

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

August 2021



From the Pastor's Study...

“Winds in the east, mist coming in. Like somethin’ is brewin’ and ‘bout to begin. Can’t put me finger on what lies in store, but I fear what’s to happen all happened before.”

-Bert, Mary Poppins 1964

Many of us remember the first time we watched Mary Poppins fly to 17 Cherry-Tree Lane and into the Banks family heart. We watched as she proved that a “spoonful of sugar” does indeed make the medicine go down easier and that if you put enough elbow grease and imagination into life, extraordinary things happen. Then when the mission was complete and the wind had changed, she flew away. “A Transitional Pastor is like Mary Poppins,” Bucky Hunsicker told me, “we fly in, get things back on track and when the wind of the Spirit moves, we leave. It’s what we do.” It has been my pleasure Providence Presbyterian Church, to serve as your Mary Poppins over the last 18 months, but as Bert says, “somethin’ is brewin’ and ‘bout to begin...what’s about to happen all happened before.” So, before I fly away, I want to leave you with a prayer, a charge and a couple of thank-yous.

My prayer for you is the same which the apostle Paul gave to the church at Ephesus in Ephesians 3:14-19: **“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”**

As you move into God’s preferred future as a congregation with your new pastor, my prayer is that you continue to grow in the Lord’s strength with power and in your hearts with faith. I also pray that God would bless you with love among one another so that together you will experience the fullness of how wide, long, high and deep God’s love is for you so that you can carry that love into the community and world.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

My charge then, is to do just that; live into the Great Commission with the blessings of Paul's prayer. Consider every conversation an opportunity to share what the Lord has done in your life and in the life of the church. Pray that the doors of the church may be as welcoming to those who come in for the first time as it is to those who have walked in for years. Live your lives "blessed to be a blessing."

And finally, my thank-yous; please know that words will never express the profound sentiment behind them:

Thank you Ruling Elders with whom I have served with while at Providence. You have moved from the Board Room into the Upper Room, for which I am eternally grateful. I told you we would be in transition and it would be hard work, but you rose admirably to the occasion. You fought against Satan's attack to divide and destroy harmony at the beginning — you went through painful, heart-wrenching work — but you have come out on the other side united, a band of brothers and sisters who have each other's back and an eye on God's eternal prize for his Bride the church. Never forget your first love. You play to an audience of One — continue to discern his mind alone and you will never take the church from its mission or out of His glory.

Thank you to the staff. For such a time as this you were chosen. Your ministry is important at Providence, and I do not mean the work people see on Sunday morning alone. Your ministry lies in your relationship with each other, the congregation and your relationship with the Lord. Thank you for experimenting with ministry opportunities that COVID gave us. Thank you for sharing hidden talents for God's glory. Thank you for being willing to continue to learn so that we could bless God's people together. My prayer is that God continues knitting you together with the installed pastor.

And thank you to you, the congregation, for supporting your Session and staff during this transitional time. Continue to support them with your love and prayers. Don't be afraid to try new things and follow their leadership. Remember you trusted them enough to elect them and hire them; trust them enough to lead you into God's glorious ministry.

With love and gratitude,

Pastor Nadia Stropich

RNS/cml/PPCS



AUGUST SCHEDULES AND EVENTS

ACOLYTE

1	Madeline Jones
8	William Stephenson
15	Madeline Jones
22	Meadow Creech
29	TBD

There will not be **Children's Talk Time** at this time.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

1	Allison Nelms
8	Miriam Lambert
15	Annah Creech
22	Kristy Stephenson
29	Kristy Stephenson

NURSERY

1	Lily Martin and Lilly Harrison
8	Carolyn Johnson and Eva Stephenson
15	Eva Stephenson
22	Allison Nelms and Phoebe Creech
29	Beth Pickens and Arline Mott

PRAYER TEAM

1	Vickie Faircloth
8	Allison Nelms
15	Annah Creech
22	Barri martin
29	Vickie Faircloth

USHERS

1	Tony Bryant, Pete Booth and Jeff Wood
8	Vickie Faircloth, John Kopanski and Kevin Creech
15	John Pickens, John Kopanski and Scott Martin
22	Jeff Wood, Vickie Faircloth and Donna Stolle
29	Pete Booth, Tony Bryant and John Mott

ELDER OF THE MONTH

Kent Walton

GREETERS

Session

SECURITY

John Daniel

Birthdays & Anniversaries



August Anniversaries

14	Nathan and Kay Dry
18	David and Pamela Collier
21	Darren and Joan S. Stuart
23	Don and Brenda Dupree
30	Kevin and Mary Powell

August Birthdays

1	Dick (Richard) Embrey Macie Wood Nichole Hughes
3	Brenda Dupree Grace Martin LaVette Morgan
4	Baylee Nelms Emma Phillips Eva Stephenson
5	Robert Stolle
9	Richard Jones
10	John Rogers
12	Ann Stephenson
13	Bob Reed
14	Julian Poole
16	John Mott
19	Nadine Reed
23	Patsy Bowman
26	Natalie Nordan
27	Emily Paige Smith
28	Charleigh Murray Elaine Wood
29	Tyler Nordan
30	Lauren Collier Bellissimo
31	Randy Benson



August Upcoming Events



- Aug 1 Sunday Worship
- Aug 3 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- Aug 4 Stated Session Meeting 7:00 pm
Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Room
- Aug 5 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- Aug 8 Sunday Worship
- Aug 10 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- Aug 11 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Room
- Aug 12 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- Aug 15 Sunday Worship
- Aug 17 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- Aug 18 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm UFH
- Aug 19 Fellowship Committee Meeting 11:00 am
Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- Aug 22 Sunday Worship
- Aug 23 Mission & Outreach Comm. Mtg. 11:00 am
Newsletter Deadline
- Aug 24 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- Aug 25 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Room
- Aug 26 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- Aug 29 Sunday Worship
- Aug 31 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 10:00



Pastor
In Transition

Session

Class of 2021

Kent Walton - Congregational Care
Scott Martin - Long Range Planning
Sam Stephenson - Financial

Class of 2022

Vickie Faircloth - Worship
John Kopanski - Mission & Outreach
Donna Stolle - Fellowship

Class of 2023

Kristy Stephenson - Christian Education
John Pickens - Personnel
John Mott - Property



Church Staff

Custodial
Elizabeth Stock

Music Director/ Organist/Pianist
Brittany Jones

Pianist
Angie Searcy

Secretary
Cindy Lynch



Accounting Treasurer
Sam Stephenson

Clerk
John Kopanski

Collections Treasurer
Ann Benson

Newsletter
Cindy Lynch

Sunday School Superintendent
Kristy Stephenson

Website
David Nelms



Communion Sunday



While we prepare ourselves for our next Called Pastor, Communion will now be served each quarter starting with Sunday, October 3rd.

VF/eml/ppcs

Anyone interested in volunteering:

Nursery or Children's Sunday School, please contact Kristy Stephenson, at kstep74@gmail.com

For Children's Worship, Annah Creech at annacreech@gmail.com

For Usher, please contact Vickie Faircloth, at vickiefaircloth@yahoo.com

For AV Team contact Vickie Faircloth or Sam Stephenson

For PPC Choir come on Wednesday night or contact Brittany Jones



THANK YOU to all who donated to help pay off the PCUSA debt! We have raised funds above the amount needed to pay off our PCUSA debt! Any additional donations will be used to reduce the mortgage principal. Praise be to God!



Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group

We would like you to walk and fellowship with us on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 11:00 am in the UFH. All are welcome!



Prayer List of Joys and Concerns

Members of the Providence Family in Long-Term Care:

Chic (Charles) Folkman at Avendelle Assisted Living at Garner; **Marilyn Johnson** at Barbour Court Nursing and Rehab Center, in Smithfield; **Bobbie Langdon** at Litchford Falls in Raleigh.

Persons Living with Cancer, including:

Scott Barnes, Heather Benson, (Christiane Wright); **Bob Bilbro**, (Mary Ann Booth); **Joanne Boyle**, (Bob Zattiero); **Lisa Bradshaw, Dede Bumgarner**, (Brittany Davidson); **Shepherd Byrd**, (Brenda Byrd); **Paula Coates**, (Ann Benson); **Ann Hargis, Jamie Harris**, (Andrea Jones); **Sylvia Holbrook**, (Carolyn Johnson); **Robert Holding, Nancy Hults**, (Carolyn Stevenson); **John Husuley**, (Carolyn Johnson); **Daisy Knoll, Teresha McChann** (Bob Reed); **Bill Rice**, (Carolyn Johnson); **Andrew S.**, (Sonderfan); **Carol Sawyer**, (Ray Sawyer); **Wayne Stephenson** (Sam Stephenson); **Natalie Stewart**, (Lamberts); **Mike Stropich**, (Shawn and Rev. Nadia).

Persons with Ongoing Health Concerns, including:

H. Andrews, (Andrea Jones); **Sara Barber**, (Vickie Faircloth); **Lauren Bellissimo**, (Collier's); **Worth Bowman, Junior Cassidy**, (Eunice Newnam); **William "Bill" Collier**, (David Collier); **Elise Corona**, (Sue Bryant); **JoAnn Creech, Chris Darden and wife**, (Cathy Simmons); **Pat Embrey, Norma and Charles Evans**, (Carolyn Johnson); **Chic and Mary Lou Folkman, John Franzen**, (Arline Mott); **Ronda Fullenkamp**, (Rick and Margie Taylor); **David Gray**, (Mary Ann Booth); **David Guss**, (Andrea Jones); **Willie Hardison**, (Carol Sawyer), **John Harris**, (Andrea Jones); **Brandi Hayes**, (Vickie Faircloth); **Barbi Hyatt**, (Steve Newman); **Brian Johnson**, (Don Dupree); **Lauren Kershaw** (Jonathan and Carole Kershaw); **Harley Kremer**, (Andrea Jones); **Derusha Langdon** (Kevin Creech); **Bill Massey**, (Bob Reed); **Bill McClandless**, (Bob Zattiero); **Ken McGee**, (Ann Benson); **Judy Nemeth**, (Rich & Miriam Lambert); **Daphne Noles; Mary Tyler Nordan**, (Tyler and Natalie Nordan); **Ed & Lou Penny, Bennie Pierce**, (Allison Nelms), **Page Powers**, (Lamberts); **Caleb Reese**, (Andrea Jones); **Lycia Reese**, (Andrea Jones); **Becky Roberts, John Rogers; Rev. Steve Sherwood**, (Motts); **Mitch Sonderfan**, (Doug Sonderfan); **Stephen Southers, Ann K. Stephenson, Charles Tadlock**, (Pam Collier); **Calvin Thomas**, (Carolyn Johnson); **Angelia Walker** (Newman's); **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.



**Providence Presbyterian Church
Minutes of Stated Session Meeting June 14, 2021**

Providence Presbyterian Church conducted a Stated Session Meeting on June 14, 2021 at 7:00pm at the church. The Elders present were: Vickie Faircloth, Kristy Stephenson, Donna Stolle, John Kopanski, Scott Martin, John Pickens, Sam Stephenson, and Kent Walton. Elder John Mott was excused. Also in attendance, was David Collier, Chairperson of the Pastor Nominating Committee (“PNC”). Pastor Nadia Stropich served as moderator. Pastor Nadia declared that a quorum was present and opened the meeting with prayer. The devotional was presented by Vickie Faircloth.

Review of Minutes and Omnibus Committee Reports

The minutes of the May 10, 2021 Stated Session Meeting, the minutes of the May 16, 2021 Called Session Meeting and the omnibus committee reports were reviewed by the Session.

Committees that have not meet were: Christian Education, Finance, Long-Range Planning, Personnel, and Property. John Kopanski made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 Stated Session Meeting and the minutes of the May 16, 2021 Called Session Meeting. The motion was seconded. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

Scott Martin made a motion to approve the June 14, 2021 Stated Session Meeting agenda and the omnibus committee reports. The motion was seconded by Kent Walton. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

Pastor Nominating Committee (“PNC”)

Pastor Nominating Committee Chairperson, David Collier, provided the Session with a status report on behalf of the PNC. David conveyed that the committee is evaluating Pastor Information Forms of potential candidates. The process will continue as the committee seeks God’s will for the Providence Church family. After his report, Mr. Collier excused himself from the meeting.

Report from the Presbytery Gathering

Pastor Nadia conveyed that she attended the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic (“PMA”) Coastal Region gathering conducted on May 22, 2021 at Englewood Presbyterian Church in Rocky Mount, NC. Pastor Nadia indicated that the PMA Coastal Region is asking churches to strongly consider increasing their per member giving by twenty (25) percent in 2022. In addition, PMA Coastal Region is seeking Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders, and other church leaders to serve on committees.

Financial Report

Sam Stephenson reviewed the May 2021 financial report and provided the following information:

- Mortgage balance is \$620,273.54. Money Market savings balance is \$85,969.74.
- Bank Checking Account balance is \$96,217.03.
- Designated Fund book balance is \$84,089.14 and the General Fund book balance is \$11,698.45.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

2021-24

- Multi-year pledge donation CD of approximately \$8,000 matured May 24, 2021 and was placed in the General Fund.
- Cemetery CD was renewed
- Budgeted EPC member asking donations of close to \$8,000 are budgeted.
- The Homecoming designated fund balance is \$27,939.50

Summary of Expenses and Receipts

General Fund Receipts
May 2021: \$28,093.37

General Fund Expenses
May 2021: \$24,24.63

Year to Date General Fund

Receipts: \$127,240.68

Expenses: \$122,041.68

Development Fund Designated Fund Summary

Development Fund Balance through May 2021: \$35,006.48

Payment Required in 2021 to PCUSA: (\$12,000.00)

Matching Donation Balance through May 2021: \$23,006.48

Additional Matching Donation June 1 through June 6, 2021: \$1,200.00

Matching Donation Balance through June 6, 2021: \$24,206.48

Remaining Donation Needed by August 1, 2021: \$17,793.52

Sam also provided the following donation summary from sources as follows:

- Stock Sales: \$11,605.08
- Undesignated donation in the amount of: \$5,000.00
- Interest from CD: \$89.26

Donation total: \$16,694.34 (This amount is currently being held in escrow in the General Fund).

Sam indicated that if needed, the undesignated donations in part or in full could be used towards meeting the matching donation to pay off the PCUSA dismissal fee.

Sam made a motion to approve the financial report for May 2021. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

With regards to the donation summary, John Pickens presented the following motion:

At the next Session Meeting (July 12, 2021), review the amount of donations received towards the Capital Campaign for matching donor PCUSA dismissal fee. Allocate a portion or all of the \$16,694.34 towards meeting the Capital Campaign for matching donor PCUSA dismissal fee.

The motion was seconded by Donna Stolle. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

Continued on page 9

Old Business

Website and Policy Book Review

At the last Stated Session Meeting, Pastor Nadia asked the Session to provide any website or policy book revisions pertinent to each Chairperson's committee. It was determined that the Session needed additional time to prepare; thus, the item was tabled and will be presented at a future meeting.

Mission Statement

Related to policy revisions, Pastor Nadia indicated that since the Session approved a new mission statement for the church and it is part of the Articles of Incorporation, a corporation meeting would be needed to approve the new mission statement. It was determined that with proper congregational notice, the corporation meeting would be conducted on June 27, 2021. Donna Stolle made a motion to conduct the corporation meeting on June 27, 2021 for the stated purpose of approving the church's new mission statement. The motion was seconded by John Kopanski. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

**Update: Pastor Nadia emailed the Session on June 14, 2021 (about an hour after the Session Meeting was adjourned) to convey that after further review of the Articles of Incorporation, that the church's mission statement is not part of the Articles of Incorporation. Thus, the congregation does not have to vote to approve the new mission statement. Therefore, the motion to conduct a corporation meeting for said purpose is hereby revoked. However, Pastor Nadia informed the Session that it would be wise to inform the congregation about the church's new mission statement. Thus, Pastor Nadia will inform the congregation about the new mission statement during the worship service on June 20, 2021.*

Worship: Discussion on Meeting Space for Worship Services

The Session resumed discussion on worship space options. The discussion on this matter began at the Stated Session Meeting conducted on May 10, 2021. The worship space options previously discussed included the following:

- Continue worship in the Upper Fellowship Hall ("UFH").
- Resume worship in the Sanctuary.
- Combination of both spaces: conducting main worship in the UFH with video transmission to the sanctuary.

Pastor Nadia asked each Session member to share their thoughts and concerns regarding the matter. Many Session members conveyed that they received input from members of the congregation. As well, some Session members solicited input from congregants on their care list. After thoughtful deliberation, the Session did not reach a definitive determination on the worship space options. Therefore, Pastor Nadia informed the Session that there will be a called Session Meeting on June 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be dedicated to choosing a worship space option. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom video conference. This is because Pastor Nadia will be in Denver Colorado on study leave.

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

2021-26

*Due to the length of deliberation concerning the worship space, there were two items on the agenda which were tabled. Those items of business were: Request for ideas for Homecoming and celebration of centennial for the church.

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

CHURCH OFFICE



PPC Office phone number is:
919-894-4063.

If you have an emergency please call
the church during office hours:
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
or call an Elder.

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 or address 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.*



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

Reminder!



Deadlines for the Month:

Bulletin and Friday Reminder Deadline: Wednesdays, 12:00 pm
Monthly Newsletter: 23rd of the month, 1:00 pm

Available on the website:

Church Newsletter "Presbyterians At The Crossroads"
Sunday Worship Messages and other updates also on Facebook:
Providence Presbyterian Church at McGee's Crossroads, Inc.

Food Donation Ministries

Please bring your food donations for these worthy ministries
and place them in the blue bins located in the Upper
Fellowship Hall foyer.

Backpack Buddies Most Needed Items:

Individual serving/packets of 100% fruit juice
Fruit cups (applesauce, peaches, and pears)
Individual serving packets of oatmeal/grits
Soup, tuna, ravioli (Pop-Top Lids a Plus)
Granola bars

West Johnston High School Community Food Pantry Most Needed Items:

Canned fruits, vegetables, meats, and soups (Pop-Top Lids a Plus)
Whole grain pastas, brown rice, dried beans, cereal
Peanut butter and other nut butters
Sugar-free puddings
Hygiene products

Thank You For Your Support, Mission & Outreach Committee



Donation Option

Providence can accept donations
of stocks and other securities. To
make a donation or obtain more
information, please contact Ann
Benson, Collections Treasurer.

