

# PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

March 2013



## From the Pastor's Study...

The month of March brings in an early Easter this year. March for many of us means one last chance of snow, the return of many birds which have flown south for the winter, the beginning of the season of Lent, turning our clocks ahead, or perhaps even March Madness of NCAA basketball. Whether you are an ACC fan or care little about sports, March is the seasonal marker for change. The end of winter and the beginning of spring ... the end of the grey colors of a cold season are contrasted with the promise of a green and colorful spring.

March, in terms of Christianity, means an exceptional time of year. For many Christians the season of Lent is apex of the church calendar. Lent is meant to be a time for reflection and meditation on our devotion to God who is devoted in care and redemption of our souls. It is a time of preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

This month's scripture is Psalm 67 which proclaims "... our God has blessed us. May God continue to bless us ...". In this passage we also encounter the phrase "*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us*", a familiar phrase used several times in the Bible. In our busy lives we often forget that our God blesses us in a multitude of ways. We speak of good or bad luck or fate, but the truth is whether we experience joys or sorrows, elation or devastation, love or hate - God is beside us through it all. Jesus calls us to follow God's will for our lives throughout the good and the bad.

CONT'D on page 2



## March Scripture Passage

*<sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah <sup>2</sup> that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. <sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. <sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. <sup>7</sup> May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.*

**Psalm 67:1-7**

## 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).

The awesome hope found in the Easter message is that our fate is not fate at all but our lives are in God's hands and that our sins have been redeemed through the blood of Christ and nothing to do with our actions at all. In fact our only decision is to accept or reject God in our lives.

The Easter message, the season of Lent, and the prevailing message of our Lord and Savior is to always keep God before the eyes of our hearts that we may be transformed by God's Grace. Let us use the season of Lent to re-evaluate our personal relationship with God and may we strive to place God first in our lives that all other things may fall in place – as our Lord God ordains it.

*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us ...May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.*

Your Brother in Christ,  
Rev. Jim Davis

### SENIOR CITIZEN'S LUNCHEON

is planned for Tuesday, March 12 at 12 noon at Johnson memorial Church. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join you for this special time of fellowship, food and entertainment. All those who are planning to attend are asked to RSVP to Kay Dry by March 5 at 919.639.9784.

### SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME

is held each Sunday from 10:25 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is simply a time of coffee/juice, a light refreshment, and an opportunity to connect with members of your church family! A sign-up sheet for providing the refreshments is posted on the bulletin board just beside the door to the kitchen. Please take a look at the schedule, and sign-up to host for an available Sunday!

### Congratulations

to Mary Elaine Wood for memorizing the books of the New Testament for Kids Crusade.

For February the kids were encouraged to learn Psalm 23 and March is the Lord's Prayer.

### Many Thanks!!!!

The Presbyterian Women would like to thank all who supported, helped and volunteered to make this year's supper and silent auction a success.

This year effort will allow the Presbyterian Women to transfer \$5323 into the Capital Campaign fund.

### PIONEER CLUBS UPDATE

Pioneer Clubs will hold their regular meeting on Sunday March 3 and March 17 at 5:00 p.m. Following the meeting, all Pioneer Clubs members and their families are invited to eat dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.

### SCHEDULE FOR EASTER SERVICES

• **Palm Sunday** is planned for Sunday, March 24. During this service, the children will begin our service with a Palm Sunday Processional and Singing. Also, during this service, we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Please continue to collect your change throughout the Lenten season, in order to give generously to this special offering.

• **Maundy Thursday Service** will be held on Thursday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. This service will include Communion by intinction.

• **Easter Sunrise Service** will be held at 7:00 a.m. at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church on Easter Sunday, March 31. Following the service, a light breakfast will be served in their Fellowship Hall. Pleasant Grove Baptist Church is located at 1241 Old Fairground Road, Willow Spring, NC.

• **Easter Worship Service** will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, March 31 at 11:00 a.m. The service will include a special time of Communion.

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

will begin on Sunday, March 3 at 5:00 p.m.

This group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, in conjunction with Pioneer Clubs and Youth Group. Following the meeting, everyone is invited to eat dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. The first meeting will be led by Mr. Nathan Dry, and the meeting on Sunday, March 17 will be led by Kay Dry. If you have questions, please contact Robert Joyner.

### CHILDREN/YOUTH EASTER CELEBRATION

will be held on Saturday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m., beginning with the Easter story and crafts. A hot dog lunch will be served at 12 noon, followed by an Easter egg hunt. If you have questions, or would like to help with this event, please contact Brandy Joyner.

### YOUTH BREAKFAST

will be held on Sunday, March 24 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Youth have begun serving breakfast on a monthly basis on the last Sunday of each month. However, for the month of March, they are serving on the 24th because of Easter. If you have questions regarding the Youth, please contact any one of the Youth Advisors: David and Pam Collier, Cathy Creech, Mark and Pam Nelms, and Wendy Stephenson.

### UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Group at 5:00pm  
March 3rd, 10th, and 17th

Youth Car Wash  
March 9th from 9:00-12

Youth Community Service  
March 30th, Easter Celebration

**Youth BBQ Fundraiser** will be held on Friday, April 19 in the Fellowship Hall. Eat-in or Take-out will be available. The youth will begin selling tickets for this event in the next couple of weeks. *The Youth are asking that the congregation donate pound cakes toward this fundraiser, in order to help keep the costs down.* If you have questions, or are able to help, please contact David Collier.

## ***Birthdays & Anniversaries***

### **March Anniversaries**

- 8 Tom and Nancy Nelms  
26 Bob and Carolyn Zattiero

### **March Birthdays**

- 2 Graycen Murray  
3 Lorie Smith  
4 Haleigh Weaver, Kaleigh Weaver,  
Carol Wheltle  
5 Courtney Walton  
7 Melvin Langdon  
8 Sandra Lordi  
11 Riley Nordan  
14 Barbie Frickman  
16 Mac Jones  
18 Donald Creech  
19 Harris Bagley  
20 Abbey Walton  
22 Jarrett Cross, Jack Sherrill  
24 Roxann Porter  
27 Marilyn Johnson and Travis Jones  
29 Jane Pickens  
30 Steve Nordan



### ***Experience the Bible like Never Before***

*The Bible* is an epic five-week, 10 hour television miniseries premiering March 3, 2013 on the History Channel from Emmy Award winning husband and wife team, Mark Burnett and Roma Downey.

For two hours each Sunday night (rebroadcast Monday on Lifetime and Wednesday on History Channel) millions of viewers will see the Bible come to life in a way never before seen. The final episode of the series will air on Easter Sunday and will feature the death and resurrection of Jesus.

### **OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES ARE EXTENDED TO THE FAMILIES OF**

**Robert Beriner**, *Pam Collier's brother*  
**Billy Reed**, *Bob Reed's nephew*  
**Frankie Stephenson**, *member of community*  
**Ricky Wilkins**, *member of community*

## February Session Highlights

The stated session meeting on Monday, February 11, 2013 was held at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Present were Moderator Reverend Jim Davis, Elders Stephanie Bagley, Nathan Dry, Robert Joyner, John Kopanski, Wayne Lamm, Gary Phillips, Atlee Roberts, Kristy Stephenson, and Jeffrey Wood. A quorum was declared and Rev. Davis opened the meeting with prayer.

After the opening of the meeting, Tom Nelms spoke to the Session concerning communion preparation. Rev. Davis presented the devotional titled "Send the Light" taken from Philippians 2: 12-18. There was no correspondence.

The minutes of the stated Session meeting conducted on January 14, 2013 were reviewed and approved. The Session agreed that, whenever possible, committee reports will be prepared by committee chairpersons and distributed via email to Session members for review before each meeting. The treasurer's reports will not be distributed via email before Session meetings.

Committee reports were made from each of the nine standing committees of Session with the following actions approved by Session:

- A movie day planned for Sunday, August 18 that will include an ice-cream social.
- An adult Bible Study will begin to meet during Pioneer Clubs meetings beginning in March, Nathan Dry agreed to teach.
- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 28 - August 3, the curriculum used will be "Kingdom Rock" by Group Publishing.
- Kathy Ryals and Elaine Wood will be allowed to use the church's wheelchair as needed.
- The January 2013 financial statement (including capital campaign fund) was reviewed and approved.
- A letter addressed to Brian Stewart of First Citizens Bank approving Mr. Wood, Clerk of Session, and Kristy Stephenson, Elder of Finance, to have full access to the safe deposit box; and Ann Benson, Collections Treasurer, and Ann Stephenson, Accounting Treasurer, have access to the checking account ending in 0641; and Ann Benson, Collections Treasurer, Wayne Lamm, Accounting Treasurer, and Kristy Stephenson, Accounting Treasurer, have access to the checking account ending in 1441 was signed by all members of Session.
- Two preliminary bids for the architectural plans for the new building have been received by the Long-Range Planning Committee.
- The Long-Range Planning Committee will send recently joined members of the church a letter concerning the capital campaign effort with a contribution card and video included.
- The following persons will serve on the Personnel Committee for the year 2013: Pete Booth, Beth Breeden, Steve Nordan and Nadine Reed.
- Laura McLamb, Clerk of Session of 2012 will complete the 2012 Statistical Report. Ms. McLamb also will attend the area cluster meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Smithfield, NC on March 2 to present the church books for audit.
- The following topics presented by the worship committee will be the foundation of the Kids Crusade services over the next several months: Memorization of the New Testament books of the Bible, Old Testament books of the Bible, Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, Fruit of the Spirit, Deuteronomy 6:5, Psalm 23, John 3:16, John 14:6, Romans 3:23, Philippians 4:13, Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed, and Church Etiquette.

## February Session Highlights (cont'd)

The Pastor submitted a report that detailed congregational concerns including the reception of new members, William and Yun Blair (transferring from New Hope Presbyterian Church, Willow Spring, NC) and Stephen and Beth Wolak (transferring from Winstead United Methodist Church, Wilson, NC). The Pastor reported on many of the upcoming events at Providence. Also, Rev. Davis will attend the Sprunt Lectures in Richmond, VA scheduled for April 30 through May 3 as a continuing education opportunity. The Pastor reported concerns and activities of the Scouts. The Session agreed for an Eagle Scout ceremony for Jarrett Spann in the sanctuary on Sunday, March 24 in the afternoon, with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall. Mr. Spann earned his Eagle Scout on November 15, 2012.

A Congregational Meeting is called Sunday, March 3, 2013 at the end of the morning Worship service. In case of inclement weather, the Meeting will be rescheduled for March 10, 2013 at the end of the morning Worship service. The purpose of the meeting is for the election of corporate officers of the church. The slates of officers nominated are: Jeffrey Wood, president; Robert Joyner, vice president; Gary Phillips, secretary; and Kristy Stephenson, treasurer.

A workshop is scheduled for Sunday, March 10, 2013 at 12:30pm with lunch to be provided by Mr. Dry and Mr. Phillips. The next presbytery meeting will be February 23, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Wake Forest Presbyterian Church in Wake Forest. The next stated session meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2013 at 7pm at the church. Rev. Davis closed the meeting with prayer.

## Prayer List of Joys and Concerns

### **JOYS:**

We are thankful that Christopher Hagadom has returned home from his service in Afghanistan!

### **CONCERNS:**

**Judy Raye Miklas**, *member of community, at Hospice House*  
**Jessica Wheltle**, *member of church family, health concerns*

#### **Members of the Providence Family in Long-Term Care:**

**Brack Johnson** *at Classic Care Assisted Living in Smithfield*  
**Lacy & Marilyn Johnson** *at Barbour Court Nursing in Smithfield*  
**Pauline Jones** *at Liberty Commons in Benson,*

**Grant Joyner, Bobbie Langdon, Bernard & Norma Parsons, Chellie Poston, and Ann Woodall** *at home*

**Our Nation's Leaders and All Persons Serving in the Armed Forces, including: Daniel Thorwart**, *-serving in Afghanistan.*

#### **All Persons Living with Cancer, including:**

**Carol Badalucco**, *friend of Sue Bryant, Alvin Bagley*, *Carlos Bagley's uncle, Sherry Baker*, *friend of Laura Langdon, Louise Benson*, *Randy Benson's sister-in-law, Nancy Biernacki*, *friend of Bob Zattiero, Shirley Bledsoe*, *member of community, Patsy Bowman*, *member of church family, Edith Bowser*, *friend of Bob Zattiero, Denise Brown*, *friend of Sandy Kopanski, Helen Creech*, *Ronnie Creech's sister-in-law, Ann Hargiss*, *member of community, P.B. Jernigan*, *relative of Sheila Dupree, David Kopanski*, *John Kopanski's brother, Carol Mayben*, *Sandy Kopanski's sister-in-law, Edna McLamb*, *Pauline Jones' sister, Barbara Owens*, *friend of Laura Langdon, Jackie Parker*, *friend of Amy Reed, Bob Stephenson*, *Ann Stephenson's cousin, Bobby Stephenson*, *member of community, Randy Stephenson*, *Jon Nooney's cousin, Crystal Stotter*, *friend of Sandy Kopanski, 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, Betty Campbell*, *David Collier's mother, David Collier*, *member of church family, Brenda Davis*, *friend of Lisa Nelms, Bill and Bobbie Ellis*, *Georgeanna Phillips' parents, Ed Fontana*, *Mary Langdon's father, Linda GoForth*, *friend of Elaine Wood, Rose Hollingsworth*, *Ann Stephenson's sister-in-law, Fred Ipock*, *Cathy Creech's father, Norbert Kopanski*, *John Kopanski's father, Melinda Kendall*, *member of church family, Stuart Kremer*, *friend of Andrea Jones, Wanza Mayben*, *Sandy Kopanski's mother, Sue Nicholson*, *Chris Nooney's sister, Robin Nooney*, *Jon Nooney's sister, David Raynor*, *friend of Sandy Kopanski, Kathy Rose*, *friend of Kim Schmidt, Kathy Ryals*, *member of church family, Frances Schmidt*, *member of church family, Gary Schmidt*, *Kim Schmidt's brother, Pete and Brenda Skinner*, *friends of Sue Bryant, Nan Walker*, *Andrea Jones' grandmother, and John Wright*, *Chris Nooney's father.*

# MARCH EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

## NURSERY

- 3 Lindsey Frampton, Brandy Joyner  
and Crissy Porter
- 10 Kent, Gwen, Courtney  
and Abbey Walton
- 17 Kendall Nelms, Lisa Nelms  
and Pam Nelms
- 24 Pat Davis, Mary Langdon  
and Elaine Wood
- 31 Haley Jones, Laura Langdon  
and Jane Pickens,



## USHERS

- 3 Ken and Sandra Lordi
- 10 Wayne and Joyce Lamm
- 17 Scott and Barri Martin
- 24 Tony and Sue Bryant
- 31 Nathan & Kay Dry  
and Russell & Elaine Wood

## ACOLYTE

- 3 Graycen Murray
- 10 Olivia White
- 17 Haleigh Weaver
- 24 Silas Porter
- 31 Kaleigh Weaver



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 3 Phil and Christy Cross
- 10 Ryan and Allison Nelms
- 17 Beth and Jane Pickens
- 24 Brent and Lindsey Frampton
- 31 Wendy and Hannah Stephenson

## KIDS KRUSADE

- Mar. Brandy Joyner

## March Upcoming Events

- 3 Pioneer Clubs, Youth Group, and  
Adult Bible Study at 5:00 p.m.
- 4 Congregational Care Meeting at  
10:00 a.m.
- 4 Long-Range Planning Committee  
at 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Prayer Shawl Group at 10:00 a.m.
- 6 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Youth Group at 5:00 p.m.
- 11 Stated Session Meeting at 7pm
- 12 Senior Citizen's Luncheon at 12  
noon at Johnson Memorial Church
- 13 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Pioneer Clubs, Youth Group, and  
Adult Bible Study at 5:00 p.m.
- 19 Presbyterian Women Circle  
meetings at 10:00 a.m. and 7:30  
p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- 20 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Palm Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
- 24 Youth Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.
- 24 Youth Group at 5:00 p.m.
- 27 Adult Choir Rehearsal at  
7:30 p.m.  
Newsletter deadline for April  
edition
- 28 Maundy Thursday Service at  
7:30 p.m.
- 30 Children/Youth Easter  
Celebration  
at 11:00 a.m.
- 31 Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.  
at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church;  
Easter Worship Celebration at  
11:00 a.m.