

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

March 4, 2007

11:00 A.M.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP ..... The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor

- Welcome and Friendship Pads
Announcements
Invocation

PRELUDE: Our Father Who Art in Heaven.....Buxtehude
Joanne Daykin, Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

\*HYMN: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise ..... No. 48

\*CONFESSION AND PARDON..... The Rev. Dr. Fred Coates, Associate Pastor
Call to Confession
Unison Prayer of Confession

Sovereign God, we confess to you that our perspectives and actions are twisted by pride. We see ourselves as pure when in reality we are stained, and mighty when in reality we are weak. We have failed to live in your love. We have neglected to be just. We have turned away from your truth. God of mercy, forgive our sin, so we may serve you joyfully and fearlessly. Through Jesus Christ we pray; Amen.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

Leader: ...Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

Unison: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

\*RESPONSE: At the Cross (Refrain).....No. 258

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away, it was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

NEW TESTAMENT READING: John 10:7-16.....Pew Bible, pp. 98
Carolyn Brawley, Reader

\*SCRIPTURAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day; and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

\*HYMN: You Are My All in All.....No. 427

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 THE GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give
Offertory: Christ Upon the Mountain Peak.....Bowman
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

Matthew 14:22-33 (Insert)

Living on Your Growing Edge: Discipleship with the Apostle Peter Sermon Series

When You Step Out in Faith

Dr. Brown

\*HYMN: Trust and Obey (Verses 1,2,3).....No. 443

\*INVITATION AND BLESSING

\*RESPONSE: Trust and Obey (Verse 4).....No. 443

POSTLUDE: Jesus, I Will Ponder on Thy Holy Passion.....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 worshipping 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 a member of First Presbyterian TODAY by your profession of faith, transfer of church membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Elders from the Session meet after every service to receive new members. Please speak with Fred Coates, our associate pastor, in the Parlor following today's service.

Recordings of the 11:00 a.m. service are available at the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by Bob and Joyce Lytle in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

## Announcements

**New Lenten Sermon Series—“Living on Your Growing Edge: Discipleship with the Apostle Peter.”** The sermons preached during Lent will connect with the Scriptures our “Lent in the Living Room” groups will be discussing and will follow a specific theme. This year’s theme is “Living on Your Growing Edge: Discipleship with the Apostle Peter.” What is your growing edge? Is it that place in life where God is working with you most to shape and mold your character more and more into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Here are the sermons and Scripture passages our pastors will preach during Lent.

- ❑ **1<sup>st</sup> Sun. of Lent, Feb. 25:** “When You’re Out of Your Comfort Zone,” *Luke 5:1-11.*
- ❑ **2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. of Lent, Mar. 4:** “When You Step Out in Faith,” *Matthew 14:22-33.*
- ❑ **3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Lent, Mar. 11:** “When You-Know-Who Shows Up,” *Luke 9:28-36.*
- ❑ **4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Lent, Mar. 18:** “When You Finally Get It Right,” *Matthew 16:13-17.*
- ❑ **5<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Lent, Mar. 25:** “When You Have Nowhere Else to Turn,” *John 6:60-69.*
- ❑ **6<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Lent, Apr. 1 (Palm Sun.):** “When You’ve Blown It,” *Matthew 26:30-35, 69-75.*

A wonderful way for you to prepare for each sermon in this transformational series is to read the Scripture passage for Sunday before you come to worship and then to participate in a “Lent in the Living Room” small group to discuss the passage during the week. Information on the groups may be found in the bulletin insert. Come to worship ready to hear God’s Word shared, explained, and applied to our lives.

**Ushers and Greeters:** If you are interested in this ministry of hospitality and welcome on Sunday mornings, please contact Phil Heilman, chair of the Worship and Music Committee, 704-663-6518, [bichoperez@aol.com](mailto:bichoperez@aol.com).

**Discover First Pres Class Today, 6:00-9:00 p.m.** Considering becoming a member of the First Presbyterian Church family? A new member? Want to know more about this community of faith? A one-time class, *Discover First Pres*, is scheduled for today, March 4, 6:00-9:00 p.m. We’ll begin with a dessert reception at the manse next to the church, hosted by our pastor/head of staff and his wife, Clay and Cathy Brown. Then we’ll move to the church for a tour and a brief introduction to all things Presbyterian led by Dr. Brown, as well as the chance to meet some of the staff and lay leaders of the congregation. Meeting people, sharing information, orienting you to the First Pres family, and having a good time are the watchwords of the evening. There’s still room for you! Speak with one of the pastors this morning or call Dr. Brown today at 704-664-5044.

**Daylight Savings Time Next Sunday.** DST starts earlier than usual this year—March 11<sup>th</sup> instead of the first Sunday of April. So move those clocks forward one hour next Sunday (“spring forward, fall back”) and don’t be late!

**Volunteers for “Step Two”:** “Step Two” is a one-time, one-hour conversation with new members about how they may become involved and “plug in” at FPC usually held during the Church School hour. We need caring, relational people to help our new members become connected to our church community. If you sense God’s leadership to be a “Step Two” volunteer, please contact Dr. Brown.

**Church School:** Everyone is encouraged to attend the kick-off to “March MADness,” (March Attendance Dash) this morning from 9:30-10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Breakfast refreshments will be served. During the month of March, all church school classes are encouraged to increase their attendance and participation, with a goal of 30% increased attendance. Church school classes are held each Sunday for all ages, birth through adult, from 9:45-10:00 a.m.

### In Memoriam

*Asa Thurston McNeely*

November 23, 1920 – February 27, 2007

**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**



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 3/4: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship with MSM Handbells  
9:45 a.m. - Church School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
4:15 p.m. - Alpha PYF  
5:15 p.m. - Omega PYF  
6:00 p.m. - *Discover First Pres* begins at the Manse  
Lent in the Living Room

Monday: Lent in the Living Room

Tuesday: 2:00 p.m. - Library Committee  
5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at Chick-fil-a  
6:00 p.m. - Brownies in Room 219  
7:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers  
Lent in the Living Room

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. - Office Volunteer Orientation in room 300  
11:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Fronnie Gardner  
4:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM – *Western Night*  
5:00 p.m. - Kairos  
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir  
Lent in the Living Room

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Harding & Peggy Rogers  
6:00 p.m. - Fun & Fellowship at Golden Corral  
Lent in the Living Room

Sunday 3/4: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship  
8:30 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast  
9:45 a.m. - Church School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
3:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry  
4:15 p.m. - Alpha PYF  
5:15 p.m. - Omega PYF  
Lent in the Living Room

**Saints Alive Trip:** The Saints Alive group is planning a trip to tour the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer on Friday, March 16. Plans are to leave at 10:45 a.m., eat lunch in the Salisbury area, and tour the facility following lunch. Cost is \$5.50. Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) to make a reservation.

**Christian sympathy is expressed** to Miriam McNeely, Mark McNeely, Lucy Hastings and the rest of the McNeely family in the death of Asa McNeely on February 27; and to Fred Hoke in the death of his brother on February 25.

**Make plans to attend two special upcoming events:** A pancake supper/breakfast will be held on March 16 & 17 to benefit the Mwandu Endowment and the Logos Musical and Dessert on March 18. See the newsletter for more details.

**Recent Prayer Requests:** The McNeely family; Terry Stevens; Anne Lowe; Barb Fuller, health concerns; Bob Lytle; John McClure; Margaret Sanders; and Laban Thompson and shipmates on the USS Guardian.

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SERMON TEXT

<sup>22</sup>Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup>And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

<sup>28</sup>And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup>He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup>And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

SERMON OUTLINE

WHEN YOU STEP OUT IN FAITH...

- I. JESUS HAS YOU—COMING AND GOING! (VV. 22-27, 32-33)
  
- II. YOU'LL OFTEN NEED TO MAKE A DECISION NOW, NOT LATER. (V. 28)
  
- III. RISK IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT. (VV. 29-30)
  
- IV. KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS. (V. 31)

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