

# PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church

May 2021



## From the Pastor's Study...

“Ready? Set. GO!”

Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today....The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

- Exodus 14:13

Last month I wrote that we would be starting our sermon series on “Transitions” on April 18<sup>th</sup>—then I looked at the calendar—I was three weeks off! Plans in transition are, well, transitional: sometimes they don't look like we were expecting or planned, but that doesn't mean that they are not in align with God's purpose and plan.

This was the case for the Hebrew community in Exodus. They had just celebrated the Passover meal and were told by Moses that it was time to move—get out of Egypt before Pharaoh changed his mind. They were almost ready to cross the Red Sea, and then it happened—horse hoofs. As they turned and looked they could see coming in the distance the dust cloud of the Egyptian army's chariots gaining on them. “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die?” (Exodus 14:11) The panicked people yelled at Moses. *Being chased by the Egyptian army was not part of our plan Moses! How are you going to fix this?!*

This is part of every transition, okay maybe not the Egyptian army, but a crisis point when it looks like everything is going south. The contract at work fell through and you have to start again. The college that you planned to go to can't provide the scholarship you were told you would receive. The test results came back and they weren't what you wanted. Crises are part of the process of growth, for individuals and faith communities. How we handle them dictates how we will either grow or stall. The crisis has to be dealt with if we are to move forward, but that doesn't mean that it has to overtake us.

Moses counseled the people to not to let the crisis overwhelm them. Sometimes we need to not focus on the dust clouds behind us as much as we need to focus on the pillar of clouds and fire before us. See, God was guiding the people by a pillar of clouds during the day and a pillar of fire at night. The people needed to focus not on the past but on the One who was leading them into the future. “Stand firm.” Moses counsels, “The Lord will fight for you.”

As we go through the transitional process of paying off the PCUSA and moving towards installing the pastor of God's calling, let us not focus on the army behind us but on the God in front of us. We need to stand firm in the knowledge that God has our best interest in mind. Yes, that means that it probably will not look like we had planned. Yes, it may mean that we will feel the Enemy creeping up from behind, but the pillar of God stands before us. The Crisis does not define us. God does. Now, let's cross the Red Sea.

To God be the glory!

-Pastor Nadia

# MAY SCHEDULES AND EVENTS

## ACOLYTE

2 Madeline Jones  
 9 William Stephenson  
 16 Meadow Creech  
 23 William Stephenson  
 30 William Stephenson

## CHILDREN'S TALK

2 Nadia Stropich  
 9 Kristy Stephenson  
 16 Wendy Stephenson  
 23 Kay Dry  
 30 Doug Souderfan

## ELDER OF THE MONTH

Vickie Faircloth

## GREETERS

Session

## SECURITY

Kent Walton

## USHERS

2 John Mott, Jeff Wood and  
 Eric Faircloth  
 9 Kent Walton, Justin Wood and  
 Donna Stolle  
 16 John Mott, John Kopanski and  
 Kevin Creech  
 23 Vickie Faircloth, Justin Wood and  
 John Mott  
 30 Donna Stolle, Steve Newnam and  
 Eric Faircloth

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

2 Miriam Lambert  
 9 Kristy Stephenson  
 16 Annah Creech  
 23 Kristy Stephenson  
 30 Kristy Stephenson

## NURSERY

2 Riley Wood/Mary Wood  
 9 Eva Stephenson/Phoebe Creech  
 16 Arline Mott/Phoebe Creech  
 23 Ann Benson/Eva Stephenson  
 30 Beth Pickens

## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*



## May Anniversaries

4 Wayne and Laura Langdon  
 5 Ryan and Allison Nelms  
 13 Jimmy and Carolyn Stuart  
 14 Sam and Wendy Stephenson  
 19 Wade and Carolyn Johnson  
 21 Andy and Sheila Dupree  
 25 Mark and Pam Nelms

## May Birthdays

1 Madeline Jones  
 5 Mady Ennis  
 Parker Smith  
 6 Shepherd Byrd  
 7 Todd Frickman  
 8 Will Dupree  
 10 Cathy Simmons  
 12 Kolton Crocker  
 Ron Forren  
 Kelly Nordan  
 19 Madelyn Stropich  
 23 Annah Creech  
 24 Heather Langdon  
 26 Christina Jones  
 Ryan Nelms  
 27 Greg Kornegay  
 28 Worth Bowman  
 Ronnie Creech  
 Brittany Jones  
 30 Christiane Wright



## May Upcoming Events



- May 2 Sunday Worship Service  
Communion Sunday  
Youth Meet LFH 6:00 pm
- May 4 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am  
PPC Softball vs Plymouth Church at Fuquay 7:30 pm
- May 5 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 UFH
- May 6 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am  
PPC Softball vs Hollands UMC at Fuquay, 6:30 pm
- May 9 Sunday Worship  
Mother's Day
- May 10 Stated Session Meeting 7:00 pm
- May 11 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am  
PPC Softball vs Fairview Baptist at Fuquay 7:30 pm
- May 12 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm UFH
- May 13 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am  
PPC Softball vs Fuquay UMC at Fuquay 8:30 pm
- May 15 Youth Camping Trip
- May 16 Sunday Worship  
Youth Return from Camping Trip
- May 18 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am  
PPC Softball vs Pleasant Grove at Fuquay 6:30 pm
- May 19 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm UFH
- May 20 Fellowship Committee Mtg., 11:00 am  
Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 11:00 am  
PPC Softball vs Plymouth Church at Fuquay 7:30 pm
- May 21 June Newsletter Deadline
- May 23 Sunday Worship  
Youth Meet LFH 6:00 pm
- May 24 Mission & Outreach Comm. Mtg. 11:00 am
- May 25 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 10:00 am  
PPC Softball vs Hollands UMC at Fuquay 6:30 pm
- May 26 Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm UFH
- May 27 Fellowship & Fitness Walking Group 10:00 am  
PPC Softball vs Fairview Baptist at Fuquay 7:30 pm
- May 30 Sunday Worship  
Youth Meet LFH 6:00 pm
- May 31 Memorial Day  
PPC Office Closed

## **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*

Ray and Jamone Johnson

### *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 Announcement

The Pastoral Nominating Committee sent the Session approved CIF to the EPC for posting on the ministerial opportunities; therefore we will be receiving applications for the permanent Pastor position.

As this process continues to evolve, the committee will provide monthly updates to the Congregation.

We ask that you pray for our committee in this discernment.

DC/cml/PPCS

## Blood Drive June 4



**American Red Cross**

On **June 4th**, Providence Presbyterian Church will be **holding a Red Cross blood drive from 2 pm until 6:30 pm**. In the summertime, there are not as many volunteers to give blood; you never know whose life you may save. Early appointments go quickly so call Margie Taylor at 919-522-6068 or contact her at [margieataylor@aol.com](mailto:margieataylor@aol.com) or go on the Red Cross website and make an appointment.



## VBS June 26

**All aboard!! Calling all children ages 3 - 5th grade to jump on board this year's VBS Rocky Railway.** VBS will be held Saturday, June 26th from 10:00 - 3:00, with a hot dog celebration at 3:00. Pre-Register online at [providencepresb.org](http://providencepresb.org) or complete the bulletin insert.

**VBS Volunteers Needed:** VBS is a one day, Saturday, June 26 - 10:00 - 3:00 event. We will need lots of help to make it a success. See insert - please be in prayer for how you can contribute to this ministry. Kristy Stephenson – [kstep74@gmail.com](mailto:kstep74@gmail.com)

## 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, Joanne Boyle, (Bob Zattiero); Lisa Bradshaw, Dede Bumgarner, (Brittany Davidson); Frank Camarda, (Nicole Hughes); Paula Coates, (Ann Benson); Ann Hargis, Jamie Harris, (Andrea Jones); Robert Holding, Nancy Hults, (Carolyn Stevenson); John Husuley, (Carolyn Johnson); Karen, (Don and Debbie Sturgis); Nancy Lange, (John Mott); Teresha McChann (Bob Reed); Ken Parker, (John Mott); Bill Rice, (Carolyn Johnson); David Ryan, (John Pickens); Tammy Sullivan, (Frank Hughes); and Abby Stanley, (John Pickens).**

### **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); 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); Willie Hardisen, (Carol Sawyer); John Harris, (Andrea Jones); Brian Johnson, (Don Dupree); Harley Kremer, (Andrea Jones); Derusha Langdon (Kevin Creech); Brianna Langreder, (John and Arline Mott); Bill Massey, (Niece of 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, Wayne Stephenson and Debbie Jernigan, (Sam Stephenson); Rob Stormes, (John Mott); Debbie Sturgis, Charles Tadlock, (Pam Collier); Austin Williamson, (Carolyn Johnson)**

### **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 March 8, 2021**

Providence Presbyterian Church conducted a Stated Session Meeting on March 8, 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. Guests in attendance via video conference were Bill and Monica Jackson. Pastor Nadia declared that a quorum was present and opened the meeting with prayer. The devotional was presented by Scott Martin. The devotional consisted of each Elder voicing prayer requests and having those requests prayed over by each Elder.

**Examination of New Member Candidates**

Pastor Nadia introduced new church member candidates, Bill and Monica Jackson. Bill and Monica participated in the meeting via video conference. They shared testimonials of their faith journeys. Thereafter, Bill and Monica were briefly excused from the meeting. The floor was open for discussion, which resulted in a motion from John Mott to accept Bill and Monica Jackson into the membership of Providence Presbyterian Church. The motion was seconded by Kent Walton. The Session voted and the motion was unanimously approved. Bill and Monica rejoined the meeting and were informed that they are officially members of Providence Presbyterian Church. After welcoming remarks, Bill and Monica excused themselves from the meeting.

**Review of Minutes and Omnibus Reports**

The minutes of the February 8, 2021 Stated Session Meeting, the minutes of the Corporation Meeting conducted on February 21, 2021, and the omnibus reports were reviewed by the Session. As well, the following committee recommendations were reviewed and presented for approval:

- **Fellowship Committee:** Approve the Facilities Use Agreement.
- **Personnel Committee:** Approve Pastor Nadia Stropich's request for vacation time April 5th through April 10<sup>th</sup> 2021.
- **Property Committee:** Approve Property Committee to offer the auxiliary wall mount fire extinguishers to the congregation in exchange for donations. The donations would be used to purchase new fire extinguishers. \*The fire extinguishers are viable for residential use; however, they do not meet code for commercial building applications.

Scott Martin made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021 Stated Session Meeting, the minutes of the Corporation Meeting conducted February 21, 2021, the omnibus reports, and the recommendations from the Fellowship, Personnel, and Property Committees.

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

**Financial Report**

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

- Mortgage balance is \$635,821.00 and the Money Market Savings balance is \$85,967.57.
- Designated Fund book balance is \$65,909.51 and General Fund book balance is \$252.89.

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- Development Fund designated fund balance is \$13,956.48
- Transferred \$1,000 from Homecoming designated fund to General Fund
- Previous donation of fifty (50) shares of Lowe's stock decreased in value to around \$7,987.00.  
Previous donation of ten (10) shares of IBM stock decreased in value to around \$1,189.
- Expenses for the month of February exceed receipts in the amount of \$167.00

### Summary of Expenses and Receipts

**General Fund Receipts**  
**February 2021: \$23,047.99**

**General Fund Expenses**  
**February 2021: \$23,215.59**

#### **Year to Date General Fund**

**Expenses: \$46,389.55**

**Expense to Receipts Variance: (\$6,246.56)**

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

### Stock Holdings

Sam indicated that the church generally does not hold on to stock donations. As mentioned, the values for the Lowe's and IBM donated stocks have decreased. Thus, Sam made a motion that all of the stock shares for Lowe's and IBM be monetized with the proceeds deposited in the General Fund. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

### Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the following:

- The 2020 EPC Annual Church Report was submitted by the due date of February 28, 2021.
- It was conveyed that the Narcotics Anonymous ("NA") ministry was previously approved to meet in the manse twice per week. They were approved to meet on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Due to changes in the ministry's group dynamics, the NA representative is requesting to revise their meeting schedule. They would like to change the Saturday meeting to Monday nights (7:30-8:30). Since there are not any scheduling conflicts with other ministries, it is the consensus of the Session to approve the request.

Thus, the NA ministry will conduct their meetings on Monday and Wednesday nights.

### Old Business

#### **Church Information Form ("CIF") Mission Statement**

**Current Mission Statement:** "To disciple others in Christ by sharing the gospel through our words and actions, To nurture existing Christians into a mature faith by worship, fellowship and Christian education, To prayerfully serve God by worshiping Him through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, And to serve our neighbors as Jesus taught us".

**Possible Mission Statements that were crafted at Session Retreat in December of 2020:**

- A.** To be an outward focused church that brings (non-believers/unbelievers) to Christ by (serving/supporting) our community through missions and (sharing/spreading) the Gospel globally.
- B.** To be an outward focused church that brings non-believers to Christ by serving our communities through mission and sharing the Gospel globally. Bring-Serve-Share.
- C.** To be an outward focused church that brings non-believers to Christ by serving our communities through missions and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ globally. Bring-Serve-Share.

**At the Session Retreat conducted on January 9, 2021, the following was crafted:**

*Providence Presbyterian Church is an Evangelical Presbyterian Church. We are a Welcoming nurturing church that will share Christ's Word through local outreach and global missions.*

There seems to be some ambiguity as to whether the statement crafted at the Session Retreat on January 9, 2021 represents a vision or mission statement. Further clarification is needed; thus, no conclusions were established at this meeting with regards to designating a new mission statement.

**New Business**

**Donor Gift Proposal for PC(USA) Payoff**

Donna Stolle informed the Session that she was contacted by a church member with a gift proposal to assist with surrendering the PC(USA) dismissal fee. She indicated that the church member wishes to remain anonymous. The proposal would be enacted as follows:

- The remaining dismissal fee due to the PC(USA) to date is \$96,000.00
- The church's development fund has enough funding to reduce the dismissal fee balance to \$84,000.00.
- The donor's proposal is to provide funding to pay for half of the \$84,000.00 (\$42,000.00) leaving a balance of \$42,000.00 which would be provided by the church. The proposal has one stipulation as follows: The gift would be enacted if the church can match the donor's offer of \$42,000.00 by August 1, 2021.

Discussion rendered possible funding sources to assist towards securing the \$42,000.00, which included proceeds from stock sales and undesignated memorial gifts. Once available resources have been approved, the Session can provide a definitive balance to the congregation.

In response to the proposal, John Mott made a motion to accept the donor's offer. In addition, begin a capital campaign to solicit donations to assist with paying off the PC(USA) dismissal fee. The motion was seconded by Kent Walton. The Session voted and the motion was approved.

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The logistics of identifying possible funding sources and developing a capital campaign strategy, will be a collaborative effort involving the Finance and Long-Range Committees and the Pastor. Once accomplished, they will provide recommendations to the Session for approval.

### **Manse Assessment**

John Mott conveyed the following information regarding the Manse:

- John indicated that he toured the Manse with a general contractor. It was determined that the structural integrity of the building is sound.
- The exterior of the building is considered to be in good shape.
- The roof shingles are nearing the end of their life expectancy and replacement is recommended in the near future.

Going forward, the Property Committee offered several options regarding use of the manse. The options are as follows and detailed in the Property Committee's Report:

- Transform into a rental property.
- Rehabilitate for Pastor's residence.
- Maintain current status as a facility for ministry outreach programs.
- Leave the building in its current state and preclude any use until the Session determines a viable rehabilitation strategy.

Upon conclusion of discussing the matter, it was decided that a viable first step towards rehabilitation is to have a manse clean-up day. The Property Committee will handle the logistics and present a date for the endeavor.

### **Information for the Session**

Pastor Nadia informed the Session that training for the Pastor Search Committee will be conducted at the church on Saturday, March 20, 2021 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The training will be presented by a member of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic's Ministerial Committee.

Pastor Nadia encouraged Session members to attend.

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**

## 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.



## Reminder!



### Deadlines for the Month:

Bulletin and Friday Reminder Deadline: Wednesday, 12:00 pm  
Monthly Newsletter: 23<sup>rd</sup> 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**

