

March 1, 2017



# PROVIDENCE

BAPTIST CHURCH

*Start Here*

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## Young Musicians of Providence



## A Lenten Fast



Lee Canipe

Every year, I head into the season of Lent with good intentions and high hopes. *This year, I want to go deeper in my faith. This year, I want to*

grow closer to Jesus. *This year, I want to become more aware of God's presence. This year, I want to be stretched in a way that makes me more Christ-like. This year, I want to take seriously my Lord's invitation to walk with him on his way to the cross. I want this year, in other words, to be different for me.*

It's usually not.

By the time Easter arrives, my good intentions and high hopes for something *more* out of Lent have long since run into the reality of my frequently distracted - and often disjointed - life. The discipline I thought would help me move closer to my goal of something more - giving up this pleasure, adding that practice, and so forth - ends up making me feel like either a Pharisee (if I manage to stick to the discipline) or a failure (if I don't). Neither one of these lingering emotions - pride and guilt - are conducive to nurturing the kind of life that Jesus wants for us. He tells us that he came to give us abundant life - that is, something *more* - but my attempts to cultivate this life through deliberate Lenten disciplines have consistently led me to something *less* than what Jesus wants for me.

What's been my stumbling block? It took me a while to get to the point where I could hear what the Holy Spirit wanted to tell me. After all, pride and guilt generate very effective spiritual static. I've

come to realize, though, that my greatest stumbling block is none other than the combination of my good intentions and high hopes with which I've traditionally started my Lenten journeys.

That might sound strange, but I believe it's true. Go back and re-read the first paragraph of this article. What word appears with an alarming frequency? *I*. As in "I want." As in "What *I* hope to get out of this." I is precisely the wrong place and the wrong reason to begin a spiritual discipline. It shouldn't be about me. It should be about *Jesus* - what Jesus wants, what Jesus hopes to get out of this, what Jesus needs to do in order to make me fit for His kingdom. When I begin with me, it's no wonder that I end up with something less than I'd hoped for. I'm both grateful and humbled by this revelation.

So, why am I telling you this? I'm telling you this because I want to invite you to join me during Lent in practicing one of the oldest biblical spiritual disciplines, one that Jesus himself practiced (Matthew 4:2) and, evidently, expected his disciples to practice as well (Matthew 6:16-18). I'm inviting you to join me in fasting - that is, foregoing food - each Friday during Lent. Why? Two reasons.

First, it's a way of realizing, in a very literal, physical sense, John the Baptist's understanding of discipleship: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). We live in a world in which our success is measured by how much we are increasing: Our square footage, our cargo space, our bottom lines, our professional status, our number of followers and friends on social media. The list is endless. Fasting reverses this equation, reminding us that, in order for Jesus to become more in our lives, we have to become less. The discomfort that comes from not eating is a physical

expression of this necessary spiritual re-ordering of our lives.

Second, the practice of fasting - especially, if we're doing it together, as a community of believers - helps us remember that we're all weak, mortal sinners who are dependent upon God's grace, regardless of how much we'd like to believe otherwise. That's the kind of church I'm convinced Jesus wants us to be: Humble with one another, dependent upon God, and centered around Jesus Christ. When Christians fast together, they tend to grow together.

There are different ways of practicing a fast. Some people might choose not to eat anything at all on Fridays. Some might observe a sunrise to sunset fast. (This is the option I plan to go with.) Some might skip lunch. Some might eat only raw fruits and vegetables that day. People with dietary restrictions or medical conditions, such as diabetes, will need to take their health needs into consideration.

I've prepared a guide to fasting, available online and in the Rotunda, to help you figure out how best to participate. Let me be clear, though: This is not a one-size-fits-all discipline, nor is it compulsory. We Baptists aren't like that. We are voluntary in our devotion.

I'm asking you, then, to pray about this and, if you feel led by the Holy Spirit, to join me in fasting on Fridays during Lent. If you do choose to participate, I hope we can find a way to share our individual experiences with one another, both as a way of learning from and encouraging one another in this discipline. Above all, let's keep our hearts and minds in the right place: This is about Jesus.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

**From the Finance Committee**

*The following letter was mailed to Providence members in mid-February. The members of the Finance Committee thought it was important to restate their request here.*

Dear Church Family,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Providence Baptist Church Finance Committee. Part of our committee's responsibility is to keep the congregation informed about the financial health of the church. In this spirit, we need to make you aware of a gap we have discovered in our 2017 church financial plan. The financial plan we approved last November projected a surplus of \$145,623 at the end of 2016. However, we ended the year with a deficit of \$20,720. In addition, two line-items were incorrectly listed, which had the effect of inadvertently overstating our anticipated revenue by \$77,134. As a result, this leaves the church with a total projected deficit of \$243,477.

In an effort to proactively address this situation, the Finance Committee is recommending that we hold our 2017 expenses flat to 2016, excluding any personnel-related costs (i.e., salaries, benefits, etc.). Although this was a very difficult decision, it is necessary given our current financial position. This leaves the church with a net projected deficit of \$128,285, or roughly 6% of our total revenue forecast for 2017. If this amount is not collected, we will have to reduce our spending even further.

The purpose of this letter is not only to inform you, but also to ask you for your continued prayers and support. Please pray for our church, and for God's guidance for how you, as a faithful member, can help Providence Baptist Church at this time. In our February newsletter, Dr. Canipe asked each of us to consider how abundantly blessed we are, and in turn, how we can abundantly bless others. He also challenged us to stretch even further with our giving this year and trust that God will provide us with enough to do so. It is times like these where we, as a church family, need to practice diligent and faithful giving in order to further the mission and vision of this church under God's will.

Fortunately, we are a large, compassionate congregation and we feel confident this deficit can be overcome. According to the numbers in Dr. Canipe's article, there were 580 giving individuals and families alike that gave contributions in support of the church's ministries in 2016.

Starting in March, if each giving person or family donated an extra \$23 per month through the end of the year (a total increase of \$230 for the whole year), we would eliminate our currently projected financial deficit. If we stretch a bit further, though, and add a gift of \$50 a month to what each of us is already giving, we can fully fund our church's missions and ministries at the level we originally intended for 2017 – and provide a solid foundation on which to build our 2018 financial plan. We would like to challenge each of you to make this commitment.

The Finance Committee would like to thank you for your continued support. We are committed to keeping you informed on our financial progress and we pray that God will continue to bless Providence Baptist Church so that we may further His Kingdom.

Faithfully,



Jonathan Bensch  
Chair, Finance Committee

**February 19th, 2017**

2016 Deficit Fund*	
\$18,000	\$ 20,720
<hr/>	
2017 Projected Deficit Reduction Fund*	
\$7,035	\$128,285
<hr/>	
Worship Total: 488	
Christian Stewardship	
<b>Revised</b> Average Weekly Requirement	\$43,976
The average weekly requirement is the annual budget of \$2,286,776 divided by 52 weeks.	
<b>Revised</b> Revenue and Expenses	
Projected 2017	\$2,286,776
<hr/>	
Revenue Through 2/19	\$ 302,265
<hr/>	
Expenses Through 2/19	\$ 284,572
<hr/>	
Net Revenue to Expenses Through 2/19	\$ 17,693*

\*Includes 2016 and 2017 Deficit Fund Receipts

## Blessed Are the Meek



David Jordan

*“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” Matthew 5:5*

As we enter Lent, we are reminded that it is the time of year for spiritual discipline, especially cultivating the discipline

of humility, for this is the basis of Jesus’ blessing of meekness.

Jesus spoke consistently about humility, extoling its virtues while modeling its essence. Jesus also roundly and consistently condemned another h-word connected to humility and the opposite of meekness: humiliation.

While Jesus lived out humility, he spent a good bit of his time and ministry attempting to reverse humiliation and the humiliating circumstances so many in His day found themselves caught in. Too often the Scribes and Pharisees

looked down upon those they considered “the other.” Typically, these were called “sinners and tax collectors” (Luke 15:1-2), but the list also included women and shepherds, the poor and the sick, the alien and crippled.

Many religious authorities looked down on the very ones Jesus lifted up, humiliated the very ones Jesus called “light of the world,” and alienated those Jesus welcomed. Humiliation has often been part of the oppressor’s strategy for belittling their victims. To humiliate is to demonstrate control and power, while simultaneously breaking down the psyche of the oppressed. During this Lenten season, we also should remember the soldiers who mocked and belittled Jesus. They attempted to humiliate. That was the main reason for crucifixion.

But Jesus, with silence, dignity, and courageous humility remained true to His cause and firm in His resolve. His example has inspired a whole

host of others over the centuries, brave men and women marching before us believing with Jesus that the meek are blessed, the humble are strong, and living with humility is vital to God’s hope for our world and peaceful co-existence.

During this sacred season of Lent that leads us to Easter, discover the power of a humble spirit — kindness, gentleness, tenderness, and the honest recognition that Christ is present, alive and well in our brothers and sisters, just as Christ is alive in us. As we move through our days, let us remember the ways of Jesus and His words about who is blessed. It is not the brash, insistent, authoritative and cruel. Rather, blessed are the meek.

Take time today to be thankful – for those who have gone before – and for those whose journeys we share in the present.

Gratefully,

### A Swish

It has been my pleasure over the past few years to coach various basketball teams for my son, at first, and then later my daughters and a number of high school girls from Providence.

As basketball season moves toward its conclusion and as the ACC and NCAA Basketball tournaments begin, this poem seems appropriate! I wrote this years ago as I contemplated my own basketball career, and the feel of a sweet, successful shot that ends with an exceedingly satisfying sound.

#### A SWISH

Such music sounds as a ball	
Falls to earth through knotted chords	And scores.
Untouched by rim or board.	
The ball feels only strings	And sings:
A quiet, intoxicating sound;	
A whispered affirmation of skill	To thrill.
A ball launched from fingers outstretched	
Arcs across empty space	An ace.
Flying through air spinning - and pausing	
In glad destination	A proclamation:
Proud with rippled net	
In consummated wish:	<i>A swish.</i>

## PrimeTimers

**Thursday, March 16th**  
**12:00pm**

Crouch Fellowship Hall



Entertainment by Margaret Simmons and Jeanine Wagner, pianist and vocalist who will perform a variety of Broadway and sacred songs.

Come enjoy lunch, friends and fun! Tickets are \$7.00.

RSVP to 704.366.4030x211 by Sunday, March 12th.

## PrimeTimer's Road Trip

**Thursday, May 4th**

Flat Rock, NC

to see

“Smokey Joe’s Cafe”

at the

Flat Rock Playhouse



The music of Leiber and Stoller is sure to have you tapping your toes and dancing in the aisles with such hits as On Broadway, Stand by Me, Jailhouse Rock, Yakkity Yak and I Am Woman.

Cost is \$88 per person for a motorcoach, the play and lunch. Lunch will be buffet-style in a private room at Season’s Restaurant at Highland Lake Inn.

Only 40 seats are reserved!

Deadline for payment is March 31st.

## Thursday Bible Study

**Every Thursday**

**11:00am**

Nalley Missions Center

Walk through the Old and New Testaments with David Jordan during this 24-week Bible study series. For more information, contact David Jordan at [djordan@providencebc.org](mailto:djordan@providencebc.org).

## Young Professionals

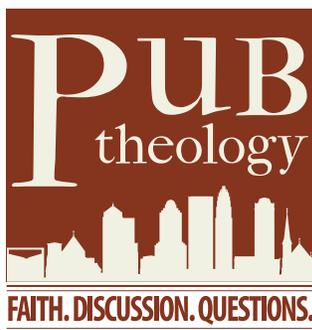
**Monday,**  
**March 20th**  
**6:45pm**

@ LeRoy Fox

Calling all Young Professionals!

Do not miss this time of fellowship and debate. A dynamic discussion always develops.

Speakers may vary. The friends do not.



## Alzheimers' Care Givers

**Support Group**

**Wednesday, March 8th**  
**11:00am**

At the home of Sharon Winstead  
5090 Ashford Crest Lane



Questions?  
Call Sharon  
at 704.542.9662.

## Children's Sunday

Sunday,  
March 26th

9:00am	Family Breakfast
9:30am	Preschool Children's Choirs Sing
10:00am	Parent Seminar
11:00am	Children's Choirs Lead Worship

## Children's SUNDAY

Children's Sunday is always a highlight of our year as our children sing and lead in worship! Join us for breakfast in the Crouch Fellowship Hall, then stay to listen to our preschoolers delight us with the music they've been learning.

This year, we will welcome Amy Head as our guest speaker. She will lead our parent seminar on "Arms Around My Family" in the Crouch Fellowship Hall.

Amy is a counselor and life coach. She enjoys helping people see that they are truly stronger emotionally than they think they are. She has an ability to work with all ages, especially children and their families. She will help parents think about how to best rear children who are strong, capable and independent.

## March Madness!

Will you be on the Team?

### Extended Session Ministry

2017 Enlistment Campaign

Extended Session Coaches are enlisting their teams for ministry to our very youngest. God has blessed Providence with many young children, and it takes a team each week to love and care for them during worship.

**Teams are needed during both services!**

8:30am and 11:00am

Parent "players" will serve eight times a year.

Substitutes and other players will serve four times a year.



We provide training so you can get in shape for the season! To volunteer for a team, contact Lauren Stroupe at 704.366.4030x138 or [lstroupe@providencebc.org](mailto:lstroupe@providencebc.org).

**We need you!**

## Bible Drill and Recognition

Sunday, March 26th

5:30pm

Crouch Fellowship Hall  
Providence Bible Drill  
and Bible Buddies Recognition

Come and support our children as they share their Bible skills with us! All are invited. You will be amazed!



## An Afternoon Tea

Saturday,  
March 11th

2:00pm – 3:30pm  
Crouch Fellowship Hall



HATS OFF TO  
*Mothers & Daughters*

Mothers and daughters (ages 3 years – 5th grade) are invited to join us for an afternoon tea.

Special guest is Rev. Karen Eickhoff, Minister with Children from Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh.

For reservations, email Kristen Hendrix at [khendrix@providencebc.org](mailto:khendrix@providencebc.org).

## The Cry for Justice



*Timothy Hill*

Hymn writing is a true art form. Different than poetry, the text must work with the music to tell its story. For many of us, we like “our” hymns – those that we grew up singing – those that stir our hearts. We need to sing those hymns.

We also need to sing new hymns. After all, the Bible clearly tells us to sing new songs (Psalms, Isaiah, Revelation). These “new” songs could be seen in a couple of ways. It could mean that we sing “old” songs with a renewed response to the freshness of God’s grace. Or, it could actually mean “new” songs.

In either case, we are to sing to the glory of God – finding our voice in God’s story. As we enter the season of Lent, I want to share a new hymn (at least it’s new to me) with you. These words, written by Diane Jordan (mother of David Jordan), call the church to action!

As we travel this Lenten journey towards the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, may these words encourage us to work for God’s justice in the world. May they challenge and renew us to live as the people of God.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

## Thank you!

Thank you to our Providence Church families who opened their homes to the Chowan University Choir students before they worshiped with us Sunday, February 26th. We hope to have more opportunities to extend God’s hospitality in the future. Thank you, Providence, for showing your unending love and hospitality to others!

## Hear Again the Cry for Justice

*Words by Diane Jordan*

Hear again the cry for justice,  
hear again the prophet’s call,  
“Like the mighty, flowing waters,  
let the streams of goodness fall.”  
May the words that God has given  
pierce our selfish apathy  
‘til, with joy, we turn to live them,  
‘til we heed the prophet’s plea.

In a world of sin and anger,  
in a world where cynics scorn,  
Millions weep in helpless hunger,  
refugees and orphans mourn.  
Rise, O Church, to meet the challenge,  
lift the fallen, help the weak,  
Change the laws that breed corruption,  
speak for those who cannot speak.

While we play in mindless leisure,  
feasting much and wasting more,  
Others die, diseased and fearful,  
plagued by famine, greed, and war.  
Yet God’s call to right and justice  
echoes still, across the years,  
Turn from sin to joyful service,  
wipe away your neighbor’s tears.

Hear again the words of Scripture,  
linger long at Jesus’ feet.  
Let the message grow within us  
‘til our prayers and actions meet.  
May we listen, may we worship,  
then obey the Spirit’s prod,  
Doing justly, loving mercy,  
walking humbly with our God.

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 (debrawallace2241@gmail.com).

## MissionDays Project

Chapman Youth Room  
Renovation

Sunday, March 12th

12:30pm - 4:30pm

Let's spruce this place up!



Many hands make light work and we are going to need all the hands we can get!  
Sign up on the student page.

**Remember:** This is a great opportunity to get mission hours for credit towards summer mission trips.

## Calendar Highlights

MissionDays  
Annual Spring Refugee Store

Set Up

Wednesday, April 26th  
(during Fusion)

Staffing

Saturday, April 29th

**Saturday, May 20th**

MissionDays at  
Ronald McDonald House

(More info to come on these opportunities.)



## HS Hoorah / MS Madness!

Sunday, March 26th

12:15pm - 4:00pm

Charlotte Checkers  
\$15/ticket in advance

ONLY 25 TICKETS AVAILABLE.

First Come, First Served.



This is a student-wide event for high school AND middle school. Sign up NOW and don't miss out!  
Bring additional money for lunch.

## Student Minister Update

The search process is going well! We have received many qualified applications from across the country and are beginning to schedule interviews. The input from the congregation has been of tremendous value by focusing the committee on applicants who align with the attributes in the profile approved by the congregation. We are working hard, but also are enjoying the process as we make important decisions together. There are some fantastic

Christian student ministers out there and we know one will receive the call to Providence!

**Chris Squier** - *Committee Chair*



For more information about the Student Ministry, contact George Mulley at 704.366.4030x116 (gmulley@providencebc.org).

## Home Grown Missions

*Providence is blessed with outstanding young people. Our students have grown up in our midst, most of them since infancy. Through Providence children's programming, student mission trips and various mission related activities, our young people have been introduced to real world suffering and need, which has made the phrase "be the hands and feet of Jesus" real to them. As a result, many of our students go on to serve Christ beyond the Providence walls. Here are the stories of two of our most recent "missionaries" reaching out to different cultures and communities.*



### **Catherine Jackson-Jordan**

I am doing a service year with Episcopal Service Corps (ESC) based in New York City (August 2016-2017). ESC offers programs around the country for young adults interested in social justice, service-work, intentional community, and spirituality. The New York City ESC Program is based at St. Mary's Church in Harlem. I live with four other young adults at St.

Mary's, and we all work at different non-profits around the city.

I work as the Mission Intern at St. James Episcopal Church on the Upper East Side. My primary work is as the Volunteer Coordinator for a homeless shelter we run five nights a week. I also help with our Grants Program, distributing money raised by St. James to other non-profits in the city.

My roommates and I live in intentional community, which means that we are intentional about spending our time and resources together. We have a shared food budget that we use to buy groceries for all five of us (which is difficult with two vegetarians and one gluten-free member), and we have a chore rotation and system for conflict-resolution that we set up as a community. We set aside time for social events (weekly dinners, museums, dancing, going to parks), and have weekly meetings with our director to debrief and learn even more about social problems in New York City.

I have loved it so far! This experience can obviously be challenging because of the constant exposure to poverty, homelessness, and inequality. But I have loved learning more about the tangible solutions that faith-based communities and other non-profits are continuing to develop to tackle these huge issues.

New York City is also one of the most amazing places in the entire world, and I feel lucky to be able to live here - even if it is for only one year! I have never been in such a richly diverse place, and I continue to discover new and exciting things to do, eat, and experience here. But, I could do without the rats!

### **Betsy Marshall**

Welcome to Sabah, Malaysia! This year I am a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) assigned to the town of Kota Marudu in the northern corner of Sabah. Sabah is one of two Malaysian states on the island of Borneo and is known for its natural beauty and beautiful coastline. Kota Marudu is a town of about 60,000 friendly, welcoming people.

I am teaching English at the SMK Bandau school, a high school with about 600 students. SMK Bandau students are assigned to Form 2-5 (the English system) and I am teaching English to several different forms (grades). I rotate from class to class as the students remain in one classroom throughout the day. The students have been studying English for some time so we are able to converse. I will be attempting to learn Malay and Dusan (their regional language) and I imagine I will have a much harder time with that!

The Fulbright program is sponsored through the State Department and our efforts here are part of a soft diplomacy initiative. I will be taking students out on scuba trips (I just got scuba certified here), hiking adventures, and I am hoping to start a speech and debate program at the school.

I am living with another Fulbright ETA in a small house in Kota Marudu. We have lots of nice neighbors and I have assured my Mom and Dad that I am safe! My roommate and I share a car and are learning to drive on the left side of the road.

When I left the United States on January 1st, I spent two weeks training in Kuala Lumpur where we explored the city and were guests at the US Ambassador's home.

I hope to travel all over southeast Asia during school holidays while I am here this year.

Give me a yell if you are in this part of the world and drop on by!



## Ash Wednesday



**March 1st - 6:15pm in the Sanctuary**

Join us for the beginning of our Lenten walk with Jesus toward the cross as we worship God together on Ash Wednesday.

## Study Series

**March 8th will begin a new series of Wednesday night studies. This session will be 4 weeks long. Look for sign-ups in the Rotunda!**

**David Jordan:** “Reformation 101: The Protestant Reformation after 500 Years and Why it Matters”

**Tim Hill:** “Worship 101”

Each week, we will explore one of the four historic folds of worship: Gathering, Word, Table, Sending. These sessions will be designed to discuss why we do what we do, and the planning behind each fold.

Week 1: Gathering - Ascending into God’s Presence

Week 2: Word - Hearing from God

Week 3: Table - Holy Communion

Week 4: Sending - Going Forth to Love and Serve the Lord

**Lee Canipe:** “Telling Our Stories: Rediscovering the Art of Testimony”

We hear a lot about how important it is to share our faith with others, but few of us do it on a regular basis. We feel like we’re not smart enough, or articulate enough, or theologically-savvy enough to talk to someone else about Jesus. The thing is, though, sharing our faith with others is really nothing more than talking about what Jesus means to us - and nobody knows more about that than we do! There’s a name for this kind of conversation: Testimony. Beginning March 8th, we’ll spend four Wednesdays together learning how to talk more comfortably - that is, testifying - about those places in our lives where the good news of Jesus overlaps with our everyday experiences.

## Mitri Raheb

**Wednesday, March 22nd 6:00pm Crouch Fellowship Hall**

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, is the Senior Pastor of the world famous “Bethlehem Christmas Church” (The Evangelical Christmas Church in Bethlehem – yes, the same place Jesus was born). He is also the President of Dar al-Kalima University College in Bethlehem and the president of the Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. A courageous Palestinian Christian who is internationally known for his humble spirit and outstanding leadership in a very contentious part of the world, Dr. Raheb models the life and teachings of Jesus in ways that inspire Christians all over the world. Ministering to and with people from all walks of life and faith, Christians, Muslims and Jews, his tireless work and witness stands as a powerful beacon of hope to us all.



*Rev. Mitri Raheb*

Dr. Raheb is an author of several books, most recently, “Faith in the Face of Empire: The Bible Through Palestinian Eyes,” and is the founder and president of the remarkable “Bright Stars of Bethlehem” interfaith ministry for children and adults. Do not miss this program! This is a grand opportunity for us to hear a first-hand witness of life in the Holy Land today. You will be blessed!

## The Providence ARK



Help us fill the Providence Ark! Did you know that there are some amazing things happening to help end world hunger and poverty? Heifer International is an agent of change around the world as it helps families farm and have a sustainable living. We can help, too! During the month of March, we as a church family are going to fill ark BANKS to provide animals to families in need. We want to buy goats, sheep, pigs, cows, rabbits, chicks and much more. Simply pick up your bank at the WMU table in the Crouch Fellowship Hallway (one per family) and begin filling it with money! Together, we will move beyond hunger one gift at a time!

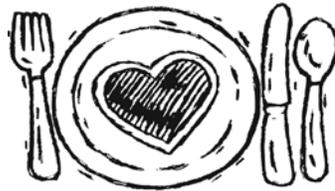


To learn more about this WMU sponsored project, visit [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).



## Wednesday Night Meals

These family-friendly meals are offered from 5:00pm - 6:00pm every Wednesday night in the Crouch Fellowship Hall. Don't miss out!



### March 1st

Chicken Breast Roulade  
Corn Pudding  
Green Beans  
Salad  
Pizza Bar  
Muffins  
Maple Apple Crisp

### March 8th

Grilled Sausages  
Seasoned Red Skinned Potatoes  
Roasted Carrots  
Salad  
Pizza Bar  
Corn Bread  
Key Lime Pie

### March 15th

Meat Loaf  
Macaroni and Cheese  
Steamed Broccoli  
Salad  
Pizza Bar  
Biscuits  
Banana Pudding

### March 22nd

Pizza Extravaganza  
Deep Dish, Grilled, Hand-Tossed,  
Meat, Cheese and Veggie Flavors  
Italian Salads  
Variety Cupcakes

### March 29th

Pork Roast  
Yukon Gold Potatoes  
Roasted Zucchini and Squash  
Salad  
Pizza Bar  
Muffins  
Pineapple Cake

Adults \$7.50, Seniors \$6.50, Children \$5.00, Max Family \$25.00

## A Great Day

**Sunday, March 19th**  
**8:30am and 11:00am**

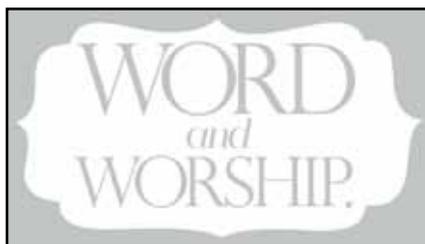
Thought about joining Providence?  
Know of someone else who has?

Join ranks and walk the aisle together  
and let the Providence family open  
their arms to greet you!

We're calling this "A Great Day." Essentially, it's  
a day when we're encouraging those who've been  
pondering joining Providence, but just quite haven't  
gotten it done yet, to walk the aisle together.

Join on the same day!

Come be a part of Providence.



## Worship Scripture

**March 5th**  
Matthew 4:1-11  
Communion

**March 12th**  
Psalm 121

**March 19th**  
Exodus 17:1-7

**March 26th**  
John 9:1-41

**April 2nd**  
Romans 8:6-11  
Communion

## Start Here: A Beginner's Guide to Providence

There's a lot going on at Providence - and it happens on a big church campus. That's a wonderful thing. It can also, though, be an intimidating thing for guests and new members who aren't quite sure where to go, who we are, or how they might fit into Providence's many ministries and missions.

In an effort to be more intentional in our hospitality to - and effective in our orientation of - guests, potential members, and new members, David Jordan has put together a new way of introducing people to Providence, called "Start Here: A Beginner's Guide to Providence." The trial run for this outreach ministry begins in March and will run through the end of June.

The premise of "Start Here" is simple, allowing people to jump immediately into the process of getting acquainted with our church and ensuring that, except for the occasional fifth Sunday, we are always prepared to welcome newcomers.

Here's the monthly schedule:

- **First Sunday:** "A Providence Tour and Orientation" is led by David Jordan.
- **Second Sunday:** "Providence:101," an overview of how Providence works, what ministries and missions we support, and how newcomers can plug in to put their gifts to work for God. Led by Richard Landers.
- **Third Sunday:** "What does it mean to be a Providence-kind of Baptist?" Led by Lee Canipe.
- **Fourth Sunday:** Fun and Fellowship at Providence. Led by Randy Ballard and Timothy Hill.

These sessions will happen during the Sunday School hour and be led by members of our church staff. Each session begins in the Rotunda at 9:45am. Now, it must be said that "Start Here" is not exclusively for newcomers. Everyone is welcome to show up for a session and learn more about our church!

### A Special Invitation

Each Sunday,  
Beginning  
**March 5th**  
**at 9:45am**  
in the Rotunda

Visitors and new  
members are  
especially invited  
to join us for these  
monthly offerings.

Long-term members  
are welcome, too!

## Spring Gardening



*l-r: Steve James, Pamela James, Jen Rabon, Evie Rabon, Ashe Rabon, Lane Rabon, Jackie Timmons, Ally Timmons, and Chris Timmons*

Spring is for gardening - at least it is at the Providence Weekday Ministry! Some faithful gardeners came to prepare some of our beds for produce by shoveling, tilling, and mulching their way through the morning.

The beds, located just outside the Weekday Ministry main entrance, grow herbs and vegetables for the Providence kitchen, the Weekday Ministry students and for donation to Friendship Trays and the Providence Burmese community.

Beyond the obvious production of food, the beds are also used for learning. Our Weekday children are able to witness the miracle of life first-hand as they see their seeds sprout, grow and mature into something they can eat and enjoy.

From a winter garden of greens, turnips, and onions, to a summer garden of squash, peppers, tomatoes, herbs and more, the Providence Friendship Garden is a place of fun, learning and growing ... kind of like our Weekday Ministry!

Why not stop by in the next few weeks and see what kind of

seedling is popping up. You'll be surprised at the variety of flora and fauna you'll find. (Because who knows? You might spot a raccoon or two as well!!)



*l-r: Jackie Timmons, Ally Timmons and Pamela James*



## Weekday Ministry Fundraiser

Need a gift?  
Does someone have a birthday coming up?  
Time for some new outdoor toys?



**Get to Toys & Co.**  
Cotswold Mall  
**March 4th - 11th**

The Weekday Parent Advisory Council will receive 20% of all proceeds during those days.

## Weekday Director Search

The Weekday Director search continues. We are excited to be narrowing down our candidates and are moving in a good direction for Providence and the Weekday Ministry.

We hope to have a director named by this summer.

Continue to pray for the committee as we cull through resumes and responses.

Questions?  
Contact David Jordan at 704.366.4030x126.

## SHARE IN the Journey

*Our church family goes beyond just “showing up” on Sundays.*

*We DO ministry. We LOVE missions. We SERVE God. We SUPPORT our church and its programs. We get involved!*

*The Stewardship Committee at Providence Baptist Church has embarked on a new journey, one that will tell the stories of our congregation through the eyes of those participating in highlighted ministry. Each month, a new tale will be told about someone making a difference in our church, in our community, in our city, in our world. In essence, we will be SHARING the journey, so that you can SHARE IN the journey. Because “Providence Gives,” each one of us has something to offer.*

*And so we begin ... It seems only fitting to start this journey by telling the story of one of our most fulfilling commitments ... **Room in the Inn.** Since 1996, hundreds of Providence members have participated in this ministry. And with the warmer weather of March comes the end of yet another Room in the Inn season. Now, hear the tale told by the wife of Room in the Inn’s very first Providence supporter ...*

## SHARING the Journey



*Inez Arant*

Many years ago, after attending several meetings with Urban Ministries, my husband Aubrey Arant approached the Providence Missions Committee about being a host site for the Room in the Inn (RITI) program. RITI is designed to provide shelter, Biblical guidance, and encouragement for homeless men in our area. The Missions Committee approved Aubrey’s request and in 1996 Providence began hosting men every Saturday night from December 1st through March 31st. Before Providence built the Nalley Missions Center, we hosted our neighbors in the Activity Center.

Each week, a rotating group of volunteer teams prepare a home-cooked meal, set up the dining room, arrange a safe and comfortable sleeping area and offer friendship and camaraderie to the men visiting with us for the night.

Working with fine church friends over the years has been an incredibly rewarding time of service and fellowship as we make this weekly event happen! Our very dedicated teams enjoy being

part of this mission and many members bring their children to help. The act of hospitality of providing a home cooked meal, a clean bed, and a hot breakfast continues to be an inspiration to all of us!

One of my fondest memories of this program occurred many years ago when one of our guests stopped and asked if he could pray for our church and people before he left. It is one of the times I remember us all feeling very blessed by this mission!

Over the years, I have been continually reminded that the guests of Room in the Inn have done as much good for us as our Providence volunteers have done for them.

~ Inez Arant



*The Koinonia Sunday School class pulled one of the recent “shifts” for Room In the Inn. Their preparation for our RITI neighbors sets the stage for fellowship, food and forging new relationships.*

You’ve heard the story shared. Now it’s YOUR turn.

Share IN the journey! [www.providencebc.org/give](http://www.providencebc.org/give)

## New Members



*Scottie Stamper joined Providence on Sunday, February 19th. She is transferring her membership from Myers Park Baptist Church and is a former Providence employee.*

*Please welcome Scottie warmly!*



*Irene Rockett joined Providence on Sunday, February 19th by transfer of membership from Winkler's Grove Baptist Church in Hickory, NC. Irene would like to thank the Providence family for the care and concern already shown to her.*

## Providence Gear

Have you seen it? Providence gear is everywhere! You know ... shirts, hats, and jackets with the Providence logo embroidered on them.

Want your own?

Providence has a new "store front" at Land's End so anyone who wants their own logowear can snag it. Just go to the website below and place your order.

[business.landsend.com/store/providencebc](http://business.landsend.com/store/providencebc)

## Deacon on Call

704.366.4030x147

March 1 - 7: Frances King

March 8 - 14: Susan Jones

March 15 - 21: Harrison Marshall

March 22 - 28: Rosalynn Miller

March 29 - April 5: Tom O'Neal



## Minister on Call

March 5: David Jordan (704.724.2766)

March 12: Lee Canipe (704.975.0340)

March 19: Richard Landers (704.608.3371)

March 26: Julia Wright (704.458.3710)

April 2: Randy Ballard (704.650.9449)

## In Sympathy

- Linda McConnell in the loss of her uncle, Richard Mital on January 28th.
- Georgia Browning in the loss of her sister-in-law, Joyce Eagles Griffin on February 2nd.
- Jo Ellen Arant in the loss of her sister Sarah Phillips on February 6th.
- Bill Blankenship in the loss of his wife Jewell on February 6th.
- Gordon and Lou Ann Reische in the loss of their grandson, Patrick Reische Gray on February 8th.
- The family of Jesse E. Oxendine in his loss on February 10th.
- Al Ross in the loss of his brother Bobby Ross on February 15th.



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## MissionDays Work Day

*Sunday, March 12th, 12:30pm  
Chapman Youth Room*



## PrimeTimers

*Thursday, March 16th, 12:00pm  
Crouch Fellowship Hall*



## A Great Day

*March 19th, 8:30am and 11:00am  
Sanctuary*



## Children's Sunday

*March 26th, 9:00am  
Crouch Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary*

## Next Connections is April 1, 2017.

Deadline for submitting articles,  
photos, announcements, etc, is  
**Noon, Wednesday, March 15th.**  
Articles should be 350 words or less.  
Email your submissions to:  
[ssneed@providencebc.org](mailto:ssneed@providencebc.org).  
*Thank you!*



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Providence Baptist Church -  
Charlotte, NC



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[www.providencebc.org](http://www.providencebc.org)

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