

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

July 2017



From the Pastor's Study...

Summer is here! The warm summer days are upon us once again. July is arguably the warmest time of the year where iced tea, ice cream, swimming pools, and fireworks from the 4th are what we look forward to. As we will celebrate our nation's independence and inception as the United States of America we remember those who have gone before us and to commemorate the freedoms enjoyed by all the citizens, and even visitors, of our great nation. Happy birthday U.S.A. May there be many more celebrations of Independence Day and may the years to come be filled with more freedoms than burdens. Let us celebrate the independence day of our country while we reflect the one and only hope of being made truly free in Christ.

This month's scripture lesson is from Ephesians 4:15-16, where Paul writes an open letter to the church at Ephesus. Paul encourages this young growing church to treat each other in the spirit of Christian love, support and understanding. He continues the thought of Christ's church as the body of Christ - where each member seeks to work with others members in terms of lifting the church up by placing Christ first in all things.

Multiple themes then proceed forth that each growing church devoted to Jesus Christ must then ask itself:

Are we in community with others who are seeking to be like Christ?

Are we growing in the knowledge of ourselves and the ones we love around us?

Are we growing in the knowledge of scripture?

Are in we relationship with God and others ... speaking the truth out of love?

Are we seeking and serving God in uplifting words and deeds that uplift others?

Where do we find ourselves in this conversation?

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July Scripture Passage

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:15-16



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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As Christian Americans, we are doubly blessed with the two most important freedoms with which humanity can be endowed; 1) freedom to worship unencumbered, and 2) freedom of speech. I fear we take both of these freedoms for granted but the bigger tragedy is never using these two freedoms. Let us pray for the leaders AND the citizens of this country in that we may never forget the privilege and responsibilities that come with the greatest gifts humanity can be given.

God bless Providence Presbyterian Church ...
God bless you ... God bless America ... and may
God bless all those who bless God.

Your Brother in Christ,
Rev. Jim Davis

FELLOWSHIP HALL POLICY

As of October 1, 2015 we have adopted a new policy to be used on all scheduling request to use both Fellowship Halls. If you request to use either of our Fellowship Halls you will be required to complete a form and the approval will come from the Session. This will apply to all new requests for both halls. Requests that have already been approved or confirmed will not be required to complete the new form. New requests need to be made through the church office (Kim Callis) same as current process. If you have questions on this new policy please contact
Kim Callis at 919-894-4063 or
David Collier at 919-625-3026 or
davidcollier123@yahoo.com.

PRAYER LIST UPDATES

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



SUGGESTION BOX

Is up and running on the PPC website. To receive a response to your submission, please leave your name with your suggestion. Submissions are only viewed by members of Session and the submitter. Answers to concerns are sent to the submitter via email.



SECRETARY

Kim Callis 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.



VBS VOLUNTEER ANNOUNCEMENT

Planning is underway for Providence's VBS and we need YOUR help! Mark your calendar for the week of Sunday, July 23rd through Thursday, July 27th and volunteer to be transported to a fun filled week at Maker Fun Factory!

Sign-up electronically at - <http://bit.ly/PPCVBS2017>

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Invites you to attend Vacation Bible School

July 23, 2017 - July 27, 2017

6:25 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

VBS is for children ages 3 through middle school. Adult Bible Study is offered as well!

At Maker Fun Factory VBS, kids discover not only that God made them the way they are, but for a purpose too. Maker Fun Factory is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences in which kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos™, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. These experiences make God's Word come alive with new meaning for all who participate!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Dinner will be served each evening at 6:00 p.m.!

VBS Registration - Online registration for VBS is now open at www.providencepresb.org. Click on the "Maker Fun Factory" logo on the left side of the home page to register online. It's so helpful to have as many children pre-registered as possible, so that we can welcome every child at VBS while being good stewards of our budget. (It also helps us get families checked in and headed to supper quickly on the first night of VBS.) Don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors to register online as well! We look forward to seeing all of you for a faith-filled and fun VBS this summer!

FELLOWSHIP TIME REMINDER

David Collier would like to thank the groups who have volunteered for fellowship time and wants to extend an invitation to anyone or group if they would like to volunteer for a fourth or fifth Sunday this year to please contact him. You may contact David Collier at davidcollier123@yahoo.com or you can call him at 919-625-3026.



PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE JULY AND AUGUST 2017

We do not meet in the summer. Our next gathering after the summer will be on the fourth Tuesday in September 2017. Anyone interested in crocheting and/or just meeting together for fellowship is welcome to participate at any time.



SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

There will be no Senior Citizens Luncheon in July 13. The next Senior Citizens Luncheon will be on Tuesday, August 8 at 12:00 (noon) at Providence Presbyterian Church. Please let Margie Taylor know by Wednesday, August 2, so that the cooks have an accurate headcount for food prep. You may contact Margie at 919-207-0149 or margieataylor@aol.com.



LAY READERS SCHEDULE FOR JULY

July 2	Justin Wood
July 9	Greg Kornegay
July 16	Eric Faircloth
July 23	Brittany Jones
July 30	Kevin Creech



MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

MISSION & OUTREACH: The Mission & Outreach committee would like to thank the congregation for their donations to the Stagecoach Manor linen drive. The sheets were delivered to Stagecoach Manor on June 13th during the committee's monthly visit. The donations were very much appreciated. Again, thank you for your support of the Mission & Outreach ministries.

*For those that may not be aware, there was a fire at Stagecoach Manor this past Monday night. The fire destroyed the middle wing of the facility. Thankfully, none of the residents were injured. Due to the damage at the facility, all of the residents were relocated and have been accommodated at two nursing home facilities which are: Universal Nursing home (421 hwy Lillington) and Pinecrest Nursing home (old hwy 421 in Lillington). Updates and ways we may be able to assist the residents will be forthcoming. Please keep the residents and Stagecoach Manor staff in your Prayers.



CARD MINISTRY

The next Card Ministry meeting will be on Tuesday, August 1 at 10:00 am.

The Card Ministry Prep Team III will meet at LaVette Morgan's home on Thursday, July 20 at 1:00 pm.



FELLOWSHIP & FITNESS GROUP

The Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group WILL meet for the Summer. We are so fortunate to be able to walk inside when it rains or is hot, otherwise will be in the Upper parking lot. Come join us Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:00 am.



Mission & Outreach Committee

During the month of July we are going to collect items to be donated to the USO center at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville. Please place your items in the footlocker outside the Upper Fellowship Hall from July 1 – 22. At the end of July the USO will visit us to collect our contributions.



North Carolina

USO of NC, Fort Bragg/Fayetteville Centers Wish List

Food Items

- Bottled Water
- Snack Crackers/ Nuts*
- Packaged Cookies
- Wrapped Hard Candy
- Candy Bars
- Protein Bars
- Granola Bars

Children's Items

- Diapers
- Formula
- Burp Cloths
- Children's Books
- Recordable Children's Books

Center Items

- Tissue Packs
- Greeting Cards
- Comic Books
- Playing Cards
- Wash cloths
- Toothpaste – travel size
- Deodorant – travel size
- Travel Pillows
- Patriotic stickers
- Stick Flags, small
- Ziplock Bags – all sizes
- Paper Towels
- Storage tubs with lids
- Printer paper – reams or boxes

Office Supplies

- Note Pads
- Pens
- Digital Camera

**All Food items MUST Be Individually Wrapped!*

Dear Providence Family and Friends,

In early 2017 the Session asked the Long Range Planning Committee to explore various opportunities to expand seating accommodations during worship here at Providence Presbyterian Church. During our Capital Campaign our consultants, Perkinson & Associates, informed us that a sanctuary is perceived by visitors to be full when it has reached 80% capacity. We are joyful that consistent recent trends indicate our worship service has reached 80% capacity. In May, Long Range Planning reported out to Session with a recommendation to take the worship service to the Upper Fellowship Hall. Session accepted that recommendation, and announced the decision the following Sunday during worship service on May 21st. Worship, Property and Fellowship Committees were to take the summer to work out the logistics, to implement the plan for a trial period to run Sept through Dec 2017.

The feedback in response to this announcement has been passionate. Many good points were raised both for and against such a plan. We appreciate any constructive input that helps inform decision making. Upon review of information known to date, the Session has decided to rescind the motion to implement this trial worship service in the Upper Fellowship Hall this fall.

Currently ushers are reporting visitors showing up and leaving because they don't see enough seating when they first enter the sanctuary. One visiting family has, on more than one occasion, been split up when they were seated. Whether the sanctuary is actually full, elbow-to-elbow, is not the measurement determines max capacity. The measurement is dictated by human nature; folks do not want to sit elbow-to-elbow, especially first-time visitors. Nor do they want to walk up the aisle and sit in the front row.

Therefore, to accommodate visitors sent by our Lord the following will be implemented:

1. Church family who may normally sit in the middle of the sanctuary are lovingly requested to be willing to sit in the wings, and to populate that space first.
2. The third row, both sides of the aisle, from the rear of the sanctuary will be reserved as a Visitors' Row. Please honor the reserve signs and leave this space for visitors and their families.
3. Church family who are willing to wait and fill available seating in the sanctuary or experience worship service in the over flow room (Lower Fellowship Hall) are asked to congregate in the back by the mail center for ushers' directions.

Your hospitality and assistance in implementing these no-cost, short term steps will be a blessing to our new visitors.

Providence is growing as we prayed it would with the addition of the Christian Education wing and the Upper Fellowship Hall. As our Lord continues to add to our numbers we will need to revisit the issue of whether we add an early service in the sanctuary, or go to one service in the Upper Fellowship Hall. When Session has accumulated data that supports the need for a change to accommodate more people, we will bring the issue before the congregation for input.

Together, cooperating in the Spirit of God's Love, we can provide a worship experience that will be meaningful to all that enter Christ's church here at Providence. Our mission as Christians is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to welcome all those with whom God is blessing us. Our challenge is to provide a welcoming space for visitors, family and friends, where Christian love, fellowship, and faith can flourish.

Please lift up in your thoughts and prayers our church family's mission and ministry, as the Holy Spirit adds to our numbers.

Respectfully,
Providence Presbyterian Church Session

Highlights from Minutes of Stated Session Meeting, June 12, 2017

Action Items

Motion from Personnel – The Session approved Rev. Davis’ revised evaluation form for his 2017 Annual Review.

Motion from Youth Christian Education

- Session approved holding a confirmation class this fall in the September/October timeframe.
- Session approved an updated Discipline Policy for use for all children’s events and activities. Copies will be posted in classrooms, and given to each parent to read and sign. The new policy will be included in the church policy manual.

Special Report – Session received a package of information assembled by Vickie Faircloth providing additional information on both ECO and EPC denominations. Each denomination requires a vote by the congregation to determine which denomination it wants to join. Following review of the materials, the Session decided to meet in a called meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm to hold further discussion.

Motion to Expand Seating During Worship

All Elders present were given an opportunity to suggest alternatives for resolving crowded conditions during worship services. Immediate and longer term solutions were identified. After discussion, three items were identified as solutions that should be the first to be implemented: designated pews, volunteers to sit in the wings, and volunteers to be the last to be seated prior to start of the worship service. Longer term solutions included building a new sanctuary, moving worship to the new fellowship hall, holding a second service, and opening up the doorways between the sanctuary and the side rooms. A motion was made and approved to rescind the trail period for worship in the new fellowship hall and take immediate action to provide reserved seating for visitors. Members will be informed in the bulletin and newsletter by means of a letter to the congregation and asked to consider sitting in the annexed classrooms to the sides of the sanctuary.

Motion to Pay down the Principle on the Building Loan – Session approved a \$10,000 payment on the loan principle.

Congregational Care - Kent Walton reported that the Congregational Care Committee believes that a larger room is needed for the nursery. It was observed that there is no crib in the current nursery. Moving the K-2 class was proposed as a solution, but no decision was reached.

Finance - Sam Stephenson presented a detailed financial report updated through May, 2017. Of significance is the short-fall in general fund giving versus expenses in May and year-to-date.

	<u>General Fund Revenues</u>	<u>General Fund Expenses</u>
May	\$19,935.57	\$24,281.80
YTD	\$115,997.45	\$125,523.09

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Highlights from Minutes of Stated Session Meeting, June 12, 2017

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Fellowship – Rev. Davis confirmed that Rev. Steve Dupree has agreed to be our speaker for Homecoming.

Pastor's Report – Rev. Davis handed out his pastor's report. Among the highlights of his report:

- He has held a number of meetings with visitors who commented positively on the warm reception they've received at Providence. One couple recently expressed their desire to join.
- During Rev. Davis' upcoming vacation, Kent Walton and David Collier will be on call.
 - Rev. Tim Bunn will preach on June 25, 2017.
 - Rev. George Dudley will fill-in on July 2, 2017.

Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

Thank you, God for our Freedom!

God Bless the USA!



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*; **Grant Joyner**, **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; **Richard Davis**, friend of *Elaine Wood*; **Ann Hargis**, member of community; **Consuelo Hawkins**, *Joe Hawkins' mother*; **Luke Jordan**, friend of *Christina Jones*; **Carol Mayben**, *Sandy Kopanski's sister-in-law*; **Dina Poole**, *Becky Kleaver's daughter-in-law*; **Art Redmond**, husband of *Pat Embrey's niece*; **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*; **Randy Benson**, member; **Velma and Ray Bost**, *Heath White's grandparents*; **Worth Bowman**, member; **Charlie & Mary Burke**, *Steve Wolak's parents*; **Shepherd Byrd**, member; **Elise Corona**, daughter of friend of *Sue Bryant*; **Lynn Cross**, member; **Joan Daniel**, *John Daniel's mother*; **Wanda Johnson Dupree**, previous member; **Coby Foreman**, church family; **Norbert Kopanski**, *John Kopanski's father*; **Sandy Kopasnski**, member; **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; **Harold Pitman**, *Joyce Lamm's brother*; **Caleb Reese**, cousin of *Andrea Jones*; **Kathy Rose**, friend of *Kim Schmidt*; **Marie Rouse**, *delivery driver's wife*; **Barbara Walton**, member; **Kenneth Weathers**, *Wendy Stephenson's brother-in-law*; **Candy Weaver**, friend of *Amanda McLamb*; and **John Wright**, *Chris Nooney's father*

Our Christian Sympathies are extended to the families of:

David Lewis, Beth Pickens' brother



Birthdays & Anniversaries

July Anniversaries

- 21 Kevin and Annah Creech
28 Jonathan and Beth Breeden

July Birthdays

- 7 Tom Nelms
Kenny Poole
Sam Stephenson
8 Ryne Jones
Samuel Stephenson
10 Christy Cross
11 Travis Creech
Lindsey Frampton
12 David Nelms
13 Vickie Faircloth
14 Cathy Creech
Carolyn Zattiero
15 Kent Walton
16 Mary Langdon
17 Atlee Roberts
19 Pete Booth
Jennifer Crocker
20 Rick Taylor
22 Miriam Lambert
24 Wesley Nooney
25 Trey Bullock
29 Heather Reed
30 Kendall Nelms



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
Stephanie Bagley - Personnel

Church Staff

Secretary

Kim Callis

Accounting Treasurer

Kristy Stephenson

Collections Treasurer

Ann Benson

Music Director/ Organist/Pianist

Brittany Jones

Pianist

Angie Searcy

Website

David Nelms

Newsletter

Kim Callis

Usher Coordinator

Russell Wood

JULY EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

NURSERY

- 2 Eric & Lorie Smith
- 9 Chris & Kristy Stephenson
- 16 Israel & Karen Morrow
- 23 Richard & Andrea Jones
- 30 Amy Dupree & Jennifer Crocker

USHERS

- 2 David Nelms & Steve Wolak,
Riley Wood (Back)
- 9 Austin Benson & Todd Frickman,
Jeffrey Wood (Back)
- 16 Pete Booth & Atlee Roberts,
John Kopanski (Back)
- 23 Jimmy Stuart & Rick Taylor,
Joseph Phillips (Back)
- 30 Wayne Lamm & Scott Martin,
Israel Morrow (Back)

ACOLYTE

- 2 Joey Crocker
- 9 Kimsey Bagley
- 16 Phoebe Creech
- 23 David Breeden
- 30 Eva Stephenson

NO CHILDRENS WORSHIP During July

ELDER

Vickie Faircloth

July Upcoming Events

- July 2. Pastor Jim Davis on vacation thru July 8
- July 3. Congregational Care 10:00 am
- July 4. Independence Day/Office Closed
- July 5. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am
Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- July 7. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am
- July 10. Session Meeting 7:00 pm
Graduate Sunday
- July 11. No Senior Citizen's Luncheon
M&O Monthly visit to Stage Coach Manor
- July 12. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am
Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- July 14. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am
- July 17. Youth Retreat at the beach
Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC
- July 19. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am
Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- July 20. Card Ministry Prep Team III
At LaVette Morgan's home 1:00 pm
- July 23. Vacation Bible School "Maker Fun
- 27. Factory" 6:25 pm nightly, dinner at 6:00 pm
- July 25. Newsletter Deadline
- July 27. Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 11:00 am
- July 28. Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am