



Providence Press



Providence Presbyterian Church

"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood."

Pastor's message

Finding unity in our diversity through our love of God

Well, what can I say. My heart hurts for the conflict our PCUSA congregations face in the coming weeks and months. One of my greatest frustrations with the Church is the time spent arguing over issues instead of sharing the gospel with those who need the love of our Savior.

The decision of the 221st General Assembly to approve a recommendation from its Civil Union and Marriage Issues Committee, allowing for pastoral discretion to preform "any such marriage they believe the Holy Spirit calls them to perform," where legal by law, has already taken our focus away from our mission to wondering what our future looks like.

The General Assembly then voted to adopt an Authoritative Interpretation (AI) of the *Book of Order* . . . which goes into immediate effect . . . that grants our teaching elders (pastors) permission to perform same

sex marriages where such marriages are legal.

The General Assembly also approved sending to the presbyteries for their consideration a proposed amendment that rewords the section of the *Book of Order* that describes marriage as "between a man and a woman." The new language speaks of "married couples" and at one key point says, "Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man

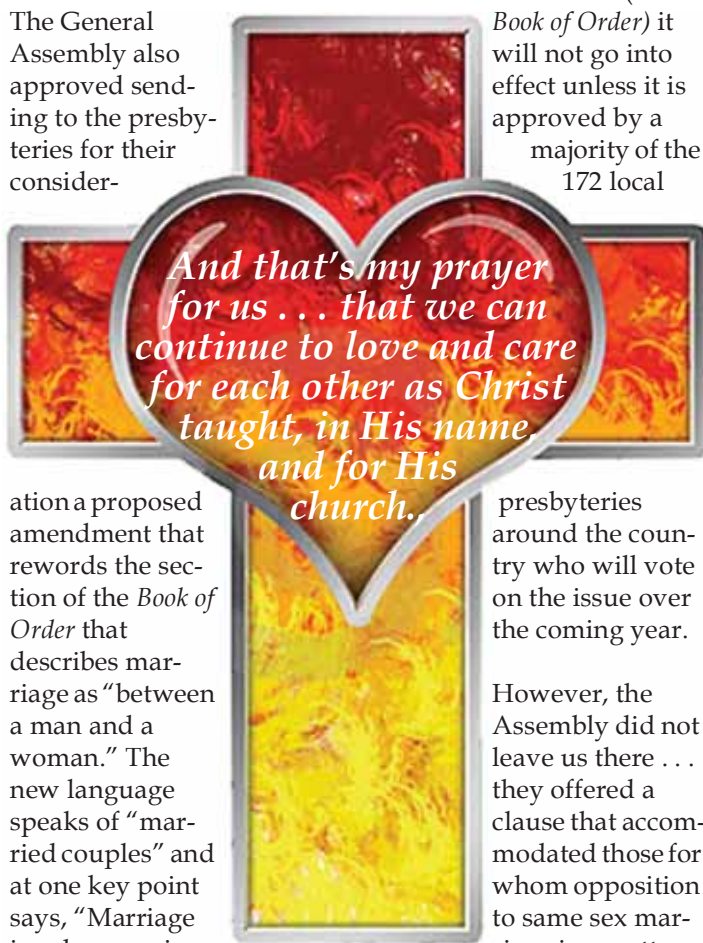
and a woman . . ." Because this is a change to our church's constitution (the *Book of Order*) it will not go into effect unless it is approved by a majority of the 172 local presbyteries around the country who will vote on the issue over the coming year. However, the Assembly did not leave us there . . . they offered a clause that accommodated those for whom opposition to same sex marriage is a matter of conscience: "In no case shall any teaching elder's

conscience be bound to conduct any marriage service for any couple except by his or her understanding of the Word, and the leading of the Holy Spirit." The clause continues to give the same freedom to the Session in approving the use of the church building for a marriage.

How much time and energy has already gone into this controversial question? What would our congregations look like if we, as a denomination, had poured that much effort into sharing our mission? Instead, many people, not involved in a church, look at our controversies and turn away, not wanting to engage in the chaos of organized religion, 2014.

Here at Providence, we're going to keep right on going in the direction God has led us for the last 24 years. We will worship, share, care, pray, and learn . . . together. We're hitting the Pause button on major decisions until our hearts stop

(See "Finding unity" on page 2)



And that's my prayer for us . . . that we can continue to love and care for each other as Christ taught, in His name and for His church.

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("Living," from page 1)
 pounding and we can take a deep breath again.

But we'll get through this difficulty . . . together. Ephesians 4:3 tells us to make "every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." And that's my prayer for us . . . that we can continue to love and care for each other as Christ taught, in His name, and for His church.

My prayer is that we can be united, regardless of our reaction, and reminded that our peace, our unity, our purity are gifts that come from God alone. Let's pray

"Let's pray that God will empower us beyond any and all divisions to be His people . . . and that in our diversity we can find unity through our love of God."

that God will empower us in our diversity we can find beyond any and all divisions unity through our love of God. to be His people . . . and that



July worship volunteers

Contributed by Mary Mastrangelo and Melodie Garner

Providence Press is published monthly by Providence Presbyterian Church. Email articles to kengadomski@comcast.net.

This month's contributors:

- Laura Anderson
- Mary Montei Clark
- Ken Gadomski
- Melodie Garner
- Mary Mastrangelo
- Joan Rommes
- Manny Russo

Date	Liturgist	Communion	Ushers	Nursery	
6	Jerry Williams	Intinction	Bill Berry	Myrna Andrews	
			Mary Mastrangelo		Buck Bolton
			Linda Payne		Joan Rommes
					Amy Westerberg
13	Jerry Williams		Ann Bosarge	Barry South	
			Aggie Roebuck		
			Buddy Low		
			Mary Mastrangelo		
20	Barry South	Debbie McLendon	Marlene Taylor	Pam Fredelake	
		Emmett Proudfoot	Les Taylor		
		Aggie Roebuck	Bob Ellis		
		Joan Rommes	TBA		
27	Barry South		Al Drinovsky	Kathy Taylor	
			Debbie McLendon		
			Myrna Andrews		
			TBA		



How to become someone's blessing

Goodwill/Easter Seals Good Samaritan Program

If you donate items to Goodwill Easter Seals, they have a program called the Good Samaritan Program. With this program, people with items to donate to Goodwill specify those donations be credited to a designated church/organization. After the donation is received, Goodwill Easter Seals provides the designated church/organization with store certificates redeemable for merchandise.

Providence has joined the Good Samaritan Program. This will enable us to provide Goodwill store certificates to persons needing clothing and/or household items.

If you have items to donate to Goodwill, please come by the church to pick up a Donation Referral Card. Give this card to the Goodwill employee who accepts your donation.

The Donation Referral Card will be sent to the Providence church office with certificates in amounts proportionate to the donation.

The impact can be even more for items not sold at yard sales that are donated to Goodwill Easter Seals.

If you are a yard sale junkie, consider leaving one of the Donation Referral Cards at the yard sale.

School supplies

The school year begins early in August this year, and backpacks with school supplies are needed.

Lists with the needed supplies for O'Rourke Elementary School are printed on the following pages, are available in the Narthex at church, and can be picked up at WalMart.



In the past, we have provided two backpacks for each grade. There

will be a sign up list, so you select a grade.

Backpack Feeding Ministry

The Backpack Program will resume at the beginning of school with food being provided on weekends to 15 students struggling with chronic hunger. Teachers and school counselors at O'Rourke will identify the neediest children (who remain anonymous).

Volunteers at Providence prepare the backpacks each week and transport them to the school every Friday. To be prepared for the coming year, each month this summer we will focus on needed supplies.

June—Breakfast items

June was the month to donate breakfast items. However, we will be glad to receive any of the following items during July:

- **Instant grits** – Individual-serving packets
- **Cereal** – Individual-serving packets
- **Fruit juice** – Individual, single servings
- **Peanut butter** – Small individual servings

July—Lunch/dinner items

July is the month to donate lunch and dinner items:

- **Macaroni and cheese, beans and franks, pasta with tomato sauce, and ravioli** – Single servings with pull tops
- **Ramen noodles**
- **Fruit juice** – Individual, single servings
- **Peanut butter** – Small individual servings
- **Crackers**

\$125.00 feeds a child for a year with this program, so donations to purchase food are always useful.

Please also pray for these children and this mission.

Place all donated food items in the backpack basket located in the church Narthex.

Your donations will make a difference. One out of every 3 children in Alabama lives in a household struggling to put food on the table.



School supply campaign

By Laura Anderson

As in the past several years, this summer you have the chance to select a grade-level backpack to fill for O'Rourke Elementary School students.



Our goal is to fill two backpacks for each grade level. Please use the supply lists that follow and leave your donations in the container in the Narthex.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Partner in Education.

Kindergarten Supply List

- 2 packs Crayola (24-count) crayons
- 1 pack yellow #2 pencils
- 1 pack cap erasers
- 1 pair Fiskars scissors
- 2 four-ounce bottles of Elmer's School Glue
- 12 three-prong folders with pockets (3 each red, yellow, blue, and green)
- 1 plastic pencil box
- 1 Mead story paper journal

Wish List Items

- 1 ten-pack Crayola Classic Color Markers
- 1 watercolor paint set
- 2 four-pack Expo dry erase markers

- 1 large zipper book bag without wheels
- 2 Play-Doh

First-Grade Supply List

- 4 packs Crayola (24-count) crayons
- 1 pack #2 pencils
- 1 pack cap erasers
- 1 pair of safety scissors
- 4 glue sticks
- 1 pack notebook paper (wide-ruled)
- 2 composition notebooks
- 4 polyfolders with pockets and prongs (1 each blue, red, yellow, and green)
- 1 pack Expo black dry erase markers

Second-Grade Supply List

- 4 wide-ruled composition books (1 each blue, yellow, red, and black)
- 1 large pink eraser
- 7 three-prong, two-pocket polyplastic folders (1 each green, blue, yellow, red, orange, and purple and 1 any color)
- 2 boxes crayons (24-count)
- 1 pair of Fiskars school scissors
- 2 glue sticks (4-pack)
- 1 plastic or fabric pencil pouch
- 1 pack wide-ruled paper
- 1 pack black Expo dry-erase markers (4-pack)

- 2 packs yellow #2 pencils (24-count; no prints or designs)
- 1 pack multicolored highlighters



Wish List Items

- 1 standard-size clipboard

Third-Grade Supply List

- 2 one-subject spiral notebooks
- 5 two pocket folders (1 each orange, green, yellow, red, and blue)
- 1 composition notebook
- 1 pair Fiskars scissors (metal blades)
- 2 three-ring binders (1")
- 3 packs notebook paper
- 1 pack cap erasers
- 1 box of crayons (24-count)
- 1 plastic pencil box/pouch
- 1 school glue stick (3-count)
- 2 packs of #2 pencils
- 2 polyfolders with pockets and brads (1 each red and blue)
- 1 pack of Expo dry erase markers (2-count)

Fourth-Grade Supply List

- 6 three-prong polyfolders (1 each orange, green, yellow, red, blue, and purple)

(See "Supplies" on page 5)



EVANGELICAL MISSIONS

Joan Rommes, Elder

("Supplies," from page 4)

- 2 Mead composition notebooks
- 1 pair of Fiskars scissors (metal blades)
- 1 plastic pencil box
- 2 packs wide-ruled notebook paper
- 4 glue sticks
- 1 box of crayons (24-count)
- 2 packs of #2 pencils
- 2 highlighters
- 2 one-subject spiral notebooks

Wish List Items

- Tissues

- Paper towels
- 1 pack of red pens
- Hand sanitizer
- Black dry-erase markers

Fifth-Grade Supply List

- 6 three-prong polyfolders (1 each red, yellow, green, purple, orange, and blue)
- 5 Mead composition notebooks
- 1 pair of Fiskars scissors (metal blades)
- 3 packs of notebook paper
- 1 pack of crayons (24-count)

- 1 pack of colored pencils
- 1 zippered pencil pouch
- 2 school glue sticks (3-count)
- Pencil sharpener with lid
- 2 packs of pencils (24-count)
- Dry-erase markers (3-count)
- 1 lined 3"x5" index cards (2-count)

Wish List Items

- Tissues
- Paper towels
- Germ-X hand sanitizer (girls)
- Clorox wipes (boys)



Vacation Bible School

Providence Presbyterian and The Grove

**Monday–Friday, July 7–11
9:00–11:30 am**

Sign up in the Narthex



Boy Scout Troop 292

By Manny Russo,
Scoutmaster

June was a fun month for your scouts. Thirty-three Scouts and seven adults attended summer camp at Maubila Scout Reservation in Grove Hill. To say it was hot is an understatement! However, the pool and the lake cooled the boys down. They enjoyed activities such as canoeing, kayaking, swimming, and paddle boarding.

The scouts also attended merit badge classes such as canoeing, nuclear science, astronomy, electricity, emergency preparedness, rifle and shotgun shooting, wood carving, leather working, and many more. These badges introduce scouts to activities that may become a hobby or a vocation.

While at summer camp, one of our scouts won the mile swim. Now, have you ever swum a mile? How about swimming it using 4 different strokes? What about doing it in 61 minutes? Mason did it and was the winner of all the participants. He is an Eagle Scout, and one of the troop leaders.

Activities for the remainder of the year include a camp-out at Flint Creek Water Park, shooting activities (rifle/shotgun/archery/black powder rifle/slingshots/tomahawk throwing), canoe trip down the Coosa River in Wetumpka, a civil war reenactment at Fort Toulouse, a leadership program using high and low

ropes, and winter camp in December.

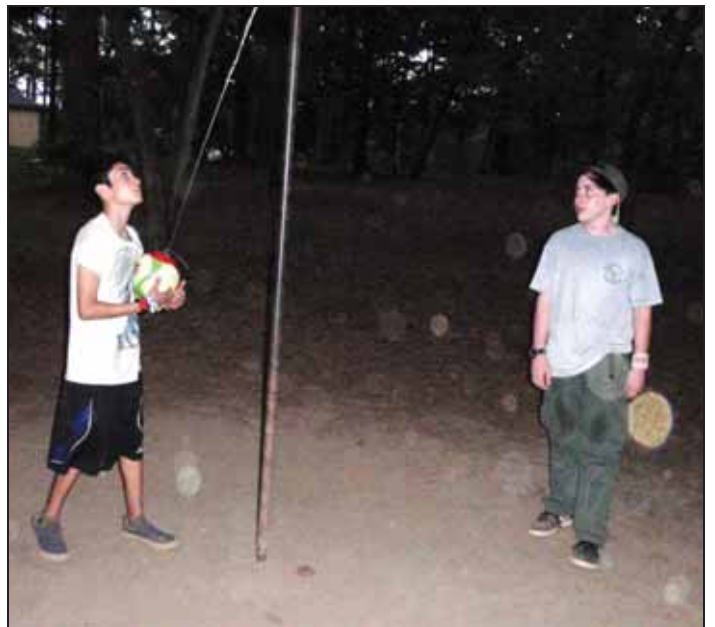
As it relates to the high and low ropes, the scouts will be in small teams and will have to accomplish a task 30 feet off the ground. They do have a safety harness on, but it is difficult to carry out something standing on a rope, not a platform. They will also repel, jump off a 30-foot pole to be caught by their harness before they reach the ground, and do other activities at heights. These activities build confidence, require the boys to overcome fear, and learn to work together as a team.

In July, a program on drug abuse will be presented by the Mobile County Sheriff's

Department. There will be much discussion on some of the newer and most deadly drugs on the market. Also in July, we will have disabled individuals come visit the troop for a program. We will have a deaf person, blind person, someone paralyzed, and someone who has a brain injury due to an auto accident. This program is designed to help the scouts understand the difficulties and successes of individuals with disabilities.

You can see that the troop is very active, and your support is appreciated. Thanks again for allowing the troop to meet at the church and for messing things up at times.





Session Activities

Ken Gadomski, Clerk of Session



May 8, 2014, Session eMeeting

- Approved a motion to take a special offering during the Sunday, May 11 and May 18, worship services for the PCUSA Disaster Response Commission (DRC) to use to help our sister presbyteries respond to the communities and people who suffered damage from last week's storms.

May 18, 2014, Congregational Meeting

- Heard thanks to the members of the Elder Nominating Committee for their service: Laura Anderson, Laura Fletcher, Ken Gadomski (Chair), Donnie Garner, and Joan Rommes.
- Were reminded that the Elders rotating off Session this year were Tom Fletcher, Melodie Garner, Dorinda Hilbun (moved earlier this year to Baton Rouge), Debbie McLendon, and Linda Payne (one-year extension from last year).
- Were informed that the Session has agreed to go forward with four instead of five new elders (for a total of eight rather than nine people on Session) during the coming year. One person will

belong to the Class of 2016 and the remaining three to the Class of 2017. (They will determine who will belong to which class after the meeting.)

- Were informed of the proposed slate of elders: Aggie Roebuck, Sharon Smith, Barry South, and Christine South.
- Approved a motion that nominations be closed.
- Approved a motion to approve the proposed slate of elders.
- Approved a motion to adjourn the meeting.

May 20, 2014, Session eMeeting

- Approved a motion to allow the South family to use the church for a family reunion on Saturday, June 21.

May 31, 2014, Stated Session Meeting

- Approved a motion to approve the docket.
- Approved a motion to allow Elders-Elect Aggie Roebuck, Sharon Smith, and Barry South to vote during the meeting since they have been officially elected by the congregation although not yet installed.

- Approved a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2014, Stated Session Meeting; the May 8, 2014, and May 20, 2014, Session eMeetings; and the May 18, 2014, Congregational Meeting.
- Received an update on church phone and Internet services from Administration Team member Ken Gadomski.
- Received the Pastor's report.
- Reviewed the church calendar.
- Received the Treasurer's Report.
- Received an update from Building and Grounds Elder Emmett Proudfoot on the proposed church sign.
- Were informed by Building and Grounds Elder Emmett Proudfoot that an air conditioning issue in the narthex had been fixed.
- Were informed that Building and Grounds Elder Emmett Proudfoot would be taking over responsibility for mowing again since one of Jeremy Hunt's workers was involved in a collision.
- Discussed maintenance of the cleared fence line and the woods.

- Discussed several building maintenance issues.
- Discussed the possibility of inviting The Grove to write a page in the monthly newsletter.
- Discussed MEGA Wednesday and other possible discipleship activities.
- Were informed by Discipleship Elder Linda Payne that Providence is helping The Grove with Vacation Bible School, scheduled for July 7-11.
- Discussed publicizing Vacation Bible School at Anne Place and the apartment complex and using the Spring Hill Presbyterian Church van to pick up kids at these places.
- Discussed purchasing "Can I Pray for You" t-shirts to wear at the Westside Tailgate Farmers Market and other events.
- Discussed scheduling a Bay Bears fellowship event.
- Discussed the Shepherd-ing Program.
- Discussed Sunday morning pre-worship service prayer.
- Discussed ways to enhance worship.

See "Session" on page 9

("Session," from page 9)

- Approved a motion to take four special PCUSA offerings during the year: the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (Easter), the Pentecost Offering, the Peacemaking Offering (World Communion Sunday), and the Christmas Joy Offering.
- Agreed to fold Youth into the Discipleship area of responsibility.
- Were reminded that Providence will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its first meeting in November 2014 and the 25th anniversary of its official chartering on Pentecost, May 24, 2015.
- Approved a motion to adjourn the meeting.

June 6, 2014, Session eMeeting

- Approved a motion to allow Pastor Mary to baptize Maureen and Miriam Weitzel at the United Methodist Church of Dauphin Island on August 2, 2014.

June 12, 2014, Session eMeeting

- Approved a motion to approve Pastor Mary's request to attend Week 2 of Interim Training during the week of July 20-25.



1 John 3:1
How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

2014 Christmas Cards

to benefit the Presbyterian Home for Children



To celebrate our 10th Year of selling Christmas cards for the Presbyterian Home for Children, we are offering a box of our 5 most popular designs -- all drawn by the children who live at the Home.



The package includes 10 cards, 2 each of 5 designs, and each features a different greeting and a verse of scripture inside.

Order now through August 15 for cards to be delivered in September.

Christmas cards from the Presbyterian Home are high quality cards at a reasonable price that support a valuable cause.

Your cards will demonstrate your special interest in the Home and the proceeds will make a difference in many lives.

Order in advance to be sure you receive all the cards you need to share with your friends!

Presbyterian Home for Children Christmas Card order form

How many packages? _____
(10 cards per package)
x \$15.00 each (includes shipping) _____
Total enclosed: _____

Ship cards to: _____

ORDER ONLINE
WWW.PHFC.ORG

Deadline for orders is August 15, 2014.
Cards will be shipped in September.

Mail check and order form to:
PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN
P. O. Drawer 577, Talladega, AL 35161

Christian Independence Day

Excerpted from "Christian Independence Day," by Phil Ware

Each Sunday, every Lord's Day, is the Christian's Independence Day. Let's not forget to celebrate it. Let's not forget to remember the high cost of our freedom and to anticipate the day of our ultimate and glorious

experience of that freedom when we see the Lord face to face (1 John 3:1-3).

Let's not forget that our church family crosses all of earth's boundaries and awaits the Savior of all peoples, languages, tribes, and nations. Let's be reminded that each believer, each brother and sister in God's

Kingdom, is precious and vital to the work of the Kingdom in the world.

Let's learn to more completely, more universally, more joyfully celebrate our Christian Independence Day and more fully demonstrate the character and compassion of our Lord and King who made this freedom possible.

July 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	2 7:00 pm Choir	3 7:30–8:30 pm AA meeting	 4 Independence Day Church Office closed Dave Ramseur	5
6 9:15 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Administration Team Meeting 11:00 am The Grove	 7 5:00–7:00 pm Westside Tailgate Farmers Market	8 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	9 5:30 pm McKemie Place (The Grove) 7:00 pm Choir	10 7:30–8:30 pm AA meeting	 11 10:00–11:00 am Food Pantry 11:00 am Worship Team meeting 11:00 am Evangelical Missions Team meeting Christine South	 12 Jerry Esneul
13 9:15 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Session Meeting 11:00 am The Grove	14 5:00–7:00 pm Westside Tailgate Farmers Market	15 6:30 pm Boy Scouts July 15-29 Pastor Mary vacation and interim training	16 7:00 pm Choir	 17 7:30–8:30 pm AA meeting Laura Anderson	18	19
20 9:15 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am The Grove	21 5:00–7:00 pm Westside Tailgate Farmers Market	22 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	 23 7:00 pm Choir Don Bloom	24 7:30–8:30 pm AA meeting	25 10:00–11:00 am Food Pantry	 26 Nedra Bloom
27 9:15 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am The Grove	 28 5:00–7:00 pm Westside Tailgate Farmers Market Linda Payne	29 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	30 7:00 pm Choir	 31 7:30–8:30 pm AA meeting Bethany Andrews	1 11:00 am Worship Team meeting	2

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rovidence Presbyterian Church
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REMEMBER WHEN?

What goes around comes around: Crocodile Dock VBS – June 2009

