

# Presbyterians at the Crossroads

August 2006

Providence Presbyterian Church  
Nance

Rev. Lisa

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

## Pastor's Paragraph

A few weeks ago, Will Walls and I attended our Presbytery meeting. It was held at the Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church in Cary. As is the tradition at these meetings, the honor of preaching during the worship service falls to the minister at the host church. Joseph Walker, Jr. (aka Jody) is the head of staff there and he took the pulpit. He shared the following story.

*"I remember a story Fred Craddock tells about the first little church he served in the eastern Tennessee hills near Oak Ridge. He says, when Oak Ridge began to boom with atomic energy, that town became a booming city almost overnight. Construction people from all over came to live there...many living in trailers...families with children...they lived in everything temporarily to work. He said his church was not far away...and it was a beautiful, little, 120-year old small church. One Sunday morning Fred asked the leaders to stay. He said to them: "Now we need to launch a calling campaign and an invitational campaign in all those trailer parks to invite those people to church." "Oh, I don't know. I don't think they'd fit in here," one of them said. "They're just here temporarily, just construction people. They'll be leaving pretty soon." "Well, we ought to invite them, make them feel at home," I said. We argued about it, time ran out, and we said we'd vote next Sunday. Next Sunday, we all sat down after the service. "I move," said one of them, "I move that in order to be a member of this church, you must own property in the county." Someone else said, "I second that." It passed. I voted against it, but they reminded me that I was just a kid preacher and I didn't have a vote. It passed. When we moved back to these parts, I took my wife Nettie to see that little church, because I had told her that painful, painful story. The roads have changed. The interstate goes through that part of the country so I had a hard time finding it, but I finally did. I found the state road, the county road, and the little gravel road. Then there, back among the pines, was that building shining white. It was different. The parking lot was full – motorcycles and trucks and cars packed in there. And right out front, a great big sign said: "Barbeque, all you can eat"! It's a restaurant, so we went inside. The pews are against a wall. There area all these aluminum and plastic tables, and people sitting there eating barbequed pork, chicken and ribs – all kinds of people from all walks of life... filling up the building. I said to Nettie, "It's a good thing this is not still a church, otherwise these people couldn't be in here."*

It was a powerful story. But it wasn't shared with us in order to make us think, "oh, those bad people in that church" – it was shared with us to make us take a

harder look at our own lives. The story speaks to us on many levels – it is a reminder that change is hard,

that bringing new people into our lives is dangerous, that it is far more comforting to hold onto the way things are. But it is also a reminder that change will come, whether we welcome it and allow ourselves to be strengthened by it, or whether we stand firm against it and allow ourselves to be bulldozed over by it. Our lives are filled with opportunities – chances to learn more about God, about ourselves and about others. It can be frightening to embrace a new direction that God is calling us in; it will require us to be forever changed. But we are not alone – God Almighty has given us Jesus Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit as our guide and the community of saints as our family – let us step out in faith to where the Lord is leading us!

*In Christ,  
Rev. Lisa Nance  
Interim Minister*

## Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has completed the Church Information Form (CIF) for our congregation. The CIF has been submitted to the Church Leadership Connection, a department of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and will be used to match Providence with prospective pastors. Personal Information Forms (PIF) submitted by pastors are currently under review by the PNC. Anyone from the Providence congregation who would like to view our CIF is welcome to do so. A copy of the CIF will be posted on our church website, and will also be posted on the church bulletin board in the vestibule behind the sanctuary. Please continue to keep the work of this committee in your prayers.

## Church Growth Statistics

Statistics that are provided by year-end statistical reports and are available through the Presbyterian Church (USA) show significant growth in membership and financial contributions at Providence in recent years. Membership at Providence in 1995 was 94 active and 25 baptized members. Contributions were \$61,837 and \$0 was given towards a building program. In 2005, membership was 146 active and 35 baptized members. Contributions were \$103,602, and \$28,850 was given to the building program. These numbers indicate a 55% growth in membership over the past 10 years, and contributions have more than doubled during that same period of time. To take a closer look at statistical information from the past 10 years concerning our congregation, go to the

Presbyterian Church website at [www.pcusa.org/research](http://www.pcusa.org/research) (our church PIN is 21078).

### **Church-wide Retreat**

The church-wide retreat has been scheduled for September 15-17 at Fort Fisher. Gary and Georgeanna Phillips have made the arrangements and are asking that anyone interested in going for part or all of the time complete the appropriate forms expressing their interest. The forms are available in the church vestibule. If you have questions about this trip, please contact Gary or Georgeanna at 207.0604.

### **Congratulations to...**

**Joanna Wiley and Jared Volavka** who were married on Saturday, July 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Raleigh. Joanna and Jared would like to extend their thanks and appreciation for the kind thoughts, words and gifts that they have received from our congregation. The happy couple will reside at 696 Mowbray Arch #960, Norfolk, VA 23507 or they can also be reached at [jvolavka@gmail.com](mailto:jvolavka@gmail.com).

**Kendall Nelms** for achieving qualifying times to compete in the North Carolina Swimming Junior Olympics in High Point on July 26-29. Kendall qualified in the 50m Breaststroke, 50m Butterfly, and 100m Breaststroke.

### **Church-wide Pool Party and Fellowship Meal**

The Christian Education Committee has scheduled our annual Church-wide Pool Party and Fellowship Meal for Saturday, August 26 from 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at the McGee's Crossroads Swimming Pool. The Fellowship Committee will provide the hot dogs, hamburgers and trimmings. Everyone is invited to come and bring a side dish or dessert and to enjoy an evening of fun, food, fellowship and swimming (for those who choose to!)

### **Cub Scout Update**

10 Cub Scouts and 3 adult leaders from our Cub Scout Pack 210 attended Cub Scout Day at Boy Scout Camp Tuscarora in July. They enjoyed crafts, swimming, snake studies, games, BB and archery, and lots of Scouting songs. Also, in July, the Pack had a campout for the boys and their families at Cabin Lake Camp in Duplin County.

The Cub Scouts, along with their Leaders and Parents are planning a YARD SALE at Providence on August 5 from 7:00 a.m. – 12 noon. They will also have baked goods and biscuits for sale. The money raised from this YARD SALE will be used to help start off their new scouting year with supplies for crafts and awards. The Scouts will also be selling Popcorn the last of August, which is a Council Fund Raiser.

Any boys, ages 6-11 who are interested in joining Cub Scouts will be able to do at the end of August. By joining Cub Scouts you will be able to participate in all

the exciting learning opportunities, along with the fun activities such as the September Bike Rodeo and trip to the North Carolina Zoo.

### **Presbyterian Women News**

The Presbyterian Women are beginning to plan their fall meetings and activities. The Coordinating Team will have their planning meeting during the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>. The Daytime Circle has been meeting this summer and visiting the shut-ins within our church and community. The next meeting for the Daytime Circle is Tuesday, August 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Many members of the Evening Circle participated in Vacation Bible School program and really enjoyed working with our children and youth. The next meeting for the Evening Circle is Tuesday, September 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a joint meeting between the Daytime and Evening Circle, and any visitors that would like to attend, to re-challenge the women for a year of reaching out and helping others, along with studying our Bible lessons.

Also, our Presbyterian Women will host the Fall Gathering for the New Hope Presbyterian Women on September 30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Come and join the Presbyterian Women in fellowship and sharing of their Visions for our Church. If you have questions regarding the Presbyterian Women, please contact Kay Dry or Carolyn Stevenson.

### **Pioneer Clubs**

Just because the Clubs aren't meeting does not mean that the work has ended for Pioneer Clubs. Georgeanna Phillips, Pioneer Clubs Coordinator, has been hard at work in search of teachers, preparing a new schedule, as well as ordering new materials and awards for the upcoming year. The first Pioneer Clubs meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 1, at 5:00 p.m., and Pioneer Clubs will meet the first and third Sundays of each month through May. Please be in prayer for the children, teachers and workers who will be involved in Pioneer Clubs that the Lord will bless this program to grow and strengthen our church. If you have questions regarding Pioneer Clubs, please contact Georgeanna Phillips at 207.0604.

### **Youth Group**

The Providence Youth (grades 7-12) will have their first meeting of the year on Sunday, October 1 to coincide with the first Pioneer Clubs meeting. There has been a change in the schedule from last year, and all the youth are asked to be at the manse by 5:15 and our meeting will last from 5:30 to 6:30. We are looking forward to another exciting year. Leading the youth this year will be Bob Dry and Mary Langdon. If anyone is interested in helping out by becoming a third youth leader, please contact Bob or Mary.

of God's grace, including methods such as prayer, art and music.

### Growing Together is Coming!

On Saturday, September 16, at Johnston Community College, the Presbytery of New Hope will offer their Growing Together Workshop. Growing Together is a day full of opportunities! Remarkably gifted teachers come together to share their Christian faith and knowledge.

The day begins at 9:00 a.m. and goes until 3:00 p.m. Participants can sign up for two classes, one morning and one afternoon. There is also a keynote worship service, along with lunch and fellowship. It is a wonderful chance to grow in our understanding of who we are. If you are interested, please see Rev. Lisa for a registration form and a complete list of courses. Below is a sampling of what will be offered. As you can tell – there is something for everyone!

**In the Beginning: Perspectives on Genesis (2006-2007 HORIZONS Bible Study for Presbyterian Women:** Meet the author of this exciting curriculum on Genesis. In this two-part series, look at old and little known stories anew.

**Walk with Me: The Adult Role in Youth Ministry:** Explore and reflect on different pictures of healthy adults serving in youth ministry, ideas for accompanying youth, and biblical reflections on Christian leadership.

**Welcome the Child: Faith Practices for Elementary Children:** Look at the ways adults can address the questions, joys, insecurities, and insights of children, so that their faith may become something that is meaningful.

**Faith Like a Child: Faith Practices for Younger Children:** Look at approaches that develop spirituality within young children and celebrate their gifts of faith.

**Becoming Red Letter Christians – Anthony Campolo:** Engage in a critique of our world, using commitments to the radical lifestyle that Jesus proposed for the Kingdom of God. Be challenged to exercise the prophetic role that is called for in an age that must embrace both evangelism and social justice.

**The Theology of Hymnody and Church Music:** Survey the role of music in the life of the church, discuss the development of congregational singing, the role of choirs, and a theological reflection on favorite hymns.

**Developing Healthy Leaders:** Explore characteristics of leadership in local congregations, with opportunities for participants to reflect on what it means to be a healthy leader

**What Difference Does it Make? Furnishing and Arranging our Space for Worship:** Come explore the history and rationale of the spaces where we worship. Discuss the impact on members and visitors.

**Spirituality 101:** Learn about ways that we can create space in our lives to be more open and aware

**Embodied Spirituality:** Participate in a workshop designed for relaxation and healing of body, mind, and spirit. *Wear comfortable clothing.*

**Christians in Politics: The View from the Reformed Tradition:** Explore how we in the Reformed tradition view the political process, including elections, government and participation.

**Godly Choices:** Study ways in which our picture of God shapes our moral decisions. Examine a current issue using three biblical approaches to ethics.

**The Problem of Evil:** Study good and evil from the perspective of the Old Testament.

**The End of Evil:** Learn what individual Christians, the church, and society can proclaim and do concerning evil.

### A Thought.....

Thomas Merton once wrote, "The logic of worldly success rests on a fallacy: the strange error that our perfection depends on the thoughts and opinions and applause of other men! A weird life it is, indeed, to be living always in somebody else's imagination, as if that were the only place in which one could at last become real!" (*from The Seven Storey Mountain, ch. 2*)

### Scriptures for the Month of August

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
August 6	II Samuel 11:26-12:13a & Ephesians 4:1-16
August 13	Ephesians 4:25-5:2 & Luke 12:16-21
August 20	Matthew 5:13-16 & James 4:1-7
August 27	Genesis 1:1-2:3 & John 1:1-15

*Beneath His watchful eye  
His saints securely dwell;  
That hand which bears all nature up  
Shall guard His children well. —Doddridge*

**We need not fear the perils around us  
because the eye of the Lord is always  
upon us.**

*Our Daily Bread Website*

## August Schedules

### Infant Nursery

6	Jason and Cindy Parrish
13	Bob and Jenni Dry
20	Chris and Kristy Stephenson
27	Christina Nelms and Georgeanna Phillips

### Toddler Nursery

6	Andrea Jones
13	Heather White
20	Beth Pickens
27	Gary Phillips

### Ushers

6	Bob Dry and Heath White
13	Ronnie Creech and Don Dupree
20	Hamilton Greene and Johnathan Reed
27	Randy Benson and Jim Ingram

### Acolyte and Bell Ringer

6	Nathan Ingram
13	Abigail Wood
20	Katie Rutherford
27	Lauren Collier

### Children's Sermon

6	David Collier
13	Andrea Jones
20	Rev. Lisa Nance

### Children's Church

6	Mark and Pam Nelms
13	Randy and Ann Benson
20	Jim and Lisa Ingram
27	Mary and Lauren Langdon

### Prayer List

Christy Anderson, Jeff Anderson, Richie Andrews, Bevoline Brooks, Josephine Byrd, Mickey Carroll, Carol Clifton, Vera Critcher, Will Duncan, Lovie Dorman, Mary Hart, Lawrence Herron, Ricky Jackson, Chris Johnson, Tim Lang, Betty Lou Lee, Annie Lewis, Carolyn Lewis, Carol Mayben, Lewis McLamb, Eloise McLeod, Julia Nales, Mike Sanchez, Mary Serman, Harry and Betty Smith, Alice Stephenson, Mary Stephenson, and Barbara Walton.

## August Birthdays

♪♪♪♪ Happy Birthday to..... ♪♪♪♪

1	Dick Embrey
3	Brenda Dupree
4	Emma Phillips Jesse Riggelman
5	Silas Porter
7	Pauline Jones
9	Richard Jones Sandy Kopanski Keith Langdon
12	Ann Stephenson
13	Bob Reed
19	Stewart Pickens Nadine Reed Paul Stephenson
22	Mary Stephenson
27	Andrew Stephenson
28	Elaine Wood
29	Tyler Nordan
30	Lauren Collier Silvija Dry Charlie Porter
31	Randy Benson Bob Dry

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

## August Upcoming Events

2	Christian Education Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m.
2	Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
5	Cub Scout Pack 210 YARD SALE from 7:00 a.m. – 12 noon
13	Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper during Worship at 11:00 a.m.
15	Presbyterian Women Daytime Circle meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
16	Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
26	Church-wide Pool Party and Fellowship Meal from 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at the McGee's Crossroads Pool
27	Deadline for items to be given to DeEtta Wood for the September newsletter
30	Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary