

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

December 2014



From the Pastor's Study...

Merry Christmas and Greetings in the name Jesus Christ!

The Advent Season is here and there are so many of our Lord's blessings to be thankful for. Our Gracious God gives humanity hope in the gift of the Christ child. God has blessed with 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 month's scripture passage comes from the gospel of Luke 1:26-33 and offers a familiar but poignant Christmas image of the angel Gabriel proclaiming awesome news of great joy to all those who would hear the gospel message and respond. 700 years earlier in **Isaiah 9:6** our Lord God proclaimed to the Hebrews through Isaiah *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."* The images of Christian faith are present in the very nature of the Christ child! As we take each step in our own journey during Christmas share the gospel with those placed in our path. Let us reach out to others and offer the invitation to come and worship with us, for we have the greatest gift to share – salvation from ourselves through Jesus Christ.

Our Lord God has awesome plans for Providence Presbyterian Church and I am excited about what God will do in 2015.

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December Scripture Passage

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 1:26-33

CHURCH OFFICE

Office phone number is 919.894.4063

Rev. Davis may also be reached at
919.264.4324(m).

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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 own call to ministry in our church.

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.

Glory to God in the highest!

Your Brother in Christ,

The Providence Christmas Program

A Festival of Lessons and Carols, will take place at 5:00 PM on Sunday, December 7th. Our children and youth are working hard on the program, and we look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with our church family on that night. Children and youth are asked to arrive by 3:45 on December 7th and to attend the dress rehearsal at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 6th.

Senior Citizen's Luncheon

Providence Presbyterian Church's Senior Citizens will host the Dec. Senior Citizens' luncheon on Tues., Dec. 9th at noon. We need all of our Senior Citizens to come, help, and enjoy the fellowship and meal. Please let me know if you will be able to attend.

kaydry@embarqmail.com

or 919-639-9784

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

There will be two Christmas Eve Candlelight Services on December 24.

One at 5pm and one at 10pm.

Communion will be served at both. Please invite friends and members of the community to join us.

Finance Reimbursement

Committee members requesting reimbursements from church budgeted line items should complete a reimbursement form (located on bulletin board behind sanctuary), attached appropriate receipts and place in the finance box or turn into Ann Stephenson. This will help the finance committee ensure monies are deducted from the appropriate line items in the budget.

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women will hold a Christmas Gathering on Tuesday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. A catered dinner will be followed by a special Christmas program in the Sanctuary. All women of the church are invited to participate.

Prayer Shawl Group

The Prayer Shawl Circle at PPC meet on the first Tuesday of each month. They meet at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone is welcome.

Youth Spotlight

The Providence Christmas Program, A Festival of Lessons and Carols, will take place at 5:00 PM on Sunday, December 7th. Our children and youth are working hard on the program, and we look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with our church family on that night. **Children and youth are asked to arrive by 3:45 on December 7th and to attend the dress rehearsal at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 6th**

Youth Angel Tree Project -- The youth would like to thank the congregation for the Angel Tree Donations

Youth Breakfast Fundraiser – The youth would like to thank the congregation for the donations given at the youth breakfast.

Youth Summer Mission trip to Pensacola, Fl. - June 14-30. \$89 deposit needed by January 11, paid to Providence Church and put in memo section "youth mission deposit" give to Wendy Stephenson.

Congratulations to Hannah Stephenson was nominated from West Johnston High school for the Parks Scholarship for the Class of 2015.

Upcoming

January 11- Youth make Comfort Blankets for the Smithfield Rescue Mission at 5:00.

Prayer List of Joys and Concerns

Members of the Providence Family in Long-Term Care:

Brack Johnson at Classic Care Assisted Living in Smithfield, **Lacy and Marilyn Johnson** at Barbour Court Nursing in Smithfield, **Pauline Jones**, at Liberty Commons in Benson, **Grant Joyner**, **Bobbie Langdon**, and **Frances Schmidt** at home.

Persons Living with Cancer, including:

Vicky Austin, community, **Sherry Baker**, friend of Laura Langdon, **Cheryl Beckham**, friend of Laura McLamb, **Jerry Benson**, Randy Benson's cousin, **Nancy Biernacki**, friend of Bob Zattiero, **Patsy Bowman**, member of church family, **Edith Bowser**, friend of Bob Zattiero, **Mickey Carroll**, cousin of Kelly Nordan, **Richard Davis**, friend of Elaine Wood, **Ann Hargis**, member of community, **P.B. Jernigan**, relative of Sheila Dupree, **Joey Johnson**, friend of Randy Benson. **Paula Johnson**, friend of Dave and Edythe Natrass, **Luke Jordan**, friend of Christina Jones, **Keith Langdon**, member of church family, **Carol Mayben**, Sandy Kopanski's sister-in-law, **Stacy Meadows**, friend of Beth Wolak, **Jackie Parker**, friend of Amy Dupree, **Ben Snelling**, friend, of John Kopanski, **Randy Stephenson**, Jon Nooney's cousin, **Chad Talley**, friend of John Pickens, **Karen Tew**, friend of DeEtta Wood, **Wayne Toler**, Dorothy Nesselrodt's brother-in-law **Tammy Vann**, friend of Sandy Kopanski, **Cory Watt**, friend of Jeff Wood, **Kenneth Weathers**, brother-in-law of Wendy Stephenson, **Orene Wilburn**, Becky Kleaver's sister-in-law, **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, **Mary Bass**, Rev. Davis' mother, **Velma and Ray Bost**, grandparents of Heath White, **Charlie & Mary Burke**, Steve Wolak's parents, **Skylar Duquette**, Wendy Stephenson's great niece, **Ed Fontana**, Mary Langdon's father, **Fred Ipock**, Cathy Creech's father, **Melinda Kendall**, member of church family, **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, **Jon Nooney**, member of church family, **Chellie Poston**, former member, **Kathy Rose**, friend of Kim Schmidt, **Kathy Ryals**, community, **Donald Salmon**, Wendy Stephenson's brother-in-law, **Gwen Walton**, member of church family, and **John Wright**, Chris Nooney's father

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 2014

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

Class of 2015

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

Ann Stephenson, Margie Taylor,
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

Usher Coordinator

Russell Wood

DECEMBER EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

NURSERY

- 7 Mark and Pam Nelms
- 14 Carolyn Stuart and Emma Phillips
- 21 Eric and Lori Smith
- 28 Richard and Andrea Jones

USHERS

- 7 Sue Bryant and Lindsey Frampton
- 14 Mary Langdon and Sandra Lordi
- 21 Beth Pickens and Carolyn Stevenson
- 28 Elaine Wood and Pat Davis

ACOLYTE

- 7 Emma Phillips
- 14 Paige Smith
- 21 Mary Elaine Wood
- 28 Graycen Murray

CHILDRENS CHURCH HELPER

- 7 Karen Morrow
- 14 *No Childrens Church*
- 21 Beth Breeden
- 28 Christy Cross

CHILDRENS CHURCH TEACHER

Heather Ennis

KIDS KRUSADE

Stephanie Bagley

ELDER

Wayne Lamm

December Upcoming Events

- 1 LRP Committee at 7pm
- 2 Prayer Shawl Group at 10:00 am
- 2 PW Planning Session at 6:30 pm
- 3 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
- 4 Personnel Committee at 6:30 pm
- 4 Mission & Outreach Committee at 7:30 pm
- 6 Christmas Program Practice at 10am
- 7 Confirmation Sunday at 11am
- 7 Children's Christmas Program at 5 pm
- 8 Stated Session Meeting at 7pm
- 10 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
- 14 Christmas Cantata at 11 am
- 16 PW Christmas Dinner at 6:30 pm
- 21 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
- 24 Christmas Candlelight Service at 5pm
- 24 Christmas Candlelight Service at 10 pm
- 25 Merry Christmas
- 29 Deadline for January Newsletter Submissions