

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 17, 2017

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude and Acolyte

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Bob and Nadine Reed

Call to Worship (From Isaiah 9) Justin Wood

Leader: *There will be no gloom*

People: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;*

Leader: *they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest*

People: *For the yoke of their burden you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

Leader: *all the boots of the tramping warriors shall be burned*

People: *For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;*

Leader: *authority rests upon his shoulders;*

People: *He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Leader: *He will establish justice and with righteousness forevermore.*

All: *Let us worship the Lord God this day!*

***Opening Hymn** "Joy to the World" # 179

Confession of Sin (In Unison)

O God of infinite possibilities, we come before You this day to confess our sins together as Your people, sinners yet redeemed by the Christ-child. Forgive us, O Lord, help us to live everyday as Jesus taught us. Transform our hearts so we might shine brightly as the star of Bethlehem to those whom You send our way. May You fill us with the joy of the knowledge of the one true Lord and Savior. O Lord God, add to our faith and understanding of Your Grace in this world. Convict our hearts that we may serve You with joy and peace.

Silence for Personal Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: *For Just as the Wise men sought the Christ child - we seek Your Grace, O God.*

All: *For the angels will shout good tidings of great joy of humanity's salvation through Jesus Christ. Glory be to God!*

***Responsive Hymn** "In the Bleak Midwinter" # 196

***Affirmation of Faith** (Back cover of Blue Hymnal)

"The Apostle's Creed"

***Passing of the Peace of Christ** (please begin the pew pads)

Giving of His Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

***Doxology**

Hymn # 34

Prayer of Dedication

Old Testament Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4

Anthem "An Advent Awakening" Providence Choir

Musical Interlude for Children's Worship

(Children ages 4 thru 5th grade led by Kristy Stephenson)

Morning Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

New Testament Lesson

Luke 3:1-6

Sermon "The World's Greatest Gift" Rev. Jim Davis

***Dedication Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" # 154

***Acolyte and Benediction**

Postlude

Congregational Meeting

**Signifies Congregation to Stand*

Please feel free to take home your printed bulletin. Thank you for placing any discarded bulletins in a trash receptacle as you depart the building.

If you desire to join Christ's Church here at PPC please contact the Pastor – office 919-894-4063, cell# 919-264-4324, or after worship!

December Scripture Passage

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."
Matthew 1:18-23

Ministers of Providence Presbyterian Church
 The People of Providence Presbyterian Church

Pastor
 Rev. Jim Davis

Session

Class of 2017

<i>Long Range Planning</i> Tony Bryant	<i>Fellowship</i> David Collier	<i>Youth C.E.</i> Barri Martin	<i>Worship</i> Donna Stolle
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Class of 2018

<i>Finance</i> Sam Stephenson	<i>Congregational Care</i> Kent Walton	<i>Adult C.E.</i> Atlee Roberts	<i>Property</i> Russell Wood
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Class of 2019

<i>Children C.E.</i> Vickie Faircloth	<i>Mission & Outreach</i> John Kopanski	<i>Clerk</i> Mary Ann Booth
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Staff

Accounting Treasurer
 Kristy Stephenson

Collections Treasurer
 Ann Benson

Music Director/Organist/Pianist
 Brittany Jones

Pianist
 Angie Searcy

Website
 David Nelms

Usher Coordinator
 Russell Wood

Secretary
 Cindy Lynch

Honoring our history.....building our future

Weekly Statistics

Year-to-Date General Fund Receipts (thru Nov 30)	\$238,985.46
Year-to-Date General Fund Expenses (thru Nov 30)	\$268,214.36
General Fund Receipts for Nov 30.....	\$19,444.36
General Fund Expenses for Nov 30	\$21,450.39
Total General Fund Receipts for December	\$19,359.06
General Fund Receipts for December 10	\$11,560.00
Capital Reserve Account.....	\$84,742.54
Loan Balance as of November 30	\$978,497.29
Attendance for Sunday School December 10.....	53
Attendance for Worship December 10	116



SERVICE SCHEDULE

Assisting in Worship this Sunday:

Elder of the Month/Greeter: Kent Walton
Ushers: Lisa Nelms, Margie Taylor and Joyce Lamb (Back)
Acolyte: Joey Crocker
Nursery: Jennifer Crocker and Amy Dupree
Children's Worship: Kristy Stephenson
Lay Reader: Justin Wood
Fellowship Time: Nesselrodt Class

Assisting in Worship next Sunday, December 24

Elder of the Month/Greeter: Kent Walton
Ushers: Donna Stolle, Heather Ennis and Joan Littleton (back)
Acolyte: Charlotte Wood
Nursery: Sue Bryant
Children's Worship: Kristy Stephenson
Lay Reader: Greg Kornegay
Fellowship Time: Fellowship Committee

CHURCH CALENDAR

Today at Providence:

9:45 am: Sunday School
10:25 am: Fellowship Time
11:00 am: Worship Service
12:00 am: Congregational Meeting to elect Elders

Weekly Events:

Dec 17. Christmas Joy Offering
Elder Election after service
Dec 20. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am
Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
Dec 22. Newsletter Deadline

Upcoming Events:

Dec 24. Christmas Eve Service 11:00 am
Christmas Service 5:00 pm
Dec 25. Christmas Day, Office closed
Dec 31. 1st Sunday after Christmas, New Year's Eve Day

Pastor's Office Hours - The pastor will be in the office Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm, with varying additional hours in the afternoons. All hours are subject to pastoral demands.

PRAYER LIST OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

JOYS: Thanks be unto God for His indescribable gift! 2 Cor. 9:15

CONCERNS: **Becky Cassidy**, sister-in-law of Steve & Eunice Newnam has Parkers Disease, and continued prayers for **Carole Kershaw** and **Laura McLamb**.

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*; **Grant Joyner**, **Bobbie Langdon**.

Persons Living with Cancer, including:

Vicky Austin, *community*; **Sherry Baker**, *friend of Laura Langdon*; **Patsy Bowman**, *member*; **Joanne Boyle**, *Bob Zattiero's niece*; **Lisa Bradshaw**, *member of the community*; **Richard Davis**, *friend of Elaine Wood*; **David Guss**, *cousin of Andrea Jones*; **Ann Hargis**, *community*; **Luke Jordan**, *friend of Christina Jones*; **Keith Langdon**, *member*; **Carol Mayben**, *Sandy Kopanski's sister-in-law*; **Jackie Parker**, *friend of Amy Dupree*; **Dina Poole**, *Becky Kleaver's daughter-in-law*; **Elbert Simmons**, *Cathy Simmon's father*; **Ben Snelling**, *friend, of John Kopanski*; **Randy Stephenson**, *Jon Nooney's cousin*; **Chad Talley**, *friend of John Pickens*; **Wayne and Mary Toler**, *Dorothy Nesselrodt's sister and brother-in-law*; and **Hannah Youngblood**, *friend of Kristy Stephenson*

Persons with Ongoing Health Concerns, including:

Nancy Allen, *Sheila Dupree's mom*; **Worth Bowman**, *member*; **Charlie & Mary Burke**, *Steve Wolak's parents*; **Elise Corona**, *daughter of a friend of Sue Bryant*; **Joan Daniel**, *John Daniel's mother*; **Coby Foreman**, *church family*; **Norbert Kopanski**, *John Kopanski's father*; **Sandy Kopanski**, *member*; **Stuart Kremer**, *friend of Andrea Jones*; **Susan Kushnereit**, *Bob Zattiero's niece*; **Laura Langdon**, *member*; **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**, *Christiane Nooney's sister*; **Jon Nooney**, *member*; **Lou Penny**, *member*; **Caleb Reese**, *cousin of Andrea Jones*; **Kathy Rose**, *friend of Kim Schmidt*; **Barbara Walton**, *member*; **Mary Wilkinson**, *Ron Forren's mother*; and **John Wright**, *Christiane Nooney's father*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting and Vote - January 7, 2018

All members are asked to be present for this important meeting. The Presbytery of New Hope requires that we formally express our desire to be dismissed from the PCUSA denomination by congregational vote. We require a minimum of 50% of all members to be on hand in order to conduct the vote. Please mark your calendar for this important date.

Today - The Session and Special Committee of the Congregation invite you to stay for a brief presentation and Question and Answer period following today's congregational meeting. The members of the SCC will review the procedure for the January 7, 2018 Congregational Meeting for the vote on dismissal from PCUSA.

Congregational Meeting Today -- We will meet in the sanctuary immediately after Worship to elect the Elder Class of 2020. The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of nominees:

- Donna Stolle
- Cathy Simmons
- Kevin Creech
- David Collier
- Steve Newnam

Donations of Stock and Other Securities can now be accepted by the Church. To make a donation or obtain more information, please contact Ann Benson, Collections Treasurer.

Mission and Outreach Stagecoach Christmas Visit -- Thanks to the generosity of the congregation through donations, Kelly Daniel was able to buy a gift bag for each person with presents from their Christmas wish list in it, a bag of treats for each of them, and a Christmas card with 5 one dollar bills in it. It is a blessing to see the smiles on the faces of the residents when they see us. Most of these folks have no family. Thank you to PPC and to Kelly Daniel.

Safety/Security Team -- Anyone interested in learning more and helping; please contact Kent Walton or David Collier.

Prayer Shawl Circle -- Reminder, there is no meeting in December. Enjoy your holidays!

Take Home Poinsettias -- Any time after the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service. Please remember there will not be a 10:00 pm service this year. On Christmas day all poinsettias will be moved to the Lower Fellowship Hall. Plants not retrieved by Saturday, Dec 30th will be recycled. Thanks again for the enthusiastic participation in this program.

Removing Advent Decorations -- Will take place on the Saturday after Christmas; Dec 30th. Your assistance in removing and returning items to their designated storage is greatly appreciated!

Fellowship and Fitness Walking Group -- Join us Wednesday and Friday mornings at 10:00 am in the Upper Fellowship Hall. All are Welcome!

Note: We will not meet again until the New Year January 3, 2018. Have a joyous Christmas!

High School Youth please mark your calendars for our ski trip on January 26 – 28. More information to come.

Food Pantry and Backpack Buddies -- Please bring your food donations for these worthy ministries and place them in the blue bin near the foyer doors leading into the Upper Fellowship Hall.

Reminders -- Please contact Cindy Lynch at 919-894-4063 or ppchurchsecretary@gmail.com if you need to: Add or remove anyone from the prayer list, schedule use of the old or new fellowship hall or directory updates.

Please Note -- The Bulletin deadline is **Noon Thursday** if you wish for an announcement to appear in the bulletin for the upcoming Sunday. The Newsletter items deadline is the **23rd** of the month.

Cindy Lynch, PPC Secretary will be out of the office December 18th through 20th.

Pastor Jim Davis will be out of town Dec. 25th through 30th. If you need someone from the church please contact Kent Walton at 919-618-6344 or David Collier at 919-894-2785.