PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church May 2020



From the Pastor's Study...

The Fellowship of Believers

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation. "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. The devoted themselves to the apostles; teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Acts 2:40-44

During the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders and lockdowns around the world, church leaders ask themselves, "How do we define church, when the true church is the people and the people are unable to meet?" This is not a new question, as many congregations throughout time and season have not been able to meet. For some, severe weather like hurricanes and tornadoes, or persecution has made weekly face-to-face worship impossible. The question at Providence for the staff and Session has been not only "how do we define church" but also, "how do we continue to be the church body?"

For the early church the criteria of a church body was simply devoting themselves to the apostle's teachings (scripture), teaching and fellowship, breaking bread (sacraments), prayer and sacrificial giving. All those who saw them were in awe because of the signs and wonders done at the apostle's hands. This was the activity and definition of the church.

As strange as it may sound, the COVID-19 crisis has allowed pastors and Sessions a unique opportunity to be creative and flexible in order to minister to their congregations in an effective and safe manner so that the church continues through this pandemic. Like Providence, many EPC churches have started to broadcast worship services via Facebook Live and have seen a significant uptick in people "attending" worship on Sunday morning and throughout the week. These are not just local members attending, but global as well. Before COVID-19 we averaged weekly worship to be about 110 people. Now we average over 217 devices watching our worship service each week and this includes about four devices which are out of state and at least one weekly international device. That means if each device has a couple watching together, we have over 400 people "attending" worship each week....and we know there are families watching together, so the number is probably greater than those who are recorded as watching. These statistics tell us that Providence has a global impact for the kingdom of God; we are part of the church body fulfilling the Great Commission and the EPC's goal to be a "global movement" rather than a denomination. Other Christians are starting to read their Bible as part of the Bible in 90 Days study because of our sermon series as well!

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That means that Providence is promoting the study of the apostle's teachings, even while we are unable to meet for Sunday school! Therefore, we are continuing to try new ways to provide better online worship. This will include starting to pre-record our worship services and upload them on Sunday mornings at 11am to help with buffering issues that many in our congregation are having. We want to make sure that we are able to help those in our congregation and world "devote themselves to the apostle's teachings" as we teach through our Sunday worship.

Providence continues to be the church through sacrificial giving as well. The Session, Pastor and staff want to thank the congregation for faithful giving even in the midst of the stock market drops and uncertain personal financial situations. Some families have even said they are considering giving their stimulus checks to the church as an offering above and beyond their personal tithe commitments. This allows Providence the ability to support staff and build life into the ministries and mission to our community here in the McGee's Crossroads area. As Pastor, I couldn't be more proud and humbled by our Mission and Outreach Committee's commitment to our community by continuing the Food Drive through the month of May. Every Saturday between 9-noon you can stop by the outdoor cooking shelter and drop off food for the West Johnson High School Food Pantry. Thank you M&O for giving Providence an opportunity to "have everything in common." And thank you Providence, for taking care of the church so we may take care of others.

Reflecting on the continuation of ministry at Providence during this COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on our world, I wonder if maybe pastors and Sessions should not be asking, "How do we define church, when the true church is the people and the people are unable to meet?" But, "How can we be the church through the Holy Spirit's leading as He unites us through technology and missions during this time of physical separation?" Because, what we are finding at Providence, is that we are still able to carry on the mission of Jesus Christ even if it is through unfamiliar and new avenues. And if we are serving the Lord and one another, then no matter what, we are the church, just as the early church was defined.

Blessings to you and Glory to God!

Pastor Nadia

CHURCH OFFICE

CIC CONCERCICE

Pastor's Office Hours

Session approved to close the Church offices through the quarantine starting March 30, 2020.

Pastor Nadia can be reached by cell phone, email or schedule a Zoom meeting while she works at home 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 or email her at nstropich@hotmail.com

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EPC Q&A: What's going on with the PMA & GA?

Okay, I admit this month I wanted to see how many acronyms I could put in the title, but I also wanted to take an opportunity to let you all know about the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic (PMA) and General Assembly's (GA) actions during the COVID-19 crisis. Like us all, they are continuing to monitor the situation and respond accordingly in a proactive manner in order to serve the churches of the presbytery and denomination. Therefore, in order to stay on top of the newest information at the national and presbytery level, you can go to <u>www.epc.org</u> or <u>www.pmaofepc.org</u>, but if scrolling through press releases isn't your idea of a good time, here are some highlights:

- Prayer Support from the PMA: Each week pastors from the presbytery meet via Zoom for an hour of prayer for our churches and ministries. Pastor Nadia has been participating in these prayer meetings and wants you to know that many churches are feeling like Providence right now and they are praying for us, just as we pray for them.
- The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic met briefly via Zoom April 25th and approved the overture to General Assembly recommending the multiplication of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery into three presbyteries: The Piedmont, Mountain and Costal. (If approved, PPC will be part of the Costal Presbytery). We also examined a Reformed Pastor Transfer, Rev. Fred Hope for ordination. He passed successfully after a stellar examination and will be serving Rockville EPC. Rev. Hope comes from the Reformed Church of America to the EPC.
- General Assembly will meet this week to vote on moving the General Assembly from June to September and limiting the business of the church to two days, rather than the normal week of continuing education opportunities for Teaching and Ruling Elders. Some presbyteries have asked GA to consider meeting through on-line resources like Zoom or Skype due to the cost of attending GA for two days in Memphis, TN. This is being considered but no decision has been made.
- General Assembly is allowing presbytery and local church Sessions to conduct meetings via Zoom and other on-line resources. This is a practice that PPC Session is currently using and while it is far from perfect, it is allowing us to continue to discern Jesus' plan for PPC and for us to follow it faithfully.
- General Assembly has also authorized the local church to conduct the sacrament of Communion through on-line services. This has been a special blessing for Providence and while your pastor greatly misses worshiping face-to-face around the communion table, it is a blessing to know that we are joined through the Holy Spirit in order to continue to celebrate the sacraments.

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- Presbytery and General Assembly, like each local church, are continuing to strive to serve during this pandemic and appreciate the patience and faithfulness of each church as we seek God's will and way forward together!

Keep your questions coming!

- Pastor Nadia



SECRETARY

Cindy Lynch will be receiving email and can check voicemail on the office phone Monday -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.



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 cmoorejohnson2012@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

Fellowship Committee

As of this writing we do not know when PPC will be back to a 'regular routine.' When that happens the Fellowship Committee will hit the door running, as we have Homecoming 2020 to plan. If you are interested in helping with the planning and execution of this years-old tradition at Providence, be on the look-out for announcements via the bulletin and newsletter for our first Homecoming Committee Kick-Off Mtg scheduled date and time.

Homecoming is conducted on the second Sunday in October. The kick-off meeting will include:

- Select a committee chairperson. Does not have to be the Fellowship elder, though I volunteer if no one else is available.
- Discuss the venue arrangement (is included in the Homecoming letter that is sent out via U.S. Mail).
- Suggest disposition of any Homecoming gift\$. Session would then approve.
- Elect an author to write the letter.
- Determine sub-committee duties. Sub-committees are,
 - Select guest speaker (Pastor Nadia is already working this).
 - Decorations.
 Advertising.
 Invitee List.
 Meeting schedule prior to actual event.
 Mailings.
 Parking.
 Set-up.
 Food Service the day of the event.
 Clean-Up.
 Photography.
 Grounds Clean-Up.
 Ushers/Greeters.
 Gift Counting.

If there is more to be considered we can add that to the list at the kick-off meeting. Until then, be smart and safe as you and your families weather this storm called 'social isolation during the season of the Corona Virus'."

Take care all, Donna Stolle Fellowship Elder 2020

Graduation Recognition Sunday, June 7 Tentative upon reopening

Attention - If you have a High School or a College Graduate or if you know of a graduate at Providence, please provide the following information:

Name, HS or College graduation date, course of study or major, dreams of pursuit, special involvements (sports, clubs, etc.) and any special memory of the graduate.

Please send this info to Vickie Faircloth at <u>vickiefaircloth@yahoo.com</u> by May 22nd.

Providence has tentatively scheduled Graduation Recognition Sunday, June 7th. If this date changes you will be notified immediately.



Chicken Pastry Fundraiser

This is a reminder that the Chicken Pastry Fundraiser has been moved to Friday, 6 Nov 2020, as a 'Drive-Thru Only' event. The related Silent Auction, Bake Sale, etc., will all be conducted at the Youth BBQ in September. All tickets that were previously purchased for use on 20 March 2020 will be honored on 6 Nov. If you would rather receive a refund, please see Donna Stolle. <<u>dms6330@gmail.com</u>>, or cell/text <860-214-6698>

Thank you everyone for your flexibility in the scheduling and rescheduling of this event during this unique time brought about by this virus. A special thank you to those who bought the food items that had already been purchased for the event. That was a big help. The Providence Presbyterian Women thank you for your support of this event, year in and year out. Bless you all."

Most sincerely, Donna Stolle 2020 Chicken Pastry Coordinator



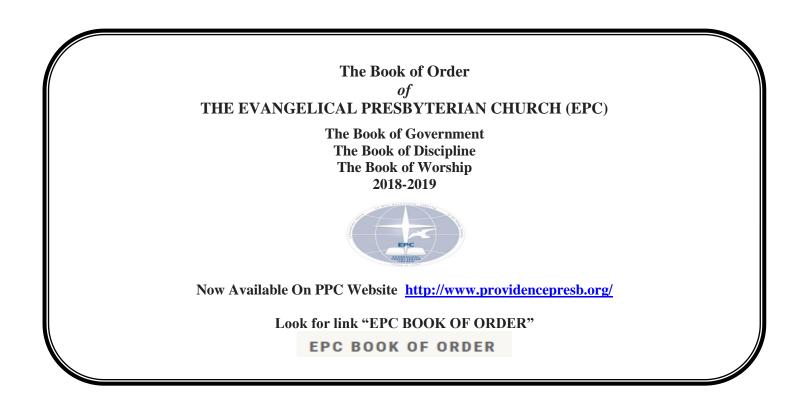
PPC KIDZ

Program for 2020



The "PPC KIDZ" program meets several times throughout the year, typically once a month. Check the PPC Calendar for more details on days and dates! This program is specifically designed for children ages Preschool (and fully potty trained) through 5th grade. This is an interactive program that includes a lesson, team building skill and mission activity. The program time is from 4:00 pm till 5:30 pm usually, and a light snack will be provided. We will meet in the UFH and then be dismissed to our classroom or activity. If you have any questions please see Vickie Faircloth or a member of Providence CCE.

We hope to resume soon.



New and 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, <u>https://www.providencepresb.org</u>. 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: <u>https://pay.xpress-pay.com/?org=B5432DBFE5A94E6</u>. (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 April 13, 2020

Session held its April Stated Meeting via Zoom video conferencing.

Open and Actionable Items

Finance Report – Session reviewed the financial report for March. It was noted that the Providence congregation was faithful in their giving as evidenced by the income statement. The final payment to Rev. Jim Davis was made in late March.

Items of Note: Designated Funds giving included \$5,100 to the Development Fund to help pay off the obligation to New Hope Presbytery. The amount of \$21,772.54 remains in the Homecoming Fund as none was needed during March to pay the monthly mortgage.

Figures of Interest:

- Loan Balance \$806,632.72
- Development Fund Balance (to pay New Hope) \$22,089.08
- Checking Account Balance \$68,379.66

0	General Fund Balance	\$161.96
0	Designated Fund Balance\$68,217.70	
	General Fund Additions	General Fund Expenses
February 2020	\$25,320.18	\$31,360.92
Year to Date	\$63,088.47	\$63,308.26

Review of Loan Refinancing – Session reviewed the terms for the Note Modification Agreement (Agreement) between Providence and First Citizens Bank. A motion to present the Agreement for vote at a congregational meeting on April 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm was unanimously approved. The meeting will be held by Zoom video conferencing. The terms include 119 monthly payments (approx. ten years) of \$6,160 beginning May 10, 2020 with the balance due at the end of the 119 months. The interest rate is the same 3.6% as the existing loan. The terms reflect the intent of Providence to pay \$102,599. 69 against the principal once the modified note is approved by vote of the congregation. Fees associated with the modification amount to \$900. **Online Giving** – A motion to approve online giving via debit card and credit card was unanimously approved. Payment via e-check will be included at a future date. The option to give online will be available on the church website by clicking on the "GIVE" menu located near the top of the home page.

Old Business

COVID-19 Response

- Session discussed concerns with the quality of the live worship service on Sunday mornings. An effort will be made to improve transmission.
- **Blood Drive** Session decided to postpone the blood drive that was scheduled to June. A new date has not been determined.
- Local Families in Need An elder was approached about the need for food among families of elementary school children in our community. Chairs of Christian Education and Mission & Outreach will coordinate to consider ways to involve the congregation in providing relief.

Next Stated Session meeting – May 11, 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, friend of Laura Langdon; Joanne Boyle, Bob Zattiero's niece; Lisa Bradshaw, member of the community; Dede Bumgarner, friend of Brittany Parks; Frank Camarda, Uncle of Nicol Hughes; Sherri Cox, friend of Carolyn Johnson; Becky Hall, 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; Sherwood Johnson, friend of church; Michael J., friend of Rich Lambert; David Ryan, coworker of John Pickens; Tim Scarborough, friend of Wade and Carolyn Johnson; Tammy Sullivan, mother of Frank Hughes; Abby Stanley, coworker of John Pickens; Debbie Sturgis, member.

Persons with Ongoing Health Concerns, including:

Ally Abbott, granddaughter of Jim and Brenda Abbott; Nancy Allen, Sheila Dupree's mom; H. A. Andrews, father of Andrea Jones; Sara Barber, mother of Vickie Faircloth; Lauren Collier Bellissimo and family, members; Worth Bowman, member; Patricia Chapin, friend of Carolyn Johnson; Candace Creech, member; Larry Creech, Father of Kevin Creech; Pamela Collier, member; Elise Corona, daughter of a friend of Sue Bryant; Chris Darden and wife, friend of Cathy Simons; Don Dupree, father 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; Ron Horgan, clerk of Presbytery; Brian Johnson, cousin of Don Dupree; Harley Kremer, Andrea Jones niece; Bill McClandless, friend of Bob Zattiero; Nancy Nelms, member; Judy Nemeth, friend of Miriam Lambert; Mary Tyler Nordan, daughter of Tyler and Natalie Nordan; Ed & Lou Penny; members; Wanda Presnell, friend of Beth Wolak; Finley Price, friend of Brittany Jones; Caleb Reese, cousin of Andrea Jones; Stephen Southers, community; Ann King Stephenson, member; Ken King, friend of Rich Lambert; Charles Tadlock; friend of Pamela Collier; Joy Wellons, Brandon Mott's mother-in-law; Austin Williamson, friend of Carolyn Johnson; 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.

Norman S. Nelms - brother of Tom Nelms and uncle of David Nelms & Mark Nelms



FELLOWSHIP TIME REMINDER

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank the groups who have volunteered for Fellowship time this year.

The Fellowship Committee wants to extend an invitation to anyone or group if they would like to volunteer for the fourth Sunday when we are back to our regular schedules to please contact Donna Stolle at 214-6698 or <u>Dms6330@qmail.com</u>



Prayer Shawls Available

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 call them, please get that information to Carolyn Johnson at <u>cmoorejohnson2012@gmail.com</u>



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 <u>Dms6330@gmail.com</u>

Men's Fellowship Group Assistance

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



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CARD MINISTRY

The Card Ministry will Not meet until further notice upon reopening.

The Card Ministry Prep Team I will not meet at LaVette Morgan's home on Thursday, May 21 at 1:00 pm



SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

The Senior Luncheon for May has been canceled.

Fellowship & Fitness Group

The Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group walks from 10:00 to 10:30. Some time ago we added the PPC Prayer Group. Those of us who walk stay for prayer. We pray for all request listed in the bulletin. If, however, you do not wish to walk but be a part of the prayer group please join us at 10:30 in the UFH as we reach out to God in prayer for our church family, the Session, the choir, the pastor, teachers, the governments of the world, school and church safety, our military, first responders and each other.

All are welcome!



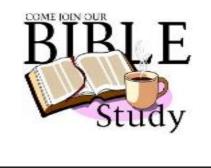
Gatherings have been suspended at this time but please continue to pray at 10:30.

Please check for notices about continuation upon reopening!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Please check for notices about continuation upon reopening!

The Chapter of Presbyterian Women's Day Circle and The Presbyterian Women's Evening Circle will not meet this month.



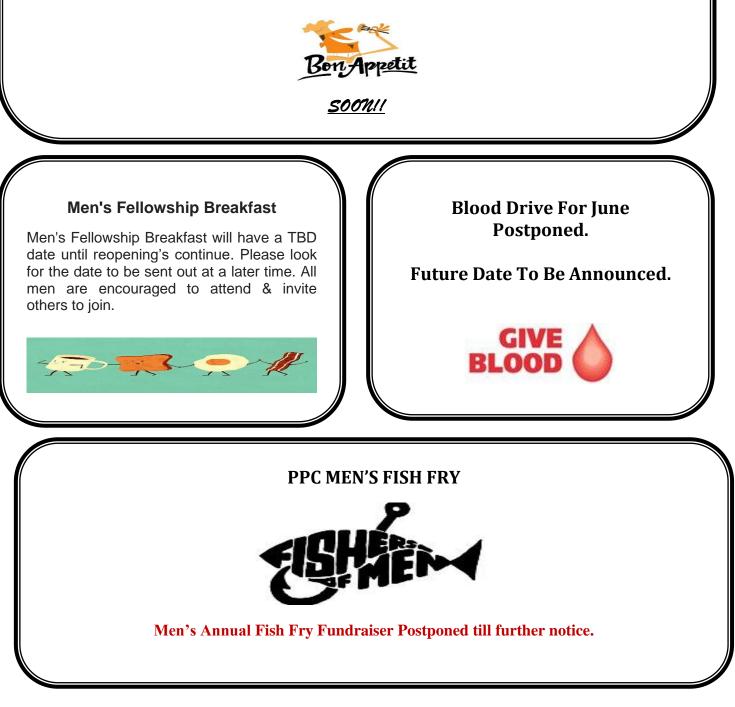
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Let's get cooking! PPC Cooking Class

Gatherings have been suspended at this time. There are no April or May gatherings.

If plans resume; Tuesday, June 20th Donna Walker presents her Hamburger's Hawaiian, July 7th; Janice Parrish presents her Famous Cheesecake, August 4th; Annah Creech presents her White Chocolate Cherry Oatmeal Cookies, September 8th; Wendy Stephenson presents her Oyster Stew or Salmon Stew (they use the same base), October 6th; Sharon Passe presents Rosettes, and December 1st; Brenda Abbott presents her homemade Candy Turtles. If you have questions, please contact Donna Walker via text 910-985-1717.

Please join us and enter through the kitchen door when the quarantine is over!



Birthdays & Anniversaries



May Anniversaries

- 3 Wayne and Laura Langdon
- 5 Ryan and Allison Nelms
- 13 Jimmy and Carolyn Stuart
- 14 Sam and Wendy Stephenson
- 19 Wade and Carolyn Johnson
- 21 Andy and Sheila Dupree
- 25 Mark and Pam Nelms

May Birthdays

- 1 Madeline Jones
- 4 Jonathan Kershaw
- 5 Mady Ennis Parker Smith
- 6 Shepherd Byrd
- 7 Todd Frickman
- 8 Will Dupree
- 10 Cathy Simmons
- 12 Kolton Crocker Ron Forren Kelly Nordan
- 17 Lynn Cross
- 23 Annah Creech
- 24 Heather Langdon
- 26 Christina Jones
- Ryan Nelms
- 27 Greg Kornegay
- 28 Worth Bowman Ronnie Creech
- Brittany Jones

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

Collections Treasurer Ann Benson

> *Newsletter* Cindy Lynch

Sunday School Superintendent Kristy Stephenson

> *Website* David Nelms

MAY EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

Service Participants Tentatively Scheduled

NURSERY

17	Elaine Wood and Lily Martin
24	Beth and John Pickens
31	Liz Annis and Alisha Bradley

USHERS

17	Rick Taylor, Richard Jones and John
	Kopanski (Back)
24	Wayne Lamm, Scott Martin, and
	David Nelms (Back)
31	Ryan Nelms, Joseph Phillips, and
	Atlee Roberts (Back)

ACOLYTE

17	Gavin Annis
24	Meadow Creech
31	Joey Crocker

CHILDRENS WORSHIP

17	Annah and	Kevin	Creech
17	Annan anu	Keviii	CIEECII

- 24 No Children's Worship
- 31 Kristy and Chris Stephenson

ELDER

Scott Martin

SAFETY/SECURITY Steve Newnam

May Upcoming Events

Tentatively Scheduled Events



Please continue to check for updates.

May 3	Sunday Worship via our website
May 10	Sunday Worship via our website
	Mother's Day
May 11	Session Meeting 7:00 pm via internet
May 17	Sunday Worship via our website
May 20	*Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am
	*Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
May 22	*Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am
May 23	Newsletter Deadline
May 24	Sunday Worship via our website
May 25	Memorial Day
	Church Office Closed
May 27	*Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am
	*Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
May 29	*Fellowship & Fitness Group 10:00 am
May 31	Sunday Worship via our website

*Please Visit Our Website or Call 919-894-4063 and Leave A Message For Further Information on the Event Schedule

While we are unable to meet in person, sermons will be broadcast on our Facebook Page "Providence Presbyterian Church at McGee's Crossroads, Inc. EPC" as well as the audio found on our website providencepresb.org