# PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

### December 2019



# From the Pastor's Study...

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!" As I write this article it's a balmy 32 degrees outside though I am told by the gentleman at Dave's Gas and Grill that it will get warmer...until January and February when it's normally like this....I'm not sure if that's good or not.

Sometimes in the midst of change, like an unexpected cold snap, it's difficult to know if the change is good or not. This is where many of us at Providence may stand. We have been through many changes this year: Rev. Jim Davis leaving; being dismissed by New Hope Presbytery PC (USA) and looking forward to our reception into the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic (EPC) in January. Not to mention the changes which we have faced in our personal lives. We are looking forward with anticipation of what the next year will mean for us, but also a little apprehensive because it means that more changes are coming. Dr. Bill Enns, the coach for the EPC Transitional Pastors, likes to point out that "we are always in some form of transition." For example: one moment you're a child, then a graduate, then married, with kids, empty nester...and the list goes on. A life well lived is one in which transition will, and does, occur.

But transition doesn't have to be bad, even if it begins as a scary situation. Roughly two-thousand years ago a teenage girl named Mary found herself in great transition: she was pregnant and no one, not even her fiancé, believed her testimony. And to be honest, it did sound a little far-fetched: an angel of the Lord came to her and said that she would have a son, which she was to name Jesus because "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

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You are invited to an Open House at The Stropiches

Greystone Crossing 205 Everland Parkway Angier

January 4

From 1:00 - 4:00 pm

We look forward to fellowshipping with you then!

Rev. Nadía Stropich and Family



#### **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.
If you would like to reach Rev. Nadia
Stropich after office hours, please call
937-903-9487.

#### Cont'd from page 1

The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:32) God hadn't talked to his people in over 400 years—the prophets had gone silent, and now God was talking to a lowly teenage girl from a backward country village? *Yeah*, *right!* 

But God <u>was</u> talking to her—He was going to send his Son, the Messiah! Transition like the world had never known was about to happen!!! The birth of Jesus Christ changed *everything*! Redemption had finally come to the Children of God.

So, take courage Providence! As we close 2019 we celebrate the many transitions of which we have been through and we look forward to 2020 when God will lead us through new transitions as we discern his chosen path for Providence Presbyterian Church.

Merry Christmas, Providence!
-Pastor Nadia



Thank you Providence,

for the wonderful reception you held for Shawn, Madelyn and myself. The cards and well-wishes were genuinely felt and appreciated!

We look forward to discovering God's preferred future for Providence while we work, worship and fellowship with you this coming year!

Rev. Nadia

#### LAY READERS SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

December 1 Mary Ann Booth

December 8 David Collier

December 15 Kevin Creech

December 22 Eric Faircloth

December 29 Doug Sonderfan

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



#### **2019 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 for retrieval.



#### FELLOWSHIP TIME REMINDER

Carolyn Johnson 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 fourth Sunday this year to please contact her. You can reach her at 919-880-1272 or

cmorejohnson2012@gmail.com



#### **CARD MINISTRY**

The Card Ministry Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 3 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 14. Dinner begins at Providence at 5:00 pm in the Upper Fellowship Hall.



The PPC Youth will be collecting Angel **Tree donations again this year.** The money collected will be used to buy gifts to give to local families in need. The youth are planning on shopping on Dec 6th. If you would like to donate, you may place a check in the collection plate with "Angel Tree" in the memo or give a check directly to Kevin Creech or Vickie Faircloth. Thank you for your support.



### **Operation Christmas Child**



The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to thank those who prepared gift shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritans Purse. Somewhere, a child in another country, will be the recipient of your box & experience the excitement of the surprises inside them. Every child soon attends a special camp to learn about God's son, His plan for salvation, and then receives a Bible in their own language. Our congregation has provided 46 boxes that will be shipped abroad to reach and teach young minds about Jesus Christ and His unconditional love. Your efforts here at PPC are like hands reaching across the world.



#### **Advent Readers**



Dec. 1, 11:00 am Doug Sonderfan

Dec. 8, 11:00 am Kevin, Annah, Phoebe,

and Meadow

Dec. 15, 11:00 am Chris, Kristy, Eva and

William Stephenson

Dec. 22, 11:00 am Ryan, Allison, Brock,

and Baylee Nelms

Dec. 24, 5:00 pm David and Lisa Nelms

Dec. 24, 10:00 pm Travis, Brittany, and

Madeline Jones

# Advent Readers - Thank you!

We appreciate all those who signed up to read each Sunday during Advent, as well as those who will be reading on Christmas Eve. Thank you!



### Tree of Warmth



The Tree of Warmth is Back! -- Mission & Outreach is once again conducting the drive to collect new or gently used winter hats, scarves, gloves and new socks for children in need. These items will be given to students in local schools where PPC members teach. Please bring these unwrapped items and drape them on the tree set up in the Upper Foyer. There will also be a list indicating specific children needing jackets. Follow the instructions provided at the table to help meet the need for gently used or new jackets. The Tree of Warmth will be receiving these items through Sunday, Dec 8th.

"From the bottom of my heart, we thank you for organizing this coat drive. My 2 kids with the biggest needs have been outfitted completely. The 8th grade girl even hugged me - that is HUGE!!!! Your kindness and generosity is the true spirit of Christmas." --- From one of our PPC teachers, 7 Dec 2018

#### **M&O**

# **Universal Assisted Living Visit**

Our visit this month is on Tuesday, December 10 at 1:00 pm.

# **M&O Committee Meeting**

Is Monday, December 23 at 11:00 am.



# 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!



# The Children's Christmas Program



# "Follow the Star" Is scheduled for Sunday, December 8 at 5:00 pm

The Providence Christmas Program "Follow the Star" will take place Sunday, December 8th at 5:00 pm! We are asking all who attend to help with a Love Offering for the Mary Tyler Nordan family. We want to help support this family as much as we can. Children participating in the program 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.

"Follow the Star" Presented by the Children and Youth of Providence Presbyterian Church. Directed by Brittany Jones Accompanied by Angie Searcy and Susan Rudd.



# 2019 CANTATA Sunday, December 15

# "Let There Be Peace"

Words and Music by Brittany Jones
Presented by the Providence Choir
Accompanied by Angie Searcy
Instrumental Soloists:
Ryan Chriscoe
Brett Coates
Kathy Jo Wood
Directed by Brittany Jones



# **American Cancer Society - Relay for Life**

The Providence Presbyterian Church Relay for Life Team will be holding a Pancakes with Santa fundraiser on December 14th from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Upper Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$10.00 per person. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

Interested in joining the Relay for Life Team?? Please contact Cathy Maddux 919-438-9461.







# Display a Luminary at the Relay for Life Event May 15



Light up your community and honor every life touched by cancer. Dedicate a Luminaria to a loved one lost, someone currently battling, anyone who has overcome cancer, or in support of a Caregiver to be displayed at the Relay for Life event May 15, 2020. Place your order during Fellowship time or by visiting Providence Presbyterian Church Team Site: Light a candle or torch in honor of or in memory of a friend or loved one who has had cancer, or in support of a Caregiver this holiday season.

# **Prayer Shawl Circle**

We will not be meeting in the month of December. Everyone please have a safe and meaningful Christmas Holiday with your friends and family.

Our next get together will be Tuesday, January 22, 2020.



# Men's Fellowship Group Assistance

Small chores & household assistance is available by the Men's Fellowship Group. To schedule, contact Eric Faircloth at ericfaircloth@embargmail.com, or 919-201-2696.



#### Christmas Eve Services

Services this year will be conducted at 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm on Dec 24th. Please join us for this meaningful time together.

There will be communion.

You can retrieve your poinsettias at the close of each service.



# **Children's Hope Alliance at Barium Springs**

Thank you very much for the donations made to CHA on November 24, to help care for traumatized, displaced children. These children come from circumstances beyond their control. The latest "by the numbers" statistics:

400,000 = The number of kids in NC who have an emotional, mental, or behavioral disorder.

115,000 = Estimated number of NC children who do not live with a parent.

112,000 = Number of kids in the U.S. who are waiting to be adopted.

19,000 = Children who "age out" of foster care each year who are never adopted or reunified with family members.

1 in 4 within 2 years = The statistic of foster children who "age out" of care and are later arrested.

1 in 2 = The number of foster children who graduate from high school.

Our donations may not be moving mountains, but together with others' donations it helps make a difference to each individual child. For further information:

Children's Hope Alliance
P.O. Box 1
Barium Springs, NC 28010
www.ChildrensHopeAlliance.org
1-800-320-4157

Thank you for remembering the innocent ones.

#### SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

The December Senior Citizen Luncheon will be on Tuesday, December 10 at Johnson Memorial Church at 12:00 noon. If you plan on going, please let Margie Taylor know by December 4 at 919-207-1049 or margieataylor@aol.com so the cooks know how much food to buy and prepare.





Men's Fellowship will not be meeting during December due to the holidays.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 26th at 7:30am. David, Pete and Kent will provide breakfast.

# **Toys For Tots**



A Toys For Tots box will be outside the Upper Fellowship Hall through December 16. We are collecting new unwrapped toys.

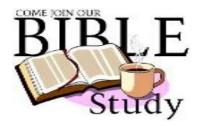
Contact John Mott at 845-401-3021 for questions.

#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



December 10, 2019

Day Circle meets at 10:00am Evening Circle meets at 7:00pm



# **Greetings! Interested in Being a Greeter?**

Our Welcome Center was put in place in July 2019. It has become the hub of hospitality when regular attendees and visitors alike come through the double-door entrance of the Upper Foyer. We want everyone to feel comfortable at PPC. This Welcome Center is facilitating that very nicely. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry please contact me, Donna Stolle, at <a href="mailto:dms6330@gmail.com">dms6330@gmail.com</a>. I will provide you with the handout regarding "how and why we greet," and a schedule from which you can choose the month(s) you might like to serve. Thank you for your interest in this ministry!



The Congregational Care Committee supplies Prayer Shawls for anyone who may be in need of physical warmth during the Worship Service. The shawls are located in the Narthex. \* After the service, please leave the used shawl on the end of the pew - they are cleaned after each use.



If there are members of the congregation or regular attendees that would like a member of the Congregational Care Committee to visit with them, please get that information to Carolyn Johnson at <a href="mailto:cmoorejohnson2012@gmail.com">cmoorejohnson2012@gmail.com</a>



### **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; Bobbie Langdon at Highland Village in Cary; Virginia Moore at The Pearl, Fort Mill, SC; and Ken Passe at Gabriel Manor in Clayton.

#### Persons Living with Cancer, including:

Sherry Baker, friend of Laura Langdon; Joanne Boyle, Bob Zattiero's niece; Lisa Bradshaw, member of the community; Sherri Cox, friend of Carolyn Johnson; Jerry Hall, extended family of Wendy Stephenson; Ann Hargis, community; Jamie Harris, friend of Andrea Jones; Consuelo Hawkins, Joe Hawkins' mother; Norman Nelms, brother of Tom Nelms; David Ryan, coworker of John Pickens; Tim Scarborough, friend of Wade and Carolyn Johnson; Abby Stanley, coworker of John Pickens; Randy Stephenson, Jon Nooney's cousin; Debbie Sturgis, member.

#### Persons with Ongoing Health Concerns, including:

Nancy Allen, Sheila Dupree's mom; H. A. Andrews, father of Andrea Jones; Lauren Collier Bellissimo and family, members; Sara Barber, Vickie Faircloth's mother; Worth Bowman, member; Patricia Chapin, friend of Carolyn Johnson; Larry Creech, Father of Kevin Creech; Pamela Collier, member; Elise Corona, daughter of a friend of Sue Bryant; Sandra Dail, friend of the church; Brenda Dupree, mother of Amy York; Barbara Ellis, mother of Georgeanna Phillips; Charles (Chic) and Mary Lou Folkman, friends of Providence; David Guss, cousin of Andrea Jones; John Harris; friend of Andrea Jones; Brian Johnson, cousin of Don Dupree; Harley Kremer, Andrea Jones niece; Vic LaSaxon, Chris Nooney's brother-in-law; Hubert Lipscomb, Scout leader; Bill McClandless, friend of Bob Zattiero; Ken Moore, brother of Carolyn Johnson; Nancy Nelms, member; Judy Nemeth, friend of Miriam Lambert; Sue Nicholson, Chris Nooney's sister; Jon Nooney, member; Mary Tyler Nordan, daughter of Tyler and Natalie Nordan; Ed & Lou Penny; members; Wanda Presnell, friend of Beth Wolak; Caleb Reese, cousin of Andrea Jones; Stephen Southers, community; Ann King Stephenson, member; Charles Tadlock; friend of Pamela Collier; John Wright, Chris Nooney's father and Eva Younts, ght, Nadine Reed's Aunt.



Our Christian Sympathies are extended to the families and friends who lost loved ones this past month.

Ríchard Gully, grandfather of Kent Walton's son-in-law Tommy Lee, friend of Jones family



#### Flowers for 2020

If you are interested in providing flowers to adorn our sanctuary on any given Sunday in 2020, please see the sign-up sheet in the "bulletin board alley." Beth Pickens has been our Flower Coordinator for many years. Where someone has signed up to purchase flowers, Beth calls that person (that week), to remind them to call the florist and place their order. Your message regarding the celebration for which the flowers were purchased will be included in the header of the printed bulletin on that Sunday. At the end of worship service that day you are free to then take your flowers home. Contact Beth Pickens at 919-697-5663, or at <<a href="mailto:bpickens80@gmail.com">bpickens80@gmail.com</a>> for help or further information. Thank you to all who participate in this ministry that contributes to the beauty of our sanctuary!



### **Food Pantry**

Please bring your food donations for these worthy ministries and place them in the blue bins near the foyer doors leading into the Upper Fellowship Hall.

While all donations are appreciated, the most needed items are given below.

#### **BACKPACK BUDDIES MOST NEEDED ITEMS:**

- 1) individual serving/packets of 100% fruit juice
- 2) fruit cups (applesauce, peaches, pears)
- 3) individual serving packets of oatmeal/grits
- 4) soup

#### FOOD PANTRY MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- 1) sugar
- 3) paper towels
- 5) clothes washing detergent

- 2) flour
- 4) toilet paper
- 6) dish washing detergent





The Book of Order

of .

#### THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC)

The Book of Government The Book of Discipline The Book of Worship 2018-2019



Now Available On PPC Website <a href="http://www.providencepresb.org/">http://www.providencepresb.org/</a></a>
Look for link "EPC BOOK OF ORDER"

EPC BOOK OF ORDER

#### Highlights of the Minutes from Stated Session Meeting, November 11, 2019

#### **Open and Actionable Items**

**Finance** – The October Financial report was reviewed. Appreciation was expressed to Pastor Nadia for the efforts she and her husband put forth to hold down their moving expenses. Notable figures from the report include:

Loan Balance - \$829,432.99 Reserve Balance (Money Market) - \$85,918.38 Homecoming Balance - \$23,272.54 Checking Account Balance - \$60,850.65

General Fund Balance - \$1,426.53

Designated Fund Balance (includes Homecoming) - \$52,375.01

	General Fund Additions	General Fund Expenses
October 2019	\$15,450.00	\$27,063.08
Year to Date	\$222,179.42	\$232,331.87

**Church Security** – Concern was expressed regarding the security of the building. Session referred the matter to the Property Committee for consideration.

**Job Fair** – Session approved setting up displays during "Souper Bowl" Sunday to share information about the various committees and their activities.

**Property** – A motion for updating the two outside signs to replace the PCUSA logo with that of EPC was approved. The cost will be \$750 to change out both signs.

**Fundraiser for "Relay for Life"** – A motion was approved to permit a pancake breakfast fundraiser in the

Upper Fellowship Hall December 14<sup>th</sup> in support of "Relay for Life" and the American Cancer Society.

**Providence as an Early Voting Location** – A report was received on regarding the possible use of Providence as an early voting location prior to future elections. The contact information was turned over to the Property Elder. A special meeting will be held to consider the opportunity. Several Elders volunteered to participate.

#### **Committee Updates**

**Adult Christian Education** – The new College and Career Sunday School class has selected its study material. Classes will begin once the materials are received. The teachers for the class will be Kent Walton, David Collier, John Pickens and perhaps Margie Taylor or Sue Bryant **Mission & Outreach** – A motion was approved to allow placement of a collection bin in the Upper Foyer for

Toys for Tots. The collection bin will be in place from November 24<sup>th</sup> thru December 15<sup>th</sup>. **Youth Christian Education** – The Youth will make a trip to Busch Gardens on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Contributions to the Angel Tree have begun coming in and the youth are making plans to go shopping. The youth will go caroling December 14<sup>th</sup> and participate in the Christmas program on December 8th.

#### **Old Business**

**Congregational Meeting to Approve Motion to Modify By-laws** – Session agreed to officially record that the intent of the vote on October 14<sup>th</sup> to modify the Providence By-laws was to recommend that the Congregation meet to approve a motion to amend the by-laws.

**Special Service to Receive Providence into EPC** – Pastor Nadia reported on the email from Phil Stump and

the service planned for January 12, 2020.

Next Stated Session Meeting will be held December 9, 2019 at 7pm.

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### **December Anniversaries**

- 5 Ashley and Crissy Porter
- 9 Jim and Brenda Abbott
- Tony and Sue Bryant

#### **December Birthdays**

- 2 Wayne Lamm
- 4 Karen Sherrill
- 5 Nancy Nelms Nadia Stropich
- 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. Nadia Stropich

#### **Session**

#### **Class of 2019**

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

#### **Class of 2020**

David Collier – Adult C.E. Kevin Creech – Youth C. E. Steve Newnam – Property

#### **Class of 2021**

Carolyn Johnson - Congregational Care Scott Martin - Long Range Planning Sam Stephenson - Financial

#### **Church Staff**

Secretary Cindy Lynch

Accounting Treasurer Wendy Stephenson

Collections Treasurer
Ann Benson

Music Director/ Organist/Pianist
Brittany Jones

Pianist
Angie Searcy

Newsletter Cindy Lynch

Website
David Nelms

# **DECEMBER EVENTS AND SCHEDULES**

	NURSERY
1	Laura Langdon and Mary Elaine Wood
8	Barri martin and Mary Wood
15	Jennifer and Roger Gilbert
22	Annah and Kevin Creech
29	Allison and Ryan Nelms
	USHERS
1	Lisa Nelms, Donna Stolle & Margie
1	Taylor (Back)
8	Beth Pickens, Donna Stolle & Joan Stuart (Back)
	Sue Bryant, Elaine Wood, & Mary
15	Elaine Wood, (Back)
22	Lisa Nelms and Donna Stolle (Back)
29	Beth Pickens, Joan Stuart & Elaine
23	Wood (Back)
	ACOLYTE
1	Gavin Annis
8	Meadow Creech
15	Joey Crocker
22	Kolton Crocker
29	Connor Frickman
	CHILDRENS WORSHIP
1	<b>LEADERS/HELPER</b> Annah and Kevin Creech
8	Allison and Ryan Nelms
15	No Children's Worship
22	Peyton Searcy
	•
29	Kristy and Chris Stephenson
	ELDER
	David Collier
	Security
	Wade Johnson
	Greeters
	Pete Booth and Vickie Faircloth

# **December Upcoming Events**

Dec 1	First Sunday of Advent	
	Communion Sunday	
	Christmas Program Practice 4:00 pm	
Dec 3	Card Ministry 10:00 am UFH	
Dec 4	Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm	
Dec 6	Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am Youth Angel Tree Shopping	
Dec 7	Christmas Program Practice 10:00 am	
Dec 8	Second Sunday of Advent Children's Christmas Program 5:00 pm	
Dec 9	Stated Session Meeting 7:00 pm	
Dec. 10	PW Day Circle meets at 10:00am Senior Citizen's Luncheon 12:00 pm M&O Universal Health Care Visit 1:00 PW Evening circle meets at 7:00pm	
Dec. 11	Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm	
Dec. 13	Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am	
Dec. 14	Relay for Life Pancakes with Santa, PPC 9:00 am – 11:00 am, UFH Youth Christmas Caroling, Dinner at 5:00	
Dec. 15	Third Sunday in Advent Christmas Cantata	
Dec 18	Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm	
Dec 20	Newsletter Deadline Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am	
Dec 22	Forth Sunday of Advent La Paz, Bolivia Missionary Offering	
Dec 23	M&O Committee Meeting 11:00 am	
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Services 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm	
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Office Closed	
Dec 26	Office Closed	
Dec 29	First Sunday after Christmas	
Dec 31	Now Voor's Evo Doy	