

Officers and Resource People

The Session (Pastors & Elders)

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	John McGowan	636-273-3917
Senior Pastor	314-842-9309 (H)	John Moore	314-984-9869
Rev. Chris Smith (Assoc)	314-962-1974 (O)	Monte Shields	636-938-4779
Steve Anderson	314-849-8331	John Keane	636-938-3108
George Devlin	314-821-0360	Randy Stone (Clerk of Session)	636-798-2230

The Deacons

Jack Boeve	636-461-1398	Curtis McCracken	636-717-0637
David Bromlow	314-843-5536	Clay Phillips (Treasurer)	314-843-4025
Bryan Carter	636-938-4936	Steve Shaffer	314-843-1964
Bill Coller	314-968-9535	Allan Wamsley	636-257-3933
Steve Dernlan	314-352-3205	Rodney Weedman	314-846-0210
Tom Hanley (Secretary)	314-965-2205	Tim Werkema	314-727-6589
Richard Hiers (Chairman)	314-543-3010	George Yoder	314-729-0540
Jeff Keane	636-938-1037		

Church Staff

Chris Smith	314-962-1974 (Office)	Melanie Carter	636-938-4936
Associate Pastor	314-962-1953 (Home)	Church Secretary	
Paul Jaeggi, Sr.	314-843-7994 (Church)	April Phillips	636-587--9757
Asst. to the Pastor	314-631-4394 (Home)	Financial Secretary	
Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)	314-966-3523		

Pastoral Interns

Jonathan Barlow	314-429-6648	Bryan Walker	314-514-9647
Jamison Galt	314-432-8348	Tim Weston	314-205-2018
Daniel McKinney	314-752-3461	Steve Sterner	314-420-1229

Home and Foreign Ministries

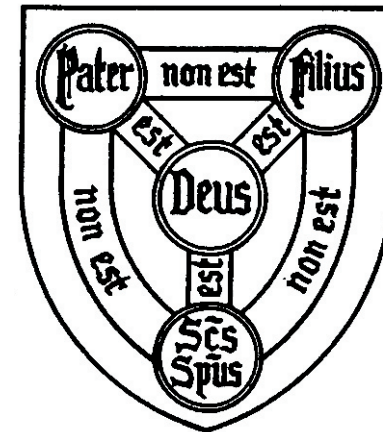
Ross Dixon,	RUF Ministry (Mizzou)	Lian & Clara Tombing,	India
Daryl Madi,	RUF Ministry (Wash. U.)	Marcus Toole,	Canada
Eric & Maggie Dye,	Army Chaplain	Mort & Jenny Whitman,	Romania
Joel & Shelly Hampton,	USAF Chaplain	Bob & Shirley Woodson,	Peru
Emad & Michelle Mikhail,	Middle East	Bruce & Susan Young,	Japan
Blake & Cathy Purcell,	Russia	Dan & Becky Young,	Mexico
John & Cathy Rug,	Chile		

Children's Sunday School Program (Fall Semester)

Ages 2 & 3	Kathy Hoegemann	Grade 4	Bryan Walker
Ages 4 & 5	Allan & Pam Wamsley	Grades 5 & 6	Brad Wood
Kindergarten	Steve & Amy Sterner	Grades 7 & 8	Monte Shields
Grade 1	Anne Hiers	High School	Daniel & Stephanie McKinney
Grade 2	Leesa Coller		
Grade 3	Tim Weston		

The Covenant Renewal Service

Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church



The Second Sunday in Advent
December 19, 2004

Welcome

If you are **visiting** our church today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. Please find the black registration folder at the end of the pew and help us serve you better by leaving your name and contact information. We promise to keep this information confidential and only use it for personal contact with you and your family. Please join us downstairs for coffee after the service.

We have **Christian education** classes for all ages which meet after the service at 11:00 AM. The “visitor’s card” on the table in the foyer will help you find the meeting place for your child’s class. We’d love to have you return tonight at 6:00 PM for singing, prayer, Bible teaching, and fellowship in a more informal setting.

If you are unfamiliar with **our form of worship**, please feel free to speak with one of the Pastors or Elders. We have resources that will help you understand the biblical rationale for why we worship the way we do. Pastor Meyers’s book *The Lord’s Service: The Grace of Covenant Renewal Worship* (Canon Press, 2003) is also available on our book table. Visit our website for articles, essays, and other helpful information on our worship and life at Providence: www.prpc-stl.org

The **Lord’s Supper** is observed every Sunday as the climax of covenant renewal worship. We invite to the Lord’s Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to the elders of this local church that you are in covenant with God as an active member of a congregation in which the Gospel is faithfully confessed, taught, and believed. You also acknowledge that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to one of the elders or the pastor before or after the service. **Note:** The middle circle of cups in each tray contains grape juice, the larger outer ring contains wine. (The grape juice has a darker color than the wine.)

The Shield of the Blessed Trinity (Front Cover)

No symbol can adequately comprehend the richness of the reality and abundant life of the Holy Trinity. The shield on the front cover depicts something of the Unity in Trinity and Trinity in Unity that is the living and true God in whom we trust. At the center of the circle is Deus (Latin for “God”). Reading out from the center along the three spokes the unity of the Godhead is represented:

Deus est Pater = God is the Father and the Father is God

Deus est Filius = God is the Son and the Son is God

Deus est Spiritus Sanctus = God is the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is God.

Reading around the circumference of the circle the distinctions between the Persons are noted:

Pater non est Filius = The Father is not the Son

Filius non est Spiritus Sanctus = The Son is not the Holy Spirit

Spiritus Sanctus non est Pater = The Holy Spirit is not the Father.

The Lord’s Service at Home

Advent Season 2004

The English word Advent is derived from the Latin *advenire*, “to come to.” Advent has to do with the Lord’s coming to us. The Lord *has* come to us (at the birth of Christ), *regularly* comes to us (especially on the Lord’s Day), and *will* come to us (bodily again at the end of this age). Advent season, then, is a time to reflect upon all of the ways—past, present, and future—in which the Lord comes to us. Please remember that the purpose of Advent is not to imagine ourselves to be living at the time immediately preceding Christ’s birth and so somehow *pretend* that we are waiting for him to be born. It is not time for a spiritual game of “make believe.” Neither is the purpose of Advent to think sentimental thoughts about the baby Jesus. There is no real spiritual power in any of this. The purpose of Advent is to *expect* and *pray* for the coming of the Lord.

Although our own hymnal does not separate out Advent from Christmas hymns, a quick glance at any of the traditional Advent hymns will bear this out (see #231, 145-149, and 235-243). During Advent we *remember* his first coming (he kept his promises to his people in the OT) and we pray today that the Lord will remember his *promises* and come to us again, judging the enemies of the Church and delivering his people from all evil. During Advent season we petition the Lord to come again to us, both now and finally at the end of the age.

Use either the opening corporate prayer or the closing pastoral prayer from the service this morning in your family and/or individual devotions this week. The traditional Advent hymn #148 should be sung all this week.

An Advent wreath can be used to enhance your family devotions, but there is no need to attach any significance to each individual candle. All four candles can be the same color—dark blue or purple. Some modern Advent devotional schemes err in encouraging us to pretend we are living before Jesus’ birth. It is best to use the Scripture readings below, reflecting on the way God keeps his covenantal promises. The family should reflect on all the ways the Lord comes to help us.

Advent Scripture Readings – This Week

Monday, Dec. 20	–	Isa. 10:5-19	Psalm 7	Mark 3:13-21	1 Peter 2:18-25
Tuesday, Dec. 21	–	Isa. 10:20-34	Psalm 8	Mark 3:22-30	1 Peter 3:1-7
Wednesday, Dec. 22	–	Isa. 11:1-9	Psalm 9	Mark 3:31-5	1 Peter 3:8-12
Thursday, Dec. 23	–	Isa. 11:10-16	Psalm 10	Mark 4:1-9	1 Peter 3:13-17
Friday, Dec. 24	–	Isa. 12:1-6	Psalm 11	Mark 4:10-20	1 Peter 3:18-22
Saturday, Dec. 25	–	Isa. 13:1-5	Psalm 12	Mark 4:20-34	1 Peter 4:1-6

†Prayer of Dedication & The *Gloria Patri*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!

The Sacrifice of Peace

†Prayer of Thanksgiving & Memorial

The Words of Institution

Communion Hymn #193 “O Jesus, we adore thee” *Trinity Hymnal*

†The Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*): Luke 2:30-32

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy Word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

†Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Congregation: **And his mercy endures forever!**

Pastoral Prayer: Merciful God, our heavenly Father, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, age after age. Amen!

Congregation: **Amen!**

Benediction

†Hymn #145 “Come, thou long expected Jesus” *Trinity Hymnal*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen

†Postlude & Greet One Another!

Service of Lessons & Carols

Please plan to attend our special Advent service tonight. It will be a festival of lessons and carols, which will include children, youth, and adult choirs, Scripture lessons read by our youth, and congregational singing as well. This service will be a special time of meditation and reflection upon the meaning of our Lord's birth—a much needed opportunity for Christians during this hectic holiday season. Come early (5:45 PM) to hear Christmas preludes played by our young musicians. Bring your cookies to share with the congregation during the fellowship time that will follow the service.

The Morning Service

The Lord's Day — December 19, 2004

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Preparation For Worship: *Isaiah 59:19-21*

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers

The Entrance

Silent Preparation

Call to Worship: *Isaiah 59:19-21*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

†Hymn “Come down, O Love divine”

(see insert)

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

Congregation: **Amen!**

Matthew 28:19

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

This is the day the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Psalms 118:24

O praise the Lord with me,

Let us exalt his Name together!

Psalms 34:3

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

God of grace, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. Amen!

Purification

†Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, asking him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness:

Almighty God, you sent your Son into the world to deliver your captive people; Surely you have done great things for us; Yet we continue to ignore what you have done, turn our backs on what you are doing, and forget about what you will do; Forgive us of our sinful apathy; Grant to us the assurance of salvation; Cause your Holy Spirit to work in us genuine repentance and wholehearted obedience.

... [Silent, personal confession of sin]. . .

We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen!

†Pastor: Now lift up your heads and hear the good news . . . !

Ascension

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

†Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is proper and right to do so.

†Truly it is fitting and our greatest joy to give thanks to you at all times and in every place, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing . . .

†Hymn #219 “Blessing and honor and glory and power” *Trinity Hymnal*
The Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 42:1-9* Rev. Mark Horne

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *Romans 5:1-11*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

†The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 20:17-34*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise be to you, O Christ!

†We Confess our Faith: *The Nicene Creed*

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds: God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Sermon: CHRISTMAS, CRUCIFIXION, & CIVILIZATION Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers

LXII. EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

†We Recite God’s Holy Standard for Living

Matthew 5:2-12

Jesus opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,

For they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,

For they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

For they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,

For they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,

For they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,

For they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you

And utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven,

For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Choir Anthem “Let all together praise our God”

Let all together praise our God

Before his glorious throne;

Today he opens heav’n again

To give us his own Son.

He is the key and he the door

To blessed paradise;

The angel bars the way no more,

To God our praises rise.

He undertakes a great exchange,

Puts on our human frame,

And in return gives us his realm,

His glory and his name.

by Nikolaus Herman (c.1480-1561),

tr. F. Samuel Janzow (b. 1913),

arr. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

ed. Carl F. Schalk, 1994