

Presbyterians at the Crossroads

April 2006

Providence Presbyterian Church

Rev. Lisa Nance

www.providencepresb.org

Pastor's Paragraph

Spring is in the air! In fact, spring is everywhere – from the blossoms on the trees, to the days that are finally getting longer, to the runny noses and sniffles from allergies! All around us, there are signs that the earth is coming back to life after the winter rest.

God has given a rhythm to the seasons – there are times of rest, times of birth, times of growth and times of maturity. The plants burst into bloom in the spring, thrive in the summer warmth, produce their harvest or show off their colors in the fall, then turn to rest in the winter.

God has given us the opportunity to find a rhythm in our lives as well. There are times of spring like energy, times of growth, times to enjoy what we have done in life and times to rest. There are times to start families, times to go fishing, times to build houses, times to repair our health, times to risk trying to fulfill a dream, times to embrace, with joy, all that we have done, and times to simply sit down and let our minds and bodies rest in peace.

But in the world of nature, no matter what stage the plant is in during the year, there are dangers to it as well. In spring, there are insects and diseases; in the summer, there is the possibility of drought or wildfire; in the fall there is always the chance of unseasonable weather; and in the winter, there is the danger of dying from the lack of necessary nutrients to make it through the long cold spell.

We humans also live in a world filled with dangers. Although the external dangers tend to make the headlines – the internal dangers are just as deadly. When we can't enjoy life because we are feeling the poison of bitterness over how someone has treated us, when we are side-tracked by what we wish we had done, when we get stuck on how badly we ourselves have acted – each of those things sucks the life out of us.

No matter how we sugar-coat it, when we hold onto these things, refusing to let God be a part of our healing, then we are committing the sin of pride. Even if we feel like we deserve to be treated like a doormat, if we refuse to allow God into our heart with His love, we are a prideful people. It is only in God that we can find the balance between not thinking too highly of ourselves and not thinking too lowly of ourselves. God didn't create us to be God – and He didn't create us to be dirt. He formed us out of dirt, but breathed His own Spirit into us – we are children of the King!

As Lent comes to an end, and we prepare our hearts for Easter morning – bring your life to God, no matter what stage you are in right now. For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, so that whosoever should believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life! God so loved each

one of us that He sent Christ here, knowing what would happen, but knowing that, in that process, salvation would come for you and me. May the God of all creation bless every one of us, in all the stages of our life.

*In Christ,
Lisa Nance
Interim Minister*

Holy Week and Easter Services

On Thursday, April 13, we will have our Maundy Thursday service at 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday officially ends our Lenten journey. We will gather together to prepare our hearts as we face Good Friday. Childcare will be available in the Nursery during this service. Please plan to participate in this time of Worship.

Also, Providence will host the Easter Sunrise Service for our congregation, and our sister congregation, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, as well as for all from the community who would like to join us. The service will begin about 6:30 a.m., as the National Weather Service has said that sunrise will be about 6:40 a.m. The service will have some favorite hymns, a brief meditation and an opportunity to offer praise and prayer to our God for all that He has done for us in the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. An Easter Breakfast celebration will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.

At 11:00 a.m., on Sunday, April 16, we will once again gather to celebrate Easter morning! Please come and join in this Worship service and invite others to join as we rejoice in the wonder of the Resurrection!

Scripture Readings for the Month of April

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
April 2	John 12:20-33 & Psalm 119:9-16
April 9	<i>Palm Sunday:</i> Mark 11:1-11 and <i>Communion:</i> Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
April 16	<i>Easter:</i> Mark 16:1-8 & John 1:1-5, 18
April 23	John 20:19-31 & Psalm 133
April 30	Luke 24:36-48 & Psalm 4

Senior Citizen's Luncheon

The Providence Presbyterian Women will host the Spring Senior Citizen's Luncheon on Tuesday, April 4 at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend this time of delicious food and fellowship, and bring a friend with you!

Interim Plan Progress

I wanted to update the congregation on where the Session is in the interim process. On Saturday, March 18, the Session met for an intense, all day working meeting. In the interim process there are many steps – some of which you, as a congregation, had already begun long before I arrived. A great deal of healing had already taken place and hope was clearly evident here when I walked through the doors in July. But there are also some formal steps that have to be taken in order to move us through this process into the time of calling our new installed pastor.

The first step is to do a self-study. With the help of the information that the Long-Range Planning Committee had gathered, during our meeting the Session focused on fleshing out where we are as a congregation, what our immediate plans are and what we feel is important to find in a minister who will walk with us through the coming years. At the end of that meeting, we had finished the self-study and put together a clearer idea of what's next.

And what's next is a visit with the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (C.O.M.) representative. That person will join us for our next Session meeting on April 4. After that meeting, we will be forming our Pastor Nominating Committee. This Committee will be responsible for firming up the vision we have for our next minister, interviewing candidates, and, when the time is right, presenting us with their findings. The most important job though that this committee has is to pray – and we as a congregation, need to be praying for them as well. Discerning God's call isn't always an easy job. As Christians though, we believe He is waiting to guide us.

That isn't a fast process. In fact, we need to realize that God will be wanting to spend some time dancing with us – not teasing us, but rather allowing us to get to know ourselves better, to enjoy our deepening trust and faith, knowing that, In God's time, we will find that person to join with us in ministry. This isn't a time to be feared – nothing is on hold during this time. Plans have been made and we are moving forward in those plans. So, try to relax and enjoy the dance – after all, our Partner in the dance just happens to be the most incredible Leader imaginable!

Prayers for the Lenten journey

During our Lenten journey, the computer can be a wonderful source of devotional ideas. The Irish Jesuits have a beautiful website with daily devotions for each day of Lent. Their website address is: <http://www.sacredspace.ie>.

Youth Easter Celebration

On Saturday, April 15, the Nesselrodt Sunday School Class will host the Youth Easter Celebration from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be served, and there will be crafts, a Bible lesson, and an Easter Egg Hunt for all to enjoy. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Stuart or any member of the Nesselrodt Sunday School Class.

YARD SALE

The Presbyterian Women will host their YARD SALE on Saturday, April 8 from 7:00 a.m. – 12 noon. In addition to selling Yard Sale items, they will also be selling sausage biscuits and ham biscuits for \$1. There are a number of items for sale, and the money raised will go towards funding Presbyterian Women mission projects. If you would like to help, or have items to donate, please contact Kay Dry or Carolyn Stevenson.

Vacation Bible School Update

The directors for Vacation Bible School have begun meeting and preparing for this year's incredible summer adventure! We will be exploring the Construction Zone and just how God wants us to grow. Right now, here is what we know:

Date: June 20-22 (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Game Plan: We will begin with supper at 6:00 p.m., and classes will start at 6:30 p.m. We will be rotating through crafts, recreation, music and classroom activities – it will be very busy and lots of fun!

Celebration: On Sunday morning, June 25, we would like to have all the children and their families join us in Worship for a celebration of the week. We hope to have the children share some of the music that they have learned.

What's needed: YOUR HELP!!!!!! Please let Sue Bryant, Crissy Porter, or Rev. Lisa Nance know if you are willing to help out –we need everything – classroom teachers, recreation leaders, musical songbirds, crafty souls, and superb chefs! All adults and youth are welcome to help! Join us for the fun.

Providence Softball Team

The Providence Men are at again. They played their first softball game of the season on Tuesday, March 28 against Garner United Methodist and won with a score of 21-13. They are playing at the park on Creech Road in Garner. For a copy of the schedule, please go to the church website at www.providencepresb.org. For questions, please contact Robbie Wood.

April Schedules

Infant Nursery

- 2 Brenda Dupree and Courtney Walton
9 Carlos and Stephanie Bagley
16 Kay Dry and Carolyn Stuart
23 Lisa Nelms and Kristy Stephenson
30 Mary Langdon and Sandra Lordi

Toddler Nursery

- 2 Carolyn Stevenson
9 Andrea Jones
16 Sue Bryant and Roxann Porter
23 Chris Stephenson
30 Suzanne Wiley

Ushers

- 2 Richard Jones and Steve Nordan
9 Brenda Dupree and Elaine Wood
16 Dick Embrey and Ken Lordi
23 Bob Dry and Heath White
30 Ronnie Creech and Don Dupree

Acolyte

- 2 Jane Pickens
9 Kendall Nelms
16 Abigail Wood
23 Hannah Stephenson
30 Daniel Stephenson

Bell Ringer

- 2 Lauren Langdon
9 Jane Pickens
16 Kendall Nelms
23 Daniel Stephenson
30 Samuel Stephenson

Children's Sermon

- 2 Crissy Porter
16 Darren Stuart
30 Wendy Stephenson

Children's Church

- 2 Mary and Emily Langdon
9 Nancy Nelms and Christina Nelms
16 Laura and Amanda McLamb
23 Sam and Wendy Stephenson
30 Carlos and Stephanie Bagley

Prayer List

The families of Gary Blackmon and Cecil Embrey. Also, Don Bullard, Josephine Byrd, Mickey Carroll, Carol Clifton, Bruce Coats, Vera Critcher, Lovie Dorman, Gene Glasgow, Mary Hart, Lisa Hawkins, Lawrence Herron, Chris Johnson, Kermit Keater, Bobbie Langdon, Betty Lou Lee, Lewis McLamb, Eloise McLeod, Rebeth Mitchell, Julia Nales, Sandra Rice, Mary Serman, Alice Stephenson, Mary Stephenson, Margaret Walton, Jesse West, and Margaret White.

♪♪♪ Happy Birthday to..... ♪♪♪

- 3 Carlos Bagley
John Pickens
9 Peggy Barnhill
Amy Reed
10 Katie Rutherford
Sharon Stephenson
14 Brack Johnson
19 Will Langdon
Charlie Parrish
Bob Zatteiro
22 Lacy Johnson
Norma Parsons
23 Joan Stuart
24 Leon Parrish
25 Joshua Collier
Meredith Tart
27 Lou Penny

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

April Upcoming Events

- 2 Pioneer Clubs at 5:00 p.m. –**Spring Fling!**
Providence Youth (7th – 12th grade) meet at
6:00 p.m. in the manse
4 Senior Citizen's Spring Luncheon at 12 noon
in the Fellowship Hall
4 Stated Session meeting at 7:30 p.m.
4 Men's Softball game at 8:30 p.m.
6 Men's Softball game at 7:30 p.m.
8 Presbyterian Women Yard Sale from 7:00
a.m. – 12 noon at the church
9 Palm Sunday and Celebration of the
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
13 Maundy Thursday Communion Service at
7:30 p.m.
15 Youth Easter Celebration from 1:00 p.m. –
3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
16 Easter Sunrise Service at Providence
Presbyterian Church, followed by breakfast
in the Fellowship Hall; Easter Worship
Service at 11:00 a.m.
18 Presbyterian Women Daytime Circle meets
at 10:00 a.m., and the Evening Circle meets
at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
23 Deadline for items to be given to DeEtta
Wood for the May newsletter
30 Men's Fellowship Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in
the Fellowship Hall
30 Coffee and Doughnuts at 9:45 a.m. in the
Fellowship Hall, followed by Combined Adult
Sunday School

April Birthdays