

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2017
11:00 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Acolyte David Breeden

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Ryan and Allison Nelms

Call to Worship (from Psalm 148) Greg Kornegay

Leader: *Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens praise Him in the heights!*

People: *Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His host!*

Leader: *Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded, and they were created.*

People: *He established them forever and ever; He fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.*

Leader: *Let them praise the name of the LORD,*

People: *For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven.*

All: *Praise the LORD God for Christ is come! Let us raise our voices in joy and exultation!*

***Opening Hymn** “Good Christian Friends Rejoice” # 198

Confession of Sin (In Unison)

O Gracious and Giving God, we come this morning to confess and be renewed with the joy of Christmas. Forgive our hard-hearted ways and help us to learn how to open our hearts so we may understand the message and meaning of Christmas throughout the year. Send Your Holy Spirit so that we may be given all the gifts of grace needed to fulfill our common calling as Your people. May we gather together in preparation for the celebration of the birth of the Child of Bethlehem some 2,000 years ago. Thank You, O LORD, for sending Jesus into the world, and our souls are glad because of our Savior rules in our heart with power and strength. Thanks be to You, Heavenly Father.

Silence for Personal Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: *The greatest gift to the world has been given in Jesus Christ.*

People: *Glory to God, through the Christ-child we are redeemed!*

***Responsive Hymn** “Mary, Did You Know?” # 192

***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 Eva Stephenson

***Doxology** Hymn # 34

Prayer of Dedication

Old Testament Lesson Micah 5:1-5a

Anthem “Be Born In Us” Brittany Jones

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 1:46-55

Sermon “Being a Gift Giver” Rev. Jim Davis

***Dedication Hymn** “Away in a Manger” # 203

***Acolyte and Benediction**

Postlude

**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

Long Range Planning *Fellowship* *Youth C.E.* *Worship*
Tony Bryant David Collier Barri Martin Donna Stolle

Class of 2018

Finance *Congregational Care* *Adult C.E.* *Property*
Sam Stephenson Kent Walton Atlee Roberts Russell Wood

Class of 2019

Children C.E. *Mission & Outreach* *Clerk*
Vickie Faircloth John Kopanski Mary Ann Booth

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	\$23,227.06
General Fund Receipts for December 17	\$3,868.00
Capital Reserve Account.....	\$84,742.54
Loan Balance as of November 30	\$978,497.29
Attendance for Sunday School December 17	77
Attendance for Worship December 17	136

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Assisting in Worship this Sunday:

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

Assisting in Worship next Sunday, December 31

Elder of the Month/Greeter: Kent Walton
Ushers: Heather Ennis, Mary Wood and Jennifer Crocker (back)
Acolyte: Ava Wood
Nursery: Jonathan Breeden & Emma Phillips
Children's Worship: Kristy Stephenson
Lay Reader: Brittany Jones
Fellowship Time: Fellowship Committee

CHURCH CALENDAR

Today at Providence:

9:45 am: Sunday School
10:25 am: Fellowship Time
11:00 am: Worship Service
5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Weekly Events:

Dec 24. Christmas Eve Service 11:00 am
Christmas Service 5:00 pm
Dec 25. Christmas Day, Office closed
Dec 26. Office closed
Dec 31. 1st Sunday after Christmas, New Year's Eve Day

Upcoming Events:

Jan. 1. New Year's Day, Office closed
Jan. 3. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am
Adult choir Practice 7:30 pm
Jan. 5. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am
Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm

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: For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!
Romans 6:23

CONCERNS: Continued prayers for Laura McLamb, Carole Kershaw and the Sonderfan family as they mourn the death of Charlene.

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:

Charity Arrington, friend of *Georgianna*; **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; **Becky Hall**, friend of *Carolyn Johnson*; **Ann Hargis**, community; **Consuelo Hawkins**, *Joe Hawkins' mother*; **Carol Mayben**, *Sandy Kopanski's sister-in-law*; **Laura McLamb**, member; **Sarah Mulcahay**, sister of *Patsy Bowman*; **Ken Page**, family of *Atlee and Linda Roberts*; **Linda Stangl**, friend of *Miriam Lambet*; **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*; **Barbara Ellis**, mother of *Georgeanna Phillips*; **Coby Foreman**, church family; **George Johnson**, *Debbie Sturgis' father*; **Sandy Kopanski**, member; **Harley Kremer**, *Andrea Jones niece*; **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*.

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.

Charlene Sonderfan, mother of Doug Sonderfan, passed away peacefully Tuesday morning at Oak Hill Assisted Living in Angier, NC with Doug and his sister Tracy at her bedside. There will be no public viewing arrangements as Charlene had her final arrangements made in advance; the family will have a small private memorial gathering and scatter her ashes sometime in January. If anyone chooses to do so, in lieu of flowers, a donation can be mailed to Transitions Life Care, the Hospice Facility that took such excellent care of her most of this past year. Please put Char Sonderfan in the memo line. Transitions Life Care, 250 Hospice Circle, Raleigh, NC 27607

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!

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 -- Mountain trip January 26 – 28. The youth will travel to Banner Elk, NC for a wonderful weekend of fun and fellowship with opportunities to snow ski, snow tube, and see the spectacular sights of our North Carolina Mountains. Please contact Eric Faircloth for further details.

Fellowship time reminder -- Please sign up on the bulletin board or you may send an email to David Collier at davidcollier123@yahoo.com or call him at 919-625-3026.

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.

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.

Monthly Church Newsletter -- If you do not have a computer, you can pick up a paper copy of the newsletter in the Narthex. The December newsletter is now available.

Reminder -- Please contact Cindy Lynch at [919-894-4063](tel: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.