

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

April 2014



From the Pastor's Study...

Easter comes late this year on April 20th and this gives us time to meditate on what our Lord God has done in our lives this year. We will come together and celebrate the culmination of the season of Lent. Easter marks the end of Lent and recalls the Passover meal Jesus shared with the disciples in the upper room. The Hebrews in Jesus' day as well as today prepare what is known as a Seder Meal to celebrate Passover.

The Seder meal...

Seder in Hebrew means "order" and it is a prescribed ritual of conducting the first Passover evening meal - where the adults teach the children the meaning of Passover by reciting the history of Exodus from Egypt. It's a simple meal comprised of: Vegetables (Karpas), salt water, bitter vegetables, a dressing or fruit paste, boiled egg, roasted lamb, wine and unleavened bread (matzah bread).

- Karpas (vegetable): Is a vegetable (usually parsley or celery, sometimes boiled potato) is the first thing to eat. It should be dipped in salt water (sometimes in vinegar or lime juice), then the excess of water is shaken off and the vegetable itself is eaten.

Karpas represents the humble beginnings of Jewish people and the food they ate in Egypt as slaves.

- Salt water: is perceived as tears their Jewish ancestors shed because of hardships of slavery.

- Maror (bitter vegetable): Maror traditionally represented by horseradish, either grated or as a whole root. This vegetable symbolizes the bitter harsh living of Jewish people in Egypt.

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April Scripture Passage

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." **Matthew 28:1-7**

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).

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- Chazeret (second bitter vegetable): Romaine or endive lettuce is often used as the second bitter vegetable. Both bitter vegetables are eaten with Charoset: the first one is dipped in it and the second is used to make a "sandwich" with Matza and Charoset. Not all Jewish communities use the second bitter vegetable during Seder.

- Charoset: is a paste made from tart apples, dates, nuts, honey, wine or grape juice and spices such as cinnamon and ginger. The mixture looks like clay and represents the mortar which Jewish people used to build cities for Pharaoh.

- Beitzah: is a boiled or roasted egg. Egg represents the reminder about festive sacrifice brought to the Temple in Jerusalem and then eaten. Since Temple was destroyed – the egg serves as a reminder about this loss. The shell represents the hardened heart of Pharaoh and also symbolizes eternal life for it's shape shows no sign of beginning or ending.

- Zeroah: is a piece of roasted shank bone of a lamb (sometimes chicken wing) and represents the helping hand of God and the traditional sacrifice of a lamb before Exodus from Egypt as well as following sacrifices at the Temple until it was destroyed. Zeroah is usually not eaten but serves as a reminder of the Passover miracle and liberation from slavery.

- Wine: Represents our sanctification coming from God only, from whom all good and righteous blessings come, we can be made righteous only because God is righteous.

Joy – rejoice in our Lord God who is creator, judge, and redeemer.

Elijah – who did not see death but was taken up to heaven alive in a mighty wind.

Praise – in a God who seeks a relationship with us (“You will be my people and I will be your God” Exodus 6:7).

- Matzah: the unleavened bread made as the Hebrews left Egypt for there was no time for the bread to rise from the yeast.

This is the context where the last supper of Christ or the “Lord’s Supper” unfolds. Isn’t it fitting that our celebration of the Lord’s Supper which symbolizes the very nature of our own salvation takes place within the story of God saving the Hebrews. The Passover meal that Jesus shared with the twelve disciples in the upper room was no ordinary Seder meal ... but the Passover for all time! God saves the Jews from Pharaoh and gives them the Ten Commandments ... God incarnate, Jesus, saves the world and gives us the higher commandment of LOVE.

Our Lord God is so good and blesses us in so many ways. May God bless us with a deeper understanding of God’s love through forgiveness purchased through the blood of Jesus. Please continue to support our church family and it’s ministries in your thoughts, prayers, and actions.

Your brother in Christ,
Jim

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.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S LUNCHEON

will be hosted by Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 1241 Old Fairground Rd, 12 noon on Tuesday, April 8. All those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by Thursday, April 3, to Janice Parrish at 919-639-6471 or janicep6471@embarqmail.com.

- **Palm Sunday** is planned for Sunday, April 13. During this service, the children will begin our service with a Palm Sunday Processional. 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, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. This service will include Communion by intinction.

- **Easter Sunrise Service** will be held at 6:45 a.m. at Providence on Easter Sunday, April 20 with our neighbors from Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Following the service, a light breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

- **Easter Worship Service** will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 20 at 11:00 a.m. The service will include a special time of Communion.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH HELPER

You may have noticed that the bulletin and service schedule now has a Children's Church Helper listed.

We have added a Children's Church helper to assist with children's worship, to escort children to the restroom if necessary, and to accompany the acolyte back to the sanctuary for the end of worship.

CHILDREN/YOUTH EASTER CELEBRATION

will be held on Saturday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m. – 11:30am, including the Easter story, crafts and snacks. This will be followed by an Easter egg hunt. If you have questions, or would like to help with this event, please contact Brandy Joyner.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

will meet on Sunday, April 6, at 5:00. Hamilton Green will lead the class in a study of 1 John 4:1-6.

The class will not meet again until May 4.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES ARE EXTENDED TO THE FAMILIES OF

Bob Frickman, grandfather of Todd Frickman

Wood McGregor, stepfather of Pam Collier

Lucas Currin, member of the community

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT

The High School Youth Retreat to Montreat is planned for July 13 -19, 2014, and is open to all High School Youth. Parents of 9th – 12th graders who are interested in their child attending should contact Wendy Stephenson at wendystephenson@embarqmail.com or Rev. Davis at jimdavis10@hotmail.com. Parents are reminded that deposits are due now for those attending.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT

The Middle School Youth Retreat to Mansanetta Springs is planned for June 19 – 22, 2014, and is open to all Middle School Youth. Parents of 6th – 8th graders who are interested in their child attending should contact Barri Martin at martin78@nc.rr.com. Parents are reminded that deposits are due now for those planning to attend.

YOUTH BARBECUE FUNDRAISER

The Youth Group thanks all who helped, volunteered and enjoyed a good meal and fellowship to help raise funds for youth activities and the capital campaign.

APRIL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

April 6 – Youth group and Pioneers
April 13 – Youth group
April 20 – Easter, NO youth group or Pioneers
April 27 – Youth Group

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR YOUTH

National Honor Society Inductees

Josh Collier
Daniel Stephenson
Abigail Wood

Honored at February Banquet of Johnston County 4-H

Kimsey Bagley
Travis Creech
Eva Stephenson
Justin Wood
Mary Elaine Wood

Boy Scout Troop 210 Court of Honor Congratulations to the Scouts of Troop 210

on achieving the following
Rank Advancements

** Life Rank*

Chad Cross

Rob Nooney

Tenderfoot Rank

Wesley Nooney

*Life Rank is the highest rank a Scout can earn before becoming an Eagle Scout

Our Scouts in Service

Troop 210 participated in a service project at the Coats Museum (bells) located on Old Fairground Rd. The scouts did some property enhancement by trimming trees and removing old shrubs. New shrubs will be planted the first weekend in May. The scouts will be replace the worn out ropes on the bell tower.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

A box is now located in the Narthex for the names and needs of individuals in the community who need help. If you are aware of someone in the area who is in need, you can anonymously inform the Mission and Outreach committee where help is needed.

FOOD COLLECTION

for Backpack Buddies and the Food Pantry continue on every 4th Sunday. The Mission and Outreach Committee has a container for your donation in the Fellowship Hall or at the entry to the Sanctuary.

OUTSTANDING OLDER ADULT AWARDS

will be presented at by the Presbytery of New Hope on May 4, 2013. If you would like to nominate someone from our congregation, please notify Wayne Lamm by April 7, 2014. 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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OUTING

All the ladies of the church are invited to an outing to Ron's Barn in Coats, NC on Thursday, May 8, at 6:00 pm. Dinner is an all-you-can-eat buffet. To add to the fun, the Dixie Travelers from Roseboro, NC will entertain us with gospel music from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. The cost for the show and dinner will be \$9.99 with a 10% discount for seniors (62 & over). If you would like to be one of the group, please contact Brenda Byrd at mama_byrd@hotmail.com or at 919-772-6277.

2014 WOMEN'S CONNECTION AT MONTREAT

titled "Daughter of God," will be held August 7 - 10, 2014. Contact Janice Parrish at janicep6471@embarq.mail.com or 919-639-6471 by April 15 if you plan to attend. Payment of fees and your registration form with the name of your roommate are due to Janice by May 15. Information about the retreat and copies of the registration form are in the Presbyterian Women's mailbox behind the sanctuary.

USHERS

All ushers are now asked to count the side you are working that week so that we can get an accurate count on our Sunday worship attendance. There is a sheet inside the stand (drawer) in the vestibule. Please enter the total each Sunday.

March Session Highlights

Providence Presbyterian Church conducted a stated Session meeting on March 10, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at the church. The Elders present were: Kristy Stephenson, Wayne Lamm, Gary Phillips, Jeffery Wood, Steve Nordan, David Nelms, Margie Taylor, Beth Breedon, Nathan Dry and Pete Booth. The meeting was moderated by Reverend Jim Davis. A quorum was declared and the Moderator Reverend Jim Davis opened the meeting with prayer.

- The minutes from stated Session meetings for February 2014 were reviewed and approved by the Session.
- The February Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved by the Session.
- Each committee presented their reports
- Session was informed that Kristy Stephenson met with the Youth Group to establish procedures to ensure an accurate accounting of both income and expenses as it relates to the youth groups.
- Mission and Outreach will place a box in the vestibule to accept suggestions for helping families in need.
- The personnel committee is working on a policy and procedures manual for the church.
- Discussion was held on donating the old communion set and old choir robes to a church in need.
- Session voted to purchase software to start a database to keep an accurate record of all members, visitors and information pertaining to members.

The next stated Session meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at the church. Reverend Davis closed the meeting with prayer.

CHURCH SURVEY

In an effort to better understand where you feel you can best help, volunteer, and participate in the activities at Providence, the committees of the Session and Sunday school program have created an online survey. We hope that each member will take the survey and plug in to the area or program where you feel led to help.

We are also taking this opportunity to collect birthdates (month and year only) and anniversaries (month and year only). There is room for up to 5 children and birthdates to be added. A link is on the church website or can be reached by going to

http://providencepresb.org/participation_survey.html. Hard copy forms are available in the fellowship hall and the narthex, if needed.

Prayer List of Joys and Concerns

JOYS:

"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whoever lives and believes in me, shall never die."

CONCERNS:

Becky Kleaver, undergoing further testing, member of church family
Paula Johnson, stage 4 cancer, friend of Dave and Edythe Natrass
Tom Nelms, member of church family

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, and Frances Schmidt at home.

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, Ashley Byrd, DeEtta Wood, Mickey Carroll, cousin of Kelly Nordan, Kathy Durocher, friend of Mark Nelms, Ann Hargiss, member of community, Kobe Horney, two-year old member of community, Becky Horsley, friend of DeEtta Wood, P.B. Jernigan, relative of Sheila Dupree, David Kopanski, John Kopanski's brother, Keith Langdon, member of church family, Amy Louthan, friend of Barri Martin, Carol Mayben, Sandy Kopanski's sister-in-law, Jackie Parker, friend of Amy Dupree, Jerry Penny, friend of Dick Embrey, Nina Redmond, niece of Pat and Dick Embry, Barbara Shaw, Kathy Ryals' aunt, Judy Clifton Smith, friend of Mary Langdon, Randy Stephenson, Jon Nooney's cousin, Tammy Vann, friend of Sandy Kopanski, Cory Watt, friend of Jeff Wood, DeEtta Wood, member of church family, and Hannah Youngblood, friend of Kristy Stephenson.

Persons with Ongoing Health Concerns, including:

Levon and Nancy Allen, Sheila Dupree's parents, Elaine and H. A. Andrews, parents of Andrea Jones, Mary Bass, Rev. Davis' mother, Ray Bost, grandfather of Heath White, Charlie & Mary Burke, Steve Wolak's parents, Shirley Collier, sister-in-law of David Collier, William & Leslie Collier, brother and sister-in-law of David Collier, Brad Davis, Jim Davis' father, Brenda Davis, friend of Lisa Nelms, Brenda Dupree, member of church family, Bobbie Ellis, Georgeanna Phillips' mother, Ed Fontana, Mary Langdon's father, Rose Hollingsworth, Ann Stephenson's sister-in-law, Fred Ipock, Cathy Creech's father, Grant Joyner, son of Robert Joyner, Norbert Kopanski, John Kopanski's father, Vic LaSaxon, Chris Nooney's brother-in-law, Wanza Mayben, Sandy Kopanski's mother, Tom Nelms, member of church family, Sue Nicholson, Chris Nooney's sister, Jon Nooney, member of church family, Chellie Poston, former member, 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, Gwen Walton, member of church family, and John Wright, Chris Nooney's father

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Anniversaries

- 4 Pete and Mary Ann Booth
- 12 Jon and Chris Nooney
- 17 Travis and Brittany Jones
- 20 Heath and Heather White
- 21 John and Beth Pickens
- 22 Nathan and Heather Reed
- 23 Hamilton and Debbie Greene
- 24 Wayne and Joyce Lamm
- 26 Billy and Peggy Barnhill

April Birthdays

- 3 Carlos Bagley
John Pickens
- 6 Thomas Lynch
- 9 Peggy Barnhill
Amy Dupree
- 10 Margie Taylor
Sharon Stephenson
- 14 Brack Johnson
- 15 Jon Nooney
- 16 Charlotte Wood
- 17 Steve Newnam
- 19 Will Langdon
Bob Zattiero
- 20 Kathy Ryals
- 21 Hunter Joyner
- 22 Brent Frampton
Lacy Johnson
- 23 Joan Stuart
- 24 Joshua Collier
Leon Parrish
- 25 Meredith Tart

Pastor

Rev. Jim Davis

Session

Class of 2014

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

Class of 2015

Robert Joyner - Adult Christian Education
Kristy Stephenson - Finance
Jeffrey Wood - Youth Christian Education
Margie Taylor, Mission and Outreach

Class of 2016

Beth Breeden - Children's Christian Education
Pete Booth, Personnel
David Nelms - Worship, Clerk of Session
Steve Nordan - Property

Church Staff

Secretary Group

Mary Ann Booth, Heather White,
LaVette Morgan

Accounting Treasurer

Ann Stephenson

Collections Treasurer

Ann Benson

Music Director/ Organist

Brittany Jones

Pianist

DeEtta Wood

Website

David Nelms

Newsletter

David Nelms & Mary Ann Booth

Usher Coordinator

Russell Wood

APRIL EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

NURSERY

- 6 Mary Langdon & Makayla Hackney
13 Eric & Lori Smith
20 Heath & Heather White
27 Candace Creech & Laura Langdon

USHERS

- 6 Kay Dry & Lisa Nelms
13 Mary Ann Booth & Sue Bryant
20 Carolyn Stevenson, Pat Davis
Lindsey Frampton, Joyce Lamm
27 Elaine Wood & Sandra Lordi

ACOLYTE

- 6 Kinsey Bagley
13 Lilly Martin
20 Mary Elaine Wood
27 Olivia White

CHILDRENS CHURCH HELPER

- 6 Donna Stolle
13 Amy Dupree
20 Joyce Lamm
27 Christina Jones

CHILDRENS CHURCH Vickie Faircloth

KIDS KRUSADE Jennifer Crocker

ELDER

Jeff Wood

April Upcoming Events

- 1 Prayer Shawl Group meets at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- 2 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM
- 3 Personnel Committee meets at 6:30 PM
Mission and Outreach Committee meets at 7:30 PM
- 6 Pioneers, Youth, and Adult Bible Study meet at 5:00 PM
- 7 Congregational Care Meeting at 10 AM
Long Range Planning Committee meets at 7:00 PM
- 8 Senior Luncheon at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church at 12 Noon
- 9 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM
- 10 Children's Christian Ed Committee meets at 7:00 pm
- 13 **PALM SUNDAY**, Communion Service
Youth Group meets at 5:00 PM
- 14 Stated Session Meeting at 7:00 PM
- 15 PW Coordinating Team will meet at 6:30 PM
PW Circles will meet at 10:00 AM and 7:30 PM
- 16 Worship Committee meeting at 6:30pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM
- 17 Maundy Thursday Service with communion at 7:30 PM
- 20 **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE** at PPC with Pleasant Grove Baptist at 6:45 AM
EASTER SERVICE AT 11:00 AM, Communion
NO youth group, Pioneers or Adult Bible study
- 22 Youth Advisor's Meeting at 7:00 PM
- 23 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM
- 25 Deadline for Newsletter Submissions
- 27 Youth Group meets at 5:00 PM
- 30 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM