

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

December 2018



From the Pastor's Study...

Where did the year go? Decemberrrr has arrived and brings with it cold nippy days with the hopes and anticipation of the Advent Season along with joyful times with family and friends. Christmas Day is approaching fast, let us pause in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the season and remember the reason for the season. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, God gives humanity hope in the gift of the Christ child and blesses with the gift of having faith to see beyond ourselves and acknowledge God as the one true source of life, joy, and redemption.

With each breath we take in life, let us take time to reflect on Christ's presence in our lives. Furthermore, let us encourage each other to share the gospel with those God places in our path. May we reach out, invite others to join God's family at Providence, to all our ministry and mission opportunities – Sunday School, Sunday Worship, Sunday Fellowship, the Christmas Program, the Christmas Cantata, Christmas Eve Services, Youth events and all the other missions and ministries – for we have so much of to offer all of God's people.

This month's scripture passage comes from the gospel of Luke 1:26-33 and offers a familiar but poignant Christmas image of the angel Gabriel proclaiming awesome news of great joy to all those who would hear the gospel message and respond. 700 years earlier in *Isaiah 9:6* our Lord God proclaimed to the Hebrews through Isaiah "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." The images of Christian faith are present in the very nature of the Christ child! As we take each step in our own journey during Christmas share the gospel with those placed in our path. Let us reach out to others and offer the invitation to come and worship with us, for we have the greatest gift to share – salvation from ourselves

December Scripture Passage

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." **Luke 1:26-33**



CHURCH OFFICE



Pastor's 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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Let us reach out to others and offer the invitation to come and worship with us, for we have the greatest gift to share – salvation from ourselves through Jesus Christ.

Our Lord God has blessed us here at Providence Presbyterian Church in 2018 and I am joyful and excited about what God will do in 2019. Please pray for our church and its leadership so we might discern what God has in store for us in the coming year. May our Glorious and Gracious God bless you and your family this Christmas Season in a new and joyous way.

Merry Christmas!

Your Brother in Christ,
Rev. Jim Davis



Fellowship Hall Use Policy

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.

New requests can be made through the church office (Cindy Lynch) at ppchurchsecretary@gmail.com or call 919-894-4063.

If you have questions on this policy please contact:

David Collier at 919-625-3026 or davidcollier123@yahoo.com.

Flowers at PPC



The sign-up sheet for 2019 is now available on the "sign-up bulletin board". Contact Beth Pickens at 919-697-5663, or at [<bpickens80@gmail.com>](mailto:bpickens80@gmail.com) for help or information.

SECRETARY

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

ppchurchsecretary@gmail.com or call the office, the number is: 919-894-4063.



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 the 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 LIST UPDATES

If you have someone that needs to be on the prayer list or someone who needs to be removed please email Cindy Lynch at ppchurchsecretary@gmail.com or call the church office at 919-894-4063.



CARD MINISTRY

The Card Ministry Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 4 at 10:00 am in The Upper Fellowship Hall to assemble and mail cards.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Caroling – The youth will be caroling on Saturday, December 1. Plan to meet at Providence at 5:00 pm. Youth meal in the Upper Fellowship Hall will follow caroling.



2018 Poinsettias

The plants are in and look beautiful. Remember to take home your purchases starting December 24, after the Christmas Eve services. After that the plants will be moved to the Lower Fellowship Hall (LFH) for retrieval.



Angel Tree Shopping – The youth will go Angel Tree Shopping on Saturday, December 8. Please meet at church at 9:00 am.



SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

The December Senior Citizen Luncheon will be Tuesday, December 11 at White Memorial Presbyterian Church at 12:00 noon.

If you plan on going, please let Margie Taylor know by November 5 at 919-207-1049 so the cooks know how much food to buy and prepare.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women's Day Circles will meet on Tuesday, December 11, 2018.

Day Circle meets at 10:00am. Night Circle meets at 7:00pm; both meet in the Upper Fellowship Hall (UFH). All women are welcome to attend either meeting.

Reminder: Bring in the gift bags that you have assembled, if you are not the person also making the delivery. Thank you!



Tree of Warmth



M&O's Tree of warmth is in the UFH receiving donations for children in need of hats, scarves, gloves, socks and jackets. The tree will be up until after worship on Sunday December 9, 2018. Thank you so much for participation in this effort to meet some needs for the innocent ones in our community.

Advent Readers – Thank you!

We appreciate all the families who volunteered to participate in our worship service each Sunday in December.
Thank you!



Advent Decorating



Thank you so much to the crowd of folks who showed up to decorate on Saturday, November 24, 2018. We had a great time together and got a lot done!

Our tear-down and return-to-storage efforts will take place starting at 9:00 am on Saturday, December 29, 2018.

Looking forward to a good time then, too.

All folks are welcome to come assist!

Merry Christmas and Happy New year!



Operation Christmas Child



Fifty-six boxes! That's how many folks at PPC assembled and donated to the 2018 drive. All the boxes were dropped off at the local reception site on Monday, November 19.

Thank you everyone for your contributions to this program to positively impact children around the globe.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Providence Christmas Program “Cooking Up Christmas” will take place Sunday, December 2 at 5:00 pm! We are asking all who attend to participate in a food drive supporting Backpack Buddies. Collections will be taken at the door. Children participating in the program need to wear “Christmas attire” and also need to arrive no later than 3:30pm. Pizza and goodies will be served afterwards. If you have any questions, please see Vickie Faircloth, vickiefaircloth@yahoo.com.

“Cooking Up Christmas”



Presented by the Children and Youth
of Providence Presbyterian Church’s LOGOS Ministry
Directed by Brittany Jones
Accompanied by Angie Searcy
Set Design by Allison Nelms, Eric Faircloth and Vickie Faircloth

2018 CANTATA Sunday, December 16

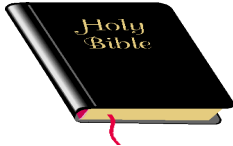
“A Thrill of Hope”

Words and Music by Joel Raney
Presented by the Providence Choir
Accompanied by Angie Searcy
Directed by Brittany Jones



LAY READERS SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

December 2	David Collier
December 9	Kevin Creech
December 16	Eric Faircloth
December 23	Doug Sonderfan
December 30	Wendy Stephenson



DONATION OPTION

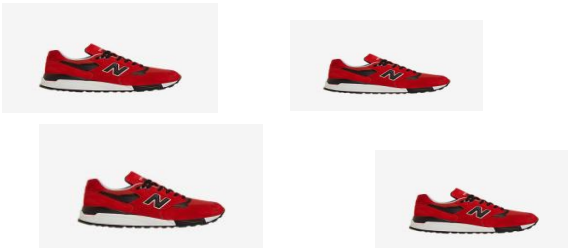
Providence is accepting donations of stocks and other securities.

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



FELLOWSHIP & FITNESS GROUP

THE FELLOWSHIP & FITNESS WALKING GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO MEET. WE ARE SO FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO WALK INSIDE WHEN IT RAINS OR IS COLD. WE WILL MEET IN THE UPPER FELLOWSHIP HALL. COME JOIN US WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS AT 10:00 AM. ALL ARE WELCOME!



Prayer Shawl Circle

Our next get together will be Tuesday, January 29, 2019.

There is no meeting in December.

May you all enjoy safe and meaningful holidays!



Our Christian Sympathies are extended to the families of:

*Stephen Gore, uncle of Stephanie Wood
Pauline Jones, member
Larry Phipps, husband of Allison Phipps*



Prayer List of Joys and Concerns

Members of the Providence Family in Long-Term Care:

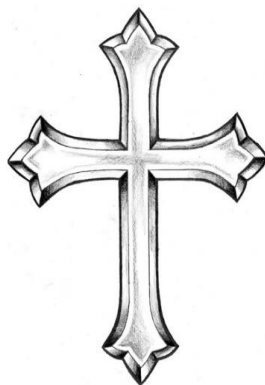
Brack Johnson at *Classic Care Assisted Living in Smithfield*; **Marilyn Johnson** at *Barbour Court Nursing in Smithfield*; **Virginia Moore**, at *Brookdale Assisted Living in Smithfield*; **Bobbie Langdon**, at *Highland Village in Cary*.

Persons Living with Cancer, including:

Sherry Baker, friend of *Laura Langdon*; **Priscilla Beckwith**, friend of *Sandy Kopanski*; **Joanne Boyle**, *Bob Zattiero's niece*; **Lisa Bradshaw**, member; **Jerry Hall**, extended family of *Wendy and Sam Stephenson*; **Ann Hargis**, community; **Consuelo Hawkins**, *Joe Hawkins' mother*; **Judy Morris**, community; **Norman Nelms**, brother of *Tom Nelms*; **Randy Stephenson**, *Jon Nooney's cousin*; **Chad Talley**, friend of *John Pickens*.

Persons with Ongoing Health Concerns, including:

Nancy Allen, *Sheila Dupree's mom*; **H. A. Andrews**, *father of Andrea Jones*; **Sara Barber**, *Vickie Faircloth's mother*; **Carolyn Burns**, *Rich Lambert's sister*; **Worth Bowman**, member; **Mary Burke**, *Steve Wolak's mother*; **Emily Carr**, *Miriam Lambert's friend*; **Pamela Collier**, member; **Elise Corona**, *daughter of a friend of Sue Bryant*; **Joyce Crowson**, friend of *Dick Embry*; **Sandra Dail**, friend of the church; **Wanda Johnson Dupree**, previous member; **Barbara Ellis**, *mother of Georgeanna Phillips*; **Mike Kefauver**, *Brittany Jones' father*; **Harley Kremer**, *Andrea Jones niece*; **Vic LaSaxon**, *Chris Nooney's brother-in-law*; **Hubert Lipscomb**, *scout leader*; **Bill McClandless**, friend of *Bob Zattiero*; **Nancy Nelms**, member; **Sue Nicholson**, *Chris Nooney's sister*; **Jon Nooney**, member; **Lou Penny**, member; **Wanda Presnell**, friend of *Beth Wolak*; **Caleb Reese**, *cousin of Andrea Jones*; **Kathy Rose**, friend of *Kim Schmidt*; **Ann King Stephenson**, member; **Wendy Stephenson**, member; **Justin Vess**, *brother-in-law of Andrea Jones*; **Barbara Walton**, member; **John Wright**, *Chris Nooney's father*; and **Eva Younts**, *Nadine Reed's Aunt*.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Anniversaries

- 5 Ashley and Crissy Porter
22 Tony and Sue Bryant

December Birthdays

- 2 Wayne Lamm
4 Karen Sherrill
5 Nancy Nelms
6 Janice Parrish
7 Beck McLamb
12 Joe LoCicero
15 Marylou Folkman
17 Gwena Searcy
18 Allison Nelms
Don Sturgis
19 John Daniel
24 Mary Powell
26 John Kopanski
27 Brenda Byrd
Scott Martin
28 Phoebe Creech
Sheila Dupree
29 Stephen Nordan



Pastor
Rev. Jim Davis

Session
Class of 2018
Class of 2018

Sam Stephenson - Finance
Kent Walton - Congregational Care
Russell Wood - Long Range Planning
Atlee Roberts - Adult Christian Education

Class of 2019

Mary Ann Booth - Clerk
Vickie Faircloth - Children C. E.
John Kopanski - Mission & Outreach
Donna Stolle - Worship

Class of 2020

David Collier - Fellowship
Cathy Simmons - Personnel
Kevin Creech - Youth C. E.
Steve Newnam - Property

Church Staff

Secretary
Cindy Lynch

Accounting Treasurer
Sam 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 of Minutes of Stated Session Meeting November 12, 2018

Visitors

- David Nelms, manager of the Providence website gave Session a review of the process for recording, editing and uploading the worship service and provided suggestions for ensuring that recordings are made each Sunday get to him promptly for upload to the website.
- Special Committee of the Congregation (SCC) members Steve Nordan and Kristy Stephenson joined Mary Ann Booth to provide the Session with an update of the SCC's negotiations with the New Hope Presbytery negotiating team. The merits of various strategies were reviewed and discussed with the SCC. The SCC gave the Session its recommendation for next steps and future strategy.

Correspondence

Clerk of Session reported the receipt of the following:

- A note of thanks from the family of Laura McLamb,
- A certificate of appreciation from New Hope Presbytery to Johnny Wood for 25 years of service as a ruling elder, and
- Annual letter from the Executive Presbyter of New Hope Presbytery, Ted Churn, with a form for 2019 per capita and Presbytery Mission commitments.

The Session reviewed the request for financial support from the Presbytery and agreed by consensus to make no commitment to New Hope Presbytery for Per Capita, Synod, and Missions giving for 2019.

Open and Actionable Items

Worship Recordings – Session discussed options to ensure that recordings are made each Sunday. Sam Stephenson suggested that a recording device wired to the soundboard would provide better quality and eliminate having to deal with a portable recorder. He offered to research. Should this solution prove feasible, Session will consider seeking donations to cover the expense. Meanwhile, Session members will rotate responsibility for making the recordings each Sunday and getting the recorder to David Nelms.

Budget Motion – Session approved a motion to review general funds receipts at the May 2019 Session meeting. If receipts for the first four months of 2019 are not 10% greater than the same period in 2018, the Session will evaluate the budget and consider what adjustments are necessary to get spending in line with income.

Children's Christian Education – A motion was approved to use the EPC curriculum for the upcoming confirmation class.

Boy Scouts – A motion was tabled requesting that Cub Scout and Boy Scout meetings move from the Manse to the main church facility – Upper Fellowship Hall, Lower Fellowship Hall, and Youth Center wing. The motion was tabled in favor of having one of the Scout leaders come to speak with Session about the need for the change and to answer questions.

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

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Gracious Dismissal – Several items were presented on behalf of the SCC for Session discussion.

- A motion was approved to permit the SCC access to money in the Development Fund (designated fund) should it be necessary to seek legal counsel.
- A motion was approved to move forward with applying for full membership in EPC. Vickie Faircloth will spearhead the application and transition process.
- A motion was approved in support of the SCC sending a revised settlement offer to the PET with copy to Ted Churn, Executive Presbytery and Rev. Chris Tuttle, chair of the Coordinating Body of New Hope Presbytery.
- A recommendation to move forward with modification of the church by-laws to remove all reference to PC(USA) and its constitution was approved by consensus. A draft for approval will be presented at the next Session meeting. A congregational meeting will be needed to ratify the changes.
- Session members were asked to provide confidential guidance to the SCC with regard to what they believe should be the maximum dollar amount for settlement. Each Session member wrote down a figure and gave it to Mary Ann Booth.
- Session approved by consensus permitting the SCC to send letter to the congregation providing an update of the progress of the negotiations to date.

Committee Updates

Elder Nominating Committee – Kent Walton provided an update from the Elder Nominating Committee. The slate of nominees is Sam Stephenson, Carolyn Johnson, Jonathan Kershaw, and Scott Martin.

Fellowship – A manual of guidelines for Homecoming to define the processes is being created. A revision to Fellowship Hall usage by church members is in development.

Financial – Session reviewed the October 2018 financial report. Giving to general funds was less than what was needed to meet expenses. Giving for the year is down 7.3% versus 2017.

	<u>General Fund Revenues</u>	<u>General Fund Expenses</u>
October	\$18,843.46	\$22,462.09
YTD	\$203,521.97	\$238,471.84

Worship – It was suggested that it would be a good idea to set up recruiting tables at Souper Bowl Sunday in January to give members information about the committees and offer them an opportunity to participate.

Pastor's Report – Rev. Davis provided a copy of his report. Highlights include:

- Expressed appreciation for Joe Martinelli filling the pulpit on Sunday, November 11, 2018,
- Reviewed with worship committee chair and church secretary the 2019 liturgical Calendar with objective of refining objectives for bulletin integrity and avoiding any significant oversights,
- Plans are being made for a New Members class at the first of the new year,
- Attended a lunch with local pastors and a pastors' retreat October 28-31.

DECEMBER EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

NURSERY

- 2 Carolyn Stuart and Adam Stuart
 9 Anna and Kevin Creech
 16 Carolyn Stuart and Adam Stuart
 23 Sue Bryant and Emma Phillips
 30 Kristy and Chris Stephenson

USHERS

- 2 Barri Martin, Lisa Nelms & Joan Stuart (Back)
 9 Beth Pickens, Carolyn Stevenson & Margie Taylor (Back)
 16 Elaine Wood, Mary Elaine Wood, & Sue Bryant (Back)
 23 Lisa Nelms, Beth Pickens & Barri Martin (Back)
 30 Carolyn Stevenson, Joan Stuart & Elaine Wood (Back)

ACOLYTE

- 2 Gavin Annis
 9 Meadow Creech
 16 Phoebe Creech
 23 Joey Crocker
 30 Kolton Crocker

CHILDRENS WORSHIP LEADERS/HELPER

- 2 Stephanie and Rob Wood
 9 Allison and Ryan Nelms
 16 No Children's Worship
 23 Allison and Ryan Nelms
 30 Stephanie and Rob Wood

ELDER

Mary Ann Booth

Safety/Security

Kent Walton

December Upcoming Events

- Dec 1 Youth Progressive Dinner
 Dec 2 Communion Sunday
 Christmas Program Practice
 3:30 – 4:30 pm
 Christmas Program 5:00 pm
 Dec 3 Congregational Care Meeting
 10:00 am
 Dec 4 Card Ministry 10:00 am
 Long Range Plan/ Committee 7:00pm
 Dec 5 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
 Dec 7 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Dec 8 Youth Angel Tree Shopping 9:00 am
 Dec 9 2nd Sunday In Advent
 Dec. 10 Stated Session Meeting 7:00 pm
 Dec. 11 PPC Women's Day Circle 10:00 am
 Senior Citizen Luncheon 12:00 pm
 M&O Universal Health Care Visit 1:00
 PPC Women's Night Circle 7:00 pm
 Dec. 12 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
 Dec. 14 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Dec 16. 3rd Sunday in Advent
 Christmas Cantata
 Dec 17 M&O Committee Meeting 10:00 am
 Dec 19 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am
 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
 Dec 20 Newsletter Deadline
 Dec 21 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Dec 23 4th Sunday in Advent
 Christmas Joy Offering
 Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services 5:00 pm and
 10:00 pm
 Dec 25 Christmas Day
 Office Closed
 Dec 26 Office Closed
 Dec. 30 1st Sunday after Christmas
 Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Day