

## Experiencing God through Worship

At First Presbyterian, a special task force on a possible third worship service is studying worship styles and the role of worship for Presbyterians. We want you to be a part of this experience. Here's what you can do:

1. Attend services at other houses of worship between now and August 26. You may go on your own, or you may choose to go with groups from our church to the following special services:

- Saturday, April 5 - 5:30 p.m. worship with Covenant United Methodist, Greenville. (To go with the group, meet at the church at 5:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, April 19 - 6:00 p.m. worship with Westminster Presbyterian, Greensboro. (The church bus will leave from FPC at 3:00 p.m. and return between 10:30 and 11:00 p.m. Contact the church office to sign up. Bring money for supper.)
- Sunday, May 11—worship with St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Greenville. Options for the day, Pentecost Sunday: 8:00 a.m.—Chapel service with readings, sermon, holy Eucharist, but no music; 9:00 a.m.—Special 30 minute chapel service for families with young children, including a special children's sermon; 10:30 a.m.—Sanctuary service with special procession and the youth leading the service for Youth Sunday.

2. Bring a bulletin and submit it to the church office for our "Look Where We Have Worshipped" display.

3. Complete a reflection sheet about your experience. Sheets are available in the church Welcome Center or see next page.

4. Plan to participate in our special weekend of August 23-24, when Dr. Kim Long, Professor of Worship at Columbia Theological Seminary and Coordinator of Worship Resources for Congregations, will lead us in exploring the purpose of worship, what makes it vital and meaningful, and what reflects the tenants of our Presbyterian reformed tradition.

May God be glorified in our worship experiences.

## WORSHIP REFLECTION

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Visit \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Location \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

1. What elements of the service connect the worshiper to specific ministries, missions, projects of the church? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Did the worship leader make the purpose of the service clear (e.g., praise God, raise money)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are the worshipers challenged to do something specific, to make changes in their lives? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you as the worshiper, feel that you are being connected to something 2000+ years old? \_\_\_\_\_  
to something totally new? \_\_\_\_\_ To old with contemporary additions? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Does the service assume you know about the Bible? church traditions? local traditions? Did you learn about these things during the service? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which of your five senses did you use during the service? \_\_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Describe the congregation.
  - Observed ages \_\_\_\_\_
  - Gender make up: Males \_\_\_\_\_ Females \_\_\_\_\_
  - Racial Diversity: Yes/No
  - Spontaneous responses: Oral/ Physical
  - Congregational leader(s): Pastoral/Lay Male/Female
  - Good Attendance? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Attire: Casual /Formal
  - Social Groupings \_\_\_\_\_
8. Length of the Sermon? \_\_\_\_\_ minutes Length of the Service? \_\_\_\_\_ minutes
9. Language and style of services (Gender inclusive? Narcissist? Entertaining? Educational?  
“dumbed-down”?)
10. Music: Unity with the sermon? Yes/No Types of music: (band, organ, piano, choir, bells, other)
11. Was communion served? Yes/No How was communion served? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Was technology used? Yes/No Types of technology? \_\_\_\_\_ effectively used? Yes/No
13. How were announcements handled? \_\_\_\_\_
14. How were we treated as visitors? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Identify one outstanding element of this church experience: \_\_\_\_\_
16. My overall impression of my visit to this congregation was: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please share a copy of this reflection with our church special committee, placing it in Wanda Neely's mailbox in the church office.*