

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

December 2017



From the Pastor's Study...

Season's greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior! The Advent Season is here and we have so much to be joyful for. God blesses us with a love that reaches well beyond our human understanding. God gives humanity hope through the gift of Jesus Christ as the supreme sacrificial lamb. God is faithful to all humanity and gives us 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 year's Advent sermon focus is on God's awesome gift of salvation from our sins. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ we celebrate "Hope, Peace, Joy and Love". This month's scripture passage comes from the gospel of Luke 2:8-14 and offers a familiar but poignant Christmas image of the angels proclaiming tidings of comfort and joy to all those who would hear the gospel message. We are so blessed to be loved by our God who humbled God's self to take on human form and proclaim a new covenant of love with humanity.

As we come together in our homes, around a decorated tree, let us remember all those who have given us so much in this life and be convicted by the Holy Spirit to do for others. May we be compelled to share the good news of a messiah and savior who came into this world in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. As we navigate the Advent season and our own faith journey let us take time to share the gospel with those God places in our path. Invite others to come and worship with us during any or all worship or fellowship opportunities - Sunday Worship, Sunday Fellowship, the Christmas Program, the Christmas Cantata, Christmas Eve Services, Presbyterian Women's Christmas Brunch, Youth events and other various events - we have so much of to offer all of God's people.

(Continued on page 2)

December Scripture Passage

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
Luke 2:8-14



CHURCH OFFICE

Pastor Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday - 9:00 am -
12:00 pm and by appointment

Office phone number is 919.894.4063

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

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Our Lord God has blessed us here at Providence Presbyterian Church in 2017 and I am joyful and excited about what God will do in 2018. Please pray for our church and its leadership so we might discern what God has in store for us in the coming year.

May the Holy Spirit move us to give witness to the reason for the season and inspire us to Christian love and generosity.

Merry Christmas!

Your Brother in Christ,
Rev. Jim Davis



SECRETARY

Cindy Lynch is available Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please send your bulletin prayer requests or updates, announcements, email distribution additions/deletions or other messages for broadcast via email to the congregation.

Her email is

secretary@providencepresb.org and her office number is 919-894-4063.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Angel Tree Shopping – The youth will go Angel Tree Shopping on Saturday, December 2.

Youth Caroling and Progressive Dinner – The youth will be caroling and partaking in a Progressive Dinner on Saturday, December 2. Plan to meet at Providence at 4:30 pm in the lower parking lot. Please RSVP to Barri Martin at bhmartin74@gmail.com.



FELLOWSHIP TIME REMINDER

Please sign up for fellowship times on the bulletin board. You may also sign up by sending an email to David Collier at davidcollier123@yahoo.com or you can call him at 919-625-3026.



PRAYER LIST UPDATES

If you have someone that needs to be on the prayer list or someone that needs to be removed please let Cindy Lynch know by email at secretary@providencepresb.org or call the church office at 919-894-4063.



CARD MINISTRY

The Card Ministry Meeting will meet on Tuesday, December 5 at 10:00am in the New Fellowship Hall to assemble and mail cards.



SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

The December Senior Citizen Luncheon will be Tuesday, December 12 at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church at 12:00 noon. Please contact Kay Dry at kaydry4@gmail.com and 919-639-9784 by Wednesday, December 6 with your reservation.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women Day Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 12 at 10:00 am in the Lower Fellowship Hall.



Congregational Meeting to vote on Dismissal from PC USA/New Hope Presbytery

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for January 7, 2018, following Worship. A formal vote on the question of dismissal from PCUSA will be held. All active members of Providence are urged to be present. Active members include all youth who have completed Confirmation. Members are asked to reach out to family and friends and encourage them to be present for the important decision.

Representatives of the New Hope Presbytery will be overseeing the vote. Following worship, members will gather in the foyer in front of the doors of the new Fellowship Hall. Prior to entering the fellowship hall, your name will be checked against the roll of active members. You will be given a ballot and asked to take a seat in the fellowship hall. An opportunity to speak will be provided for members of Providence and the representatives of the New Hope Presbytery.

2017 CANTATA
Sunday, December 10

“Come To The Manger”

Written and arranged by Mark Hayes
Presented by the Providence Choir
Narrated by Greg Kornegay
Accompanied by Angie Searcy
Directed by Brittany Jones



Come to the Manger

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Providence Christmas Program will take place Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 pm! Our children and youth have been practicing during LOGOS for several weeks, and we look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with our church family!

Finding Christmas



Under the Sea

Presented by the Children and Youth
of Providence Presbyterian Church's LOGOS Ministry
Directed by Brittany Jones

**Our Christian Sympathies are extended
to the families of:**

Mary Langdon for the loss of her father
Vicky Austin, community member



DONATION OPTION ADDED

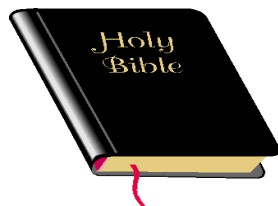
Providence can now accept donations of
stocks and other securities.

To make a donation or obtain more
information, please contact Ann Benson,
Collections Treasurer.



LAY READERS SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| December 3 | Mary Ann Booth |
| December 10 | Doug Sonderfan |
| December 17 | Justin Wood |
| December 24 | Greg Kornegay |
| December 31 | Brittany Jones |



Prayer List of Joys and Concerns

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*; Pauline Jones, at *Liberty Commons in Benson*; Virginia Moore, at *Brookdale Assisted Living in Smithfield*; Bobbie Langdon, and Frances Schmidt at home.

Persons Living with Cancer, including:

Vicky Austin, *community*; Sherry Baker, *friend of Laura Langdon*; Priscilla Beckwith, *friend of Sandy Kopanski*; Patsy Bowman, *member*; Joanne Boyle, *Bob Zattiero's niece*; Lisa Bradshaw, *member of the community*; Ann Hargis, *community*; Consuelo Hawkins, *Joe Hawkins' mother*; Carol Mayben, *Sandy Kopanski's sister-in-law*; Art Redmond, *Pat Embrey's niece's husband*; Ben Snelling, *friend, of John Kopanski*; Randy Stephenson, *Jon Nooney's cousin*; Chad Talley, *friend of John Pickens*; and Wayne and Mary Toler, *Dorothy Nesselrodt's sister and brother-in-law*.

Persons with Ongoing Health Concerns, including:

Nancy Allen, *Sheila Dupree's mom*; Sara Barber, *Vickie Faircloth's mother*; Worth Bowman, *member*; Charlie & Mary Burke, *Steve Wolak's parents*; Shepherd Byrd, *member*; Elise Corona, *daughter of a friend of Sue Bryant*; Lynn Cross, *member*; Joan Daniel, *John Daniel's mother*; Wanda Johnson Dupree, *previous member*; Gayla Edmond, *Stephanie Wood's mom*; Coby Foreman, *church family*; Sandy Kopanski, *member*; Harley Kremer, *Andrea Jones niece*; Stuart Kremer, *friend of Andrea Jones*; Vic LaSaxon, *Chris Nooney's brother-in-law*; Hubert Lipscomb, *scout leader*; Scott Martinelli, *Joe & Beverly Martinelli's son*; Wanza Mayben, *Sandy Kopanski's mother*; Bill McClandless, *friend of Bob Zattiero*; Nancy Nelms, *member*; Sue Nicholson, *Chris Nooney's sister*; Jon Nooney, *member*; Lou Penny, *member*; Caleb Reese, *cousin of Andrea Jones*; Marie Rouse, *delivery driver's wife*; Barbara Walton, *member*; Candy Weaver, *friend of Amanda McLamb*; and John Wright, *Chris Nooney's father*.

Concerns: Laura McLamb, Harley Kremer, Andrea Jones niece, has a heart condition; Charles Miller, *Donna Stolle's brother, still missing in Orlando*



Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Anniversaries

5 Ashley and Crissy Porter
22 Tony and Sue Bryant
31 Beck and Laura McLamb

December Birthdays

2 Wayne Lamm
4 Karen Sherrill
5 Nancy Nelms
6 Janice Parrish
7 Beck McLamb
18 Allison Nelms
19 John Daniel
26 John Kopanski
27 Brenda Byrd
Scott Martin
28 Sheila Dupree
Phoebe Creech
29 Stephen Nordan
31 Cheyanne Nooney



Pastor
Rev. Jim Davis

Session
Class of 2017
Tony Bryant - Long-Range Planning
David Collier - Fellowship
Barri Martin - Youth Christian Education
Donna Stolle - Worship

Class of 2018
Sam Stephenson - Finance
Kent Walton - Congregational Care
Atlee Roberts - Adult Christian Education
Russell Wood - Property

Class of 2019
Vickie Faircloth - Children C.E.
John Kopanski - Mission & Outreach
Mary Ann Booth - Clerk

Church Staff
Secretary
Cindy Lynch

Accounting Treasurer
Kristy Stephenson

Collections Treasurer
Ann Benson

Music Director/ Organist/Pianist
Brittany Jones

Pianist
Angie Searcy

Website
David Nelms

Newsletter
Cindy Lynch

Usher Coordinator
Russell Wood

Highlights from Minutes of Stated Session Meeting on November 13, 2017

Correspondence – Clerk of Session reported on two communications.

- A letter from David Nelms to the Session regarding the 2017 stewardship effort was read. The Session agreed by consensus to send a letter to members including a pledge card and the 2018 budget. An announcement will be made that a second Stewardship Sunday will be held on November 26, 2017 for members to bring forward their pledges.
- Copies of an email form Rev. Ed McLeod, chair of the PDT/PET for New Hope Presbytery was distributed to the Session. The email states that a formal Congregational Vote to confirm the desire of Providence members to seek dismissal from PCUSA/New Hope Presbytery is required. By consensus, the session decided to move forward with plan to hold a Congregational Meeting for the vote.

Open and Actionable Items

Worship Committee – Options to improve security were discussed. Session approved by consensus a recommendation to set up a security detail composed of volunteers. Kent Walton and David Collier will work together to develop a security team, the members and responsibilities to be determined.

Elder Nominating Committee – Members of the nominating committee are: Tony Bryant, Barri Martin, Nadine Reed, Donna Walker, Johnathan Breeden, and Carolyn Johnson. The nominees were approved by the Session by consensus and include: Donna Stolle (will fill the 2-year vacancy left by the resignation of Stephanie Bagley); Joe Martinelli; Kevin Creech; and Cathy Simmons. Session agreed to hold a Congregational Meeting following worship on December 17, 2017 for the purpose of electing Elders.

Review of Membership Roll – The Session reviewed the list of active members. Thirteen members were identified for transfer to the inactive roll. Reverend Davis plans a call to one family.

Committee Updates

Children's Christian Education – Session was reminded that the children's Christmas program is December 3, 2017 at 5:00 pm. A professional Santa Claus will be in attendance. The Session was told that discussions are being held about the possibility of forming a "Mother's Day Out" opportunity at Providence.

Fellowship – David Collier reported that the Committee is discussing ways to improve fellowship time for 2018. By consensus, the Session agreed that money received from HOA's meeting at the church would be deposited in the General Fund.

Finance – Chair of Finance, reported that the property loan papers state that the maturity date for the balloon payment is January 16, 2022. General Fund receipts continue to lag expenses. Year to date, expenses exceed revenues by \$27,222.87.

| | <u>General Fund Revenues</u> | <u>General Fund Expenses</u> |
|---------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| October | \$20,125.70 | \$24,147.88 |
| YTD | \$219,541.10 | \$246,763.97 |

Mission & Outreach – The Girl Scout Council is seeking a second troop leader for a new troop to meet at Providence. The Session passed a motion to sponsor the troop if a leader is found.

Property – A sign has been made and will soon be posted at the entrance to the upper parking lot to discourage large trucks from entering and parking.

Worship – Ushers are reminded to record a head count for each section every Sunday during worship. The Session decided that one Candlelight service at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve, January 24, is adequate given that folks will have been to worship that Sunday morning.

Pastor's Report – Among the highlights of Rev. Davis' report:

- The Congregational Meeting on October 15, 2017 to determine which denomination, EPC or ECO, is preferred by the Providence Congregation was well attended. Over 75% voted in favor of EPC. The Pastor's Terms of Call were approved. The final vote was 91 for EPC and 29 for ECO.
- Reminders: Communion will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2017 and the Cantata is Sunday, December 10, 2017
- Pastor's Vacation – December 26 – 28, 2017
- Secretary Vacation – December 18 – 20, 2017

DECEMBER EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

NURSERY

- 3 Richard and Andrea Jones
 10 Barri Martin and Mary Wood
 17 Jennifer Crocker and Amy Dupree
 24 Sue Bryant
 31 Jonathan Breeden and Emma Phillips

USHERS

- 3 Anna Creech, Barri Martin and
 Allison Nelms (Back)
 10 Carolyn Stevenson & Margie Taylor,
 Sue Bryant (Back)
 17 Lisa Nelms & Karen Morrow,
 Joyce Lamb (Back)
 24 Donna Stolle & Heather Ennis,
 Joan Littleton (Back)
 31 Heather Ennis, Mary Wood and
 Jennifer Crocker (Back)

ACOLYTE

- 3 Phoebe Creech
 10 Hannibal Langdon
 17 Joey Crocker
 24 Charlotte Wood
 31 Ava Wood

CHILDRENS WORSHIP LEADERS/HELPER

- 3 Kristy Stephenson
 10 Carolyn & Adam Stuart
 17 Kristy Stephenson
 24 Kristy Stephenson
 31 Kristy Stephenson

ELDER

Kent Walton

December Upcoming Events

- Dec 3. Communion Sunday
 Christmas Program Practice
 3:00 – 4:00 pm
 Christmas Program 5:00 pm
- Dec 5. Congregational Care Meeting
 10:00 am
 Card Ministry 10:00 am
- Dec 6. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- Dec 7. Long Range Planning Committee
 7:00pm
- Dec 8. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- Dec. 10 Cantata 11:00 am
- Dec. 12 Presbyterian Women Day Circle 10:00
 am
 Senior Citizen Luncheon 12:00 pm
- Dec. 13 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- Dec 15. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
- Dec 17. Christmas Joy Offering
- Dec 20. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- Dec 22. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Newsletter Deadline
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service 11:00 am
 Christmas Service 5:00pm
- Dec 25. Christmas Day, Office Closed
- Dec 26. Christmas observed, Office Closed
- Dec. 27 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 No Adult Choir Practice
- Dec. 31 1st Sunday after Christmas
 New Year's Eve Day