

Session News

The Session of Lower Providence Presbyterian Church met at 7 pm on October 16, 2018.

Below is a brief summary of the reports and actions of this meeting.

Moderator report: The 72nd Annual Bazaar was a great success this year and we raised over \$14,000! Our congregation does an amazing job raising funds for new programs and missions. I am also encouraged by the Wednesday Night On The Hill Program and enjoy seeing our children, youth and adults coming together for food, fellowship and spiritual formation mid-week. The adults attending the “Anxious For Nothing” by Max Lucado are being encouraged to focus on Jesus and know His peace in our lives. The scripture reading of Isaiah 41:10 really struck me. The prophet Isaiah says, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand.” We live in anxious times whether it is the uncertainty in our world or the uncertainty in our lives or a combination of the both. Anxiety can rule our lives and yet we have a God who says, “I am with you” and I feel as though God is speaking and saying that to us as a Session and a congregation. The message is simply that we need to lean on the Lord and trust Him more and know that He walks with us every moment of our lives. When we see God as Emmanuel, we are then able to fulfill God’s calling because we walk with Him as opposed to on our own. We have exciting and challenging times ahead and with God’s presence with us we will shine His light ever brighter from this hill.

Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults report: This school year has gotten off to a wonderful start! I am excited to see how God is at work in our Youth and Young Adult Ministries here at Lower Providence Presbyterian Church! Our Junior High group continues to grow! We are averaging 15 middle school students at fellowship each week. During the first weekend of October, we took 10 middle school students to the Breakaway Retreat at NorthBay Adventure Center in Maryland. This was a wonderful weekend of faith development and fellowship (and even a zip line and giant rope swing). We have a large Confirmation Class of 13 students and had a lovely kick off dinner where our new Confirmands met with both their adult and youth sponsors. We had a wonderful bowling trip (with the FROGS too) with over 30 students plus several new youth families. Crosspoint continues to grow and be active. We have resumed our monthly meetings at Eagleville Tavern and we had 13 people at our October gathering. Crosspoint also held a Game Night, a new annual tradition, at my home, which is a great opportunity for us to invite new people to the group and get to know each other a little better. I attended a Confirmation Conference at Princeton Theological Seminary and this was an excellent opportunity to hear about the best practices and trends in Confirmation across the country. The unexpected benefit was hearing how this is also a part of faith development for our young adults. I look forward to continuing to learn more about this trend.

Pastoral Associate Report: The work at Old Norriton was delayed due to wet weather but has begun again. The walk from the parking lot to the building has been enlarged and will be usable when Bruce Hustis, our resident historian, speaks on “The Nine Colonial Capitals”. The Men at Lunch group of ten to twelve men continues to study how to become a faithful servant of the Lord. George King led the October study and Fred Root is scheduled for November. In December, we are entertaining our wives for lunch. The Presbyterian Senior day trips are extremely well attended under the good guidance of the Bergs and the Brandaus. In September they visited Washington Crossing Park and Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ, and this month they board the Stourbridge Railroad in Honesdale, PA to look at Pennsylvania dressed in beautiful fall colors. World Wide Communion gives our Elders and Deacons the great experience of serving communion to our “greater congregation”. These folks are unable to attend church regularly or not at all. Pat and I spent a week on Cape Cod. Our son, Jonathan, was able to drive down for a day, and we visited with a couple I had married there 17 years ago. We thoroughly enjoyed our time at the Cape, our special place.

Clerk of Session Report: Approved via email the motion to contract with James R. Kenny Excavating & Paving, Inc. for the remediation, expansion and paving of the parking lot. It is imperative that the paving part of the project commence quickly to insure the job is completed before the asphalt plants shut down for the winter. While steps have been taken on the landscaping and lighting work, the contractors have yet to be identified. We

are confident that the total cost will be within the projected \$430,000. Circulated comments received regarding the new communion process to ministers, Worship Committee and Session. Session Minutes and Records were read and approved on October 5 at First Presbyterian of Pottstown.

Deacons Report: 26 gave blood on October 13 at the Fall Blood drive. Started work on College goodie boxes and planning for Christmas flowers. Discussed donating leftover Panera bread food donations to Norristown food bank, Colledgeville food bank and/or the Veterans Shelter in Philadelphia.

Christian Education: Thanks to Ted and Paul Monaco for posting the Sunday School time on our homepage. Would like to see more information about Bible Study offerings per ministry, their locations, times and possibly the instructors on the website too.

Worship & Music: Approved the following motions: only one worship service at 9:45 am on Sunday, December 23 and December 30; baptism of Hope Victoria Wudarski and of Samuel Charles Dimm. New communion method used Sunday, October 7, and the committee will review the feedback from the congregation. Please note that Saturday, December 8, at 4:30 pm will be the Old Norriton Carol sing.

Long Range Planning: The parking lot sub-committee and Howard Lownes met with the two lowest bidder. In the October 4 Long Range Planning Committee, the sub-committee, Ted Hendricks, Pastor Ted and Jack Rule met and discussed the following: the parking lot bids & progress toward a lighting design. Considering the winter closing of asphalt plants, a motion was written to award the remediation, expansion and paving of the parking lot to James R. Kenny Excavating and Paving, Inc. Comments from the town hall meeting were clustered around these potential visions/outcomes: the immediate use of the facility, multi-generation usage, youth programming, programs/facilities serving aging members, expanded mission, serving the community at large, serving unchurched families in the area, attract new members, make ADA compliant, rejuvenate facility, build differently to be relevant in the future, maintain status quo, other comments, do we need a kitchen or showers or a stage, what are the costs-maintenance/staffing/upkeep, can we raise enough, can we raise money first then determine the extent of the project, should tithing to a mission be part of the project (as suggested by the Presbytery), make Williams Hall more useful, and Sanctuary elevator (many comments indicating a significant need).

Property: DBS Building Solutions continues bi-weekly cleaning. Phase 1 of cemetery restoration is completed. Phase 2 will begin in 2019. Fall Clean Up is scheduled for after the men's breakfast. Volunteers are needed! Old Norriton walkway is in the process of being replaced. An additional donation was given to replace the sidewalk on the side of the building too so both areas will be replaced at the same time. Weekly mowing continues. A new fire panel, required by code, has been purchased and is scheduled to be replaced during our annual inspection date. Researching safety doors to replace French doors in preschool rooms. We are looking to work on the Sanctuary window sills on November 17 and are in need of volunteers to sand and paint.

Nurture & Parish Life: Round tables have been purchased with proceeds from last year's bazaar. Rowland Parlor furniture, two couches, two chairs, one coffee table, and 2 end tables have been purchased. Furniture should arrive in the next couple of weeks. Discussed how proceeds from this year's bazaar will be spent. Discussed the bazaar overall and what worked and suggestions. Discussed 2019 budget. Will be providing the program (People Bingo) at this year's Harvest Potluck Dinner. Don't forget to bring a canned good. Kevin Barnhill has all details finalized for Getaway Weekend. Minute for Mission provided at both services to build interest. Katie Orth is doing the program for the weekend. Discussed Women's Day of Inspiration and how do we want to proceed in the future. Pictorial Directories have been ordered and should arrive in the next couple of weeks for distribution to those who had their pictures taken. Extras were ordered and will be sold for a small cost.

Outreach & Evangelism: John Knox will be speaking at the men's breakfast in November followed by church grounds cleanup. Troop 267 highlights are: all the scouts from last year returned, mulched the LPPC preschool

playground, assisted with traffic control in the parking lot during the LPPC Bazaar, collected 3,000 pounds of clothing and toys leftover from a September consignment sale in Oaks, installed four bat houses in Eskie Park (Eagle Service Project), built several collection boxes for a local food pantry (Eagle Service Project), repaired memorial and drainage system at Heebner Park (Eagle Service Project), held a "Wilderness Survival Weekend" at Heyser Farm, assisted with the training of older cub scouts this past weekend at Musser Scout Reservation, scouting for food in November, and requested to sell Hoagies in November. Preschool going well with lots of activity, some students requiring additional attention, and some staff changes. Sometimes the first month can be challenging until everyone settles into a routine. 18 attended the October Golden Age and so some discussion was held about inviting the homeless veterans group in Philadelphia or possibly rebranding the program.

Member Care: Eight new members came to classes and they are all very enthusiastic about joining our church. October 28 is the New Members brunch and Session meeting and the new members will be introduced to the congregation at the 11 am service that same Sunday.

Serving & Missions: Discussed overseas missions (Resonate Global Mission and SNEHA) and our continued roll in their support. Finalized plans for Operation Christmas Child, with kickoff October 14. Discussed "Stop Hunger Now", a rice packaging mission. Planned clothing drive for Interfaith at Haws Ave. Methodist. Anyone interested in attending Urban Promise's Anniversary Banquet contact Anyce Miles or Linda Hobbs. Habitat for Humanity build is not proceeding as planned. Habitat, as of this report, has not been issued permits necessary to begin.

Nominating: Approved the motion to nominate Chris Shaffer as an Elder and Kristen Schooley as a Deacon. Congregational meeting for election of officer changes is set for Sunday, November 4 following the 8:30 service. Pat Grant will be the Deacon Representative on the committee.

Financial Resources: Met with committee chairs and discussed their 2019 budget proposals. Appreciate their attendance. Discussed September YTD financials.

Stewardship: Minute for Mission given on October 21 to deliver "final push" for this year's Stewardship Campaign, culminating on Dedication Sunday, October 28.

Human Resources: Rev. Katie Orth provided an update on the search committee's work to find a Director of Children's Ministry.

Statistical report: Celebrated the births of Samuel Charles Dimm, Avery Ann McGrath-Heck, and Kamryn Michelle Scandle. Reported the death of Mary Jane DuBree. Removed two members per their request. On October 7, served communion to 263 at LPPC and served 28 extended communion in their homes.

Next Session Meeting is on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 starting at 7:00 pm in Williams Hall.