



August 1, 2018

# PROVIDENCE

BAPTIST CHURCH

*Start Here*

Second Annual Midsummer

# Ice Cream Social!



"...with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship  
at the house of God..." Psalm 55:14

## Concord, Not Conflict



Lee Canipe

Last month, the Canipe boys—Watt, Peter, and I—hit the road. Our primary objectives on this road trip were to see the pro football and baseball halls of fame in Canton, Ohio, and Cooperstown, New York, respectively. But you know how a good road trip is. There were, along the way, many side ventures.

One of these *en route* diversions was a visit to the tomb of William McKinley, the 25th president

of the United States, in Canton. It's an impressive memorial, a big stone structure shaped kind of like a hornets' nest and topped by a large dome. Inscribed around the inside base of the dome is a quote from McKinley's last speech, delivered in Buffalo the day before he was fatally shot in 1901: "Let us ever remember that our interest is in concord, not conflict."

That Friday morning in July, those 117-year-old words struck me with peculiar force. Our interest—and, by that, McKinley was referring to our *shared* interest, our *common* good—is in concord, not conflict. It *seems* like such an obvious truth, akin to declaring the sky blue and grass green. Yet it *feels* so counter-cultural these days—almost quaint—to lift up concord as a virtue worthy of our best efforts when so much of our public life right now lurches in the opposite direction, toward conflict generated for the sake of conflict (like two children in the backseat of the car who simply can't resist poking one another—each one blaming the other for *starting* it, neither one willing to exercise the self-control needed to *stop* it). There are many days when my soul gets weary and I look around, hopefully, for reasons not to be cynical.

Maybe that's why President McKinley's words grabbed my attention, and then held it tightly—for several long minutes—until the sounds of "Daaaaaad, can we pleeeeee goooo?" snapped me back to reality.

These words from a long-gone president came to me as a gift that day in Canton, a reminder that not only *is* there such a thing as a common good, a shared interest in creating communities of opportunity and justice, where all people have a chance to flourish, develop their God-given abilities, and live peacefully as they see fit—but that, at our best, we are called to *pursue* this common good. It's what the prophet Jeremiah was talking about when he told God's people exiled in Babylon "to seek the welfare of the city where God has sent you, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (Jeremiah 29:7).

The conviction that our shared interest is in concord, not conflict, stretches at least as far back as the Old Testament. The people of God are to be peacemakers, seeking the common good and rejecting the false (but often emotionally satisfying, especially on a gut level) choice of "us versus them" in order to build a better, stronger "we." I'm glad that Providence has chosen to do this by making priorities of blessing our city and engaging our neighborhood. Part of our witness as Christians in Charlotte is to say, as clearly and boldly as we can, that our interest is in concord, not conflict.

This is, of course, what Jesus intends for the church to be: A living, breathing sign of how God's love and mercy can resolve seemingly intractable conflict and bring, in its place, surprisingly durable concord. That's what happens at the cross. As different as we all are in so many ways, each of us comes to the cross as a sinner in equal need of salvation. Jesus forgives us—and with that forgiveness comes a new identity. The apostle Paul explains it this way: We come to Jesus with our differences out front and on our sleeves, but once he claims us as his own, we all belong to him, "for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:27-28).

In other words, our loyalty to Jesus—that is, our shared commitment to following him as Lord—trumps all our other, lesser loyalties and commitments. At our best, the church is a *sign* of what true, God-given unity looks like—a unity held together not by the usual glues of race or gender or nation or party but, rather, by the blood of Jesus, the waters of baptism, and the bread and cup we share at the Lord's table.

Why does this kind of Christian unity matter so much right now? Precisely because it is the exact *opposite* of what the world insists is normal. When Jesus tells us that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world, he's telling us that the way we live—both as individual believers and as a community of believers—is God's deliberate response to the world's gloomy assertion of endless conflict.

There *is* a better way. His name is Jesus. And he invites us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength—and then to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We *talk* about that a lot. If we could actually *do* it, just imagine the *concord* that God could sow through us in the name of Jesus. Believe it or not, our everyday encounters, insignificant as they may seem in the big picture, are where the Lord has chosen to begin His hard and holy work of reconciliation.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

## New Minister Search Update

*“Commit your ways to the Lord; Trust in Him also and He will do it.” Psalms 37:5*



Greetings from the New Minister Search Committee! We hope that you have had a chance to read and pray over the the job profile that was made available to the

congregation on July 25th. If not, please pick up your copy from the Rotunda or look on the homepage of the church website.

On Wednesday, August 8th, during the Q3 church Conference, the Search Committee will present and discuss the profile, and we will request your vote of approval. Every vote counts, so please bring your family, enjoy fellowship and a meal, and help us continue to move forward with our efforts to find the right person for our church family. Thank you for your support in bringing us to this milestone moment in the search process!

Respectfully,  
The New Minister Search Committee

## Deacon on Call

**Deacon on call (Weekdays): 704.366.4030x147**

July 29 - August 3: Jane McCoy

August 5 - 10: Caroletta Partain

August 12 - 17: Frankie Ayscue

August 19 - 24: Burt Banks

August 26 - 31: Sarah Blackwell



## Minister on Call

**Minister on call (Weekends): 704.366.4030x147**

August 3 - 6: Dane Jackson

August 10 - 13: Dane Jackson

August 17 - 20: Julia Wright

August 24 - 27: Randy Ballard

August 31 - September 3: Timothy Hill

## Friendship Garden

On July 19, three adults and eight high school students from Pritchard Baptist Church came to Providence to serve in our Friendship

Garden. This is the third year in a row that a group from Pritchard has volunteered in our green space. They weeded, prepped and planted two beds,

and picked 28 pounds of produce. And,

for the record, our Providence volunteers

continue to “count” the garden’s blessings, too. Providence has donated 677 pounds of fresh produce to Friendship Trays this year, and the tomatoes have just begun to ripen. We are just getting started!



## Thanks, Providence!

Special thanks to many of you for responding to the request to catch-up or get ahead on your pledged commitment for 2018. You’ve made a difference!

### July 22, 2018

#### Share the Journey

**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, 7/22 \$1,219,528

#### Expenses Paid

Through Sunday, 7/22 \$1,247,852

#### Net Revenue to Expenses

Through Sunday, 7/22 \$ -28,324

## Shine Bright!



Julia Wright

“... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father who is in Heaven.” Matthew 5:16

In the coming school year, our Children's Ministry is going to focus on “Shine Bright!” It is our goal to help our children grow in their faith so that they might “Shine Bright” each and every day.

As adults, we know that there is a need for lights that shine brightly. We must commit ourselves to teach the next generation so that they might be a beacon of light in the darkness.

**Will you step forward** to teach next year? Teachers are needed in both Sunday School and missions.

We will gladly help you gain the skills needed to be successful in the classroom. If you are interested, please reach out to me at [jwright@providencebc.org](mailto:jwright@providencebc.org).

Be a blessing to a child this year and help them “Shine Bright!”

*Julia A. Wright*

### Leadership Preparation

Saturday, August 25  
9:00 am  
Upstairs Parlor

Be a part of something special!  
Help our children shine bright this school year!

Special Guest Speaker:  
Kim Harris

## County Fair Bash

PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH

# COUNTY FAIR

WELCOME!  
Wednesday  
August 29  
5:00 - 7:00  
\*Food! Fun!  
FELLOWSHIP!

\*Regular Wednesday night meal prices will apply.

## New Start for Wednesdays

Our Music and Missions programming for children will begin Wednesday, September 5 on a slightly different schedule. We think our new-and-improved timing will be more family-friendly and will help all of our young families “do life” a little more easily mid-week.

Here's what it will look like:

4:30pm	Children's Bells
4:45pm	Dinner Line Opens
5:30pm	Children's Music
6:15pm	Children's Missions
	Adult Discipleship
7:00pm	Dismissal

## The 4th Grade Dream Team

Well done to these good and faithful servants! After almost 25 years of teaching our children, our 4th grade team has decided to see what is next for them in the journey. August 19 will be their last Sunday with our 4th graders. On that Sunday, we would like to invite all “children” (and their parents) who went through 4th grade with this team, to stop by the classroom and offer a word of gratitude to this team.



For more information about the Children's Ministry, contact Kristen Hendrix at 704.366.4030x125 or [khendrix@providencebc.org](mailto:khendrix@providencebc.org).

## Falling Into Place

**Sanctuary Choir**  
Resumes  
Wednesday, August 8  
7:00pm

As the relaxing (yet, sometimes busy) days of summer begin to fade, our thoughts begin to turn toward “what’s to come?” ... and things are really starting to *fall into place*.

The Sanctuary Choir has enjoyed a summer break from rehearsals, and we’ve gladly welcomed a few new faces to the loft on Sundays. It’s now time to resume our regular



Timothy Hill

Wednesday night schedule on August 8. We rehearse in the Lowell Dotson Music Suite from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Singers of all levels are invited to join the choir. If you’ve ever considered singing with us, please come by for a visit—we’d love to add your voice to our group. Plans are also underway for a Fall Retreat the first weekend in October ... stay tuned for more details.

## Building on Success

After a wonderful choir tour, and tremendous progress last season, our Student Choir will begin again on Sunday, August 19. Rehearsals will be held each week in the Lowell Dotson Music Suite from 4:00pm to 5:30pm (with a short break in the middle). All students in grades 6 through 12 are encouraged to attend. We are starting back a few weeks earlier than normal because our Student Choir will participate in the 33rd Annual Metropolitan Music Ministries Service on Sunday, September 30. This is an exciting step up for our group, and I look forward to sharing some great music with our community. We are also planning to host the NC Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Youth Choir Festival in March 2019 – an extraordinary honor for our group and church! Stay tuned for more information about this great opportunity, and be sure to check our website often for up-to-date events and information.

**Student Choir**  
Resumes  
Sunday, August 19  
4:00pm

## Making Music Together

Our Children’s Music, Handbells, and Encore Singers groups will resume in September. For more information on these, or any other offerings within our Music Ministry, please check our website, drop us an email, or, better yet, come by for a visit. We’d love to see you!

**Children’s Handbells**  
Resumes  
Wednesday, September 5  
4:30pm

**Children’s Music**  
Resumes  
Wednesday, September 5  
5:30pm

**Encore Singers**  
Resumes  
Thursday, September 6  
9:30am

## Paris in July

Who wouldn’t want to go to Paris in July? The Sanctuary Choir extends an open invitation for you to join us in Paris next July. No need to be a member of the choir. Non-singers and guests are encouraged to travel with us. Let us know if you’d like more information!



For more information regarding the Music Ministry contact Caitie Jackson at 704.366.4030x121 or [cjackson@providencebc.org](mailto:cjackson@providencebc.org).

## Providence, I Need You



Dane Jackson

*“Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.” Proverbs 22:6*

Dear Providence Baptist Church Family,

I need you.

It has been an incredible year in the Student Ministry, and in that time, many

of you have approached me with affirmations, questions, and your own unique visions for the Student Ministry of Providence Baptist Church. To that, I say ‘thank you’ and I ask for your help. We all want to encourage our students to become faithful followers and influential leaders for Christ, and we all want a peaceful, loving, encouraging community for them to grow in that faith. I am writing to ask you to be catalysts for this vision.

**Do any of these sound like you? I like to have fun.**

I want to help students know they are loved, welcome, and that they belong.

**I want to worship, grow, serve, and share alongside our students.**

There are so many opportunities to say “Yes” to volunteering and helping with Providence Baptist Student Ministries this year! The energy level with our students is HIGH and now is the time to join us in this ministry!

There is something for everyone: all ages, passions, skill levels, and schedules AND it doesn’t matter if you have a student in the ministry or not! We can find a match for your commitment level to our needs, as well as create partnerships with other leaders who share in your passions!

**Have a specific skill or talent? Want to try something new?**

We need people like you.

**Don’t feel equipped?**

We will have many training opportunities throughout the year for you to meet other leaders, ask questions and hear about details, expectations, and support.

**Thinking about it but still not quite sure?**

Come out to an event and meet our students and leaders. It is pressure-free and a great way to give us a try.

**Know someone perfect for a volunteer position?**

Spread the word! Extend an invitation!

Check out the many volunteer opportunities we offer that might fit your passions and skills:

*Sunday School Teachers, Sunday Night Small Group Leaders, Wednesday Night Teachers, Trip/Event Chaperones, Meal Volunteers, Artists/Decorators, Story Tellers, Builders, Coffee Enthusiasts, Hospitality Coordinators*

Have a question or passion for something not listed? Let’s talk about it! I want to say “yes” to you. Contact me and let’s get you plugged in!

It is my goal to work with adults throughout our church family to have a student ministry that is authentic, formative, mission-focused, relational, safe, and sustainable. Won’t you join us??

## Sunday Morning Series

Paul’s brief, yet powerful letter to the Ephesians is written to a group of somewhat new believers. In studying the book, students won’t discover long-winded or heavy theological treatises. Instead, they will find messages of comfort, a call to examine their gifts, and tools for finding the resources to handle any problem they face in life.

Each week’s lesson will encourage teens to ask difficult questions and empower them to find the answers.



## July Missions

A Providence group of high school students and chaperones gave a week of their summer vacation to help our neighbors in Knoxville, Tennessee. The group stayed at Central Baptist Church in Fountain City, making their beds in Sunday School classrooms during the evenings and clearing brush, roofing houses and doing other odds-and-ends jobs during the day.

Each year our students learn so much during this hands-on ministry week and we are grateful for their opportunity to serve.



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

## Whitewater Center Day

Wednesday, August 15th  
8:00am - 5:00pm

Join us for a day at the USNWC!  
We're getting all-day passes to raft, climb,  
zip, paddle, jump and hike!  
Don't miss this opportunity to hang out with  
your friends and enjoy the great outdoors together  
before the summer ends!



U.S. NATIONAL  
WHITEWATER CENTER

Sign up today  
on the website.  
Tickets are \$30 each.  
**Adult volunteers  
needed!**  
(FREE TICKET)

## Are You Ready, 6th Graders?

Wednesday, August 22  
6:00pm

Rising 6th grade  
students and parents  
are invited to an  
"Ice Cream Social  
Meet & Greet"

**MEET & GREET**

with Dane, Julia and some current students in the  
Chapman Youth Room. This will be an opportunity  
for you and your student to talk to some current  
students, ask questions and look around the space  
before promotion Sunday (August 26) and Kick-Off  
(September 9). This will be a small gathering intended  
to make parents and students feel comfortable during  
the transition. Join us. We want to welcome you!

## Save These Dates

### Promotion Sunday

Sunday, August 26th | 9:15am



### Yuck Night

Wednesday, September 5th | 6:00pm



### Providence Baptist County Fair

Wednesday, August 29th | 5:00pm



### Sunday Night LIVE Season Premiere

Sunday, September 9th | 5:30pm



## Southern Splendor



**October 5th - 7th**  
3 day/2 night trip  
to Atlanta

Time is running out to book  
this Atlanta get-a-way!

Brochures are located on the bulletin boards in both  
Randolph Hall and Crouch Fellowship Hall hallways.

Final payment is due Wednesday, September 5th.

To book, call Christian Tours  
at 1.800.476.3900.

Be sure to ask for Tour ID-16526-1.

## Breakfast Fellowship

**Sunday Breakfast Fellowship  
Through September 30**



Meet your friends on Sunday  
morning at 8:30am for a time of  
fellowship and feasting.

## Providence Will ...

*"Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you . . . and pray to the  
LORD on its behalf"* Jeremiah 29:7

When Jeremiah wrote to the exiles in Babylon, he conveyed God's will for them to help their new city prosper through prayer and action. In the same way, God calls us to be active citizens in our home city of Charlotte. As part of the strategic plan, the Bless Charlotte task force has been charged with helping the congregation discern a meaningful, long-term, and impactful project to bless our city. We seek to find a project where we can concentrate our time and resources and all pull in the same direction. We are looking for something to which everyone in our congregation can contribute in some way. Our calling as a congregation will be where the great needs of the city intersect with the great passion of our congregation.



*Bless Charlotte*

To discern this call, we must first be aware of the great needs of our city. To this end, the task force (along with the Missions Committee) is organizing some special presentations from representatives of various agencies throughout our city. The more we know about the current issues and what steps are being taken to address these issues, the more prepared we can be to formalize our own plan. Additionally, we must discern the heart of the congregation as to something into which we can all invest our time, energy, and resources with great zeal. We will be seeking feedback from the congregation through surveys and listening sessions.

For now, be in prayer over this process as we seek to be a blessing in our city. We are excited to see where God will lead our congregation.

*Sarah Blackwell, Bill Brown, Staley Green, Dane Jackson and  
Natalie Lodato*

## Backpacks Needed



We need 120 filled backpacks  
by August 8!

Buy a backpack for an elementary,  
middle school, or high school  
student, then fill it with supplies!

Drop your donation off in the  
youth area or at the Sanctuary  
front desk. OR - Drop off a check

for \$50 labeled "Backpack Project" and we'll do  
the rest! Watch our "backpack count" rise  
on the poster in the Rotunda. Let's do this!

## I've Got BINGO!

**Thursday, August 16**

1:30pm - 3:00pm

Nalley Missions Center

This is your last chance to play Bingo  
with your friends before summer is over.

We'll have snacks and  
prizes. Come and enjoy  
an afternoon of fun and  
fellowship while playing  
Bingo with your  
Providence friends.





**Prayer Vigil**

**Saturday, August 25**  
8:00am - 12:00pm



Our deacons invite you to spend a bit of your Saturday morning in prayer. The Gordon Weekley Chapel will be open for you.

**Children's Soccer**

**Register for Soccer**  
**August 1-15**

It's time to register for children's soccer! The season runs from early September through early November.

We need coaches and players.

Help us Engage Cotswold by inviting your friends!



Forms are available in the Activity Center, the Rotunda and online.

**August Wednesdays**

**August 8**

**Q3 Conference**

Dinner at 4:45pm.

Conference at 6:00pm.

Menu includes Grilled Angus Burgers, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw and Sliced Watermelon.



Attend the Q3 Conference in the Crouch Fellowship Hall. Hear reports from the New Minister Search Committee and others. Be in the know and have your voice heard.

**August 29**

**Providence County Fair**

Dinner and fun begin at 5:00pm.

Hot Dogs, Chili, Pizza, Chips, Fruit, Cookies

**PrimeTimers' Fall Schedule**

Our PrimeTimers' Thursday monthly lunch resumes on Thursday, September 20th. A complete schedule of our fall entertainment will be published in the September edition of Connections, so be on the lookout!

**Women's Mission Trip**

**October 17 - 21**

Metro Baptist Church  
\$250 + Airfare

The ladies of Providence are invited to serve our friends in New York City.

Contact Randy Ballard.  
rballard@providencebc.org

**Sunday Worship**

Join us each Sunday morning for worship!  
8:30am Breakfast Fellowship  
9:15am Sunday School  
10:30am Worship

**August 5**

Ephesians 4:1-16

**August 19**

Proverbs 9:1-6

**August 12**

1 Kings 19:4-8

**August 26**

John 6:56-69

**Charlotte CROP Walk**

**Saturday, October 13**

We'll start signing up in September! Get the family together. Invite friends and lace up your walking shoes. It's time to make a difference for Charlotte, so get the Crop Walk on your calendar.



## Welcome New Providence Members



William and Betty Griffin joined Providence on July 15. They are transferring their membership from a church in Charlotte.



Camille Christian joined Providence on July 15, professing her faith in Christ. Camille is the daughter of Michael and Holly Christian and the sister of Margo. Camille will be baptized in the coming weeks.



Nora Kasymova joined Providence on July 15 by statement of Christian faith and previous baptism. Nora has two girls, Tolgonai and Akylai.



Matt and Brooke Doss joined Providence on July 15. They have a six-month-old son Christian. They are transferring their membership from a church in Memphis, Tennessee.

## Newest Providence Additions

Welcome to the Providence family, precious little ones!

- Graham Sterling Baker was born July 2. He is the son of Brett and Ivey Baker and the little brother of Eli. Graham is also the grandson of Bob and Donna Gaskin.
- Caroline Elizabeth Anderson was born on July 19. She is the daughter of Bobby and Laura Anderson and the little sister of Rob.



## In Sympathy

- Mike Murray and family in the death of his father, Luvon “Jim” Murray on July 2.
- Abby Stout Hendrix and family in the death of her grandfather, Dorman L. Stout on July 3.
- Mike Freeland and family in the death of his aunt, Joyce Colleen Forrester Hall on July 12.
- Kristen Hendrix and family in the death of her uncle, Marvin Gentry on July 14.
- Sharon Winstead and family in the death of her brother-in-law, John Littleton on July 18.
- Tamara Griffin and family in the death of her aunt, Doris P. Sifford on July 21.
- Dean Kaufman in the death of his wife, Dorothy Kaufman on July 22.
- The family of E.C. Hunt in his death on July 25.

## Music Endowment Funds

Providence is blessed with two named endowments in our Music Endowment: the Nebel-Moore Music Endowment and the Youth Choir Tour Endowment.

- In the mid-1980s the original music endowment began as the Moore Music Endowment at the request of the Harold Moore family after the death of their son, Randy, due to a climbing accident. The fund was established for special music programs (other than music programs funded through the annual budget). In 1988 the estate of Arthur Nebel provided a \$25,000 bequest to the endowment for music ministry special needs, equipment needs, special programs and music outreach. At that time the Moore Music Endowment was renamed to the Nebel-Moore Endowment, and it remains today a major source of funding for both non-budget expenses and budgeted expenses of the Music Ministry. Distributions for Music Ministry capital needs are limited to 50% of the annual distribution, or in other words, for every dollar expended for a capital need, a dollar must also be spent on music outreach. In 2018, the endowment provided \$3,831.
- Due to the tireless efforts for youth choir trips by former Minister of Music Doug Haney, anonymous donors established the Youth Choir Tour Endowment in 2002. The Music Committee and the Minister of Music collaborate in requesting how to allocate the annual distribution. In 2018, the endowment provided \$4,466 for the student choir tour to NYC.



*Richard Landers*

## Church Staff Recognition



*Rocky Cannon*

Rocky Cannon celebrates 8 years of service at Providence on August 19. While he started out in part-time roles, he became the Facility Manager in 2013, and continues that role which also includes many hats from custodial and maintenance to safety issues to oversight of the kitchen staff. We are blessed with his hospitality spirit in all of his tasks!

Ebony White celebrates her first year anniversary on August 3. She is a member of our custodial staff and typically works first shift. She is tasked with the cleaning and sanitizing of our restroom facilities. Let her know that you appreciate her diligence.



*Ebony White*



*Lydia Gordon*

Lydia Gordon celebrates her first year anniversary on August 14. She is a member of our custodial staff and typically works second shift and special events. She is focused on floor maintenance – when you see her thank her for her hard work in keeping our floors clean and shiny!

Dane Jackson celebrates his first year anniversary on August 15 as our Minister of Students and their Families. Dane has been a non-stop breath of fresh air to the student ministry and to the church at large. In addition to his student ministry tasks, he substitutes for Lee in the pulpit, serves on the missions committee, and most recently was a cast member of Children of Eden. His keynote address and openings of Sunday School are highly anticipated and appreciated!



*Dane Jackson*



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## Q3 Conference

*Wednesday, August 8*  
*Supper at 4:45pm | Conference at 6:00pm*  
*Crouch Fellowship Hall*



## PrimeTimers Bingo

*Thursday, August 16 at 1:30pm*  
*Nalley Missions Center*



## Sixth Grade Meet and Greet

*Wednesday, August 22 at 6:00pm*  
*Chapman Youth Room*



## Providence County Fair

*Wednesday, August 29 at 5:00pm*  
*Crouch Fellowship Hall*

## Next Connections is September 1, 2018.

Deadline for submitting articles,  
photos, or announcements is  
**Noon, Wednesday, August 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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Charlotte, NC



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