

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

January 2014



From the Pastor's Study...

Happy New Year!

This New Year 2014 heralds a new thing in the life and mission of Providence Presbyterian Church. We have been supremely blessed with many firsts and high points in 2013. All one has to do is look in the faces of our church family and around our church facilities and the signs of growth are evident. God continues to lead us in new directions and possibilities. The January weather brings cold temperatures outside yet our ministries and mission opportunities continue to heat up as we begin a new year, a new building project, new additions to our session, new families joining with our church family, new ideas and passionate folks are all truly awesome fertile ground for the Holy Spirit to move and work in and amongst us.

In the weeks and months to come we will have greater opportunities to minister those God places in our path. I want to take this opportunity and encourage everyone to seek out areas in the life and mission of the church where you can serve. Jesus calls us to discipleship – where we are both being fed and in turn feeding others. The entire ministry of Jesus is a witness to worshipping, working, learning, laughing, loving, reading, teaching, singing, and growing in relationship to God and each other.

This month's scripture of the month comes from John 3:25-31, where John the Baptist is teaching his disciples to testify to what the Lord God has done for them and that Jesus Christ must increase and John's ministry must decrease.

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January Scripture Passage

²⁵ Now a discussion about purification arose between John's disciples and a Jew. ²⁶ They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him." ²⁷ John answered, "No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.' ²⁹ He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease." ³¹ The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. The one who comes from heaven is above all.

John 3:25-31

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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This is also true for disciples of Christ. As we increase in knowledge and faith in our Lord and Savior increases in our minds and hearts. Therefore as we grow in God's will and following Christ our own self will diminishes. It may sound a little dismaying to realize we are to be less of ourselves ... however the true nature of the process in placing Jesus as Lord and Savior renders us closer to perfection through Christ and further away from our old sinful selves.

Let us begin this year with a new goal of being intentional in our Christian witness, fellowship, discipleship, friendship, stewardship, and relationship with our Lord God and those God puts in our path. Please consider your own call to Christian witness and ministry in our church and in the world. 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.

CHICKEN PASTRY SUPPER and SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

will be hosted by the Presbyterian Women on Friday, January 17 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The cost will be \$8 per plate. Eat-in or take-out will be available with a drive up option offered.

During the meal, a silent auction and sale will be held. If you have items you want to donate, please contact Brenda Byrd at 919.244.3864, or by email at mama_byrd@hotmail.com. Baked goods are especially welcome, both for sale and auction.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to support the outfitting of our new kitchen

SENIOR CITIZEN'S LUNCHEON

will be hosted by Providence Presbyterian at 12 noon on Tuesday, January 14. All those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by January 8 to Kay Dry at 919.639.9784.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

extends its thanks for your continued support of the hungry in our community. November through early December, we contributed 674 food items were donated to feed hungry children through Lighthouse's Backpack Buddies program. Another 355 food items were donated to Friendly Chapels food pantry.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

continues meeting on the first and third Sunday of each month through the end of May. The class meets in the Seekers classroom at 5:00 pm. January 5, Mary Ann Booth will lead the class on II Peter 2:1-22. Class on January 19 will be led by Sam Stephenson on II Peter 3:1-18.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES ARE EXTENDED TO THE FAMILY OF

James LaVerne Bailey, uncle of Chris Roberts, cousin of Ann Stephenson and Nancy Nelms

Kenneth Gilchrist, brother of Becky Kleaver

Bob Stephenson, cousin of Ann Stephenson and Nancy Nelms

December Session Highlights

Providence Presbyterian Church conducted a stated Session meeting on December 9, 2013, 7:00 p.m. at the church. The Elders present were: Stephanie Bagley, Kristy Stephenson, Nathan Dry, Wayne Lamm, Robert Joyner, Gary Phillips, Atlee Roberts, Jeffery Wood, and John Kopanski. As well, Elders elect present at the meeting were: Beth Breeden, Margie Taylor, Pete Booth, David Nelms, and Steve Nordan. 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 October and November 2013 were reviewed and approved by the Session.
- Youth group will go caroling at local nursing homes on December 15, 2013. Christian Education Committee will be investigating the possibility of getting a vehicle (van) which would be used for youth activities.
- The November Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved by the Session.
- Reverend Jim Davis and Wayne Lamm (Congregational Care Chairperson) will celebrate the sacrament of Communion with shut-ins of the congregation the week of December 16, 2013.
- The property committee removed two trees that were in close proximity to the footprint of the new construction.
- The Long Range Planning committee presented the Session with a loan commitment letter from the lending institution that the committee has been working with regarding the planned construction. To ensure that the best interests of the congregation will be served, the Session approved to have the terms and conditions of the loan commitment letter reviewed by a law firm that specializes in real estate transactions.

The next stated Session meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at the church. Reverend Davis closed the meeting with prayer.

Prayer List of Joys and Concerns

JOYS:

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!

CONCERNS:

Nina Redmond, niece of Pat and Dick Embry, undergoing treatment for 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

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, **Amy Louthan**, friend of **Barri Martin**, **Carol Mayben**, **Sandy Kopanski's sister-in-law**, **Harry Myers**, friend of **Ann Benson**, **Jackie Parker**, friend of **Amy Dupree**, **Jerry Penny**, friend of **Dick Embrey**, **Barbara Shaw**, **Kathy Ryals' aunt**, **Randy Stephenson**, **Jon Nooney's cousin**, **Tammy Vann**, friend of **Sandy Kopanski**, **Kenneth Weathers**, **Wendy Stephenson's brother-in-law**, **DeEtta Wood**, member of church family, and **Hannah Youngblood**, friend of **Kristy Stephenson**.

Other Persons with Ongoing Health Concerns, including:

Levon and Nancy Allen, **Sheila Dupree's parents**, **Elaine Andrews**, **Andrea Jones' mother**, **Mary Bass**, **Rev. Davis' mother**, **Charlie & Mary Burke**, **Steve Wolak's parents**, **Rich 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**, **Vic LaSaxon**, **Chris Nooney's brother-in-law**, **Wanza Mayben**, **Sandy Kopanski's mother**, **Sue Nicholson**, **Chris Nooney's sister**, **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**, **Stephanie Stanton**, friend of **Wendy Stephenson**, **Nan Walker**, **Andrea Jones' grandmother**, and **John Wright**, **Chris Nooney's father**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January Anniversaries

3 Carlos and Stephanie Bagley
11 Atlee and Linda Roberts
16 Rick and Margie Taylor

January Birthdays

2 Samantha Nordan
7 Adam Ingram; Shelton Langdon
Wendy Stephenson
11 Matthew Dupree
12 Coby Frampton; Joy Jones
14 Georgeanna Phillips
16 Caroline Frampton; Nathan Ingram
Melinda Kendall
18 Mary Ann Booth; Carolyn Stevenson
19 Justin Wood
20 Billy Barnhill
21 Chris Stephenson
22 Joe Rudd
24 HenriAnna Joyner
26 Laura Langdon; Kathy Wood

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 & Mary Ann Booth

Usher Coordinator

Russell Wood

JANUARY EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

NURSERY

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



USHERS

- 5 Ronnie Creech and Jimmy Stuart
12 Wayne Lamm and Atlee Roberts
19 Brent Frampton and Eric Smith
26 Carlos Bagley and Ken Lordi

ACOLYTE

- 5 Haleigh Weaver
12 Paige Smith
19 Kaleigh Weaver
26 Grace Martin



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Kelly Nordan

KID'S KRUSADE

Kay Dry

Elder of the Month/Greeter

Wayne Lamm

January Upcoming Events

- 5 Installation of Elders during
11am Service
Pioneers and Youth Group meet at 5pm
Adult Bible Study meets at 5pm in
the Seekers Classroom
6 Long Range Planning Committee will
meet at 7pm
7 Prayer Shawl Group meets at 10:00 AM
in the Fellowship Hall
Coordinating Team meets at 7:00 pm in
the Seekers classroom
8 Adult Choir Practice at 7:30 PM
12 Pioneers and Youth Group meet at 5pm
13 Stated Session Meeting at 7:00 PM
Senior Citizen's Luncheon will be hosted
14 by Providence Presbyterian Church
at 12 noon
15 Adult Choir Practice at 7:30 PM
Presbyterian Women's Chicken Pastry
and Silent Auction Fundraiser will be
held from 4pm to 8pm
19 Pioneer and Youth Group meet at 5pm
Adult Bible Study meets at 5pm in
the Seekers Classroom
21 Presbyterian Women Circles meet
Day Circle at 10:30 AM and
Evening Circle at 7:30pm
22 Adult Choir Practice at 7:30 PM
23 Newsletter items due
26 Pioneer and Youth Group meet
at 5:00 PM
28 Youth Advisors meet at 7:00 PM
29 Adult Choir Practice at 7:30 PM