

# Presbyterians at the Crossroads

## April 2004

Providence Presbyterian Church

[www.providencepresb.org](http://www.providencepresb.org)

Rev. C. Mark Scott

### Minister's Minutes

Timothy Merrill writes "...Now, as they watched and listened to this charismatic and prophetic figure, they waited 'expectantly' and they 'wondered in their hearts'. John the Baptist raised their expectations, their hopes. He led them to believe that a new era was about to be ushered in. They dared to think – they dared to believe – that he might, just might, be...the hope of Israel.

Of course, John set them straight. He was not the One, but he could point them to the One with new ideas, and His program would be so revolutionary, so radical that He would not survive.

But the world would never be the same."

After seeing the movie *The Passion of the Christ*, I felt I'd never be the same – crucifixion and the scourging before it would always hold me spellbound; impressed to the heart by the depth of Jesus' suffering. The power of evil assembled against Him in His physical weakness and vulnerability, and the amazement of God's Grace – that the cross covers my sin. How could it not cover all sin for all time...if we but cling to it?

Let's make Holy Week a special time in our church. Pray for each service (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday Communion, Good Friday Tenebrae, Easter Sunrise, and Easter Sunday at 11:00 a.m.) Attend as many as you can. Fast with your praying – maybe just eat less or miss a meal intentionally to remind yourself of His great love. However you choose to do it "cling to the old rugged cross" for in it lies your salvation.....and mine.

Mark

### Benefit for Cleveland McGee's Ministries

The Men of our Church had a successful project on March 27 from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. They sponsored a BBQ Chicken Benefit Supper for Cleveland McGee's Ministries, which ministers to needy families in our area with food, household items, and some financial help in time of crisis. Jim and Ana Childers are the directors, and Friendly Chapel is one of the food pantry sites in our area.

We thank all of the men who helped make this Benefit a success, especially Nathan Dry, Tom Nelms, and Paul Stephenson who did a great job organizing it. \$780 was raised for Cleveland McGee's Ministries, and 225 pounds of canned goods were collected.

### Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 4 at 11:00 a.m., will begin with the children proceeding into the sanctuary carrying palm branches, as the congregation sings *All Glory, Laud and Honor*. A Lenten monologue will be given.

Maundy Thursday Communion, April 8 at 7:30 p.m., will be a communion service remembering Jesus' last supper with His disciples in the upper room. The choir will sing *O Come and Mourn*, accompanied by Kathy Wood on the flute.

Good Friday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. will be our first Tenebrae Service. Tenebrae is Latin for "shadow". The service is somber. Scriptures are read and reflections are read focusing on the day of Jesus' crucifixion. Fourteen lit candles are methodically extinguished one by one as the readings move towards Jesus' final words from the cross and His death. The service will begin with the hymn *Were you There when They Crucified My Lord?*, and will conclude in silence recalling the darkness and awe of that day. This service will last approximately 45 minutes.

### Easter Services

Sunrise Service will be held on Easter Sunday, April 11 at 6:30 a.m. near the Providence Cemetery. The Providence Trio will sing. Pleasant Grove Baptist Church will join us, and their pastor Rev. Steve Morris will lead the service, along with Rev. Mark Scott. Following this service, there will be a time of food and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Sunday at 11:00 a.m. will be our traditional service with the Children's Choir and the Adult Choir singing. White flowers will be given out at the close of the service to plant on the cross outside on the front lawn in reverence to our Risen Lord. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken up during this service to help alleviate hunger in our world. Also, all the Biblical characters who were our Voices of Lent will regather as a group to light the Easter Wreath in celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We greatly appreciate those who have given our Lenten Meditations in the past 6 weeks, and we thank God for each of them as they have offered us a new way to come into God's presence in worship:

Simon Peter, the disciple	Atlee Roberts
Dora, the Woman at the Well	Ann Benson
Mara, the Woman who washed Jesus' feet	Carolyn Stevenson
Nicodemus, the Pharisee	Charlie Porter
Stephanus, the Rich Young Ruler	Mark Nelms
Judith, the Servant Girl at Caiaphas' House	DeEtta Wood

## Somebunny Loves You – God and Me! Mission Project

As a way to show compassion and share God's love and His blessings to us, the congregation, particularly children, is encouraged to select and purchase a new stuffed bunny or lamb for distribution to patients in the pediatric departments of area hospitals. You may place your donated bunny or lamb in the donation box located in the Fellowship Hall. During worship service on April 4, the bunnies and lambs will be collected. The stuffed bunnies and lambs will be distributed to the children on Easter morning. If you have any questions, please contact Allison Tart or Jeffrey Wood. (Please do not remove store or material content bags from the stuffed friends.)

## Easter Celebrations – Christ is Risen, so we're really Celebrating!!!

We will have THREE different Easter Celebrations this year for the various age groups. On Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Middle and High School youth groups will meet at the church from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be provided. On Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade youth group will meet in the Fellowship Hall from 12 noon until 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Also on April 10<sup>th</sup>, from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. nursery ages through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Snacks will be provided. These celebrations will include the Easter story, crafts, games, and fellowship. Please join in on the fun with your age group!

Volunteers are needed to assist with each age-specific event. Please contact Allison Tart, 894.7369, to sign up for times to help. Thank you!

## Youth Sponsored Pancake Supper

On Saturday, April 24, the Providence youth groups will have a Pancake Supper to raise money for their upcoming projects and activities. Please mark your calendars to attend this supper from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for always supporting our youth!

## Proctors Needed

McGee's Crossroads Middle School needs volunteers to serve as proctors for End of Grade testing on May 11-13 from 7:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Breakfast will be provided. If you can volunteer for any of these days, please contact Amanda Dismukes or Rebekah Cole at 894.6003.

## Christian Sympathy

Mr. Garland Sherrill died on February 26, 2004, after a long stay at Rex Hospital suffering from the effects of a stroke. His family thanks the congregation for their prayers and kindness during his hospitalization and death.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints:" Psalms 116:15

## Prayer Vigil

Instead of having our traditional prayer vigil in March, we will have it on the National Day of Prayer, May 5-6 beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5, and ending on Thursday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m. The congregation is invited to turn in prayer requests. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Fellowship Hall in advance of the Prayer Vigil, so that you can volunteer your time in prayer. Each volunteer will be given a devotional prayer guide with Scriptures to read, and inspirational writings to read, along with a list of prayer needs that have been submitted by the congregation. You are invited to pray in your home or in the sanctuary.

".....But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. There your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:6-7.

## What's Happening with Cub Scout Pack 210?

The Cub Scouts of Providence have had an exciting February and March. The theme for February was Fiesta! We made lots of Mexican musical instruments, foods, ponchos, cacti, and piñatas! At our Pack meeting, we really had a Fiesta making tacos, chips and salsa. Each of the scout's families enjoyed a fun evening of food, fellowship and doing the Mexican Hat Dance! Also, the Tiger Cubs were awarded their first Scout Badge. The Tiger Cubs who received these badges were: Michael Brown, Danny Cagle, Joshua Collier, Hunter Godwin, Tommy Howard, Adam Shelp, and Andrew Stephenson. Congratulations Tigers, and their parents, for doing a fantastic job! Austin James, of the Wolves, was awarded his Bobcat badge, which is the second rank for scouts. The scouts and their families also enjoyed a real Mexican meal, at a local Mexican restaurant.

The theme for March was *Walk in my Shoes*, where we learned to become more aware of other people's feelings, and how we can help them. In April, we start the study of Cubservation, so if you see us out cleaning the yards at church or elsewhere just stop by and help. If you have any questions regarding the Cub Scouts or our events, please contact Kay Dry at 639.9784. ADIOS!

## Senior Citizens Luncheon

The Senior Citizens Committee, sponsored by the Providence Presbyterian Women, had a wonderful spring luncheon on Tuesday, March 2 in the Fellowship Hall. Approximately 45 people enjoyed a meal of ham, green beans, salads, sweet potatoes, and desserts. Attendees with birthdays during March, April or May were recognized with gifts, and everyone received a decorative flowerpot with a pansy in it to celebrate the coming of spring! We were blessed to hear gospel music by the Hickory Grove Quartet, which was enjoyed by everyone. Our next luncheon will be Tuesday, June 8, please plan to join us!

## Green Day

Prior to Sunday School on March 14, members enjoyed a delightful and festive celebration of "Green Day" or St. Patrick's Day, which included a delicious breakfast of sausage and ham biscuits, and a variety of fruit and homemade jams and jellies. To participate, members wore their favorite green clothing. We learned some interesting tidbits about St. Patrick and the shamrock. Who was St. Patrick? A saint of God who helped people know Jesus, from England to Ireland. He started mission churches and baptized thousands. What is significant about the shamrock? The shamrock represents the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – three persons, yet one stalk that represents God. Thank you to all who made this an exciting, fun-filled event.

Excerpt from *Full Prayer of St. Patrick*: "...I arise today through God's strength to pilot me, God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me, God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me, God's way to lie before me..."

## Long-Range Finance Committee

Our Long-Range Finance Committee has been re-organized, and its members approved by the Session. The members are: Ann Benson, Kay Dry, Nathan Dry, Nell Franke, Andrea Jones, Sandra Lordi, Beck McLamb, Steve Nordan, Gary Phillips, Mark Scott, and Russell Wood.

The Building Committee has completed its work with the architect and has cost estimates from the builder. We thank the Building Committee: Randy Benson, Nathan Dry, John Pickens, Tom Nelms, Kelly Nordan, Steve Nordan, Paul Sherrill, Robbie Wood, and Russell Wood (Chair), for their hard work and time in gathering this information.

The Long Range Finance Committee will search for a Capital Funds Drive Consultant, and then present its plans to the Session and to the Congregation. We thank Tim Parrish, and the previous Long Range Finance Committee for all the work they did prior to our new Committee's foundation.

## Church Growth

Have you been to church lately and sat beside someone you haven't seen before? Have you noticed that most Sundays we have to open the side doors to make room for everyone to sit down? Did you know that in 2003 Providence Presbyterian Church grew by 25% in membership? Isn't it such a wonderful feeling to see all the new faces, and realize how God is working in our church? Be in prayer for our Pastor, the Session, and all of the committees and organizations within our church, as they work and minister to the needs of the congregation and our community!

## Exciting things are happening at Pioneer Clubs!

This past month has been an exciting one for Pioneer Clubs. We have averaged 32 club members at each meeting, and the food and fellowship have been fantastic. Once more we thank all the adults that have helped make Pioneer Clubs a successful ministry for our church and community. We are currently working on a mission project called "Somebunny Loves You – God and Me! Each club member will bring in a new stuffed bunny or lamb for distribution to pediatric wards in area hospitals on Easter Sunday. The individual club that contributes the most to this project will receive a special surprise. We encourage the congregation to contribute to this project as well. Please place your donated bunnies or lambs in the collection box in the Fellowship Hall. The collection date will be Sunday, April 4. If you have any questions, please contact Allison Tart.

At our next meeting on April 4, Palm Sunday, we will have a special time of fellowship during our meal. The meal will consist of pork tenderloin, creamed potatoes, corn, green beans, rolls, hot dogs, and dessert. We welcome you to join us. If you have any questions regarding Pioneer Clubs, please contact Kathy Wood at 639.8399.

## Presbyterian Women Update

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Chicken Pastry Supper on March 6. Over \$800 was raised that will be used towards the Presbyterian Women's ministry in the church and in the community.

On Thursday, March 11, the Presbyterian Women enjoyed an evening out to Ron's Barn. 20 Presbyterian Women had a delicious meal, and were entertained by *The Second Edition Quartet*. The Presbyterian Women Evening Circle will meet again on Tuesday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for our regular monthly meeting. At this meeting we will be making Easter Baskets for shut-ins within our church and community. If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving one of these baskets, please notify Lisa Nelms by Sunday, April 11. The Presbyterian Women Daytime Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and will deliver the baskets.

The women are planning our Annual Beach Retreat for May 14-16, 2004 at Carolina Beach. If you are planning to attend, please notify Lisa Nelms by Sunday, April 11.

## Relay for Life

The Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Relay for Life team will hold fundraisers for the American Cancer Society in their Fellowship Hall on April 17 and May 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. They will be selling hot dogs and other items. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Miller at 639.4972 or Linda Wilkins at 207.0961.

## April Schedules

### Nursery Keepers

4	Darren and Joan Stuart
11	Gary and Georgeanna Phillips
18	Kent and Gwen Walton
25	Richard and Andrea Jones

### Nursery Floaters

4	Andrea Jones
11	Pam Nelms
18	DeEtta Wood
25	Gary Phillips

### Ushers

4	Dick Embrey and Hamilton Greene
11	Randy Benson and Richard Jones
18	Nathan Dry and John Kopanski
25	Mark Nelms and Jimmy Stuart

### Acolyte

4	Hannah Stephenson
11	Emily Langdon
18	Megan Sherrill
25	Austin Benson

### Bell Ringer

4	Courtney Walton
11	Joseph Phillips
18	Will Langdon
25	Haley Jones

### Children's Sermon

4	Darren Stuart
18	Kay Dry

### Children's Church

4	Jim and Lisa Ingram
11	Mary and Lauren Langdon
18	Nancy Nelms and Carolyn Stuart
25	Laura and Stephanie McLamb

### Prayer List

Don Bullard, Annie Ruth Byrd, B.J. Clifton, Lovie Dorman, Jim Duncan, Mabel Ennis, Patricia Evans, Ann Marie Faggenbaum, Kathy Henry, Bill Howard, Barbara Jackson, Jeff Jackson, Mary Long, Marshall Manns, Gloria McLamb, Woody Mitchell, Debbie Parrish, Judy Parsons, Lou Ann Pleasant, Becky Roberts, Danny Mac Sauls, Pat Sealey, Kathy Stephenson, Jaime Sorenson, Ray Williford, and Ken Wiseheart,. Serving in the Armed Forces: Stephen Barbour, Jason Barrett, Wayne Embrey, Calvin Erickson, David Ginn, Joshua Langdon, and Glen Parker.

## April Birthdays

♪♪♪ Happy Birthday to..... ♪♪♪

3	Carlos Bagley John Pickens
9	Peggy Barnhill
10	Sharon Stephenson
14	Brack Johnson Jon Nooney
19	Will Langdon Taylor Parrish Bob Zatteiro
22	Lacy Johnson Norma Parsons
23	Joan Stuart
24	Leon Parrish
25	Meredith Tart
27	Lou Penny
28	Evelyn Penny

### Upcoming Events

- April 2 Cub Camporee for Cub Scout Pack 210; going to Camp Tuscarora April 2-4
- April 4 Collection of stuffed bunnies and lambs for Somebunny loves you – God and Me! mission project
- April 4 Pioneer Clubs meet at 5:00 p.m.
- April 5 Stated Session Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- April 8 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30 p.m.
- April 9 Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m.
- April 9 Easter Celebration for Middle and High School youth groups from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- April 10 Easter Celebration for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade youth group from 12 noon – 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- April 10 Easter Celebration for Nursery ages – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- April 11 Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.
- April 18 Pioneer Clubs meet at 5:00 p.m.
- April 20 Presbyterian Women Evening Circle meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be making Easter baskets for shut-ins within the community.
- April 21 Presbyterian Women Daytime Circle meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Will deliver Easter Baskets.
- April 24 Youth sponsored Pancake Supper at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- April 25 Men's Fellowship Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

### And the Winner is.....

Ryan Nelms, and the West Johnston High School baseball team played a tough game against Nash Central on Friday, March 26. The Wildcats won 11-1. Their next home game will be Tuesday, April 20 at 4:00 p.m. against Clayton. Great game Ryan!

Stewart Pickens, and the West Johnston High School Band won the Eastern Regional Band Competition in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, March 27. Way to go Stewart!

Ryne Jones was voted Student Volunteer of the Year at McGee's Middle School, and also won 1<sup>st</sup> place at the county level in Math Counts. Keep up the good work Ryne!

Kendall Nelms won a 7<sup>th</sup> place ribbon at her swim meet in Wilmington on March 21. Good job Kendall!

Steve Wiley, and the North Garner Middle School band won All Superiors at their band competition in Hillsborough on Saturday, March 27.

### Scouts Car Show

The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Providence Presbyterian Church will be holding a Car Show at West Johnston High School on Saturday, May 15 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Girl Scouts will be selling cakes and brownies, the Tigers and Weeblovs will be selling popcorn, and the Men of the Church will be providing hot dogs and hamburgers. Please come out and support our scouts! If you have any questions about this event, please contact John Pickens at 639.5318.

### Dance Recital

Hannah McGee and Meredith Tart will participate in a dance recital at Johnston Community College on May 23 at 5:00 p.m. There will be clogging, tap dancing, ballet, modern dance, jazz and hip hop.

### Congratulations!

On March 29, Meredith Tart was accepted into the Beta Club at McGee's Middle School. Congratulations Meredith!

### Church Website

Please remember to check out the church website at [www.providencepresb.org](http://www.providencepresb.org). Dave Nelms has done a fantastic job in creating this website, and we appreciate his work. If you have anything that you would like to put on our website, please notify him at [dnelms@countrysoftware.com](mailto:dnelms@countrysoftware.com). This is great way to keep he congregation, and the community, informed about all that we have going on at our church.

### Vacation Bible School

Believe it or not, it is already time to begin planning for our 2004 Vacation Bible School. Bible School is scheduled for June 23-25 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., and June 26 from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon. Classes will be available for preschool through adults. Amy Hovermale and Allison Tart are looking for volunteers, and would appreciate your assistance! Volunteers are needed to decorate, teach, pre-register children, serve snacks, and clean up. Most importantly, your help is needed by praying for the teachers and children. If you can help in any way, please talk with Amy or Allison. Vacation Bible School is one of the biggest outreaches of our church. We have had several families to join our church as a result of their children coming to Bible School. Please get involved with this exciting event!

### Who do I talk to?

Are you interested in your child participating in Pioneer Clubs? Would you like to become more involved in Men's Fellowship or the Presbyterian Women? If so, do you know who to contact? Provided below is a list of the people that coordinate these and other programs within our church.

Coordinator, Pioneer Clubs:	Kathy Wood
Coordinator, Youth Activities:	Allison Tart
Director, Adult Choir:	Susan Scott
Director, Children's Choir:	Laura McLamb
Moderator, Men's Fellowship:	Kent Walton
Moderator, Presbyterian Women:	Lisa Nelms

Each of these programs is always looking for new members, and would welcome your interest and participation. Feel free to join!

### Deadlines

If you have anything that you would like placed in the May newsletter, please have that information to DeEtta Wood by Thursday, April 22.