

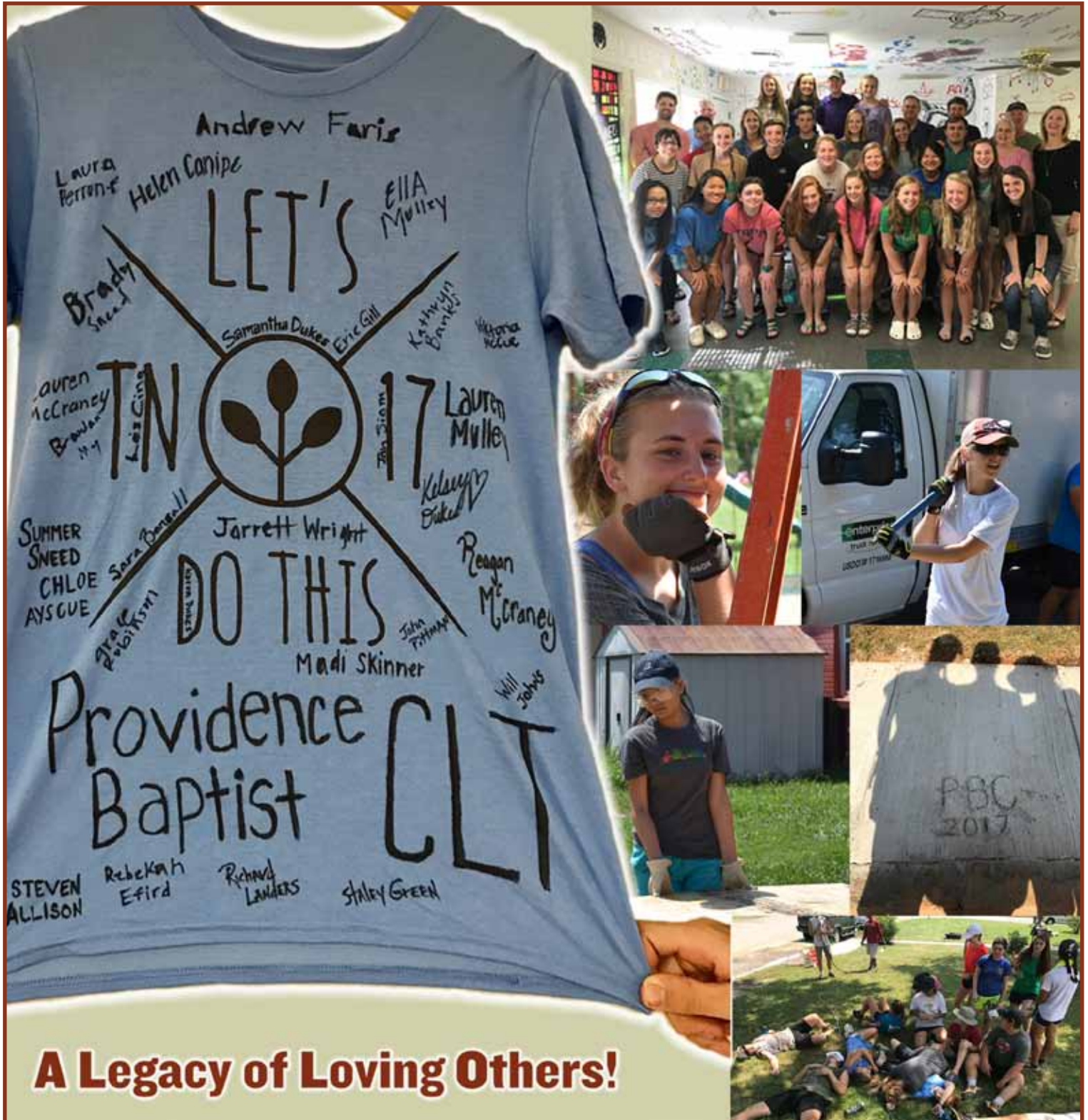
August 1, 2017



PROVIDENCE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Start Here



A Legacy of Loving Others!

Dream Big



Lee Canipe

It's time to Dream Big again. Every eight years, as written in our church bylaws, we have the chance to step back, consider the big picture of where we are as a church right now and—more importantly—where we sense God leading us together in the future. We pray, we dream, we share, we listen. The deacons are responsible for facilitating this process of

developing what the bylaws call a “strategic plan.” A ministry group of deacons began laying the groundwork for this process back in April, and they’ve done an outstanding job. Some of you have already participated in committee-related listening sessions with members of this ministry group. Elsewhere in this edition of Connections, you’ll find a schedule for what the next steps in this process will be.

At the outset, then, I’d like to offer four guiding principles—think of them as four sides of a frame—to define what we’ll be doing together in the coming months.

First, **this is a church-wide project, which means it requires church-wide participation.**

The deacons are leading this process, but its success or failure will largely be determined by the extent to which the many, diverse, and creative voices of Providence speak up and buy in. Because we’re Baptists, we believe that every Christian has priestly gifts—that is, the ability to communicate directly with God, to discern God’s leadership, and to share God’s wisdom. In other words, we’ve all got something to say. Now’s the time to say it. I hope you will. The future of our church is too important for Spirit-led Christians to remain silent.

Second, while it’s called “strategic planning,” **I’m thinking of this process more in terms of strategic preparation.** This is an idea I’m borrowing from author Reggie McNeal, who writes that, in a swiftly-changing world, long-term planning—even eight years out—is an increasingly dubious proposition. Better, he argues, to engage in strategic preparation, which is less a matter of making a to-do list than it is doing what’s necessary now to make sure that we will be in an advantageous position to say *Yes* when God opens doors for us in the future. This kind of preparation includes naming our values as a body of believers, discerning our priorities as followers of Jesus, celebrating our strengths as platforms to build on—and identifying the limitations that, if left unaddressed, may prevent us from living up to our potential.

I want us to be prepared to recognize and respond to the Holy Spirit’s movement in our midst because, third, I believe that **Jesus wants to do great things through Providence Baptist Church.** This is no secret. Jesus reveals his intention for us in John 14:12-14.

“Very truly, I tell you,” he says to his disciples, “the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

Jesus intends for His friends and followers to not just continue His ministry but go beyond what they’ve seen Him do.

Greater works. That’s what the Lord Himself tells us to expect. What this means is that, in order to be faithful followers of Christ, we must be willing to expect greater works. We can’t be afraid to dream big. We can’t let our understanding of what’s realistic limit our faith in what’s possible for God.

Fourth, but by no means finally, **we’ve got to begin this process from a position of prayer**—and by prayer, I really mean more listening to God than talking to God. I’m confident that the Lord knows what He wants to accomplish through us—and I’m confident that He knows how He wants to do it. Throughout Scripture, we see a familiar pattern: When God is ready to act, God lets His people in on what He’s about to do, and then He invites them to be part of it. Our task right now is to listen—deliberately and diligently—with open hearts, open minds, and open spirits to what God is saying to us as individuals and as a body of believers. I’m convinced that, as we listen, the Holy Spirit will lead us consistently. Familiar themes will emerge. We’ll find that what we’re hearing is the same voice, spoken in different ways, but moving us in the same direction.

We’re told in Hebrews 11:6 that the Lord “rewards those who seek Him,” so let us start here. Use John 14:12 as your centering verse for prayer. Throughout the month of August, read it at least once daily, preferably more. Write it down and tape it to your bathroom mirror or refrigerator door. As you read John 14:12, ask God: What greater works do you want to do through Providence? Ask and listen. Write down what you sense the Spirit is speaking to your heart. Some days—maybe most days—you may not hear anything. Keep at it. Earnestly seeking God is a process, more of a marathon than a sprint.

It’s time to Dream Big again—and I’m grateful that God trusts us enough to share His dreams with us. May the peace of Christ be with you!

Providence 2025

“Dream Big”

Sunday, August 27

(immediately following worship)

Help us make a plan for Providence and dream big. Students and adults are invited to enjoy lunch with the church family as we look to the future. Help us prepare ourselves for when God opens doors, so that we may recognize and respond to His call!

Join us in the Crouch Fellowship Hall as David Hull (from the Center for Healthy Churches) and our deacons lead us in a time of listening and guided discussion. Jason’s Deli box lunches will be offered at \$7.00, but an RSVP to 704.366.4030x211 is needed by August 23 OR sign up on the bulletin board near the Crouch Fellowship Hall.

Child Care is provided for children ages birth - 5th grade! Contact Lauren Stroupe at lstroupe@providencebc.org. Childcare reservation deadline is August 23.



Deacon on Call

Deacon on call phone number:
704.366.4030x147

August 2 - 8: Steven Allison
 August 9 - 15: Garo Aghjayan
 August 16 - 22: Cindy Brooks
 August 23 - 29: Susan Cannon
 August 30 - September 5:
 Mike Freeland



Minister on Call

August 6: Randy Ballard (704.650.9449)
 August 13: David Jordan (704.724.2766)
 August 20: Timothy Hill (704.641.4270)
 August 27: Julia Wright (704.458.3710)
 September 3: Lee Canipe (704.975.0340)

Are You Social?

Do you want to keep up with everything going on at Providence? Connect with us on social media and be in the KNOW! Not sure how? Here’s a quick tutorial!



Search for us: “@providencebccharlotte” or “Providence Baptist Church-Charlotte, NC” You’ll see our logo. You’ve found us! Now, click “LIKE!” Success!



Twitter is for quick 140-character updates. **Search for us:** “@pbccommunity” Now, click “FOLLOW” and you’re all set. You’ll receive tweets from Providence.



Do you like pictures to tell the story? Our Providence students use an instagram account to do just that. **Search for us:** “pbccstudentsclt” Now click “FOLLOW.” You did it!!

Financial Audit Results

The accounting firm of C. DeWitt & Foard has completed the 2016 Audit and noted that all records are accurate and appropriate. Contact Richard Landers for a copy.

July 23, 2017

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 2017 Projected Deficit Reduction Fund* | |
| \$37,535 (to date) | \$128,285 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| Worship Total: 417 | |
| Christian Stewardship | |
| Revised Average Weekly Requirement | \$43,976 |
| The average weekly requirement is the annual budget of \$2,286,776 divided by 52 weeks. | |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Revised Revenue and Expenses | |
| Projected 2017 | \$ 2,286,776 |
| Revenue | |
| Through Sunday, 7/23 | \$ 1,144,164 |
| Expenses | |
| Through Sunday, 7/23 | \$ 1,196,929 |
| Net Revenue to Expenses | |
| Through Sunday, 7/23 | \$ -52,765 |

*Includes 2017 Projected Deficit Fund Receipts

Spiritual (and Physical) Exercises



David Jordan

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Philippians 2:12-13).

Imagine the “work out” of the above verse to be an exercise routine. Going to the pool or the beach in the summer sometimes reminds us how important staying fit can be! We know

working out is a good thing physically. And we also now understand exercise to be valuable mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Good exercise is essential for a healthy lifestyle.

Taking our faith seriously, then, let us consider spending time “working out” our salvation as if we were participating in an exercise class. In such a “class,” you would not so much be in fear and trembling. Instead, as your spirit became more “fit,” your awe and wonder would grow, your understanding would deepen and your inquisitiveness would continue to expand. This month, consider these spiritual exercises:

- View the world as a gift from God.
- Expect small miracles.
- Look for opportunities to show kindness.
- Smile; recognize sacred moments.
- Notice colors; feel the breeze.

- Learn something new.
- Sit in the shade and watch the world for five minutes without moving.
- Pray for a friend in need. Give thanks for that friend and for the gift of friendship.
- Keep on trying.

Now let’s shift our focus on the verse. See the skyline of Charlotte filled with towering cranes and barricades along the roads and interstates. New buildings are rising almost every day. Something significant is happening. Charlotte is under construction.

So let’s again consider our verses from above: “God, who is at work in you ...” You are under construction. And a deeper truth: you are not working out your salvation on your own. You are being strengthened “to will,” (that is, to make choices), and “to work” (to live out those choices) for the pleasure of God. Today, embrace a sense of sacredness in the decisions you make and what you do. Notice, claim, and remember the good that is happening within you.

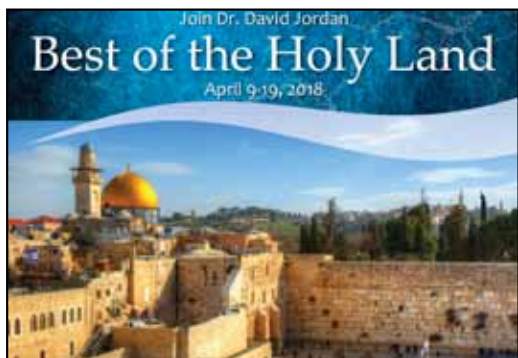
And don’t forget to exercise!

Gratefully,

“It’s hard to beat a person who never gives up.”

- Babe Ruth

A Holy Land Pilgrimage



The Best of the Holy Land, April 9 - 19, 2018

Join me for a ten-day journey that will change your life. This once in a lifetime experience will enable you to explore the land where Jesus lived, taught, died and rose again. Expand your knowledge of the Bible. Deepen your faith. Experience amazing, timeless scenery.

On the Jesus Trail “pre-tour” ... walk the same 34-mile route that Jesus walked from Nazareth to the Sea of Galilee. Learn about the history, geography and complicated politics of this sacred land, listen to valuable presentations on Judaism, Islam and Christianity, and discover the many reasons for the tensions between Israelis and Palestinians. Most of all, experience the Bible and the roots of our Christian faith as never before.

Brochures for this important trip are available on request, or you can visit www.providencebc.org/educational-travel.

Fall Kick Off



Wednesday, August 30
5:30pm
\$5.00 per person
 Crouch Fellowship Hall



Let's get this party started!

Chicken Sandwiches, Chips, Fruit, Cookies, Cotton Candy and Snow Cones
 Inflatables and the Carolina Panthers' "Sir Purr" for children
 FARKLE (Yuck Night) for students

(Students: Eat then head on over at 6:00pm to the Aubrey Arant Fields for FARKLE!)

Come enjoy this fun evening with your Providence family and get your school year started off RIGHT!!

Young Professionals



Monday, August 14
6:45pm

@ LeRoy Fox

Calling all Young Professionals!

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

Speakers may vary. The friends do not!

New Providence Directory

It's that time again!



We need a new Providence Pictorial Directory!

And we need YOU to make it complete!

NO hard sell!

Sign up **NOW** for your family appointment.

Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the Crouch Fellowship Hall.

Affirmation of Baptism

Sunday, August 6
Cane Creek Park

5213 Harkey Road, Waxhaw

\$4 vehicle parking fee

(See article on page 7.)

Eat at 6:00pm.

Immersion at 6:45pm.



Choose from times during the weeks of

September 7 - 12

September 14 - 19

Questions?

Contact Richard Landers at rlanders@providencecbc.org.

Sow. Grow. Go.

During these busy summer months, many of you have been caring for a garden. Hopefully, you have enjoyed the rich bounty that a garden can yield! There are so many parallels in scripture to the gardening process.

Galatians 6:7-9 reminds us that we reap whatever we sow. The early childhood years are the time for parents and teachers to sow seeds in the lives of children. Are we sowing the seeds of love, trust, security, respect, and faith (just to name a few) into their lives? If we do not take the time and carefully sow the seeds into their lives, how can we possibly expect there to be fruit at harvest time?



This year in Children's Ministry we are going to be very intentional in

our focus as we SOW seeds of faith in children. We want our children to GROW in their knowledge of the Bible and of the life of Christ. We want them to GROW in their faith so that they might GO and live as faithful followers of Jesus.

Will you join us in this gardening process? We need leaders for Sunday School, missions and music for both our preschoolers and our school-age children. If you are interested, simply call Julia Wright and she will help you find an area of the garden where you can sow seeds.

And remember: "Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

Promotion Sunday

August 27

All preschoolers, children and students –
PROMOTE UP!



Step into your NEW classroom on August 27th for continued learning and growth in the Christian faith.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Leadership Training

Saturday, August 26

9:30am – 11:30am

For all Sunday School, Mission Friends, GA and RA Leaders.

If you teach our children, you need to be here!

Contact Julia Wright for more information at jwright@providencebc.org.

Soccer Season Starts

Calling all children:

Sign up to start YOUR season.

For ages 3 and up

Registration open August 1 - 15

Games begin September 9



Contact Randy Ballard at rballard@providencebc.org.

Or download the form at www.providencebc.org/fellowship/sports.

For more information about the Children's Ministry, contact Kristen Hendrix at 704.366.4030x125 or khendrix@providencebc.org.

Cane Creek Baptism Affirmation



This Sunday, August 6, Lee Canipe and Tim Hill are leading a special worship service at Cane Creek Park in Waxhaw. We're calling it an Affirmation of Christian Baptism service—and it's exactly what it sounds like: An opportunity to affirm, by being immersed in Cane Creek Lake, the spiritual commitments made at our baptisms.

Who might want to be a part of this special time of worship? The short answer is: Anybody who feels led to take this public step of Christian commitment.

Perhaps you were baptized as an infant in a sister Christian church and want to affirm that experience now that you are an adult believer. Maybe you made a profession of faith and were baptized as a child and, now that you have grown in your understanding of what it means to follow Jesus, you want to rededicate yourself to him by an outward sign that reflects your inner conviction. There are many reasons why someone might feel led to Cane Creek Lake on August 6.

It's important to note, however, that this isn't a re-baptism service. As the apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 4:5-6, there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." The New Testament does not recognize such a thing as "re-baptism." There is but

one baptism. For some Christians, it happens when they are infants, and then they grow to claim that faith as believers later in life.

For Baptists, it happens after we come to faith in Jesus and confess him as our Lord and Savior. This is our practice here at Providence.

Regardless of when you first encountered God's grace in the waters of baptism, you are invited to join us for this service of affirmation. If you do, please come prepared: Bring a swimsuit, a t-shirt, a towel, a washcloth and dry clothes (to change in to). We'll provide the robe.

Contact either Lee Canipe (icanipe@providencebc.org) or Timothy Hill (thill@providencebc.org) to learn more—or to add your name on the list of those wishing to participate.

Sundays in August

August 6

Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Luke 9:28 - 36

August 13

Romans 8:26 - 39

August 20

Matthew 15:21 - 28

August 27

Romans 12:1 - 8

Sunday

August Mission Collection

We are continuing collection of school supplies for our Burmese and Rama Road friends. Drop off items in the hallway leading to the Crouch Fellowship Hall.

New or gently used children's books (K-5th grade)
pencils
pencil sharpeners
crayons
markers
colored pencils
scissors
rulers
glue sticks
notebook paper



For more information regarding the Music Ministry contact, Carol Arant at 704.366.4030x121 or carant@providencebc.org.

From Dane



Dane Jackson

I can't believe that August is here. That means that in a few weeks Caitie and I will be all moved down and ready to begin this new season of life together.

To our students: I am so excited to begin ministering with you, getting to know more about you, and planning

and discussing God-sized ideas for the Providence Student Ministry. Your warm welcome, high energy and thoughtful questions were so life-giving for me. Are you ready? Can you feel it? This is going to be AWESOME!

Dane Jackson

Teachers Needed

We need Sunday School teachers! Come be a part of this student group and share your time. You will be blessed!

Email George Mulley today at gmulley@providencebc.org.



Fall Programming

We are planning great things for our students. Stay tuned for more information about our Wednesday and Sunday student schedule.

Fall Retreat Info

Middle School

September 9 - 11
Awanita

High School

September 22 - 24
Camp Bob

Look for sign up information on the student page.



FARKLE

Wednesday, August 30
6:00pm

What's FARKLE?

F-un
A-wesome
R-idiculous
K-razy
L-udicrous
E-vents

It's a new take on a favorite student tradition. Join us on the Aubrey Arant Fields for an evening to remember! Wear clothes you can throw away. You WILL want to!



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

High School Mission Trip

Smyrna, Tennessee July 16 - 22

7 Days, 10 Adults, 24 Students

EQUIPMENT

- * 10 pallets of concrete
equals 560 bags at 60 pounds each
(that's 33,000 pounds or 16.5 tons!)
- * 4,600 pounds of water to mix with concrete
(that's 2.5 tons)
- * 20 bundles of shingles (at 75 pounds a bundle)
 - * 3,600 shingle nails
 - * 20 sheets of plywood
 - * 10 gallons of paint
 - * Tools of all kinds
 (including jack hammer, shovels, hammers
- donated, purchased and borrowed)
- * Innumerable gauze bandages, medical tape,
bandaids, and "Stingkill" sticks



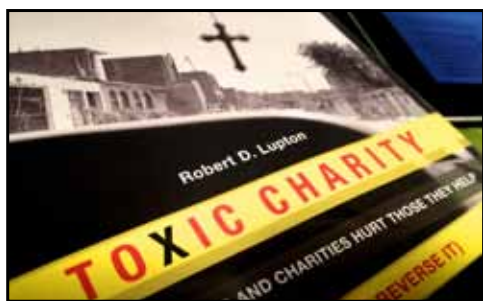
FOOD

- * 85 gallons of water and Gatoraid a day
 - * 34 pounds of cheese
 - * 20 pounds of strawberries
 - * 16 packs of bacon
 - * 125 pieces of fried chicken
 - * 44 heads of romaine lettuce
 - * 26 dozen eggs

ACCOMPLISHED

- * Painted one house, roofed one porch
- * Built 360 feet of sidewalk 4 feet wide, averaging 5 inches deep
(Dug out old concrete/pathways from "said" sidewalks)
- Served Christ, built relationships, loved others

Doing Missions Right



Adult Combined Sunday School Sundays, August 20 and 27

9:15am - Crouch Fellowship Hall

Join David Jordan, our Missions Committee and our combined Adult Sunday School classes for a two-week session on "Doing Missions Right." We will be utilizing key biblical passages such as Matthew 28, Acts 1:8 and Micah 6:8.

We will also be using the very important church missions book, "Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse It)." You can purchase this book on-line or ask us to order it for

you. We look forward to sharing together important reminders of our role as a congregation which takes missions seriously. We want to be the best we can be in fulfilling God's call to us as a church and in our individual lives.

Contact David Jordan at djordan@providencebc.org for more information or to order the book.

Women's Retreat



Join the women of Providence
September 29 - October 1

William Black Lodge
Black Mountain, NC

Cost:
\$225 per person
double occupancy

“Everything Has Its Time:
The Seasons of Our Lives
Lived in Community”

Don't miss this opportunity to meet new friends and spend time with other Providence women!

Sign up on the bulletin board leading to the Crouch Fellowship Hall.

Need more info?
Contact Summer Sneed at
ssneed@providencebc.org

Deadline is August 27.

Sunday School Teachers

Mark your calendar for training!

**Sunday,
September 10**

Details Coming!

teacher
training

Invitation to Psalms

**Mondays
6:00pm - 7:30pm**

Join David Jordan for this 10-week Disciple Bible Study that digs deeply into some of the most loved and misunderstood passages of our scriptures.

Study begins September 11.

Sign up in the Rotunda now.

Deadline is August 27.
Study books are \$15.



Backpack Collection

Our Missions Committee is collecting backpacks for **QC Family Tree**.

Fill the backpacks with school supplies and drop them off by Sunday, August 13.

Collection area is outside the Chapman Youth Room.

Quarterly Conference

**August 23
6:00pm**
Crouch Fellowship Hall



Summer Social

**Thursday,
August 17**

Look for details soon!



PrimeTimers

September 21
12:00pm

Bob Wilusz is the
Strolling Accordion

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

Make your reservations now!
**RSVP to 704.366.4030x211 by
Sunday, September 17th.**



Upcoming Events

Our PrimeTimers enjoy monthly
meetings/events. Make sure these
dates are on your calendar!

PrimeTimers:
September 21

PrimeTimers:
October 19

Over-Nighter:
November 2 -3

PrimeTimers:
November 16

PrimeTimers:
*December 7
(*Note this is a different date!)

Entertainment to be
announced soon!

PrimeTimers Over-Nighter

Have you signed up YET?
PrimeTimers Fall Overnight Trip
November 2 - 3

Staunton, VA
American Shakespeare Theatre

\$197 per person/double occupancy
\$265 per person/single occupancy



Take a luxurious motor coach to the mountains of Virginia, stopping for lunch and shopping. Then check into the Stonewall Jackson Hotel prior to walking next door for an evening performance of “Peter and the Starcatchers” at the Blackfriar Playhouse. Following a leisurely breakfast, board the motor coach for your return trip with a stop at Shelton Vineyards for lunch. Arrive in Charlotte between 6:30pm and 7:00pm Friday night.

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Senior Adult Hallway or the hallway leading to the Crouch Fellowship Hall. (You can pick up registration forms there too!) Need more info? Call Wilna Eury at 704.553.2615.

From This ...



... To This!

Thanks to the countless hours of volunteers and talented craftsmen alike, the new Libby Gray Media Center is ready for visitors!

Two rooms were completely gutted to create this beautiful and functional space. Centrally located on the second floor of the Sanctuary building in room 2123, the Libby Gray Media Center can be used as a conference room, a resource room or even as a quiet study space for doing homework.

If you haven't seen the new Media Center, visit soon! You will be glad you did!



We Need Volunteers!

Have you seen our amazing new Libby Gray Media Center? Right in front of the elevator on the second floor, terrific church workers and volunteers have created a new and remarkable space that we can be so proud of. Named for our long-serving and very talented Libby Cook Gray, our new Libby Gray Media Center will serve us well with a plethora of great books and excellent media options.



But we need your help! Volunteers are necessary to allow us to keep our new media center open for as much of the time during the week and on Sundays and Wednesdays as possible. Contact Wilna Eury (wilna.eury@att.net) or David Jordan (djordan@providencebc.org) if you can help us staff this great new resource!

SHARE IN the Journey

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

The Kerygma Sunday School class is full of people who live by God's call to "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with Thy God" (Micah 6:8). They walk the walk, quietly and without fanfare. They reach out to one another and to others in need. The members of the class are involved in an amazing number of ministries, both within the church and within the community. These are people who DO. They are more than classmates; they are family. They've walked with each other through illness, the deepest sadnesses and the richest blessings. Kerygma teacher Anita Pangle has created a family. Thanks to her biblical knowledge and ability to graciously respect all opinions and viewpoints, the Kerygma classes are full of animated discussion and are punctuated with raucous laughter. Ask anyone who has been on the receiving end of the class's ministry and you will hear a testimony of the power of their love and support.



The VBS volunteer Kerygma Crew! Not pictured are Bonnie Adams, Debbi Grosch and Penny Hewett.

SHARING the Journey



Barbara Brown

Barbara and Lanny Brown feel the phenomenal support the Kerygma class offers. *"The best decision Lanny and I made was to join Providence. The second best decision was to join the Kerygma Class. It was a shock when I was recently diagnosed with Leukemia. The shoulders to lean on, the listening ears, and the hugs are a true sign of love and support from our Sunday School class."*



Bobby Mulder is always shoveling, or pressure washing, or raking somewhere on the Providence campus, usually with other Kerygma guys. *"The Kerygma Class shares its love throughout the church and beyond. Helping out where and when I can, caring about other's welfare, and participating in fellowship is how I can show the light of love the Kerygma Class shines."*



Lanny Brown, Bob Tunstall, Martin Cramton, Bill Pangle, Bobby Mulder, A.J. Morton and David Jordan spreading mulch in the friendship garden.

Cheerful Giving



The members of the Kerygma Sunday School class are faithful in giving their tithes and offerings to Providence. Their generosity funds many projects and transforms lives in the Cotswold community and beyond. Their cheerful giving is a testament to the way they live their faith.

You, too, can transform lives by giving.
Visit www.providencebc.org/give.

Share IN the journey of being a cheerful giver by visiting www.providencebc.org/give and supporting the ministries at Providence.

A Message from the Chair

In a number of recent conversations with both members and non-members of Providence Baptist Church, the question of what do deacons do has come up. Because of the way Baptist churches work, there is no one answer that applies universally. But you should know what Providence deacons are doing.

The most visible, but far from only, role of Providence deacons is participation in worship. Each month deacons assist in serving communion. Each week the deacon of the week leads the congregation in prayer. The deacon of the week also contacts visitors/guests following the worship service and is on call over the weekend to respond to the needs of members and others.

The full responsibilities of Providence deacons are outlined in our bylaws. The over-arching theme is for deacons to be servant leaders. The 48 people you elected as deacons have already demonstrated service to our church, and they continue to perform those various tasks in addition to their service as deacons. Although the bylaws provide a broad overview of deacon duties, the deacons consider the current needs of Providence in deciding specific activities and how to organize themselves.

In 2017, the deacons began the year with a full day of prayer and reflection using the book “Exemplars” by Daniel Vestal and Elizabeth Allen as a guide. This book addresses three questions:

- Who do deacons need to be?
- What do deacons need to know?
- What do deacons need to do?

From this time together, the deacons agreed to organize themselves into ministry groups to take on the following tasks, in addition to worship leadership.

- Two nights of staffing Room In the Inn. Several of our deacons are always part of this ministry but for two nights all of our deacons are encouraged to serve.
- Deacon Emeritus Nominating. In the past, recognition of an individual as Deacon Emeritus has been at the initiative of the individual. This is an effort to invite qualified individuals to be honored.
- Engage Cotswold. This is part of the vision for Providence to become a focal point in our community.
- Greeter/Usher/Pallbearer. When we have a funeral or other special event at the church, our deacons present a friendly face and offer other support.
- Grief and Loss. In order to support folks who have experienced significant losses, deacons are trained how to respond in a loving, Christlike manner.
- Connection. In a large congregation, feeling connected to the body of believers can be difficult. Sunday school classes fill that need for most members, but deacons provide that connection for others.
- Homebound Communion. For members who cannot attend worship services, deacons take communion to wherever the members are so they can participate in this important ordinance.
- Strategic Planning. This is one of the specifically stated deacon responsibilities in the bylaws. The requirement is “no less frequently than every eight years” and because 2017 is Dr. Canipe’s first full year, the deacons decided this is important at this time.

In addition to these standing groups, deacons come together to form ad hoc groups as needs arise. For example, deacons provide transportation on a scheduled basis for church members with special medical needs.

Some of these ministry groups will complete their work this year while others are regular ongoing tasks for PBC deacons every year. Some will entail planning and then engaging other groups in the church to actually carry out the work. And through it all, individual deacons will continue to serve as teachers, committee members and other servant roles at Providence Baptist Church.

Hunter Cook
Deacon Chair 2017

Weekday Education

It has been a busy summer with nearly 100 church and community children participating in our summer preschool programs. The garden has been abundant this year thanks to Ms. Pamela and her green thumb with tomatoes, herbs, and flowers galore going home with the children. We are busily preparing for the new school year, which starts September 5th for Full Care and September 6th for our Preschool children. We have continued adding touches to our lobby, waxed and buffed our hall and classroom floors, installed a fence around the garden, and implemented a new computerized children's library check-in/checkout program. We



have a waitlist for all of our classes in both Full Care (7:00am -6:00pm) and Preschool (9:00am -1:00pm) classes, but we

encourage interested families to take a tour of our facility and see what we are all about!

New Member



Venila Cunningham

Venila Cunningham joined Providence on June 25th. Welcome, Venila!

Dear Providence

Thank you for the gracious support and generosity shown to me while



I completed my Master of Worship Studies degree. I am so thankful for the two churches that have supported this learning: Boulevard Baptist and Providence Baptist. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and continue learning. Thank you for encouraging me, supporting me, and allowing me to minister along side you.

Soli Deo Gloria!
Timothy Hill

In Sympathy

- Thomas Boyd in the death of his aunt Sheila Brown on April 21st.
- Jo Rabon in the death of her brother David Lee Bridges on June 2nd. He was Chet Rabon and Margaret Ford's uncle.
- Mandy Jordan in the death of her step grandmother Jerre Roper Jones Garnett on June 18th.
- Mary Eskew in the death of her father George Stephenson (Steve) Bridges, Sr. on June 23rd. Steve was the grandfather of Anna and Turner Eskew.
- Jo Ellen Arant in the death of her sister Dorothy Sinclair Beamer on June 24th.
- Lisa Gallimore in the death of her sister-in-law Mary Ann Tatum on June 25th.
- The family of Bob Kelly in his death on June 27th.
- Georgia Browning in the death of her nephew Richard Griffin on June 29th. He was Will Browning's cousin.
- Steve James in the death of his uncle George Washington James, Jr. on June 29th.
- Ed Dement II's family in his death on July 9th.
- Linda McConnell in the death of her aunt Elsie Mital Fredericksen on July 18th.
- Deborah Barr in the death of her mother Linda Whitaker Barr on July 25th.



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Baptism Affirmation

*Sunday, August 6 @ 6:00pm
Cane Creek Park, Waxhaw*



Promotion Sunday

*Sunday, August 27
All children and student classes*



Strategic Planning Lunch

*Sunday, August 27 @ 11:30am
Crouch Fellowship Hall*



Fall Kick Off

*Wednesday, August 30 @ 5:30pm
Crouch Fellowship Hall*

Next Connections is September 1, 2017.

Deadline for submitting articles,
photos, announcements, etc, is
Noon, Monday, August 14.
Articles should be 350 words or less.
Email your submissions to:
ssneed@providencebc.org.
Thank you!



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