

# Baccalaureate Service

Sponsored by the Williamsburg Area Churches  
Sunday, May 18, 2008 3:00 p.m.  
Held at the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church

PRELUDE

INVOCATION Rev. Kimberly Warwick

HYMN (standing) . . . . . "Praise the Source of Faith and Learning"

WORDS OF WELCOME (host pastor) Rev. Kimberly Warwick

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE Bonnie Olds-Carson

HYMN (seated). . . . . "As the Deer"

LITANY Rev. Rex Schrolucke

Leader: Gracious God, eternal God, you have led us to curiosity about creation, ourselves, and all things unknown.

PEOPLE: **LET US NEVER LOSE OUR SENSE OF WONDER ABOUT THE WORLD YOU HAVE GIVEN US.**

Leader: God of Abraham and Sarah, you lead us to new understandings when we least expect them.

PEOPLE: **LET US NEVER SEE OURSELVES AS TOO YOUNG, TOO OLD, OR TOO WISE TO LEARN NEW LESSONS FROM YOU.**

Leader: God of the prophets, you call us to speak truth with love to a reluctant world.

PEOPLE: **GIVE US COURAGE TO JUDGE OURSELVES, AND WISDOM TO LEARN FROM THOSE YOU SEND TO TEACH US.**

Leader: God of the rich young ruler, you love us though we shrink from the challenge of discipleship.

PEOPLE: **TEACH US TO SURRENDER OUR OWN WILLS, THAT WE MIGHT SEEK YOURS AND DRAW CLOSER TO YOUR GRACE.**

Leader: Everlasting, ever-loving God, teacher, creator, giver of knowledge and freedom, fear and courage, doubt and faith,

PEOPLE: **GRANT THAT WE MIGHT ALWAYS USE YOUR GIFTS TO BUILD A WORLD WHERE PEACE, JUSTICE, LOVE, AND HOPE REIGN IN WISDOM AND IN TRUTH. AMEN.**

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE . . . . . Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Rev. Tammy Jo Reiser

THE WORD IN SONG . . . . . "Thy Word"

BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS: **"It's About Time"** Rev. Tammy Jo Reiser

HYMN (standing) . . . . . "God Will Take Care of You"

BLESSING PRAYER FOR THE GRADUATES: Rev. Mark Otten

**God of truth and knowledge,  
by your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth.  
Bless these graduates as they now finish this course of study.  
We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them,  
and all who supported them along the way.  
Walk with these graduates as they leave and move forward in life.  
Take away their anxiety and confusion of purpose.  
Strengthen their many talents and skills,  
instill in them a confidence in the future you plan  
where energies may be gathered up and used  
for the good of all people. Amen.**

A CHORAL BLESSING . . . . . "On Eagle's Wings"

BENEDICTION Rev. Wendell Fetters

Ministers Participating:

- Rev. Kimberly Warwick . . . . . Williamsburg Presbyterian Church
- Bonnie Olds-Carson . . . Youth Pastor, Williamsburg United Methodist Church
- Rev. Rex Schrolucke . . . . . Trinity Christian Fellowship
- Rev. Mark Otten . . . . . Clear Mountain Community Church
- Rev. Wendell Fetters . . . . . First Church of the Nazarene
- Rev. Duane Kemerley . . . . . Williamsburg United Methodist Church

Pianist / Organist . . . . . Julia Hess

Guest Speaker . . . . . Rev. Tammy Jo Reiser

- Pastor of the Waynesville United Methodist Church
- Youth Ministry Consultant for the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church
- Adjunct Professor at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton
- Frequent Teacher / Speaker at Youth and Youth Worker Conferences
- Masters in Divinity with a Contemporary Culture Specialization from United Theological Seminary
- Youth Ministry Certification from Fuller Theological Seminary

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**2 Samuel 23:1-7 (The Message)**

These are David's last words:

The voice of the son of Jesse, the voice of the man God took to the top,  
Whom the God of Jacob made king, and Israel's most popular singer!

[2] God's Spirit spoke through me, his words took shape on my tongue.

[3] The God of Israel spoke to me, Israel's Rock-Mountain said,  
"Whoever governs fairly and well, who rules in the Fear-of-God,

[4] Is like first light at daybreak without a cloud in the sky,  
Like green grass carpeting earth, glistening under fresh rain."

[5] And this is just how my regime has been, for God guaranteed his covenant with me,  
Spelled it out plainly and kept every promised word—

My entire salvation, my every desire.

[6] But the devil's henchmen are like thorns culled and piled as trash;

[7] Better not try to touch them; keep your distance with a rake or hoe.  
They'll make a glorious bonfire!

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 (New Living Translation) – A Time for Everything**

1 For everything there is a season,  
a time for every activity under heaven.

2 A time to be born and a time to die.  
A time to plant and a time to harvest.

3 A time to kill and a time to heal.  
A time to tear down and a time to build up.

4 A time to cry and a time to laugh.  
A time to grieve and a time to dance.

5 A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones.  
A time to embrace and a time to turn away.

6 A time to search and a time to quit searching.  
A time to keep and a time to throw away.

7 A time to tear and a time to mend.  
A time to be quiet and a time to speak.

8 A time to love and a time to hate.  
A time for war and a time for peace.

9 What do people really get for all their hard work? 10 I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. 11 Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end. 12 So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. 13 And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God.

## AS THE DEER

1. As the deer panteth for the water, So my soul longs after You.  
You alone are my heart's desire, And I long to worship You.

Refrain: You alone are my strength, my shield;  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, And I long to worship You.

2. You're my friend and You are my brother, Even though You are a King.  
I love You more than any other, So much more than anything.

Refrain: You alone are my strength, my shield;  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, And I long to worship You.

3. I want You more than gold or silver, Only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy giver, And the apple of my eye.

Refrain: You alone are my strength, my shield;  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, And I long to worship You.

## THY WORD

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,  
still you're there right beside me,  
and nothing will I fear as long as you are near.  
Please be near me to the end.

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

2. Now I will not forget your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide and hold me to your side,  
And I will love you to the end.

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

## GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU

1. Be not dismayed what e'er betide, God will take care of you;  
Beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you;

*Refrain:* God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;  
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

2. Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;  
When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you;

*Refrain:* God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;  
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

3. All you may need he will provide, God will take care of you;  
Nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you;

*Refrain:* God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;  
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

4. No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;  
Lean, weary one, upon his breast, God will take care of you;

*Refrain:* God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;  
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

## ON EAGLE'S WINGS

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of God's hand.

## PRAISE THE SOURCE OF FAITH AND LEARNING

(Tune: Hyfrydol)

1. Praise the source of faith and learning that has sparked and stoked the mind  
With a passion for discerning how the world has been designed.  
Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey  
Keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray:

2. God of wisdom, we acknowledge that our science and our art  
and the breadth of human knowledge only partial truth impart.  
Far beyond our calculation lies a depth we cannot sound  
Where your purpose for creation and the pulse of life are found.

3. May our faith redeem the blunder of believing that our thought  
Has displaced the grounds for wonder which the ancient prophets taught.  
May our learning curb the error which unthinking faith can breed  
Lest we justify some terror with an antiquated creed.

4. As two currents in a river fight each other's undertow  
Till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow,  
Blend, O God, our faith and learning till they carve a single course,  
Till they join as one, returning praise the thanks to you, their Source.