

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 2003

Gathering around God's Word

PRELUDE: "Call to the Faithful" Rex Koury
(Christy Floyd, Organist/Pianist)

WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP Ed Lewis

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 41:1-3, 13)

Happy are those who are concerned for the poor;

the Lord will help them when they are in trouble.

The Lord will protect them and preserve their lives;

he will make them happy in the land;

he will not abandon them to the power of their enemies.

The Lord will help them when they are sick and will restore them to health.

Praise the Lord, the God of Israel! Praise him now and forever!

*HYMN OF PRAISE: "How Firm a Foundation" No. 411

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: "Healing Grace" No. 370
(11:00 a.m. Chancel Choir)

**Merciful God and Father, loving us like no other,
hear our prayer, the cry of our hearts, as we come to you;
we acknowledge our transgressions, we confess to you our sins,
show us mercy and compassion,
touch our lives with your healing grace again.**

Release us from the past, as we seek your face:

wash us free at last, we receive your love, we receive your healing grace.

We receive your love, we receive your healing grace.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on Isaiah 43:25)

I am the God who forgives your sins, and I do this because of who I am.

I will not hold your sins against you.

We hear and believe:

Because of God's grace in Christ Jesus, our sins are forgiven. Amen and amen!

Proclaiming God's Word

CHILDREN'S SERMON Thermond Thompson

ANTHEM: (11:00 a.m.) "Believe, Believe" John Horman
(Logos Choir)

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 2:1-12 (page 34, pew Bible)

(8:30 a.m.) Liz Rader; (11:00 a.m.) Tom Church

*HYMN: "Heal Me, Hands of Jesus" No. 636

SERMON: "The Faith of a Few Good Friends" Ed Lewis

Responding to God's Word

*HYMN OF INVITATION: "O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come" No. 638

*LITANY FOR HEALING

Lord, there are many in our midst and in our world who are in need of your healing.

We lift up those among us who are paralyzed by physical illness.

We pray that you would lay your healing hand upon them.

We pray for those who have experienced the paralyzing pain of broken relationships.

We pray that you would lay your healing hand upon them.

We lift up those whose circumstances have left them feeling paralyzed and helpless.

We pray that you would lay your healing hand upon them.

We pray for those whose guilt and fear of rejection paralyze them and keep them outside the community of faith.

We pray that you would forgive them and lay your healing hand upon them.

God, we confess that many of us are paralyzed this morning, either afraid or unwilling to bring others into your healing presence.

We pray that you would forgive us and lay your healing upon us.

Anoint us and give us your spirit in our hearts.

That we may have the love and courage to bring all people unto you.

May your healing work be so evident among us that we will be amazed and bring glory to your name.

Both now and forevermore. Amen.

*RESPONSE: "His Strength Is Perfect" No. 637

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ANTHEM: (8:30 a.m.) "He Touched Me" William Gaither
(Gene Auten, Soloist)

(11:00 a.m.) "A Healing Stream" Steve Phifer

*DOXOLOGY: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" No. 34

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (8:30 a.m.) Phil Heilman; (11:00 a.m.) Bob Campbell

Bearing God's Word into the World

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE: "His Strength Is Perfect" No. 637

POSTLUDE: "Hallelujah, Amen!" George F. Handel

Cassette tapes of the service are available at the sound console located at the rear of the sanctuary.

Guests: Welcome to First Presbyterian on this Lord's Day. If you need a church home, we invite you to unite with our congregation. Please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Collins Sink by the Chong Lieu family.

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Becky Brantley in her death on February 18.

Singspiration '03, our church-wide talent show, will follow a covered-dish supper next Sunday, March 2, at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring your favorite dishes to share, and book your "act" with Alan Sledge.

Calendar and Announcements

- Sunday: 5:30 p.m. - PYF
6:30 p.m. - Executive Committee
7:30 p.m. - Session
- Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scout Troop 166
7:00 p.m. - Small Group, "He Chose the Nails," with Liz Price
- Tuesday: 3:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers
5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at Sweet Fire BBQ
6:15 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
7:00 p.m. - Parenting study in the Library
- Wednesday: 4:00 p.m. - Logos/Middle School Ministry
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir
- Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - Through the Bible Study
3:30 p.m. - Genesis Ringers
6:30 p.m. - First Place
7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women Council at the home of Debbie Church
- Friday: 10:00 a.m. - Parenting study in the Library
7:00 p.m. - "Exploring our Reformed Faith" at the home of Liz Price
- Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - Promise Keepers in the Library

Camp Grier: Camp Grier Director Bart Shaw will present a program on Camp Grier's summer camping program this Wednesday during the Logos/MSM dinner hour. Parents and interested persons are invited to attend the presentation at approximately 6:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Camp Grier offers weekly summer camping sessions for children in rising second through twelfth grades from June 15 – August 1. Scholarship help is available upon request. In addition, adult volunteer and paid staff positions are available. Brochures are available in the church office. Please contact Ellen Auten with questions regarding Camp Grier's summer camping opportunities.

Saints Alive Trip: The Saints Alive group is planning a trip to Biltmore Estates in Asheville on Tuesday, March 4. The group will leave at 8:30 a.m. and return in the late afternoon. Cost is \$18, plus lunch and gas money. Please contact Ellen Auten if you are interested in this trip.

Host Families Needed: Lake Norman Children's Relief will need more than 30 Christian families to provide a loving home for a Belarussian child between the ages of 7 and 15, or for an adult interpreter, for six weeks this summer. For more information, call 704-663-1464 for the LNCR summer coordinator or visit their web site at www.lncr.ws.

Fred and Jean Coates are serving this week at the mission hospital at Mwandu, Zambia, Africa. Pray for their safety and the success of their mission trip.

In Memoriam

Rebecca Davidson Brantley

May 12, 1903 – February 18, 2003

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth...that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them! Revelation 14:13



First Presbyterian Church

249 West McLelland Avenue
Mooresville, North Carolina