

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

June 2021



From the Pastor's Study...

Remembering our First Love

I've gotten to that age where I find that I'll walk into a room and forget why I came into the room in the first place. I'd like to blame the fact that I get stopped by one, if not all of my family in between the rooms—husband, daughter and dog—but that would be just passing the blame. The reality is that there's so much going on that I forget what I should be focused on.

Jesus told his disciples when he ascended into heaven that their focus should be on going and making "disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20) This means that we, as Christ followers, should be sharing the good news of Jesus, bringing people into the church family through baptisms and instructing them in the ways of the Lord. This is our personal mission field. But we are also called to support other Christians who have been called to other mission fields as the gospel message moves "to the very end of the age." However, sometimes we who are in the church can focus on one area only and feel like we have forgotten the other missional areas.

Therefore, I want to bring some good news to the congregation and a word of encouragement. At the Mission & Outreach Committee on Monday, May 24th there was exciting news shared regarding our mission giving: \$1,215 was received for Asaph and Lynn in Pakistan while an additional \$550 was received for Andrew and Norine Brunson. This is exciting news which should spur us into continued giving and mission work. The reality is that we cannot be everywhere to proclaim the gospel message, but praise God, we can support others who are where we cannot go. Because the reality is that while they are "over there" doing the ministry God has called them to be a part of, we can be "over here" doing our part in McGee's Crossroads. It's how God planned for his love to be spread to the very ends of the earth.

I raise the point of the generosity of the congregation because if we can give this kind of financial support to missions now, just think what we could do as a congregation after we pay off the PCUSA debt! That's \$12,000 per year that we could give to mission and outreach. It means that we could be part of the presbytery vision to plant 3-6 churches a year if every church gave \$1,000 a year. We could even consider adopting a child through World Vision, funding a Christian school in another country or building a sanctuary and letting a bi-lingual congregation use the smaller sanctuary on Saturday nights—the possibilities are endless.

Jesus told the church at Ephesus, "I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance....Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first." (Rev. 2:2, 4) Brothers and sisters, we don't want to pay off the debt to the PCUSA just so we can congratulate ourselves for saving money and paying off a debt. We want to pay off the debt so we can move further into the mission field of God's preferred future for us. We are a generous congregation and that is a gift from God. We want to honor that gift and the gift of our first love, Jesus, making sure that his name is proclaimed to the very ends of the earth.

Forever and ever, Amen!

Pastor Nadia Stropich

JUNE SCHEDULES AND EVENTS

ACOLYTE

6 Madeline Jones
 13 Madelyn Stropich
 20 Madelyn Stropich
 27 Meadow Creech

CHILDREN'S TALK

6 Nadia Stropich
 13 Doug Sonderfan
 20 Wendy Stephenson
 27 Annah Creech

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

6 Annah Creech
 13 Miriam Lambert
 20 Miriam Lambert
 27 Annah Creech

ELDER OF THE MONTH

Kristy Stephenson

NURSERY

6 Beth Pickens
 13 Lily Martin and Lilly Harrison
 20 Eva Stephenson and Phoebe Creech
 27 Debbie Sturgis and Allison Nelms

PRAYER TEAM

6 Vickie Faircloth
 13 Allison Nelms
 20 Barri Martin
 27 Vickie Faircloth

SECURITY

Wade Johnson

USHERS and GREETERS

John Kopanski, Steve Newnam and
 6 John Pickens
 Steve Newnam, Scott Martin and
 13 Pete Booth
 Donna Stolle, John Mott and
 20 Tony Bryant
 Pete Booth, Scott Martin, and
 27 Kevin Creech

Birthdays & Anniversaries



June Anniversaries

1 Bob and Donna Stolle
 9 Ray and Carol Sawyer
 13 Frank and Stephanie Whitley
 14 John and Kelly Daniel
 20 Chris and Kristy Stephenson
 22 Phil and Christy Cross
 Paul and Karen Sherrill
 24 Steve and Kelly Nordan
 Kent and Gwen Walton

June Birthdays

1 Daniel Stephenson
 4 Conner Reed
 5 Chance Ennis
 Connor Frickman
 6 Pam Nelms
 Riley Wood
 7 Wayne Ennis
 8 Don Dupree
 Charles Folkman
 9 Lisa Nelms
 11 Austin Benson
 13 Kay Dry
 16 Eric Smith
 17 Peggy Jones
 Patricia Poole
 18 Tripp Nordan
 23 Chase Faircloth
 24 Eric Faircloth
 25 Lauren Langdon
 26 Barri Martin
 27 Hamilton Green
 30 Pamela Collier



June Upcoming Events



- June 1 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
PPC Softball vs Fuquay UMC at Fuquay 8:30 pm
- June 2 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm UFH
- June 3 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
PPC Softball vs Pleasant Grove at Fuquay 6:30 pm
- June 4 PPC Blood Drive UFH 2:00 pm – 6:30 pm
- June 6 Sunday Worship Service
Communion Sunday
Help move chairs for the PPC Blood Drive
- June 7 Youth to Caswell
- June 8 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
PPC Softball vs Plymouth Church at Fuquay 7:30pm
- June 9 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 UFH
- June 10 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
PPC Softball Playoffs TBD
- June 12 Youth Return from Caswell
- June 13 Sunday Worship
Graduate Recognition Sunday
- June 14 Stated Session Meeting 7:00 pm
- June 15 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- June 16 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm UFH
- June 17 Fellowship Committee Meeting 11:00 am
Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- June 20 Sunday Worship
Father's Day
- June 22 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- June 23 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm UFH
Newsletter Deadline
- June 24 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am
- June 26 PPC VBS at 10:00 – 3:00 Hotdogs and Celebration
- June 27 Sunday Worship
- June 28 Mission & Outreach Comm. Mtg. 11:00 am
- June 29 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00
- June 30 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm UFH



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

Custodial
TBD

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



Pastoral nominating committee update:

Our church's CIF which the session worked so diligently on, was posted to the EPC website on May 4 of this year. Since that time, the committee of seven have received four resumes in the form of a **Pastoral Information Form (PIF)**. This is the form similar to a resume with broader detail on time, talents and personal reflection. The EPC ministerial committee indicated with the current conditions (Covid-19) they are unsure of the number of forms we would receive. But in most years 8-10 candidates would seem normal. Our committee had a zoom interview with one candidate and is in the process of reviewing the three other candidates information. As we continue to pray daily for the direction of the Holy Spirit to guide us in our journey we would like to thank you all for your prayers of guidance with this process as well. God is preparing someone to lead our future church and with our Faith and his guidance we will be successful.

Pastoral Nominating Committee

DC/cml/PPCS

CONGRATULATIONS 2021 GRADUATES!

"May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." Psalm 20:4

High School Graduate

Logan Creech

Mary Elaine Wood

College Graduates

Joshua Patrick Collier

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

Justin Wood

Associate of Science Degree

Congratulations to all of our graduates! May God continue to bless you!

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); **Karen**, (Don and Debbie Sturgis); **Nancy Lange**, (John Mott); **Terasha McChann** (Bob Reed); **Ken Parker**, (John Mott); **Bill Rice**, (Carolyn Johnson); **David Ryan**, (John Pickens); and **Abby Stanley**, (John Pickens); **Wayne Stephenson** (Sam Stephenson); **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, Katie Buck**, (John & Arline Mott); **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, Ronda Fullenkamp**, (Rick and Margie Taylor); **David Guss**, (Andrea Jones); **Sue Hall**, (Donna Stolle); **Willie Hardisen**, (Carol Sawyer); **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); **Brianna Langreder**, (John and Arline Mott); **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, Page Powers**, (Lamberts); **Caleb Reese**, (Andrea Jones); **Lycia Reese**, (Andrea Jones); **Becky Roberts, John Rogers; Mitch Sonderfan**, (Doug Sonderfan); **Stephen Southers, Ann K. Stephenson, Rob Stormes**, (John Mott); **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 April 12, 2021**

Providence Presbyterian Church conducted a Stated Session Meeting on April 12, 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 Donna Stolle.

Review of Minutes and Omnibus Reports

The minutes of the March 8, 2021 Stated Session Meeting, the minutes of the March 7, 2021 Congregational Meeting, and the omnibus reports which included Pastor Nominating Committee's reports were reviewed by the Session. Kent Walton made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2021 Stated Session Meeting, the minutes of the March 7, 2021 Congregational Meeting, and the omnibus reports.

The motion was seconded by John Kopanski. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

Financial Report

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

- Mortgage balance is \$630,549.49 and the Money Market Savings balance is \$85,968.30
- Bank Checking Account balance is \$92,392.55
- Stock donations were sold and proceeds of \$10,079.42 were placed in the General Fund.
- An annual pledge of \$4,600 was placed in the General Fund.
- An undesignated donation of \$5,000 was placed in the General Fund as a non-pledge donation.
- Through March 2021, the Development Fund designated fund balance was \$15,256.48. Thus far in April 2021, the church has received \$7,200 in donations for a current total of \$22,456.48 (total includes the annual required payment of \$12,000)
- Multi-year pledge donation CD of approximately \$8,000 will mature May 24, 2021. In addition, the Cemetery CD will also mature May 24, 2021.
- Budgeted EPC member asking donations of approximately \$8,000 are budgeted.
- Homecoming designated fund has a balance of \$28,095.70

Sam conveyed that expenses for March 2021 were a little higher due to increased utility usage.

Summary of Expenses and Receipts

**General Fund Receipts
March 2021: \$41,334.87**

**General Fund Expenses
March 2021: \$26,270.91**

Year to Date General Fund

Receipts: \$81,477.86

Expenses: \$72,660.46

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

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Motions from the Finance Committee as follows:

- **Motion:** Deposit the proceeds of the sale of Lowe's and IBM stocks in the amount of \$10,079.42 into a designated fund account.
- **Motion:** Deposit an undesignated donation in the amount of \$5,000 into a designated fund account.

With regards to both motions, Sam Stephenson presented amendments to the motions as follows: The total value of the stock proceeds (\$10,079.42) and the total value of the undesignated donation (\$5,000) be escrowed into the General Fund account. The use of these funds would be revaluated prior to August 1, 2021; if needed, the funds could be used to assist with the Capital Campaign to pay to off the PC(USA) dismissal fee.

The amendments to both motions were seconded by Scott Martin. The Session voted and the motions were approved.

- **Motion:** Any monies received for the Capital Campaign to payoff PC(USA) dismissal fee over \$42,000 would be applied to the principle of the mortgage payment. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

Old Business

Property

John Mott facilitated discussion with regards to options for use of the Manse. The Property Committee presented the following recommendations:

- Create a rental property
- Housing for Pastor
- Maintain as an "Outreach Building" for ministry partners
- Leave as is and preclude any use until Session decides what to do with the property. (ministry partner programs would be relocated to other church facilities)

John Kopanski made a motion to maintain the Manse as an "Outreach Building" for ministry partners and to keep the property in good general condition.

The motion was seconded by Vickie Faircloth. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

Church Information Form ("CIF")

On March 31, 2021, Pastor Nadia sent an email correspondence to the Session. The correspondence was to vote on a motion from the Pastor Nominating Committee ("PNC").

The rationale for the timing of the motion was to assist the PNC in finalizing the CIF for review at their scheduled April 6, 2021 committee meeting. The motion from the PNC committee was as follows:

Motion: Approve the Mission Statement as written and affirm the Vision Statement and Strategic Plan as working drafts only. A majority of Session members were able to respond and Six Elders (6) voted in favor of the motion and three (3) Elders abstained. The motion was approved on April 1, 2021. Thus, the motion approved the Mission Statement which will be included in the CIF as follows:

Mission Statement

Providence Presbyterian Church is an Evangelical Presbyterian Church. We are welcoming, nurturing church that shares Christ's Word through local outreach and global missions.

The motion approved the Vision Statement and Strategic Plan as working drafts only and will be included in the CIF as follows:

Vision Statement

Our Vision: To be 1) a more vibrant church with expanded ministries, praising our Savior Jesus Christ and sharing His Word, 2) an ever-growing, more diverse congregation, active in greater community outreach and global mission support, and 3) blessed with marked advancement in realizing a new sanctuary-a welcoming home for accommodating many more future church family members.

Strategic Plan

- *Develop small groups to fulfill the great commission (1. Expanded ministries)*
- *Christian daycare or mother's morning out program (1. Expanded ministries, plus 2. Active in greater community outreach)*
- *Increase membership within community specifically young families (2. More diverse congregation)*
- *Do more outreach work (2. Active in greater community outreach)*
- *Retire existing mortgage (3. Marked advancement in realizing a new sanctuary)*
- *Build a new sanctuary (3. Marked advancement in realizing)*

The numbered items in parentheses of Strategic Plan correlate to the numbers on the Vision Statement. Both the Vision Statement and Strategic Plan will undergo further review and development once a full-time Pastor has been called.

In addition, the PNC presented a motion (via email correspondence) to the Session to approve revisions the committee is recommending for the CIF. The Session reviewed the PNC's recommended revisions. Based on that review, Donna Stolle made the following recommendations:

- Have the CIF state as one of our desires for a "Pastor to be able to prepare effective messages for worship, other services and events."
- The CIF stated that we work with "Military and family support." Instead, we work with "Military Missions In Action" as well as "Toys for Tots."
- Stagecoach Manor Assisted Living and Nursing Home no longer exists and needs to be removed from the CIF. It needs to state that we visit Universal Assisted Living facility on a monthly basis (pre COVID schedule).

The Session voted on the motion from the PNC which includes the revisions to the CIF as presented by Donna Stolle. The motion was approved. Pastor Nadia will convey to the PNC committee that the Session approved the CIF with revisions as stated herein. It will also be conveyed to the PNC Chairperson, that the CIF can be submitted to the General Assembly for posting on their website.

New Business

Worship

Vickie Faircloth informed the Session that as more people are returning to church, several congregation members are inquiring when COVID protocol measures will be phased out.

In response, the committee believes it would be prudent to administer a tiered approach to normalizing church life to pre-COVID conditions. The following phased process towards that end was developed by the committee and is presented as a motion for approved implementation:

- **Step One:** Maintain social distancing and only require face masks while singing. The step would start on April 18, 2021 and go through May 30, 2021.
- **Step Two:** Decrease social distancing from six (6) feet to three (3) feet between chair configuration groupings in the worship area. Face masks would be worn during singing.
- **Step Three:** Maintain three (3) feet social distancing and face masks can be worn at the individual's discretion.
- **Step Four:** Eliminate social distancing once national COVID vaccination rate achieves seventy (70) to eighty (80) percent.

Each step would be evaluated in accordance with Federal, State, Local guidance, and on-site conditions with regards to determining if the next step would be implemented. Insofar as questions and discussion of returning to the sanctuary, this would be addressed once all four (4) abovementioned steps have been achieved.

The Session voiced one suggested revision to the committee's plan. That suggested revision was to begin Step One on April 25, 2021 instead of April 18, 2021. The rationale for this suggested revision is to provide adequate time to inform the congregation of the process. Being no objection, it was the consensus of the Session to start Step One on April 25, 2021. The Session voted on the committee's motion to approve the four (4) step process towards normalizing church life to pre-COVID conditions. Eight (8) Elders voted in favor of the motion and one (1) Elder voted against the motion. Thus, the motion was approved.

Personnel/Property

A motion was presented by the Personnel and Property Committees. The motion is as follows:

Motion: That a love offering be collected from the congregation for Ray and Jamone Johnston in honor of their faithfulness to Providence and God for twenty (20) years of custodial service.

John Mott amended the motion to start the love offering collection on April 18, 2021 and conclude the collection on May 23, 2021. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

Election of Commissioners for Presbytery Meeting

Pastor Nadia informed the Session that the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic would be conducting a Presbytery meeting on April 24, 2021 from 9:00am to 3:00pm via Zoom. She opened the floor for volunteers to be commissioners for the meeting. In response, Kent Walton and John Mott volunteered to be commissioners for the Presbytery meeting on April 24, 2021. John Kopanski made a motion to elect Kent Walton and John Mott as commissioners. Donna Stolle seconded the motion. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

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

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.

