

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

December 2013



From the Pastor's Study...

The Advent Season has arrived and there are so many joys and blessings to be thankful for. God blesses us with a love that reaches well beyond our human understanding. God gives us hope in Jesus Christ and redeems those who will hear the gospel message. God is faithful to all humanity and gives us the gift of having faith to see beyond ourselves and acknowledge God as the one true source of life and joy. We are so very blessed to be loved by our Lord God who sacrificed His only Son, Jesus, to proclaim a new covenant with humanity.

This year's Advent sermon series is on God's Christmas gift to the world. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ we celebrate "Hope, Peace, Joy and Love". This month's scripture passage comes from the gospel of Luke 2:8-16 and offers a familiar but poignant Christmas image of the angels proclaiming tidings of comfort and joy to all those who would hear the gospel message. We are so blessed to be loved by our God who humbled God's self to take on human form and proclaim a new covenant of love with humanity.

As we come together in our homes, around a decorated tree, let us remember all those who have given us so much in this life and be convicted by the Holy Spirit to do for others. May we be compelled to share the good news of a messiah and savior who came into this world in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. As we navigate the Advent season and our own faith journey, let us take time to share the gospel with those God places in our path.

Cont'd on page 2



December Scripture Passage

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **Luke 2:8-16**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Office phone number is 919.894.4063
Rev. Davis may also be reached at
919.264.4324(m).

Cont'd from page 1

Invite others to come and worship with us during any or all worship or fellowship opportunities – Sunday Worship, Sunday Fellowship, the Christmas Program, the Christmas Cantata, Christmas Eve Services, Presbyterian Women’s Christmas Brunch, Youth events and other various events - we have so much of to offer all of God’s people.

Our Lord God has blessed us here at Providence Presbyterian Church in 2013 and I am joyful and excited about what God will do in 2014. Please pray for our church and its leadership so we might discern what God has in store for us in the coming year. Please consider your call to ministry in our church. There is so much energy, hope and joy here in Providence; I can’t wait to see where God leads us next.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Your Brother in Christ,
Rev. Jim Davis

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

continues to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This group is open to anyone - if you do not know how to crochet, one of the participants will gladly teach you - or simply come be a part of this fun time of fellowship and ministry.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PLAY

will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 1 in the Sanctuary.

Full Ensemble Rehearsal: Sunday December 1 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Following the play, pizza will be served in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend.

SENIOR CITIZEN’S LUNCHEON

Senior Citizen's Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 10th at 12 noon at White Memorial Presbyterian Church. Please RSVP to Kay Dry at 919-639-9784 by Tuesday, Dec.4th. All Senior Citizens within the congregation and community are invited to attend!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Will celebrate the Advent season with a catered dinner on December 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A special program will be presented by the Crosswaves Youth Drama team, a group consisting of college and high school age young people under the leadership of Mary Mclaurin. All women within the congregation are invited to attend this very special celebration.

If you have questions regarding any aspect of the Presbyterian Women, please contact Mary Ann Booth at maboath1@gmail.com or 919.275.4564.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

will meet on December 15 at 5:00 p.m. in the Nesselrodt Classroom. No class will be held on December 1 due to the Christmas Play. The lesson on December 15 will be led by Carolyn Stephenson. Following the lesson, a meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES ARE EXTENDED TO THE FAMILY OF

Shelton Benson, *Randy Benson's father*



¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Prayer List of Joys and Concerns

JOYS:

Thanks be to God for the willing hearts and hands of all who serve to lift the loads, cheer the souls, and lessen the suffering of His children.

CONCERNS:

DeEtta Wood, *ongoing treatment for lung cancer*

Members of the Providence Family in Long-Term Care:

Brack Johnson *at Classic Care Assisted Living in Smithfield*

Marilyn Johnson *at Barbour Court Nursing in Smithfield*

Lacy Johnson & Pauline Jones *at Liberty Commons in Benson*

Grant Joyner, Bobbie Langdon, Bernard Parsons, and Frances Schmidt, *at home*

Our Nation's Leaders and All Persons Serving in the Armed Forces

All Persons Living with Cancer, including:

Carol Badalucco, *friend of Sue Bryant*, **Sherry Baker**, *friend of Laura Langdon*, **Nancy Biernacki**, *friend of Bob Zattiero*, **Patsy Bowman**, *member of church family*, **Edith Bowser**, *friend of Bob Zattiero*, **Kathy Durocher**, *friend of Mark Nelms*, **Ann Hargiss**, *member of community*, **Kobe Horney**, *two-year old member of community*, **P.B. Jernigan**, *relative of Sheila Dupree*, **David Kopanski**, *John Kopanski's brother*, **Keith Langdon**, *member of church family*, **Leslie Lobaugh**, *friend of Chris Nooney*, **Ann Lopp**, *friend of Andrea Jones*, **Amy Louthan**, *friend of Barri Martin*, **Carol Mayben**, *Sandy Kopanski's sister-in-law*, **Harry Myers**, *friend of Ann Benson*, **Barbara Owens**, *friend of Laura Langdon*, **Jackie Parker**, *friend of Amy Reed*, **Jerry Penny**, *friend of Dick Embrey*, **Barbara Shaw**, *Kathy Ryals' aunt*, **Bob Stephenson**, *Ann Stephenson's cousin*, **Randy Stephenson**, *Jon Nooney's cousin*, **Crystal Stotter**, *friend of Sandy Kopanski*, **Tammy Vann**, *friend of Sandy Kopanski*, **Kenneth Weathers**, *Wendy Stephenson's brother-in-law*, **Betty West**, *friend of Randy Benson*, **Kay Williams**, *friend of Sandy Kopanski*, and **Hannah Youngblood**, *friend of Kristy Stephenson*.

Other Persons with Ongoing Health Concerns, including:

Nancy Allen, *Sheila Dupree's mother*, **Elaine Andrews**, *Andrea Jones' mother*, **Mary Bass**, *Rev. Davis' mother*, **Shelton Benson**, *Randy Benson's father*, **Charlie & Mary Burke**, *Steve Wolak's parents*, **Shelby Clifton**, *Brenda Byrd's cousin*, **Robert Cross**, *Phil Cross' father*, **Brenda Davis**, *friend of Lisa Nelms*, **Bill and Bobbie Ellis**, *Georgeanna Phillips' parents*, **Tammy Ennis**, *member of community*, **Ed Fontana**, *Mary Langdon's father*, **Rose Hollingsworth**, *Ann Stephenson's sister-in-law*, **Fred Ipock**, *Cathy Creech's father*, **Norbert Kopanski**, *John Kopanski's father*, **Stuart Kremer**, *friend of Andrea Jones*, **Vic LaSaxon**, *Chris Nooney's brother-in-law*, **Wanza Mayben**, *Sandy Kopanski's mother*, **Sue Nicholson**, *Chris Nooney's sister*, **David Raynor**, *friend of Sandy Kopanski*, **Kathy Rose**, *friend of Kim Schmidt*, **Kathy Ryals**, *member of church family*, **Danny Salmon**, *Wendy Stephenson's brother-in-law*, **Gary Schmidt**, *Kim Schmidt's brother*, **Pete and Brenda Skinner**, *friends of Sue Bryant*, **Nan Walker**, *Andrea Jones' grandmother*, **John Wright**, *Chris Nooney's father*, and **Charles Young**, *friend of Lisa Nelms*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Anniversaries

5 Ashley and Crissy Porter
22 Tony and Sue Bryant
30 Keith and Lisa Weatherly
31 Beck and Laura McLamb

December Birthdays

2 Robert Joyner
Wayne Lamm
Heath White
4 Karen Sherrill
5 Nancy Nelms
6 Janice Parrish
7 Beck McLamb
18 Allison Nelms
26 John Kopanski
27 Brenda Byrd
Scott Martin
28 Sheila Dupree
29 Stephen Nordan
30 Lisa Weatherly
31 Cheyanne Nooney

Pastor

Rev. Jim Davis

Session

Class of 2013

Stephanie Bagley - Worship
John Kopanski - Mission & Outreach
Atlee Roberts - Property

Class of 2014

Nathan Dry - Long-Range Planning
Wayne Lamm - Congregational Care
Gary Phillips - Fellowship

Class of 2015

Robert Joyner - Christian Education
Kristy Stephenson - Finance
Jeffrey Wood - Personnel, Clerk

Church Staff

Secretary

DeEtta Wood

Accounting Treasurer

Ann Stephenson

Collections Treasurer

Ann Benson

Music Director/ Organist

Brittany Jones

Pianist

DeEtta Wood

Website

David Nelms

Newsletter

David Nelms & DeEtta Wood

Usher Coordinator

Russell Wood

DECEMBER EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

NURSERY

- 1 Mary Langdon and Beth Pickens
- 8 Heath and Heather White
- 15 *To Be Determined*
- 22 Richard and Andrea Jones
- 29 Laura Langdon and Carolyn Stuart



USHERS

- 1 Sue Bryant and Sandra Lordi
- 8 Mary Ann Booth and Joyce Lamm
- 15 Pat Davis and Margie Taylor
- 22 Kay Dry and Carolyn Stevenson
- 29 Mary Langdon and Beth Pickens

ACOLYTE

- 1 Mary Elaine Wood
- 8 Graycen Murray
- 15 Alexa Rogers
- 22 Kenny Poole
- 29 Paige Smith



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Carolyn Stevenson

KID'S KRUSADE

Kristy Stephenson

Elder of the Month/Greeter

Stephanie Bagley

December Upcoming Events

- 1 Children's Christmas Program at 5:00 p.m. followed by pizza in the Fellowship Hall. Full ensemble rehearsal from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- 2 Long-Range Planning Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m.
- 3 Prayer Shawl Group at 10:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- 4 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.; Youth Advisory Committee at 6:00 p.m.
- 8 Youth Group Dinner and Lights at the Neuse 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- 9 Stated Session Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Community Senior Luncheon at 12:00 p.m. at White Memorial Presbyterian Church
- 11 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Cantata Rehearsal from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- 15 Christmas Cantata during Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Youth will be Caroling at Local Nursing Home (Parents invited to come along) from 4 - 6:30 p.m.; Pioneers & Adult Bible Study will meet at 5pm; Adult Bible study will be led by Carolyn Stephenson - "Self Discipline" (2 Peter 1:1-21); Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m..
- 17 Presbyterian Women Christmas Dinner at 6:30 p.m. All women of the church are invited to a catered dinner and special program presented by Crosswaves Youth Drama Group
- 18 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Youth Group will not meet, Happy Holidays!
- 24 Christmas Eve Communion Services at 5:00 and 10:00 p.m.
- 25 Merry Christmas!
- 26 Deadline for submitting articles for the January Newsletter
- 29 Youth Group will not meet