

# PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

February 2018



## From the Pastor's Study...

February is once again upon us and it's still cold outside – BUT- it is heating up on the inside here at Providence Presbyterian Church! As we bundle up to face the cold weather outside, let us greet those whom the Holy Spirit brings into our midst and may the Lord God do a new thing in our hearts. February has always been a month of many opportunities – here we have the Souper Bowl, Scout Sunday, Communion Sunday, Valentine's Day, President's Day, and Ash Wednesday which heralds the coming of Easter. May we step out on faith and greet all those whom God places in our path with Christian love and charity.

This month's scripture passage comes from Matthew 16:24-28 in which Jesus proclaims:

<sup>24</sup> ... *"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it..."* Denying ourselves, taking up our cross and following Jesus calls us to a life of selflessness, for when we truly understand it is not about us but all about God ... then we have the capacity to see others in a new light. We respond to others with empathy and grace instead of criticism and judgment. Jesus reminds us to "judge not lest ye be judged" which ultimately plays out in our lives as: **if** we go through life eager to prove that we are right and others are wrong, **then** we are "right fighting" with our own distorted understanding of what's righteous. In the end when we will stand in judgment before God almighty and incur the wrath from God in the same way we imparted our wrath on others in this life.

This is why Jesus had to come and die for our sins. Jesus redeemed us through His sacrifice and then calls us to a life of humility, grace and servanthood. Denying ourselves, taking up our cross and following Jesus ... calls us to a life based on forgiveness ... God forgives our sins ... therefore we are to repent from those sins – be transformed by God's graciousness ... and in turn we are to forgive others in the same way ... we are to be gracious to each other in the same way. Denying ourselves ... calls into question our sinfulness. Taking up our cross ... places us in a right repentant relationship to God.

(Continued on page 2)

## February Scripture Passage

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, *"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."*

**Matthew 16:24-28**



## 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).

*Cont'd from page 1*

Following Jesus is a life-long process, a journey of discovery (not self-discovery) of God's Love. Denying ourselves, taking up our cross and following Jesus calls us to remember with every breath we take – that we are sinners deserving only God's wrath and yet ... we are sinners redeemed by God almighty and so ... we remember with every breath we are sinners ... redeemed ... called by God to be a family in Christ.

Please continue to pray for our church, church leadership, church direction, and church family noted in the Joys and Concerns insert from the bulletin, and pray for our Elders on Session as our church discerns God's plan for Providence Presbyterian Church.

May our Lord God bless all you say and do in a new way so that your faith journey be illuminated with the joy and clarity and lead you in the way you should go.

Your brother in Christ,

Jim

**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 [ppchurchsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ppchurchsecretary@gmail.com) and her office number is 919-894-4063.



**COME JOIN THE FUN  
February 18 AT 5:00 PM**

LOGOS ("The Word") is a four-part Sunday evening ministry for young people ages 3 years old through grade 12. Every first and third Sunday evening of the month from 5:00 – 7:00 pm, we will study the Bible, learn practical skills for leading worship, experience games and recreation, and share a family meal. These four segments provide children and youth the opportunity to:

- Develop meaningful relationships with caring Christian adults
- Experience what early Christian communities lived out – study, fellowship, a shared meal and the practice of worship
- Learn and practice what it means to be a child of God and a disciple of Christ

All are welcome to LOGOS. We ask for prior registration for safety and planning purposes.

### 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](mailto: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 [ppchurchsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ppchurchsecretary@gmail.com) or call the church office at 919-894-4063.



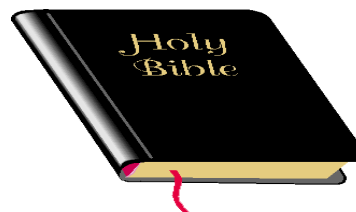
### FELLOWSHIP HALL POLICY

If you would like to 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 requests for both halls. Requests need to be made through the church office with Cindy Lynch. If you have questions on this policy please contact

Cindy Lynch at 919-894-4063 or  
David Collier at 919-625-3026 or  
[davidcollier123@yahoo.com](mailto:davidcollier123@yahoo.com).

### LAY READERS SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

February 4	Greg Kornegay
February 11	Chad Cross
February 18	Doug Sonderfan
February 25	Jeff Wood



## Youth Souper Bowl Sunday

**Youth Souper Bowl Fund Raiser** - Please join the Youth of the Church for Soup, sandwiches, and fellowship after the Worship Service on Sunday, February 4. In exchange for your meal, the Youth will be accepting monetary donations to support the Miracle League of Johnston County. This organization provides a play space and a baseball field where children with special needs can play. Our Youth will be presenting the donations raised when they volunteer to help the children during their games this spring. For more information please visit [miracleleaguejc.com](http://miracleleaguejc.com) or contact Kevin Creech at [kmocreech@gmail.com](mailto:kmocreech@gmail.com)



## SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

The February, Senior Citizens Luncheon will be on **Tuesday, February 13 at 12:00 (noon), at Johnson Memorial**. Please let Margie Taylor know if you will attend by Wednesday, February 7 so that the cooks will know how many to prepare food for. You may contact Margie at 919-207-0149 or [margieataylor@aol.com](mailto:margieataylor@aol.com).



## CARD MINISTRY

The Card Ministry Prep Team III will meet at LaVette Morgan's home on Thursday, February 15 at 1:00.

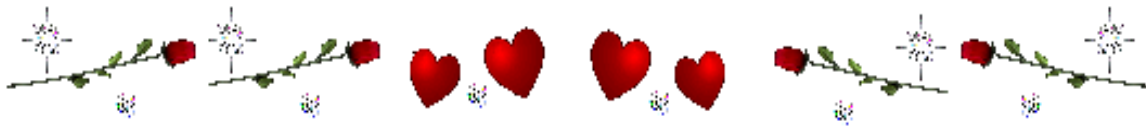


## Donation Option Added

Providence can now accept donations of stocks and other securities.

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

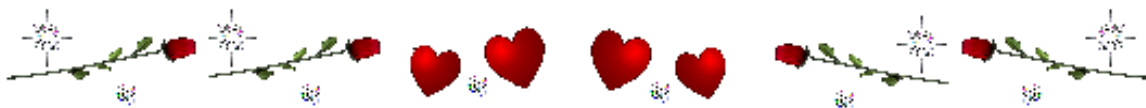




## **“Women After God’s Own Heart”**

### **Providence Presbyterian’s Women’s Day**

**Our Chapter of Providence Presbyterian Women** is having a Ladies’ Day February 10, 2018 from 8 am until 1 pm. It will be a day of fellowship and worship. Beginning at 8 am, we will have Continental Breakfast and fellowship in the Upper Fellowship Hall. We move to the Sanctuary at 9 am to hear a phenomenal speaker, Phyllis Elvington. We end the day with a wonderful luncheon. Cost will only be \$20 and you can sign up online at the Providence Presbyterian Church website. You can then send a check to the church payable to Providence Presbyterian Church with “Ladies’ Day” in the memo line. We hope that you will plan to come for this wonderful day. For more information, you can contact Margie Taylor at [margieataylor@aol.com](mailto:margieataylor@aol.com) or Cathy Simmons at [cesimmons112@gmail.com](mailto:cesimmons112@gmail.com).





## **CHICKEN PASTRY & SILENT AUCTION 2018**

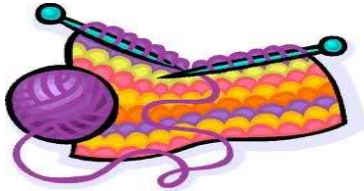
**Chicken Pastry & Silent Auction** -- Is scheduled for Friday, 16 March 2018. Contact Donna Stolle ([dms6330@gmail.com](mailto:dms6330@gmail.com) or 860-214-6698) if you are available and can help. All crew leaders mark your calendars to attend a CP&SA meeting on Thursday, 1 Feb 2018 at 7:00 pm. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to assist.

**Silent Auction Items needed** -- We need your help to make the 2018 Silent Auction as successful as last year. Please consider donating items in the following categories: Antiques and Collectibles, Entertainment/Family Events/Vacations, Food Items (Made to order cakes, cheesecakes, pies, Boston Butt, Dinners, etc.), Home Items (kitchen, framed pictures, Thirty-one, etc.), Personal Items (gift baskets, gift cards/certificates, etc.), Services (car wash, babysitting, etc.). All items should be new or nearly new. Please email Cathy Simmons ([cesimmons112@gmail.com](mailto:cesimmons112@gmail.com)) with your donation information or call 919-491-5674. Forms will be available in the Fellowship Hall to complete info about your donated item(s). We will begin collecting donated items on Sunday, February 25. Thank you for your support of our Silent Auction!

**Bake Sale and Crafts/CPSA** – Calling all Cooks (Kitchen Engineers and Apprentices) and Crafters! Please consider donating a sample of your favorite food: pies, cakes, cookies, candy, snacks, jelly, pickles, etc. Bring “ready to serve” or as a certificate to “make on request”. Crafters, we’re having a section to showcase your handiwork; to those who like to knit and crochet, jewelry makers, woodworkers, potters, weavers, painters and paper artists. Whatever your talent, please share your creativity. Contact Carolyn Stevenson. Thanks in advance.

## PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE

The Prayer Shawl Circle will meet February 27 at 10:00 am, in the Lower Fellowship Hall.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Chapter of Presbyterian Women's Day Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 20 at 10:00 am in the Upper Fellowship Hall. The Presbyterian Women's Evening Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00 pm in the Lower Fellowship Hall.



## M&O SUMMARY INFORMATION 2017

The Mission & Outreach committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations for the Backpack Buddies and Friendly Chapel food ministries. Your generosity provided 2,663 food items for Backpack Buddies and 1,907 food and other needed items for Friendly Chapel pantry. Both ministry partners expressed their gratitude to Providence for helping make these ministries a viable resource for those in need. In addition, the committee would like to express their deep appreciation to those folks in our congregation that have volunteered to deliver the Backpack Buddie food packages to our local schools. Your generous services ensured kids in our community received the food assistance they needed.

*Hebrews 13:16 and do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is Pleased.*

*Thank  
you*



## Highlights from Minutes of Stated Session Meeting on January 15, 2018

**Committee Assignments** – Elder Johnny Wood will chair Long Range Planning; Cathy Simmons will be chair of Personnel; Kevin Creech will chair Youth Christian Education; and Steve Newnam is the new chair for Property. All other assignments remain unchanged.

### **Open and Actionable Items**

**Children’s Christian Education** – Jennifer Crocker was approved as the new nursery director. An effort will be made to prepare written guidelines.

**Fellowship** – An effort to organize the Men’s Fellowship and develop ideas for 2018 events is under way. An organizing meeting is planned for early February.

**Election of Board of Directors** – The Session chose BOD officers for 2018. A congregational meeting to elect the officers is set for February 11, 2018. Nominees are: Mary Ann Booth, President; John Kopanski, Vice-President; Sam Stephenson, Treasurer; and David Collier Secretary.

### **Committee Updates**

**Congregational Care** – The Safety Team now has eight members. A meeting with the Johnston County Sheriff to review safety is planned in the coming weeks.

**Finance** – An audit to be conducted in 2018 was announced. The December 2018 year-end financial report was reviewed and approved by Session. Donations to the general fund in December were greater than the December monthly expenses, but total revenue for 2017 remained below total expenses. General fund revenues lagged expenses by \$25,091.99. Total expenses were below budget by \$17,729.93.

	<u>General Fund Revenues</u>	<u>General Fund Expenses</u>
December	\$29,741.81	\$25,604.90
YTD	\$268,727.27	\$293,819.26

**Mission and Outreach** – Session approved the location of a collection box near the new fellowship hall for the purpose of collecting donations to Samaritan’s Purse. The donations will go towards the purchase of domestic farm animals for the poor in underdeveloped nations.

**Property** – Steve Newnam reported that the lines have been repainted in the lower parking lot. A problem with the sprinkler system pump was discovered and has been repaired.

**Worship** – The Session received a recommendation to relocate the mailboxes closer to the office.

**Clerk Report** – The Session approved quarterly payments of the 2018 per capita request from the Presbytery. The total amount for 2018 is \$1,638.78.

**Pastor’s Report** – Key points from Rev. Davis’ report include:

- Senior luncheon on January 9, 2018 was a success, with a very interesting speaker
- Next communion service is February 4, 2018.
- The 90-day evaluation for the new church secretary, Cindy Lynch, was on January 16, 2018
- Pastor’s mid-year evaluation should be completed by April 1, 2018

Next stated session meeting will be held February 12, 2018 at 7pm.



## Prayer List of Joys and Concerns

We joyfully announce the birth of Keegan Bradley, 7 lbs and 10 oz. on Monday, Jan. 22 to Alisha and Ben Bradley.

### Members of the Providence Family in Long-Term Care:

**Brack Johnson** at *Classic Care in Smithfield*; **Marilyn Johnson** at *Barbour Court in Smithfield*; **Pauline Jones**, at *Liberty Commons in Benson*; **Virginia Moore**, at *Brookdale in Smithfield*; **Bobbie Langdon**, at *Highland Village in Cary*.

### 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; **Ashley Faircloth**, niece of *Laura McLamb*; **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; **Ben Snelling**, friend, of *John Kopanski*; **Linda Stangl**, friend of *Miriam Lambert*; **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*; **Candy Weaver**, friend of *Amanda McLamb*.

### Persons with Ongoing Health Concerns, including:

**Nancy Allen**, *Sheila Dupree's mom*; **Sara Barber**, *Vickie Faircloth's mother*; **Worth Bowman**, member; **Brianna Bryant**, 9 month old daughter of friend of *Stephanie Wood*; **Mary Burke**, *Steve Wolak's mother*; **Elise Corona**, daughter of a friend of *Sue Bryant*; **Lynn Cross**, member; **Joan Daniel**, *John Daniel's mother*; **Wanda Johnson Dupree**, previous member; **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*; **Kathy Rose**, friend of *Kim Schmidt*; **Marie Rouse**, *delivery driver's wife*; **Barbara Walton**, member; and **John Wright**, *Chris Nooney's father*.



## ***Birthdays & Anniversaries***

### **February Anniversaries**

- 6 Ron and Pat Forren  
12 Worth and Patsy Bowman

### **February Birthdays**

- 2 Ava Wood  
4 Kristy Stephenson  
5 Parker Smith  
Johnny Wood  
6 Pat Davis  
Becky Kleaver  
7 Lily Martin  
8 Yun Blair  
Phil Cross  
Wayne Langdon  
Mark Nelms  
9 Kevin Creech  
10 JoAnn Creech  
14 Linda Roberts  
15 Andy Dupree  
Joyce Lamm  
Beth Wolak  
16 Lilli Bullock  
Jim Davis  
Cooper Nordan  
Jimmy Stuart  
17 Eric Jones  
18 Beth Pickens  
20 Ashley Porter  
21 Wade Johnson  
Edsel Penny  
23 Donna Stolle  
24 Kelly Daniel  
25 Tony Bryant  
Barbara Walton



### **Pastor**

Rev. Jim Davis

### **Session**

#### *Class of 2018*

Atlee Roberts – Adult C. E.  
Sam Stephenson - Finance  
Kent Walton – Congregational Care  
Russell Wood – Long Range Planning

#### *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  
Kevin Creech – Youth C. E.  
Steve Newnam – Property  
Cathy Simmons – Personnel

### **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

# FEBRUARY EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

## NURSERY

- 4 Richard & Andrea Jones  
 11 Barri Martin & Mary Wood  
 18 Sue Bryant  
 25 Jonathan Breeden & Emma Phillips

## USHERS

- 4 Todd Frickman, Hamilton Green &  
 John Kopanski(Back)  
 11 Phil Cross, Chase Faircloth &  
 Travis Creech (Back)  
 18 Ryan Nelms, Gary Phillips & Joseph  
 Phillips (Back)  
 25 Atlee Roberts, Jimmy Stuart & Rick  
 Taylor (Back)

## ACOLYTE

- 4 Joey Crocker  
 11 Kolton Crocker  
 18 Connor Frickman  
 25 Hannibal Langdon

## CHILDRENS WORSHIP LEADERS/HELPER

- 4 Amy Dupree  
 11 Kristy Stephenson  
 18 Amy Dupree  
 25 Amy Dupree

## ELDER

John Kopanski

## February Upcoming Events

- Feb 2 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am  
 Feb 4 Communion Sunday  
 Souper Bowl Luncheon – after Worship  
 No LOGOS  
 Feb 5 Congregational Care 10:00 am  
 Feb 6 Card Ministry Assembly at Church 10 am  
 PPC Men – Organization Meeting 7 pm  
 Feb 7 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am  
 Fellowship Committee Meeting 7:00 pm  
 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm  
 Feb 9 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10 am  
 Feb 10 PPC Women’s Ladies’ Day 8 am  
 Feb 11 Scout Sunday  
 Election of 2018 Board of Directors  
 following Worship Service  
 Feb 12 Session Meeting 7 pm  
 Feb 13 Senior Luncheon – Johnson Memorial  
 Mission & Outreach 2:00 pm  
 M&O Universal (Stage Coach) Visit 1:00  
 Feb 14 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am  
 Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm  
 Feb 15 Card Ministry Prep Group, Team III,  
 1:00 pm, at LaVette Morgan’s Home  
 Feb 16 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am  
 Feb 18 First Sunday in Lent  
 LOGOS 5:00 pm  
 Feb 19 Presidents Day, Office closed.  
 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am  
 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm  
 Feb 20 Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings:  
 Day Meeting 10:00 am  
 Night Meeting 7:00 pm  
 Feb 21 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am  
 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm  
 Feb 22 M&O Meeting 11:00 am  
 Feb 23 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am  
 Feb 25 Second Sunday in Lent  
 Feb 27 Prayer Shawl Circle 10:00 am LFH  
 Feb 28 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am  
 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm