

Presbyterians at the Crossroads

June 2006

Providence Presbyterian Church

Rev. Lisa Nance

www.providencepresb.org

Pastor's Paragraph

Have you ever noticed how much human beings love a scandal? We aren't really picky about what kind of scandal, either. We will take any good one that comes along. The recent media sensation of the DaVinci Code is one of the outstanding scandals right now. A few weeks ago, it was the wiretapping controversy. Before that, it was Brittany Spears driving off with her baby not strapped into his carseat...Talk about variety! We can find the most diverse things exciting beyond belief.

But do you remember what was the big controversy this past November? How about last June? What about May of 2003? February of 1995? It seems that almost as quickly as another story surfaces, the last one is "yesterday's news". And each story, in and of itself, seems like the most important story in the world – nothing could ever top this one!

Perhaps we can glean some wisdom from this phenomena.

The Presbyterian Women held a brunch in May, celebrating and fellowshiping together. Our speaker at that brunch was Sherry Nordan Byrd.

Sherry began by having us draw our lifeline, including the highs and lows. Some of us found this difficult. We didn't like remembering some of the lows. It was hard to think about some of the things we have lived through. For myself, it was difficult to draw because so many of the things that felt like "low" points when I was dealing with them, turned out to be some of the "highest" points in retrospect, because of the good that God brought from them.

After we finished our assignment though, Sherry shared a very important message with us. She reminded us that we are called to live in the present – not the past, where things are over and done with, and not in some fantasy future. Too often, we are bound by the past – mistakes we made, dreams we had, friends and loved ones who are no longer with us... And yet, we find ourselves bound by an imaginary future as well – a time when all of those fantasies exist, all of the "we will be happy when we...get our degree, lose weight, find the perfect love, get that new job...."

The end result is that the present is lost. And quite honestly, the present is all we have. The past is over and we cannot change it. The future is unknown and we can't dictate it. All we can do is live in the present, using the gifts that come from our past, our strengths, our wisdom, our perseverance, to move into our future with confidence, doing what we can now, to make the future what we want it to be. And as Christians, we realize that we aren't doing this on our own – our God is walking with us, never abandoning us, willing to share our lives every step of the way. But if we aren't

aware of the present, we can miss God's handiwork in our lives.

The old saying that the "present" is a "gift" certainly holds true today. Accept this gift from God and enjoy this very moment!

*In Christ,
Lisa Nance
Interim Minister*

Pentecost and Pentecost Offering

Pentecost is an exciting time of year. It is when we celebrate the birthday of the church and celebrate the Holy Spirit, who brings new life and hope! Through our participation in the Pentecost Offering, we act on the gifts that the Spirit brings to provide healing and hope to the younger members of God's family: children at risk, youth and young adults.

This year's offering theme, *And they were amazed*, comes from Acts 2:7, part of the story of the Day of Pentecost. The multitude's response to the coming of

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- 20 Vacation Bible School from June 20-22 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.
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- 28 Adult Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. the Holy Spirit is described as being amazed or utterly astonished. Pentecost is like that. It is utterly amazing. Through the Holy Spirit, God completely transformed the cowering disciples into people who changed the world. We too can be utterly astonished by the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Pentecost Offering, like the Day of Pentecost itself, is a vehicle for that astonishment. It gives us the opportunity to use 40% of the amount we receive to make amazing changes in our community on behalf of children at risk. Through General Assembly ministries, the Pentecost Offering also makes an astonishing impact as it guides and nurtures the faith of Presbyterian young people, calls forth a new generation of church leadership, and advocates for children at risk on a national level.

We will be collecting the Pentecost Offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 4. As you plan your gift, please pray that our gifts will have an amazing impact – wherever God sees fit to use them! For a detailed description of the history of Pentecost, please visit www.pcusa.org/ideas/2003summer/IdeasforPentecost.htm.

Scripture Readings for the Month of June

Sunday	Scripture
June 4	<i>Pentecost Sunday</i> Acts 2:1-21; John 16:5-15
June 11	<i>Trinity Sunday and Communion</i> John 3:1-17 & Romans 8:12-17
June 18	Guest Preacher
June 25	I Samuel 17 & Psalm 144:1-4

Calling All Youth for VBS!

Any and all youth (grades 7 and up) who are willing and able are invited to come and be a part of our Vacation Bible School leaders this year. If you can come any night, or all three, just come to the Fellowship Hall before 6:30 p.m. and you will be assigned a class to help lead for the evening. Our children look up to you, and your help would be appreciated. God calls each of us to use the talents He has given us – please join the other leaders as we answer that call, through the grace of God! If you have a preference for the class you would like to help with, please notify Rev. Lisa Nance as soon as possible.

Men's Fish Fry

On Friday, May 19, the Men's Fellowship, along with help from the Women and Scouts, had a very successful Fish Fry fundraiser. **The fundraiser cleared a total of \$3000**, which will be divided among the Men's Fellowship, Boy Scout Troop 210, and the Building Fund. For everyone that participated in this event, you know how much hard work was put into making it successful. In addition to the monetary success of the fundraiser, an air of excitement and energy was felt by all who were involved, whether it was cooking, cleaning, working or eating! May the Lord use this money to grow our congregation and reach out to our community!

Search for Interim Minister of Music

You may have noticed that we said good-bye to Susan Scott as our Music Director in early May, but she is still leading our Choir many Sundays! Susan has graciously agreed to help us get through the coming weeks as we begin the search for someone to fill the position of Music Director/Minister of Music. The Session approved the formation of a sub-committee to work on this extremely important need in our church. That committee has met, created a job description and salary recommendations, which the Session has approved. Now they will begin circulating that information to local colleges. If you know of anyone who would be interested in interviewing for this part-time job, please have them contact Ann Benson, Ann Stephenson or DeEtta Wood. Please keep this committee and its work in your prayers.

Vacation Bible School is Almost Here!

From June 20-22 our church will be celebrating God's Home Construction! Dinner will be served each night at 6:00 p.m. and the program will begin at 6:30 p.m. Please be sure to register your children/grandchildren/distant relatives/neighbors ... etc! All God's children are invited!"

Words of Faith from Mother Theresa

Meditations from a Simple Path

People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered.
Love them anyway.
If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish motives.
Do good anyway.
The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.
Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable.
Be honest and transparent anyway.
What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.
Build anyway.
People who really want help may attack you if you help them.
Help them anyway.
Give the world the best you have and you may get hurt.
Give the world your best anyway.

Congratulations to.....

Donna Dupree and **David Murphy** who were married on Thursday, May 4, 2006 in a private ceremony on Makena Beach, Maui, Hawaii.

Ryan Nelms who received the following from the West Johnston FFA on May 11: Greenhand FFA Degree, Chapter FFA Degree, 3rd place in the Chevy Truck Scholarship Program Sales, 3rd place in the Coca-Cola Fundraiser, 3rd place in the Federation for Truck Driving, and 3rd place in the Federation and 5th place in the Region for Agriculture Mechanics CDE.

Christina Nelms who received her Certified Nursing Assistant designation on May 13 after passing

the written and skills portion of the North Carolina State Exam.

Ryan Jones who made Principal's List and **Tyler Nordan** and **Jessica Stephenson** who made Honor Roll at West Johnston High School.

Anyone who has received awards or recognitions, please notify DeEtta Wood at jdwood72@earthlink.net or 331.9046.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

It is with great joy that our congregation elected our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) on Sunday, May 7. Those elected are: Nathan Dry, Sandra Lordi, Laura McLamb, Steve Nordan, Georgeanna Phillips, Charlie Porter, Nadine Reed, Will Walls, and Jeffrey Wood. These members of our congregation have been charged with the challenging task of finding the person that God is calling to be the next installed pastor here at Providence. The PNC has their meeting on Thursday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. Please pray for their work, but also remember that what they do is to be done in strict confidentiality. May the Spirit of God guide our PNC in every step it takes.

June Schedules

Infant Nursery

4 Kay Dry and Christina Nelms
11 Laura Langdon and Joan Stuart
18 Nell Franke and Jeffrey Wood
25 Pam Nelms and Gwen Walton

Toddler Nursery

4 Kelly Nordan
11 Darren Stuart
18 Stephanie Bagley
25 Kent Walton

Ushers

4 Mark Nelms and Chris Stephenson
11 Jason Parrish and Jeffrey Wood
18 Carlos Bagley and Robbie Wood
25 Gary Phillips and Atlee Roberts

Acolyte

4 Joseph Phillips
11 Joshua Collier
18 Darren Shelp
25 Adam Shelp

Bell Ringer

4 Haley Jones
11 Joseph Phillips
18 Adam Shelp
25 Darren Shelp

Children's Sermon

11 Ann Benson
18 Carolyn Stevenson

Children's Church

4 Gary and Georgeanna Phillips
11 John and Beth Pickens
18 David and Pam Collier
25 Richard and Sherry Rutherford

Prayer List

The families of Leon Barefoot and Kathy Stephenson. Also, Christy Anderson, Jeff Anderson, Richie Andrews, Bevoline Brooks, Don Bullard, Josephine Byrd, Mickey Carroll, Carol Clifton, Vera Critcher, Will Duncan, Lovie Dorman, Gene Glasgow, Mary Hart, Lawrence Herron, Chris Johnson, Tim Lang, Betty Lou Lee, Carolyn Lewis, Carol Mayben, Lewis McLamb, Eloise McLeod, Julia Nales, Mary Serman, Ella Sherrill, Harry and Betty Smith, Alice Stephenson, Mary Stephenson, David Stewart, and Margaret White.

June Birthdays

🎵🎵🎵 *Happy Birthday to.....* 🎵🎵🎵

1 Daniel Stephenson
4 Connor Reed
6 Pam Nelms
Riley Wood
8 Don Dupree
9 Debbie Greene
Lisa Nelms
11 Austin Benson
13 Kay Dry
18 Chellie Poston
Emma Riggelman
25 Lauren Langdon
Margaret Massengill
27 Hamilton Greene
30 Pam Collier

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

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