

2005
APRIL

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

JONAH: JUST ANOTHER FISH STORY?

BY POLLY TONER



JILL WJANGUO

My first associations with the book of Jonah always bring me back to my early Sunday school days. And, honestly, I always imagine Monstro the Whale from the movie *Pinocchio* when I think of Jonah's large fish. Did you *catch* that? In the biblical version of Jonah's tale, there is no WHALE at all; instead, Jonah encounters a large fish.

Does any one else recall singing something like this to the tune of "London Bridges?"

*Jonah was swallowed by a whale
By a whale,
By a whale,
Jonah was swallowed by a whale.
Swallowed whole!
Jonah prayed to God above
God above,
God above,
Jonah prayed to God above
And was forgiven!*

What does this book really have to say to us as adults?

Jonah is always read in the afternoon during the Jewish Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). And several Christian denominations include this text in their liturgy during the season of Lent.

The Book of Jonah is found in the Book of the Twelve Prophets in the

Hebrew Bible. Interestingly though, nowhere in the text itself is Jonah actually referred to as a prophet. What is it like to be a prophet, I wonder? Jonah sure didn't respond as if it was a privilege. What might be a contemporary parallel to Jonah's experience?

Until recently, I had never considered what the Book of Jonah had to say about inclusivity, or how it might be related to the New Testament story of the Good Samaritan. And in Sunday School, they NEVER talked about the qiyayon!

It is also interesting to consider the genre of this book. Jonah is full of what appears to be comical irony, and its frequent reference to animals is reminiscent of Aesop's fables. The animals are even commanded to wear sackcloths!

Learn these and even more fun facts about the Book of Jonah at the upcoming Food For Thought class on the Old Testament Book of Jonah.

This three week course will be divided into the following topics:

- April 5th Bible Stories: Satire? Parable? Midrash?
- April 12th Have you ever been in the belly of a fish?
- April 19th The Divine Attributes of God

Please join me for an exploration of this rather short but well known text, maybe recall memories from Sunday School, and share in a lively discussion about what this scripture has to say to us today.

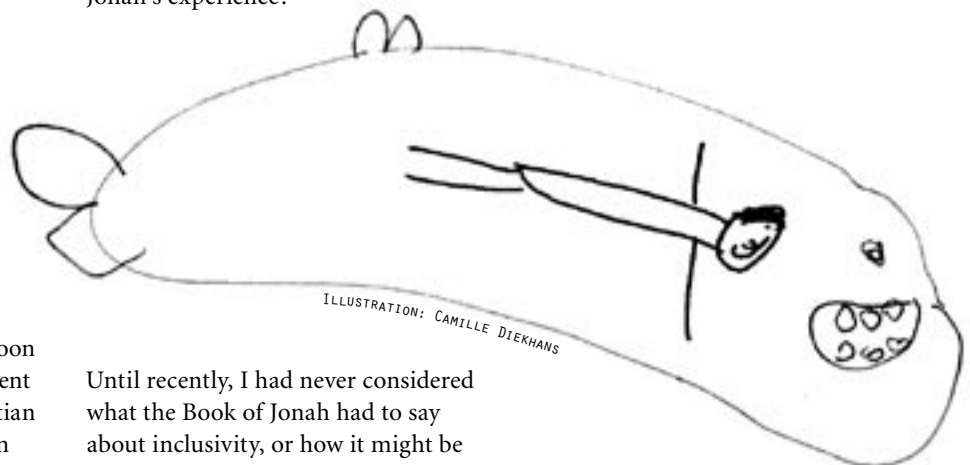


ILLUSTRATION: CAMILLE DIEKHANS

Sign up for the Food for Thought class on Jonah in the back of the Sanctuary.☺



CALENDAR



APRIL

EVERY SUNDAY

Study the Bible with the Niners Class. They meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel.



Sunday service in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Childcare is provided in the Mulford Room. Coffee hour and time for fellowship immediately follows both services.

Sunday school for children at 10:00 a.m. Classes for ages 3-4 and grades K-5 meet in the Academy.

Choir practice at 10:00 a.m.

Share your thoughts about faith and life in Begin@10 class, 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

Free parking is available evenings and weekends in the Recycled Paper Company lot north of the church. Access the lot from the alley. Parking is not available during night and weekend Cubs games, including these Sundays: April 10 & 24.

Help beautify the Sanctuary by donating flowers. To sponsor a Sunday give cash or a check for \$20 to Holly Jensen.

April is Blue Bow Month and the Deacons will once again be focusing on child abuse prevention. One of the best ways to prevent child abuse is through support of families who may be at risk. This year LVPC is teaming up with Salvation Army Family Services at Wilson and Marine Drive. Through this facility, we'll have contact with a family who would benefit from some TLC by the LVPC family. Watch for information during the month of April to find out how you can help.

ADVANCE WARNINGS: SIGN UP NOW!

April Fools Comedy Night—See April 3
Food for Thought: Jonah—See April 5
Middle East potlucks—See April 10 & 24
John Erickson in concert—See April 24
Women's Retreat—See April 29

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

A Taize service features scripture reading, repetitive singing, and meditative silence, combining traditional worship forms in a contemporary way. The goal is to enable participants to remain open to the voice of God and discover the prayer within themselves. Join us tonight at 7:30 for Taize.

The Café Pride Coffeehouse meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight and serves a safe place for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth ages 17 – 21 to get together.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

Lake View Pantry food donations and Two Cents A Meal offerings will be taken at the morning worship services.

The Youth Group meets in the Chapel after the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service.

If you've ever been interested in knitting, cross-stitch, or any needlecraft, this is your chance. Join the Needle Circle at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Don't miss the April Exterior Renovation Fundraising Event. Some of the brightest local stars in comedy will appear in the April Fools Comedy Night at 7:30 p.m. at Fado Irish Pub, 100 West Grand Avenue in Chicago. Tickets are \$15 and are available in advance or at the door. Some of the featured performers include Karin McKie, Roxy Bellows, Cayne Collier, Will Klinger and the Famous Brothers, and Ben and Naomi.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

Can you believe it's the one-year anniversary of Seniors in Motion? There will be a celebration today beginning at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall. Following a vigorous workout, there will be a review of the benefits of staying fit and participants in the program will be honored. Contact Sue Cox at (773) 281-2655 for details.

The Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.

Is Jonah just a big fish story or is there more to it? Join seminary intern Polly Toner to explore the delightful book of Jonah. At one time or another, we've all been reluctant to follow God's leading, so we are sure to have something in common with Jonah. Class begins at 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

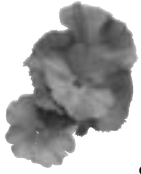
Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See April 1 for more information.

The whole church community is invited to join the youth from Café Pride for a new program of gay-themed films called Out at the Movies. This month's feature is Jeffrey. In this surprising, buoyant comedy, a young gay waiter/actor finds "Mr. Right" after becoming celibate in the age of AIDS. The show starts at 9:00 p.m.

CALENDAR



APRIL



SATURDAY, APRIL 9

The More Light Task Force meets at 9:00 a.m.

Be of service to others by volunteering tonight at Lakeview Shelter. The group meets at shelter at 5:30 p.m.. For more information, see a Deacon or contact the church office at (773) 281-2655.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Learn more about Middle East issues at a two-part potluck series beginning at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call Deanna Boyd at (773) 334-5688.

MONDAY, APRIL 11

The Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m.

The Fundraising Committee meets at 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

Regular exercise is the key to vitality, so join the Seniors in Motion. An exercise specialist from Advocate Fitness leads the class, which begins at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Contact Sue Cox at (773) 281-2655 for details.

Food for Thought continues with Jonah. See April 5 for details.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

The Christian Nurture Committee meets at 7:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 9:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

The Affordable Housing Task Force meets at 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Monthly prayer meeting in the chapel at 12:00 noon. Call Peg Hazenbush at (773) 871-0312 for more information.

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See April 1 for more information.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

The Youth Group meets in the Chapel after the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service.

MONDAY, APRIL 18

The Social Justice Committee meets at 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See April 12 for details.

Food for Thought continues with Jonah. See April 5 for details.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

The Worship Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See April 1 for more information.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

This month's Movie Night feature is *Hotel Rwanda*. Michael Wilmington of the Chicago Tribune calls it "a calm, riveting ground-zero look at a terrible slice of history." The movie is rated PG-13 for violence, disturbing images and brief strong language. The show begins at 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

Today is the second in a two-part potluck series on Middle East issues beginning at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call Deanna Boyd at (773) 334-5688.

Jazz pianist John Erickson performs in a special benefit concert for the Exterior Renovation Project. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are \$30 and are available in advance.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

Seniors in Motion fitness class meets at 10:00 a.m. See April 12 for details.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

The Buildings and Grounds Committee meets at 6:00 p.m.

Session meets at 7:00 p.m.

Choir practice at 7:15 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study meets at 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

This year's annual Women's Retreat shares stories of Sisters in the Faith. It explores the un-named women in the Bible and how they claimed the power they needed to overcome obstacles in their lives, and how women in our own congregation are similarly empowered. The retreat, begins today through May 1 at Stronghold Retreat Center in Oregon, IL The group leaves LVPC at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$60 and scholarships are available. A \$25 deposit is due by April 15. Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary.

Café Pride meets from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. See April 1 for more information.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

The Women's Retreat continues today. See April 29 for details.☞

YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY

- 4/1—Bryan Richards
- 4/1—Paul Lewis
- 4/2—Essivi Atayi
- 4/2—Jim Willig
- 4/4—Brooks Darrah
- 4/10—JLynn Olsinski
- 4/10—Mika Evans
- 4/15—Floyd May
- 4/17—Grace Strome
- 4/19—Bryan Bruin
- 4/19—Jerri Johnson
- 4/20—Nathan Cox
- 4/21—Todd Vanadilok
- 4/22—Isabella Denooyer
- 4/23—Mario Evans
- 4/26—Jim Swartout
- 4/30—Chuck Benbow
- 4/30—Eileen Swartout
- 4/30—Sebastian Kempf☞





THERE WERE LAYERS AND LAYERS OF LEAD PAINT ON LVPC'S EXTERIOR TRIM. IT WAS CAREFULLY REMOVED BY A LEAD ABATEMENT CONTRACTOR.

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- Sue Cox Parish Nurse
- John Erickson Pianist
- Deborah Bayly Principal, Lake View Academy

Submission deadline for the May issue is April 15. Send articles, calendar listings, rants, and raves to Eric Diekhans at ericdiekhans@ameritech.net. Or leave material in the Chimes mailbox outside the church office.☺



Lake View Presbyterian Church
 716 West Addison Street
 Chicago IL 60613
 (773) 281-2655
www.lakeviewpresbyterian.org

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