“If I Had Only One Sermon to Preach...”

A sermon by Dr. Bill Hufham

Sunday, April 24, 2016
Text: John 3 & 4 (selected verses)
With Mother’s Day just around the corner, why not consider a gift of FPC’s 190th anniversary cookbook? Profits will be donated to local mission outreach programs (currently through the Deacon’s Fund). Cost: $20.00 (checks should be payable to FPC with “Cookbook” in the note section). Books may be purchased in the church office.

Summer is almost here and we are teaming up again this year with FUMC for another great week of VBS!

Volunteers are needed!!!

If you are able to volunteer during any of the times listed below, even if it is just for a few of the days, please contact Brittany Van Staalduinen at the church (946-4616).

The schedule for VBS is:
June 26-30
Sunday night 5-7:30
Monday- Thursday 9am-12pm

Invitation to all women, regardless of circle attendance:

Presbyterian Women End-of-Year Luncheon

Wednesday, May 11*

Program begins at 11:00 a.m.

Valerie Kines, new director of Ruth’s House, is the guest speaker. Valerie is the wife of the new pastor at First Christian Church.

The program will also feature the presentation of the annual PW Life Membership award.

Salad Luncheon** following the program

*Please note—not on the usual Tuesday meeting time!

**No need to bring anything unless designated by your circle.

An offering will be received to benefit Ruth’s House.
ON STAYING AFOAT

I’m told that a few years ago, the psychology department over at Duke University carried out an experiment that shocked many of the people who witnessed it. It seems that they wanted to see how long rats could swim. Though it probably had little to do with the old adage, “rats leaving a sinking ship,” it did seek to answer an age old question. Given their introduction to an unexpected body of water, the curious sought to understand just how long the little fellows (surely they didn’t threaten the ladies!) could tread water.

As one might imagine, in one container they placed a rat for which there was no possibility of escape. Naturally, he swam a few moments and then eventually ducked his head in futility and drowned. In the other container they made the hope of escape appear to be a genuine possibility for the rat. Curiously, by providing a plausible way out of his predicament, the tiny rat swam for several hours before finally giving up in exhaustion.

So, what was the conclusion of this strange experiment? The conclusion of the experiment was just the opposite of our common conclusion. We usually say, "As long as there is life, there is hope." Yet, what the Duke experiment actually proved was the exact opposite of that maxim. What they discovered in the rat’s behavior was that as long as there is hope, there is life. Sound familiar? It ought to. For you and I, nothing could be truer. Because we have the hope of the Gospel, we have life, the sort of life we could never find on our own. To paraphrase the Apostle Paul, “If it is for this life only that we have hope, we are most to be pitied.” And so we swim, and swim and swim some more, because we know our life is born of hope in something greater than a little water, no matter how dangerous and overwhelming it may seem at the time.

My Love Always

Lee
We Gather to Worship God

5th Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2016 10:30 A.M.

Prelude

Adagio in F Major Opus 1 Nr. 12 George Frederick Handel
Chris Ellis, Violin

Words of Welcome and Sharing

*Invitation to Worship

Psalm 103

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me praise His Holy Name.
Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.
Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.
Who redeems our lives from the pit and crowns us with love and compassion.
Praise the Lord, all ye heavenly hosts. Praise Him, all His works.
Praise the Lord, O my soul. LET US WORSHIP GOD!

*Song of Praise

Number 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDDA

Admitting Our Faults and Accepting God’s Forgiveness

Jim Ellis

“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.” The words of the Apostle Paul speak to our hearts. By our sins we move away from our Creator and our purpose for creation – to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Let us claim the power of God’s reconciling love by confessing our sins:

Almighty God, You called us to be a servant people, caring for the needy, visiting the sick, giving drink to the thirsty. We confess that we have not followed your commands. We have been silent when we should have spoken out. We have been timid when we should have

*Those who are able, please stand

Bold indicates unison
been courageous. We have ignored the evil around us by tolerating prejudice and injustice, by going along to get along. Lord, forgive us. Cleanse us from sin and grant us peace as we lay our sins on Your alter of grace. Hear now the private confessions of our hearts...

(Please pause for silent, personal confession.)

This is the Good News: We have an Advocate with the Father, even Jesus Christ His Son. He died for our sins and lives for our redemption. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son....” Believing in Him we can boldly say:

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. AMEN.

*SINGING PRAISES TO OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

Glory Be to the Father  GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Jesus Loves Me! This I Know  WARNER

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

WE LISTEN TO GOD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE  Frannye Fowle

ANTHEM

Alleluia!  Ed Harris

The Chancel Choir

READING GOD’S WORD  Dr. Bill Huffham

John 3:4 (selections)
Beginning on page 93 in the New Testament of Pew Bible

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.
The Message

“If I Had Only One Sermon to Preach...”

We Respond to God

*Song of Response

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus — HYFRYDOL

*We Say What We Believe

JIM ELLIS

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.

Prayers of the People & 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, forever. Amen.

Giving Ourselves to God through Our Tithes and Offerings

Musical Offering

Like a River Glorious — arr. Paul S. Jones

CHRISS ELLIS, VIOLIN

*We Praise God above All Else

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow — OLD HUNDREDTH

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 Thanksgiving
Jim Ellis

*Song of Commitment
Number 394
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
Westminster Abbey

*A Challenge and a Good Word As We Go Forth to Serve
Dr. Hufham

*Song of Response
Blest Be the Tie That Binds
Dennis

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

*As We Leave to Serve
Allegro in F Major Opus 1 Nr. 12
George Frederick Handel

Chris Ellis, Violin

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Participating in the Service this Morning

USHERS: Mike Rowe (HU), Roddy Schmitt, Sally Pinkham, Lindsey Crisp, Dot Moate, Sandy Harris
GREETER: Carol Windley
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP: Jim Ellis
CHILDREN’S SERMON: Franny Fowle
CHILDREN’S CHURCH: Patch Clark
NURSERY: Buffy Johnson
MINUTE MADE VISITOR: Alida Sawyer

WE ARE GRATEFUL for Dr. Bill Hufham bringing us the morning message while Pastor Kinney continues his recovery. We are also happy to let you know Pastor Kinney will be back in the pulpit on May 1!

SPECIAL MUSIC —We are delighted to have Chris Ellis, concert violinist, instructor, and director of the Beaufort County Community Orchestra. Chris is one of North Carolina's finest concert artists who is in demand by every orchestra and symphony in eastern North Carolina. We are delighted to have him with us today as he gives us a glimpse of heaven's music with the sounds of his violin.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP this morning are given to the Glory of God and in grateful appreciation for Dr. Bill Hufham filling the pulpit during Pastor Kinney's absence.

Please note: Dates available to place flowers in the sanctuary are May 8 and May 15.
Welcome to Our Visitors

We are happy that you are worshiping with us today at First Presbyterian Church, and we pray this service will be both a blessing to you and an opportunity to encourage you in your relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. We hope you will come again. We invite you to sign the friendship pad as it is passed along the pew this morning.

If you would like a copy of the weekly bulletin by e-mail, please indicate so on the friendship pad being sure to include your e-mail address. If you are interested in finding out more about FPC or would like to join with us, please indicate so on the friendship pad and someone will be in touch with you.

PLEASE SEE THE BACK OF THE BULLETIN for the listing of names of our Elders and Deacons, the Officers of the Corporation, and Standing Nominating Committee.

NEW PARISH ASSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE! All members as well as Parish Leaders are noted on a list in the Fellowship Hall. Please stop by and see who your new Parish Leader is.

PLEDGE CARDS: If you do not yet have your 2016 pledge cards, please check the table at the back of the sanctuary.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT NEEDED! Our smallest members are out of the crawling stage and ready for playground activities! However, our current playground equipment is too large for them. If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of a piece of nice toddler equipment, please note “playground equipment” on the memo line of your

THANK YOU for your prayers for all the individuals listed on the next page, as well as for their families. If you have requested that a name be placed on our prayer list, we do so appreciate your calling us in the church office (946-4616) and giving us an up-date! We do not have contacts for several on our list of “Family & Friends” and for our “On-Going Prayer Concerns” and we would appreciate hearing from you.
**PASTORAL UPDATES FOR THIS WEEK**

**Elder on Call this coming week:** Ron Siegrist (944-6048)

**Members:** Marsha Remyn, Lee Kinney, Barbara Probert, Mac Jones, Carol Jones, Cathy Snow, Danny Asby, John Grimes, Sally McGahey, Bronna Graham, Beverly Pitsenberger, Sharon Steinbacher, Betty Stewart

**Friends & Family:** Tim Francis (brother of Terri Ann McLawhorn), Kathleen Warner (daughter of Dr. Robert Sandy), Catelyn Finkenbine, Brett & Jane Finkenbine (relatives of Sandy & Phil Harris), Tonya Harne (niece of Rod & Terry Harne), Rev. Danny Allen, Rev. Dr. Jimmy Moore, Rachel Richey Stall, Leigh Swain (friend of Carol Jones), Joan Wood (friend of Helen Eckman), Sawyer and A.J. Fish (grandchildren of Sue and Bob Fish), Gladys Faulkner, Barbara Dell Carter, Jane Branson, Mark McCoy, Lloyd Shank

**Sympathy** — We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Dot Moate and her family on the death of her sister, Brenda Peele, who died on Friday, April 15. May God grant Dot and the children and family comfort during this time of deepest sorrow.

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**BOOKKEEPER’S REPORT**

**April 17**

- **Attendance:** 165
- **General Offering:** $5,350.44
- **Other Offerings:** $70.00

**PLEASE NOTE...** There is a continuing need for replenishment of the Deacon’s Fund in order to meet the needs of our neighbors in the community who are in crisis. Also note that there are still FPC Celebration Cookbooks for sale ($20/ea.) and FPC coffee mugs for sale ($5/ea.) in the office.

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**ON-GOING PRAYER CONCERNS**

Thank you for remembering these individuals with cards, calls, visits and prayers. For your convenience, “Thinking of You cards” are in the Friendship Pad. You may drop them in the offering plate for the church to mail.

- **Assisted Living**
  - Anne Noyes
  - 4461 S. Main St
  - Acworth, GA 30101
  - (252-944-9303)

- **River Trace**
  - Cathy Snow
  - Room 310, River Trace
  - Washington, NC 27889

- **Autumnfield**
  - Emily Kelly
  - 1345 Seed Tick Neck Rd.
  - Pinetown, NC 27865

- **Gardens of Statesville**
  - Sally Wiley, Room 316
  - 2147 Davie Ave.
  - Statesville, NC 28625

- **Universal Health Care**
  - Thelma Harrington
  - 2578 West 5th St.
  - Greenville, NC 27834

- **Member in Service**
  - Emma L. Wahab

- **On the Mission Field**
  - Kathy & Jay Shafto (Congo)
  - (son of Virginia Jenks)

- **Others:**
  - Don Colvin
  - Cher Oden-Fox
  - Rod Harne
  - Gus Howell
  - Tammy Little
  - Scotty Lockamy
  - The Obermayers
  - Connie Paskell

Thank you for notifying the church office when a name can be removed from our on-going prayer list.
# April 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Events</th>
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| 24  | Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.  
Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. |
| 25  | Men's Bible Study, 7:00 a.m.  
Missions Mission Team, 5:30 p.m. |
| 26  |  |
| 27  |  |
| 28  |  |
| 29  |  |
| 30  |  |

**LOOKING FORWARD!**

**SAVE THE DATE...**

Camp Albemarle Family Retreat is coming in September. Mark your calendars now for Sept. 16-18!!!

**Happy Birthday to...**

- Bettie Bonner Bradshaw
- Bob Fish
- Donald Hobart
- Silvana Scali
- Davis Rumley
- Anna Clay Hopper

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**May 1:** PLEASE SECURE A REPLACEMENT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE.

**USHERS:** Todd Berry (HU), Sam Richey, David McLawhorn, Thomas Edwards, Billy O'Neal, Jay Wickham

**GREETER:** Carolyn Bryan

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP:** Dr. Bill Hufham

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** Robin McKeithan

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Brittany Van Staalduinen

**NURSERY:** Kelly Crisp

**ELDER ON CALL:** Stuart Thomson (252-947-2120)

**MINUTE MADE VISITOR:** Sally Pinkham

**NEEDED: Additional Volunteers for Ushering:** If you are willing to help with ushering on a regular or occasional basis, please contact Helen (945-2446) or Barry (945-1808) Eckman to have your name added to the Usher Ministry List.
April Mission Emphasis:

If you would you be willing to make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children in Beaufort County, consider volunteering to be a Guardian ad Litem who works with an attorney for a child’s legal rights and to promote the best interests of the child. GAL volunteers seek to ensure that these vulnerable children find safety and permanency. Join nearly 5,000 of these volunteers across the state and become a Guardian ad Litem today.

For more information: www.volunteerforgal.org; GAL Office (252-974-7864); Laura Staton (252-975-2525).

The Handbell Choir had its first rehearsal last Sunday! We had a wonderful time and each ringer learned new techniques and musical terms as they rehearsed pieces to be played before the start of the vacation times this summer.

After some discussion it was decided that more members would be able to come to our rehearsals on Sunday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. starting today! If you were unable to attend last week please come to the sanctuary this afternoon and join the fun!

REMINDER!!!

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner
May 4 at 6:00 p.m.
Hosted by the Stewardship & Personnel Mission Teams
$3/person or $10/Family of 4 or more
First Presbyterian Church  
Washington, NC  

W. Lee Kinney, Senior Minister  
Brittany Van Staaldruinen, Minister of Children, Youth, Young Adult & Family  
Bill Walker, Clerk of Session  
Tommy Swanner, Church Treasurer  
Chris Watkins, Minister of Music  
Deane Phelps, Office Manager  
Lisa Capehart, Financial Administrator  
Beth Richey, Publications  
Michael Doiel, Sexton  

VOLUNTEER STAFF: Bev Walker, Worship Assistant; Stuart Thomson, Pastoral Care Assistant; Ed Modlin, Kitchen Coordinator  

ELDERS (SESSION MEMBERS)  
Class of 2018: Sadie Fowle, Alida Sawyer, Ron Siegrist, Russell Thienpont  
Class of 2017: Derris Bradshaw, Zoph Potts, Eleanor Rollins, Stuart Thomson  
Class of 2016: Ted Lewis, John Rebholz, Mike Rowe, Bill Walker  

DEACONS (DIACONATE MEMBERS)  
Class of 2018: Carole Ahlman, Sharon Probert, Todd Williamson, Carol Windley, Dan Withers  
Class of 2017: Bettie Bonner Bradshaw, Ashley Jones, Carol Jones, Ed Modlin, Judi Siegrist  
Class of 2016: Frannye Fowle, Dava Jarman, Virginia Jenks, Terri Ann McLawhorn, Dan Wagner  

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION (Elected Sunday, April 3, 2016):  
Ted Lewis (President), Alida Sawyer (Vice President), Bill Walker (Secretary), Archie Jennings (Vice Secretary), Tommy Swanner (Treasurer), Bill Oden (Assistant Treasurer)  

STANDING NOMINATING COMMITTEE (2016):  
Eleanor Rollins (Chairman), Katherine Alligood, Suzanne Anderson, Jim Ellis, Sara Huffham, Terri Ann McLawhorn, Ed Modlin, Dan Withers

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