

April 1, 2017



PROVIDENCE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Start Here

Easter Sunday

April 16th



The Moments Before Sunrise



Lee Canipe

One of my absolute, very favorite moments of the year during my time in Murfreesboro happened every Easter Sunday at about 5:30 in the morning. Throughout Lent, a large cross stood on the lawn in front of the church, similar to the one we have out on Randolph Road. (Many thanks to Al Traver, Connie Carpenter, Sid

Carpenter, and Rocky Cannon for making that happen this year!) For most of the season, the cross would be draped in purple. On Good Friday, the color changed to black, a somber sign to the world that Jesus was dead and buried, crucified as a sacrifice for our sins.

But then, early on Sunday—while it was still dark, no cars on Main Street, no lights on in any of the homes between my house and the church, everything so still and strangely quiet in that just-before-dawn sort of way—I got to go take the black drape off that cross and replace it with a white one. I always felt like I was the first person in town to find out that Jesus—who *was* dead and buried—had *now* been raised to new life by the power of God. Nobody else had heard the news yet because they were all still in bed. I was the only one who knew.

Man, I treasured those moments there before sunrise, standing in the cool, dewy grass, jacket zipped up against the early morning chill, alone with the good news that Jesus is alive. I always imagined this was—on a much smaller, less dramatic scale—something akin to what it must’ve felt like to be at the tomb before dawn, with those faithful women who’d come to honor Jesus, only to discover that the one they were looking for had been resurrected and was on his way to Galilee. In those frantic minutes between *hearing* this good news at the empty tomb and *sharing* this good news with the disciples back in town, these women were indeed the only people in the world who knew that Jesus was alive.

Chances are, you’ll run into people on Monday, April 17, who’ll have no idea that Jesus is alive. Maybe they’ll see our cross out on Randolph Road as they drive by going to work, but they’ll have no idea what that white drape signifies. They’ll have no idea what resurrection even *means*, much less how resurrection might possibly apply to their own lives. Hopefully, when these folks ask you what you did over the weekend, you’ll have something to say, because the good news of resurrection really *isn’t* just for those of us who got there early.

My Lenten Journey

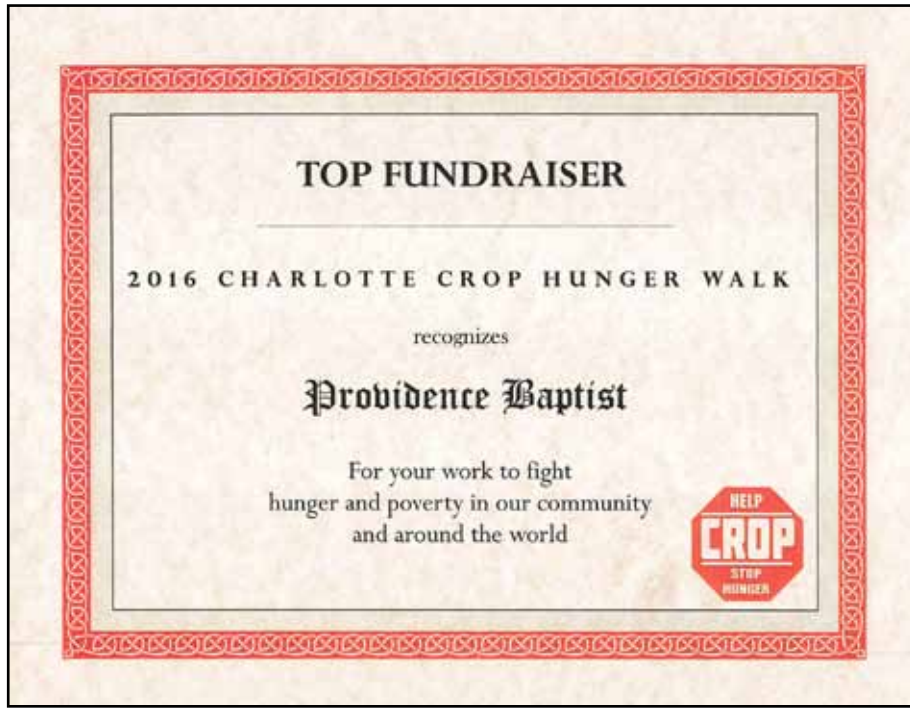
I want to share with you what it’s been like for me on my Lenten journey, practicing the discipline that I described in this space last month of fasting on Fridays from sunrise to sunset. Two things have made a particular impression on me.

First, I really have found myself thinking more about Jesus during the course of the fasting day. I can’t explain why and I can’t say that it’s been on purpose, but it has been true: Jesus is on my mind a lot while I’m fasting. That’s a good thing, and I’m grateful for that gift.

Second—and not so good—I’ll confess that I’m still struggling with being a Pharisee about this spiritual discipline. Believe me, every Thursday night, I’ll google the sunrise and sunset times for the next day, determined not to do any less—and certainly not any more—fasting than I’ve committed to doing. I wish I wasn’t like that, but for now, I am. The Holy Spirit still has some Pharisee to work out of me.

How about the rest of you? Has anyone else been fasting in some fashion during Lent? Shoot me an email or stop me in the hall. I’d love to hear how it’s going for you, what you’ve learned (about God or about yourself), and how I can encourage you. May the peace of Christ be with you!

Congratulations, Providence!



Well Done!

Providence Baptist Church participated in the Charlotte CROP Walk last year, much like in years past. But this year was special. THIS year, our congregation worked so hard and contributed so passionately, that we were the 4th largest fundraiser for the charity event.

Not only did we raise money to help the hungry, but we showed our love and support as we walked the almost four miles through our impoverished neighborhoods. Thank you for your contributions, prayers and dedication. You made a difference!

Deacon on Call

Deacon on call phone number:
704.366.4030x147

March 29 - April 4: Tom O'Neal

April 5 - 11: Alvin Schmidt

April 12 - 18: Jane Truesdel

April 19 - 25: Emily Beaver

April 26 - May 2: Connie Carpenter



Minister on Call

April 2: Randy Ballard (704.650.9449)

April 9: Timothy Hill (704.641.4270)

April 16: David Jordan (704.724.2766)

April 23: Lee Canipe (704.975.0340)

April 30: Richard Landers (704.608.3371)

March 26, 2017

The 2016 deficit of \$20,720 has been paid off by a generous donor family. Thank you so very much for your gift!

2017 Projected Deficit Reduction Fund*

\$21,680 (to date) \$128,285

Worship Total: 564

Christian Stewardship

Revised Average Weekly Requirement \$43,976

The average weekly requirement is the annual budget of \$2,286,776 divided by 52 weeks.

Revised Revenue and Expenses

Projected 2017 \$2,286,776

Revenue Through 3/26 \$ 526,352

Expenses Through 3/26 \$ 456,831

Net Revenue to Expenses Through 3/26 \$ 69,521

***Includes 2016 Deficit Fund and 2017 Projected Deficit Fund Receipts**

Resurrection and Redeeming Lost Causes



David Jordan

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:21-24

It was 1502 in Florence, Italy, and an immense block of marble stood in the Santa Maria del Fiore church. It was a stone ready to be beautiful. Sadly, some undiscerning craftsman had carved out a large hole through the very

place where a figure's legs should have gone.

Piero Soderini, the mayor of Florence, sought several artists, including Leonardo da Vinci, to save the piece. However, each agreed that the lovely marble had been mutilated. What could have been art appeared beyond redemption.

And then there was Michelangelo. Hearing of this piece, he traveled to Florence. After examining the marble, he had an idea. He envisioned a reconfigured posture. Adapting the pose of the figure around the hole, he saw magnificence where others only imagined failure.

From this soon-to-be-discarded marble, Michelangelo created a young David, sling in hand, leaning slightly,

and strikingly beautiful. Thus, the stone that was rejected by others was made a masterpiece, transformed by the hands of a master.¹

This is the theme of Jesus, the theme the gospel writers want us to remember; Jesus was despised and rejected, discarded for the ash heap of history. And yet, God transforms rejection into redemption so that the

tragedy of the cross becomes the cornerstone of faith. This same theme replays itself in lives just like yours and mine. Lost causes continue to be redeemed. Rejected stones keep being made beautiful. Languishing lives rise up to laugh with sounds of joy once more.

In the coming days, listen carefully to the good news of Jesus; in Jerusalem, just outside the city walls, another stone was rolled away, revealing an empty tomb. New possibilities for you and me continue. God remains in the resurrection business where even rejection can be redeemed—and made lovely. As the psalmist says: "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."

A Prayer for April

Lord, remind me again of your redeeming, transforming power.

You are making something beautiful of my life.

Allow me the patience to wait, the wisdom to know, and the confidence to live with courage in the meantime.

May the spring that surrounds me awaken anew the joy of your salvation and the reality of resurrection.

Happy Easter everyone.

1. This story is related in *The 48 Laws of Power* by Robert Green. Sculpted 1502-04, this "David," which stands in marked contrast to the other more famous and earlier "David," now resides in Florence's Galleria dell'Accademia.

Circles of Hope

Our hope of building a stronger community is becoming reality! You will recall Providence hosting a service in conjunction with St. John's Baptist and Friendship Missionary Baptist churches last year. It was the first step in growing a stronger community of faith in the Charlotte area. As we work towards building stronger relationships, we launch our "Circles of Hope" small groups.

These groups are comprised of those who asked to go deeper after that initial service. The Circles will have their first meetings on April 4th. The great hope is that these small groups will begin to forge healthy, meaningful relationships, which, in turn, will build a stronger community. When we know our brother and sister, we are more compassionate, more understanding, more loving. Please pray for these small groups, that God's work of healing, restoration and reconciliation occurs. If you would like to know more, please call David Jordan (704.366.4030x126) or Lea Evelyn Tatich (704.846.9150).



WMU Dove's Nest

Tuesday, April 4th
10:00am

Transformed lives start here.

Visit Dove's Nest, the Charlotte Rescue Missions' women's facility that "treats the whole person." See how you can make a difference in these women's lives.

Meet in the Rotunda. Lunch will be at the Billy Graham Library.
RSVP for transportation to Anne at 704.567.9593 or Penny at 704.552.0688.

Bring women's body wash as our gift to the women.



Young Professionals



Monday,
April 17th
6:45pm

@ LeRoy Fox

Calling all Young Professionals!

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

Speakers may vary. The friends do not!

April PrimeTimers

Thursday, April 20th
12:00pm

Crouch Fellowship Hall

"The Desperate Preachers"

You know you love them! And you know the food and fellowship will be fantastic.

So beat the rush!
RSVP to 704.366.4030x211
by Sunday, April 16th.

Carnival Goodies Needed

The Rama Road Tutoring crew is busily preparing for their Spring Carnival on Thursday, April 27th.

The children will play a variety of indoor games, like Ring Toss, Bowling, and Go Fish and prizes will be awarded! **That's where YOU come in!**

Look around your house for gently used household knickknacks, stuffed animals, children's books, jewelry, etc. Your gifts enable the children to select prizes for themselves AND to "go shopping" for family members.

Label your donations "Rama Road Carnival" and bring them to the Reception Desk by Wednesday, April 26th.

Questions?

Contact Dorothy Welling 704.366.3568 or dorothywelling@att.net.

Thanks so much for your help!



George Crouch clowning around!

Vacation Bible School

Our church hallways and classrooms will soon transform into a ranch – the Circle G Ranch – for Vacation Bible School 2017. The Circle G Ranch is a place where God is at the center and love never ends.

Circle G Ranch
June 19th – 23rd
9:00am – 12:00noon

Children ages preK to grade 5 completed are invited to join us.

During this important week, our children will learn about God while they share adventures on the Ranch. Each morning they will go to the Ranch Round-Up as well as to Bible Storytelling, the Craft Corral, the Chuck Wagon (snack), and Recreation. At the Circle G Ranch, children will take the Bible to heart, learning Bible verses that will teach them how to build an ongoing, loving relationship with God.



Saddle Up, Partner!

Saddle up now and join in the fun. Ranch hands are needed in every area. You can even pick your “corral” for the week!

Register to volunteer!
www.providencevbs.org

Register children!
www.providencevbs.org

Neighborhood children and friends are welcome to attend!
The bigger the Round-Up the better!

Kick-off Meeting
Sunday, May 7th, 5:30pm
Crouch Fellowship Hall

For all VBS Volunteers.
Childcare is available by request.

How about a big “YEEE-haw” for our VBS Leadership team?

Be sure to thank Kristen Genett, Kristen Hendrix, Lia Hinson, Cristan Latty, Kelly Perrone, Jen Rabon, Summer Sneed, Lauren Stroupe and Julia Wright. The team is working hard to make this Round-Up the best one yet! Questions? Talk to any one of them. They might even give you a rope and cowboy hat!

Weekday Education Director



Jennifer Rabon

Providence Baptist Church is delighted to announce that Jennifer Rabon has been selected as the next Weekday Education Ministry Director. Jen has been serving as the Ministry’s interim director since August. During that time, she has shown strong leadership skills and a great deal of passion for the Weekday Ministry. She has extensive experience with the Ministry, both personally and

professionally, and has brought her business expertise and love of the Ministry to her position. Jen is also a long-time Providence member. Her creativity and forward thinking have already made a huge impact on the Ministry. Welcome, Jen! We are so grateful you are here!

Donuts with Dads

Our Weekday Education Ministry hosted fathers on March 15th for its annual “Donuts with Dads” morning event. The children loved having their dads with them as they enjoyed a few minutes of quality time, munching on yummy, sticky donuts! A few little fingers needed a bit of clean up, but it was totally worth it! Like other dads that day, Tim Good certainly had a lovely morning with his daughter Catherine Scott. Their sweet smiles tell the story!



The Seven Last Words of Christ

On April 9th, at seven o'clock in the evening, the Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Orchestra will present "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Théodore Dubois. The work will feature soloists John Blizzard, Mike Trammell and Taylor Rogers. The seven words (or phrases) are taken from the combined accounts of the four Gospels and draw the listener in to the final moments that Jesus experienced on the cross.



Timothy Hill

"The Seven Last Words of Christ" is presented in eight movements. Composing for the Catholic church, Dubois used traditional texts from the Roman Catholic Holy Week liturgies to add meditations on the scriptural account. The opening soprano solo is the O Vos Omnes, traditionally sung at Tenebrae services. The remaining movements capture the anguish of our Savior as He was crucified.



The above artwork is by Eva Crawford, Director of Visual Arts at Charlotte Christian School. Eva is the daughter of Dudley and Dorothea Compton.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

"Verily, thou shalt be in Paradise today with me. Amen, so I tell thee."

"See, O woman! Here behold thy Son beloved."

"God, my Father, why hast Thou forsaken me?"

"I am a-thirst!"

"Father, into Thy hands I commend my soul."

"It is finished!"

At the end of the Seventh Word, Dubois concludes his sacred cantata with a hymn-like setting of the medieval antiphon Adoramus Te, Christe (Christ, we do all adore Thee). This serene hymn, much like a chorale at the end of an 18th century cantata, provides the listener with a foretaste of the resurrection after the compelling drama of the Passion story. (Program notes by Yvonne Grover.)

Please join us for this evening of music and worship. The work will be presented in English and promises to be a great gift to our community. Be sure to invite friends, family and neighbors.

Childcare is available for the worship service by calling Lauren Stroupe at 704.366.4030x138.

For more information contact Tim Hill at 704.366.4030x123 (thill@providencebc.org), Diann Clark at 704.366.4030x122 (dclark@providencebc.org), or Debra Wallace at (debrabwallace2241@gmail.com).

HS Beach Retreat

April 21st – 23rd

Ocean Isle, NC

High schoolers:

Exams. Stress. Lack of sleep.

What's the cure?

The High School Beach Retreat!

Set yourself up to finish the school year strong!
Find a little perspective and peace as you share a special time with your Providence friends.

Join us at Ocean Isle to regroup, recharge, and revive.

Go to the student page and sign up!
\$100 deposit is due April 3rd.



MS Madness

Sunday, April 23rd

Charlotte Knights Game

\$18 per person

Only 20 seats available.
First Come, First Served!



Student Fundraiser

Who Needs a Carwash?

Autobell, anyone?

This fundraiser supports our students going on summer mission trips.

Look for sales to begin
Wednesday, April 19th!



Student Minister Update



The Student Minister Search Committee is continuing its work.

Our group has come together in our unified

effort of finding the person specifically called by God for Providence and we're working toward that goal diligently.

We are gathering information and reaching out to candidates. We are conducting preliminary interviews and processing the information at hand.

We covet your prayers as we continue this very important work. ~ Chair, Chris Squier

MissionDays Project

Refugee Free Store

Saturday, April 29th

2 shifts to choose from:

8:00am - 12:00pm

10:00am - 2:00pm

Staffing, sorting, loading, cleaning.

Remember! You need 12 hours of MissionDays work to qualify for the \$500 credit towards your summer mission trips.

Check the student page for sign-up information.



Thanks to YOU...

Thanks to the generosity of Providence members, many local organizations received grants through the Missions Committee in 2016, enabling them to continue serving our neighbors in need. Your offerings have helped these agencies keep their doors open and do what they do best. This month, we would like to highlight two grant recipients:

Charlotte Rescue Mission

By partnering with Charlotte Rescue Mission (CRM) through prayer, donations, and volunteer hours, you have given a life-changing gift to the men and women CRM serves 365 days a year. Their mission statement says they strive to “transform lives in the name of Christ by serving people struggling with addiction, poverty, or hopelessness with the goal of returning them to society as productive, self-sufficient citizens.” And they do just that.

CRM’s men’s program, **Rebound**, provides 120 days of comprehensive substance abuse recovery services for nearly 500 men per year. And their women’s program, **Dove’s Nest**, provides the same services to over 200 women and 20 of their children each year. Last year, CRM served 529 men and women, 65% of whom are sober and 72% are in stable housing 6 months after graduation from these programs. With your help, CRM is doing good things.

Refugee Support Services

Arrive, Survive, Thrive

Refugee Support Services (RSS) is the Charlotte region post-resettlement agency whose goal is to support arriving refugees in gaining the skills and knowledge necessary to become independent and self-sufficient citizens and to assimilate into their new environment.

As refugees arrive in the USA, one of the most beneficial things they can be given is a caring friend to help them navigate life in America. As an organization, RSS connects American families and individuals with refugees so that they can begin to form friendships and enrich one another’s lives. This support gives refugees a solid foundation as they begin life in their new country.



What Providence Is Doing to Help:

“Give ‘em the Shirt Off Your Back”

Throughout April



You’ve got a closet full of them. Dress shirts. Guess who needs them? CRM men going on life-altering interviews. Help them look their best as they take their next step forward.

Goal: 200 men’s long sleeve shirts. No frayed cuffs. All Sizes, all colors (white especially needed). Clean collars.

Drop-off: Bring shirts on hangers to the Crouch Fellowship Hallway throughout the month.

Contact Connie Carpenter at carpentercrew@carolina.rr.com.

“Refugee Free Store”

Saturday, April 29th
1:00pm Crouch Fellowship Hall

The Free Store is supporting the Providence Burmese Community and RSS. **Participants will pay \$5 or work 2 hours in-store to gain admission.**

Donate household/clothing items on Saturday, April 29th at 10:00am in the Crouch Fellowship Hall. The Providence MOMs Group and the Burmese Ministry team will manage the store.

Contact Julia Wright at jwright@providencecbc.org.



Want to Do More?

You can volunteer in the Help Center at **Refugee Support Services** to read mail, complete forms, and offer literacy support. RSS needs volunteers to work with children as well. See how you or your Sunday School class can volunteer by checking the website at www.refugeesupportservices.org.

Charlotte Rescue Mission needs volunteers to help make and serve meals, tutor, lead art activities, sort clothing, and more. Contact Connie Carpenter at carpentercrew@carolina.rr.com for more info or visit the website at charlotterescuemission.org.

Palm Sunday

April 9th at 8:30am and 11:00am

We begin our journey to the cross as children lead us to the altar with waving palms. Join in the procession by once again taking part in the "Procession of Hope." Bring your gently used coats, hats, gloves and blankets to lay at the altar during the procession. May this "hope-filled" procession allow us to share the warm love of Christ with those who need physical warmth.

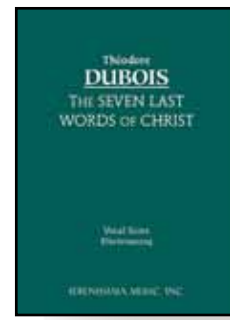


Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest! Luke 19:38

Seven Last Words of Christ

Palm Sunday
April 9th at 7:00pm
Sanctuary

You are invited to an evening of music and worship as the Sanctuary Choir presents Dubois' work, "The Seven Last Words of Christ."



Childcare is available by request.
Call Lauren Stroupe at 704.366.4030x138.

Maundy Thursday

April 13th at 7:00pm
Communion and Foot Washing
Sanctuary

We join with Jesus and His disciples as they share their last evening together as recorded in John's gospel.



Good Friday

April 14th at 12:00pm
Front Lawn (Randolph Road)
Foot of the Cross



You are invited to reflect at the foot of the cross as we remember together Jesus' last hours.

Rock Hunt

Saturday, April 15th
10:00am
Activity Center

Bring your family and friends and join in the fun!
Search the Providence campus for rocks of all shapes, sizes and colors!



Then turn your collection in for prizes and candy!

Easter Morning

Celebrate His Resurrection!
Sunday,
April 16th

6:30am Gazebo
Sunrise Worship

8:30am Sanctuary
Worship with Band

11:00am Sanctuary
Worship with Choir



Wednesday Night Meals



Join us for dinner every Wednesday evening from 5:00pm - 6:00pm in the Crouch Fellowship Hall. You'll be glad you did!

April 5th

Chicken and Stuffing
Baked Apples
Green Beans
Salad
Pizza Bar
Rolls

Chocolate Cake (Cream Cheese Frosting)

April 12th

No Wednesday Night Meal

April 19th

Chicken Fried Steak with Milk Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Vegetable Medley
Salad
Pizza Bar
Rolls
Peanut Butter Pie

April 26th

Chicken Marsala
Orzo Pasta with Alfredo Sauce
Grilled Vegetables
Salad
Pizza Bar
Italian Bread
Panna Cotta with Fresh Berries

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

Smiles Needed

A Call for Volunteers
Easter Rock Hunt

Saturday, April 15th

10:00am
Activity Center

Children. Check!

Easter baskets. Check!

Cameras. Check!

Neighbors. Double Check!

We are inviting our Cotswold neighbors to join us for the Easter Rock Hunt. The annual favorite is the perfect event for successful outreach!

We need volunteers to smile, hand out candy, and offer coffee and donuts to our new friends. Welcome our neighbors and help us reach out to our local families. This is your opportunity to show them what Providence is all about.

Contact Summer Sneed
at ssneed@providencecbc.org to help.



The Easter Cross



Have you seen it?
The Providence Front Lawn is once-again graced with an Easter Cross. Thanks to the hard work and creativity of Connie Carpenter, Sid Carpenter, Al Traver and Rocky Cannon, Providence can celebrate Lent and Easter for the whole world to see. Thank you for making this vision a reality!

2017 Q1 Business Meeting

Below is a recap of the first quarterly business meeting of 2017. A complete copy of the minutes is available in the church office.



- **Weekday Education** Committee Chair Holland Ferguson reported Weekday enrollment at 100% for part-time care and 97% for full-care; they finished 2016 with a surplus; they have retained the 5-Star Health and Sanitary Ranking. She also thanked the custodial staff for helping them to keep this ranking.
- **Sunday School** Director David Price reported he is looking into ways to better communicate what classes are available, including updating the current Sunday School brochure.
- **WMU Co-Chair** Penny Hewett reported on its work with Ronald McDonald House, Urban Ministries and Crisis Assistance. WMU also provided 52 scarves with a Carolina Panther logo for Room in the Inn guests.
- **Finance Committee** Chair Jonathan Bensch reported that 2016 ended with a \$20,720 deficit instead of a \$145,623 surplus. In addition, two line-items were incorrectly listed in 2017 revenue which totaled \$77,134. Finance Committee made a motion to revise the 2017 budget by holding all expenses flat to 2016, excluding personnel costs. This will leave us with a projected \$128,285 revenue gap/deficit (roughly 6%) of our total revenue forecast for 2017. The Finance Committee asked that all donors increase their contributions by 6% to meet this challenge. The Finance Committee's motion was unanimously approved.
- **Missions Committee** Staff Liaison David Jordan reported that Micah 6:8 will be the committee's scripture focus for 2017. The committee has recently completed the book, "Toxic Charity" and will be using it as a guide.
- **Stewardship Committee** Chair Randy Hopkins reported the committee's plan to highlight ways in which our donations support all areas of the church.
- **Senior Adult** Chair Wilna Eury reported that the committee is working with David Jordan on an outreach program for homebound seniors.
- **Buildings and Grounds** Chair Dennis Stallings brought a motion to update the Columbarium policies to current practices and to allow tribute vases that will be purchased from the church. The tribute vases cost \$20. The motion passed unanimously. The committee rejected an unsolicited offer of \$400,000 to purchase 1.48 acres (below the T-Ball Field and Softball Field) as it appraised for \$600,000. A team led by Gina Ayscue has been formed for the renovation of the Libby Gray Media Center. A request from the Student Ministry Committee was approved for renovation to the Chapman Youth Room using special donations and designated funds.
- **Student Search Committee** Representative Dave Miller reported that the committee is scheduling interviews and is on track to make an offer by May. He requested continued prayers for the committee.
- **Nominating Committee and Coordinating Council** made a motion to revise the Committee Manual to limit staff or their spouses from serving on Finance Committee, Nominating Committee or Personnel Committee. The motion passed without objection.

The next quarterly business meeting (Q2) is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17th at 6:00pm in the Crouch Fellowship Hall.

SHARE IN the Journey

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

Warm spring mornings. Children squealing with delight as they run across grassy fields after a small black and white soccer ball. Parents drinking coffee, laughing and photographing their little players. It happens every Saturday from April through May, then again from September through October. Visit the Providence campus and you'll see the activity and atmosphere surrounding our fields on the North side of campus with the various sports offered as part of our Activities Ministry.

But there is more happening than simply children's sports. People are here for soccer, but our members are using the opportunity to invite new friends to Providence. The foundations for relationships are laid. Friendships are formed. Friends who were previously acquaintances have become more, which opens opportunities for invitations to be extended - and accepted.

And that is how the Jones family came to Providence. Charlie Jones was asked to look back on how he and his family started visiting our church. And it was through their involvement in the Activities Ministry and a personal invitation by a church member during one of their soccer games that brought them to visit, and join, Providence. Hear their family's story in Charlie's own words...

SHARING the Journey



Coach Charlie Jones and one of his four-year-old soccer stars.

Simply, the Activities Ministry drew our family to Providence Baptist Church. During the spring of 2008, we signed our son Parker up for youth soccer through the Activities Ministry. Since there were not enough people to coach, I volunteered to help on Parker's team. Despite my coaching efforts, the kids went on to an undefeated season (even if I was the only one keeping "score"). We met many wonderful families during my time coaching, and Parker made many friends that he is still close with today.

In addition to our soccer successes on the field and the friendships we formed off the field, we also found a church home in Providence. Prior to that season, we had not attended regular church services since moving to Charlotte in 2000. One of the team parents convinced us to come and visit some Sunday school classes. So through the summer months we tried various classes until we decided on the Synago Sunday School class and our family joined Providence in June of 2009.

Since joining the church, we continue to be amazed at the many opportunities that Providence affords us to grow and develop our Christian faith. The friendships and bonds we have fostered while at Providence have created a second family for us and our children. I often say that youth sports and the Activities Ministry brought us to Providence, but the people keep us coming back. ~ Charlie Jones



l-r Henry, Charlie, Parker and Leslie Jones

The Jones family is very involved in Providence life. Charlie is going in to his second term as church Moderator, the head of the Coordinating Council. He is also the co-chair of the "Room in the Inn" program at Providence and has spent every Saturday night since December at the Missions Center hosting our Charlotte homeless neighbors. You could say that Charlie has had an impact on Providence. Charlie's wife Leslie has made her own mark, serving on various committees (including Lee Canipe's pastor search committee), tirelessly working in the Providence Friendship garden and leading the Grounds Team. Their sons, Parker and Henry, are involved in student and children's ministries and bring their own brand of "Jones" to the mix. We wouldn't have the privilege of their membership, friendship and service without their initial introduction to our congregation through the Activities Ministry and the personal invitation by another church member.

The Activities Ministry has buildings and fields to upkeep, utilities to pay for, and equipment to buy. Your gifts fund this crucial ministry. The fields are maintained. The equipment is purchased. The programs are offered. Share IN the journey of being a cheerful giver by visiting www.providencebc.org/give and support the ministries at Providence.

NEW MEMBERS

New Members



(l-r) Danita, Jireh and Thomas Boyd joined Providence on March 12th. The family is joining on statement of Christian Faith and previous baptism.



Mark Fenimore joined Providence on March 19th by statement of faith.



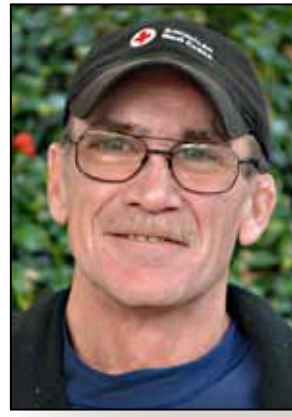
(l-r) Jeff, Weston, Alden, Brady, and Erica Miller joined Providence on March 19th. Jeff is joining by confession of personal faith and baptism and Erica is transferring her membership from Park Road Baptist.



Bobby and Laura Anderson joined Providence on March 19th. Bobby is joining by confession of personal faith and Laura is transferring her membership from MPUMC.



Aaron and Cystal Case joined Providence on March 19th. They are joining by transfer of membership from Woodale Bible Brethren Church in Mt. Pleasant, PA.



David Purinton joined Providence on February 26th. David is transferring his membership from Forest Park Baptist Church in Joplin, Missouri.



Wanda Barnes joined Providence on March 19th. She is transferring her membership from St. John UMC in Rock Hill, SC.



Madeline Brown joined Providence on March 19th. She is joining by confession of personal faith.



Peder Hinson joined Providence on March 19th. He is joining by confession of personal faith.



Erik Hinson joined Providence on March 19th. He is joining by confession of personal faith.



Noah Wright joined Providence on March 19th. He is joining by confession of personal faith.

Dedication of Life



Heather and Eric Cochran dedicated their daughter Hannah Elizabeth on February 26th. Hannah is the sister of 3-year-old Abigail. The family chose Psalm 139:14-17 (NIV) as Hannah's special verses:

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God. How vast is the sum of them."

Worship Scripture

April 2nd

Communion ~ Romans 8:6-11

April 9th

Palm Sunday ~ Matthew 21:1-11

April 16th

Easter ~ John 20:1-18

April 23rd

John 20:19-31

April 30th

1 Peter 1:17-23



In Appreciation

I would like to thank everyone for all the get well cards, telephone calls and visits while I was in Novant Main hospital for surgery. Mary and I certainly appreciated the concerns of the members of Providence. We are grateful to God for leading us to Providence when we were looking for a new church home in 1998.

Avery and Mary Henline

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all of your kindness, numerous cards, food, phone calls, words of comfort and especially your prayers during Jewell's illness and recent home-going. It is a blessing to have such a loving and caring church family for support during this difficult time.

Bill Blankenship and daughters, Nancy and Janet

In Sympathy

- Jessica Aycock in the loss of her grandmother Laura Mae McRobie on Wednesday, February 15th.
- Barbara Green in the loss of her sister Mary Ellen (Akin) Posey on February 22nd.
- The family of Lib Kelly in her loss on February 26th.
- Ellen Wingate in the loss of her mother Hazel Cross on March 16th.
- Jo Ellen Arant in the loss of her husband Jerry Arant on March 16th.
- Ernie Glass in the loss of his father Ernest Glass on March 19th.
- The family of Mary Lib Dalrymple in her loss on March 21st.



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“Seven Last Words of Christ”

Sunday, April 9th @ 7:00pm
Sanctuary



Rock Hunt

Saturday, April 15th @ 10:00am
Activity Center



Easter Worship

Sunday, April 16th
6:30am, 8:30am & 11:00am



Refugee Free Store

Saturday, April 29th @ 1:00pm
Crouch Fellowship Hall

Next Connections is May 1, 2017.

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



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