

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

July 2021



From the Pastor's Study...

In It to Win It

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

- Jesus, John 17: 20

It was February on Lake Placid, NY when IT happened. The unexpected. Goliath vs. David. The Miracle on Ice. "The Soviet Union entered the Lake Placid games as the heavy favorite, having won four consecutive gold medals dating back to the [1964](#) games. In the four Olympics following their [1960](#) bronze-medal finish at [Squaw Valley](#), Soviet teams had gone 27-1-1 (wins-losses-ties) and outscored their opponents 175-44. In head-to-head matchups against the United States, the cumulative score over that period was 28-7. The Soviet team had not lost a game in Olympic play since [1968](#)." The US, on the other hand, had just one returning player from the previous Olympic team; the rest of the team consisted of hockey players from Boston University and University of Minnesota; rival schools. The average age was 21, making it the youngest hockey team in USA history, and in the 1980 Olympics. It's easy to understand why everyone in the world thought the Soviet Union would win their fifth consecutive gold.

That is, except Coach Herb Brooks. But he knew it would take two things: unity and hard work.

When the men started practicing together it didn't take long to figure out that the rivalry took precedence over winning the gold. "Who do you play for?" Coach Brooks asked. "University of Minnesota." "Boston University." The players responded. That was until they were defeated against a team they should have beaten. Running drills late into the night Coach Brooks asked again, "Who do you play for?" Finally, one of the players responded "United States of America." Coach Brooks dismissed the team to the lockers.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miracle_on_Ice#The_Soviet_and_American_teams Accessed: June 14, 2021

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Who do you play for?

It's easy for churches to get caught up in division during transitions, when leadership is in flux and everyone is trying to grasp onto some form of normalcy—especially when new “normals” are being formed. Chair-ites vs. Pew-ites. Praise music vs. hymns. Coffee in the sanctuary vs. no coffee. You get the picture. Division is Satan's game at keeping the church under his thumb and thwarting the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

So, who do *you* play for?

Jesus prayed to the Father before going to the cross that all disciples, not just those sleeping in the garden next to him, would be unified because unified churches cannot be broken by Satan. They cannot be stopped when the greater good of God's mission to the world, through the church, is greater than the desires of one person. As Coach Brooks says in the movie, “The name on the back of the uniform is not as important as the one on the front.” As Christians we are to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist who said, speaking of Jesus, “He must increase, I must decrease” if we want to see the success of our church and Providence to have a lasting future ministry in McGee's Crossroads.

But that takes hard work.

Upon reviewing video footage of the Soviet team playing Coach Brooks tells the team:

The Russian style of playing boys: fluid, creative, the forwards are constantly circling. They don't look so much for a man as a patch of ice. Get the mismatch. Two on one. Easy goal.... Their main weapon is intimidation. They know they are going to win and so do their opponents.....And everyone in this room knows what people are saying about our chances. I know it. You know it....But I also know there is a way to stay with this team. You don't defend them. You attack them! You take their game and you shove it back at them. The team who is willing to do this is the team who has a chance to put them down...The rest of the world is afraid of them. Boys, we won't be. No one has ever worked hard enough to skate with the Soviet team for an entire game. Gentlemen, we are going to work hard enough.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHdLVYW-vwo> Accessed: June 14, 2021

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

If the church wants to beat Satan at his own game of division, then the church must stand unified and work hard at maintaining unity. Satan wants to intimidate us and cause us to splinter and not do the hard work necessary to beat him. But when we do the hard work as individuals to embrace the Great Commission from Jesus not just as something that “the church does” but “something that I do” miracles happen. The hard work is done when we as congregation members do not lean on our own wants and needs but we lean into the Great Commission vision of making it possible for future generations to sit around Christ’s heavenly banquet table. The hard work comes when instead of instantly responding to a decision made, “I don’t like that and I won’t do it” to “I’m not sure I’m comfortable with this, but I’m willing to trust my fellow disciples and try it with them.” This is how we show Satan that we are not afraid of him and his team. This is how we beat Satan at his own game. To paraphrase Coach Brooks, “Brothers and sisters, we are going to work hard enough!”

Why?

Because I believe that you as a unified congregation have it in you. But you don’t have it alone; brothers and sisters hear me, you need each other for the hard work to pay off. You need unity in order to move into the next wave of transition with a new pastor which God will show to the PNC. You need to do the hard work in order to disciple yourselves and hold one another accountable to the mission and the vision of the church.

Do you want to see a miracle?

The USSR was a formidable enemy on ice. Goliath was bigger than David. Satan will attack the church that is taking his territory for God. Be the church that glorifies God; not itself. Stay unified and do the hard work together. Become a miracle.

To God be the glory,

Pastor Nadia Stropich

JULY SCHEDULES AND EVENTS

ACOLYTE

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

CHILDREN'S TALK

4 Nadia Stropich
11 Annah Creech
18 Kristy Stephenson
25 Kay Dry

ELDER OF THE MONTH

John Pickens

GREETERS

Session

SECURITY

Bob Stolle

USHERS

4 Vickie Faircloth, John Kopanski and
Tony Bryant
11 Steve Newnam, John Pickens, and
Pete Booth
18 Scott Martin, Donna Stolle, and
John Mott
25 David Collier, Pete Booth, and
Kent Walton

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

4 Miriam Lambert
11 Annah Creech
18 Kristy Stephenson
25 Kristy Stephenson

NURSERY

4 Ann Benson and Carolyn Johnson
11 Arline Mott and Phoebe Creech
18 Beth Pickens and Eva Stephenson
25 Eva Stephenson and Phoebe Creech

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 Crech
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



July Upcoming Events



- July 1 Fellowship Committee Meeting 11:00 am Choir Rm.
Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- July 4 Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am
Communion Sunday
Independence Day
- July 6 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- July 7 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 UFH
- July 8 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- July 9 PPC Secretary on vacation through July 16
- July 11 Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am
- July 12 Stated Session Meeting 7:00 pm
- July 13 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- July 14 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm UFH
- July 15 Fellowship Committee Meeting 11:00 am Choir Rm.
Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- July 18 Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am
Youth Leave for Mission Trip
- July 20 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- July 21 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm UFH
- July 22 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- July 23 July Newsletter Deadline
- July 25 Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am
- July 26 Mission & Outreach Comm. Mtg. 11:00 am
- July 27 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 10:00 am
- July 28 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm UFH
- July 29 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 10:00 am

Pastor

Rev. Nadia Stropich

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

Administrative Assistant

Cindy Lynch

Custodial

Elizabeth Stock

Music Director/ Organist/Pianist

Brittany Jones

Pianist

Angie Searcy



Accounting Treasurer

Sam Stephenson

Clerk

John Kopanski

Collections Treasurer

Ann Benson

Newsletter

Cindy Lynch

Sunday School Superintendent

Kristy Stephenson

Technical Support

Travis Jones, Sam & Wendy Stephenson

Website

David Nelms

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); **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, Nancy Lange**, (*John Mott*); **Teressa McChann** (*Bob Reed*); **Ken Parker**, (*John Mott*); **Bill Rice**, (*Carolyn Johnson*); **David Ryan**, (*John Pickens*); **Carol Sawyer**, (*Ray Sawyer*); **Abby Stanley**, (*John Pickens*); **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**, (*David and Pamela Collier*); **Worth Bowman, Junior Cassidy**, (*Eunice Newnam*); **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, Johnny Franzen**, (*Arline Mott*); **Ronda Fullenkamp**, (*Rick and Margie Taylor*); **David Guss**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Sue Hall**, (*Donna Stolle*); **Willie Hardison**, (*Carol*), **John Harris**, (*Andrea Jones*); **Brandi Hayes**, (*Vickie Faircloth*); **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; Mitch Sonderfan**, (*Doug Sonderfan*); **Stephen Southers, Ann K. Stephenson, Charles Tadlock**, (*Pam Collier*); **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 May 10, 2021**

Providence Presbyterian Church conducted a Stated Session Meeting on May 10, 2021 at 7:00pm at the church. The Elders present were: Vickie Faircloth, Kristy Stephenson, Donna Stolle, John Kopanski, Scott Martin, John Mott, John Pickens, Sam Stephenson, and Kent Walton. 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 John Kopanski.

Review of Minutes and Omnibus Committee Reports

The minutes of the April 12, 2021 Stated Session Meeting and omnibus committee reports were reviewed by the Session. Committees that have not met: Finance, Long-Range Planning, Personnel, Property, and Worship. An omnibus motion to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2021 Stated Session Meeting and omnibus committee reports was presented. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

Committee Motions

There were two committee motions presented as follows:

Motion from the Personnel Committee: Approve study leave for Pastor Nadia Stropich for June 21st through June 24, 2021. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

Motion from the Christian Education Committee: Resume Sunday School beginning June 7, 2021 utilizing the Standard Lesson Quarterly by David C. Cook for all Adult Sunday School Classes with the exception of the Nesselrodt Class. The Nesselrodt class will continue to use Explore Bible Series from Lifeway. Sam Stephenson commented that the proposed resumption of Sunday School beginning June 7, 2021 is on a Monday. Discussion conveyed that the intended resumption date for Sunday School is Sunday, June 6, 2021. Thus, Sam made a friendly amendment to the motion to revise the resumption of Sunday School beginning on June 6, 2021.

The Session voted and the amended motion was approved.

Financial Report

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

- Mortgage balance is \$625,451.05 and the Money Market Savings balance is \$85,969.01.
- Bank Checking Account balance is \$94,397.13
- Designated Fund book balance is \$79,047.13 and the General Fund book balance is \$7,859.71.

Development Fund Designated Fund Summary

Development Fund Balance through April 2021: **\$25,906.48**

Payment required in 2021: **(\$12,000.00)**

Matching Donation Balance through April 2021: **\$13,906.48**

Additional Matching Donation May 1st through May 9th 2021: **\$3,800.00**

Matching Donation Balance through May 9, 2021: **\$17,706.48**

Remaining Donation needed by August 1, 2021: **\$24,293.52**

Continued on page 8

2021-19

- Multi-year pledge donation CD of approximately \$8,000.00 and the Cemetery CD will mature May 24, 2021.
- Budgeted EPC member asking donations of approximately \$8,000 are budgeted.
- The Homecoming designated fund balance is \$28,017.60

Summary of Expenses and Receipts

General Fund Receipts
April 2021: \$17,669.45

General Fund Expenses
April 2021: \$25,126.59

Year to Date General Fund

Receipts: \$99,147.31

Expenses: \$97,787.05

Sam indicated that expenses for the month of April 2021 were about average. The General Fund monthly contributions continue to lack behind monthly expenses.

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

Commissioner's Report from Presbytery Meeting

Ruling Elders John Mott and Kent Walton provided the Session with their impressions and highlights of the Presbytery Meeting they attended via Zoom on April 24, 2021. They mentioned that the EPC is mission oriented and were impressed with the denomination's commitment to church planting. The Session Thanks John and Kent for their service as commissioners.

Old Business

Future Use of the Manse

Property Chairperson, John Mott, conveyed that the Property Committee has not advanced any additional options for the future use of the manse. Thus, discussion on the matter will be deferred at this time.

Cleaning Contractor

Personnel Chairperson, John Pickens, conveyed that the Personnel Committee was in contact with a prospective contractor for the purpose of cleaning the church. The contractor met the qualifications to conduct the scope of work; however, they did not want to file a 1099 form. The committee will investigate if there are other means for the contractor to report earnings. Meanwhile, the committee will continue to search for qualified cleaning contractors.

New Business

Elect Commissioners for General Assembly Meeting

Pastor Nadia informed the Session that the EPC General Assembly ("GA") will be conducting their annual meeting on June 22nd through June 25th 2021. The GA meeting will be held in Memphis, TN and will have on-site attendance as well as virtual participation. Pastor Nadia opened the floor for two Elders to volunteer as commissioners for the meeting. Being no volunteers at this meeting, Pastor Nadia indicated if an Elder felt lead to be a commissioner to let

her know. If an Elder does volunteer to be a commissioner, approval by the Session can be achieved via electronic voting.

Policy Book Review

Pastor Nadia asked the Session to review the policy book and submit any needed revisions to the her and the Clerk of Session. Any recommended revision will be reviewed and discussed at the next Session meeting.

Church Website Updates

Pastor Nadia asked that the Session review ministry information for their committees and update accordingly. Currently, some of the information is inaccurate (i.e., listing committee Chairperson that has rotated off of the Session). Pastor Nadia asked that website revisions be sent to her and the revisions will be reviewed and voted upon at the June Stated Session Meeting.

Session Prayer Time

The Session retreated from the choir room to the “Old Sanctuary” for prayer and reflection. Pastor Nadia began by reading scripture and opened the floor for Elders to express their thoughts and feelings about their worship experiences in the “Old Sanctuary”. Many joyful memories of worship and events in the sanctuary were revealed. As well, expressions of thankfulness for the multitude of blessings God has bestowed on Providence Church. As meeting space guidelines for COVID are becoming less restrictive, the Session discussed worship space options. The options included: Continue our worship in the current space (Upper Fellowship Hall), resume our worship in the “Old Sanctuary”, or perhaps a combination of both spaces with the assistance of video transmission. While each option has its merits, a definitive conclusion for our future worship space and the means of how that may be conducted was not determined.

The meeting was closed with each Elder praying for God’s guidance to discern His will for the Providence family.

Supplemental Minutes

The following information was conveyed to the Session by the Moderator, Pastor Nadia Stropich via email transmission. Subsequent actions by the Session were conducted via electronic discussion and voting.

*The following items of business are inclusive of the May 2021 Stated Session Meeting Minutes.

Item 1. Congregational Letter for Capital Campaign with regards to PC(USA) Dismissal Fee

Pastor Nadia Stropich constructed a congregational letter which included an FAQ section. The letter explained the process of matching donor contributions to surrender the dismissal fee owed to PC(USA). The letter was reviewed by the Chairpersons of the Long-Range Planning and Finance Committees. Their review rendered the following joint committee motion: The Capital Campaign Letter constructed by Pastor Nadia be approved for distribution to the congregation. Pastor Nadia sent the letter to the Session for review and comments. The Session provided some suggested edits which were incorporated into the letter. The Session voted on the motion to approve the amended Capital Campaign congregational correspondence and the motion passed.

*The letter will be mailed to each member via US Postal Service the week of May 10, 2021.

Item 2. Request to use “Old Sanctuary” for Merit Badge Ceremony

The Girl Scouts troop leader inquired with the M&O Chairperson to request the use of the “Old Sanctuary for the purpose of conducting a merit badge ceremony for the Girls Scouts. The request for use is on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. The M&O Chairperson made a motion to grant permission for the Girl Scouts to use the “Old Sanctuary” for the stated purpose on May 25, 2021. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

Item 3. Cleaning Contractor for the Church

After twenty (20) years of service, the current cleaning contractor is retiring at the end of May 2021. The Personnel Committee received a recommendation for a new cleaning contractor. The contractor was interviewed by John Pickens (Personnel Committee Chairperson) and Pastor Nadia Stropich. The contractor is an independent cleaning business and has had contracts with other churches with a similar scope of work. The contract specifications were reviewed with the contractor and they did not have any issues with implementation of the scope of work. The cleaning contract was revised to include additional scope of work which is the cleaning of the manse. The annual compensation for the contractor to conduct the scope of work per the terms of the contract will be \$20,500.00. Based on the interview, the Personnel Committee made a motion to hire Elizabeth Deer to conduct cleaning services for the church with an annual compensation of \$20,500.00. The Session voted and the motion to hire Elizabeth Deer was approved.

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

2021-22

Item 4. Basketball Court Gate

It was brought to the attention of the Session by a representative from our AA ministry partner that somebody drew graphic graffiti on the basketball court. The graffiti appeared to be conducted by juveniles. The images have been removed. Discussion regarding the matter was presented by the Property Chairperson (John Mott). John indicated that this incident brought light that the area is vulnerable to this type of activity. As well, the basketball court presents a liability issue for the church. Thus, John made a motion to keep the gate to the basketball court locked and only open it for church sponsored activities. This would preclude additional graffiti renderings and limit the potential church liability. Pastor Nadia asked the Session for any discussion and to vote on the motion. Several Elders responded with their thoughts and voted accordingly. However, there was a call from Kent Walton to discuss the issue in greater detail. Thus, Pastor Nadia informed the Session that the motion will be tabled and voting will cease. The matter will be added to the agenda for June 2021 Stated Session Meeting.

This concludes the supplemental minute entries.

CHURCH OFFICE



Pastor's Office Hours
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.

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: Wednesday, 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, 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.

