

# HILLTOPICS

WILSON MEMORIAL UNION CHURCH • WATCHUNG NJ 07069 • 908-755-5020  
WWW.WILSONMEMORIALCHURCH.ORG

## A MESSAGE FROM MATTHEW MAY

The question that I get asked the most is “So, what’s next?” As much as I would like to answer that question with something other than “I don’t know,” I cannot. Perhaps, I will begin to answer the “what’s next” question by saying, “you tell me.” While I relate this mostly to my personal future endeavors, I actually can prescribe a direction for our movement forward as the congregation of Wilson Memorial Church.

During Eastertide, I invited the congregation to join me on a path of self-discovery as I continued exploring some of the movements of authentic living I experienced during Lent. I am excited to see several members of our congregation really embrace the journey beyond where we were during Lent. I recognize that Lent gave us the space to “just be” and my encouragement is for each of us to take that time needed but know that we are also called to continue moving forward. If you still are in the space where you need to simply breathe, that is perfectly fine. The time needed is different for each of us to recover and reimplement ourselves. I have found it incredibly helpful and powerful to acknowledge when I am spent and take the time I need before I continue on.

“So, what’s next?” Moving into this “down season” of the church calendar, I continue to encourage our discovery in ministries within the church. We have many opportunities coming up in the next several months where you might invest your time and gifts. Homecoming being a prime example where your contributions would be particularly helpful.

“So, what’s next?” I’m glad many of you express interest in where I will be in the coming months as I continually look for an answer other than “I don’t know yet.” I don’t expect this to be an easy question to answer, but I envision that, with time, I will figure it all out. I think the more interesting question is: what are we doing next? The opportunities are endless if we set our minds to be open to them. I truly believe that Wilson has the ability to make great change in the world. I believe this through God who has entrusted us to be the vessels of God’s love and peace to the world that continually cries out to be saved. We have been given the power to make a difference.

“So, what’s next?” My new answer is: whatever you want to be next. Do you have an interest in fellowship opportunities? Create a gathering that others can join. Share what you do outside of Wilson and others to join you. We all should be open to new opportunities because we never know the friendships that will be strengthened or the connections that you might have otherwise missed.

I invite you to seek me out to explore new ways to contribute to Wilson to enhance your personal spiritual journey and your relationship with your church community. I’m certain that each of you have a unique gift or talent that would give you greater purpose in contributing to the mission of Wilson, so I am counting on you to be a resource for our community.

You are incredibly loved ~Matthew



**WILSON**  
MEMORIAL CHURCH



**June 11**

**Church Picnic 11:00 a.m.**

**Vacation Bible School**

**July 24-29**

**Volunteers needed**

**Sign up**

**September 29-October 1**

**Semi-Formal Fall Gala**

**Homecoming Weekend**



## **SUMMER SERVICES and OFFICE HOURS**

**Starting on Sunday, July 2  
Worship Services will be held in  
Fisher Hall as they are every  
summer.**

**Our office hours will be  
Tuesday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m to 12:30 p.m**

## **UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS**

**June 18 Charles May**

**June 25 Cairn Neely**

# Board Briefs

## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Nancy Scott

Dear Wilson Family,

Last month we bid adieu, to our dear friend and long time accompanist, Roberta Smith who now resides in sunny Florida! Her career here at Wilson spanned 20 years, and ended on May 7th with a pot luck celebration during coffee hour!

The Music Committee has been reinstated to start the search for a new accompanist. Ricky Francese graduated from college in May and has agreed to fill in for the interim.

Grab your pencil, and start marking your calendar, for after a bit of a slow start this year, exciting things are happening here at Wilson!

On June 11th, we are having our spring picnic during coffee hour. So, bring your straw hat and a side dish. (Please tell Tina what you are making).

Father's Day is June 18th and we are hoping to have our own children's choir perform during our worship service. Rehearsals will be held during coffee hour. Calling all children! If your child, or grandchild would like to sing for us, but can't make the rehearsal, we would be happy to record the music for them to practice.

Thank you to Kendal MacTaggart for offering to run VBS this year. The theme is *Finding Jesus Under the Sea!* VBS runs from July 24th thru July 27th and volunteers are still needed. If you would like to help to turn the church into an underwater adventure, please contact the church office. We are also looking for help to run the program.

The Board is discussing ideas for an August event. What would interest you? An afternoon of Bingo? A Trivia night? Or maybe, an afternoon or evening around a campfire? (Thank you, Matthew, for that idea!).

And finally, our second annual Homecoming Weekend will be held on September 30th-October 1st. Linda Basilio has agreed to chair the committee. The Homecoming committee will be having their second meeting on June 12th at 5:00 in Fisher Hall. Please join us in planning this wonderful fundraising event.

I look forward to hearing from you...Nancy

## BAPTISM CELEBRATIONS

Kacey Joan Trust (March 26)

## MEMORIAM

Karen L. Skellington Cito

## THANKS FROM ROBERTA

My, oh my...If anyone ever asks me how to set up a SENDOFF CELEBRATION I will tell them: "exactly like the one I received at Wilson Memorial Church!"

I THANK YOU SO MUCH for your lovely cards, notes, flowers, food, contributions, hugs and expressions of appreciation and bon voyage. Wilson has meant - and will continue to mean- so very much to me. My new address:

8003 SW 89th Circle Ocala, FL 34481

As the hymn says, "God be with you 'til we meet again." Love, Roberta

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023

Robert Nunn

# Board Briefs

## FINANCIAL FACTS

At this writing, we have gone through the winter and Easter seasons which provide a good picture of our financial status at this point in the year.

Our year-to-date income vs revenue status is showing a relatively small deficit, mainly due to a gentle winter and the generous Mitchell Trust.

Our congregational giving is about \$10,000 behind the budgeted amount through April.

We average about \$25,000-\$30,000 a month in revenue and expenses.

Congregational Giving usually makes up about 30%-35% of that revenue amount, with our interest/ROI and Mitchell Trust making up most of the difference.

Our Executive Board continually explores fundraising opportunities, and we need the support of EVERYONE to step up and contribute in whatever way you can, not only financially, but by contributing your talents, gifts and participation to help make our ministries the best they can be.

With gratitude, Pam Davis

## BLUE BIN UPDATE

Thank you all for your tremendous generosity surrounding our Blue Bin Mission.

We are in good shape for the next several weeks to provide nutritious food to support the food security of the 3 families we are currently helping. At this time, when it seems that prices of everything are rising, our assistance with food, paper goods and diapers not only helps put dinner on the table, but also allows these families to free up a bit of cash for other necessary life expenses.

And here's an exciting possibility; one of our Boy Scouts is considering a project to fit an available closet in the education wing with shelves to create a food pantry! Stay tuned for news on that!

Our families always bless you. Angela



## FACILITIES REPORT

The Facilities Team has experienced a successful season. Recent accomplishments and plans are as follows:

- A landscaping contract has been awarded to Stream Line Lawn and Landscape.
- The leak which appeared near the fireplace in Fisher Hall was addressed and repaired.
- A new freezer to replace the failing one in the kitchen has been delivered.
- Paul Ost oversaw the boiler inspection and the exploration of the possible acquisition of a generator to maintain our kitchen during power outages.
- Pete Della Ventura provided the glass desktop which was broken during the repair of the burst gas pipe in Timothy's office, and completed the adjustment of pews to provide for ease of movement in the sanctuary.
- Keith Wighard and a team of 8 were instrumental in completing a clean-up of vines and overgrowth at the upper edge of the parking lot. Many thanks those who turned out to lend their power and might.
- Lisa Shpunder has begun to assemble information for our book of How Things Work at Wilson.

### Coming Soon:

- A recommendation on the repair of the large windows in Fisher Hall
- Paint for the fascia on the gable ends of Fisher Hall and the Chapel.
- Fresh lines and arrows for our parking lot.
- A railing next to the steps up to the sanctuary

As we care for our aging building, we appreciate the faithful support of our congregation.

Angela Della Ventura – Facilities Chair

## STARFISH

When grocery shopping, add an extra non-perishable item to your list for Starfish! You can drop it off in the bin at church!

## THE FRIPPERY THRIFT SHOP

(The pale yellow building in the TOP parking lot)

The FRIPPERY has begun phase 1 of our clearance sales, \*with a one dollar donation to our ongoing diaper drive -everything in the building is now half price. We have about 14 SELLING DAYS to sell all of our current merchandise .

**Saturday, June 3** we will begin our "world famous" \$10 fill a level paper bag on our first floor.

We then follow with five dollars fill a bag, 75% off and finally 90% off.

ALL CLOTHING is now \$1 per item and specially priced items will be half price.

June 8 will be the last day for clothing (if there is any left) Leftovers will be donated to the following organizations - Dress 4 Success In Madison, Pregnancy Aid Center in Raritan, Bridges in Summit and the VA hospital at Lyons.

The Frippery volunteers will end our selling year with a thank you luncheon at Water and Wine restaurant in early June. We will be honoring Jean Hoffman who will be turning 95 by donating \$250 in her name to BRIDGES (Homeless program in Summit) an organization that she also volunteered with while volunteering at the Frippery.

The Frippery has also recently donated \$1,600 toward Patricia and her sons that are currently staying at the Howard Johnson's hotel hoping to find a safe secure apartment soon.

We have committed \$500 to our vacation Bible school for extra fun activities this summer. Lastly we will make our annual \$2,500 donation to the Starfish Food pantry to help fill their shelves over the summer months.

We will be accepting donations for our September opening on Thursdays in the summer after July 13.

If anyone should have the desire to come and help clean the FRIPPERY with a few of us from top to bottom we will be there Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to noon. You get paid with hugs and kisses.

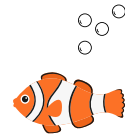
We would like to thank you all at this time for another successful year and look forward to making future donations that make an impact within our community and the larger area.

Should you have any questions, feel free to call or text Lisa Renaud 908-625-5042

## VBS

Vacation bible school is on the way! **Finding Jesus Under The Sea** will be packed full of fun activities and stories that will teach our youth about Jesus. Over the four days of camp we will be covering topics about being vocal about our relationship with Jesus, turning to Jesus in our "crabbiest" moments, continually turning to Jesus to keep spiritually alive and making a difference even if we are small. On the last day of camp, we will have a performance of what we uncovered throughout the week. Registration for VBS is open and all children aged 4-10 are welcome!

The cost is \$40 per child with a cost of \$20 per additional child. Registration will close July 12th. We are so excited to dive into knowing Jesus with your children. Come join us Under The Sea to find Jesus! Scan the QR code below to register or visit <https://www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org/vbs> .



In addition, we are also **looking for volunteers** to support our camp. Whether the contribution may be reading the bible story for the day to the kids, leading a class for the week, or providing snacks & decor we want you to join us! Creating an amazing camp experience for the youth of our community will be amazing for everyone involved. As a community we will learn more about Jesus and grow closer to him, while growing closer to each other. If you are interested in participating in Finding Jesus Under The Sea this summer, July 24-27, please join us at our first meeting on **June 5 at 6:00 p.m.** or contact [kendalmactaggart@gmail.com](mailto:kendalmactaggart@gmail.com).

## OUTREACH

Outreach has scheduled a meeting for **Sunday, July 2nd** during Coffee Hour in the Library. At that time we will review 2023 allocations and send out Wilson's contributions to agreed upon charities, as per our annual meeting agreements.

If you are aware of any needs of local, regional, state or national charities that you believe Wilson could be supporting please contact the committee chair, Cota Possien-Kania at 908-295-7534 or email her @cotapkania@gmail.com.

# WOW

## Cota Possien-Kania

Our final meeting of this 2022-23 church year will be held on the first Thursday of the month, **June 1st at 11:30 a.m.** in Fisher Hall. Bring something to share for lunch. Doesn't have to be fancy or homemade!

Please bring your ideas, and suggestions for making Women of Wilson more interactive, more proactive, for the 2023-24 year ahead! Please RSVP to cotapkania@gmail.com.

Discussion of plans for next church year beginning with first meeting on Thursday, September 7 at 11:30 a.m. in Fisher Hall.

Volunteers needed for Vacation Bible School! Meet with Kendal MacTaggart on Monday, June 5 at 6:00 p.m. if you are able to help in any way!

Church Picnic on SUNDAY, June 11 instead of coffee hour we will grill dogs and burgers! Bring a side dish to share!

Stay tuned for HOMECOMING WEEKEND planning meetings! Join us on Monday, June 12 at 5:00 p.m. to get this party started!

If you would like to get involved with WOW please reach out to Cota Possien-Kania @ 908-295-7534 or email cotapkania@gmail.com.

## EQUITY COMMITTEE

Michelle Marigliano

"I am in God, and you in me, and I in you"

John 14:15-21

Our Christian faith continually reminds us of our responsibility to co-create environments and relationships that honors Jesus' message of care and healing. As Christians we are all invited to cultivate a thriving humanity that honors the interconnected goodness of God. This shared commitment relies on our ability to ensure Wilson Memorial Church is a place where folks experience a barrier-free environment, while feeling affirmed for who they are and how their lived experience exemplifies the body of God.

The Equity & Justice committee at Wilson cherishes our responsibility to create operational, building and programming structures that prioritize the needs of our community, especially our siblings who have been historically excluded or dismissed. Over the past several months the following actions have been taken to expand access, comfort, belonging and compassion at Wilson.

- **Equitable Sharing of Labor:** In April, May & June of 2023 Pastor Michael Dreoge requested and received bereavement time away from his pastoral role and responsibilities. Matthew May, with support from visiting speakers, continues to serve the Wilson community.
- **Open & Flexible Seating:** In February and March of 2023 open & flexible seating was created in the sanctuary to provide access for wheelchair, walker and stroller users. Open space was created in the choir loft and the piano was moved to the choir to provide additional aisle access. The sanctuary podium was repositioned to remove sight barriers and allow for an expanded multi-sensory experience.
- **Gluten Free Communion:** In January Wilson launched our commitment to provide gluten free communion and coffee hour options.
- **Critical Learning:** In April on the first Sunday after Easter the Faith Formation newsletter articulates Autism Acceptance vs. Autism Awareness.

### Read and Reflect

Let's come together to expand our understanding of the Disability Justice movement and the intersection of Christian life! For more details about Wilson's Read and Reflect gathering about *My Body is Not a Prayer Request*, by Amy Kenny email, call, or connect with Michelle L. Marigliano at m.marlev@gmail.com or Kendal Mac Taggart.

You are encouraged to help expand our solidarity by sharing your ideas with the Equity and Justice Committee. Email us at admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org or share your thoughts with Lisa Shpunder, Cota Kania or Michelle L. Marigliano during coffee hour.

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Sunday Mornings at 10:00 am

In Person Worship

On-line Worship

**Live Stream also available on our  
website**

[www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org](http://www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org)

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Email: [admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilsonmemorialchurch.org)

Summer Hours: Tuesday-Thursday

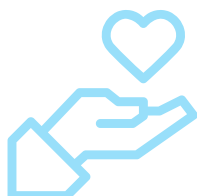
9:00 a.m - 12:30 p.m

WILSON MEMORIAL UNION CHURCH  
7 Valley Road, Watchung, NJ 07069

## HOW TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF WILSON MEMORIAL CHURCH

**In Service:** You are invited to place your offerings in the plate at the back of the Sanctuary.

**Text-to-Give:** Text WILSONCHURCH to (908) 460-8818 and follow the setup prompts for your first time. Once set up, you can simply text the gift amount to the above number.



**By Mail:** Gifts can be sent to the office at:

7 Valley Road

Watchung, NJ 07069

**Online:** Use our secure giving portal by clicking the "Giving" link on our website; [www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org/GIVE](http://www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org/GIVE)