

Progressive Presbyterian Church

Princeton, NC

Church Information Packet

Congregational Profile

Our congregation consists of an average of 55 people for our Sunday Morning Worship Service and about 40 for our Wednesday night service. Our members range from senior citizens all the way down to babies. Most of us have deeply planted roots while some are newly planted. Our congregation is a very close-knit family that pulls together to support each other and our community through the good and bad. We have truly been blessed by God, even though we have not had a full-time pastor in several years. Our church has been able to continue to operate and continue all of our programs and we look forward to the blessings He has for us in the future.

History

Progressive Presbyterian Church was started in 1915 as a mission of the First Presbyterian Church in Smithfield, NC. The first services were held at the Old Progress School. The name of the school was derived from a remark made by Miss Elizabeth Kelly, Johnston County Assistant School Superintendent. Looking at this building, she stated, "This is real progress." Some of those working on the building suggested that this one be named Progress School, which opened in 1915. In answer to the petition of ten people, Fayetteville Presbytery organized The Progressive Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 9, 1918 with fifteen charter members. The sanctuary was completed in 1928, the manse in 1968 and the fellowship hall in 1975. An addition of two Sunday school rooms, storage area and an additional restroom was completed in 2000.

Community Profile

Our Church is located about 4 miles outside of town and we are a rural agricultural community. Princeton is a small town located between Smithfield and Goldsboro with a population of 1,300. The Town of Princeton Vision Statement: The vision of the Town of Princeton is to be the desired community to live, work, worship, and raise a family. This community will continue to thrive and grow while maintaining a low crime rate, fostering an attitude of caring for one another, seeking continued community support, implementing smart growth practices and placing an emphasis on quality rather than quantity so that all citizens

will proclaim the Town of Princeton to be “Peaceful, Pleasant, Progressive and Proud.” We have a great school where our kids stay together, kindergarten through high school graduation.

Goals

Our Mission Statement: Loving, Worshipping and Obeying God in a Caring Community of Growing Believers, Equipping Christians to Reach Others for Christ.

Worship Services

We are traditional in that we still have Sunday Morning Prayer Breakfast, Sunday School, Sunday Morning Worship Service, Sunday Night Bible Study followed by a time of fellowship and Wednesday Night Dinner, Bible Study and Youth Programs. We celebrate the Lord’s Supper on a quarterly basis. Every 5th Sunday is Youth Sunday and we have special music on 5th Sunday nights by different groups.

Major Church Programs and Committees

Sunday Prayer Breakfast at 9:30 am

Sunday School at 10:00 am

Worship Service at 11am

Sunday Night Bible Study at 6pm followed by fellowship

Wednesday Night:

Dinner at 6pm

Bible Study/Youth Programs at 7pm

Women’ Ministry: 2nd Monday night at 6:30pm

Men’s Ministry: 4th Monday night at 7pm

Session meets monthly

Choir practice 4th Sunday (most of the time) at 4:30

Youth Leaders meet quarterly

Outreach Ministries

We do an Angel Tree for the children at our local school and in addition to the presents the kids receive, the family also gets a food box. Our Food Pantry supplies food throughout the year to those in need. Our Deacon's Ministry has a helping hand fund for those in need as well. We provide Sunday School and special activities for the residents of Hester Home, an assisted living facility. We donate school supplies to our local school and every year we pack shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. The Women's Ministry also supports a child in Thailand through World Vision. Our youth group helps the church and our church members by doing minor service projects. We support six missionaries/mission projects.

Session and Diaconate

Brian Pilkington, Ruling Elder

Scott Roll, Ruling Elder

Troy Lawhon, Ruling Elder

Pete McKinley, Deacon

Tommy Price, Deacon

Temporary Session appointed by ECP

Eddie Brown, TE

Andy Raynor, TE

Tim Phillips, RE

Dan Kemp, RE

Gabe Sylvia, TE

Al Herrington, TE

Pastoral Search Committee

Brian Pilkington

Pam Wooten

Glenn Heath

Angie Roll

Barbara Lewis

Hannah Lewis

Debbie Gill

Shannon Lawhon

Explanation of Current Pulpit Vacancy

After 20 years of service, the pastor and Progressive Presbyterian Church separated.

During this time, we missed the close relations and connectivity to other reformed churches in close proximity to us. The vast majority of other ARP churches were several hours away. We started the long and complex withdrawal process with the ARP denomination.

We continued to worship God, study the Word and spread the gospel as an independent Presbyterian Church. During this time, the Lord worked His will by strengthening us and showing us that, with His help, we could do things we never would have without the blessings and power of the Holy Spirit.

In January 2017, Progressive Presbyterian Church was officially released from the ARP denomination and on April 2, 2017 voted to seek membership to the Eastern Carolina Presbytery of the PCA.

After many meetings with committees and visits to Presbytery meetings; Progressive Presbyterian Church was accepted as a mission church into the Eastern Carolina Presbytery of the PCA on November 17, 2018. During this time of officer training for Progressive's elders, ECP appointed a temporary session to help during this transition time.

Now, we seek the pastor that the Lord has already chosen for us in order that we may continue to grow in the faith and equip us to better spread His Word as followers of His Son, Jesus Christ.