

Presbyterians at the Crossroads

May 2006

Providence Presbyterian Church

Rev. Lisa Nance

www.providencepresb.org

Pastor's Paragraph

It seems like so much of our Christian year is spent in anticipation of Christmas and Easter – the two pinnacle events of the liturgical year. When those days are over though, there are several different emotions that we feel – relief that something we have anticipated so much has finally come to fruition; joy that something we longed for has filled our lives anew; sadness that such an incredible event is over so soon – but perhaps most of all, we are left with the feeling of letdown and the question of “what’s next?”

It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that Easter is a one day event. We come to church, we joyfully celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, we enjoy the day with our families, then....what? What happens next?

Well, for believers, Easter isn't an interesting event that happened several thousand years ago in a far away land. It is an event that alters our lives forever. I have been struck recently by the number of times in a day that we have choices to make – and I'm not even talking about what we wear or eat! But how we respond to our children, our spouse, our parents, our siblings, our boss, our friends – do words come out of our mouths that we regret instantly? Do we sit down at the end of the day and think, “If only I hadn't said that...” Or have we become so accustomed to the way we interact with others that we don't even notice when we say things that tear others down rather than build them up?

There is more to the picture though – it isn't just the sins that we commit by our own actions – sometimes it is the sin we allow to continue because of our inactions. It is not easy to take a faithful stand in the face of injustice – and there isn't one easy answer for every situation. It takes prayer and discernment to know when we are being called by God to step up and say, “Enough is enough”.

It is hard to change our patterns of behavior. But Jesus didn't die on the cross so that we could mindlessly continue in sin just because it is what we are used to doing.

How very complex our lives seem sometimes! God did not create us to live in solitude. We were created to live in relationships – with God and with others. The Easter event defines our lives of faith in a way that causes our relationships to be more than just causal affairs to pass the time – they are part of God's plan for eternity. May the Easter event come to define who we are in all that we do!

*In Christ,
Lisa Nance
Interim Minister*

Presbyterian Women News

There is a lot going on within our church and the Presbyterian Women organization! The Women are very excited and encouraged by the attendance at their Circle meetings and the support that they have received from the church for their mission projects! Given the excitement, mission projects, and upcoming events, the Women would like to extend a special invitation to all women within the congregation to become an active part of this outreach ministry of our Church. Kay Dry and Carolyn Stevenson are the Moderators of the Presbyterian Women, and would welcome any interest or questions in this organization.

The Presbyterian Women would like to thank all the men, women and youth that helped make the Yard Sale on April 8 such a huge success! Since the Yard Sale was such a success, the women have decided to have another one on Saturday, May 6 from 7:00 a.m. – 12 noon. Items for the sale are still being accepted and can be brought to the manse on Friday, May 5 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

On Saturday, May 20 from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon at the manse, the Presbyterian Women will host a brunch for all women within the church. The women will enjoy a time of food and fellowship, and a great Bible study and discussion led by Mrs. Ruth McSwain. All women are invited, but are asked to RSVP their attendance to Kay Dry or Carolyn Stevenson by Sunday, May 7. Since the Women are hosting this brunch, they will not have their regular monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of May.

Men's Fish Fry

Not only are the Presbyterian Women staying busy, but the Men of the Church are too! They have begun taking down the playground in preparation for the modernization of the church parking lot, and will be putting it back up once the parking lot has been completed. They are also planning for their Annual Fish Fry scheduled for Friday, May 19 from 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 per plate, eat-in or take-out, and will include fish, slaw, potatoes, hushpuppies, drink and dessert. Please plan to eat fish for lunch or supper, and invite your friends! If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Nathan Dry.

Congratulations to.....

Robbie and Kathy Wood on the birth of Charlotte Grey, born Sunday, April 16 weighing 5 lbs and 14 oz.

Pioneer Clubs Year-End Celebration!!

Pioneer Clubs has enjoyed another successful year of Bible study, games and activities! It is hard to believe that another year has been completed. As an acknowledgement of the Club members and their successes the Pioneer Clubs Coordinators and Kitchen Crew are planning a Celebration which is open to everyone in the congregation (both young and old!!!) The meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m., with the different clubs going to their classrooms for a short Bible study and activity. Dinner will be served outside (weather permitting) at 6:00 p.m., and will include hamburgers, hot dogs, italian sausages, corn-on-the-cob, french fries, funnel cakes, home-made ice cream, and a time of games, fun, and fellowship! Even if you are not a regular member of Pioneer Clubs or do not have children involved in this program, you are encouraged to come out for an evening of fun!

Congregational Meeting and Fellowship Meal

On Sunday, May 7, we will hold a Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary immediately following the Worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The Session will not present a slate of nominees, rather, in keeping with the tradition of Providence, we will open the floor to nominations. If you plan to nominate someone to serve on this committee, please be sure that person is willing to make the required commitment.

The importance of the work of this Committee cannot be overemphasized. During the coming months, this Committee will meet with the Presbytery to learn the steps required to call a new minister. Then they will begin the process of prayerfully searching for the person whom God is calling to be a part of the continuing ministry here at Providence. Their work is kept in strict confidence and their progress is not to be monitored by the Session or the congregation. The process is not necessarily a quick one – we are moving in God's time in this process. Therefore the commitment that each member makes to serve on this Committee is one of true dedication. Please pray during the coming weeks that God will prepare the hearts and minds of those who need to serve on this Committee. And once the process begins, we need to remember to continue holding this Committee and its work up to God in prayer – may God's will be done.

Immediately following the Congregational Meeting, the Fellowship Committee will host a Congregational Fellowship Meal in the Fellowship Hall. This Committee will provide the meats, bread and beverages, and the Congregation is asked to come and bring a side dish and dessert! Please plan to be a part of this wonderful time of fellowship!

Music News

It is with heavy heart that the Session approved Susan Scott's resignation as our Choir Director/Minister of Music. Susan has served our church for over 20 years as a leader in our music program. There is no adequate way to ever say THANK YOU enough for such a faithful ministry! On Sunday, May 7, we will honor Susan during the Worship Service.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reminds us that there are many different seasons in our lives – times when we must move into new places as we walk this journey of faith. Our prayers and love will be with Susan, no matter where God leads her in her walk.

Vacation Bible School Update

Vacation Bible School (VBS) plans are coming along! As we have said before, we are continuing with the theme of "Construction Zone" that we began last year. But this year, to make things really exciting, we have decided to take a special twist – we want to base the week on the idea of "Home Construction" because Jesus lives in each one of our hearts!

As a reminder, the dates and times for VBS are June 20-22 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., with supper being served from 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. The VBS Celebration will be held during Worship on Sunday, June 25 at 11:00 a.m.

We still need teachers who will be willing to help with all different age groups – and be watching for the registration forms in the bulletins soon. Invite all your friends, family and neighbors to come join us as we learn how to build the best possible home for our Lord Jesus Christ – right inside our own hearts!

Youth Group Dinner and a Movie Night

The Providence Youth have enjoyed a fun-filled year with Bible Study and group activities! On Saturday, May 20 the Providence Youth will enjoy a Dinner and a Movie night. All youth (7th-12th grade) should plan to meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. to carpool to dinner and the movie! The youth plan to return to the church at 11:30 p.m., and parents should plan to pick them up at that time. If you have questions about this youth outing, please contact Bob Dry.

National Day of Prayer **Thursday, May 4, 2006**

In 1988, the Congress of the United States of America acted upon earlier resolutions to permanently establish the first Thursday of May to be set aside to observe a National Day of Prayer. This action affirmed the intentions of our nation's founders who in 1775 through the first Continental Congress called for a National Day of Prayer on which they asked colonists to pray for wisdom in forming a nation. Throughout our history, often in times of war, this day of prayer has been highlighted as a time to seek wisdom, guidance, and grace. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" as the nation faced the difficult task of reconciliation and reconstruction.

It is fitting for us on this day to join with others across the nation to lift up prayers: prayers of thanksgiving, prayers of confession, prayers of hope and intercession as we consider our own faithful role in the unfolding story of the USA.

Let us also remember those who inhabit lands beyond our shores whose lives weigh in the balance of our own economy and foreign policy. We should be mindful of Jesus' words, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (Luke 12:48). Truly, this is a day to give thanks, contemplate our duty as well as our potential, and dream for the future.

*Rev Jon Brown
Senior Editor/Coordinator
Mission Education and Promotion
Congregational Ministries Publishing*

Graduate Recognition

On Sunday, May 21 during Worship we will recognize our High School and College graduates. We have a number of our young adults graduating and moving into the next phase of their lives. Graduating from High School are Daniel S. McGee, Amanda McLamb, Christina D. Nelms, Tyler A. Nordan, Joey Porter, Jessica Stephenson, and Elise Wiley. Graduating from College are Jessica A. Langdon, and Stephanie G. McLamb. Please plan to be a part of the Worship service on May 21 to show your support and encouragement for these young people as they move ahead in making important decisions and maturing into Christian adults.

Acolyte/Bell Ringer

Wendy Stephenson will be completing the schedule for Acolyte and Bell Ringer for the last half of the year. Any young person that would like to be an Acolyte and/or Bell Ringer, or anyone that would not like to be on the schedule is asked to notify Wendy immediately.

Wedding Shower

On Sunday, May 21 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. there will be a Bridal Shower for Joanna Wiley and Jared Volavka at the home of Jeffrey and DeEtta Wood. All women within the congregation are invited. For directions or questions, please contact DeEtta Wood at 331.9046 or jdwood72@earthlink.net.

Band Concerts

To wrap up the school year, there are two band concerts which involve some of the youth of our church that the congregation is invited to attend.

McGee's Middle School will have their Spring Band Concert on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the school gym. Austin Benson, Emily Langdon, and Jane Pickens will be a part of this concert. West Johnston High School will have their Spring Band Concert on Sunday, May 21 at 3:00 p.m. in the school auditorium. Ryne Jones and Stewart Pickens will be a part of this concert.

Sunday Sermons

Beginning Sunday, May 7, Rev. Lisa Nance's sermons will be available on the church website at www.providencepresb.org. The sermons should be posted on Sunday afternoons or Monday mornings. If you miss a Worship service or would like to share a Sunday message with a friend, please refer to the website for this information. If you have questions about the website or the information posted there, please contact David Nelms.

Men's Softball

The Providence Men have had a pretty good softball season, and appreciate the support that they have received from the congregation in cheering them on to several wins! The Men will finish up their spring softball season at the end of this month. The remaining games are outlined in the May Upcoming Events and are also posted on the church website at www.providencepresb.org. If you have any questions regarding the Men's Softball team, please contact Robbie Wood.

May Schedules

Infant Nursery

- 7 Heath and Heather White
- 14 Bob and Jenni Dry
- 21 Linda Roberts and Amanda McLamb
- 28 Sandra Lordi and Elaine Wood

Toddler Nursery

- 7 Beth Pickens
- 14 Courtney Walton
- 21 Amy Reed
- 28 Kay Dry

Ushers

- 7 Hamilton Greene and Johnathan Reed
- 14 Randy Benson and Jim Ingram
- 21 Tony Bryant and Darren Stuart
- 28 Nathan Dry and John Kopanski

Acolyte

- 7 Samuel Stephenson
- 14 Nathan Ingram
- 21 Lauren Langdon
- 28 Katie Rutherford

Bell Ringer

- 7 Hannah Stephenson
- 14 Joshua Collier
- 21 Jack Sherrill
- 28 Abigail Wood

Children's Sermon

- 7 David Collier
- 14 Andrea Jones
- 28 Kathy Wood

Children's Church

- 7 Kelly Nordan and Jeff Wood
- 14 Richard and Andrea Jones
- 21 Robbie and Kathy Wood
- 28 Kent and Gwen Walton

Prayer List

Don Bullard, Josephine Byrd, Betty Carroll, Mickey Carroll, Bruce Coats, Carol Clifton, Vera Critcher, Lovie Dorman, Gene Glasgow, Mary Hart, Lawrence Herron, Chris Johnson, Bobbie Langdon, Betty Lou Lee, Carolyn Lewis, Carol Mayben, Lewis McLamb, Eloise McLeod, Rebeth Mitchell, Julia Nales, Nancy Nelms, Sandra Rice, Mary Serman, Alice Stephenson, Mary Stephenson, Margaret Walton, Margaret White, and Johnny Wood.

♪♪♪ Happy Birthday to..... ♪♪♪

- 2 Joe Tart
- 5 Annie Lewis
- 6 Shepherd Byrd
- 7 Caleb Dry
Bernard Parsons
- 9 Wayne Stephenson
- 12 Kelly Nordan
- 22 Lynette Parrish
- 24 Heather Langdon
- 22 Lacy Johnson
- 26 Christina Nelms
Ryan Nelms
- 28 Ronnie Creech
Heather White
- 29 Lynn Stephenson

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

May Upcoming Events

- 2 Men's Softball game at 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Men's Softball game at 8:30 p.m.
- 6 Presbyterian Women FINAL Yard Sale from 7:00 a.m. – 12 noon
- 7 Congregational Meeting following Worship
- 7 Congregational Fellowship Meal immediately following Worship and the Congregational Meeting
- 7 Pioneer Clubs Year End Celebration at 5:00 p.m., dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.
- 9 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Stated Session meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Men's Softball game at 8:30 p.m.
- 14 Mother's Day Recognition during Worship
- 11 Men's Softball game at 7:30 p.m.
- 16 McGee's Middle School Spring Band Concert at 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Men's Softball game at 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Men's Softball game at 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Men's Fish Fry from 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- 20 Presbyterian Women's Brunch at 10:00 a.m.
- 20 Providence Youth Dinner a Movie Night at 6:00 p.m.
- 21 Graduate Recognition during Worship
- 21 Bridal Shower for Joanna Wiley and Jared Volavka from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the home of Jeff and DeEtta Wood
- 21 WJHS Spring Band Concert at 3:00 p.m.
- 23 Men's Softball game at 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Men's Softball game at 8:30 p.m.
- 25 Deadline for items to be given to DeEtta Wood for the June newsletter
- 28 Men's Fellowship Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

May Birthdays