

February 1, 2018



PROVIDENCE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Start Here



Greater Things



Lee Canipe

This past summer, I finally started reading Thomas Merton’s classic spiritual memoir, “The Seven Storey Mountain.” It had been sitting on my shelf for several years. I bought the book after one of my mentors recommended it as a good introduction to contemplative spirituality. I found the prospect of contemplative spirituality appealing—appealing enough, at least, to make me want to buy the book. Not appealing enough,

however, to make me want to read it.

Developing a practice of contemplative spirituality—the discipline of resting in God’s presence, of being with God as opposed to doing for God—has long been a struggle for me. I’ve wanted to go there, I’ve felt myself drawn toward there, but I haven’t managed to muster the will to put myself intentionally in a position to, as the Lord commands, “be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10) on a regular basis. Though I have for years set aside time in the morning to read Scripture and pray, I’ve resisted the call to make a constructive habit of being still, being silent, and being attentive to God. I’ve been like the person who wants to become a runner, and so he goes out and buys fancy new shoes—but then can’t bring himself to put them on and go for a jog around the block. He loves the idea of being a runner, but the reality is intimidating, so he stays on the sofa. That’s how it’s been for years with me and the discipline of contemplative prayer, neatly symbolized by that Thomas Merton book gathering dust on my shelf like a pair of brand new Nikes, still in the box, stashed away somewhere in the closet.

For whatever reason, then—let’s call it the Holy Spirit—I finally pulled Merton off the shelf, took him to the beach with me last summer, and started reading. I can’t say that my life has changed all that dramatically. I can say, though, that I now understand better why I’ve so long resisted the call to form the good habit of sitting in God’s presence and simply being with Him. Thomas Merton helped me put my finger on

the problem. “We are so obsessed with doing,” he writes, “that we have no time and no imagination left for being. As a result, [people] are valued not for what they are, but for what they do or what they have—for their usefulness.”

That, for me, is a powerful statement, largely because it is so accurate. If I sit still, then I’m not working—and if I’m not working, then I’m not useful—and if I’m not useful, then what good am I to anybody? What a terribly compelling train of thought! More than we care to admit, I suspect, it drives us and defines us in ways that prevent us from finding any genuine peace in God. Jesus may have invited all who are weary and heavy laden to come to Him and receive the rest He has to offer (Matthew 11:28), but—for the very reasons Merton suggests—it’s a frightening prospect to consider actually doing so. It’s intimidating to think about not being “useful,” even if only for a while.

It’s funny, then, how the Lord works on us. Just about the time all these thoughts began circulating in my soul, I started teaching a Wednesday night seminar on prayer. Out of that seminar, a small praying community has developed. The purpose? Encouraging one another to be still and know God through daily times of silence and prayer. Once a week, we meet to practice being in silence together and praying as a community. For now, we gather at 4:45pm on Wednesdays in Room 2105. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome to do so. We’re hopeful that, in time, from this initial praying community, new ones will form in our church—and that God will use our willingness to be still in His presence to shape us into people who are closer to His heart.

Learning to be still and listen to the Spirit is a process. It certainly goes against the grain of just about every single habit our doing-obsessed culture teaches us to cultivate. I’ll be honest: It continues to be a hard thing for me to do. But I can tell you that it’s a lot easier to imagine a different, better way to be faithful when I am in the company of Christian friends who are seeking the same thing.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

A Note of Gratitude

I am grateful for the privilege of serving with David Jordan during the first 17 months of my time here at Providence. I first met David back in 1999, when Hilary and I were preparing to spend a year in Russia as Cooperative Baptist missionaries. David’s church in Rockingham helped support us, and he was a consistent source of encouragement for us over the course of that year. Since I’ve been at Providence, David has given me thoughtful advice, wise counsel, and valuable context for understanding this church and how it works. I am thankful for his insight and his generous spirit, as well as for the spiritual gifts that he has shared with Providence over the last 15 years.

That said, I am glad for David as he begins his new ministry in Decatur, Georgia. The people of First Baptist Church there are fortunate to have him as their new pastor. Even as we celebrate David’s good work here, we look forward to what God will do through him in the future.

See David Jordan’s article on page 4.

Lenten Fast

Last year, I invited you to join me in the practicing the spiritual discipline of fasting during the season of Lent. A lot of you did so, and found it to be a meaningful part of your journey through the wilderness with Jesus. There are a number of different ways to practice fasting. There is no “right” way. What worked well for me last year was a sunrise to sundown fast every Friday. I plan to do that again this year. Do you feel led to fast in some way, shape, or form during Lent? If so, here’s a quick primer for you to read as you prepare to practice this ancient spiritual discipline.



What does it mean to fast?

To voluntarily forsake food for a defined time.

Is it a New Testament practice?

Jesus did it (Matthew 4:2). Jesus seems to assume that His disciples will do it (Matthew 6:16-18). It was a regular practice of the New Testament church, and was typically associated with times of focused, intentional prayer. (Acts 13:1-3, Acts 14:21-23)

Why do Christians fast?

To practice self-control. To think more clearly about God. To allow God to bend our will to His will. To redirect our attachments away from the world and toward Jesus.

When do Christians fast?



Friday is the traditional day because Jesus was crucified on a Friday, but any day is acceptable. Pick a day that works best for you.

Why fast during Lent?

It’s the time of year Christians traditionally seek to overcome the distractions that keep us from following Jesus more closely on His way to the cross. Fasting is a physical expression of our desire to decrease so Jesus can increase. It is a way of shifting from self-centered to Christ-centered.

How do Christians fast?*

There is no set pattern. Here are some options:

- No food for 24 hours.
- No food from sunrise to sunset.
- No midday meal.
- Eating only raw fruits and vegetables
- Consuming only fresh juice

* Please see your doctor prior to fasting if you have a health condition. Be safe!

What can I do while I’m fasting?

When you feel a hunger pang, pray.

Here’s a suggested prayer:

“Jesus only you can satisfy my deepest need. Come fill me.”

Deacon on Call

Deacon on call phone number: 704.366.4030x147

January 31 - February 6: Tim Dukes
 February 7 - 13: Bob Gaskin
 February 14 - 20: Bill Griffin
 February 21 - 27: Charlotte Guthrie
 February 28 - March 6: Holly Christian



Minister on Call

February 2 - 4: Julia Wright (704.458.3710)
 February 9 - 11: Randy Ballard (704.650.9449)
 February 16 - 18: Timothy Hill (704.641.4270)
 February 23 - 25: Lee Canipe (704.975.0340)
 March 2 - 4: Dane Jackson (804.651.7768)

January 21, 2018

Christian Stewardship

Weekly Requirement \$45,385
 The average weekly requirement is the \$2,360,000 financial plan for missions and ministry divided by 52 weeks.

Revenue Received

Through Sunday, 1/21 \$ 217,928

Expenses Paid

Through Sunday, 1/21 \$ 110,313

Net Revenue to Expenses

Through Sunday, 1/21 \$ 107,615

With Gratitude (reprinted)



David Jordan

Dear Members and Friends of Providence Baptist Church:

On Sunday, January 14th, after fifteen beautiful years at Providence, I was called to become the new Lead Pastor of First Baptist Church of Decatur, Georgia. I am honored and excited about this new opportunity. I also will truly miss the countless dear

friends I have been privileged to know and share life with you in this good place.

Since first beginning here in November of 2002, my life has been deeply enriched through all we have shared. We have prayed, worshipped, and learned together; we have asked hard questions, looked for redemptive answers, enjoyed challenging classes, taken interesting trips, and seen the world; we have laughed, cried, given grace, offered forgiveness, reveled in friendship and shared in wonder.

During these fifteen years, you have also taught my children in sports, music, missions and musicals; you kept them safe, took them on retreats led them on mission trips, shaped them, helped them to grow and challenged them to explore the world more deeply. You affirmed them, loved them and in countless ways, helped Beth and me nurture them in life and in faith.

Know that for all of this and so much more, I am exceedingly thankful. It has been my great joy to have been part of Providence and I will never forget you and the meaningful faith journey we have experienced together.

Over the next four weeks, I hope to be able to have as much time as I can to say thanks, to say goodbye, and to attempt to convey how much you have meant to me. My last Sunday here will be February 25. I will begin my ministry at FBC Decatur on March 11.

With eternal love, deep affection, and a heart filled with gratitude for fifteen amazing years,

Farewell Reception

Sunday, February 25
12:00pm
Crouch Fellowship Hall



David Jordan will be preaching his final sermon at Providence on Sunday, February 25. Following the 11:00am worship, a Farewell Reception will be given in his honor. The entire Providence church family is invited to attend

It is a time-honored Providence tradition to collect a love offering for departing ministers. During the Farewell

Reception, David will be presented with the love offering check. If you would like to donate, make your check payable to "Providence Baptist Church" by **February 21** and put "Jordan Love Offering" in the memo line.



Thursday Bible Study

February 1
and February 8
11:00am

Nalley Missions Center

David Jordan continues his series "Epistles from the Apostle" through mid-February.

The study conclude with highlights from Paul's travels through Phillipi and Corinth.

Stay tuned for plans to continue this study.



Paris 2019

By now, you have probably seen the teaser “Paris 2019” in some of our church communications. This is an exciting endeavor, and I am thrilled to share the news with you. Partnering with Music Celebrations International, the Sanctuary Choir has been invited to participate in the Paris Choral Festival, to take place on July 8, 2019. The Festival is part of the official 75th Anniversary Commemoration of D-Day: The Battle of Normandy and the Liberation of France. The festival tour will allow participants to experience an Independence Day choral remembrance and wreath-laying at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial as well as a finale massed choir concert in Paris’s famous La Madeleine.

The finale concert will feature the choral work “Requiem for the Living” by Dan Forrest as well as works by Gabriel Fauré and Mack Wilberg. When our choir presented this major work in 2016, it was a highlight in the community, with numerous singers joining together to proclaim and worship through music. Imagine the grand opportunity this will be to sing and worship at L’église de la Madeleine in the heart of Paris!

An opportunity like this can be life changing, not only to see and visit historic and renown sites, but also to

experience them with a worshipping community. While our main goal is to have many of our Sanctuary Choir members sing in the festival, the tour is open to all who would like to join us. The dates of the trip are July 2-9, 2019, and options exist for air and land, or land only for those that might wish to arrange their own airfare. The cost of the trip varies based on travel arrangements and number of participants, so please contact me if you are interested in learning more. If you are unable to travel with us, I hope you will consider supporting this endeavor – perhaps financially, but especially through prayer.



Timothy Hill

I close with the final stanza (translated from French) of “Cantique de Jean Racine,” one of the songs that will be featured at the festival:

*O Christ, look with favour upon your faithful people
Now gathered here to praise you;
Receive their hymns offered to your immortal glory;
May they go forth filled with your gifts.*

Soli Deo Gloria!

Paris Informational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 18 at 3:00pm in the Lowell Dotson Music Suite.

In the Beginning ...

From musical theatre greats Stephen Schwartz and John Caird comes a joyous and inspirational musical about parents, children and faith ... not to mention centuries of unresolved family business! An expansive and ambitious musical, Providence Baptist Church will present Children of Eden May 4-6, 2018. Adam, Eve, Noah and the “Father,” who created them, deal with the headstrong, cataclysmic actions of their respective children. The show ultimately delivers a bittersweet, but inspiring message: that “the hardest part of love ... is letting go.”

A large cast is needed to take on the story of the Old Testament in this moving, foot-stomping musical. Children, Students, and Adults are invited to join our stellar cast (including Stephen Ware, reprising the role of “Father”) to tell this timeless story. Contact Randy Ballard or Timothy Hill if you would like to be a part of the show.

For more information regarding the Music Ministry contact Caitie Jackson at 704.366.4030x121 or cjackson@providencebc.org.

What's in YOUR Garden?

**SOW. GROW.
GO.**



How is the soil in the garden of your life? In the midst of cold winter days, the ground tends to get hard.

During these times we have to intentionally work to have fertile ground, so that we are open and responsive to God's call on our lives.

Soon it will be time to sow seeds for spring and summer gardens. What will you sow in your garden? Perhaps you will plant some seeds of patience and kindness. Or maybe you are planting some seeds of Bible study and quiet prayer time. Whatever we want to grow in our lives, we must be diligent to plant those seeds in order to reap that harvest.

And what about our children? How are we, as parents and leaders, tending our gardens? Are we integrating prayer, scripture reading, and sacred rituals into the routines of a normal, busy family? On sabbatical, I have read the book "Faithful Families" by Traci Smith. The author encourages us to look for the sacred amid the daily-ness of life. "Faith," she says, "is learned as it is woven seamlessly into the fabric of daily life."

When the tough questions of life come, parents are encouraged to embrace one word: "Mystery." Because we know God works in our gardens in mysterious ways, saying to our children, "We believe in mystery" is a powerful thing.

We trust that as we are faithful in the planting and the sowing, God will be faithful in bringing growth in our lives and in the lives of our children.

Put it on the Calendar

Children's Sunday

March 18

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Janice Haywood

More information
to come!

**Children's
SUNDAY**

Souper Bowl of Caring

Super Sunday

February 4

12:00 pm

Crouch Fellowship Hall



God calls us to feed the hungry.

This Super Bowl Sunday, help us highlight this calling by participating in the SOUPER Bowl of Caring.

Bring money and canned food to church on Super Bowl Sunday and help us collect for our local chapter of Loaves and Fishes. Your donations will help feed our hungry neighbors right here in Charlotte. After worship, find one of our students and drop your cash donation in their stew pots as you exit the Sanctuary. Drop your canned goods in the big red bins that will be located around the Providence campus.

A hearty soup lunch will be available for students (grades 1-12) and their families **by reservation**. Make your reservation today by emailing [Kristen Hendrix at khendrix@providencecbc.org](mailto:Khendrix@providencecbc.org)!

On Your Mark!

RA Racer Night

Wednesday, February 28

6:30pm

Activity Center



**Who will be crowned
this year's champion?**

The entire Providence Church Family is invited to attend this fun event as we celebrate the hard work and dedication of our young competitors during our RA Racer Championship.

Cheer on the Royal Ambassador boys, who have spent hours designing and perfecting their one-of-a-kind racing machines.



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

Foundational Attributes: Part I



Dane Jackson

As the Minister to Students and Their Families, I am always looking for ways to encourage, support, and challenge those serving God and our students. I believe that there are certain foundational attributes that are interconnected and serve as the building blocks of a strong, holistic student ministry. Over the next few months, I'd like to highlight these attributes. At Providence Student Ministries, we are: Authentic, Formative,

Mission-based, Relational, Safe, and Sustainable. So, let's look at these attributes individually and see why we want to claim them.

What makes a Student Ministry Authentic?

We follow Jesus—the most authentic person who ever lived. Because of that, our student ministry will be marked also by authenticity. People were drawn to Jesus' genuine love and acceptance. His greatest criticism was reserved for hypocrites, those who said one thing and did another. Neither they nor their faith was trustworthy. Just as Jesus' actions were true to His words, we too must be reliable. We must mirror the message we find in the life of Jesus. Authenticity ensures that our verbal and non-verbal communication is consistent. We should strive to communicate in word and deed the unconditional love of Jesus. We should foster an atmosphere of genuine relationships, providing a space for students to experience unconditional acceptance from both leaders and peers.

Authenticity demands that we love every student—when it is easy and when it is not. Consistent love like that modeled by Jesus will result in healthy relationships. Authenticity will also encourage relationships with students that define the role of student minister as leader as well as companion in the journey of faith. A healthy and authentic student minister should model relationships to students, parents, and other church members at all times. Living authentic lives with students creates a tension for all student ministers to pay attention to the thin line between authenticity and transparency—over sharing and blurring the line between friend and leader. Ultimately, authentic relationships will direct people toward an authentic faith in Jesus.

Jesus' call is radical indeed. The authentic life of faith finds itself quite often at odds with what is commonly held to be acceptable. The life of Christian faith is always true to oneself when it is true to Christ. The more Christ-like we become, the more whole (complete) we are. When we model this desire for true maturity, we make way for the genuine relationships we seek to develop among all those involved in our ministry.

As we seek to serve God in a community of trust, authentic relationships are crucial. In fact, they are vital to effective ministry.

Dane Jackson

What's Next?

Sunday Dinners

There are still Sunday nights available throughout the spring for you to help provide dinner for our students. It is a fun way to get to know us and see what we do on Sunday



nights! You don't even have to be a parent of a student to help. Sunday school classes (like Dimensions and the Young Pros) have come and shared a meal with us!

If you or your Sunday school class would like to provide dinner for our students, contact George Mulley!

Sunday Night Live Series: "Three Beautiful Words"



The church is empowered when we share our testimony. In this series, we're going to talk about three stories the church should be telling the world, and each story

is only three beautiful words long. The hope is that this will be a fresh and simple way to address evangelism with our students.

February Sunday School Series

How does power influence the difference between right and wrong? What is the right way to respond to



conflict? Students may not realize it, but they confront these and other ethical dilemmas every single day. Scripture texts in Mark, Luke, and 2 Corinthians will encourage students to ask questions and seek answers to some of their most pressing political, social, and individual ethical concerns.



Join us March 25th for our **4th Annual Chili Cook Off**. Come enjoy food and fellowship on Palm Sunday after the 11:00am service. Information and sign-ups are on the website.

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

WMU Mission Action Day

Tuesday, February 6
10:00am-12:00pm

Nalley Missions Center

“Calling all Providence ladies!”

Whether you are a retired woman, a young mother, a working professional or a college student, you are needed! Come help us put our words into action as we seek to serve others during our mission action work day! Help us:

- Make 1000 sandwiches and deliver them to Urban Ministry.
- Make 200 after-school snack bags and deliver them to Billingsville Elementary for homeless children who are enrolled in “A Child’s Place.”
- Prepare 100 car snack bags for the homeless.
- Write cards to our home bound, reminding them of our love and of Jesus’ love.

Lunch is provided. For more information contact Anne Tunstall at 704.567.9593.



Engage Cotswold

February 4 and 18

As a congregation, Providence has committed to reaching out to the Cotswold community and engaging with our neighbors. One of our identified efforts is working with our friends at Waltonwood retirement home.



Two Sundays a month, our deacons offer the residents communion and fellowship during a short worship service.

What goes perfectly with worship? Music!

We are looking for piano players (of all skill levels) to play for this time of fellowship.

The residents LOVE to hear children, teens and adults and will sing along.

If you have the knack (or even a little knack), contact Connie Carpenter at 704.906.0279 to “get on the list!”

You will BE a blessing and you will BE blessed!



Mission Collection

Loaves and Fishes

During the month of February, we are collecting **canned goods** for Loaves and Fishes.



The agency provides nutritionally balanced groceries to families in the area who are in short-term crisis.

Simply, they help people who need help the most.

Bring anything from soups, to vegetables, to potted meats and help stock their pantry.



Bring your donations to the collection area in the hallway leading to the Crouch Fellowship Hall.

Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday, February 13

5:00pm

The flapjacks are flipping! The Providence staff will be serving up hot pancakes as they man the griddles in the Crouch Fellowship Hall on Shrove Tuesday.

Expect a casual atmosphere during this fun family meal with all your breakfast favorites!



Lee Canipe and Rocky Cannon serving up hotcakes last year.

The cost is \$5 per person.

Wednesday Night Meals

Enjoy this family-friendly buffet every Wednesday from 5:00pm - 6:00pm in the Crouch Fellowship Hall.

February 7

Grilled Kielbasa and Gumbo
Rice
French Bread
Streusel Bread Pudding
(with Cream Anglaise)

February 14

Chicken Parmesan
Spaghetti with Marinara
Grilled Vegetables
Garlic Bread
Chocolate Panna Cotta
(with Berries)

February 21

Country Style Steak
Creamed Potatoes
Steamed Broccoli
Yeast Rolls
Lemon Chess Pie

February 28

Fried Chicken
Macaroni and Cheese
Green Beans
Biscuits
Peach Cobbler
(with Vanilla Ice Cream)

PRICES: Adults and Teens \$8.00, Seniors \$7.00, Children \$5.00, Max Family \$25.00

Wednesday Night Studies

Providence is bustling on Wednesday nights!

At 5:00pm, “come as you are” to our family fellowship meal and enjoy some delectable delights prepared by loving hands. At 5:45pm, our children are released to their special schedule of music and missions activities. Adult and student programming is varied each week and begins at 6:00pm. (Check out page 7 for Student offerings.) Here’s what our adults can look forward to throughout the month of February:

February 7:

This will be the culmination of our series on Jeremiah, which is led by author and Professor Gerald Keown of Gardner-Webb Divinity School.

February 14:

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 21 - March 14:

Following the First Quarterly Conference (Q1), we will begin our four week New Testament study on the books of Luke and Acts. The study is led by Dr. Jim McConnell, a professor of New Testament Interpretation at the Divinity School at Gardner-Webb University.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 14

6:00pm
Sanctuary

Begin your
Lenten journey
with this somber and
sacred service.



Q1

Wednesday, February 21

5:45pm
Crouch Fellowship Hall



Mark Your Calendar



Lent is a meaningful season during the Christian year as we contemplate Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection.

The Providence calendar is full of special services and opportunities for worship.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 13 at 5:00pm

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 14 at 6:00pm

Palm Sunday Fauré Requiem

Sunday, March 25 at 11:00am

Lenten Bible Study

Wednesday, March 28 at 6:00pm

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, March 29 at 7:00pm

Good Friday Worship

Friday, March 30 at Noon

Easter Worship

Sunday, April 1

Sunrise, 8:30am and 11:00am

Prime Timers

Thursday, February 15

12:00pm

\$7.00 per person

Larry Starnes

Guest Pianist

1940s and 1950s music

RSVP Deadline:

Sunday, February 11.

Call 704.366.4030x211 to make your reservation or sign up on the bulletin board in Randolph Hall or the hallway leading to the Crouch Fellowship Hall.



Prayer Vigil

Saturday, February 24

8:00am - 12:00pm

Gordon Weekley Chapel

Spend some quiet moments with God. The deacons will provide a meditation guide or you can just sit quietly and pray.



Young Professionals

Hey, Young Pros!

JOIN US!

Monday, February 12

at 6:45pm

Location TBD



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

Speakers may vary.

Friends are always welcome!

Sunday Worship

**Services at
8:30am and 11:00am**

February 4
Communion
1 Corinthians 8:1-13

February 11
2 Kings 2:1-12



February 18
Psalm 25:1-10

February 25
David Jordan Preaching
Ephesians 2:8-10

Join us immediately following 11:00am worship for a church-wide reception as we celebrate David's ministry and tenure at Providence. Join us and bid David "God bless!"

Enjoy a hot Sunday breakfast! \$5 per person. Each Sunday from 7:30am - 9:30am.

Weekday Education Ministry Preschool Registration

Hard to believe, but it is time to start thinking about the 2018-2019 school year for your preschooler!

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM:

Children in the Providence Weekday Education Ministry preschool program attend from 9:00am to 1:00pm, with the option of extended care from 8:00am – 9:00am and/or 1:00pm – 3:00pm (for an additional fee). Our preschool teachers maintain First Aid, CPR and SIDS certifications, and regularly attend training programs on pertinent educational topics. Preschool children typically bring their lunch each day but, parents can “opt in” to the hot lunch program for an additional \$3/day. This program runs year-round, including two five-week summer sessions. Our preschool registration is open to everyone but current families and church members will have the opportunity to register first.

REGISTRATION:

Fall 2018-2019:

Current Families and Church Members:
Monday, February 12th

Open Community:
Monday, February 19th via website

- Families will be notified of their placement, or wait list status, by March 5th.
- We use October 15th as our birthday guideline for each preschool classroom. (For instance, for your child to be placed in the two year old classroom, he or she must turn two by October 15th.)

Summer Sessions:

Current Families and Church Members:
Monday, March 5th

Open Community:
March 12th via website

- Families will be notified of their placement, or wait list status, by March 29th.
- We use April 15th as our birthday guideline for each summer preschool classroom. (For instance, for your child to be placed in the two year old classroom, he or she must turn two by April 15th.)

Visit providencebaptistweekday.org.

Select the “Preschool Registration” tab to enroll, access calendars and view tuition schedules. Call our Assistant Director Deandra McInnis at 704.366.4030x129 for more information.

Looking Back, Then Forward



There is no doubt that 2017 was a year of many challenges, none greater than staying committed to doing our best with the funds that generous donors provided.

There were some bumps along the way, but true to our decision to trust in God, we did it. By the end of 2017, we received \$2,280,533 for 2017 expenses and we spent \$2,240,435 on 2017 expenses, which provided us with a NET Surplus of \$40,097 by year end! A detailed listing of where we ended the year is listed on the next page.



Richard Landers

With a positive 2017 year end, we are set for an even brighter 2018. Our annual budget is \$2,360,000. The Stewardship Committee did a great job in telling our story as we neared 2018. Now is the time to take the next steps of our journey as the family of Providence Baptist Church.

May we meet and exceed our expectations for God's glory!

Richard Landers

2018 Conference Dates



2018 Quarterly Conference Revised Dates

Stay active and connected by planning to attend supper and each quarterly conference in 2018.

Q1: Quarterly Conference

Wednesday, February 21 at 5:45pm
(Adult Bible Study will begin at 6:00pm.)

Q2: Quarterly Conference

Wednesday, May 9 at 5:45pm
(Children's Missions Recognition program will begin at 6:00pm.)

Q3: Quarterly Conference

Wednesday, August 8 at 5:45pm

Q4: Quarterly Conference

Wednesday, November 28 at 5:45pm



Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council is comprised of all Committee and Organization Chairs and Chairs Elect, the Senior Pastor and the Church Administrator. The Council's responsibilities are to:

1. Serve as a forum for the discussion of matters of importance to Providence (priorities for ministry; coordination of various ministries, missions and programs of the Church, etc.),
2. Prepare and maintain the Committee Manual,
3. Approve the creation of teams and prepare and maintain the Team Manual,
4. Develop procedures for accomplishing its responsibilities, and
5. Make a report at each quarterly conference.

The next Coordinating Council is scheduled for Thursday, February 8 at 7:00pm. All Chairs and Chairs Elect are invited.

Endowment Requests

Have you seen a need at Providence?

Make an endowment request and help us address it!

The Providence Baptist Church Endowment

Committee is accepting Endowment Grant Requests until Thursday, March 1st.

Requests should be made in writing using the Grant Request Forms available in the church office.

ENDOWMENT
FUND

A Detailed Look

A detailed listing of where we ended the year is listed below. This is the NET effect (costs minus receipts to the nearest dollar) of what we did with 2017 budget donations (contributions/designated gifts/co-pays).

- **Missions:** \$333,227 Cost
 1. In total, we distributed \$333,227 for missions! (Mission Committee Budget, Mission Committee Reserve Fund, Ministry Projects, and Designated Gifts)
 2. The budget line-items from the Missions Committee, Student Ministry (MS and HS mission trips), Children's Ministry (VBS), Activities Ministry (mission trips/community projects), Young Adults Ministry (mission trip), and College Ministry (mission trip) totaled \$212,805 of our annual expenses or **9.3% of our total budget**.
 3. In addition to our budget line-items, the Missions Committee spent \$45,079 from their mission reserve fund. Adding this to our budget line items means that almost **11.3% of our 2017 church funding** went to mission efforts.
 4. In addition to these existing missions funds, donations totalling \$75,343 also went toward our mission giving (ie: Sunday School classes, special offerings, special projects).
- **Pastoral Ministry and Strategic Growth:** \$18,384 expenses minus receipts \$10,470
= Net Cost of \$7,914
- **Adult Education:** \$20,633 expenses minus \$4,601 receipts
= Net Cost of \$16,332
- **Music and Worship:** \$100,653 expenses minus \$32,475 receipts
= Net Cost of \$68,178
- **Children's Ministry:** \$68,724 expenses minus \$28,951 receipts
= Net Cost of \$31,773
- **Student Ministry:** \$93,218 expenses minus \$59,571 receipts
= Net Cost of \$33,647
- **Young Adult Ministry:** \$14,222 expenses minus \$7,248 receipts
= Net Cost of \$6,974
- **Senior Adult Ministry:** \$14,970 expenses minus \$12,916
= Net Cost of \$2,054
- **Activities Ministry:** \$67,265 expenses minus \$78,752 receipts
= Net Surplus of \$11,487
- **General Administration:** \$72,870 expenses minus \$384 receipts
= Net Cost of \$72,486
- **Food Service/Kitchen:** \$76,146 expenses minus \$53,586 receipts
= Net Cost of \$22,560
- **Media & Technology:** \$81,330 expenses minus \$6,413 receipts
= Net Cost of \$74,917
- **Property Utilities and Maintenance:** \$328,011 expenses minus \$27,110 receipts
= Net Cost of \$300,901
- **Grounds:** \$45,838 Cost
- **Debt Retirement:** \$79,376 Cost
- **Personnel Wages and Benefits:** \$1,457,594 expenses minus \$100,000 receipts
= Net Cost of \$1,357,594

Adult Mission Trip March 10-16

Quebec, Canada

Lee Canipe is taking a group of 8 adults to the city of Châteauguay (a suburb of Montréal) for a week of servant ministry, hunger relief, and Christian encouragement with French-Canadian Baptist church L'Église Chrétienne le Rocher.

Contact Lee Canipe at lcandipe@providencebc.org for more information.

Deadline is February 4!

Make sure your passport is up-to-date!



College Students

Reconnect with your Providence family!

**Sign Up
NOW!**

**Mission Trip
May 16 - 20**



Join us in New York City
at Metro Baptist Church.

This trip is open to all college students.

\$200pp (plus your airfare)

Contact Randy Ballard.
rballard@providencebc.org

Learn More. Do More.

Act Justly
Love Mercy
Walk Humbly

Micah 6:8

During the January WMU meeting, guest speaker Kevin Warren (Louise Warren's son) spoke about "Beds for Kids" and the important work that they do in our community. The Missions Committee wanted to highlight this organization, raising awareness for what they do and who they help.

Thousands of children sleep without a bed every night in our community. "Beds for Kids" refurbishes and re-purposes new and gently used beds and essential furniture items that have been donated from individuals, institutions and corporations. Since 2011, "Beds for Kids" has delivered 7,976 beds and 73,784 pieces of furniture to children and families in need. With the support of the community, "Beds for Kids" is providing beds and furniture. In essence, Beds for Kids is furnishing futures!

You can help by donating beds, lamps and other new or gently used furniture to "Beds for Kids." Help them fully furnish a family's home. Learn how you can help make a difference at <http://bedsforkids.org>.



Congratulations!



Congratulations to Rosie Say! Rosie will be attending UNCC next year as a 9th grade participant in the Charlotte Engineering Early College Program.

New Members



Allen and Becky Schuyler joined Providence on January 14. They are transferring their memberships from Candlewyck Baptist Church in Charlotte.

In Appreciation

Dear Providence members,

Thank you so much for the notes and kind words and donations in memory of my brother, Skip Oxford. He was like a father to me after my dad died way too early, so your kindnesses are so appreciated. In Christian love, Peg Morgan

Dear Providence Family,

I want to thank you for all your love, cards, and prayers you have extended to me and my family during my father's illness and passing. Providence was a special place to my father. He enjoyed coming here and he felt like Providence was his second church home. Thank you for not only loving me, but loving my father, too! Blessings, Lisa Daniels

In Sympathy

- Judy Taylor in the death of her aunt, Sara Catherine Dorsey on December 28.
- Barbara Hall in the death of her brother, Charles Allen Felt on January 3.
- Gil Laster in the death of his mother, Margery K. Laster on January 4.
- Maxie Haire and family in the death of her husband, Ed Haire on January 6.
- Dana Hanson and family in the death of his mother, Margaret Hanson on January 6.
- The family of Alice Deere in her death on January 9.
- Avery Henline in the death of his cousin, George Samuel Henline, Sr. on January 16.
- Jim Huffstetler and family in the death of his mother, Sue Huffstetler on January 16.
- Judy Brown in the death of her sister, Sandra B. Owens on January 23.



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CONNECTIONS
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Published monthly
plus two special editions
in April and October.

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Providence Baptist
Church
4921 Randolph Road
Charlotte, NC 28211-4002
www.providencebc.org
704.366.2784

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WMU Mission Action Day

Tuesday, February 6 at 10:00am
Nalley Missions Center



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 13 at 5:00pm
Sanctuary



PrimeTimers Luncheon

Thursday, February 15 at 12:00pm
Crouch Fellowship Hall



RA Racer Night

Wednesday, February 28 at 6:30pm
Activity Center

Next Connections is March 1, 2018.

Deadline for submitting articles,
photos, or announcements is
Noon, Thursday, February 15th.
Articles should be 350 words or less.
Email your submissions to:
ssneed@providencebc.org.

Thank you!



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Providence Baptist Church -
Charlotte, NC



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