were getting smaller, were beaten down, had no future being told that they needed to move the walls out for all the blessing that was about to come?

What's more, can you imagine being brave enough, in similar circumstance to do the same? Sometimes, in counsel with individuals who are suffering the sense that they "have nothing to look forward to," there comes just such a courage. Even in the absence

of evidence for hope, they decide to anyway!

This decision, to turn away from the conviction that an empty "tent," a hopeless circumstance defined them, is a profound act of faithfulness. When we move and live believing that Good is on the way, when we get up to "move the walls of the tent out," even before there is evidence that company is on the way, we are putting ourselves squarely into the care of God. Instead of all the problems, our hope comes to define us.

Whatever you are facing, however "tight" the space you are in may seem, accept the prophet's challenge—move the walls of your tent as an act of confidence in God who is already at work to bring you good!

Many blessings, continued prayers,

Pastor Suzan

Summer Worship and Sunday School to begin on May 29th

On Sunday, May 29th, we begin our summer worship and education schedule:

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School and Breakfast

10 am: Worship Celebration

10 am: nursery care for children birth–2 years old

10 am: Summer Sunday School for children 2–11 years old

11 am: Coffee hour

At 10 am, all children, two years old and older, begin in the sanctuary with their parents. After the "Time with Young Disciples," children, two to eleven years old, leave the service for Bible stories and crafts. Let this laid-back learning be a blessing to your children! Parents can pick their children up after the worship service in the Reception Room.

**2011 Pentecost Offering
(Don't forget to wear RED on
Pentecost Sunday, June 12th! The
color red is a symbol of the gift of
God's Holy Spirit to the Church.)**

The Pentecost Offering is traditionally received on the day of Pentecost which this year is on June 12th. It provides a direct way to meet the

needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Congregations are encouraged to keep 40 percent of the offering to support ministry with children at risk in their communities.

Our Mission and Service Team will identify and announce the recipient of this year's portion of the offering after the amount of the gift is known.

The General Assembly's portion (60 percent) provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children-at-risk programs at the national level. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised over \$7 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God's family.

Please look for special Pentecost Offering Envelopes available in the pew pockets on June 12th and make your contribution towards peace in our world, our time, our children.



Men's Retreat

Please mark your calendar for the WPC's Men's Retreat. This will be an amazing opportunity to spend some time with other men of faith, exploring both the great outdoors and what it means to be a Christian man in today's world. Specific topics and activities are still being finalized and details will be coming soon. We expect the cost to be around \$75 per person, and if money is a problem, let us know and we can help! We will leave from the church around 8:00 am on Saturday, November 5 and will return around noon on Sunday, November 6. We'll spend the night at Kirkwood Camp and Conference Center in Stroudsburg, PA. Join us for fantastic fellowship as we get to know each other better around a camp fire! If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Bob Foley, Frank Grunseich, Tom Halley, Jerry Rafter or Pastor Rob Ross.

Summer Adult Bible Study: Favorite Bible Passages Sundays in June and July, 8:45AM

Led by our pastors, this informal adult study will focus each week on a different favorite scripture passage and include a light breakfast to share. Follow the smell of coffee and find us in the Reception Room next to the kitchen!

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

When we take on the name "Christian" we become walking, talking, living reflections of the Lord that we serve. As someone once said, "You may be the only Bible that some ever read." As summer may afford you time away for travel, recreation and hospitality, please remember to continue in faithful partnership with Christ's church, Wallingford Presbyterian. Be faithful in daily prayer and scripture reading (remember the challenge to read a Psalm a day!). Be regular in worship wherever you may be in your travels. Keep current with your pledge of financial support to your Church and be above and beyond generous when you are called upon to serve. Wherever we are, whatever time it is, may we be found faithful.

Change in Ordination Standards for the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Over the past 40 years the churches of the PCUSA have been studying, discussing and praying over the question of whether or not a person's sexual orientation and practice impact their capacity to serve in ordained office as elder, deacon or pastor. This thoughtful and spirited deliberation has swung back and forth on the floors of all of our governing bodies; the sessions, Presbyteries and the General Assembly itself (our church's national gathering). Over the years, our denomination has supported standards in our constitution, the Book of Order, that when enforced, prevented persons who were homosexual from holding office. At each General Assembly where a vote was taken concerning this prohibition, support for maintaining it has declined. Nonetheless, the conflict over the issue has caused much division and conflict in the body of Christ that is Presbyterian.

At the 219th General Assembly held in Minneapolis in July 2010, the Assembly approved a change in ordination standards of the PCUSA. This change has now been approved by a majority of Presbyteries across the country and will result in the addition of the following paragraph to our church constitution.

Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life. The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation. Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates."

By omitting specific reference to the previous standard "...the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness," this new paragraph gives governing entities contextual liberty and upholds the long held authority and responsibility of ordaining bodies to determine the suitability of each candidate for office.

This new standard, which will permit sessions and presbyteries to make decisions with regard to ordaining candidates for office that reflect the contextual discernment of each body, will permit those who see their way clear to permit the ordination of persons who are practicing homosexuals.

In the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in this congregation, what this will mean is that

1. Sessions and presbyteries will continue to have authority and responsibility to examine and authorize persons for ordained office. Each governing body will discern and determine degrees of strictness or leniency on all standards required for ordination.
2. Persons who are in same-gender relationships who are members in good standing of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be eligible to be considered for ordination into the office of elder, deacon and pastor.

These changes, now ratified by the majority of presbyteries, will be put into force on July 10, 2011.

If you have questions, if you want to know more, if you need to talk about this issue, please contact either Pastor Hawkinson or Pastor Ross. You may also learn more on the website for the Presbyterian Church (USA) which is www.pcusa.org.



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Currently serving on
Session:

Class of 2012: Chris Darr,
Harold Floyd, Chris Macy, Liv
Mansfield, Henrik Oetinger,
Helene Wastler

Class of 2013: Dan Glenn,
Walter Kaminski, Andrew
McAdoo, Barbara Meahl,
Kenneth Rose

Class of 2014: Judy
Kenworthy, Mike Meloy, Rick
Miller, Holly Renegar, Julia
Winton

From the Clerk of Session

At the May 2nd meeting the session:

Approved the baptism of Carter Michael Zeszut, son of Dennis and Colleen Day Zeszut. This is planned for May 22.

Listened as Ron Bloch, moderator of the capital campaign committee presented a status report. This report identified some projects already identified, some being considered and some cost estimates.

Learned the deacons delivered 25 food baskets the day before Easter.

Approved a congregational meeting for June 5 at the conclusion of the service to elect the remaining members of the nominating committee.

The next meeting of the Philadelphia Presbytery is on Tuesday, May 24 at the First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia beginning at 10AM. Our church is permitted 3 elder/commissioners at this meeting.

Barbara Meahl, Clerk

From the General Assembly

A majority of Presbyteries in the United States have approved the amendment to change the requirements for ordination as a pastor, elder, or deacon. These changes were outlined in this column a few months ago. The new amendment will take effect at the end of July 2011.

**Concerns/Celebrations
of our Church Family**

We are one body in Christ...related to each other by the love of God between us. One of the ways that we celebrate our unity is by continuing to hold each other, especially those of us struggling, in daily prayer.

This month we prayed for:



- ♥ Don & Alice Oetinger
- ♥ Patti Bonanno's sister, Jackie Brennan
- ♥ Teresa Ahern-Sawyer's brother, Jerry Ahern
- ♥ Virgil Huff, Sally Bloch's father
- ♥ The Sass family
- ♥ Kent Henry after an automobile accident
- ♥ Jean Hogan
- ♥ Ken Griswold after knee surgery
- ♥ Wayne Brown, complications after surgery

Our sympathy as a church family to:

- ♥ Mark and Lynn Morton and family on the loss of Mark's father, David Morton on April 26.

Mission Kits

Thank you to those who contributed to Church World Service Mission Kits. The Women's Association was able to send 10 health kits, 10 school kits, and 5 baby kits.

MUSIC MINISTRY

SUMMER MUSIC

During our summer worship schedule (from Memorial Day through Labor Day), there will be opportunity almost every Sunday for a volunteer to share their musical talents with the congregation. Singers and instrumentalists of all ages are invited to pick a Sunday or two, and come and sing or play during worship. If you are interested, or even would just like some more information, please contact me by email at music@wallingfordpres.org or call 610-566-1644 x15. I can help arrange for duets, small groups, instrumental ensembles - anything you'd like to do! Music of all styles is welcome - classical, jazz, pop, etc. Dates are starting to fill up, especially for June and early July, so if you want to sing or play then, let me know ASAP!

THANK YOU

Thank you to our choir and bell choir for another wonderful year of providing music during our weekly worship service. Both groups give a lot of time throughout the year to prepare not only for our weekly Sunday services, but also for those special services in our church - Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. They are all on a well-deserved hiatus until September, but I wanted to send out a thank you to all for your hard work and incredible dedication to our music ministry. Thank you!

TAIZE

We are planning one special Taize Prayer Service for the summer - a Friday evening Taize under the Stars! Imagine singing and praying in our lovely courtyard, surrounded by candles and the scent of flowers and trees. More details will be available in the coming weeks, so if you're already a Taize follower, or if you want to give it a try, be on the look out for the official announcement of our Taize under the stars service!

For more information, questions, or to get involved in any aspect of the Music Ministry, please email me (music@wallingforpres.org) or phone me (610-566-1644 x15 or 215-738-2227) at any time!

Christian Education

Vacation Bible Camp ReNew

Is SUMMER on your mind already? Well, if so, then VACATION BIBLE CAMP should be, too! This year, our **ReNew Vacation Bible Camp experience will run from 6:00 to 8pm during the week of July 24th to July 29th.**

Mark your calendars!

We want to get as many volunteers as possible involved in preparing for the week, helping with our sowing and planting as the children create their own miniature gardens, and most importantly—praying for the spiritual growth of the children of our church and community this summer. We need YOUR support to make this happen!

We are looking for volunteers to assist as shepherds, activity site leaders, preschool leaders, snack helpers, game leaders, and decorators. Interested?! Then contact Michelle Grunseich at medgrunseich@yahoo.com to find out how you can get involved. Our volunteer orientation and training workshop will be held on **Wednesday, May 25th at the church at 7pm.**

In preparation for our big week, we need donations to help make our recycling and environmentally-conscious week a success. **Please save the following:**

WE WANT THEM!!

- Small tomato paste cans** **Old t-shirts (especially green)**
- Baby food jars** **Maps of Pennsylvania, US , & the world**
- Small wheels** **Pictures of people from (different parts of the world)**
- Springs** **Seed catalogs**
- Chicken wire** **Magazines with plant pictures**
- Old games/game pieces** **Egg cartons**
- Old greeting cards** **String and yarn**
- Spray/mist bottles** **Ric-rack**
- Pompoms** **Googly eyes**
- Ribbon** **Sequins**
- Yogurt & margarine containers** **Old pillowcases**
- Gift bags that you don't want**



Let's challenge ourselves as a congregation to see how much we can REUSE to make the week learning about the Parable of the Sower a green, renewing experience! Please bring your donations to the narthex beginning June 7 or call Michelle Grunseich

at 610-892-5282.

Thank you!

Children's Summer Sunday School

During the summer, all children, two years old and older, begin in the sanctuary. (Children under two spend the morning in the nursery.) After the Time with Young Disciples, children aged 2-10 leave the service for Summer Sunday School. For the rest of the hour, kids will share the adventures of two new friends: Mackey and Portia. Over the last two summers, our kids have followed Mackey and Portia's adventures through the ancient cities of Alexandria and Jerusalem. This summer, Mackey and Portia will travel to Rome, as their quest to understand Christianity and live as Christians under Roman rule enters its exciting final chapter. Kids will follow them on their travels, as they learn to help those in need, to choose the way of peace instead of violence, and to remain true to their faith, even when that faithfulness makes life hard. After hearing about their latest adventure, kids make a craft together. Everyone is welcome, and we love meeting new friends! So come share in our adventures at Summer Sunday School!



Opportunities for growth & service

Curious about Teaching Sunday School?

Each year, a dedicated team of adults teaches the stories, values, and practices of the Christian faith to the next generation of Christians. Many of our teachers return to teach the next year. However, every year, we have a few teachers who decide that God is calling them in a different direction. Therefore, every year, we look to you, our congregation, to answer the call to teach. At this time, there are two great opportunities.

The first opportunity is Summer Sunday School, which runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Children (2 years old to graduated 5th graders) will be shown a video from the series entitled *Friends and Heroes*. Kids learn Christian values and Bible stories as they follow the adventures of Mackey and Portia, two children living in ancient Rome in the first century AD. Teachers will briefly introduce the movie, watch the movie with the kids, and lead a short (10 minute) time of processing the movie – through discussion, crafts or other activities. We are looking for two teachers for each Sunday, and you can sign up for as many Sundays as you'd like! As a teacher, you will receive a brief orientation and a will have your materials and lesson plan prepared for you. If you would like to sign up, look for the sign-up poster in Fellowship Hall or contact Pastor Rob (610-566-1644 ext 13 or rob@wallingfordpres.org).

The second opportunity is regular Sunday School, beginning this September and concluding next May. We are currently looking for teachers for two of our classes (K-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grade). Each class has

four teachers assigned to it, who share the teaching schedule in teams of two, so that each teacher teaches two weeks per month. There are always two teachers in each classroom. We also maintain a roster of substitute teachers. The curriculum is chosen by the Children's Ministry Team in coordination with the pastoral staff. If you are considering teaching in the fall, or would simply like more information, please contact our Sunday School Superintendent, Sally Flemmer at 610-566-4170 or Pastor Rob Ross at rob@wallingfordpres.org.



To be a successful teacher here at WPC, you don't have to be a biblical scholar. We will provide you with training and a curriculum that will help you as you teach. In addition, you will be paired with another

teacher (usually a returning teacher) each week, so that you two can work as a team together. The most important things to possess are a heart for kids, a willingness to learn, and an ability to be a part of a team. All the rest can (and will) be taught. Thank you for your consideration!

PANTRY BRIGADE



The WPC Pantry Brigade is collecting canned vegetables during the month of June. Please deposit your donations in the bin by the entrance to the Christian Education wing. The food collected will be delivered to the food pantries at city Team and Chester Eastside Ministries, both in Chester.

Commissioned Lay Pastor Roger Demos to Preach! June 19th



Nearly two years ago Roger Demos entered the Commissioned Lay Pastor program of the Presbytery of Philadelphia with other lay people from area congregations. Together, under the tutelage of pastors and professors they studied scripture, worship liturgy, theology, and polity. Roger is now certified to assist in preaching for churches that are without pastors. In celebration of Roger's effort and accomplishment toward service, he will be our preacher for the day on June 19th, also Father's Day! Please keep Roger in your prayers as he continues to study for the next level in the program and be present in support of his "debut" on June 19th at 10AM!

Book Look Discussion Group June 21, 7PM



Join us for a summer book discussion on the book "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett. The Help is a novel based in Jackson, MS that portrays the inner world of the exchange between whites at the time of the Civil Rights movement and their domestic help. Provocative and touching, the book is a fascinating read. Available at the library and area bookstores, please pick up your own copy and join us for friendly discussion!