

PRESBYTERIANS AT THE CROSSROADS

Providence Presbyterian Church, Rev. Lisa Nance

November 2006



PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

Fall is officially here – in fact, in these early days of November, North Carolina is actually beginning to feel like Fall! The cooler temperatures and shorter days remind us that winter is just around the corner.

With the changing seasons, many thoughts come to our mind. Traditionally, Fall has been a time when the harvesting came to an end, crops were stored for the winter and final preparations were made to face the months ahead. It was also a time of celebration, a time of looking back over the hectic seasons of spring and summer and seeing the many blessings that have taken place – often that we missed in our rushed haste to do what had to be done.

As Americans, we all give at least passing notice to our blessings on Thanksgiving Day. But as Christians, we are called to notice the blessings we have been given far more often than once a year. We are called to pay closer attention to the lives we have been given, not just taking everything for granted.

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CHURCH HARVEST LUNCHEON!

On **Sunday, November 12**, the Fellowship Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee will host our annual Harvest Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall immediately following Worship. The meats, bread and beverages will be provided, and all those attending are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Please join in this time of thanksgiving to God for the abundance of blessings He has bestowed to us at Providence!

VETERANS DAY

On **Sunday, November 12**, as a part of our Worship Service, we will be sharing our prayers for our Veterans, as well as for those who continue to serve in all of the uniformed forces. Please join us for this time of thanksgiving and prayer.



“For a Christian every bush ought to be a burning bush and all ground holy ground”.

Unknown

ALL SAINT'S DAY

Our congregation will be celebrating All Saint's Day on **November 5** this year. We will have candles at the front of the sanctuary, and during the service, we will invite members to come forward to light a candle in memory of a saint who has passed this year. From the PC(USA), here is an explanation of what we are really celebrating on this day: *“All Saint's Day is a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. It is a time to claim our kinship with the glorious company of the apostles...the noble fellowship of prophets...the white-robed army of martyrs. It is a time to express our gratitude for all who in ages of darkness kept the faith, for those who have taken the gospel to the ends of the earth, for prophetic voices who have called the church to be faithful in life and service, for all who have witnessed to God's justice and peace in every nation.”*

“To rejoice with all the faithful of every generation expands our awareness of a great company of witnesses above and around us like a cloud (Heb. 12:1). It lifts us out of a preoccupation with our own immediate situation and the discouragements of the present. In the knowledge that others have persevered, we are encouraged to endure against all odds (Heb. 12:1-2). Reminded that God was with the faithful of the past, we are reassured that God is with us today, moving us and all creation toward God's end in time. In this context, it is appropriate for a congregation on All Saint's Day to commemorate the lives of those who died during the previous year.”

From Companion to the Book of Common Worship



SCRIPTURES FOR NOVEMBER

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Nov 5	All Saint's Day
Nov 12	Mark 12:38-44
Nov 19	The Book of Ruth
Nov 26	John 18:33-37



CHURCH FLOWERS



The 2007 Church Flower contribution list will soon be posted. If you would like to reserve a specific Sunday to place memorial or honorary flowers in the church, please notify Beth Pickens at bpickens@nc.rr.com or 639.5318. If you would like for Beth to order your flowers, please notify her of any specific requests.

Pastor's Paragraph from page 1

Too often in our lives, there is some predominant issue that claims all of our attention. That issue, whatever it is, is often accompanied by fear, dread and anxiety. Those are normal reactions to the unknown that we are sometimes called to walk through. Whether it is illness, family discord, divorce, job insecurity, conflict between friends, threats from school, the list of issues that trigger our fears is endless – and different for each one of us. It is easy to get swallowed up into the vacuum that such fear creates.

But in the midst of that despair, God offers us an opportunity to swim against the tide – to set our face against the winds that threaten to overwhelm us. God calls us to cling to Him, remembering the goodness that is a part of our lives as well – the multitude of gifts He has given us. For Christians, this isn't an escape route, meant for us to plaster a smile on during our darkest hours – it is permission to feel the pain – finding a way to make it a part of who we are, but not what defines who we are.

As our American holiday of Thanksgiving approaches, spend some time thinking about your own life. Offer up to God the things that are overwhelming you. Allow God to put those things in proper perspective – and to help you see into the future where He is calling you. Our Lord never leaves us alone – He is beside us, holding us, leading us, loving us – longing to share our lives. Open your heart to His blessings today!

In Christ,
Rev. Lisa Nance
Interim Minister

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

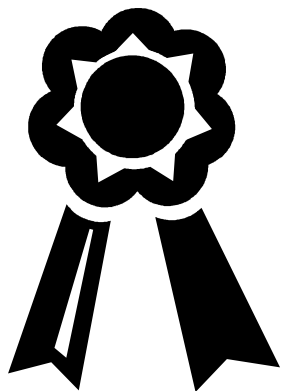
Jason and Lisa Ruiz on the birth of their son, Anthony Jay, born September 20 at 3:13 p.m. weighing 7 lbs 12 oz and was 21 ½ inches long.



Carlos and Stephanie Bagley on the birth of their daughter, Kimsey Ann, born November 2 at 12:41 a.m. weighing 5lbs 7 oz and was 19 ¼ inches long.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF NC STATE FAIR SHOWS AND COMPETITIONS:

NC Theme Egg Contest – **Samuel and Hannah Stephenson**
Weaving – **Hannah Stephenson**
News and Observer Essay Contest – **Daniel Stephenson**
NC ABGA – **Tyler Nordan**
Junior Meat Goats – **Abigail Wood and Justin Wood**
Junior Market Barrow – **Abigail Wood and Justin Wood**
Angus Show – **Abigail Wood**



BUDGET AND PLEDGES

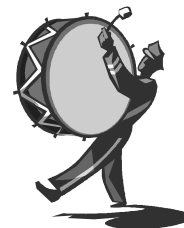
As we enter into a season of Thanksgiving, it is appropriate to consider the work of our congregation – not only do we sustain our own immediate Christian family, but we reach out into the community, the state, the nation and the world with our contributions here at Providence. What we do is important work in the Kingdom of God. As Christians we follow the call of our God. As Presbyterians, we seek to do things “decently and in order”, so we purposely step into our future, offering up our hopes and plans. With God’s blessings we will move toward reaching those goals.



On **Sunday, November 12**, the Session will provide the congregation with a copy of our proposed budget for 2007. There will be an opportunity to ask any questions that you might have.

On **Sunday, November 19**, we will be collecting our pledge cards for the upcoming year. Pledging is a challenge – it isn't meant to be easily or thoughtlessly done – it is a challenge from God to step out in faith. The idea of 10% is often used, but what you actually pledge is between you and God – some of us are at places where we can't pledge 10% - and some of us are at places where we can exceed 10%. Prayerfully ask God to guide you as you and your family make your pledge. Then joyfully present that offering to God, knowing that God will strengthen you to find a way to do what He calls you to do!

WEST JOHNSTON HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER



Come see the West Johnston High School Marching Band's 2006 Competition Show *Declaration*. Music and storyline based on the writings of the Declaration and our country's rights of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. This performance is free to the public at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 6 at the WJHS Football Stadium. Band members include Austin Benson, Ryne Jones and Jane and Stewart Pickens.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

We will have our annual Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. In order to prepare for this program, all children and youth are asked to participate in the rehearsals that are scheduled for **November 5 and 19 at 4:00 p.m., November 12 and 26 at 5:00 p.m., and December 2 at 9:30 a.m.** (with breakfast provided). If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Wendy Stephenson or Kay Dry.

NOVEMBER EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

INFANT NURSERY

- 5 Heath and Heather White
- 12 Darren and Joan Stuart
- 19 Linda Roberts and Kristy Stephenson
- 26 Kay Dry and Christina Nelms

TODDLER NURSERY

- 5 Beth Pickens and Carolyn Stuart
- 12 Amanda McLamb and Courtney Walton
- 19 Chris Stephenson and Kelly Nordan
- 26 Elaine Wood and Crissy Porter

USHERS

- 5 David Collier and Jeffrey Wood
- 12 Jimmy Stuart and Kent Walton
- 19 Carlos Bagley and Randy Benson
- 26 Andrea Jones and Pam Nelms

ACOLYTE AND BELL RINGER

- 5 Joshua Collier
- 12 Lauren Collier and Emma Phillips
- 19 Joseph Phillips
- 26 Haley Jones

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 5 Richard and Andrea Jones
- 12 Jeff and DeEtta Wood
- 19 Darren and Joan Stuart
- 26 David and Pam Collier

CHILDREN'S SERMON

- 5 Lisa Nance
- 12 David Collier
- 19 Kay Dry

PRAYER LIST

Jeff Anderson, Richie Andrews, Josephine Byrd, Carol Clifton, Lovie Dorman, Gene Glasgow, Mary Hart, Lawrence Herron, Ricky Jackson, Chris Johnson, Lacy Johnson, Tim Lang, Betty Lou Lee, Carolyn Lewis, Carol Mayben, Trina McDonald, Lewis McLamb, Julia Nales, Euna Nelms, John O'Connell, Jenny Parsons, Jamie Pearce, Mike Sanchez, Harry and Betty Smith, Alice Stephenson, Mary Stephenson, Suzanne Underwood, and Barbara Walton.



NOVEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS



- 2 Presbyterian Women go to Ron's Barn at 5:30 p.m.
- 5 All Saint's Day Remembrance during Worship at 11:00 a.m.; Question and Answer discussion at 2:00 p.m. regarding the 217th General Assembly meeting
- 5 Christmas Play Practice at 4:00 p.m.
- 5 Pioneer Clubs at 5:00 p.m. and Youth Group at 5:30 p.m.
- 6 Pastor Nominating Committee meets at 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Christmas Play Practice at 5:00 p.m.
- 14 Stated Session Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Presbyterian Women Joint Circle meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- 19 Christmas Play Practice at 4:00 p.m.
- 19 Pioneer Clubs at 5:00 p.m., Youth Group at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Thanksgiving Celebration Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
- 26 Men's Fellowship Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.
- 26 Christmas Play Practice at 5:00 p.m.
- 26 Deadline for items to be given to DeEtta Wood for the December newsletter



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

♪♪♪ Happy Birthday to... ♪♪♪

- 2 Kimsey Ann Bagley
- 3 Gwen Walton
- 6 Nathan Reed
- 7 Ann Benson
- 9 Gary Phillips
Rosemond Woodall
- 10 Hannah Stephenson
- 11 Virginia Moore
- 12 Rosyval Walton
- 14 Ann Woodall
- 18 Julie Walls
- 20 Jim Ingram
- 22 Mark Strader
Darren Stuart
- 24 Chris Roberts
- 26 Jeffrey Wood
- 27 Megan Sherrill
Will Walls
- 30 Laura McLamb