

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

October 2020



From the Pastor's Study...

Blessed to Be a Blessing

Stewardship is something we are all familiar with, even if we haven't been formally trained in it. According to the Oxford Dictionary stewardship is defined as: "the job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property."¹ Healthy stewardship involves knowing the condition and actively engaging with whatever or whomever we are tasked with supervising and caring. After all, it is one thing to be tasked with a job and another to know what is needed in order to see the job accomplished.

As an active member of the local church, we have been called to serve the spiritual and physical needs of our church, both its members and its material property through stewardship. This is a ministry given to each member which should not be taken lightly for it is our Lord who gave us all this calling.

Where is this calling from Jesus? Here are a couple of examples:

- Luke 16:1-13 The Parable of the Shrewd Servant, especially verses 10-13 in which Jesus says, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"
- Matthew 25: 14-30 The Parable of the Bags of Gold, especially verses 29-30 in which Jesus says, "For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them; and throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
- Acts 20:35 Paul to the Ephesians "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Jesus preached on finances and stewardship more than most people realize. As much as our world likes to tell us that our time, talents and finances are our own, that's not true scripturally.

¹ <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=definition+of+stewardship> Accessed: September 8, 2020

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Everything that we have is God's and it has been given to us so that we may fulfill the calling he has placed on our lives as Christians.

Therefore, when we are asked to share our time, talent and finances with our church, we should give cheerfully, not begrudgingly. If we are active in our congregation, then we are joyful in our love and service to one another.

If not, then we need to share our concerns with Session or with those whom we have trouble so that we can restore our relationship with one another and the church. It is never okay to withhold the gifts which God has given us for his church. As active members, we are aware of the ministries and mission of our church and we have the right to support those which are promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ, first to our church family, community and world. Some may not be as exciting as others; staff salaries need to be paid and light bills need to be taken care of, but it is all part of God's ministry being done at Providence.

As we move into the season of stewardship let us turn our hearts to God in joy and ask of him what he would have us give out of the gifts of time, talent and resources which he first gave us. Then when we celebrate Harvest Sunday, and give our Pledge Cards we can be confident that the Lord will bless our tithes and offerings.

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 who 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

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HOMECOMING

October 4, 2020

Please join us virtually on Facebook

Or

In the Upper Fellowship Hall

Please note the Celebratory Homecoming Meal will not be hosted this year.

Guest Speaker Reverend Doctor David "Bucky" Hunsicker



*Honoring our history
.....building our future*

Session Announcement

Session approved a motion that starting September 27, 2020, we are requesting that everyone who attends worship on Sunday morning to wear a facemask/face shield upon entering the building and throughout the entire worship service until exiting the building. Those exempt from wearing facemasks/face shields are people who are presenting on the platform (Pastor, Lay leaders, etc.) and those with medical/emotional conditions in which masks would be prohibitive for their well-being. This is different than the current request to wear a face mask/shield during the singing only. Session also voted to adopt policies and procedures which would help decreasing the potential spread of COVID-19 and increase the potential of our ability to continue to offer in-person worship. **Each congregation member should have received an email or will be receiving a letter via post mail regarding the rationale and details on the new procedures which will begin today, September 27, 2020.** If you have not received the email or post letter with COVID procedures and rationale for the Session decision, please contact Cindy Lynch, the church administrative assistant.

Calling All Ushers and Greeters



If you have served as an Usher or Greeter in the past or would like to join this ministry and you are ready to start serving again, please contact Vickie Faircloth at 919-902-1407 or vickiefaircloth@yahoo.com

All Saints Remembrance Day, Sunday, November 1st

This year, we are asking that you submit the names of your loved ones that have passed this last year to the church office by Tuesday, October 27th. We will have their names listed in the bulletin and displayed on the overhead screen. An Elder will be lighting the candles this year in order to observe social distancing and the Pastor will be reading the names aloud. If you have any questions, please contact Vickie Faircloth at 919-902-1407 or vickiefaircloth@yahoo.com



The AED (automated external defibrillator) has been relocated



The AED (automated external defibrillator) has been relocated to the Upper Fellowship Hall Foyer. It is on the wall at the Exit door at the top of the entrance to the carpeted hall and restrooms. Please note that if used, an alarm will sound and an elder will need to disarm it with a key.

Meal Train - set up for Miss Ann Stephenson to help with her care. The need is for lunches on Monday's and Wednesday's. You are asked to wear a mask when delivering. If you are uneasy about making the delivery due to the Coronavirus, contact Carolyn Johnson or Mary Ann Booth. We will arrange to pick up the lunch and make the delivery. See the website for additional instructions. **The link to the website is:** www.TakeThemAMeal.com/TGUN2962. Contact Mary Ann Booth at 919.275.4564 or mabooth1@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Meal Train – set up for Debbie Sturgis and Don to help with Debbie's care after her surgery. Her doctor has advised her to maintain limited mobility for 4-6 weeks. If you would like to participate, go to: <https://takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=GSFZ8938&v=af48eeba80> and sign up to provide a meal. We know that it will be greatly appreciated.
Re: Carolyn Johnson, Congregational Care



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 UFHF. * After the service, please leave the used shawl on the end of the row - 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 cmoorejohnson2012@gmail.com

Congregational Care Grocery Pick Up

We have congregation members willing and able to pick up groceries and deliver them to congregation member's homes. If you are in need of such a service, please contact Carolyn Johnson at 919-880-1272 or Pastor Nadia at 919-894-4063.



Providence Presbyterian Church
Minutes of Stated Session Meeting August 10, 2020

All seated Ruling Elders were present. Clerk of Session Mary Ann Booth was excused. RE Kopanski served in her place. Moderator Rev. Nadia Stropich was present.

Omnibus Report

The omnibus report was reviewed. The session voted and the motion was approved.

- **Actionable Items:**

- **Mission & Outreach-Motion:** Committee motion presented by the M&O chairperson to get approval for the committee to solicit financial donations from the congregation to support ministry efforts regarding Help Our Teachers (“HOT”). The floor was open for discussion; being none, the session voted and the motion was approved.

Pastor’s Report

- Pastor Nadia distributed an article entitled “Five Types of Church Members Who Will Not Return after the Quarantine”. The article surmised that due to the consequences of the Coronavirus churches may anticipate a twenty (20) to thirty (30) percent decline in membership. Pastor Nadia indicated that Providence is experiencing this phenomenon to some degree.
- Pastor Nadia distributed a section of chapter 8 of the Book of Order and discussed 8-3 item D with regards to inactive roll.

Financial Report

Sam Stephenson distributed the financial report for July 2020. He provided an overview of church’s financial status which indicated that monthly expenses continue to exceed monthly contributions. He conveyed that for the month of July giving was down; however, this is not uncommon as giving in the summer months tends to generally be lower than other months. Despite the lower contributions for July, generally speaking the report can be viewed optimistically in comparison with previous 2020 financial reports. Upon concluding review of the July financial report, as Finance chairperson, Sam Stephenson presented a motion to approve the July 2020 financial report. The session voted and the motion was approved.

Sam also conveyed the following:

- The church’s pool share (McGee’s Crossroads community swimming pool) was sold in the amount of four hundred dollars (\$400). Sam indicated that the proceeds were deposited in the general fund.
- Sam indicated that it is nearing time to produce a financial budget for next fiscal year. Committees need to begin thinking about their budgets.

Old Business

As property chairperson, Steve Newnam reintroduced the following motion with regards to the mortgage: Reduce the mortgage payment to minimum monthly amount (approximately \$6,160) beginning in September 2020 and maintain minimum monthly payment until a consistent twelve (12) month (5%) increase in tithing over prior fiscal year is achieved. Thereafter, consideration for increasing the mortgage payment with additional principal could be warranted.

The floor was opened for discussion. The session voted and there was one (1) vote in favor of the motion, seven (7) votes against the motion, and one (1) abstention. As a result, the motion did not pass.

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New Business

Church Information Form (“CIF”): Pastor Nadia lead the review of information provided by session with regards to parts I & II of the CIF form.

- Committee motion to use the Worship space only for the purposes of Sunday morning Worship precluding all other uses and or activity.

The session voted and there were six (6) votes in favor

Worship

Vickie Faircloth, Worship Chairperson presented information with regards to options for Coronavirus mitigation as it relates to the designated Worship space (upper fellowship hall).

The information pertained to motions from the committee as follows:

- Committee motion to use the Worship space only for the purposes of Sunday morning Worship precluding all other uses and or activity.

The session voted and there were six (6) votes in favor of the motion and three (3) votes not in favor of the motion. Thus, the motion was approved.

Fellowship

Donna Stolle, Fellowship committee chairperson presented committee motions to cancel the following church events scheduled for 2020 (due to coronavirus):

- Homecoming (with traditional fellowship meal after service)
- Harvest Sunday
- Chicken Pastry Fund Raiser and the silent auction and bake sale which are conducted in conjunction with chicken pastry event.

The session voted and it was with regret that the motion was unanimously approved.

*On Homecoming Sunday, there will be a Worship service in the upper fellowship hall and invited guest Pastor Bucky Hunsicker will provide the sermon.

Election of Commissioners for EPC General Assembly annual meeting and Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic called and stated meetings

- **40th General Assembly Meeting September 17th and 18th 2020:** David Collier approved as commissioner at previous session meeting. Need one additional commissioner. No Elders volunteered at this meeting to fill the slot.
- **Called meeting of Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic August 24th 2020:** Vickie Faircloth and John Kopanski were approved by session to serve as commissioners for this meeting.
- **Stated meeting of Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic September 26th 2020:** Need two (2) commissioners. No Elders at this meeting volunteered to serve as commissioners.

Being no further business, Pastor Nadia closed the meeting with Prayer.

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 |



Helpful Information on Finance and Donations at PPC



On-Line Donations - We 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*); **Scott Barns**, **Joanne Boyle**, (*Bob Zattiero*); **Lisa Bradshaw**, **Dede Bumgarner**, (*Brittany Parks*); **Frank Camarda**, (*Nicole Hughes*); **Sherri Cox**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **Becky Hall**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **Ann Hargis**, **Jamie Harris**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Sherwood Johnson**, **Nancy Lange**, (*John Mott*); **Terasha McChann** (*Bob Reed*); **Doug Parvin**, (*Steve Wolak*); **Bill Rice**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **David Ryan**, (*John Pickens*); **Tammy Sullivan**, (*Frank Hugh*); and **Abby Stanley**, (*John Pickens*).

Persons with Ongoing Health Concerns, including:

Nancy Allen, (*Sheila Dupree*); **H. Andrews**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Ann, Marilyn and Natalie** (*Lamberts*); **Sara Barber**, (*Vickie Faircloth*); **Scott Barnes**, (*Ann Benson*); **Lauren Bellissimo**, (*David and Pamela Collier*); **Wilburn Berrier**, (*Patricia Forren*); **Mary Ann Booth**, **Worth Bowman**, **Dawn Castonguay**, (*Don and Debbie Sturgis*); **Patricia Chapin**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **Elise Corona**, (*Sue Bryant*); **Larry Creech**, (*Kevin Creech*); **Ryan Crisco**, (*Brittany Jones*); **Kelly Daniels**; **Chris Darden and wife**, (*Cathy Simmons*); **Barbara Ellis**, (*Georgeanna Phillips*); **Chic and Mary Lou Folkman**, **David Guss**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Willie Hardisen**, (*Carol Sawyer*); **John Harris**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Kathy**, (*Miriam Lambert*); **Laura Kershaw**, (*Jonathan & Carole Kershaw*); **Brian Johnson**, (*Don Dupree*); **Ken King**, (*Rich & Miriam Lambert*); **Harley Kremer**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Lydia Leach**, (*Miriam Lambert*); **Bill McClandless**, (*Bob Zattiero*); **Nancy Nelms**; **Judy Nemeth**, (*Rich & Miriam Lambert*); **Daphne Noles**; **Mary Tyler Nordan**, (*Tyler and Natalie Nordan*); **Zachary Parks**, (*Brittany Parks*); **Ed & Lou Penny**, **Finley Price**, (*Travis Jones*); **Caleb Reese**, (*Andrea Jones*); **John Rogers**, **Jake Shoop**, (*Rich & Miriam Lambert*); **Mitch Sonderfan**, (*Doug Sonderfan*); **Stephen Southers**; **Ann K. Stephenson**, **Wayne Stephenson**, (*Sam Stephenson*); **Denny Stevenson**, (*Nadia Stropich*); **Amber Svejksowsky**, (*Lamberts*); **Charles Tadlock**, (*Pamela Collier*); **Kevin Walton**, (*Kent Walton*); **Joy Wellons**, (*Brandon Mott*); **Austin Williamson**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **Jean Yeager**, (*Rich Lambert's sister*); and **Eva Younts**, (*Nadine Reed*).

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.*

Eric van, Gwen Walton's brother



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 F&FG walk outside only for now.)
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

October Events and Schedules

Birthdays & Anniversaries



October Anniversaries

- 1 Mac and Peggy Jones
Tyler and Natalie Nordan
- 6 Bob and Nadine Reed
- 7 Richard and Miriam Lambert
- 19 Leon and Janice Parrish
- 20 Gary and Georgeanna Phillips
- 26 Scott and Barri Martin
Don and Debra Sturgis
- 28 Eric and Lorie Smith

October Birthdays

- 2 Heather Ennis
- 3 Frankie Whitley
- 4 Allison Phipps
- 6 Dylan Jones
Amanda McLamb
Quinn Searcy
- 7 Eunice Newnam
- 8 Carolyn Johnson
- 9 Sally Allen
- 10 Chad Cross
- 11 Robbie Wood
- 13 Adam Stuart
- 17 Abigail Wood
- 18 Susan Rudd
Paul Sherrill
- 21 Andrea Jones
- 22 Emily Langdon
- 23 Doug Sonderfan
- 28 Joan C. Stuart

October Service Schedule



ACOLYTE

- 4 Madelyn Stropich
- 11 William Stephenson
- 18 Meadow Creech
- 25 William Stephenson

ELDER

Kevin Creech

GREETERS

Session

SECURITY

Eric Faircloth

USHERS

Session

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

October Upcoming Events



- Oct 4. Sunday Worship
World Communion Sunday
- Oct 5. Secretary on vacation
- Oct 7. Virtual Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- Oct 11. Sunday Worship
Homecoming 2020
Board of Elections Early Voting set up/use
Of Upper Foyer and Upper Fellowship Hall
Through November 4 dismantle
- Oct 12. Session Meeting 7:00 pm
- Oct 14. Virtual Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- Oct 15. Fellowship Comm. Meeting 11:00 am LFH
- Oct 18. Sunday Worship
- Oct 21. Virtual Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- Oct 23. Newsletter deadline
Caraway Retreat, Rocky Mt. Englewood, NC
- Oct 25. Sunday Worship
- Oct 26. Mission & Outreach Committee meet 11 am
- Oct 28. Virtual Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm

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