

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

September 2020



From the Pastor's Study...

What does "Church" mean to you?

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer....All the believers....were together and had everything in common."

-Acts 2:42, 44

"Church" is a funny word. For some people, it's synonymous with "family." For others, it's just another name for the building on the corner. But for most Christians, it's a combination of the two; a place where their faith family meets to worship God. It can mean a place of profound love and acceptance or it can be a memory filled with shame and sadness. What does "Church" mean to you?

Growing up I had two different experiences with "Church." The first was as a child in a congregation which my mother had grown up in. My brother and I made up 2/3s of the children and there were no youth in attendance. It was a place where children were "seen only if necessary and never, ever heard." In fact, I remember helping my father test the microphones one Sunday when he was filling in for the pastor and two trustees came into the sanctuary. I immediately turned away from the Bible I was reading out of so they wouldn't yell at me. My father stopped me however and told me, "You have as much right to be here as they do; keep reading." It was the only time at that church I was told I had a place there. The ethos of the church, while not officially stated but implied in action, was that church was a place not to "muss" anything and membership had its advantages.

The second experience was when I was a teenager and we had moved to the suburbs of Seattle. At this church, I was welcomed by a pastor who remembered my name and a youth pastor who knew my age and was ready to invite me to youth group and other activities. I was invited to be a part of the life of the church and encouraged to participate as fitting my spiritual maturity and gifting. It was at this church that I heard the call of God on my life and accepted my call into the ministry. This church was active with mission work and it was apparent to anyone, young or old, that church was a place to learn how to serve and share Jesus Christ, member or not.

How we define church sets the trajectory to where it goes in the future.

Cont'd on Page 2

Cont'd from Page 1

“How do we define church at Providence?” is a question that we are going to be tackling in September in a sermon series called “The Church is...” and our sermon text will be primarily from the book of 1 Peter in the New Testament. I would invite you to read the book of 1 Peter and become familiar with it as we head into this sermon series. The EPC takes “church” seriously and I hope that through this sermon series we, as a church, can begin to reframe our understanding of what it means to be not just a member of a church, but to BE the Church.

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

Fall Schedule Changes at PPC

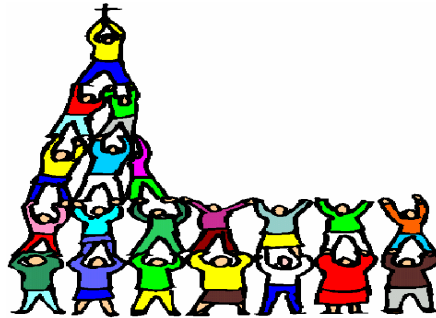
Out of an abundance of caution due to Covid-19 risks and protocol impacts, Session has canceled or changed the following annual events for 2020:

Homecoming 2020 will not include a meal. This year's event will be a "Virtual Homecoming." The annual letter will invite folks to participate via live streaming on Facebook.

Chicken Pastry Drive-Thru Only is canceled (it was scheduled for Fri, 6 Nov).

Youth BBQ is still being considered by Christian Ed, if it takes place it may be in the form of just Boston butt sales.

Johnston County BOE Rental at PPC for Voting 2020, is tentatively scheduled 12 Oct thru and including 4 Nov, in the UFH and foyer. (These dates include their set-up and tear-down, early voting and Election Day voting. The JoCo BOE is responsible for all social distance protocols. They were given extra money this year to guarantee purchase of items necessary to comply with protocols). We have a verbal understanding of terms with the Director of BOE and have submitted a signed contract. We are awaiting the return of this document, with their signature indicating approval and acceptance of terms. Stay tuned for updates.



Interested in teaching Sunday School?

In the event we are able to have regular Sunday School as a group, we would like to go ahead and secure Sunday School Teachers so we are ready for the new Sunday School Year (September - July). If you would like to serve as a Sunday School Teacher, please complete [this form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPW6veBsTD4hgkqB7eeu16K5WyBHYFnUrlGSeOCeQu9SOllg/viewform):

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



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.

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.

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.

Cont’d on Page 6

Cont'd from Page 5

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.

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*); **Lauren Bellissimo**, (*David and Pamela Collier*); **Wilburn Berrier**, (*Patricia Forren*); **Worth Bowman**, **Dawn Castonguay**, (*Don and Debbie Sturgis*); **Patricia Chapin**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **Chris Combs**, (*Kevin Creech*); **Elise Corona**, (*Sue Bryant*); **Larry Creech**, (*Kevin Creech*); **Chris Darden and wife**, (*Cathy Simmons*); **Barbara Ellis**, (*Georgeanna Phillips*); **Chic and Mary Lou Folkman**, **Michelle Griffin**, (*Annah Creech*); **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 King Stephenson**, **Wayne Stephenson**, (*Sam Stephenson*); **Amber Svejksky**, (*Rich & Miriam Lambert*); **Charles Tadlock**, (*Pamela Collier*); **Eric Vann**, (*Gwen Walton*); **Kevin Walton**, (*Kent Walton*); **Joy Wellons**, (*Brandon Mott*); **Austin Williamson**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); 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.

Tommie Whitley, Kent Walton's cousin



Men's Fellowship Group Assistance

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



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

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

September Events and Schedules

September Upcoming Events



- Sep 2. Virtual Adult Choir Practice 7:30pm
- Sep 6. Sunday Worship
Communion Sunday
- Sep 7. Labor Day, PPC Office Closed
- Sep 9. Virtual Adult Choir Practice 7:30pm
- Sep 13. Sunday Worship
- Sep 14. Session Meeting 7:00pm
- Sep 16. Virtual Adult Choir Practice 7:30pm
- Sep 20. Sunday Worship
- Sep 23. Newsletter deadline
Virtual Adult Choir Practice 7:30pm
- Sep 27. Sunday Worship
- Sep 28. Mission & Outreach Committee meet 11am
- Sep 30. Virtual Adult Choir Practice 7:30pm

Birthdays & Anniversaries



September Anniversaries

- 8 David and Lisa Nelms
- 9 Ronnie and JoAnn Creech
- 10 Eric and Christina Jones
- 17 Eric and Vickie Faircloth
- 19 Richard and Andrea Jones
- 22 Melvin and Mary Langdon
- 23 John and Arline Mott

September Birthdays

- 1 Sue Bryant
Carolyn Stuart
Stephanie Whitley
- 5 Dorothy Nesselrodt
Steve Wolak
- 6 Rich Lambert
- 8 Stephanie Wood
- 10 David Collier
- 11 Nell Franke
- 12 Joseph Phillips
- 14 Stephanie Bagley
- 16 Bobbie Langdon
Mary Elaine Wood
- 19 Ashton Stuart
- 21 Meadow Creech
Brock Nelms
- 22 William Stephenson
- 23 Frank Hughes
- 28 Pat Embrey
Haley Jones
- 30 Nathan Dry

September Service Schedule



ACOLYTE

6	Madelyn Stropich
13	William Stephenson
20	Madelyn Stropich
27	Meadow Creech

ELDER

David Collier

GREETERS

Session

SECURITY

Frank Hughes

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

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