

November 1, 2016



# PROVIDENCE

BAPTIST CHURCH

*Start Here*



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## Who's Who and What's What ...



Lee Canipe

At long last, we are finally nearing the end of what has been a brutal slog of an election season that has offered a lot more heat than light, and a lot less substance and civility than this country deserves. It has, at times, felt like the civic equivalent of a root canal without Novocain. I'm pretty certain that, somewhere, Miss Cleary - my 9th grade civics teacher, who taught me to love

and respect the way our democratic system is intended to work - is sadly shaking her head.

One of the laments we've heard over and over these last several months - maybe, even, these last several years - is that "our politics is broken." I'm inclined to believe it's true. As a citizen, I'm discouraged by that. As a Christian, I'm convinced that the church's reconciling mission in this world is now more relevant than ever. As author Marshall Shelley recently observed, when fear and loathing are two primary characteristics of a culture, the task for followers of Jesus isn't easy - but it is clear. "When the vitriolic presidential campaign is over and the election is settled," he writes, "it promises to leave almost half the population fearful that whoever wins will lead the country to ruin. The fear of the losing side is likely to exceed the hopeful anticipation of the winning side."

What does that mean for us?

It means, argues Tod Bolsinger, author of *Canoeing the Mountains*, that the church has an opportunity "to demonstrate a life of witness and unity that is a radical alternative to our increasingly polarized and reactionary culture." Churches that reflect the new reality of Galatians 3:28 and embody the unity of John 14 "will offer the world a glimpse today of the way the world will

someday be." The apostle Paul put it like this in 2 Corinthians 5:18: "All this is from God, who reconciled Himself to us through Christ, and has given us this ministry of reconciliation." What God has done for us through the love and mercy of Jesus, we are to model in our lives and relationships and community, being agents of grace to a culture in bondage to fear and loathing.

Providentially, I think, a month that begins with what promises to be a divisive election, ends with some powerful reminders about who's who and what's what and how God's people are to be oriented in this world. November 20th is Christ the King Sunday, when we celebrate the good news that Jesus reigns over all the nations of the world and that, one day, at His name, "every knee should bend in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:10-11). On November 24th, we join our fellow citizens in a day of Thanksgiving for what God has done in blessing us far more richly and abundantly than we deserve. Then, on November 27th, the season of Advent begins, in which we remember how God once came to be with us as one of us - and promises to return one day in power and glory. God has given us a ministry of reconciliation.

November 8th will most likely remind us once again why such a ministry is so necessary in a world where there are very deep, very wide divisions that can only be reconciled by the kind of love and humility that Jesus makes possible. If that's the challenge, then the days to come later this month - November 20th, 24th, and 27th will remind us that God has not left us to pursue this hard work of reconciliation alone and without hope. These days of celebration, thanksgiving, and anticipation remind us that God rules, God provides, and God loves us enough to come, be with us, and share our lives with us. That's good news. Now, let's do something with it.

May the peace of Christ be with you!



### On Second Thought...

... arrives every Monday morning in your Inbox with a question, a challenge, or a point to ponder based on the previous day's sermon. Think of it as a step further in your ongoing conversation with God's Word. Want to give it a try? Subscribe by emailing [connections@providencebc.org](mailto:connections@providencebc.org). It's that easy!



## Student Minister Search

Below is a list of the individuals who have been nominated to serve on the Minister to Students and Their Families' search committee. This group was put together by the nominating committee at the request of the senior pastor, as required by our by laws.

Both the coordinating council and the deacons have endorsed this list of nominees and are sending it to the congregation with their recommendation. The congregation will vote on whether or not to approve this committee at the Quarterly Church Conference on Wednesday, November 9th.

Chloe Ayscue	Leigh Frame
Kari Banks	Eric Gill
Mary Bonheimer	David Miller
Lee Canipe*	Chris Squier
(*staff liaison)	Catherine Shoemaker
Dalinda Fairley	Trahan

## Quarterly Conference

**Wednesday, November 9th**

**6:00pm**

Crouch Fellowship Hall

## Stewardship Thank You

Thanks to all who were a part of Commitment Sunday at Providence. Throughout October, we focused on how we can be "Transformed" when we truly understand Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

During October, we focused on our Time, our Talents and our Treasures by presenting special moments in worship, conveying facts about Providence, and offering devotionals for Sunday School. Our time, talents and treasures are gifts that come from God, and we can commit them to the church and His glory.

Stewardship is important for us to think about – and not just in October as we plan for how Providence will move into the next year. It can be transforming to us as believers corporately and on an individual basis. Recognizing our gifts and committing them to God allows us to make conscious and purposeful decisions. We can live out stewardship through:

- Living and telling the Good News
- Seeking justice, peace, and mercy in all situations
- Wisely employing our God-given resources
- Providing for future generations
- Sharing in the life and worship of the church and its mission
- Joyfully expressing our commitment to God

Please share with us any thoughts or reactions you had during this month of focus. Providence is a wonderful place to commit and our future is bright!

Steve Jarrett - Chair, Stewardship Committee

### ON RECORD - October 23, 2016

Worship Total:	660
Christian Stewardship	
Average Weekly Requirement	*\$42,823
*The average weekly requirement is the annual budget of \$2,226,774 divided by 52 weeks.	
Revenue and Expenses	
Projected 2016	\$2,226,774
<hr/>	
Revenue	
Through 10/23	\$1,550,195
<hr/>	
Expenses	
Through 10/23	\$1,688,850
<hr/>	
Deficit	
Through 10/23	-\$138,655

### This Month:

#### Deacon on Call:

704.366.4030x147

November 2 - 8: Emily Beaver

November 9 - 15: Frances King

November 16 - 22: Jim Huffstetler

November 23 - 29: Debra Wallace

November 30 - December 6: Sylvia Case



#### Minister on Call:

November 6: Randy Ballard (704.650.9449)

November 13: Lee Canipe (704.975.0340)

November 20: Timothy Hill (704.641.4270)

November 27: Richard Landers (704.608.3371)

December 4: David Jordan (704.724.2766)

## Enthusiasm in Spite of Tension

*"I, Tertius, the writer of this letter, greet you in the Lord" Romans 16:22*



David Jordan

A favorite Bible Study question of mine is "Who wrote Romans?"

As the scripture above makes clear, it was Tertius, not Paul.

Paul spoke the words as Tertius, the scribe - the well-educated pen behind

the text - recorded them. He then later re-wrote them in the clear, organized form we have today. The thoughts and words are Paul's; the careful grammar and order can be attributed to Tertius.

It may well be that Tertius' eyes twinkled with a thankful smile remembering a congregation of friends, brothers and sisters in Christ. Or did he know them? It is also possible that they had never met. Perhaps they were simply connected from Ephesus or Corinth to Rome by the strong ties of the Gospel message they were each seeking to live out. They were brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.

We have no idea of his relationship with them. But, from this bizarre insertion, unique as far we know to all the rest of the Bible - this carefree breaking of the rules of literary circumspection and scribal

ethics, this beautiful, unbounded, heartfelt example of uncontainable enthusiasm for partners in the gospel on the other side of the Roman Empire - here blossoms a blessed example of what the Spirit of God birthed in the hearts of men and women whose lives had been changed.

The background to these words also bears remembering. Paul's words and Tertius' enthusiasm fall against a time of terrible tension. The early church was at a disconcerting impasse over Christians who began as Jews and Christians who began as Gentiles. Distrust, misunderstanding, suspicion and anger were palpable among those early believers.

Tertius' perspective therefore, carries an even timelier weight. In this time of divisive rhetoric and deep social concerns, let us, the church, reclaim his bold intrusion of enthusiastic faith. Let us, too, work to unite brothers and sisters across the miles. Let us, like Tertius, greet one another in the Lord with the perspective and

power of the Gospel. And let us do this also, as people of peace, with the vision of hope, doing the hard and beautiful work of love.

Gratefully,

*In these times, O God,  
when facing difficulties  
and divisiveness,  
enliven our spirits.  
Lift us again with  
your grace.  
And help us to move through  
this month  
gladly assured  
of your presence.  
Amen.*

## Psalms for Advent

Would you benefit from peace, quiet and sacred reflection? Join David as he explores key passages in the Psalms, allowing better perspective and renewed vigor for the upcoming holiday season.

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

Nalley Missions Center

**November 14th:**

Preparation from the Psalms for Giving Thanks

**December 5th, 12th, and 19th:**

Meditations from the Psalms for Advent



## Bible Studies

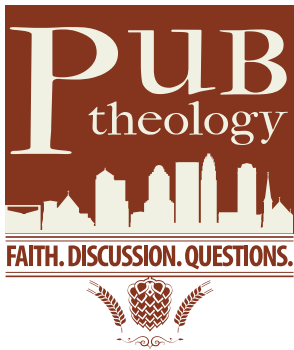
Don't forget the Thursday morning Bible study. Join at any time. You are always welcome!

**Thursdays at 11:00am**

Nalley Missions Center

You will love the lively discussion and sharing of ideas. Dr. Jordan brings his wealth of information to the group and shares his opinions and is willing to be challenged. Come learn something awesome!

## Young Professionals



**Monday,  
November 21st  
6:45pm**

@ LeRoy Fox  
Facilitated by  
Lee Canipe

Meet other Young Professionals  
in an intimate setting.

This is where you can ask questions about your faith  
and have honest conversations about life, all while  
enjoying the company of friends who  
love and support you.



## Hanging of the Green

**Sunday,  
November 27th  
6:00pm**  
Providence Sanctuary

Join us for "Creation Sings!"

This special service will feature the  
Providence Children's Choirs,  
Student Choirs, Sanctuary Choirs,  
and Hand Bells.

Begin the season by worshipping.



## PrimeTimers

**Thursday, November 17th  
12:00pm**  
Crouch Fellowship Hall

One of our favorites!  
Come enjoy Debbi and Kirk Grosch as they sing  
and play through the decades!

Tickets are \$7.00.  
RSVP to 704.366.4030x211  
by Sunday, November 13th.

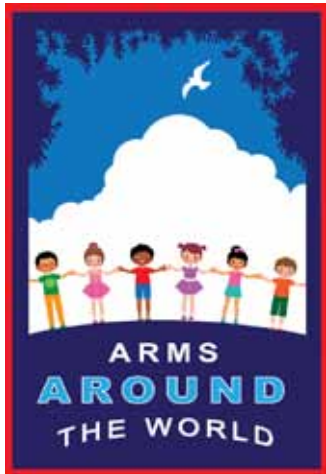
## MeckMin Annual Event

**Interfaith  
Thanksgiving Service**

**Tuesday, November 22nd  
7:00pm**  
Providence Sanctuary



## Christmas Around the World



**Wednesday,  
December 14th  
5:45pm - 7:15pm**

Activity Center Gym  
Ages 3 years – 5th grade

Jesus came for all people. You are invited to join us as we travel around the world to countries near and far. We will learn

about different Christmas traditions and find out how other cultures celebrate Jesus' birthday across the world.

You will enjoy festive food, colorful decorations, games, holiday music and so much more! Friends are welcome to join us for this special evening.

## Weekday Education Updates

We are accepting resumes for our Weekday Education Ministry Director. Interviews will begin in November and we hope to name a new director by early 2017.

Our playground improvement project began in mid-October. We dug out the compounded mulch and replaced it with new, fresh filling. We trimmed the shrubbery and spiffed up the area. Come check it out! Our new playgrounds are fabulous additions for church members and children alike!



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## Family Advent Dinner

**Friday, December 2nd**

**6:00pm**

Crouch Fellowship Hall



Families are invited to celebrate the beginning of the Advent Season!

Following a special child-friendly dinner, each family will make an Advent wreath.

We provide the fresh greenery. Bring your pruning shears so you can create a masterpiece! Our evening will conclude with a brief worship time as we light the first Advent candle together. A devotional booklet will be given to each family to use at home when they light their wreath.

Reservations for this event are limited and must be confirmed by payment by November 30th.

Meal: \$7.50/adults and \$5.00/children ages 3 and up

Wreath: \$15.00

Childcare for younger preschoolers (under age 3) will be provided following the meal.

Call the Children's Ministry office (704.366.4030x125) to make reservations.

This evening promises to be a special beginning to the Advent Season!



## Share the Peace - Not the Germs...

Revised from the original article:  
"Pass the Peace - Not the Germs" (November 2014)

As we approach another flu season, let us once again consider what it means to share the Peace of Christ – from the standpoint both of worship practice and of health awareness.

First, let us consider what it means for us to share the Peace of Christ as a worshipping congregation of Christian believers. Theologian James White says, "we cannot touch God, but each of us can touch others in God's name ... the passing of the peace has again become a prominent sign of reconciliation and love as Christians embrace one another or shake hands during worship." The exchange of peace is different from the "greet your neighbor time." It is a specific act of worship meant to encourage one another in the comforting thought that Christ is present and among us – bringing peace (Matthew 18:20). This act of worship actually comes from the New Testament practice of sharing the Kiss of Peace, in which fellow Christians offered one another a simple kiss in worship to signify reconciliation and oneness (see, for example, Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; and 1 Peter 5:14). One of the early church fathers, Cyril of Jerusalem (314-387 A.D.) gives specific pastoral instruction for the Kiss of Peace. "Do not think of this kiss as being like the kiss people exchange in the public squares when they meet friends. No, this kiss is not of that kind. It unites souls, it requires that we forget all grudges. This kiss thus signifies the union of souls with one another, and the forgetfulness of all wrongs done us." This kiss, then, paralleling the words of Christ in Matthew 5:23-24, is an act of reconciliation.

For this reason, the Kiss of Peace (or Sharing of Peace) can most often be found near the Confession and Pardon in the order of worship. Participating in this act of worship is meant to stretch us. After all, forgiveness is not always easy. Perhaps this is why early Christians chose to symbolize this sort of risky vulnerability - and gracious acceptance - with the sharing of kiss. Augustine of Hippo (354-430 A.D.) describes it thusly: "This is a sign of peace; as the lips indicate, let peace be made in your conscience, that is, when your lips draw near to those of your brother, do not let your heart withdraw from his. Hence, these are great and powerful sacraments." Sharing signs of peace and love in worship should compel us to do the same outside the church. In worship every week, we practice and, in a sense, reenact God's story of salvation - a story filled with love and peace, hope and joy - so that, as the body of Christ, we are better prepared to go out and boldly share these signs of God's grace with the world.

That's some background on how Sharing the Peace of Christ became a part of traditional Christian worship. Nevertheless, with the weather turning colder and people inevitably getting sick, the practical question remains: How then are we to share signs of peace (handshakes, kisses, hugs) without sharing each other's germs? The best thing for us to do, I think, is to use our common sense - and trust others to do the same. Be aware of your surroundings, and take care of yourselves. I could elaborate here, but I think we all know the importance of good health awareness. Finally, allow others their space.

If you sense someone is holding back, perhaps they are simply extending the courtesy of not sharing unwanted "guests" with you.



Timothy Hill

But, what of our time together in worship? Understanding the historical significance of the gesture, how then are we to supplement during this time of year? Perhaps we can look past the gesture alone and focus our attention on the words we use during this act of worship. There can be such wonderful compassion and love by speaking kind words of peace to our neighbors in worship while looking them in the eyes. It signifies that you are present with them in that moment and that all other things (at least for this brief time) can wait. While there is great importance in the combination of sign and spoken word, it seems obvious during this time of year that we place our emphasis on the latter. Just as the Apostle Paul encouraged the Christians in Rome to not be stumbling blocks for one another, so, too, can we seek to proactively "pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding" (Romans 14:19).

It is my hope that you will find renewal and reconciliation as you share these loving words: May the Peace of Christ be always with you.

For more information contact Tim Hill at 704.366.4030x123 (thill@providencebc.org), Diann Clark at 704.366.4030x122 (dclark@providencebc.org), Leigh Ann Hughes at 704.366.4030x121 (lhughes@providencebc.org) or Debra Wallace at (debrawallace2241@gmail.com).

## Andy's Farewell Reception

Andy Smith, our Minister with Students and Their Families for the last seven years, has announced his resignation from ministry at Providence. Andy is launching a career in real estate sales and we wish him the very best. To celebrate his ministry and tenure, we are hosting a church-wide reception. Join us and bid Andy "good luck" and "God bless!"

**Sunday, November 6th**  
**12:00pm**

Crouch Fellowship Hall

A light lunch will be provided.  
A love offering will be presented to Andy.

## Wednesday Nights

**FUSION: 6:00pm**

Wednesday Nights will continue to be "Fusion" from 6:00pm - 7:00pm and now includes ALL students, high school AND middle school. Join us for fun, fellowship and formative Bible learning.

**STUDENT HANDBELLS: 7:00pm**

Our student handbell choir has resumed rehearsals! They will perform for Hanging of the Green at the end of the month.

Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:00pm - 7:45pm. Contact Debra Wallace if you have questions at [debrabwallace2241@gmail.com](mailto:debrabwallace2241@gmail.com).



## Sunday Afternoons

**STUDENT CHOIR: 4:00pm**

Join us in the Lowell Dotson Music Suite at 4:00pm each Sunday afternoon. Our students have important roles to play in upcoming worship services and we want to be ready!

The combined Student Choir (middle and high school) will rehearse from 4:00pm - 5:15pm. Each week a short devotional and prayer time will end the rehearsal. Our older students are encouraged to take a leadership role in this special time.

**STUDENT SUPPER / FELLOWSHIP: 5:15pm**

Students will share in a "snack supper" and time of fellowship in the Activity Center. Parents, pick up your student at 6:30pm. Can you help with meals? Sign up by going to the Providence website Student Page. More information is to the right...

## Parents: We Need YOU

We are only as good as our parent volunteers! Help us prepare and care for our students!

**STUDENT CHOIR CHAPERONES: 4:00pm**

Be a part of our rehearsal and listen as we make beautiful music together. You'll love this quality time spent with our students!

**SNACK SUPPER / FELLOWSHIP: 5:15pm**

Sign up to do your part for a Sunday snack supper. Go to the Providence website student page and look for the "Sign Up Genius" icon or call George Mulley at 704.366.4030x116.

We need food AND chaperones!



## QC Family Tree



“We who call ourselves QC Family Tree seek to be kinfolk rooted in discipleship in West Charlotte.” QC (for Queen City) Family Tree works to embody an alternative, a way of life

that is centered, whole, and founded on love.

The Providence Missions Committee has embarked on a special relationship with QC Family Tree. We want to become part of this kinfolk and be the hands and feet of Jesus to our friends in Charlotte.

Earlier this year, Providence donated 140 loaded backpacks to this organization. Our hope is that we become true partners; that we as a church become part of this community, working to make Charlotte a better place for all of us.

It is true discipleship.

In mid-November, Providence will host a meal for our new friends. This will be an intimate gathering, one that we hope our church family will be in prayer for. Be on the lookout for ways you can help. But for the most part, just know we are reaching up and we are reaching out in Jesus’ name.

## Special Presentation

The North Carolina Baptist Children’s Homes have been helping our youngest friends for 130 years.

BCH has 20 statewide communities where they “provide the highest quality of Christian services to children, adults and families in a caring culture of measurable excellence.”

What exactly does that mean?

Come find out as we hear from guest speaker Brenda Gray, who is the executive vice president of development and communications for the North Carolina Baptist Children’s Homes.

**Wednesday, November 30th**

**6:00pm**

Crouch Fellowship Hall



## Missions Collection



Laura Perrone

Imagine all the little hands that need wiping at the North Carolina Baptist Children’s Homes!

Give generously and help us provide paper towels for our friends throughout the state!

We’ve got a superstar student helping with the cause!

Laura Perrone, a junior at

Providence High School, is having her Key Club collect, too! When you see Laura, give a “shout-out” for her effort, support and compassion!

Paper towels will be accepted throughout the month and can be dropped off at the Children’s Ministry offices or the Crouch Fellowship Hallway.



## Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday,  
November 1st**

**10:30am**

**Nalley  
Missions Center**



10:30am Connie Andrews Prayer Group  
11:30am General Meeting

Guest speaker Brenda Gray, executive vice president, development and communications, of the NC Baptist Children’s Home.

## Deacon Election Results

Providence members elected the following servants to the Deacon Class of 2019.

Garo Aghjayan  
Steven Allison  
Cindy Brooks  
Susan Cannon  
Mike Freeland  
Tim Good  
John Hall  
Ashley Honeycutt  
Ann Long Jones  
Mike Martin  
Jane McCoy  
Seth McKinney  
Jason Mercer  
Marlyn Morton  
Linda Mullis  
Caroletta Partain

### Alternates

Stephen Brown  
Tracey Hall  
Craig Wanek

## Sundays in November



November 6th  
Ephesians 1:11-23

November 13th  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

November 20th  
David Jordan Preaching  
Christ the King Sunday  
Jeremiah 23:1-6

November 27th  
First Sunday of Advent  
Matthew 24:36-44

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## Write it Down

### Blood Drive

Sunday, December 4th

9:30am - 1:00pm

Mobile Unit will be in the Activity Center parking lot. More info to come!



Every Drop Stays Here. Saving Local Lives.

## In Appreciation

Dear Providence Members:

“Thank you” hardly covers the appreciation that our family feels for the outpouring of love and care that we felt following Otto Lockee’s passing. The service was inspiring. The support you have given us since that time has been unimaginable. Otto loved this church and its people. You have made it apparent that you loved him, too. During his time here, he served as a teacher, deacon and deacon emeritus. He served on various committees when called upon. Thank you for honoring him. We sincerely appreciate each and every one of you. *Nancy A. Lockee*

## In Sympathy

- June Danner in the loss of her aunt Patsy Trull on October 2nd.
- Sally Klintworth in the loss of her cousin Betty Ann Bishop Runnion on October 5th.
- Sharon Isley in the loss of her brother Jerry “Eenie” Strickland on October 24th.

## Thanksgiving at Providence

As is tradition at Providence, the staff invites you to enjoy a special dinner where we get to serve YOU.

**Wednesday, November 16th**  
**5:00pm**

Let us show our thanks  
as we enjoy  
this lovely meal together.



## Holiday Closures

Thanksgiving marks a very special time for family and friends to gather and give thanks for all the blessings God bestows on us and our world.

So we can celebrate, the Providence campus and offices will be closed on Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th as we observe this very special holiday with those we love.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!



## Fellowship Meal Menus

### November 2nd

Country Style Steak  
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy  
Steamed Broccoli  
Salad  
Pizza  
Yeast Rolls  
Chocolate Cake with Buttercream Frosting

### November 9th

Fried Chicken  
Macaroni and Cheese  
Vegetable Medley  
Salad  
Pizza  
Biscuits  
Apple Cobbler with Ice Cream

### November 16th

Roasted Turkey with Gravy  
Candied Sweet Potatoes  
Savory Dressing  
Yeast Rolls  
Cranberry Muffins  
Salad  
Pizza  
Cranberry Pineapple Congealed Salad  
Pumpkin Cake with Maple Frosting

### November 23rd

No Activities  
Happy Thanksgiving

### November 30th

Lasagna with Meat Sauce  
Vegetable Lasagna  
Roasted Vegetables  
Salad  
Pizza  
Garlic Bread  
Panna Cotta with Berries

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





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## Quarterly Church Conference

*Wednesday, November 9th, 6:00pm*  
*Crouch Fellowship Hall*



## Thanksgiving at Providence

*Wednesday, November 16th, 5:00pm*  
*Crouch Fellowship Hall*



## Campus Closings

*Thursday, November 24th -*  
*Friday, November 25th*



## Hanging of the Green

*Sunday, November 27th, 6:00pm*  
*Providence Sanctuary*

## Next Connections is December 1, 2016.

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



**"LIKE US" on FACEBOOK!**  
Providence Baptist Church -  
Charlotte, NC



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**Check Out Our Website!**  
[www.providencebc.org](http://www.providencebc.org)

Mailing Address:  
4921 Randolph Road  
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Telephone contact: Media Ministry 704.366.4030x127  
Email contact: [Connections@providencebc.org](mailto:Connections@providencebc.org)