

SUMMER 2011



A Stephen Series Congregation
TIME DATED MATERIAL



**The newsletter of Wallingford
Presbyterian Church**

Wallingford Presbyterian Church
110 E. Brookhaven Road
Wallingford, PA 19086

Phone: 610-566-1644
Fax: 610-892-0558
E-mail: office@wallingfordpres.org

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www.wallingfordpres.org

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<i>Pastor</i>
Rev. Dr. Suzan Hawkinson
<i>Associate Pastor</i>
Rev. Rob Ross
<i>Parish Associate</i>
Rev. J. Barrie Shepherd
<i>Director of Music</i>
Elizabeth Braden
<i>Administrative Secretary</i>
Susan Schwarz

July/August 2011

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Spirit Song—Summer

From the Pastor's desk

Dear Family of Faith at
Wallingford Presbyterian
Church,

The word "pastor" comes from a Latin word which means "to feed" or "to pasture" a flock. The invitation to Peter from Jesus in the Gospel of John illuminates its meaning: "Peter, do you love me?" Jesus asks, "Feed my sheep." The fundamental call to be a pastor, is the call to love the Lord. For 27 years the call to be loving God by serving as a pastor in Presbyterian churches in three cities has shaped who I am, and directed who I will become. After nine years of being pastor at Wallingford Presbyterian Church, you, as part of the flock, know both my strengths and my weaknesses. I have come to see that both are part of God's plan for how a church might grow under imperfect leadership. Where I have been strong we have grown together. Where I have been weak, the church itself has risen up to fill in the gaps. Both qualities nurture, and that, finally, is the call to be pastor.

As I take my leave from Wallingford Presbyterian Church to accept a call to serve as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield in Deerfield, IL, I do so with a deep gratitude to each of you and all of you for your

partnership in this ministry. I hope you have felt my genuine effort simply to be a growing Christian among you. I have felt your mutual effort in this regard. I have loved you and love you still.

My prayers for you will ever be that you will look to Christ for your next right steps, that you will love each other with the love of God in you, and that you will reach to the world with the treasure that is no less than our Lord's love for all creation. Do not flag in zeal. Do not grow weary of doing good. Your faith, no matter how small, is a treasure that the world is famished for. Don't let it blaze under a bushel. Be people, as I have known you, of prayer and laughter. Don't take troubles too seriously, there is nothing greater than God's love for you. Who or what could possibly stand against the power of God's love?

Thank you for the privilege it has been to serve you. Thank you for leading, for following, for walking alongside in these good years. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord cause his face to shine upon you and give you peace, this day and forever more.

In Christ's Service,

Suzan Hawkinson

Stewardship of Summer

It's funny isn't it to think that we could be called upon to be stewards of a time; summer, winter, springtime, harvest. Yet, indeed we are. The summer months particularly offer the splendor of plants in full bloom, bright sun and blue sky that beckons us to the great outdoors. Stewards tend faithfully all the gifts lent to them, making good use of the time, tending that which needs nurture and harvesting that which is ripe for sharing.

This summer, take a look at your stewardship of the season; are you enjoying its gifts, caring for its needs, noticing its beauty? Go ahead! Honor the time you have been given and do remember to celebrate the presence of Christ's church in all seasons by your attendance and your giving!

Two Members Accepted As Inquirer

Jessica Hawkinson and Sharan Knoell, both members of Wallingford Presbyterian Church, have been accepted by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) of the Philadelphia Presbytery as an Inquirer. This is one of the first steps in the preparation for ministry process.

A member of a congregation is considered for enrollment when he or she approaches the session about the possibility of becoming a minister of the Word and Sacrament. Sharan and Jessica met with the session earlier this year. During this meeting each shared their journey of faith and why they believed God was calling them to the ministry. Members of the session had the opportunity to ask questions. Following this meeting the session made the decision to recommend them to the CPM and support them during this process.

The next step for each was a meeting with the committee on preparation. The CPM is comprised of about 20 people, both pastors and elders, from the Philadelphia Presbytery. This meeting is an interview process concluding with a recommendation to the Presbytery whether to enroll the person as an Inquirer. This begins a covenant relationship with the Presbytery which lasts at least two years, one year as a candidate – the next step after Inquirer.

This time is designed to help Sharan and Jessica grow toward maturity in Christ. CPM looks for

development in five areas: Education for the Ministry, Spiritual Development, Interpersonal Relationships, Personal Growth, and Professional Development. The inquirer must submit an annual written report on progress in studies and service to the church. CPM can also seek information from our session, an institution of learning, counseling services, personal references.

Sharan is a graduate of St. Joseph's University with a major in Fine Arts and Eastern University, MS in Non-profit Management, graduating summa cum laude. She has been employed by a non-profit for several years. Sharan is a member of our choir, was a cast member in Godspell. She is an ordained elder, taught Bible School and was a youth group leader as a member of Ridley Park Presbyterian Church. Sharan is enrolled in Princeton Seminary and will begin her studies in July.

Jessica is a graduated of Macalester College with a BA in International Studies, graduating magna cum laude. Following graduation she was employed by the Presbyterian Church USA in their office at the United Nations. Jessica has completed her first year of study at Princeton Seminary. Jessica participated in our youth group, Vacation Bible Camp and sang with our choir.

Sharan and Jessica join others from WPC who have gone to seminary including Jeanne Thomas, Jennifer K. Gelson, Michelle D. Grunseich, and Roger Demos who is in his second year of study to be a Commissioned Lay Pastor.

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. The planning committee is working hard to make the retreat an exciting, interactive experience, and recently visited Kirkwood Camp and Conference Center (the site of the retreat) to better plan the event. 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. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact a member of the planning committee – Bob Foley, Frank Grunseich, Tom Halley, Jerry Rafter or Pastor Rob Ross.

PANTRY BRIGADE

The WPC Pantry Brigade is collecting canned fruits & vegetables during the month of July & August. 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.

The Book Look

Tuesdays, 7:30PM

Join the book look discussion group for these upcoming dates:

- ◆ **August 16-The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis.**
- ◆ **Sept. 20-The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why by Phyllis Tickle**
- ◆ **Nov. 15-Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese**

Available at the library and area bookstores, please pick up your own copy and join us for friendly discussion!

Congratulations to our Graduates!



As these students reach the event of graduation, we celebrate their accomplishments and the blessings of God that have brought them to this day. May they go forward now in the confidence of God's faithfulness

FROM HIGH SCHOOL

David M. Benham	From Springfield, attending Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA
Jen Brown	From Penncrest, attending Neumann University, Aston, PA
Andrew Corbett	From Strath Haven, attending James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA
Stephanie Fenhagen	From Strath Haven, attending Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA
Megan Floyd	From Strath Haven, attending Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT
Aaron Enfield Macy	From Strath Haven, attending U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO

FROM COLLEGE OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

George A. Albany, IV	West Chester University, B.A. English
Emily Corbett	Clark University, B.A., Magna Cum Laude in Honors Psychology, PSI CHI. Continuing at Clark University for Masters in Psychology.
Andrea Couzens	U.S. Career Institute, Certificate in Medical Claims and Billing
Sharon Denney	John Hopkins University, Masters of Education
Mark Erickson	Emory University, B.A.
Ryan Kilpatrick	The George Washington University School of Law, J.D.
Sam Krowchenko	Oberlin College, B.A. in English, B.A. in Creative Writing
Meghan Meloy	Oberlin College & Conservatory, B.M. in Music Education/B.A. in Environmental Studies
Patrick Noyes	University of Pittsburg, B.S. Biology
Tyler Noyes	University of Pittsburg, B.A. Political Science
Maria Ann Schultz	Penn State University, B.S. in Human Development & Family Studies. Continuing at Widener University for Masters in Social Work
Laura Twiss-Garrity	Penn State Brandywine, B.S. in Human Development & Family Studies



Contact Info:

Clerk of Session
Barbara Meahl
610-876-3029
rpmeahl@aol.com

Moderator
Suzan K. Hawkinson
610-566-1644 X16
suzan@wallingfordpres.org



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

The session has approved three fund raisers to support our youth mission trips: a car wash on June 19, the opportunity to “sponsor a tripper” at a cost of \$75, and a silent auction for baby sitting and yard work.

The next Presbytery meeting is on July 26 at the Lower Providence Presbyterian Church, Norristown. We are permitted three elder/commissioners at this meeting.

Barbara Meahl, Clerk

From the General Assembly

A majority of Presbyteries in the United States have approved the new form of government (nFOG). This new form of government will start to be implemented in July 2011. The elder/commissioners who attend the July Presbytery meeting will hear how this will be done in our Presbytery and how it will affect Wallingford Presbyterian.

Wallingford Presbyterian Church receives Grant!

This last Spring, Trustees Wynne Edelman and Sally Clyde together with Pastor Hawkinson made application to the Community Design Collaborative that is a “volunteer based community center that provides pro bono preliminary design services to nonprofit organizations.” These design services include a thorough assessment of the entire building including perspectives of architects, restoration specialists, mechanical, electrical and structural engineers. These experts examine the building condition and also make recommendations about restoration and improvement. The effort also offers information about grants available for environmental and accessibility modifications. Just a week ago we learned that Wallingford Presbyterian Church has been awarded one of this year’s grants!

A team made up of Trustees, church members and community leaders will work with the CDC team to complete our buildings assessment and to make recommendations that will effect an anticipated capital campaign as well as long range plans for building care and improvement. Watch for more details over these next 6 months!

**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
- ♥ Jean Hogan
- ♥ Thanks for the prayers for Wayne Brown who is pain free now
- ♥ Holly Renegar’s nephew, Josh Conley, in live action in Afghanistan
- ♥ Gail Sheridan
- ♥ Margaret Hall
- ♥ Pat Tillson
- ♥ Andrew Cheezum
- ♥ Beryl Kubik
- ♥ Those undergoing tests and awaiting procedures



Our sympathy as a church family to:

- ♥ Family and friends of Mary Sileo who died 5/28.
- ♥ Ellen and Pete Oetinger and family on the loss of Ellen’s sister, Lisa Matthews on 6/14 after a long battle with MS.
- ♥ Cheryl Blair and Bob Sokoloff and family on the loss of Bob’s mother, Marge Sokoloff on 6/15.
- ♥ Family and friends of Sara Matthews, who lived in South Carolina and was age 99 when she died 6/26.
- ♥ Alice Ghenn and family on the loss of Harry Ghenn on 6/26.

MUSIC MINISTRY

TAIZE UNDER THE STARS!

Whether you are already in love with our calming and beautiful Taize Prayer Services or whether you still don’t exactly know what it is...you are invited to experience an outdoor Taize Prayer Service on Friday evening, July 15. You are invited to gather in the courtyard of the church starting at 8:00 PM, where there will be some summer desserts and beverages to enjoy. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs (and your favorite mosquito repellent!), and settle in for a worshipful experience of song, scripture, prayer, and quiet meditation among flickering candles and under the stars. All ages are welcome to join us! Pre-service music will begin around 8:15, and at approximately 8:30 - as the sun is setting and the stars are appearing, we’ll begin our service together.

In case of bad weather, we will still gather at the same time, but instead of settling into the courtyard on blankets and chairs, we’ll meet in the air-conditioned sanctuary for the service - but we’ll have desserts and beverages no matter what!

If you would be willing to help set-up ahead of time, if you would volunteer to bring a batch of cookies, or if you’d like more information, please call or email me.

SUMMER MUSIC

Thank you to those who have already graced our summer worship services with their voices and instruments. You are all gifts to Wallingford Presbyterian, and we thank you for sharing with us. If you have not already signed up but would be willing to sing or play this summer, it’s not too late! Several Sundays during the month of August as well as Labor Day Sunday are still available for someone who would be willing to lend their music to our worship. To volunteer or for more information please email or call me.

Liz Braden
music@wallingfordpres.org
610-566-1644 x15 (office)
215-738-2227 (cell)



Opportunities for growth & service

Vacation Bible Camp ReNew

ReNew Vacation Bible Camp experience will run from 6:00 to 8pm during the week of July 24th to July 29th.

Registration forms are outside the church office, in fellowship hall and you can register on our website www.wallingfordpres.org.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help with snacks, activities each night, shepherding, games, set design...anything you want to do, we have a spot for YOU!! Interested?!

Then contact Michelle Grunseich at medgrunseich@yahoo.com to find out how you can get involved. Our volunteer helpers workshop will be held on **Wednesday, July 6th 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!!

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 Room #1 now or call Michelle Grunseich

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|--|---|
| 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 | |

MISSIONS

ERITREAN REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

The Eritrean refugee family our church has been helping - mother Alawa, daughter Marya and son Natneal - continue to do well. They were happy to see so many WPC friends at the Strawberry Festival! We understand that Alawa's sister and her family are cleared to leave Shimelba Refugee Camp, and we hope that they will arrive in our area this summer. We expect that it will be easier to settle this new family - after all, we know the ropes now! The biggest need is expected to be help with transportation to appointments when they first arrive, such as with the social security office, public assistance, doctors and dentists. If you would like to help, please contact John or Darleen Stauffer at 610-565-5094 or Chris Darr at 610-874-2415.

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.



Regular Sunday School begins in September and concludes in 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.

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.

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. Thank you for your consideration!

High School Trip to Montreat, NC, July 17-23

Later this month, four youth and two adults will climb into a van and begin the ten-hour journey to central North Carolina. Around the country, about 1,000 other High School students will be doing the same thing - preparing to join one of the largest Presbyterian youth gatherings in the country. During the Montreat Youth Conference, we will participate in a community where honest self-reflection flourishes, genuine prayers are offered, loud laughter is shared, and friendships new and old blossom.

One of our goals at WPC is to shape young people to become faithful followers of Jesus who walk that path in a distinctly Presbyterian way. Montreat represents one of the best ways I know of to work towards that goal. At Montreat, kids work, think, and play with passionate and faithful Presbyterian young people. They also are exposed to wise and caring Presbyterian leaders (this year's preacher is Bruce Reyes-Chow, the former moderator of the

PCUSA.) As they are surrounded by peers and mentors, they begin to experience what life could be like, when lived in Christian community.

The last two years have been great experiences for our kids, and the kids very much look forward to traveling again. They ask for your prayers, as they finalize preparations and then participate in this powerful week of worship, fun, friendship and learning.

Sponsor a Tripper for HS Trip to Montreat, NC

This year's High School trip to the Montreat Youth Conference is not only a great experience - it is also an expensive one. In order to decrease the cost a bit, we are doing some fundraising. One of the fundraisers is called "Sponsor-A-Tripper." For \$75, you can sponsor one of the people going on the trip. Each sponsor will receive a letter from a trip participant telling them about the trip. You can sign up to sponsor a tripper on the bulletin board outside the reception room. If you have questions about signing up, please contact Susan Schwarz in the church office.

Careglvers Support Group

July 5, 7:00PM

Please join us for an occasion to share the opportunities and challenges of caring for loved ones who need increasing care. Meets in Pastor Hawkinson's office.