

Presbyterians at the Crossroads

July 2004

Providence Presbyterian Church

Rev. C. Mark Scott

www.providencepresb.org

Minister's Minutes

In the past 3 years we have explored future plans prayerfully. Many leaders have put in long hours on studying and proposing future programs and new facilities to accommodate these programs. I believe we have spent approximately \$15,000 on architect fees for drawings. We have also had two Congregational Meetings one in March 2003 and one in May 2004; one to approve building plans and one to approve a three-year Capital Fund Campaign with a goal of \$545,000. Our congregation has said "YES" at both meetings.

Now we have to face realities which are very familiar to us: 1) We cannot expand or improve our present buildings without causing building code violations. Which to correct would mean re-building all of our buildings. This would be impossible and impractical. This means in our present buildings we will never have handicap bathrooms for either the Sanctuary area or for the Fellowship Hall, or a ground-level nursery. This means we have limited space for any new Sunday School classes – and no classrooms left. This means that our whole Congregation and visitors cannot fit in our Fellowship Hall. This means that when we go over 80 people in worship in our present Sanctuary, we are making people uncomfortable. Because 80% of the comfortable seating is then taken up. 2) I believe we have a present active membership of approximately 140. It is not impossible with the Lord's help to do anything, but \$545,000 from 140 people is high and we will need to have 2 more campaigns to reach our ultimate goal of \$1.6 million.

So although it was not our first choice a few years ago, it looks like a reasonable decision to experiment with a second worship service. This would offer more space and time for new people to become a part of our Congregation, and also to help us undertake our building plans for the future. With the Lord's help we will begin a new service (probably when school resumes) at the 8:30 a.m. hour on Sunday with Sunday School in between the 8:30 a.m. and the 11:00 a.m. services. The hope is that people who go to either service will meet in Sunday School and learn more about each other and build friendships there so that we do not eventually become two Congregations completely separate from each others.

Please be thinking and praying with our Elders and myself as we face these familiar realities in faith knowing that "Nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

Yours in Christ,

Thank the Lord for a Successful Vacation Bible School!

The 2004 Vacation Bible School was definitely a success! Between the three nights, we averaged 73 people in attendance, including children and adults. The children had a great time with the crafts, coordinated by Nancy Nelms and Wendy Stephenson. They made Peach Freezer Jam, Tie-dyed bandanas, and Bracelets. They also enjoyed their Bible lessons where they learned about the Fruits of the Spirit. Laura McLamb did an awesome job, with the help of the Bananas (the High School Class), in leading the children in learning new songs related to their lessons. The adults were led in an in-depth Bible Study on Revelation by Rev. Mark Scott and Will Walls.

On Saturday the Lord blessed us with a nice rain shower in the morning and a beautiful, sunshine-filled afternoon for our County Fair Fun Day! Children and Adults enjoyed an afternoon of sack races, water-balloon toss, milking race, tug-of-war, volleyball, face-painting, spinning wheel, exotic animals, horseback-riding, hot dogs, hamburgers, and homemade ice-cream. Everyone was also entertained with *Music at the Manse*, coordinated by Paul Stephenson. We enjoyed the music provided by the Providence Choir, the VBS Children, Georgeanna Phillips, DeEtta Wood, and a newly-formed quartet made up of Ann Benson, Edsel Penny, Paul Stephenson, and DeEtta Wood.

Sandra Lordi and Carolyn Stevenson ran a lovely County Fair Store, selling flowers, jellies, cakes, pies, jewelry, and other decorative items raising \$339.. Also, each evening, the children brought a canned good item. The donated canned goods and the money raised at the County Fair Store will be given to Cleveland McGee's Ministries, to help families in our area who are in crisis situations and need our help.

Enough thanks cannot be given to the VBS Committee, made up of Amy Hovermale, Mary Langdon, Pam Nelms, Susan Scott, Allison Tart, DeEtta Wood, Jeffrey Wood, and Kathy Wood. Over the past several months this committee has put in a lot of time, planning and hard work, which allowed the children and adults to enjoy such a fun-filled week! We look forward to more exciting events to come!

Vacation

Rev. Scott will be on vacation July 3-14. Supplying the pulpit will be Will Walls on July 4 and Clyde Wiley on July 11. Please make these two friends in Christ feel welcome and supported in prayer.

Senior Citizens Update

The Presbyterian Women treated our Seniors and some of their friends to a Summertime Luncheon on Tuesday, June 8 in the Fellowship Hall. Approximately 35 people were present to enjoy a meal of oven-friend chicken, potatoes, garden peas, congealed salad, and strawberry shortcake for dessert. The tables were decorated with Pam Nelms' collection of beautiful shells to carry out the summertime theme. The adults were well entertained by some of our own young people. Austin Benson, Samuel Stephenson, Hannah Stephenson, and Daniel Stephenson entertained us with some lovely violin music. These same young people, with the help of Haley Jones, Kendall Nelms, and Justin Wood, sang some beautiful songs for us, as they were led by Wendy Stephenson. Samuel Stephenson also had everyone laughing with some funny jokes. Meredith Tart was also a great help in decorating and serving. The next Senior Citizens Luncheon is scheduled for September 14 at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall, and we hope to see even more of our Senior Friends!

Pentecost Services

Pentecost Sunday, May 30, we had three special Communion Services in homes during the day to celebrate and to remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Church. The first two services were very small, but the third service at 7:30 p.m. had 20 people. If we continue this service next year, we will probably have just one home service at 7:30 p.m. We thank everyone who participated and especially Bob and Nadine Reed, Paul and Ann Stephenson, and Jeffrey and DeEtta Wood for hosting these services.

Special Offerings

During the months of May and June our Congregation has participated in offerings for special needs. On Pentecost Sunday, May 30, we collected an offering for Youth and Children at Risk in the amount of \$186.08. On Sunday, June 13 we collected an offering for the Ft. Bragg Chaplain's Fund for Families of Deployed Soldiers in the amount of \$224.00. On Saturday, June 26, during our County Fair Fun Day, we raised \$339.50 to be given to Cleveland McGee's Ministries. We thank everyone who cheerfully gave to these causes.

Congratulations

We give thanks to God that Mrs. Virginia Moore has a new great-granddaughter! Emma Allise Moore was born on May 11 at 12:24 p.m. Emma weighed 8lbs 2oz, and was 21 ¼ inches long. Her parents are Matthew and Sandra Moore of Greenville, S.C.

Welcome to our New Members

On Sunday, June 27, Bob and Jenni Dry became part of our Congregation by transfer from White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, N.C. We welcome them with thanksgiving to God for their faith and love in Christ. Presently they are living with Bob's parents, Nathan and Kay Dry.

Change of Address

Bob and Nadine Reed have moved! We are thankful that even though they have moved, they will remain active members of our Congregation. Their new address is:

38 Ray Con Circle
Lillington, NC 27546
919.906.7043 (Bob's cell phone)

Youth Activities

The youth have been very busy this year with various activities including, the Winter Retreat to Winterplace, Leadership Appreciation Day, Green Day, Pioneer Clubs, Easter Celebrations, a Pancake Supper, a Car Wash, and Vacation Bible School. However, there are still more exciting things to come! We want to encourage every young person to join us for these fun-filled events, and to bring a friend with them. Some things to look forward to this summer are:

June 17: Trip to Emerald Pointe Water Park

August 7: Car Wash Fundraiser at the Exit 319 Texaco

August 15: End of Summer Celebration at McGee's Crossroads Pool

August 22: Youth Sunday, with our youth participating in leading our worship service.

Any young person that is interested in participating in these activities, please feel free to join us. Any adult who would like to help coordinate these activities, or would just like to be involved in working with our youth groups, your help would be greatly appreciated. If anyone has questions regarding youth activities, please contact Allison Tart.

Prince, Percy Rachels, Jonathan Wall, Scott West, and Mac Wood.

July Schedules

Nursery Keepers

4	Robbie and Kathy Wood
11	Jim and Lisa Ingram
18	Chris and Kristy Stephenson
25	David and Lisa Nelms

Nursery Floaters

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

Ushers

4	Nathan Dry and John Kopanski
11	Mark Nelms and Jimmy Stuart
18	Steve Nordan and John Pickens
25	Gary Phillips and Atlee Roberts

Acolyte

4	Abigail Wood
11	Joseph Phillips
18	Daniel Stephenson
25	Katie Rutherford

Bell Ringer

4	Katie Rutherford
11	Daniel Stephenson
18	Samuel Stephenson
25	Abigail Wood

Children's Sermon

4	Mark Nelms
11	Nancy Nelms
25	Kay Dry

Children's Church

4	Mark and Pam Nelms
11	Eugene and Angie Schexnayder
18	Scott and Amy Hovermale
25	Darren and Joan Stuart

Prayer List

Gavin Bailey, Cindy Brewer, Don Bullard, Annie Ruth Byrd, Brenda Byrd, B.J. Clifton, Lovie Dorman, Jim Duncan, Patricia Evans, Ann Marie Faggenbaum, Crystal Hamilton, Kathy Henry, Bill Howard, Lacy Johnson, Willadean Johnson, Gloria McLamb, Charles Mitchell, Martha Murray, Joann Myers, Judy Parsons, Becky Roberts, Wayne Robinson, Jaime Sorenson, Kathy Stephenson, Ray Williford, and Ken Wiseheart. Serving in the Armed Forces: Stephen Barbour, Jason Barrett, Wayne Embrey, Calvin Erickson, David Everhart, David Ginn, Matt Guy, Chase Honeycutt, Joshua Langdon, Glen Parker, Todd

July Birthdays

♪♪♪ Happy Birthday to..... ♪♪♪

7	Tom Nelms Ashley Parrish Sam Stephenson
8	Ryne Jones Samuel Stephenson
12	Dave Nelms
15	Kent Walton
16	Mary Langdon
17	Atlee Roberts
19	Kim Gunshinan
27	Olivia Schexnayder
29	Heather Reed
30	Kendall Nelms

If your birthday is in July, but is not listed above, please notify DeEtta Wood at 331.9046. Thanks!

Upcoming Events

- July 5 The July Session Meeting will be rescheduled to a later date due to Rev. Mark Scott being on vacation
- July 11 *Celebrating our God, Our Church, and Our Country.* This event has been postponed until a later date. Look for more information to come regarding the rescheduling of this celebration!
- July 12 Cub Scout Day Camp at Camp Tuscarora from July 12 – July 16
- July 17 Youth Trip to Emerald Pointe. Leaving from the church at 6:30 a.m.
- July 26 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Nesselrodt Classroom

Deadline

If you have any information that needs to appear in the August newsletter, please have that information to DeEtta Wood by Thursday, July 22. Thanks!