

CONNECTIONS





Dr. David Jordan

Celebrating Pentecost *Then and Now*

Acts 2:1-13

Pentecost.

It happens for us every year roughly fifty days after Easter in our Christian calendar. Originally, this agricultural festival celebrated the goodness of the land and the gathering of the barley harvest. After the winter rains, Galilean hillsides and farms are green with abundant crops rising from the fertile soil. God's gifts of sun, moisture, healthy seeds and good earth make the bounty of spring possible.

And so does hard work. These perky grains and well ordered vineyards didn't just spring from the land on their own. Laboring years, sometimes generations, workers clear rocky ground of countless stones. They stack the stones in retaining walls, transforming untillable hillsides into gracefully terraced gardens. Now a previously wild and unworkable land becomes a verdant producer of agricultural abundance.

So Pentecost celebrates a partnership. In those days, it gave thanks both for the good gifts that come from God, and it recognized the glad opportunities that come with hard work.

This May, as we consider the season of Pentecost in our time and in our own way, we share a very similar perspective. Acts 2 tells the story of a new, exciting, welcoming and fascinating kind of spiritual harvest. Our New Testament story of Pentecost moves us from a harvest festival of grains to a living festival of changed lives.

For some, the movement of God's Spirit among the gathering of Jesus' followers portended

troubling times of change and uncertainty. For others, this was the enthusiastic beginning of what we know today as the church.

God's Spirit began a new era in the life of the covenant people, a new harvest fresh with abundance in hope and possibility – and still in partnership. For while God's good gift of spiritual harvest is always at work, consistently surprising and often challenging, our participation remains crucial.

Like those Galilean and Judean farmers clearing fields and terracing hillsides to make God's abundant vision a reality, so too, our availability, openness, work and follow-through remains essential for the spiritual harvest of today.

Give thanks for God's abundant blessings.

And be ready.

The glad ingathering of God's people is now and not yet – always coming and ever-present. And you and I have the incredible privilege to be full participants, partners in the Kingdom, loved, blessed and used by God's grace to accomplish bountiful work and to live fruitful lives – all to the glory of God for the healing of the earth.

Gratefully,
David

From Your Pastor Search Committee

Shortly before writing this article, I had the privilege of speaking with the Young Professional group led by Randy Ballard. They had asked me to come and answer questions regarding the Pastor Search Committee's process and progress in calling our next Senior Pastor. As members of Providence Baptist, you should be very proud of this young, up-and-coming group! They asked very insightful questions, and were eager to learn about the committee's work. One question they asked that I am sure most of you would also like to know the answer to was, "When will we have a new pastor?" I would love nothing more than to give all of you a date when that will happen, however the committee just doesn't have an answer to that question right now.

Because of the confidential nature of where we are in the process, all I can share with you is that we are definitely progressing! We have whittled through many, many resumes and are now having

conversations with several possible candidates. We have been asked "who" we are talking with ... that, too, is very confidential. As you can imagine, we are dealing with the sensitive nature of pastors' lives within their existing congregations and we would not want to compromise their positions in any way.

I can tell you we are meeting several times a week, for many hours at a time. However, we recognize that we are working within God's timetable, not ours. We have committed to each of you to be discerning of His will for our church. That cannot be rushed, and we continue to ask for your patience and prayers.

Grace & peace,
Bunnie Walker
Chair

Remember to join with our Providence Family in prayer for the Pastor Search Committee every day at 3:56!



ON RECORD - April 24, 2016

Worship Total:	489
Christian Stewardship	
Average Weekly Requirement	*\$42,823
*The average weekly requirement is the annual budget of \$2,226,774 divided by 52 weeks.	
Revenue and Expenses	
Projected 2016	\$2,226,774
<hr/>	
Revenue	
Through 4/24	\$642,278
<hr/>	
Expenses	
Through 4/24	\$613,367
<hr/>	
Net	
Through 4/24	\$28,911

This Month:

Deacon on Call:

704.366.4030x147

April 27- May 3: Jessica Aycock

May 4-10: Matt Blackwell

May 11-17: Bill Brown

May 18-24: David Arant

May 25-31: Janie Creech

Minister on Call:

May 1: David Jordan (704.724.2766)

May 8: Julia Wright (704.458.3710)

May 15: Randy Ballard (704.650.9449)

May 22: Timothy Hill (704.641.4270)

May 29: Richard Landers (704.608.3371)



In Unity We Lift Our Song

In last month's article I wrote of "Oneness in Worship," referencing 1 Corinthians 14:26 in which Paul summarizes what should be done when we gather.

His point was clear: "Let all things be done for building up." Throughout the chapter, Paul speaks of how they were to use prophecy and tongues ... were they being used to build up and create unity, or were these things being used to create division? Perhaps our own prophecies of what we want Providence to be, or our patterns of speech about how it is to happen, can be stumbling blocks for us as well – much like they were to the church at Corinth.

Let me draw two parallels by using examples from the choir.

Processions: When we enter the church together, our steps must be in sync or we could very well cause one another to fall. This is not to say we all walk the same way; indeed there are many gaits that define our steps, but we are all walking towards the same place. If a choir member decided to take a different path, our goal of getting there together would be impossible. Is it not the same with the church? We do not always have to think (step) the same way – our unity is actually strengthened by our diversity – but our desire to "build up" must overshadow our individual desires to walk our own way.

Rehearsals: This is a big deal! If the choir does not rehearse – they will never sing to their fullest – employing those talents given to them by God to use in worship. But, when they do rehearse, they are together. They create harmony and correct dissonance. They work together to present and perfect something that they could never accomplish individually! This parallel to the church is pretty easy to see.

Worship is our rehearsal for life.

In order to fully actualize this – we must be together! In the *Apostolic Constitutions*, an ancient document from around the year 380 AD, the bishop exhorts the people to "... assemble continually and not diminish the Church by absenting themselves and making the Body of Christ lack a member."

In other words, when we are out of church, we become out of sync with one another. How can we then expect to create concord (harmony) or to help one another in our differences (dissonance) if we do not gather to rehearse such things? Worship shapes our poor notes and sends us into the world to sing God's melody!

When we continually build one another up in love, the unity that we seek becomes an act of worship, one of which we can sing:

*In unity we lift our song of grateful adoration,
for brothers brave and sisters strong.*

What cause for celebration!

*For those whose faithfulness has kept us through distress,
who've shared with us our plight,*

who've helped us in the night,

the blessed congregation.

Peace be with you.

Tim




Rev. Timothy Hill

May Sermons

May 1st	Dr. David Jordan	"Best Laid Plans"	Acts 16:9-15
May 8th	Rev. Timothy Hill	"Christ's Priestly Prayer for Unity"	John 17:20-26
May 15th	Dr. David Jordan	"Fire and Light"	Acts 2:1-21
May 22nd	Dr. Suzii Paynter	"Starting Blocks of the Gospel"	Combined Worship
May 29th	Rev. Timothy Hill	"A Marvel of Faith"	Luke 7:1-10

For more information contact Tim Hill at 704.366.4030x123 (thill@providencebc.org), Diann Clark at 704.366.4030x122 (dclark@providencebc.org), Leigh Ann Hughes at 704.366.4030x121 (lhughes@providencebc.org) or Debra Wallace at (debrabwallace2241@gmail.com).

What's Happening with Students?

College Graduates!

Providence will honor this year's college graduates (undergraduate and post-graduate degrees) in worship in May.

A listing of the graduates will be included in the June issue of Connections.

Send your child's name, school, and degree to Kathy Hall at jhall80724@aol.com by Sunday, May 8th.



High School Graduates!

Baccalaureate Sunday is June 5th.

Parents of seniors! We need your photos! Send 10-15 pictures (jpg), name as you'd like it to appear in the worship guide and the college they are attending (or their plans after high school).

Send the information to George Mulley at gmulley@providencecbc.org.



May
22nd!

Join us
Anniversary Sunday



After Anniversary festivities have ended, the Middle School crowd will carry on the day with some fun at the Uptown Knights Baseball Stadium.

All Middle School families are invited to attend.

Tickets are \$17 each.

Email George Mulley with questions or to sign up!
gmulley@providencecbc.org.

695

We asked. They said "YES!"

Our students were tasked with "service hours" these last four months. Their hours would be honored as "employment" for missions work and their compensation would be partial payment for each student's summer mission experience. From Providence grounds' clean-up, to making dinner for our homebound, to sorting food at Loaves and Fishes, to painting walls in the Nalley Missions Center, to hosting the 2nd Annual Providence Chili Cook-Off, our middle school and high school students collectively worked 695 hours since January. We are so very proud of their effort, dedication and determination.

Way to go!

For more information contact Andy Smith at 704.366.763.9475 (asmith@providencecbc.org), or George Mulley at 704.293.3141 (gmulley@providencecbc.org).

Keep in the Loop!



Children's Spring Concert "Soaring into Song!"

Wednesday, May 4th at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

It has been a wonderful year in children's music. Our boys and girls have had many opportunities to sing and lift their voices in praise to God.

Our music year ends with our Children's Spring Choir Concert. This special program features all of our children's choirs, so you don't want to miss it. Join us!

Missions Year-End Program

Wednesday, May 11th at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

Our children have also been busy learning about the work of missionaries and doing missions themselves. Many of our children participated in the Crop Walk last fall, helping the hungry in Charlotte and around the world. Children also brought Christmas toys for the police project, detergent for the Baptist Children's Homes, books to share with Cotswold Elementary School and tennis shoes for Samaritan's Feet. It has been a busy and bountiful year! Join us for our Missions Recognition service (and reception) Wednesday, May 11th at 6:30pm. Thank you to all of our music and missions adult volunteers. You've made learning fun for our children!

May 11



The Surf Shack – Catch the Wave!

June 20-24, 9:00am - 12:00pm

The VBS Leadership Team is busily preparing for our week of Vacation Bible School. Online registration is humming and enrollment forms are coming in! Last year we had a record 500 children join us, and we expect even more children this year!

And guess who finds a home for each one of them? Kristen Hendrix. The Providence VBS enrollment guru is in her fourth year of assigning each child to one of our 28 groups, all while honoring "special friend requests," noting allergies and ensuring each child is where he needs to be. Kristen is an expert at VBS registration!

VBS is one of Providence's greatest outreach tools. Neighborhood children and member's friends join us for the week, but many don't have a church home. We make a special note of these children and our VBS leadership team comes up with creative ways to reach out to these families. It is our hope that these families will find their home at Providence.

Remember to enroll your child (or grandchild, or neighborhood friend, or second cousin's nephew) at www.providencevbs.org. (You can register to volunteer on the site as well!) Remember, VBS is for children in rising K – 5th grade completed.



Vacation Bible School
Kick-off Meeting

For all VBS Volunteer
Leadership

Wednesday, May 18th, 6:30pm

or

Thursday, May 19th, 10:00am

Upstairs Parlor
Room 2111

Childcare is available
by request.

Contact Lauren Stroupe at
704.366.4030x138.

Start Here on Anniversary Sunday!

1954 – 2016

62

Years Strong

Start Here

on

Anniversary Sunday
May 22nd

Sunday School – 9:15am
Combined Worship – 10:30am

Guest Preacher Dr. Suzii Paynter
“Starting Blocks of the Gospel”

Join us for a special fellowship meal following the service.

Table seating will be available in the gym, or bring your blankets and chairs to picnic outside.

Enjoy fried chicken, potato salad and green beans, along with dessert.

The meal will be complimentary, but donations are appreciated!

Don't forget to make your special gift to Providence in honor of our 62nd birthday!

Before and After

If you spend any time with Mr. Ken Johnson, you know two things ... that he is a huge North Carolina fan, and that he likes to get around. Being a spry 90 years old, and having steps to navigate around the back of his house made the “getting around” part a bit difficult for Ken. Thanks to project leader Al Traver for seeing the need, and the Ramp Gang for building, Ken can get back to cheering on the Tar Heels AND getting around.



(L-R) Charlie Jones, George Crouch, Chloe Ayscue, Don Motsinger, Ken Johnson, Gin Tuang, Cin Sang, Vance Ayscue and Sid Carpenter BEFORE work began.



THANK YOU, RAMP GANG!

After many hours and a lot of love, Ken Johnson's ramp is ready for use! Come visit!



May Mission Collection Project

New beach towels
for the Salvation Army
Center of Hope
for the Boys and Girls Clubs



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS



May WMU Meeting

Tuesday, May 3rd at 10:30am

At the home of Billie Simpson
8324 County Downs Lane

Speaker is Mrs. Helms Jarrell
(QC Family Tree)

Lunch will be provided

RSVP to

Penny Hewett at 704.552.0622

Anne Tunstall at 704.567.9593

Missions and More

Sign up for a mission trip!

From middle school to high school to college to young professionals to adults, we have an opportunity for everyone to serve!

reminder

You are NEEDED! Join us!

Contact:

Andy Smith - asmith@providencebc.org

George Mulley - gmulley@providencebc.org

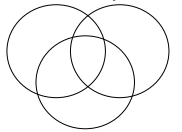
Friendship Missionary Baptist Partnership

Thursday, May 12th at 6:30pm

Join others in the Providence family, along with our Friendship Missionary Baptist Church friends on May 12th at St. John's Baptist Church. Together we will share in experiencing "The Sorting of Charlotte" with Tom Hanchet.

Tom is the former historian at the Museum of the New South and has a remarkable presentation on Charlotte that all of us need to hear. This evening is a continuation of our partnership with Friendship and St. John's that began last year following the Charleston shooting.

CIRCLE OF HOPE



Nalley Mission Center Work Day!

Thank you, Providence, for your hard work and heart for missions. Nearly 70 people - all ages - came ready to lend a hand. We painted, repaired, cleaned and cleared. Special thanks to:

- * **Jim Morgan** for "super hero work food" (also known as Krispy Kreme doughnuts)!
- * **Mike Motsinger** and kitchen crew for a great lunch.
- * **Stewart McCollum** for taking on the task of team leader.
- * **David Pyatt** for leadership in his area.
- * **Eric Gill** and student leaders for spearheading the students' efforts.
- * **Students** for showing up!
- * **Al Traver** for helping get supplies and his never-ending, positive leadership.
- * **Rev. Andy** for being the gopher to Home Depot, keeping us on track!
- * To everyone who showed up and helped - - **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!**



Deacons, Surveys and Notes

Deacon Nominations

The process of selecting nominees for this year's Deacon Class has begun. Please take time to prayerfully consider nominating a Providence member for Deacon. A deacon is a spiritual leader of the church and is called to be a caretaker to this congregation. Nominees must have been members of Providence for at least two years. (A listing of members ineligible for nomination due to recent service is on the Providence website.)

Please submit your nominations by May 23rd. Boxes for Deacon Nominee Recommendations are in the Rotunda and the Activities Center from May 4th through May 23rd.

The Special Nominating Committee will meet on May 24th to review the nominations and to make additional recommendations.

Deacon elections will be held this fall, Sunday, October 2nd.

Nominating Committee Surveys

What do you LIKE to do? You may have noticed a bright yellow survey floating around in your Sunday School class room or in the Rotunda. We'd like you to take that survey!

Each year the Nominating Committee is faced with the monumental task of asking church members to serve on various committees. The "business" of our church runs smoothly because of the many, many members who give their time and talent to Providence. We need you!

Help the Nominating Committee by noting your interests and areas of expertise. Then drop the survey in one of the bags marked "Nominating Committee Surveys" in your classroom or in the Rotunda.

Surveys will be collected Sunday, May 15th!

You CAN make a difference! THANKS!

In Appreciation

We have been so blessed with the many expressions of care and remembrance following the death of our dear father and grandfather, Bill Grosch. The many calls, cards and notes have provided a source of strength and comfort. Our parents loved Providence and we are so grateful to you all.

The Grosch family

In Sympathy

Mark Story in the loss of his father George Story.

Dudley Compton in the loss of his brothers Burl Compton and Skipper Compton.

Jennifer Bethea in the loss of her grandmother Ruby Crumpler.

Frank Lowe in the loss of his mother Frances Shows Lowe.

The Brown family in the loss of Harry and Pansy Brown.

Bennie Jones in the loss of his wife Sue.

Goodbye to Carrie Lee



Carrie Lee Arant

My time on staff at Providence comes to an end this month. As I look back and try to express everything this experience has meant, I am consistently left with a deep sense of thankfulness.

I am so grateful that the Lord guided me back to this place to learn and grow for the past nine

months. So, I want to officially say thank you – to the staff, the senior adults, and the Providence community as a whole.

Thank you for giving me a chance to learn here and grow in ministry.

Thank you for showing me grace every time I fell short and my youth and inexperience shone through.

Thank you for your encouragement and the time spent laughing and talking together.

Thank you for being willing to share your wisdom, your stories, and your time.

Thank you for being a church that I am excited and honored to call “home.”

Carrie Lee

vs. 3 I thank my God every time I remember you ... vs. 6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:3, 6

Carrie Lee Arant
Senior Adult Ministry Intern
Thanks for an Amazing Year!

Dear Carrie Lee,
On behalf of our Providence congregation,
I want to say “thank you.”

And I need to say
“WOW!”

You came to us to learn and to grow and
To serve us as a Senior Adult Ministry Intern.
We truly hope that your year with us was
All that you had wanted and needed.

But we must say that we got the better deal.
No question.

Your poise and passion, flexibility and
exuberance,

Kindness and courage, ability and compassion ...
You gave us much and allowed us, allowed me,
to rely on

Wisdom and abilities far beyond your years.
So we thank you.

But we need to say more:

Carrie Lee, you have been a blessing
to all of us

Far beyond our expectations

Far exceeding our hopes

You have been a gift from God.

And all we can say beyond thanks is
“WOW!”

With love and grateful hearts,

David Jordan and the

Providence Baptist Church Staff

Women's Retreat

A belly dancer.

A secret service agent.

A new college graduate at age 69.

The state Latin Art Champ 3 years running.

A violinist.

A West African Peace Corps worker.

What's the common thread? ALL are Providence women.
And ALL were on retreat together.



Jane Truesdel enjoys "Laughing Yoga."



2016 Women's Retreat

During one weekend in April, 24 Providence women met at secluded William Black Lodge in Montreat, NC, near Asheville. Although it was cold outside, the unity, warmth and love that radiated from each heart connected us all in a very profound way.

The women are from all walks of life. Some are young mothers craving a break. Some are grandmothers looking to connect with other women. Some are widows needing a friend. Some are women with careers wanting to get away.

We talked about simplicity and how elusive it is in our culture and our lives. We shared our struggles, our hurts, our fears. We tried to define our true selves. We tried to uncover who God made us to be instead of who we think we are SUPPOSED to be. We wondered

together how we can achieve simplicity in our lives. We created our own unique artwork that spoke to us and our experience on that Montreat mountain.

The weekend was time well-spent. We were able to unplug, unwind, and un-busy ourselves. It was a time clearly blessed by God. And we have all been changed because of it.

Perhaps you would like to join us next year. Certainly, it's an experience unlike any other. And maybe, just maybe, you will meet our belly dancer, and our secret service agent, and all the other wonderful, amazing women that make up Providence.

So mark the weekend of

September 29, 2017

on your calendar

– and BE there!

Very special thanks to Heather Hanson, Jane Noonan, Tracey Hall, Carrie Lee Arant, Linda Sullivan, Cristan Latty and Kari Banks for coordinating our retreat.



Our ladies laughing along during the "fish bowl" game!

Wednesdays in May

Meals

May 4th

Pizza Extravaganza
Antipasto Salads

May 11th

(Last Fellowship Meal Until Fall)
Country Style Steak
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Yeast Rolls
Peach Cobbler with Ice Cream

\$7.50/Adults, \$6.50/Seniors,
\$5.00/Children, \$25 Max Family

Special Programs

May 4th

Children's Choir Concert
6:30pm in the Sanctuary

May 11th

Missions Recognition Night
6:30pm in the Sanctuary

Special Summer Wednesdays!

Get these dates on your calendar!

June 8th

July 13th

August 10th

People travel A LOT during the summer months, and we tend to miss our Providence friends.

So THIS year, we are offering our church family an opportunity to play together on these very special Wednesday nights!

Join us for a great time.



**More details
to come - but**

**SAVE THE
DATES!**

Women of Providence!

Dust off those
gloves and bats,
and join us for a

Women's
Softball Tournament

Sunday, June 12th.



We are hoping to have four teams
compete for the title of:

Providence Champs!

More than 25 women have already signed up,
but we need you, too. (Really, we DO!)

All ability levels and ages from youth up
are invited to play.

Contact Sarah Blackwell
sbblackwell@msn.com

Not going to play?
Come cheer on the ladies!

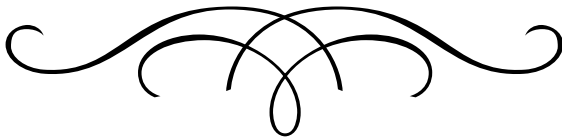
New Members



Lex and Alyson Altman joined Providence Baptist on March 27th. They are transferring their membership from a church in Spartanburg, SC. Welcome, Altmans!



The Bethea family joined Providence on April 3rd. Keith is the son of Pauline Bethea and was already a Providence member. Wife Jennifer and son Cason joined by transfer of membership from a church in Tennessee. Their youngest son Davis joined by baptism. Welcome, Bethea Family!



100 Milestones



Ethel McCarty turned 100 years old last month! Vivian and Harry Poovey hosted a birthday celebration at the Carriage Club! Happy Birthday!

Dedication of Life



On April 17th, Zack and Emily Taylor dedicated their daughters Lillian Paris and Roselyn Lorin. Congratulations, Taylor Family!

From the Pastor Emeritus

While it is hard to believe, this month marks the one year anniversary of my retirement from Providence. With all of its transitions, this past year has passed at warp speed. Yet, one thing has not changed



since last April – I am still overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness and generosity of Providence as Suzanne and I completed our time with you. You made

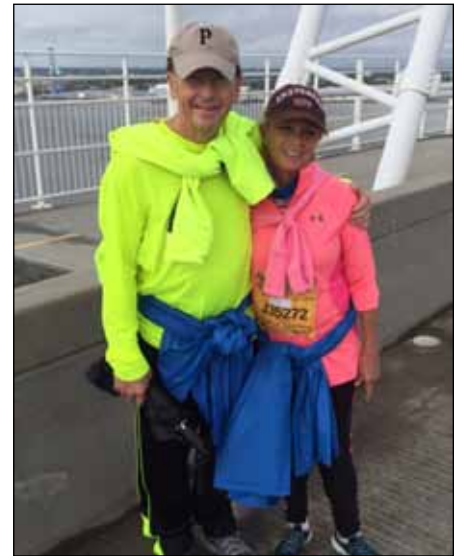
our departure meaningful and memorable just as you made our ministry meaningful and memorable during the past seventeen years.

There is one word that continues to capture my thought and emotion, a year ago and now. That word is gratitude. And I am grateful on so many levels. Let me use this space to describe just a few, and I can only skim the surface. First of all, I am grateful that you gave me the opportunity to serve Providence. A church always takes risks in the calling of a minister. You took a chance on me, and we both kept our promises to each other. I promised you three things on the day you voted. First, I would give you a full day's work for a full day's pay. Second, you could not keep me from loving you. And, third, I would unpack. I remember how you stood up and responded when I used the word "unpack." In return you gave me your support and love in countless ways for the next seventeen years. I will always be grateful.

There is another important word that I need to share. I want to acknowledge my gratitude to Suzanne for her unquestioned support through the years, and that support goes far beyond my years at Providence. She is the love of my life and stands by me and for me day after day; and, I would never have made it through 46 years of ministry without her. She is my partner and my Barnabas, then and now in the transition experience of retirement. A pastor's wife is an unsung hero in the life of any church. A minister is no better at work than he or

she is supported at home. That support is always there for me and I will always be grateful to God. She has been my strongest critic, but my strongest encourager as well.

One of the joys of retirement is that it provides more time to be with family, and our family has been an incredible gift from God. Our five grandchildren are growing so fast and time together is so important as time speeds by. Suzanne and I have tried to take advantage of as many opportunities as possible this past year to enjoy our children and grandchildren. We are very proud of all of them as they add so much to our lives. We spend time with each other now too. There were not a lot of opportunities for us to have time together during the past 46 years. Now we enjoy traveling, playing weekly Scrabble games, reading and discussing books and watching reruns of Downton Abby. Life is good as we finally settle into our private life. We recently participated in the Cooper River Bridge Run together.



So, gratitude fills me as I look back at the events of last April and gratitude certainly applies to the present moment. There is no better framework for a job any where than for one to get up every morning and do what one truly feels called to do. You gave me the opportunity to get up every morning and do what I loved doing. For that I will be forever grateful, and even now with the honor of being Pastor Emeritus. And when the new person arrives, I will certainly give my support.

Grace and peace,
Al

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704.366.2784



Children's Choir Concert

*Wednesday, May 4th at 6:30pm
Providence Sanctuary*



Quarterly Church Conference

*Wednesday, May 11th at 6:00pm
Crouch Fellowship Hall*



Missions Recognition Service

*Wednesday, May 11th at 6:30pm
Providence Sanctuary*



Anniversary Sunday

*Sunday, May 22nd
Sunday School at 9:15am, Combined Worship at 10:30am*

Next Connections is June 1, 2016.

Deadline for submitting articles,
photos, announcements, etc, is
Noon, Monday, May 16th.
Articles should be 350 words or less.
Email your submissions to:
ssneed@providencebc.org.
Thank you!



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Charlotte, NC



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