

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church, Rev. Lisa Nance

September 2006



PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

I always find it amazing how God works out the details of our lives. When I arrived here last August to do a few sermons, I never dreamed that I would be here a year later! It didn't take long though to realize that Providence was a place I would like to stay. And through the "providence" of God, we have been allowed to travel this journey together for the past year.

We are now one full year into the interim process together. Although it is sometimes not well understood, the time of the interim is not just a "pulpit supply" time – it is not a time of waiting till the "real" minister shows up – instead it is a focused time of extremely important growth within the church.

During the interim period, we – the congregation and the interim pastor – intentionally walk together in a rather different situation from the "normal" installed pastorate. Our time together is a gift from God, a purposeful time with things we need to "do" together. The primary goal of interim ministry is to glorify God and we can do that best by preparing ourselves to be ready for the new ministry God will call us to when He sends our new, installed minister.

One of the ways that we prepare ourselves in this process is by formulating the Church Information Form (CIF). It is our church "resume" that we offer out to potential candidates – it tells who we are and what we would like to have in our new minister. Last fall, our

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SCRIPTURES FOR SEPTEMBER

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Sept 3	Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Sept 10	Psalm 125 & Mark 7:24-37
Sept 17	Psalm 19 & Mark 8:27-38
Sept 24	Proverbs 31:10-31 & Mark 9:30-37

HOMEcoming IS COMING!

Please mark your calendars now for our annual Homecoming Celebration! It will be **Sunday, October 8**. We will have our traditional 11:00 Worship Service, and then our fellowship meal will follow. **Keep watching!**



CHILDREN'S INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION

On **Sunday, October 1**, the church will celebrate World Communion Sunday. Although every celebration of communion is special – on this day – we especially rejoice in Communion because every church around the world is invited to join us. Within the span of that one day, our brothers and sisters around the world, in every country and from every denomination will join with us around the table of our Lord – preparing us for that day when we will all join together around the table in Heaven!

So, it is fitting that on this special Sunday, we welcome our children to the table. The Book of Order says that all baptized children are invited to the table at such a time that they have been properly instructed. When our little ones are the tiniest, we give them short, simple explanations. But as they grow, they begin to have more questions. In honoring that growth in their lives, the Session has approved an opportunity for our children to gather around the table during Sunday School hour on October 1, in order to have a chance to talk about the Lord's Supper. This will be led by Rev. Lisa and is open to all children ages 4-7 and their parents.



PIONEER CLUBS

Are you ready? Beginning **October 1** at 5:00 p.m. Pioneer Clubs will have its first meeting of the year! Georgeanna Phillips, Pioneer Clubs Coordinator, has been hard at work lining up teachers, planning a new schedule, and organizing new materials and activities. The breakdown of the classes is as follows:

<u>Club</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
Scooters (ages 2 & 3)	TBA
Skippers (ages 4 & 5)	Crissy Porter and Kathy Wood
Voyagers (3rd & 4th)	David and Pam Collier
Trailblazers (5th & 6th)	Pam Nelms and Melinda Kendall

There is a change to schedule for each meeting, so parents please be aware of the following information. During each meeting, the Clubs will have a time of Bible Study and activities from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., and then a time of music with Laura McLamb and Wendy Stephenson from 6:00 p.m. – 6:25 p.m. Dinner will be served at each meeting at 6:30 p.m. All parents are encouraged to come and eat at 6:30 p.m. with their children. Also, the cost for Pioneer Clubs is \$25 per child per year. This money goes towards the cost of materials, badges, awards, and meals. If you have any questions regarding Pioneer Clubs, please contact Georgeanna Phillips at 207.0604.

Session met one Saturday and pounded out basic answers to our CIF.

These answers came from our history, our present situation, and our prayers for the future. We were realistic and tried to be specific. It was a time of intentional discussion about who we are, what we need and where we want to go. Those discussions need to continue even though we have finished with the CIF, because we are constantly being called by God to be faithful – and these areas of discussion prod us in that direction.

Our history, with all the good and the bad, is a major part of who we now are. We need to look at it honestly, asking what we have done well, what we could have done better and what we wish no one ever would know about. The goal isn't to air out all the laundry – but to look for patterns – do we start projects cautiously and finish them well? Do we have a history of our ministers leaving every so many years? What are the factors in our decisions? Are we bound by tradition to keep certain things the way they are? These questions help us know how we have come to this point in our lives together.

Our present identity is strongly shaped by our past experiences, but it is constantly challenged by all the shifting factors of day to day life as well. The lives of our members are radically different than from any point in the past – we have new families, new dreams, and new plans. Identifying ourselves causes us to be intentional about what matters most to us.

And our future is coming at us – we want to be committed to answering God's call in that future! In order to do so, we need to spend time praying, dreaming, exploring ideas and possibilities. And when the Spirit identifies something as being where we should be headed, we need to be able to stand up to that calling – committed to seeing through with what God asks us to do.

The leadership of our church will continue to wrestle with these questions – seeking to faithfully answer God's call as we move into our future. And I pray that as you have read over this list of what our church is doing, that you have heard the voice of God inside your heart, reminding you that these steps are important in your personal growth as well. Living a faithful life often requires us to do some purposeful evaluation of our own lives. May the Spirit of God ever move freely among us as we journey together in this world – seeking to follow the Will of God – both within the family of God and within our own individual lives as well!

In Christ,
Rev. Lisa Nance
Interim Minister

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Jesse and Dawn Riggleman on the birth of their daughter, Jenna Nicole, born July 28 at 4:56 a.m. weighing 6 lbs 6 oz and was 20 inches long.



Chris and Kristy Stephenson on the birth of their daughter, Eva Jean, born August 4 at 8:00 p.m. weighing 7 lbs 9 oz and was 20 inches long.

Announcements

CUB SCOUT BBQ DINNER



On **Saturday, September 9** from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 210 will have a fundraiser selling BBQ Plates at \$6.00 each. This fundraiser will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Providence. If you have questions or would like to purchase tickets, please contact **David Collier or Kay Dry**.

YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Young Adult Sunday School class will begin meeting on **Sunday, September 10** at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Library. We'll be starting back where we left off in the book of Acts Chapter 10. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend as we begin a focused Bible Study on this scripture so fundamental to our faith. We'll also be discussing plans for the year and the new schedule. *If you have questions regarding this class, please contact **Bob Dry**.*



CHURCH-WIDE RETREAT

The church-wide retreat is scheduled for **September 15-17** at Fort Fisher. For those that have made arrangements to participate, if you have any questions please contact **Gary and Georgeanna Phillips**.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS



The Men's Fellowship will resume their meetings in September, but instead of meeting the last Sunday of the month in September, they will meet on **Saturday, September 30** for a light breakfast and a time of clean-up around the church in preparation for Homecoming on Sunday, October 8. Anyone with questions or an interest in helping, please contact Kent Walton, Moderator of Men's Fellowship.

CHANGE IN INFORMATION

As many of you know, Mrs. Alice Stephenson has moved to Oak Hill Assisted Living Center in Angier. So, she has had a change in address and phone number from what is printed in the church directory. Please update your records for Mrs. Alice to:

Alice Stephenson
Oak Hill Assisted Living Center
P.O. Box 759
Angier, NC 27501
919.639.8006

SEPTEMBER EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

INFANT NURSERY

- 3 Mary Langdon and Gwen Walton
- 10 Crissy Porter and Elaine Wood
- 17 Mark and Pam Nelms
- 24 Beth Pickens and Nell Franke

TODDLER NURSERY

- 3 Courtney Walton and Kent Walton
- 10 Richard Jones and Joan Stuart
- 17 Christina Nelms and Joan Littleton
- 24 Sue Bryant and Carolyn Stuart



USHERS

- 3 Tony Bryant and Darren Stuart
- 10 Mark Nelms and Chris Stephenson
- 17 John Kopanski and Jeffrey Wood
- 24 Nathan Dry and Jason Parrish



ACOLYTE AND BELL RINGER

- 3 Joshua Collier
- 10 Daniel Stephenson
- 17 Hannah Stephenson & Justin Wood
- 24 Samuel Stephenson & Hannah Stephenson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 3 Nancy Nelms and Kendall Nelms
- 10 Laura and Amanda McLamb
- 17 Sam and Wendy Stephenson
- 24 Gary and Georgeanna Phillips



CHILDREN'S SERMON

- 3 Laura McLamb
- 10 Carolyn Stevenson
- 17 Kay Dry



"You must move your mouth in order to move mountains"

PRAYER LIST

The family of Mattie Strickland and the Quinn Family. Also, Jeff Anderson, Richie Andrews, Josephine Byrd, Carol Clifton, Will Duncan, Lovie Dorman, Gene Glasgow, Mary Hart, Lawrence Herron, Ricky Jackson, Chris Johnson, Tim Lang, Betty Lou Lee, Carolyn Lewis, Carol Mayben, Lewis McLamb, Amanda Moore, Julia Nales, Jamie Pearce, Mike Sanchez, Harry and Betty Smith, and Alice Stephenson, Mary Stephenson, and Maddox Strader.

SEPTEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS



- 5 Stated Session Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Cub Scout Pack 210 BBQ Fundraiser from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Young Adult Sunday School Class resumes their meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the library
- 15 Church-wide Retreat to Fort Fisher from September 15 – 17.
- 19 Presbyterian Women Daytime and Evening Circles will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- 27 Deadline for items to be given to DeEtta Wood for the September newsletter
- 30 Men's Fellowship to eat light breakfast and have Clean-up day at church in preparation for Homecoming
- 30 New Hope Presbytery Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering at Providence



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

♪♪♪ Happy Birthday to... ♪♪♪

- 1 Sue Bryant
Stephanie McLamb
Carolyn Stuart
- 5 Mabel Ennis
Dorothy Nesselrodt
- 9 Lisa Nance
- 10 David Collier
Jessica Langdon
Michelle Strader
- 11 Nell Franke
- 12 Joseph Phillips
- 13 DeEtta Wood
- 14 Stephanie Bagley
- 16 Bobbie Langdon
Mary Elaine Wood
- 19 Ken Lordi
Ashton Stuart
- 22 Amber Stephenson
- 28 Pat Embrey
Haley Jones
- 30 Nathan Dry

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