

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

January 2020



From the Pastor's Study...

I am a big fan of C.S. Lewis, especially his *Chronicles of Narnia* series. In the end of the last book, The Last Battle, the characters who have fought for Aslan (the Christ figure in the book) find themselves stepping through a doorway with Aslan and into a new world, the *real* world. "Further up and further in!" becomes the cry as they seek to explore this new, better version of the old world which they once knew. It's an allegory of Revelation and the triumphal entry into heaven.

Now, I'm not going to say that moving into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is heaven, but as far as denominations go, it is pretty awesome. The call to all churches like Providence who join the EPC is then not to stand at the doorway but to go, "Further up and Further in!" And that's an exciting place. Congregation members are invited to join in Presbytery functions like the Women's Retreat and, if you are an ordained EPC Ruling Elder, to serve on the various committees of the Presbytery or as a commissioner to Presbytery on behalf of Providence. Regardless, everyone is welcome to come to the Friday night worship at presbytery where I can guarantee you will be blessed by music, preaching and fellowship with fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord.

As the characters in the book begin to explore the *real* world, they begin to notice changes—all for the better-- but different none the less, than what they had previously had in the world they knew. As a church, we will also notice some changes around Providence. The Session is working diligently to make sure our Corporation bi-laws, policies and practices are in line with the EPC doctrine, procedures and ethos. This means that we may have more congregational meetings this year than we have had in the past, or you may hear the questions, "Well, *why*, do we do this or that?" Please know this is not an attempt to criticize the past but to make sure that we are aligned with the new denomination and working towards God's desired plan for Providence.

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New is never easy, but like Aslan, it is good. Session and I will do our very best to keep the congregation informed on the 'why' of what we are doing as well as the changes. Because of this, I am starting a newsletter column called "EPC Q&A" and I would love to take your questions (no anonymous ones please) about the Evangelical Presbyterian Church's polity, doctrine or practice. You can email me at: pastor@providencepresb.org or pop a note in my box with your question.

I look forward to moving "further up and further in" to the EPC and God's desired plan for the future with you this New Year.

Blessings,

Pastor Nadia Stropich



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.

EPC Q&A...

What's an "Elder" in the EPC and what do they do?

In the EPC there are two offices of Elder, the Teaching Elder and the Ruling Elder. What sets the Teaching Elder apart from the Ruling Elder is that the Teaching Elder is the one who oversees the preaching and teaching of the Word as well as the sacraments. (Shorthand: anyone who has "Reverend" before his or her name.) Teaching Elders are to have all the qualifications of a Ruling Elder plus education pertaining to the office of minister and have been examined, written and oral, before the presbytery of their ordination.

The Ruling Elders are those who serve, or have served, on Session from among the congregation members. Unless there is gross misconduct, or a desire to remove oneself from the ordination of Ruling Elder, once ordained it is a ministry mantle for life. This is why this role is taken so seriously in the EPC.

According to the Book of Order, "It is the first duty of the Ruling Elder to represent the mind of Christ, as that person understands it, in the various courts of the Church." (BoO 9-8 The office of Ruling Elder) This means that when a Ruling Elder serves on Session, presbytery or General Assembly, they do not represent themselves or the congregation but the will and desire of Jesus, as they understand it with their fellow Ruling Elders. This means they pray, question, seek discernment in scripture and godly wisdom from one another before they make a decision. The voice of the congregation is a large part of the discernment process but it is not the only voice as it would be with a church that practices congregational polity.

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Sometimes God will direct a Session to take a step of faith which seems contrary to the status quo but it is for the best of the congregation and future of the church.

This is a huge change from the practice of the former denomination which often understood the role of Ruling Elder as an administrator through whom the congregation's voice would be heard; much like how we elect state representatives to represent us in government. But this does not mean that the congregation does not have a voice on Session. In fact, it makes the role of the congregation even that much more important because it requires more of us. The first requirement is that we are assured that those we elect are going to seek Christ's will above and beyond any other voice and those who embody the requirements as stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-13. Second, we need to make sure we are praying for our Session. The Enemy has one goal, to destroy the Church and the best way to do this is to take down the leadership. We need to be active in our prayers of protection and discernment for the Session, not just our Pastor. (Though she greatly appreciates the prayers and asks that you continue!)

The mantle of Eldership is a large one but, praise be to God, it is one which the Lord himself helps all who are called and ordained to carry.

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.



LAY READERS SCHEDULE

January 5 Wendy Stephenson
January 12 Beth Wolak
January 19 Jeff Wood
January 26 Mary Ann Booth



FELLOWSHIP TIME REMINDER

Donna Stolle 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 at 214-6698 or Dms6330@gmail.com



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.



M&O

Universal Assisted Living Visit

Our visit this month is on Tuesday, January 14 at 1:00 pm.

M&O Committee Meeting

Is Monday, January 27 at 11:00 am.



CARD MINISTRY

The Card Ministry Prep Team III Meeting will be at LaVette Morgan's home on Thursday, January 16 at 1:00.



SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

The January Senior Citizen Luncheon will be on Tuesday, January 14
at Providence Presbyterian Church at 12:00 noon.

If you plan on going, please let Margie Taylor know by January 8 at 919-522-6068
or margieataylor@aol.com so the cooks know how much food to buy and prepare.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The Presbyterian Women's Day Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 10:00 am in the UFH.

The Presbyterian Women's Night Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the UFH.

All women are welcome to attend.



Fellowship & Fitness Group

The Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group will continue to meet in the Upper Fellowship Hall.

We are so fortunate to be able to walk inside when it rains or is cold.

Come join us Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:00 am.

All are welcome!



PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Invites you to be part of a lifesaving journey

Donate blood!



*Mark your calendar for Friday, January 10,
2:00 pm – 6:30 pm*

*Contact Margie Taylor at margieataylor@aol.com or
919-522-6068 to sign up*

Or

sign up on the American Red Cross website at



American Red Cross

Let's get cooking!

PPC Cooking Class

PPC Cooking Class starts Tuesday, January 7, 2020, in the UFH Kitchen at 6:30 pm.

We will meet monthly on the first Tuesday of each month. If you received a letter in the mail by the end of December you are registered in the Cooking Class.

Happy New Year! drw

(For the meeting, please enter the building through the kitchen door if you do not have a key.
There will be a follow-up reminder.)



BREAKFAST

Men's Fellowship

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



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 2. In exchange for your meal, the Youth will be accepting monetary donations. For more information please visit miracleleaguejc.com or contact Kevin Creech at kmocreech@gmail.com



Spiritual Job Fair on February 2nd after church in the UFH.



Ever wonder where you can put your spiritual gifts and talents to use at Providence? If so, plan to attend the Spiritual Job Fair on February 2nd after church in the UFH. Committees will have tables set up telling about their mission and your place in their ministry fields. Grab a bowl of soup with the youth and then meet the ministry that matches your gifts!

For more information please contact Pastor Nadia at 919-894-4063.



**The PW Coordinating Team will meet at 7:00 pm
in the UFH on January 9**

**This meeting will include members of the CT as well as anyone involved in
Chicken Pastry/Silent Auction/Bake Sale.**

PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE

**Please Join Us
Tuesday, January 28, 2020**

The Prayer Shawl Circle will meet in the Upper Fellowship hall.

Don't do needle craft? Come out for fellowship anyway. The items we create are prayed over and given to those who are infirmed.

We look forward to seeing you at any of our scheduled meeting times!



Save the Date Saturday, Feb 8, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Ladies, save the date and come join us for Providence Presbyterian's Women's Day. Phyllis Elvington will share with us her thoughts "Walking with Jesus in Word, in Prayer and in Spirit". Registration and light breakfast is in the UFH at 8:00 – 9:00 am. With the program beginning at 9:00 am. Lunch provided \$20.00 Registration For additional Information contact Margie Taylor at 919-522-6068

(See Flyer)

Save the Date

Saturday, Feb 8

8:00 am—1:00 pm

*Registration starts at 8:00 am with a light breakfast
The program starts at 9:00 am, with lunch served at 12*

*Come Join Us for
Providence Presbyterian's
Women's Day*

*“Walking with Jesus in Word,
in Prayer and in Spirit”*

Enjoy Fellowship, Inspiration and Fun

Our Speaker,

Phyllis Elvington

Breakfast and

Lunch provided, just \$20.00



*Phyllis is well known for her energetic,
uplifting and well-prepared style,
as a speaker/leader for Bible studies,
missions studies and prayer retreats.*

*Register online at
<http://www.providencepresb.org>*

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**

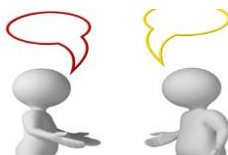


Light up your community and honor every life touched by cancer. Dedicate a Luminaria to a loved one lost, someone currently battling, anyone who has overcome cancer, or in support of a Caregiver to be displayed at the Relay for Life event May 15, 2020. Place your order during Fellowship time or by visiting [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.

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 cmoorejohanson2012@gmail.com



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, 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; **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*; **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*; **Joy Wellons**, *Brandon Mott's mother-in-law*; **John Wright**, *Chris Nooney's father* and **Eva Younts**, *Nadine Reed's Aunt*

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

Brack Johnson, PPC Member
Charles Allen, Jr, Brother of Sally Allen
Ken Passe', Husband of Sharon Passe'
Virginia Moore, PPC Member and mother of Carolyn Johnson



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 <bpickens80@gmail.com> 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
<http://www.providencepresb.org/>
Look for link "EPC BOOK OF ORDER"

EPC BOOK OF ORDER

Highlights of the Minutes from Stated Session Meeting, December 9, 2019

Open and Actionable Items

Finance – The November financial report was reviewed. Notable figures include:

Loan Balance of \$824,949.92

Reserve Balance (Money Market) of \$85,925.44

Checking Account Balance\$57,436.65

• General Fund\$93.55

• Designated Fund Balance\$51,572.65

	<u>General Fund Additions</u>	<u>General Fund Expenses</u>
November 2019	\$23,823.87	\$25,156.85
Year to Date	\$246,003.29	\$257,488.72

As of November 30th, spending is under budget. However, giving continues to lag expenses. \$1,500 of the Homecoming donations were transferred from Designated Funds to the cover the gap between giving and expenses for the month of November.

Fellowship – Session approved a new fee schedule for Home Owner Associations wishing to use the Upper or Lower Fellowship Hall.

Elder Responsibilities – In 2020, Providence will begin holding Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Elders reviewed the Care Lists and their monthly assignments.

Committee Assignments for 2020

David Collier – Personnel

Scott Martin – Long Range Planning

Donna Stolle – Fellowship

Sam Stephenson – Finance

Kevin Creech – Christian Education

Vickie Faircloth – Worship

Carolyn Johnson – Congregational Care

John Kopanski – Mission & Outreach

Steve Newnam – Property

Personnel – Ruling Elder (RE) Jeff Wood will continue serving as interim Chair of Personnel until March when David Collier will return to service.

Election of Clerk for 2020 – A motion was approved to elect Mary Ann Booth as Clerk of Session for 2020. As a non-seated RE serving as Clerk in 2020, she will not have a vote.

By-Laws Change - It was agreed that the By-laws need to be modified to require that only a seated RE may serve as President of the Corporation. A motion was approved to hold a meeting of the Corporation be held on January 5, 2020. At the meeting, The Corporation will vote on a motion to modify the By-laws, removing the sentence that states, “The clerk of the session shall serve as the President

Update

Donations collected at the Christmas Program for the family of Mary Tyler Nordan were \$1,438. A check was delivered to the family.

Next Stated Session meeting will be held January 13, 2020 at 7pm.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



January Anniversaries

- 3 Carlos and Stephanie Bagley
11 Atlee and Linda Roberts
16 Rick and Margie Taylor

January Birthdays

- 2 Ron Cross
Samantha Nordan
7 Shelton Langdon
Wendy Stephenson
11 Gavin Annis
Matthew Dupree
12 Joy Jones
14 Georgeanna Phillips
16 Laura Langdon
18 Mary Ann Booth
Carolyn Stevenson
19 Justin Wood
21 Chris Stephenson
26 Kathy Wood
29 Carole Kershaw
30 Arline Mott

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
Sam Stephenson

Collections Treasurer
Ann Benson

Music Director/ Organist/Pianist
Brittany Jones

Pianist
Angie Searcy

Newsletter
Cindy Lynch

Website
David Nelms

JANUARY EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

NURSERY

- 5 Kristy and Chris Stephenson
 12 Elaine Wood and Lily Martin
 19 Beth and John Pickens
 26 Liz Annis and Alisha Bradley

USHERS

- 5 Pete Booth, Tony Bryant and
 Bob Stolle (Back)
 12 Kevin Creech, Ronnie Creech and
 John Daniel (Back)
 19 Don Dupree, Todd Frickman and
 Bob Stolle (Back)
 26 Richard Jones, John Kopanski and
 Wayne Lamm (Back)

ACOLYTE

- 5 Landon gilbert
 12 William Stephenson
 19 Nadia DeJesus
 26 Gavin Annis

CHILDRENS WORSHIP

- 5 Barri and Scott Martin
 12 Allison and Ryan Nelms
 19 Kristy and Chris Stephenson
 26 Peyton Searcy

ELDER

Donna Stolle

Security

Eric Faircloth

Greeters

Carolyn Stevenson and Donna Stolle

January Upcoming Events



- Jan. 1 New Year's Day 2020
 PPC Office Closed
 Jan. 5 Communion Sunday
 PPC Corporation Meeting and Vote
 PPC Staff Meeting, 12:30
 Jan. 7 PPC Cooking Class, 6:30 pm UFH
 Jan. 8 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
 Jan. 9 PW Coordinating Team Meet with Members
 of the CT & CPSA/Bake Sale, UFH, 7:00 pm
 Jan. 10 PPC Blood Drive UFH, 2:00 pm – 6:30 pm
 Jan. 12 Sunday
 PPC Official Acceptance Into EPC
 Jan. 13 Stated Session Meeting 7:00 pm
 Jan. 14 Senior Citizen's Luncheon at PPC, 12:00
 M&O Universal Health Care Visit 1:00 pm
 Jan. 15 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
 Jan. 16 Card Prep Team III at LaVette Morgan's
 Home at 1:00 pm
 Jan. 17 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Jan. 19 Sunday
 Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 PPC Office Closed
 Jan. 21 Presbyterian Women's Day Circle Meets in
 the UFH, 10:00 am and Presbyterian
 Women's Night Circle Meet at 7:00 pm, in
 the UFH
 Jan. 22 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
 Jan. 23 Newsletter Deadline
 Jan. 24 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00am
 Jan. 26 Sunday
 Men's Breakfast Fellowship at 7:30 am
 Jan. 27 M&O Committee Meeting 11:00 am
 Jan. 28 Prayer Shawl Circle Meet UFH 10:00 am
 Jan. 29 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10 am
 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm
 Jan. 31 Fellowship & Fitness Group 10 am