

# PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

*Providence Presbyterian Church*

July 2020



## From the Pastor's Study...

“Are We There Yet?”

No doubt anyone who has ever traveled more than ten miles with a fidgety child, youth or adult has heard those dreaded words, “Are we there yet?” It’s the mile marker that the trip is beginning to take its toll on the passengers and they are ready to be done with it. But just as “Are we there yet?” is a sign that we’re *not* there yet, so is the fact that just because people want the trip done, it doesn’t mean that they want to forgo going to the destination at all. See, everyone in the car wants to be wherever the car is going: grandma’s house, the Grand Cannon, the beach. The problem is that when someone says, “Are we there yet?” it means they’ve lost sight of the goal.

The apostle Paul understood what it meant to be so close but so far away to a desired destination. **Paul says in Philippians 3:14-16, “I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.”**

Our church has experienced some very exciting opportunities this year. We are experiencing new worship opportunities with our Wednesday Night Outdoor Worship services. We’ve moved into a new worship space in order to worship together on Sunday mornings and we are now able to broadcast our worship services online each Sunday through Facebook. All this has happened with the anticipation of being the church God calls us to be for the McGee’s Crossroads community. We, like Paul, are pressing on towards the goal which God has called us heavenward in Jesus Christ. We have come far from where we began, but there is still some distance between where we are and where we want to be.

*Cont’d on Page 2*

*Cont'd from Page 1*

I hope that as we number the miles between “here” and “there” that we take time to enjoy the scenery; get to know our fellow passengers; and seek direction from our Driver. We know the good that comes for us all when Christ is driving all our actions and decisions. Pray for the leadership of Providence that we would see where our Lord is driving us, so that our hearts cry isn't “Are we there yet?” but “Look where we get to go!”

To God be the glory forever,

Pastor Nadia Stropich

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nstropich@hotmail.com)  
919-894-4063 Office  
937-903-9487 After Hours

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES of 2020



*“May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.” Psalm 20:4*

### **High School Graduate**

#### **Emma Phillips**

Emma is the daughter of Gary and Georgeanna Phillips. She is a 2020 graduate of West Johnston High School. Emma plans to attend JCC this fall and will transfer to UNCW to pursue a degree in the medical field.

### **College Graduates**

#### **Alex Hamrick**

Alex is the grandson of Carolyn Stevenson and the son of Sharon and Danny Hamrick. He is a 2020 graduate of North Carolina State University. He graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Alex was in ROTC for 2 years and participated in campus sports.

#### **Ryne Jones**

Ryne Jones is the son of Richard and Andrea Jones. He received his MPA - Master of Public Administration degree from North Carolina State University. Ryne plans to continue public administration consulting with hopes to join an advocacy team for education, community development, or nonprofit management. Stay tuned for further education plans.

#### **Daniel William Stephenson**

Daniel is the son of Sam and Wendy Stephenson. He is a 2020 graduate of North Carolina State University. He received his BS in Biology with a minor in Business Entrepreneurship. He graduated with honors from the NCSU Honorary Program. He will be applying to Veterinary Schools of Medicine in the fall.

#### **Ashton Allene Stuart**

Ashton is the daughter of Darren and Joan Stuart and the granddaughter of Jimmy and Carolyn Stuart. She is a graduate of North Carolina State University, she graduated in December of 2019. She received her BS in Civil Engineering. Ashton was honored as the Valedictorian of her class and has decided to continue her studies and work towards her Master's Degree in Engineering from NCSU.

**Congratulations to all of our graduates! May all of your dreams come true!!!**



## Wednesday Night Drive-in Worship Service Providence Presbyterian Church Parking Lot



Join us for drive-in Parking Lot Praise and Worship Wednesday July 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> in the upper parking lot! The Worship service will begin at 7:30 pm! You may bring chairs and sit next to your cars if you feel comfortable, but please remember to social distance. Please check weekly announcements for Food Truck availabilities. Can't wait to worship with you all!!!



## Providence Presbyterian Church

“We Can Trust Him”



### PACKET PICKUP

Providence Presbyterian has made the difficult decision to cancel our face to face Vacation Bible School this summer. However, we still want to share the Good News of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, with the families of our church and community. Therefore, we would like to invite you to our Wednesday Night Outdoor Worship Service on July 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30 pm. At the service we will have VBS packets available containing: 3 Bible Lessons, crafts/activities, and a music CD with a preview of songs for our 2020 VBS. If you are not able to join us on July 8<sup>th</sup>, VBS packets will also be available for pick up on Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm - 6:00pm. To help us with planning, please register your child(ren) for a packet at <https://bit.ly/PPCVBS2020> or by visiting the church website (<https://www.providencepresb.org/>).

## SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

We do not meet in July and a decision will be made later to see if we will resume in August. Stay safe so that we can all get together soon.



### Helpful Information on Finance and Donations at PPC



**Updated: 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.



## Highlight of Minutes of Stated Session Meeting June 8, 2020

**God's Path Forward** – Pastor Nadia spoke of how the pandemic has disrupted the process Session had begun earlier this year to discern God's path forward for Providence. Questions to be addressed include, "Where is God leading Providence?", "What is our Mission?", "What 'holes' need to be filled?" A special meeting will be scheduled in June for Session to resume this work.

**Finance Report** – Session approved the financial report for May and a summary of key items. Donations to the General Fund continues to lag expenses. Funds in the amount of \$7,054.31 were transferred to the General Fund from the Homecoming Designated Fund to cover the mortgage payment in May. In coming months, we must either dip into the reserve fund or begin utilizing designated funds to cover expenses. The amount of \$609.61 remains in the Homecoming Fund.

Figures of Interest:

Homecoming Fund Balance of \$609.61	
Loan Balance of \$681,046.56	
Development Fund Balance to pay New Hope - \$22,089.08	
Checking Account Balance .....	\$59,621.15
General Fund Balance .....	\$4,046.70
Designated Fund Balance .....	\$46,472.77

	<u>General Fund Additions</u>	<u>General Fund Expenses</u>
May 2020	\$26,940.11	\$23,741.56
Year to Date	\$141,522.33	\$141,955.69

**Vacation Bible School** – A motion was approved in support of an alternative for Vacation Bible School, which has been cancelled. Packets will be developed for the children containing crafts, music, lesson materials, etc., and will be assembled by the church youth. The alternative will be promoted to the community. Date for distribution has yet to be determined.

**Church Re-Entry Sub-Committee** – Session approved a motion from the Subcommittee on Re-Entry to begin holding worship services in the Upper Fellowship Hall (UFH) on Sunday, June 14, 2020. Sunday School classes and Fellowship remain suspended. Detailed plans will be implemented to provide a safe worship experience. Masks are being worn by greeters and ushers. Utilizing the chairs from the adult Sunday School classes, seats have been spaced to allow families and individuals to maintain six feet of separation. Worshipers are asked to wear masks during singing. Plates are available in the foyer for collection of tithes and offerings. Passing the Peace has been suspended for the time being. Worship likely will be held in the UFH through the end of the year so that social distancing can be observed. Live streaming of services will continue on Facebook. Wednesday evening drive-in worship will continue on alternate Wednesdays.

**Homecoming** – The Fellowship Committee has begun moving forward with plans for Homecoming. A draft letter announcing plans was approved by Session. The Committee will begin meeting in the next few weeks.

**Next Stated Session meeting** – July 13, 2020

## 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**, *Nicol Hughe's uncle*; **Sherri Cox**, *Carolyn Johnson's friend*; **Becky Hall**, *Carolyn Johnson's friend*; **Jerry Hall**, *extended family of Wendy Stephenson*; **Ann Hargis**, *community*; **Jamie Harris**, *Andrea Jones' friend*; **Consuelo Hawkins**, *Joe Hawkins' mother*; **Sherwood Johnson**, *church friend*; **Nancy Lange**, *John Mott's sister*; **Teresha McChann**, *Bob Reed's step daughter*; **David Ryan**, *John Pickens' coworker*; **Tim Scarborough**, *friend of Johnson's*; **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*; **Larry Creech**, *Kevin Creech's father*; **Pamela Collier**, *member*; **Elise Corona**, *friend of Sue Bryant*; **Chris Darden and wife**, *Cathy Simmons' friend*; **Don Dupree**, *Amy York's father*; **Barbara Ellis**, *Georgeanna Phillips' mother*; **Chic and Mary Lou Folkman**, *church friends*; **Michelle Griffin**, *Annah Creech's friends*; **David Guss**, *Andrea Jones' cousin*; **Gary and Jean Hanlin**, *Vickie Faircloth's friends*; **John Harris**, *Andrea Jones' friend*; **Ron Horgan**, *clerk of Presbytery*; **Michael J.**, *Rich and Miriam Lambert's friend*; **Laura Kershaw**, *friend of Lamberts*; **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*; **Mary Tyler Nordan**, *Tyler and Natalie Nordan's daughter*; **Ed & Lou Penny**; **members Finley Price**, *daughter of Dave and Theresa Price and friends of Travis Jones*; **Caleb Reese**, *Andrea Jones' cousin*; **Jack Scherm**, *Carolyn Stevenson's friend*; **Doug Sonderfan**, *member*; **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.





## 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](mailto:ericfaircloth@embarqmail.com), or 919-201-2696.



## FELLOWSHIP HALL POLICY

If you would like to request to use either of our Fellowship Halls, Sanctuary or Class Rooms, you will be required to complete a form and the approval will come from the Session. This will apply to all requests. Requests need to be made through the church office with Cindy Lynch, Secretary (it will be marked as "Reserved" until approval is made at which time she will change "Reserved" to "Approved" on the Calendar), or Donna Stolle. If you have questions on this policy please contact Donna Stolle at 214-6698 or [Dms6330@gmail.com](mailto:Dms6330@gmail.com)



**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**



## July Service Schedule and Participants

### ACOLYTE

5 Meadow Creech  
 12 William Stephenson  
 19 Madelyn Stropich  
 26 William Stephenson

### ELDER

Sam Stephenson

### GREETERS

Session

### SECURITY

David Collier

### USHERS

Session

### 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

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**

# JULY EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### July Anniversaries

21 Kevin and Annah Creech

### July Birthdays

7 Tom Nelms  
Kenny Poole  
Sam Stephenson  
8 Ryne Jones  
Samuel Stephenson, Jr.  
10 Christy Cross  
11 Travis Creech  
12 David Nelms  
13 Vickie Faircloth  
14 Cathy Maddux  
15 Kent Walton  
16 Mary Langdon  
17 Atlee Roberts  
18 Mary Tyler Nordan  
19 Pete Booth  
Jennifer Gilbert  
Kevin Powell  
20 Rick Taylor  
22 Miriam Lambert  
27 Brenda Abbott  
30 Kendall Nelms



## Have a Safe and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

Thank you God for our Freedom!  
May God Bless the USA!



It is for freedom that Christ has set us free...  
Galatians 5:1

## July Upcoming Events

- July 4. Independence Day
- July 5. Sunday Worship  
Communion Sunday
- July 8. Wednesday Night Drive-in Worship Service  
And VBS Packet Pickup 7:30
- July 10. VBS Packet Pickup 4:30 -6:00 pm
- July 12. Sunday Worship
- July 13. Session Meeting 7:00 pm
- July 19. Sunday Worship
- July 22. Wednesday Night Drive-in Worship Service
- July 26. Sunday Worship