

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

May 2013



From the Pastor's Study...

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Question ... How do you know it is truly Spring time in North Carolina?

Answer When it snowed last week - this week everything is covered in yellow - and next week the thermometer will read 90.

I remember growing up in New Bern where all the trees, with few exceptions, were tall yellow pine trees. The view from the roof tops were forest green long leaf pines for as far as my eyes could see. As a child I can recall days in Spring where it looked as if it were raining yellow mist ... this meant that I would have an allergic reaction in the form of asthma or hayfever. As the years progressed I learned to use the yellow fog of Spring as a sign to begin medications that reduced my allergic reactions.

So often in life there are signs that foreshadow things and events to come. Dark clouds in the sky often mean rain is coming, ozone smell in the air can mean lightning is eminent, the absence of the noise of the creatures of nature often foretell earthquakes or tornadoes, and there many other signs in this world if we take the time to understand them. All too often we fear the things we do not understand and try to control the things we do. This month's scripture passage is from the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Rome. Paul writes about things seen and things unseen in this world where we are reminded of the Holy Spirit's intercessory power in our lives and hearts.

This month as we come together in worship, fellowship, discipleship and study of God's word may we ask our LORD God to convict our hearts

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May Scripture Passage

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:22-27

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).

and minds to our calling as ambassadors of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit intercede on our behalf in all that we say and all that we do in this life - for we should lead our lives with a sense of urgency to our Cristian calling and with the knowledge that our reality is in the life yet to come.

This May we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, Mother's Day, Youth Sunday, National Day of Prayer, the annual fish fry, and Memorial Day - as we venture out of our homes and into our yards and gardens may we remember those who have gone before us in life and have handed down so much to us. Let us give thanks for our mothers, the future of our church embodied in our youth, and the work of the Holy Spirit in the midst of our lives as we prayerfully seek God's will and not our own.

God has seen fit to bless us in so many ways here at Providence and as we grow in spirit, maturity and number - let us pray unceasingly for the Lord's guidance in the way we should go as we near the joyous and exciting occasion of building new facilities to better serve our Redeemer Jesus Christ and our brothers and sisters in this community.

Your Brother in Christ,
Rev. Jim Davis

SENIOR CITIZEN'S LUNCHEON

is planned for Tuesday, May 14 at 12 noon at Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian 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 May 7 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!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

will continue on Sunday, May 5 and Sunday, May 19, at 5:00 p.m. This group will continue to 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. If you have questions, please contact Robert Joyner.

OUTSTANDING OLDER ADULT AWARDS

will be presented at the 83rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Hope later this summer. If you would like to nominate someone from our congregation, please notify Wayne Lamm. The nominee must be at least 60 years old, and be one who actively lives out his/her faith in service to our church and community.

8th ANNUAL MEN'S FISH FRY

is planned for Friday, May 17 from 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. For those that have been involved with this fundraiser in the past, you know that it is a lot of work but also a lot of fun. Everyone is invited to come out and volunteer, whether setting up, cooking, cleaning up, serving, delivering plates, etc., there is a job for everyone! Mark Nelms has organized a work list, so please contact him to find out how you can help. If you would like to help in selling tickets, please contact Scott Martin. The cost is \$8 per plate, and eat-in or take-out is available. Plates will include fried fish, slaw, boiled potatoes, and hushpuppies. There will also be an opportunity for local businesses to sponsor this event. If you have a business, or know of someone who has a business that would like to be a sponsor, please contact DeEtta Wood for more information.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

will hold a Combined Circle meeting on Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. During this meeting the women will enjoy a time of refreshments, Bible study, and celebration of the Birthday of the Presbyterian Women organization. All women are invited to attend this meeting. Also, the Presbyterian Women will be going on a retreat to Montreat, NC, leaving Tuesday, May 28 returning on Friday, May 31. If you have any questions regarding the Presbyterian Women, please contact Georgeanna Phillips.



KINGDOM ROCK: *Where Kids Stand Strong for God*

is the theme for Providence Presbyterian Church's Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2013. We will hold VBS in the evenings from Sunday, July 28 through Thursday, August 1, so go ahead and mark your calendars now! Volunteers are needed, so if you would like to help in anyway, please contact Kristy Stephenson or Beth Breeden. Please help spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors. On-line registration will begin in May, so look for more information to come!

UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

Youth Group will meet on Sunday, May 5 at 5:00 p.m. During this meeting, the Youth will be rehearsing for Youth Sunday to be held on May 19.

Youth Car Wash will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon at the church. Following the car wash, the youth will enjoy a pizza lunch and will have a second rehearsal for Youth Sunday.

Youth Group will meet on Sunday, May 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Youth Sunday will be held on Sunday, May 19 at 11:00 a.m.

If you have questions regarding the Youth, or any of their activities, please contact David and Pam Collier, Cathy Creech, Mark and Pam Nelms, or Wendy Stephenson.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES ARE EXTENDED TO THE FAMILIES OF

Fred Harris, *Pete Booth's nephew*
Norman Wallace, *member of community*
Billie Wright, *Chris Nooney's mother*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Anniversaries

- 3 Wayne and Laura Langdon
- 5 Ryan and Allison Nelms
- 13 Jimmy and Carolyn Stuart
- 14 Sam and Wendy Stephenson
- 15 Donald and Cathy Creech
- 19 Wade and Carolyn Johnson
- 21 Andy and Sheile Dupree
- 25 Mark and Pam Nelms

May Birthdays

- 5 Annie Lewis
- 6 Shepherd Byrd
- 7 Todd Frickman and Bernard Parsons
- 8 Will Dupree
- 12 Koltan Crocker and Kelly Nordan
- 17 Beth Breeden
- 19 Jonathan Breeden
- 23 Karen Morrow
- 24 Heather Langdon
- 26 Christina Jones and Ryan Nelms
- 28 Worth Bowman, Ronnie Creech, Brittany Jones and Heather White
- 30 Chris Nooney

PACK 210 SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER

will be held on Friday, May 3 in the Fellowship Hall. They will be serving lunch and dinner. Please plan to come out and support our Scouts! If you have questions, please contact Christy Cross.

April Session Highlights

Providence Presbyterian Church conducted a stated session meeting on April 8, 2013 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Present were Moderator Reverend Jim Davis, and Elders Stephanie Bagley, John Kopanski, Wayne Lamm, Gary Phillips, Atlee Roberts, Kristy Stephenson, and Jeffrey Wood. Excused were Elders Nathan Dry and Robert Joyner. A quorum was declared and Rev. Davis opened the meeting with prayer. Jeffrey Wood presented the devotional titled "A Shadow of a Doubt" taken from Matthew 11: 2-3.

Correspondence included an Easter card from Virginia Moore and a letter from Dr. Jim Ferry of First Presbyterian Church, in Garner, NC introducing himself as the Committee on Ministry liaison for Providence. The minutes of the stated Session meeting conducted on March 11, 2013 were reviewed and approved.

Committee reports were made from eight of the standing committees of Session. No Personnel Committee report was presented. The following actions were approved by Session:

- The VBS decorations committee will start decorating classrooms, the fellowship hall and a backdrop in the sanctuary beginning Sunday afternoon, July 21st.
- The March 2013 treasurer's report (including capital campaign fund) was reviewed and approved.
- The Session agreed to table the review the church rolls until the May Session meeting.
- Cemetery plot numbers 98 and 109 be transferred to Jerry L. Johnson and plot numbers 106 and 107 transferred to Charlotte Johnson Duncan from the John L Johnson estate.
- A special committee was appointed to research existing cemetery by-laws and recommend to Session an updated set of rules to govern the use and upkeep of the cemetery. The committee is to include Gary Phillips, chairperson, David Nelms, Jimmy Stuart and Kent Walton.
- The organist will chime the hour precisely at 11:00 a.m. to mark the beginning of worship.
- Beth Breeden is to become the Children's Church Coordinator beginning September 1, 2013.
- Worship committee will research the cost of a new communion set to address the needs of growing church attendance. The communion roster for elder assignments will be updated for two additional servers of bread and wine, and an elder assigned to assist the pastor in serving communion to the shut-ins on a quarterly basis.
- Rev. Davis will take two days of vacation on April 25th and 28th, and take vacation from June 24th until July 7th. The pulpit will be filled by George Dudley on April 28th and July 7th. The pulpit supply for June 30th is yet to be determined.

The Pastor submitted a report that detailed congregational concerns and many of the upcoming events at Providence. Rev. Davis will attend the Sprunt Lectures in Richmond, VA scheduled for April 30 through May 3 as a continuing education opportunity. Also, the Pastor reported that the next two Presbytery meetings will be on July 23 at White Memorial in Raleigh and on October 26, 2013 at First Presbyterian in New Bern.

There was no old business discussed at this meeting. The next stated session meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Rev. Davis closed the meeting with prayer.

Prayer List of Joys and Concerns

JOYS:

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

CONCERNS:

Frances Schmidt, *member of church family, pneumonia*

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 and Norma Parsons, and Ann Woodall *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*, **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*, **Jennifer Councilman**, *friend of Karen Morrow*, **Helen Creech**, *Ronnie Creech's sister-in-law*, **Bucky Gardner**, *friend of Christina Jones*, **Rowland Gilchrist**, *Becky Kleaver's brother*, **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*, **Barbara Shaw**, *Kathy Ryals' aunt*, **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*, **Kim Anderson**, *friend of Georgeanna Phillips*, **Elaine Andrews**, *Andrea Jones' mother*, **Betty Campbell**, *David Collier's mother*, **Jean Carroll**, *Kelly Nordan's mother*, **Mel Crocker**, *friend of Carolyn Stevenson*, **Brenda Davis**, *friend of Lisa Nelms*, **Bill and Bobbie Ellis**, *Georgeanna Phillips' parents*, **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*, **Melinda Kendall**, *member of church family*, **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*, **B.J. Parker**, *friend of Christina Nelms*, **David Raynor**, *friend of Sandy Kopanski*, **Kathy Rose**, *friend of Kim Schmidt*, **Kathy Ryals**, *member of church family*, **Donny 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*, **Marie Wellman**, *friend of Brenda Byrd*, and **John Wright**, *Chris Nooney's father*.

MAY EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

NURSERY

- 5 Candace Creech, Israel and
Karen Morrow
- 12 Chris and Kristy Stephenson
Jonathan Breeden
- 19 Richard, Andrea, and
Haley Jones
- 26 Brandy Joyner, Beth Pickens and
Crissy Porter,



USHERS

- 5 Ronnie Creech and Jimmy Stuart
- 12 Wayne Lamm and Atlee Roberts
- 19 Youth Sunday
- 26 Carlos Bagley and Ken Lordi

ACOLYTE

- 5 Grace Martin
- 12 Mary Elaine Wood
- 19 Youth Sunday
- 26 Paige Smith

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 5 Jonathan and Beth Breeden
- 12 Eric and Lorie Smith
- 19 Youth Sunday
- 26 Kevin and Jennifer Crocker



KID'S CRUSADE

May - Karen and Israel Morrow

May Upcoming Events

- 1 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Pack 210 Spaghetti Fundraiser
- 5 Pioneer Clubs, Youth Group and
Adult Bible Study at 5:00 p.m.
- 6 Long-Range Planning Committee
at 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Prayer Shawl Group at 10:00 a.m.
- 8 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Youth Car Wash from 9:00 a.m. –
12 noon, followed by lunch and
Youth Sunday rehearsal
- 12 Mother's Day!
- 13 Stated Session Meeting at 7 p.m.
- 14 Senior Luncheon at 12 noon at
Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church
- 15 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- 17 8th Annual Fish Fry from
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- 19 Pentecost Sunday and Youth
Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
- 19 Pioneer Clubs Year-End
Celebration and Youth Group
- 21 Presbyterian Women Combined
Circle meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the
Fellowship Hall
- 22 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Deadline to submit articles for the
June newsletter
- 28 Presbyterian Women leave for
Montreat, returning
Friday, May 31
- 29 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.