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A Stephen Series Congregation
TIME DATED MATERIAL



The newsletter of Wallingford
Presbyterian Church

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Rev. J. Barrie Shepherd
<i>Director of Music</i>
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Susan Schwarz



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Spirit Song—November

From the Pastor's desk...

"If your brother (or sister) sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother."

Matthew 18:15

Dear Family of Faith,

There is so much wisdom in the scripture. I guess we shouldn't be surprised by that...but we surely should be shaped by it.

What do you do when you have a disagreement with someone? How do you handle the feeling that someone has done wrong or done you wrong? Unlike the world that is non-Christian, those who follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior live in a covenant with him to treat disagreement a particular way.

You've seen the alternatives. How many times has one person ranted and raved with you about how someone else has done something wrong...but when you ask whether or not they have spoken to that person about the problem, they vehemently reply: "Of course not!" People sometimes navigate disagreement by cutting the other person off from relationship, or sometimes just cutting them "off at the knees." Anger, hurt, and disappointment when they control our tongue and action are a fierce master.

In the face of these alternatives, Christians are called to live toward a higher standard and a deeper hope for reconciliation. Matthew 18, a verse of which is quoted above, gives a very useful guide for handling disagreement in a way that lets the healing love of God into any blazing fury. Beginning at verse 15 the outline for action is as follows:

1. Talk to the person one-to-one.
2. If the person won't listen, try talking again, but this time take a couple of other wise friends with you. (Ah ha, perhaps "mediation" is scriptural!)
3. If the conversation still gets nowhere, bring the matter to the community of the church.

Doesn't this lift up the value of the church's charge and capacity to be the mediator of disagreement? We are precisely the place, exactly the people who are expected and charged by the Lord to be able to talk openly, fairly and lovingly about matters over which there is disagreement.

May the Lord find a way through you to assist in the mediation of a disagreement others are having, and may you live toward the Lord's calling whenever you find yourself in disagreement with another.

See you in church!

Pastor Suzan

REACHOUT

wallingford presbyterian church

The Deacons are excited to announce the start of a new outreach initiative, ReachOut. Our mission is to build a community of concern, care and friendship among members who live as neighbors, that exemplifies the body of Christ.

To achieve this, the membership has been divided into geographical "neighborhoods" with one or two deacons assigned to that neighborhood. Over the next few months, you can expect one or two contacts from your Deacon – something as simple as a phone call or sharing a cup of coffee together at coffee hour, or perhaps sharing a light lunch together after Sunday worship.

Please prayerfully lend your support to the Deacons as they begin this new service of community building and reaching out to new members, long time members, young and old, families and individuals – all members of faith at Wallingford Presbyterian Church.

MONTHLY OPPORTUNITIES

Presbyterian Women of Wallingford

Working on Wholeness—WOW

All the women of the church are welcome and encouraged to participate in PWW activities. Circle Meetings are a great place to meet other women from the church for a time of fellowship. Here is the schedule of meetings for November.

Sarah Wednesday, November 11th at 7:30pm at the home of Susan Schwarz.

Miriam & Martha Thursday, November 12th at 10:30am at the Church.

The next **CT meeting** will be Wednesday, November 4th at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend to share ideas and suggestions for future WOW activities.

Blankets Are Dear To Our Hearts – The Mission project for the Blanket Fund to benefit Church World Service will be held during the month of **February 2010**. Please watch for more details in future issues of “Spirit Song.”

Ditty Bags for Broomall Home – We’ll be collecting items for these bags to be distributed in December. These are some of the items that are needed by the male and female residents: personal care items like deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, shower gel, Chapstick, Polident tablets, pocket tissues, combs, brushes, shower caps, shoe laces, socks, and knee highs. Other items needed: word-search and crossword puzzle books, pocket or wall calendars, memo

pads, note-cards or stationery, postage stamps, pens, jewelry or pins, and hard candy such as Life-savers and candy canes. Contributions should be **new and unopened** and may be left in Room 1 marked “Ditty Bags.” Items will be collected until December 13th.

Mark Your Calendar for the WOW Winter Retreat – This year’s WOW Retreat, “Song of the Seed: Soulful Tending” will be held at the Mariawald Retreat Center in Reading, PA on Saturday, January 16th at 10 am to Sunday, January 17th at noon. Pastor Suzan Hawkinson will lead the Retreat program centered around the book *The Song of the Seed* by Macrina Wiederkehr. The cost will be \$60.00 which includes lodging and all meals. Make plans to attend and bring a friend for this opportunity for fellowship with other women of the Church. Watch for more news about the Retreat including reservation information later in November and in December’s “Spirit Song.”

Caregivers Support Group
First Tuesdays, 7:30 PM
November 3

All who are caring for a family member or friend are welcome to this group for support, wisdom and friendship. This month, Alva Hayes, who has a lifetime of experience in caregiving will share some of her journey and discovery about caring for years at a time. Please join us in the Pastor’s study.

You are Not Alone: Divorce Care Support Group
Second Tuesdays, 7:30 PM
November 10

The pain of divorce is real, whether or not you were the one who first sought separation. Others who are traveling this difficult road gather each month to share support and to reflect on relevant topics in light of God’s care. This month’s topic will be “Facing my Anger”. The group meets over refreshments in Room 1.

The Song of the Seed Study Group
Third Tuesdays, 7:30PM
November 17

Have you been thinking that you need to sort your life in light of God’s word? Do you feel something “growing” in the garden of your soul? Each month the Song of the Seed group gathers to share reflection on how things are going in our soul’s life, what scripture has to say about it, and who else is on the journey with us. Please join us!

ADULT WEEKLY OPPORTUNITY

Learning Through Scripture
Tuesday mornings, 9:30AM
The Old Testament from Scratch

Have you ever wondered what the Old Testament is about? Have you ever wished you knew the Bible better and could access its wisdom and spirit more wisely? That’s exactly what we work on each Tuesday morning. Join us for time in the Word, laughter, inspiration and prayer! Led by Pastor Hawkinson.

Christian Education & Service

Confirmation and Commissioning Journey starting in January

When students reach the 9th grade, they have the chance to make a public profession of faith and join the church, the movement of people who are trying to follow Christ. The Confirmation and Commissioning Journey is a three month course taught by Pastors Suzan and Rob, intended to help students as they discern whether they are ready to take this step. Along the way, we will think deeply, share about our lives, and grow in our faith. The class will meet on Wednesday nights, January-May (with a few exceptions) from 6-7:30 pm. CCJ orientation will be on Wed, Jan 13, from 6-7:15 pm. If you would like to sign up, your teenager would like to sign up, or you would like more information about the class, please e-mail or call Rob at 610-566-1644 ext 13 or rob@wallingfordpres.org.



The High School Harvey Cedars Retreat is coming soon!

Harvey Cedars is a lovely little community on the Jersey Shore. Most people go there in the summer, and then board up their houses for the winter. Not us! We love it in the cold! And that’s why we’ll be heading there in December to play, worship, sing, pray and learn along with other High School students from the area. It’s a great way to spend time with friends and away from the craziness of school! Friends are welcome! Here’s the basic info.

Theme: Encounter

Date: Dec 4-6
RSVP Date: Nov 15
Cost: \$140

Sign up flyers are on the bulletin board by the youth room. Fill one out and take one for a friend!

The Giving Tree

The Deacons will be sponsoring the Giving Tree to collect gifts for needy families and individuals again this year. The Giving Trees will be in the narthex and fellowship hall on November 29, December 6 and December 13. All gifts need to be returned to the church by December 17. Deacons will wrap them on December 18 and distribute them before Christmas.



“A Casserole of Care”

CAN YOU MAKE A “CASSEROLE OF CARE”? Many times folks who are recovering from surgery or going through a difficult circumstance can be lifted up by the tangible care of a meal prepared and delivered. Would



you be willing to make something for such a mercy? Please contact Deacons Pam Mattote, 610-566-5615 or June Tolomeo, 610-565-0819 if you can help.

FALL CLEANUP



Young and semi-old folks please bring your somewhat able bodies to church to help the Trustees with **FALL CLEANUP**, on Saturday, November 21, from 9:00 a.m.

to 12noon. Refreshments will be served! Please bring rakes, leaf blowers, gloves, clippers, tarps, garden carts or wheelbarrows, extension cords, your big smiles, and anything else that might help with cleaning up the leaves, sticks, etc.

Stewardship Commitment Sunday
November 15
9:30 & 11:00AM

Please bring your financial pledge card and covenants of personal, community and public life.

Christian Education

Sprouts—November 20th 6-8:00PM

In November, Sprouts (the fellowship/enrichment group for 1st-5th graders) will be meeting 2 weeks later than usual: November 20th, from 6-8 pm. This month we will think about budgeting: how we use our resources. When the kids arrive, they will be given \$20 in play money (Sprouts Cash), which they will be asked to divide between three envelopes – saving, spending, and sharing. They will use their spending money to purchase dinner that night (served cafeteria-style with multiple, differently-priced options). After dinner, the kids will donate their share money to purchase different items from the WPC Christ Market (see page 4 of the newsletter for information on the ChristMarket). At the end of the evening, the kids will put their save money in the WPC bank, where it will earn 100% interest per month. The saved money will be withdrawn at the Dec sprouts meeting, when it can either be spent on Christmas cookies/candy (spending) or at the ChristMarket (sharing).

This month, we have a special event for Sprouts Parents! From 6-6:30 pm, parents are invited to learn about how to incorporate a nativity set into their family's anticipation of Christmas during the advent season. Bob and Jean Boell will share their method of story telling with parents. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn a way to bring the Advent and Christmas season into your house and start a meaningful tradition.

Middle School Youth Group Service Blitz Weekend!

Mark your calendars for Feb 5th-7th. That weekend, WPC Middle School youth will engage in a 2-day long service blitz! Friday night, and Saturday morning/afternoon, we'll be at Broad Street Ministry, involved in service with Philadelphia's homeless women and men. We'll spend Saturday night at WPC, reflecting on our time in Philly, and preparing for the next morning. Sunday morning, we'll collect cans for the Souper Bowl of Caring during worship! It will be a great weekend of fun, service, and reflection! See you there!

MS YOUTH GROUP

11/1	4-5:30pm	What do you fear?
11/8	4-5:30pm	Stewardship Night—Parable of the Talents
11/15	3-5:30pm	Movie!
11/22	4-5:30pm	What/who are you thankful for?
11/29		NO YG (Thanksgiving)
12/6		NO YG (HS Harvey Cedars) - come to the Advent Festival at 4pm!
12/13	4-5:30pm	Meaning of Christmas (Jesus is bigger than
12/20	3:30-5:30pm	Christmas Party
12/27		NO YG (Christmas)

HS YOUTH GROUP

11/1	6-8:00pm	Cloud of Witnesses—What it means to be part of a church that spans millennia?
11/8	6-8:00pm	Stewardship Night: Spend, Save, and Share
11/15	6-9:00pm	Movie night!
11/22	6-8:00pm	Who and what are you thankful for?
11/29		NO YG (Thanksgiving)
12/4-6		Harvey Cedars
12/6		NO YG (Harvey Cedars)
12/13	6-8:00pm	Christmas Carol Festival
12/20	6-8:00pm	Christmas Party
12/27		NO YG (Christmas)

Concerns/Celebrations of our Church Family & Church News

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:

- ♥ Alawa Lagi Gali, Marya, Natneal 
- ♥ Pat Utzinger
- ♥ Kerry Utzinger
- ♥ Sally Bloch's sister
- ♥ Pat Masiano
- ♥ Pam Mattote's sister-in-law
- ♥ Betty Cianci's daughter-in-law
- ♥ Jerry Jefferis
- ♥ Charles Hauer, friend of Mike Meloy suffering from a grave lung disease

Our sympathy as a church family to:

Anne Taylor on the loss of her sister, on 8/20.

The family and friends of Virginia (Ginny) Fox, adult daughter of Roger and Gerry Fox, on 10/9.

We celebrate:

With Paul Schwarz and Susan Cammarotta on their covenant of marriage on October 18th.

With Quentin (Whit) Whitmore on his 90 years young on 10/15.

NOTES FROM SESSION

Session met on October 5, 2009. This was a joint meeting of the elders and deacons.

During the joint meeting mutual concerns for our church were discussed including finances, dwindling attendance and membership, youth who profess their faith and the "disappear", needs of aging, and much more.

Learned about the deacons "Reach Out" program to build community among members. (More on that from the deacons)

Had communion service training presented by Barbara Demos.

During the session only portion of the meeting:

The treasurer shared the anticipated end of year budget deficit will impact not only the finances within the church but also our benevolence giving.

We were reminded that Suzan Hawkinson leaves for her trip to Israel on October 27, 2009.

There will be an Advent celebration on December 6 at 4:00PM with the focus on youth and their families.

We need two more teachers for the middle school Sunday School class.

Barbara B. Meahl, Clerk

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY

On November 15th, gathered for worship at 9:30 and 11:00 we are invited to bring our commitments of promise to God and dedicate them together. Please make sure to bring or deliver your financial pledge card and covenants of personal, community and public life at that time. Materials for these commitments have been mailed to every household and are available in every pew. Musical leadership for this Sunday will be given by the Jazz Ensemble from Philadelphia Biblical University?"

Make a commitment to put faith first in every arena of your life, and see if everything else in your life with fall into its proper place too!

Music Director, Elizabeth Braden on Maternity Leave

From mid-November to early February, Liz Braden our Director of Music, will be on maternity leave. Our music program will be supported by a substitute organist team, several volunteer directors, including our Associate Pastor Rob Ross, and an amazing group of dedicated musicians. Particularly, our organ and piano in worship will be provided by Fred Astman, an award winning organist, and Meghan Meloy, one of our own! Rehearsals will be supported by an additional pianist. Throughout Liz's leave, we don't expect to "miss a beat!", though we'll surely miss her!

Liz will continue on salary throughout her leave. The majority of costs needed for substitute musical coverage is being borne through a garnering of Liz's own benefits. We anticipate additional costs, spread over 2009 and 2010 in respect to her leave of less than \$800.00.

Mission & Service

Advent Wreath lighting

An opportunity is available to light the Advent Wreath and read an Advent message. Singles, couples and families are needed for both services of worship on November 29, December 6, 13 and 20th, as well as the 9:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. services on Christmas Eve. Please call or e-mail Sally Clyde at 610-565-4018 sallyclyde@comcast.net., Sandi Fleischer at 610-566-8938 sandifleischer@comcast.net or the church office to sign up.

Eritrean Family Update

In July, three refugees from Eritrea – mother Alawa, daughter Marya and son Natneal – arrived in our area. Church members have been tremendously responsive in helping them settle in their home in Upper Darby and with their overall acclimation. Alawa's English has improved dramatically and her proficiency is similar to that of someone who has been in the US for a year (rather than 3 months). She continues to search for a job, so any contacts church members have would be helpful. She could also use some winter clothing – she is about a size 4 and her shoe size is women's 6. The children have enough clothes for now. If you have time to help her, the biggest needs are job searching (by computer or in person), and rides to appointments (doctor, etc.). Please contact John Stauffer (610-565-5094 or bigjohnstauffer@yahoo.com), Walt Kaminski (610-565-5644 or kaminsww@gmail.com), or Chris Darr (610-874-2415 or

ctdarr@verizon.net) if you have questions or want to get involved.

ChristMarket@Wallingford

ChristMarket@Wallingford - alternate gift giving, providing "gifts for those who need none to help those who have little..." Most Wallingford folks, their families, friends and co-workers have all and more than they need, even in these tight times. What do you get these people for Christmas gifts? ChristMarket@Wallingford has the answer - a gift for some of the "least and lost" of God's children, given in the name of the family or friend. In 2008 the Market was tremendously successful and met the "shopping needs" for many.

The goals of ChristMarket are to provide meaningful alternatives to Christmas shopping, raise awareness of needs around the world and around the corner, and to raise money for those needs. Gifts will range from \$1 to \$25. There are also a couple "bigger ticket" items.

Sunday, November 22 is the grand opening of this seasonal market. Fellowship Hall will be set as shopping plaza. There will be twenty stations to tell you about the twenty different projects that can be supported through alternate giving. The projects are all different from last year's. Once you have made your selections you take your shopping list to the check-out table, pay for the "gifts" and receive a card for each to send to the recipient of your thoughtfulness. Succeeding Sundays until December 20, opportunity will continue for purchases. Shopping Lists with descriptions and

costs will be mailed November 9 and will also be available at church and on the church web.

Here are two of the 20 gift options selected by the ChristMarket team. One: "Gift of Hearing" - \$5 will provide a month supply of hearing aid batteries for a needy deaf child in Gaza; Two: "Farming With Natural Solutions (an environmental project) - \$10 provides a half kilo of earthworms to enrich composting negating the need for chemical fertilizers in the Philippines.

It's Never Too Early to Share our Thanks – the Pantry Brigade

The WPC Pantry Brigade is collecting foods associated with Thanksgiving – stuffing, sweet potatoes, canned gravy, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, etc. – during the months of October and November. We will deliver the food to Chester Eastside Ministries and City Team Ministries in Chester where they will be distributed to needy people. Please deposit your food donations in the bin near the entrance by the church office.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Thanks to all who contributed their muscles, materials, coordination and charms to make the All Church Picnic on September 20th a success. 120 members enjoyed the event. Suzan was pleased with the recognition of her 25 years as a pastor and she was delighted that the cake was her favorite, carrot cake.

Bless you all, Ralph Parks

Please join us for these events:

“Heart Sounds” SONGS OF FAITH, HOPE & LOVE



Rev. Ross Varney

Sunday, November 1 @ 4:00 PM

Singer/songwriter/composer —UCC pastor from Newburyport, Mass.---performs selections from his CD “HEART SOUNDS,” as well as other love songs and worship favorites. Please join us for this concert. A free will offering will be collected, and a reception will follow.

Christmas Carol Festival Sunday, December 13 @ 7:00 PM

Please join us for an evening of singing favorite Christmas Carols, led by the Chancel Choir and accompanied by brass and organ. Invite your friends and neighbors and come and celebrate the Christmas season with song! A reception will follow the program.



Joy to the World!