

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

January 21, 2007

11:00 A.M.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP .....The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor
Welcome and Friendship Pads
Announcements
Invocation

PRELUDE: From Heaven on High..... Pelz
Joanne Daykin, Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

\*HYMN: All Creatures of Our God and King.....No. 23

\*CONFESSION AND PARDON..... Dr. Brown
Call to Confession
Unison Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, You have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have gone our own way and broken Your laws. We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them. For the sake of Your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us. By Your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you, and to please you more and more; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon (from Psalm 103)

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

Unison: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

\*RESPONSE: Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven (Verse.1).....No. 82

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to his feet your tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

CHILDREN’S SERMON

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 12:38-41..... Lynelle Owen

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*HYMN: God of the Sparrow.....No. 29

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give
Offertory: Sovereign Majesty .....Fettke

Chancel Choir

\*Doxology: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.....No. 34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*Prayer of Dedication

SERMON

Jonah 1:17 – 2:10 (Insert)

“Big Fish... Bigger God: Getting Our Attention

The Rev. Dr. Fred A. Coates

\*HYMN: O God of Every Nation.....No. 626

\*INVITATION AND BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE: Go With Us, Lord.....No. 747

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

POSTLUDE: O Savior Rend the Heavens Wide.....Held

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\* Those who are able will please stand.

If you are our guest today, welcome to First Presbyterian! We’re so glad you’re worshiping with us. For more information, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and speak with one of the pastors following the service. God bless you! Please return to worship with us again.

You can become part of the First Presbyterian family of faith TODAY by your profession of faith, transfer of church membership, or reaffirmation of faith. The Session meets after every service to receive new members. Please speak with Fred Coates, our associate pastor, following today’s service.

Christian sympathy is expressed to Stacy Windsor and family in the death of her father, Thomas L. Folk of Georgia on January 18.

Recent prayer requests: Sam Sanders, a patient at Charlotte Presbyterian hospital; Margaret Sanders; Doris and Carl Neal; John McClure; Stacy Windsor and family in the death of her father; and Laban Thompson and his shipmates on the USS Guardian.

## *Announcements*

**New Sermon Series—Big Fish...Bigger God:** Think the story of Jonah is simply about a whale swallowing a man? Think again! Seven sermons from January 7-February 18 in both 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services will take us through this remarkable Old Testament witness to the acts of a loving, gracious God and the responses God desires from us.

### Upcoming Preaching Schedule for *Big Fish...Bigger God*:

1/28/07, Jonah 3:1-3a, "A God-Sized Task"

2/4/07, Jonah 3:3b-10, "Drastic Times and Drastic Measures"

2/11/07, Jonah 4:1-4, "And This Is a Bad Thing?"

2/18/07, Jonah 4:5-11, "Looking at Life Through a God-Shaped Lens"

A wonderful way for you to prepare for each sermon in this life-changing series is to read the Scripture passage for Sunday before you come to the worship service.

**Lent in the Living Room:** You will have the opportunity to participate in something new and exciting for First Presbyterian Church this Lent—a small group ministry called "Lent in the Living Room."

What happens during "Lent in the Living Room?" Small groups of between 8-14 people will meet once a week for six sessions in host homes located throughout Mooresville and the surrounding area during Lent. When they meet, they do the following:

- Study the Scriptures together, using the sermon passage preached the previous Sunday as the text with discussion questions and a trained small group facilitator from the church.
- Share with one another and get to know each other.
- Pray together.

Groups will begin to meet the week of the First Sunday in Lent, February 25, and will end the week of the Sixth Sunday in Lent, April 1. Groups will be offered in different locations and on most days and nights of the week, so you will be able to find a group on the day, at the time, and in the location best for you. Group gatherings usually take approximately 70-90 minutes. You will be able to register for the group of your choice beginning Sunday, February 4.

We are actively seeking facilitators to lead discussions and hosts to open their homes to groups. Training will be provided. If you are interested in serving as a facilitator, a host, or both, or if you simply want more information, please contact Clay Brown at 704-664-5275, [clay@moorevillefirstpres.org](mailto:clay@moorevillefirstpres.org).

**"Understanding and Answering Islam"** Thursday, January 25: This one-time class seeks to provide an introduction to the major tenets of Islam as well as respond to Islamic challenges to Christianity as part of the "Thursdays with Clay" study series led by the Rev. Dr. Clay Brown. The course is concentrated and self-contained in a two-hour time period, 1:00-3:00 p.m. and 7:00-9:00 p.m. The material presented from 1:00-3:00 p.m. is repeated at 7:00-9:00 p.m., so you may choose whichever time period fits your schedule best. Contact the church office to register, 704-664-5275, [secretary@moorevillefirstpres.org](mailto:secretary@moorevillefirstpres.org).

**Vacation Bible School Planning Committee:** There will be a meeting of the VBS Planning Committee next Monday, January 29, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300. Please contact Ellen Auten if you are interested in helping on the Planning Committee. This year's Bible School is scheduled for June 24-27.



11:00 a.m. Worship  
First Presbyterian Church

249 West McLelland Avenue  
Mooresville, North Carolina

*The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him...*

Habakkuk 2:20

## Calendar

- Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship  
9:45 a.m. - Church School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
3:00 p.m. - Handmaidens of the Lord (No. 6) at the home of Eloise Brawley  
4:15 p.m. - Alpha PYF  
5:15 p.m. - Omega PYF  
7:00 p.m. - Diaconate
- Monday: 7:30 p.m. - Bible study at the home of Fred & Jean Coates
- Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at Trackside  
6:00 p.m. - Brownies in room 319  
7:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
- Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Fronnie Gardner  
4:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM – *Space/Alien Night*  
5:00 p.m. - Kairos  
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir
- Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Harding & Peggy Rogers  
1:00 p.m. - Thursdays with Clay – “Understanding and Answering Islam”  
7:00 p.m. - Thursdays with Clay – “Understanding and Answering Islam”
- Sunday 1/28: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship  
9:45 a.m. - Church School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Logos choir  
5:15 p.m. - Alpha & Omega PYF  
6:00 p.m. - Chili Cook-Off  
7:00 p.m. - Session

## Sermon Notes ♦ January 21, 2007 ♦ 8:30 & 11:00 A.M. *Big Fish... Bigger God: Getting Our Attention* ♦ Jonah 1:17–2:10 (ESV)

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### SERMON TEXT: Jonah 1:17-2:10 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup>And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

<sup>1</sup>Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, <sup>2</sup>saying, “I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. <sup>3</sup>For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. <sup>4</sup>Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight; Yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.’ <sup>5</sup>The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head <sup>6</sup>at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God. <sup>7</sup>When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. <sup>8</sup>Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. <sup>9</sup>But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!”

<sup>10</sup>And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

### SERMON OUTLINE: *Big Fish... Bigger God: Getting Our Attention*

#### I. BIG GULP

#### II. BIG GRASP

#### III. BIG GUSH