

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

August 2020



From the Pastor's Study...

"Are You Ready for Some Football (Pay)?"

This is usually the time of the year the Stropich family starts to practice our family cheer: "Go Pack Go!" Yes, I wear the Cheese head with pride. In 2009 I married a third generation Packer fan and never looked back...which wasn't hard since I grew up in Seattle pre-Russell Wilson. As a Packers fan, a couple years ago I watched the contracts negotiation of Aaron Rogers pretty closely, trying all the while to remember his catch phrase, "Relax...don't worry." And then the news hit: Aaron Roger signs a \$134 million contract guaranteeing him \$100 million over four years.¹ By promising to stay with the Packers for at least four year he became the highest paid NFL player in history. His stats, to be sure, are amazing. His leadership among teammates is strong and his relationship with the new Head Coach is great....but \$134 MILLION? All I can say is "WOW!"

Thankfully, God does not pay based on our scorecard and stats. **As Paul states in Romans 3:23-24, "for all have fallen short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that comes by Christ Jesus."** In other words, even though our scorecard for God looks like a failed pea-wee league quarterback verses Aaron Rogers, God pays us as though we had Aaron's stats. Our "payment" comes from the work of Jesus Christ in the atonement in which he won salvation for us and eternal life with God. God does not enter into a contract with us but rather a relationship. And that relationship has eternal rewards.

That's why it's so important to pay attention to what Jesus says in **Matthew 6: 19-21: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."**

¹<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/08/30/aaron-rodgers-signs-134-million-nfl-contract-commits-to-green-bay.html>
Accessed: September 4, 2018

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It's easy to get sidetracked by those with better pay and material goods. But the reality is those things fade quickly into the dust. Material goods rot every day in landfills around the world; new trucks rust and fashionable items become last year's has-beens. Instead, as Christians we should be working for a higher pay scale; God's promises of riches that do not get eaten away or fade into dust. And the good news is that God has even given us the tools for the work! Our spiritual gifts make it possible and the gospel of Jesus gives us power to go forth.

Because we will find that when we work in allegiance to and joy for Jesus, our contract will be more historic than even Aaron Rogers!

To God be the glory,

Pastor Nadia

CHURCH OFFICE



Pastor Nadia can be reached by
cell phone, email or schedule a Zoom meeting
Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 am – 1:00 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 or email her at nstropich@hotmail.com

Please note that Pastor Nadia's phone number has a Dayton, OH area code and therefore if you get a call from 937-903-9487, it is not a spam call. You are also more than welcome to call her at this number or email her at nstropich@hotmail.com

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.



Congregational Care Committee

If there are members of the congregation or regular attendees that would like a member of the Congregational Care Committee to call them, please get that information to Carolyn Johnson at:
cmorejohnson2021@gmail.com



Elder Contact Information



David Collier – Personnel
davidcollier123@yahoo.com

Kevin Creech – Christian Education
kmocreech@gmail.com

Vickie Faircloth – Worship
vickiefaircloth@yahoo.com

Carolyn Johnson – Congregational Care
cmorejohnson2012@gmail.com

John Kopanski – Mission & Outreach
jkopanski@live.com

Scott Martin – Long Range Planning
19smartin69@gmail.com

Steve Newnam - Property
bigfoot15@embarqmail.com

Sam Stephenson - Finance
samuelstephenson@me.com

Donna Stolle - Fellowship
dms6330@gmail.com

Reverend Nadia Stropich
nstropich@hotmail.com
919-894-4063 Office
937-903-9487 After Hours

Congregational Care Group Meeting

Join us!

All Interested Please Meet Tuesday, August 11, 2020

There will be a meeting of Congregational Care on Tuesday 8/11/2020 at 11:00 am to 12 noon. If you indicated an interest in this area on the Time and Talent survey or if you have ideas about Congregational Care, please plan on attending this meeting. Contact is Carolyn Johnson at cmorejohanson2012@gmail.com

Interested in teaching Sunday School?

In the event we are able to have regular Sunday School as a group, we would like to go ahead and secure Sunday School Teachers so we are ready for the new Sunday School Year (September - July). If you would like to serve as a Sunday School Teacher, please complete [this form](#):

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPW6veBsTD4hgkqB7eeu16K5WyBHYFnUrlGSeOCeQu9SOllg/viewform>



Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

We will not meet in August.



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
<http://www.providencepresb.org/>

Look for link "EPC BOOK OF ORDER"

EPC BOOK OF ORDER

Highlight of Minutes of Stated Session Meeting June 8, 2020

Mission & Outreach – Motions were approved to update the M&O section of the policy manual; discontinue the USO donations collection as part of the military ministry; and make the food pantry at WJHS the principal recipient of food donations, retaining a limited relationship with Friendly Chapel’s food pantry.

Personnel – Motions were approved to accept the revised job descriptions for Custodian, Part-Time Pianist, and Music Director.

Financial Report –Donations to the General Fund were strong in July, largely due to receipt of a member’s tithe as a one-time, annual donation and unusually high non-pledged giving. Expenses were lower than normal for the month as we continue to restrict usage of the church buildings.

Figures of Interest:

- Loan Balance of \$676,111.50
- Development Fund Balance to pay New Hope - \$21,402.48
- Checking Account Balance \$63,554.81
 - General Fund Balance \$17,663.64
 - Designated Fund Balance \$45,891.17

	<u>General Fund Additions</u>	<u>General Fund Expenses</u>
June 2020	\$34,224.03	\$20,607.09
Year to Date	\$175,746.36	\$162,562.78

New Business

Personnel

- **Transitional Pastor Contract Extension** – Session approved a motion extend the contract with Rev. Nadia Stropich for another 12 months.
- **Search for Full-Time Pastor** - A motion to begin the search process for a Full-time, permanent Pastor was approved. Session discussed the steps involved, including preparing a Church Information Form and election of a search committee. Session agreed to hold an informational meeting with the congregation to inform them of the one-year extension of the contract with Rev. Nadia Stropich, explain the process for the selection of the Search Committee. A letter will be mailed to members following the meeting.

Fellowship

- Building usage - Following discussion, Session approved a motion from the floor to continue suspension of personal rentals of fellowship hall and HOA meetings on campus for the time being.
- Johnston County Board of Elections (JoCo BOE) – JoCo BOE has enquired about using the foyer and part of the upper fellowship hall (UFH) for both early voting (October 14 – 31) and election day, 3 November, this fall. Session recommending going forward with the walk-through, but to hold off quoting a rental fee.

Audio/Visual Improvements – Sam Stephenson gave a presentation of the options for improving the quality of sound during worship and audio/visual for our streamed worship service. A motion was approved to purchase two consumer grade video cameras with tripods and cables. The equipment will be transferrable to the Sanctuary when needed.

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Clerk's Report – Two items for Session attention:

- Election of Commissioners to the General Assembly, September 17 – 18, 2020 – Virtual participation is approved. Session moved to elect David Collier as a commissioner. A second commissioner is needed.
- PMA Presbytery Meeting September 25 – 26, 2020 at Clemmons, NC – Election of commissioners was postponed until the August Session meeting.

Upcoming Activities

- Drive-in Worship – 22 July and 19 August
- Reception of New Members, Nicole and Frank Hughes and Shawn Stropich on 26 July
- Pastor's Vacation – August 2–8 (beginning after Worship on 2 August)
- Next Stated Session meeting – August 10, 2020

Helpful Information on Finance and Donations at PPC



On-Line Donations - We can now accept electronic checks as well as debit cards and credit cards. Processing costs are lowest with electronic checks. We have added a “GIVE” menu option on the top right of the main page of the church website, <https://www.providencepresb.org>. Selecting this menu option will open a page entitled “ONLINE GIVING.” Pressing the “DONATE” button on this page will open our donation web page. Please consider selecting the option to add 2% to your donation to help the church with processing costs. These processing costs are less when using a debit card compared to a credit card but donations of any type are always greatly appreciated. You can also access the donation web page directly by following this link: <https://pay.xpress-pay.com/?org=B5432DBFE5A94E6>. (You may also copy and paste the link into your browser.) Please contact Sam Stephenson at 919-757-5869 with any questions.

Finance - The finance committee would like to remind the congregation that you can mail your offering to the church: 14664 NC Hwy 210, Angier, NC 27501. Mailing your tithes and offerings will allow us to continue paying the mortgage and other monthly bills, like the light bill, without dipping into reserve funds. Providence will pick up mail directly from the post office.

Donation Options - Providence Presbyterian Church can accept donations of stocks and other securities. To make a donation or obtain more information, please contact Ann Benson, Collections Treasurer.



Prayer List of Joys and Concerns

Members of the Providence Family in Long-Term Care:

Marilyn Johnson at *Barbour Court Nursing in Smithfield*; **Bobbie Langdon** at *Highland Village in Cary*.

Persons Living with Cancer, including:

Sherry Baker, *Laura Langdon's friend*; **Joanne Boyle**, *Bob Zattiero's niece*; **Lisa Bradshaw**, *community*; **Dede Bumgarner**, *Brittany Parks' friend*; **Frank Camarda**, *Nicole Hughe's uncle*; **Sherri Cox**, *Carolyn Johnson's friend*; **Becky Hall**, *Carolyn Johnson's friend*; **Ann Hargis**, *community*; **Jamie Harris**, *Andrea Jones' friend*; **Consuelo Hawkins**, *Joe Hawkins' mother*; **Sherwood Johnson**, *church friend*; **Nancy Lange**, *John Mott's sister*; **Teressa McChann**, *Bob Reed's step daughter*; **David Ryan**, *John Pickens' coworker*; **Tammy Sullivan**, *Frank Hughes' mother*; **Abby Stanley**, *coworker of John Pickens*.

Persons with Ongoing Health Concerns, including:

Nancy Allen, *Sheila Dupree's mom*; **H. Andrews**, *Andrea Jones' father*; **Sara Barber**, *Vickie Faircloth's mother*; **Lauren Bellissimo and family**, *members*; **Wilburn Berrier**, *Patricia Forren's brother*; **Worth Bowman**, *member*; **Dawn Castonguay**, *friend of Sturgis*; **Patricia Chapin**, *Carolyn Johnson's friend*; **Kenneth and Sue Clement**, *Sue Bryant's cousins*; **Pamela Collier**, *member*; **Chris Combs**, *Kevin Creech's friend*; **Elise Corona**, *friend of Sue Bryant*; **Larry Creech**, *Kevin Creech's father*; **Chris Darden and wife**, *Cathy Simmons' friend*; **Barbara Ellis**, *Georgeanna Phillips' mother*; **Chic and Mary Lou Folkman**, *church friends*; **Michelle Griffin**, *Annah Creech's friends*; **Marshal Grissom**, *Dick Embrey's friend*; **David Guss**, *Andrea Jones' cousin*; **Gary and Jean Hanlin**, *Vickie Faircloth's friends*; **Willie Hardisen**, *Carol Sawyer's brother-in-law*; **John Harris**, *Andrea Jones' friend*; **Laura Kershaw**, *daughter of Jonathan and Carole Kershaw*; **Brian Johnson**, *Don Dupree's cousin*; **Ken King**, *friend of Lamberts*; **Harley Kremer**, *Andrea Jones' niece*; **Bill McClandless**, *Bob Zattiero's friend*; **Nancy Nelms**, *member*; **Judy Nemeth**, *friend of Lamberts*; **Daphne Noles**, *Atlee's sister*; **Mary Tyler Nordan**, *Tyler and Natalie Nordan's daughter*; **Doug Parvin**, *Wolak's friend*; **Ed & Lou Penny**; **members Finley Price**, *daughter of Dave and Theresa Price and friends of Travis Jones*; **Caleb Reese**, *Andrea Jones' cousin*; **Atlee Roberts**, *member*; **John Rogers**, *member*; **Jake Shoop**, *Lamberts' friend*; **Stephen Southers**, *community*; **Ann King Stephenson**, *member*; **Amber Svejksky**, *friend of Lamberts*; **Charles Tadlock**; **Pamela Collier's friend**; **Joy Wellons**, *Brandon Mott's mother-in-law*; **Austin Williamson**, *Carolyn Johnson's friend*; and **Eva Younts**, *Nadine Reed's Aunt*.

For Our Nation and Our World, including:

The governments of the world, our school and church safety, our military, and first responders.

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

George Johnson, father of Debbie Sturgis



Men's Fellowship Group Assistance

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



Due to Covid-19 Restrictions on large crowd gatherings, the following ministry activities are suspended until further notice:

**Card Ministry and Prep Teams
Fellowship Time
M&O Universal Health Care Visits
Men's Fellowship Breakfast
PPC Cooking Class
PPC Fellowship & Fitness Group
PPC KIDZ
PPC Men's Fellowship and Fish Fry
PPC Prayer Shawl Circle
PPC Women's Circles
PPC Women's Fellowship Outings
Senior Citizen Luncheon**

August Events and Schedules



August Service Schedule and Participants

ACOLYTE

2	Madelyn Stropich
9	Meadow Creech
16	William Stephenson
23	Madelyn Stropich
30	Meadow Creech

ELDER

Donna Stolle

GREETERS

Session

SECURITY

Wade Johnson

USHERS

Session

Wednesday Night Drive-in Worship Service

Providence Presbyterian Church Parking Lot

Will Not Have August Services



Please check schedules for updates!

Birthdays & Anniversaries



August Anniversaries

14	Nathan and Kay Dry
18	David and Pamela Collier
21	Darren and Joan S. Stuart
23	Don and Brenda Dupree
30	Kevin and Mary Powell

August Birthdays

1	Dick Embrey Macie Wood Nichole Hughes
3	Brenda Dupree Grace Martin LaVette Morgan
4	Baylee Nelms Emma Phillips Eva Stephenson
5	Robert Stolle
9	Richard Jones
10	John Rogers
12	Ann Stephenson
13	Bob Reed
14	Julian Poole
16	John Mott
19	Stewart Pickens Nadine Reed
23	Patsy Bowman
26	Natalie Nordan
27	Emily Paige Smith
28	Charleigh Murray Elaine Wood
29	Tyler Nordan
30	Lauren Collier Bellissimo
31	Randy Benson



August Upcoming Events



- Aug 2. Sunday Worship
Communion Sunday
Rev. Nadia Vacation through Aug 8
- Aug 9. Sunday Worship
- Aug 10. Session Meeting 7:00 pm
- Aug 11. Congregational Care Meeting 11:00 am - 12
- Aug 16. Sunday Worship
- Aug 23. Sunday Worship
Newsletter deadline
- Aug 30. Sunday Worship

No Wednesday Night Drive -in Worship in August

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: It is Hot!!

Please remember to stay hydrated during these hot summer months. Keep a container of water with you at all times. If you have to be outside, find some shade; carry a small umbrella. If you are walking your dogs, please keep them off asphalt and concrete. Make sure they have fresh water available to them at all times. If they have to stay outside for any amount of time, please make sure they have shade in which to rest. Be safe!



Pastor

Rev. Nadia Stropich

Session

Class of 2020

Kevin Creech – Christian Education
David Collier – Personnel
Steve Newnam – Property

Class of 2021

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

Class of 2022

Donna Stolle - Fellowship
John Kopanski – Mission & Outreach
Vickie Faircloth – Worship



Church Staff

Custodial

Ray and Jamone Johnson

Music Director/ Organist/Pianist


Brittany Jones

Pianist

Angie Searcy

Secretary

Cindy Lynch



Accounting Treasurer

Sam Stephenson

Clerk

Mary Ann Booth

Collections Treasurer

Ann Benson

Newsletter

Cindy Lynch

Sunday School Superintendent

Kristy Stephenson

Website

David Nelms