

Presbyterians at the Crossroads

February 2006

Providence Presbyterian Church

Rev. Lisa Nance

www.providencepresb.org

Pastor's Paragraph

Love is in the air! February is always thought of as a time of hearts and kisses and Valentine's Day surprises. In the midst of the cold, seemingly dead of winter, it is a sign of hope that we cling to the warmth of love.

For believers, the source of our hope is love – God's love for each and every one of us. That love enables us to have hope – even in the midst of whatever life throws our way. We Christians live and move in a world of hope – but it isn't the kind of hope that says, "Hope you have a nice day..." Instead, it is the hope that says, "I will pray for you to have a good day, because my hope is in God". We don't "hope" in fate or some fickle god of our daily horoscopes. We believe in God Almighty, and in Him our hope has a solid foundation. Have you ever felt the difference between someone saying, "Well, I hope things turn out ok...." and someone saying, "I will be praying for you..."? It really does matter!

This February, don't pass up the opportunity to celebrate our one, true, eternal Valentine – our God, who loves us more than we will ever be able to comprehend! Choose today to accept His love when He whispers in your heart, "Be Mine!"

*In Christ,
Lisa Nance
Interim Minister*

Scripture Readings for the Month of February and Ash Wednesday Service

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
February 5	Jonah, chapter 3
February 12	Jonah, chapter 4
February 19	We welcome Rev. Clyde Wiley into our pulpit!
February 26	II Kings 2:1-12 & Mark 9:2-9

Also, please mark your calendars now to be a part of our Ash Wednesday Service which will be on Wednesday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Presbyterian Women 2006

The Presbyterian Women are off to a busy year in 2006. At their meeting on January 17, the Presbyterian Women approved their calendar of events and activities and projects for 2006. Kay Dry and Carolyn Stevenson are the Co-Moderators for the Presbyterian Women this year, and have invited all women to participate in their monthly meetings and other activities.

The Bible Study for this year is from the Horizon Bible Study *For Everything, A Season, A Study of the Liturgical Calendar*. Anyone who would like to be a part of the Bible study can obtain a copy of the lesson book from Kay or Carolyn. In order to have the lessons coincide with the time of year the Bible Moderators have created a Lesson Schedule. Please see below:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Lesson</u>
January	Five
February	Six
March	Seven
April	Eight
May	Nine
No meetings in June, July or August	
September	One and Two
October	Three
No Bible Study in November and December	

The Presbyterian Women meet the third Tuesday of each month (except for summer months). The Daytime Circle meets at 10:00 a.m. and the Evening Circle meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. In addition to the monthly meetings, the Presbyterian Women have planned some other activities and projects. Please refer to the schedule below:

<u>Event/Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>
Senior Citizens Spring Luncheon	April 4
Presbyterian Women Yard Sale	April 8
Presbyterian Women's Brunch	May 20
Chicken Pastry Supper	October 27
Senior Citizens Fall Luncheon	November 7
Christmas Dinner and Program	December 12

Again, any women interested in being a part of the monthly meetings, events or activities are encouraged to do so. If you have questions regarding the Presbyterian Women, please contact Kay Dry at 639.9784 or Carolyn Stevenson at 894.8862

Old-Time Gospel Sing

Please mark your calendars now for our Old-Time Gospel Sing on Sunday, February 26 at 5:30 p.m. Talent, both young and old, from within our congregation will be prepared to sing and entertain and will also look for help from the congregation. If you are interested in being a part of this sing or have questions, please contact Paul Stephenson at 894.2728.

History of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day has come to be seen as the holiday of romance! But it wasn't always seen that way. Here is a bit of history concerning the holiday – hope you enjoy!

What we call Valentine's Day was at one time a religious holiday called the Feast of St. Valentine. It was a day to remember and celebrate the life and death of a great Christian martyr.

According to church tradition, St. Valentine was a priest near Rome in about the year 270 A.D. The Emperor was seeking out practicing Christians, arresting them and having them put to death. Valentine was caught helping Christians continue to practice the sacraments, including marriage. He was promptly arrested and sent to trial.

During his trial the Romans asked Valentine what he thought of the Roman gods Jupiter and Mercury. Of course Valentine said they were false gods and that the God of Jesus was the one true God. Furious, the Romans threw him in prison for insulting their gods.

While in prison, Valentine continued to witness to all who would hear. One of the guards who heard his message was a good man who had adopted a blind girl. This man asked Valentine if his God could help his daughter. Valentine prayed for the child and she received her sight. The guard and his whole family, 46 people in all, believed in Jesus and were baptized. When the Emperor heard about this, he was furious that Valentine was still preaching even in prison, so he had Valentine beheaded.

Valentine knew the dangers of professing his faith. He knew that he might get caught if he performed the sacraments. He knew that if he told the court the truth about the Roman gods that he would be punished. And he knew that if he continued to witness about Christ in prison, he would incur the Emperor's wrath. But because he loved the Lord, he stepped out in faith. He was willing to risk his life to free those imprisoned by sin and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all who needed to hear it.

John 15:13 says: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." God showed us this kind of love when He sent Christ to die for our sins. And St. Valentine demonstrated this sort of love when he was willing to risk dying in order to preach God's message. **This** is the kind of love that Valentine's Day is really all about!

Church Website Update

Dave Nelms, Website Coordinator, has added several new features to our church website. Some of the new things you can find are contact information for church staff, Session members with their responsibilities, the bulletin for the most recent Sunday, as well as church schedules, newsletters, and upcoming events. If you have information that you would like posted on the website, please send those to Dave Nelms at dnelms@countrysoftware.com.

Basic Needs Ministry

Basic Needs Ministry (I-40, Exit 312 on Hwy. 42) is a charity and thrift store, which provides "gift certificates" to local organizations to distribute to people in need. These certificates are for a free set of clothing. They redeem these "gift certificates" on Mondays 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Items are also for sell in their thrift store.

- Basic Needs displays 28,000 clothing items
- Basic Needs stocks over 600 brands
- Basic Needs clothing is new or double quality-checked lightly used
- Basic Needs clothing is sorted by category and size
- All clients and customers are welcome in the warehouse and have equal opportunity to select from the best clothing available
- Basic Needs provides free clothing to residents in financial need or victims of fire or natural disaster

Our church has been given plenty of these gift certificates to distribute. If you know of anyone who could benefit (or who has family that could benefit) from receiving this, please contact Nancy Nelms at 894.3489. She will be happy to provide you with as many as you need. For more information you can go to the website for Basic Needs Ministry at <http://4042needs.org/index.html>.

Thank You

I would like to say thank you to our church family for all the ways that you helped make my first Advent and Christmas here at Providence very special! The children and I truly appreciate all that you have done to help us feel at home. The gifts, the well wishes and the prayers meant so much to us - may God continue to bless our journey together!

Rev. Lisa

February Schedules

Infant Nursery

5	Jason and Cindy Parrish
12	Bob and Jenni Dry
19	Johnathan and Amy Reed
26	Christina Nelms and Georgeanna Phillips

Toddler Nursery

5	Andrea Jones
12	Beth Pickens
19	Kelly Nordan
26	Gary Phillips

Ushers

5	Tony Bryant and Darren Stuart
12	Nathan Dry and John Kopanski
19	Mark Nelms and Chris Stephenson
26	Gary Phillips and Atlee Roberts

Acolyte

5	Lauren Langdon
12	Katie Rutherford
19	Joshua Collier
26	Darren Shelp

Bell Ringer

5	Abigail Wood
12	Haley Jones
19	Joseph Phillips
26	Adam Shelp

Children's Sermon

5	Kay Dry
12	Kathy Wood
19	Ann Benson

Children's Church

5	Richard and Andrea Jones
12	Robbie and Kathy Wood
19	David and Pam Collier
26	Darren and Joan Stuart

Prayer List

Rose Blasgow, Don Bullard, Josephine Byrd, Carol Clifton, Vera Critcher, Lovie Dorman, Crystal Hamilton, Mary Hart, Chris Johnson, Bobbie Langdon, Betty Lou Lee, Eloise McLeod, Randy Moody, Diane Moose, Kenneth Ray, Sandra Rice, Bud Schmidt, Mary Serman, Alice Stephenson, Mary Stephenson, Bobby Stone, Allison Tart, Margaret Walton, Jesse West, and Margaret White.

February Birthdays

♪♪♪♪ *Happy Birthday to.....* ♪♪♪♪

4	Kristy Stephenson
5	Crystal Langdon Johnny Wood
6	Jessica Porter
8	Wayne Langdon Mark Nelms
10	JoAnn Creech Suzanne Wiley
14	Linda Roberts Richard Rutherford
15	Jessica Stephenson
16	Lisa Ingram Jimmy Stuart
18	Beth Pickens
20	Ashley Porter
21	Wade Johnson Edsel Penny
24	Barbara Walton
25	Tony Bryant
27	Margot Porter
28	Crissy Porter

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

February Upcoming Events

5	Pioneer Clubs at 5:00 p.m. – BirthDay Party! Providence Youth (7 th -12 th grade) meet at 6:00 p.m. in the manse
7	Stated Session Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
12	Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper during Worship at 11:00 a.m.
14	Valentine's Day!
19	Pioneer Clubs at 5:00 p.m. – Beach Party! Providence Youth (7 th -12 th grade) meet at 6:00 p.m. in the manse
21	Presbyterian Women Daytime Circle meets at 10:00 a.m., and the Evening Circle meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
26	Deadline for items to be given to DeEtta Wood for the February newsletter
26	Men's Fellowship Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
26	Old-Time Gospel Singing at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary