

SUMMER 2010



A Stephen Series Congregation  
TIME DATED MATERIAL



The newsletter of Wallingford  
Presbyterian Church

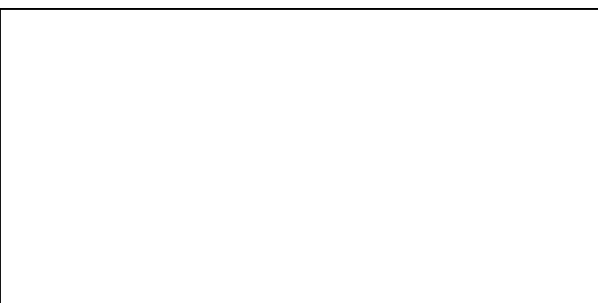
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July/August 2010

The newsletter of Wallingford  
Presbyterian Church



# Spirit Song—SUMMER

## From the Pastor's desk....

As I planned this newsletter cover, I was tempted to follow a set pattern: "Many exciting events are happening at WPC. Here's some information on a few of them. You can learn more in the rest of this newsletter."

And, I wouldn't be wrong to tell you that, for there are many exciting events happening in the coming months at WPC. But there is a danger inherent in focusing too much on those exciting events, and the danger is that we'll make the classic mistake of confusing the means for the ends.

The simple truth is that the church doesn't exist to take kids on white water trips, or run vacation bible camps, or hold classes on difficult questions of faith. The church exists to grow individuals closer to one another, and to grow individuals closer to God in behavior, understanding and relationship. And as the church, we do all those other things (trips, VBC, Sunday school) because we believe that they are ways to accomplish those two goals.

But often we lose track of the goals we are pursuing, and focus solely on the ways we have of pursuing them. We are often in danger of focusing on means rather than ends because the ends are very difficult to measure. To measure the ends, we have to answer questions like:

- Are our marriages and our families getting stronger?
- Are our sick and injured feeling

better cared for by others?

- Are our relationships within the church increasingly characterized by Christ-like love for one another?
- Are we coming to a deeper understanding of God and ourselves?
- Are we finding more peace and hope in our lives than we did before?
- Do we feel connected to something bigger than us – something that spans time and space – something that we cannot hold, but that ultimately will hold us?

It is hard to measure the answers to those questions. But it is easy to measure whether we have more kids in Vacation Bible Camp than we had last year. It is easy to measure whether we are going on more trips than we went on last year. It is easy to measure whether the Strawberry Festival made more money this year than last year. And so the temptation is to focus on the easy-to-measure means, rather than the hard-to-measure ends.

So, I want to take a time-out from all the programming, and ask you about your life. I want to ask you – are you finding friends here at WPC? Are you finding people who you can be honest with about difficult points and enjoy the fun points in your life? Are you finding your other relationships strengthened because of being here at WPC? Are you feeling God's presence in your life? Are you finding ways to act out God's love in the world because of your connection here at WPC?

Those are the questions I want to ask people. Those are the questions I want to ask you. Those are the questions I want us to be asking each other. I don't want us to run programs for the sake of programs. I

want us to help people grow towards God and towards one another. I want you to grow towards God and towards others. So, whether you are or not, let's talk – give me a call, write me a letter, or stop by the office. I am never too busy to find time to talk with you about how your life is going. Let's be about this work in ourselves, our fellow members, and those who are not yet a part of this church community.

Grateful for our shared ministry and our shared identity as children of God,  
*Pastor Rob*

~ ~ ~

## Youth Interns-Holly Harrison

Last month, I told you that we had added three internships for college students working with our youth program. In addition, I told you that we had hired our first youth intern for the 2010-2011 year. This month, I am happy to tell you that we have hired our second youth intern! Her name is Holly Harrison, and she is a sophomore at Eastern University. The youth interns will work 10-15 hours a week with our youth. They will be directly connected with 3-4 youth as a mentor and resource. In addition, they will be involved in the planning and staffing of our two weekly youth events: LIVE Time for Middle School and HS Youth Group for High School. I am really excited to have both Holly and Anna on board. Be looking for more information about Anna and Holly as we get a little closer to the fall. – Rob

### NEW SUMMER CLASS

## Summer of Sizzling Questions Continues 8:45-9:45 am, Sunday mornings

Since the beginning of June, adults have been gathering for an hour before worship to discuss difficult questions of faith. Each question was submitted by a congregation member for Doubt Sunday. Each session will be self-contained, so you do not have to come to every session in order to participate (though, you are welcome to!) If you have questions about the series, please contact Pastor Rob (610-566-1644 ext 13). The schedule of Sizzling Questions will be:

- July 4 – no class (4th of July weekend)
- July 11 – What is salvation? How do I know when it happens to me? (Dwight Dewerth-Pallmeyer)
- July 18 – How should the church spend its money? How should Christians spend theirs? (Frank Noyes)
- July 25 – Is God in control? (Walter Heindl)
- Aug 1 – Can non-Christians be saved? (Bob Kenworthy)
- Aug 8 – Why do we worship the way we do? What's pomp and what's real? (Dwight Dewerth Pallmeyer)
- Aug 15 – What's the big deal with predestination? (Suzan Hawkinson)
- Aug 22 – I keep asking forgiveness and then committing the same sins over and over. Is anything happening? (Frank Noyes)
- Aug 29 – Is the Old Testament as important as the New Testament for Christians? (Walter Heindl)

**Children in Church**

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo, while I asked, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

### MONTHLY OPPORTUNITY

#### Caregivers Support Group First Tuesdays, 7:00 PM July 6th

This month's topic for those who care for others will be "God's Sustaining Grace for Life's Challenging Times." We will be looking at Paul's example through verses in 2 Corinthians 11 and 12. Do you need God's provision to make it through each day? Come as we look together at how God provides.

AUGUST 3rd—Pastor Suzan returns—"Reconnecting"

### GOD ON TAP

Are you looking to meet some new people and have good conversation? Have you had a long day at work, and are you looking to relax a little? Do you need a little time away from the kids? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you're invited to God on Tap, a get together for 20 and 30 (ish) people of WPC. In July we meet Thursday, July 1st, at 8:30 pm. We grab a table, split some appetizers, and discuss a topic of interest. So, if you're looking for a chance to decompress, laugh, or just meet some new people – come join us! If you have questions, just give Pastor Rob a call or text at 610-357-6067. (You can also fan us on Facebook.)

### The perfect church is one in which:

- Our worship services are uplifting, meaningful, relevant, and are a focal point for conversation, contemplation and action.
- Our activities invite us into fellowship, education and service.
- We are inviting, welcoming and inclusive, engaging visitors and those in the wider community who are not part of the church.
- We seek to become more knowledgeable, faithful, committed and practicing Christians who:
  1. provide shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship for the children of God.
  2. proclaim, through word and action, the gospel for the salvation of humankind.
  3. promote love of God and love of others in individual relationships and the greater community.
- We support, challenge and encourage each other, and make ourselves vulnerable to one another in the journey of developing and ultimately realizing a unique, personal relationship with God.

This definition of the perfect church was written by members of the strategic planning steering committee. The committee was formed in March 2010 as an outgrowth of the strategic planning team, and charged with defining the methods to implement their recommendations. The steering committee has met twice a month since March and this definition represents several hours of work. More news from the steering committee will appear in future newsletter articles. The moderator of the committee is Suzan Hawkinson (Rob while she is on sabbatical). Members include Bill Quinn, trustee, Dave Shipman, deacon, Walt Kaminski, elder 3C, Mike Meloy, elder WMAC, Rick Miller, elder CE, Barbara Meahl, elder CRC, Michelle Walker and Angela Waltman, congregational members. Please seek one of us if you have questions.

### MUSIC MINISTRY

#### Summer Taizé Prayer Service Wednesday July 21, 7:30 PM

Summer is supposed to be a time of relaxation, lounging by the pool, and an escape from the stress of the rest of the year. But, for many of us, that isn't the case! If you find yourself running as much as ever, then we invite you to take a break for yourself and attend the Taizé Prayer Service on July 21. Come into the cool, air conditioned sanctuary for a respite from the hot and crazy summer. Sing some contemplative music, hear scriptures, and allow yourself to be still during a time of silent prayer and meditation. The service will be led by a choir and instrumentalists, Liz Braden, and Suzan Hawkinson. Come and join us! All are welcome. If you would like childcare during the service, please call the church office no later Monday July 16 to reserve. Questions? Contact Liz Braden. We hope to see you there!

#### Summer Music

If you've been thinking about MAYBE getting up to sing or play a solo or duet but haven't quite gotten the courage to, now's your chance! We can still use some singers and instrumentalists for the remainder of July and August. If you would like to share your time and talents in this way during our summer worship, contact Liz Braden.

#### Fall Music

We will start up Chancel Choir and Bell Choir on Thursday, September 9. Mark your calendars and come back – or come for the first time! If you would like to consider joining either the Bell Choir or the Chancel Choir or both, contact Liz Braden.

#### Godspell!

Many years ago, the drama team of WPC presented Stephen Schwartz' wonderful musical 'Godspell.' It was a magical experience – hearing the gospel told in story and song. We are considering presenting this amazing piece of theater again in the spring of 2011. We need singers, actors, sewers, set builders, program typers, audience bringers, ticket takers...if you'd like to participate, we can find a place for you! There will be an organizational meeting in the fall for all interested folks, and more specific information about auditions, rehearsals, etc will be available then. In the meantime, if you think you'd like to participate, drop Liz an email! And then watch for the meeting date to be announced... and join us for a spectacular time!!

Please contact Liz Braden at [music@wallingfordpres.org](mailto:music@wallingfordpres.org) to volunteer, ask questions, or send ideas for the music ministry. We hope you will join us as we praise God through our music and arts!

# MISSIONS

## Eritrean Refugee Update and Job Needs

**Lunch:** About 50 people came to the WPC Refugee Lunch on June 13 to celebrate how the Eritrean refugee family we have been supporting has progressed in the past year. Alawa and 4-year old Natneal were happy to see people at the lunch, though 6-year old Marya looked like she really wanted to be outside at the playground! We had several people from outside the church attend, including Alawa's Eritrean neighbor who has been very helpful to the family, the owner of the day care which Natneal and Marya attend, and Marya's kindergarten teacher. Alawa is very happy to have a church family like WPC helping to guide her.

**Next Family:** We continue to await further word as to when Alawa's sister's family may arrive from the refugee camp in Ethiopia. We expect to get 2-4 weeks notice prior to their arrival. Most of the material items we will need for them have been collected through donations or Goodwill Store purchases and are laying in wait in garages and basements. There are still a few hard-to-find items needed, so please let Darleen Stauffer know if you can donate any of the following: floor lamps, coffee or end tables, a cart for groceries, drying racks, blankets (for double bed) and fans. We will also need more donations

when they arrive (clothing, etc.).

**Job Needs:** Alawa continues with her part-time job at TJ Maxx and would very much like a full-time job (or another part-time job which she could do in the morning).

In addition, there are two men associated with The Alumni Group (a local non-profit dedicated to helping and mentoring men who have recovered from addictions) who would like full-time work. One man has cooking and food service skills, and the other man has done maintenance, auto repair, janitorial and lawn care work.

If you know of any leads for full-time work for any of these people, please contact Ann Hatfield, Chris Darr, John Stauffer, Walt Kaminski, or the church office.

## Staples for the Pantry Brigade

The WPC Pantry Brigade is collecting pantry staples and other non-perishables during the month of July and August. What is it you like in your pantry? Use your imagination! Food can include peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, ravioli, macaroni and cheese, jello and pudding mixes, brownie mixes, canned goods, etc. The food collected will be delivered to the food pantries at City Team and Chester Eastside Ministries, both in Chester.

**Attention:  
Parents with  
young  
Children**

**Mike and Jess Trout  
are hosting a BBQ  
for WPC's parents  
with young children  
on Friday, August 6th  
from 6-  
8:30 at  
their  
home in  
Media.  
All ex-  
pectant  
parents, and parents  
of children birth  
through age five are  
welcome. Kid  
friendly cuisine,  
adult fare and drinks  
will be served.  
Please RSVP and di-  
rect questions to  
Jess Trout by email:  
jessica-  
trout@hometown.com  
or by phone: 610-  
566-2726. Hope to  
see you there!**



## 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:

- ♥ Pastor Suzan on Sabbatical
- ♥ Pat Masiano
- ♥ Mike Benham
- ♥ Mark Morton's mother, Joan Morton
- ♥ Graduating students
- ♥ Jessica Trout's grandmother, Mary Jackson
- ♥ Megan Floyd
- ♥ Liz Greene's cousin, Lynn
- ♥ Mel Shedlock
- ♥ Mission trippers to Isom, KY



### Our sympathy as a church family to:

- Family and friends of Betty Webb who died 6/13.
- Marion Irvine and family on the loss of Alex Irvine 6/12.
- Family and friends of Tom Shedlock who died early in June. He was a long time scout leader of troop #277 that meets at our church and well known in our community for assisting boys in earning their Eagle Scout awards.
- Kris and Jerry Rafter and family on the loss of Kris' mother, Elsie Olson 6/20.

### We celebrate:

With Russ Kaminski and Kelly

## NOTES FROM SESSION

At the June 1 meeting your session :

Approved the baptism of Sarah German, daughter of James and Lisa German.

Approved the hiring of a second youth intern for the school year 2010-2011. Her name is Holly Harrison and she will be a junior at Eastern University.

Had the first reading of a Media Policy. Suggestions were made for revisions which will be brought to the next meeting.

Approved two fund raisers for youth trips. One is "sponsor a tripper." Members may give \$75.00 to sponsor one of our youth and will receive a letter from that youth during the trip. The second is a pancake breakfast cooked by our younger members. It will be held on Father's Day beginning at 8:30am.

Heard Drew Lombard, President of Trustees, review the list of Larger Capital Expenditures and discussed funding for those projects.

Learned the lease on the Avondale manse has been signed for another 10 months.

Barbara Meahl, Clerk

McDonnell on their covenant of marriage on June 12th. Walt and Sally Kaminski are the proud parents of Russ; and with Steve Eckman and Emily Perrone on their covenant of marriage on June 18th. Tom and Donna Halley are the proud parents of Emily Perrone.

With John and Judy Leet on their 41st wedding anniversary on May 21st; Cliff and Lenora Seglem on their 66th wedding anniversary on July 21st; and Ralph and Jean Parks on their 60th wedding anniversary on July 29th.

### Blessings of love and joy:

To Ed and Kate German on the birth of their son Jacob Andrew German on May 27. Fred and Mary Ann German are the proud grandparents.

## BABY ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that Pastor Rob and his wife, Debbie, are pregnant with their first child! The baby (a boy, they just recently found out) is due in the middle of October.

Congratulations to Rob and Debbie!!

## THANK YOU

The Irvine family wishes to thank the Deacons, their church family and the pastors for all your prayers, thoughts and gifts during this difficult time for them.

## Christian Education

### Vacation Bible Camp July 25th—30th

Our Vacation Bible Camp, Galactic Blast, will run from Sunday, July 25th to Friday, July 30th, from 6-8 pm. All children (4 year olds to graduated 5th graders) are invited to participate with us. This is a great chance to invite those neighborhood children who have never been to WPC before!



This year, at **Galactic Blast**, campers will learn that:

- God created the entire universe
- God never left Elijah's side, even when he was scared and felt alone.
- God knew the Samaritan woman, even though she was different.
- Jesus stopped and listened to a blind man on the road, even when no one else did.
- Jesus came back from the dead, showing God's love and power!

Along the way, campers will play exciting games, make memorable crafts (including t-shirts), sing catchy songs, and learn bible stories. The program costs \$10/camper, and scholarships are available to those who need them.

If you would like to register a child, you can find the registration form online ([www.wallingfordpres.org](http://www.wallingfordpres.org)) or in the church office. If you would like to volunteer to help (and we need lots of helpers!) please contact Rob by phone (610-566-1644 ext 13) or e-mail ([rob@wallingfordpres.org](mailto:rob@wallingfordpres.org)).

### VBC Volunteers

Vacation Bible Camp is a great chance to join in and help teach the next generation about the love of God. This year's VBC is Sun, July 25th – Fri, July 30th, 6-8 pm. We'll need high school students and adults to help with crafts, games, music, bible story telling, decorating and much more. Decorating will be especially fun, as the theme this year is outer space – we are going to build a mission control center (complete with keyboards and monitors), and we'll need all the help we can get!

We'll be having a helper's meeting on July 6th, 7-8 pm. At the meeting, we'll go over basic information about VBC for the year, introduce all the adult helpers to one another, and answer any questions you have. Hope to see you there!

### Children's Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School continues with the adventures of Mackey and Portia, two Christian children growing up in the first century. Last summer, Mackey and Portia were in the ancient city of Alexandria. This summer, Mackey and Portia have traveled to Jerusalem, as their quest to understand Christianity and live as Christians under Roman rule continues. 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 it makes life hard. After hearing about their latest adventure, kids make a craft together.

Remember that 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.

### High School Summer Events

This summer, there are several events for High Schoolers to keep in mind. Mark your calendars (and your friends' calendars) for these dates:

#### Wed, July 14, 6:30-10:30 pm Scavenger Hunt!

Are you ready for a fun time? Its time for a scavenger hunt! Your creativity, your competitiveness, and your bravery will all be tested by this year's list of items and pictures. Ready...set...hunt! (We'll need adult drivers, as this event will take us off-site. If you are over 25 and willing to drive, please let Rob know, asap!)

#### Wed, Aug 4, 6:30-9 pm Cookout/games/goodbye to our seniors

It has been a great run for our seniors. Help us show them one more fun time, and send them off with our prayers and warm wishes. We'll eat dinner together, play some kick-ball or Frisbee, and then regroup to bless the seniors on their way.

## 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

Sunday School runs September through May. We are currently looking for teachers for two of our classes (Pre K and K-2). 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.

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 is chosen by the Children's Ministry Team and is very user friendly! 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.

If you are considering teaching, or would simply like more information, please contact our Children's Ministry Team leader, Jeni Albany at [jenialbany@yahoo.com](mailto:jenialbany@yahoo.com). Thank you for your consideration!

### Calling all Adult Drivers

If you have ever wished for a way to get to know a few high school students, but weren't able to commit to coming to youth group every week – here is a great opportunity for you! On July 14th, WPC will host a scavenger hunt for High School aged students. The hunt will last from 8-10 pm, and we need adult drivers to help out! To drive you need a driver's license, to be over age 25, and to own a car that can fit four kids (plus you). Everything else will be provided and it will be a ton of fun! If you would like to help out, or if you have questions, please contact Rob (610-566-1644 ext 13 or [rob@wallingfordpres.org](mailto:rob@wallingfordpres.org)).

### Live Time: A New MS Weekly Event

Over the last year, the members of the Youth Team and Christian Education Council have considered how we can better serve Middle School students and their families. As we thought about the lives of Middle School students, we noticed a gap in their school day activities. They were busy until about 3 pm at school. They had evening activities (sports, drama, music, scouts, etc) which started at 6 pm. However, between 3 and 6 pm there was a

space of no activity: a dead spot in their day. With parents at work, kids don't have transportation to events during that time, and many kids spend that time at home, by themselves.

In response to that situation, this fall, WPC will begin a new after-school program for Middle School students, called LIVE Time. It will run from 3-6 pm, every Wednesday. During their time here, kids will have

## Live Time cont.

a snack, do homework, play group games, study scripture and Christian teachings, and learn to play handbells.

Kids who go to Strath Haven Middle School will be able to walk from the Middle School to the church. Other kids will be picked up from school and brought to WPC by adult volunteers. Kids will then remain at WPC until their parents come to pick them up at 6 pm.

We are really excited about this program – it fills a need for families, it offers great opportunities for kids to invite their friends to the church, and it doubles the amount of time that we are currently getting with the kids.

We will need many volunteers to make this program effective. We're looking for adults to help out in the following areas:

- Homework helpers/tutors
- Drivers from area Middle Schools to the church
- Snack preparers
- Christian Education teachers/assistants
- Game time helpers

If you can help out once a month, twice a month, or every week, we'd love to have your help. We are looking for people of all ages and stages of life – retired people, people with flexible schedules, stay-at-home parents, and college students – anyone who wants to help us minister to middle school students. Please contact Rob if you have any interest (610-566-1644 ext 13 or [rob@wallingfordpres.org](mailto:rob@wallingfordpres.org)).