

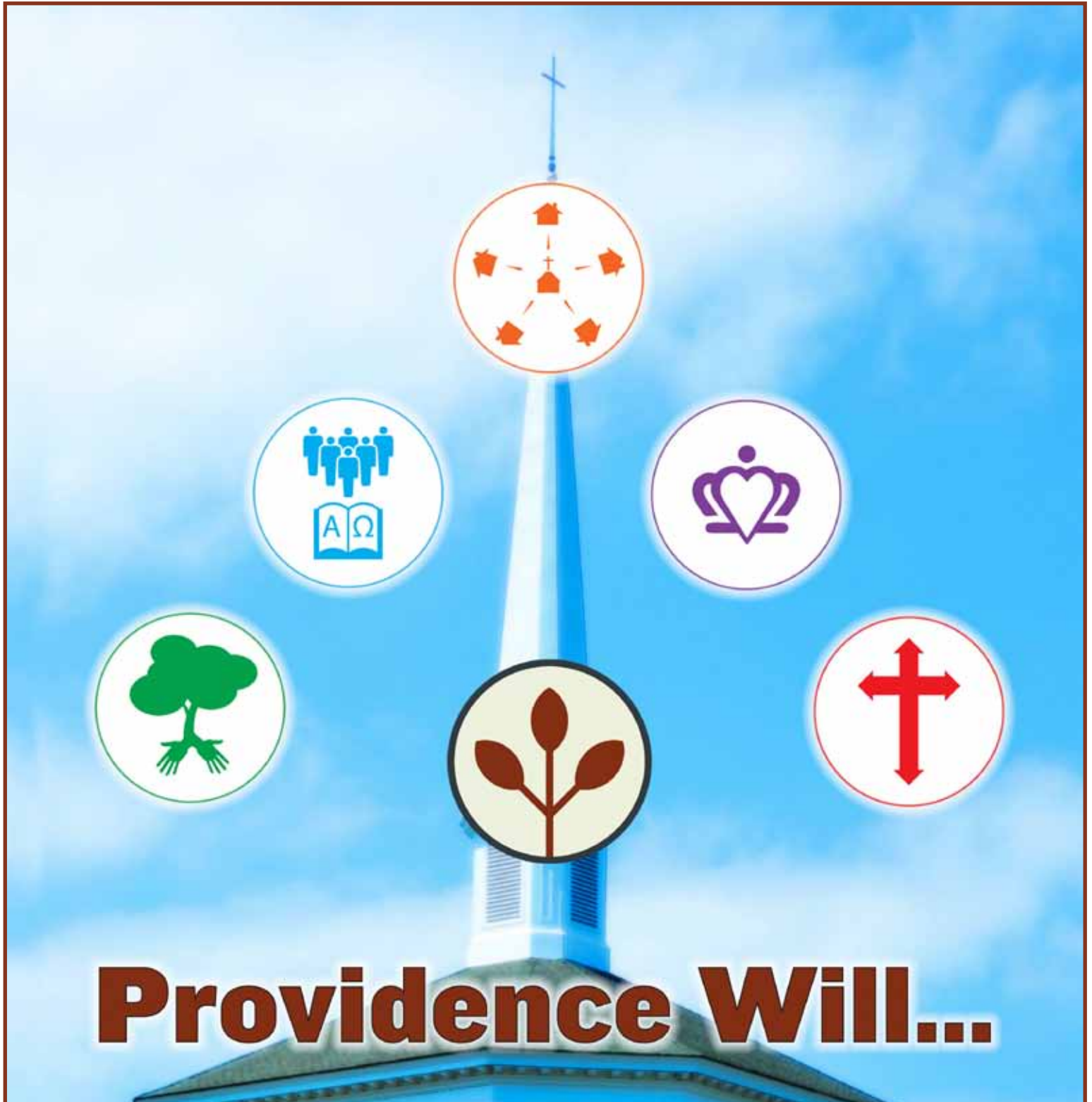
May 1, 2018



PROVIDENCE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Start Here



Providence Will...

Providence Will!



Lee Canipe

The deacons' *Providence 2025 Strategic Plan: Providence Will* is now available electronically on our church website (www.providencecbc.org/about-us) and, in paper form, in the Rotunda. Adopted unanimously by the deacons at their March meeting, this strategic plan is the product of a year's worth of praying, listening, talking, reading, writing, and revising that began with an invitation last August to Dream BIG.

And that's exactly what we did.

Many, if not most, of you let your voices be heard as a part of this lengthy process, whether through church-wide forums, committee meetings, or conversations with the individual deacons who've served in the strategic planning ministry group. Because we are Baptists and trust that the Holy Spirit speaks through every believer, this deacon ministry group made it a priority to invite all members of the Providence church family to share ideas about where God may be leading us as a congregation and what we need to do over the next eight years in order to be obedient to God's leadership. As an ex officio member of this deacon group, I am impressed with the sheer volume of response we've received. Providence people have an abundance of opinions—and, happily, are willing to share them. What we heard on multiple occasions, over a period of twelve months, from church members, committees, deacons, staff members, and others in leadership positions laid the foundation for this strategic plan. In fact, every recommendation in this plan can be traced back to one of our congregational listening events. Therein lies its strength.

Articulating a strategic plan is an arduous process, but I'm very glad that Providence makes this exercise a priority. Moreover, our by-laws require our deacons, as servant leaders of the church, to produce such a plan at least once every eight years. Not every church has a built-in mechanism for being intentional about discerning where and how the Holy Spirit is at work. That's a shame, because without these periods of deliberate praying and listening and clarifying, it is awfully hard to maintain a sense of holy, inspired direction—and, without such direction, most churches

will neither live up to their God-given potential, nor make best use of their God-given resources. The old chestnut holds true: If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there. I'm grateful for the wisdom of Providence leaders in years gone by who understood the necessity of being mindful, on a regular basis, of asking these essential questions: Where is God leading us? And how might we get there?

That said, it's important for us to understand what this particular strategic plan is intended to do: Clarify our priorities as a church for the next eight years and suggest practical steps we can take to align our missions and ministries with these priorities. At one of the early meetings of the strategic planning group, Bob Gaskin hearkened back to his days in the Army to explain the difference between strategy and tactics. "If the overall mission is to win the battle," said Bob, "then part of the strategy might be to take this one, specific hill. How the hill gets taken, though—do we attack from the right? from the left? with infantry? with cavalry?—is a matter of tactics for the commanders in the field to decide."

I found Bob's explanation to be enormously helpful. As its name implies, this strategic plan is about strategy—that is, naming the specific "hills" we intend to focus our time and energy and resources upon over the next eight years. The tactics we'll use to take these strategic hills, however, will largely be determined by the various bodies of the church—committees, staff, deacons, coordinating council, and so forth—who've been given

both the responsibility and the authority to make those decisions. This flexible structure is by design. Eight years is a long time in the life of a church. A rigid, detail-heavy plan that dictates tactics could easily end up being obsolete well before the plan's expiration date. Good strategy provides clear objectives and leaves ample freedom for tactical creativity. This plan, I believe, does that.

So, what's next? On Sunday, May 20, our deacons will formally introduce this strategic plan and ask for the congregation's blessing upon it and commitment to it. This particular Sunday is also Anniversary Sunday at Providence and our first combined worship service of the summer. It is also Pentecost, when we remember how God poured out the Holy Spirit on the early church and empowered them to continue the ministry of Jesus.

continued on next page

*From everyone
who has been given much,
much will be required;
and from the one
who has been entrusted
with much,
much more
will be demanded.*

(Luke 12:48b)

continued from last page

All in all, it promises to be a great day for celebrating the past, present, and future of God's goodness to us.

Between now and May 20, then, I hope you'll take the time to read the strategic plan. When you do, you'll see that there are immediate steps that need to be taken in order to put this strategic plan into action—and these steps require funding that is not provided in the church's 2018 financial plan. Will you help get us started sooner rather than later by making a contribution on May 20 to the Strategic Plan Implementation Fund?

Finally, you may have noticed that the title of this strategic plan is *Providence Will*, rather than *Dream BIG*. Why the change? Simply put, dreaming big together got us to this point. Now, it's time to do what God has led us to dream—and, with God's help, *Providence Will* make disciples, engage Cotswold, bless Charlotte, send apostles, and cultivate generosity in Jesus' name.

We've been given much. Now, the Lord is calling us to do something with it.

May the peace of Christ be with you!



Get Us Started

**We did the research.
We dreamed BIG.
We listened for the Holy Spirit.
And we wrote down what we believe
to be God's vision for our future.**

**Now it's time to put our faith into action.
Now is the time to give BIG.**

**It is no mistake that "Cultivate Generosity"
is our first priority. Because without the
faith to give sacrificially, we will not be able
to Make Disciples, Engage Cotswold,
Bless Charlotte or Send Apostles.**

**Prayerfully consider using the envelope
marked "birthday gift" (in your offering
envelope box) or just designate "Providence
birthday" on your check to make a gift
on May 20th, helping us put this plan,
our vision, into action.**

Make a commitment to get us started!



Cultivate Generosity



Make Disciples



Engage Cotswold



Bless Charlotte



Send Apostles

Deacon on Call

Deacon on call phone number: 704.366.4030x147

May 2 - 8: Susan Cannon

May 9 - 15: Cindy Brooks

May 16 - 22: Mike Freeland

May 23 - 29: Garo Aghjayan

May 30 - June 5: John Hall



Minister on Call

May 6 - 8: Julia Wright (704.458.3710)

May 13 - 15: Tim Hill (704.641.4270)

May 20 - 22: Lee Canipe (704.975.0340)

May 27 - 29: Richard Landers (704.608.3371)

April 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, 4/22 \$ 711,686

Expenses Paid

Through Sunday, 4/22 \$ 709,783

Net Revenue to Expenses

Through Sunday, 4/22 \$ 2,903

Loving Our Babies



Julia Wright

I am declaring this the “Year of the Baby” at Providence! We have already had four babies born, and to date we have eight more on the way. What a gift from God! As we prepare for these babies, we are re-tooling our Cradle Roll Ministry—which ministers to new and expectant parents. We want each expectant family to be paired with a Cradle Roll volunteer who will share in this journey with them. Our Cradle Roll team will pray for and encourage these young families.

Our Cradle Roll will also partner with our adult Sunday School classes as they reach out to these young families. It is our hope that by the end of the year, we will be able to extend our Cradle Roll ministry to reach out to our Weekday Education families as well. Good days are ahead as we love on our babies! If you would like to learn more about this important ministry or how you can help, contact me at 704.366.4030x140. You will be a blessing AND you will be blessed!

Julia A. Wright

Wonderful Wednesdays

A Magical Evening for Children

May 2 at 6:00 pm
Activity Center

**Children's Choir Concert
and Missions Recognition Service**

May 9 at 6:00 pm
Sanctuary

Mission Friends are asked to wear Sunday dress.
GAs are asked to wear a white dress.
RAs are asked to wear their vests.



For additional information on these special evenings, please contact Julia Wright. (jwright@providencebc.org)

May 23 and May 30

No Wednesday Activities or Fellowship Dinner

Game On

Vacation Bible School

June 18 - 22
9:00am - 12:00pm

It's time to SIGN UP! All children (rising K through 5th grade completed) are invited to attend. This is a free Bible School and we are inviting our friends and neighbors. Be sure to get your buddies signed up with you and enjoy learning about Jesus together.

www.providencevbs.org

GAME ON!
VBS Volunteer Training
May 16 at 6:00 pm
Sanctuary



All VBS volunteers are invited to attend this training session. Get your “Game On” and help us get ready for the best summer yet!

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

Weekday Education Ministry Lifers

Providence Weekday Education Ministry is blessed to serve our church and our community. Our children come from as far away as South Carolina and as near as Randolph Road to attend our program. And once they get here, our children STAY here. Whether it's our first-class facility, our outstanding enrichment programs, or our loving teachers, our Weekday Education Ministry families become "lifers" when they step foot through our doors.

One family we are blessed to have is the Good family. Tim and Susan Good's daughter Catherine Scott has been with us since infancy. She's about to go off to kindergarten, and we will be sad to see her go. But grow our children will, and we know we must let them.

Here are Susan's words about her family's experience at Providence:

"Words cannot begin to express the joy we have had through these years at Providence Weekday Education Ministry.



Tim, Catherine Scott and Susan Good

We were members of the church so it was a given that Catherine Scott would attend the Preschool. Little did we know that these years would exceed any and all of our expectations. Not only was she attending Preschool with all of the social and academic aspects,

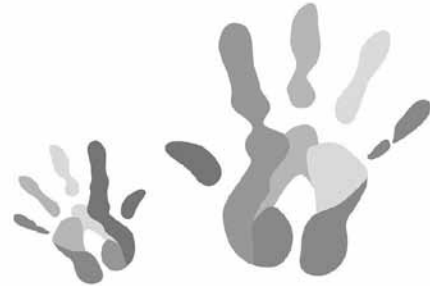
but she continued to gain a Christian family.

Every day when she walks through the door, not only do her teachers embrace her, but so does everyone else. She grins from ear to ear as numerous teachers call her by name as she walks down the hall to her class. She has grown so much socially and academically, all while learning with a Christian



Mrs. Lisa, Catherine Scott and Mrs. Debbi

heart. From her very first day with Mrs. Lisa and Mrs. Debbi to gardening with Mrs. Pamela, to music with Mrs. Debra, to wonderful lessons in Chapel with Mrs. Julia, to physical activity



Providence Baptist Church

WEEKDAY EDUCATION MINISTRY

with Mr. Terry, to her wonderful teachers through the years the experience is invaluable.

As she finishes her TK year we feel so ready for Kindergarten. Miss Tacola and Mrs. Carolyn have prepared her this extra year for elementary school. She is ready for the transition, both academically and emotionally. They have all loved her with their whole hearts!



Catherine Scott in the Friendship Garden

I was fortunate to be on the Weekday Education Committee as a church member and as a parent. It was amazing to see behind the scenes and learn all that went into making this well-oiled machine continue to improve, grow and strive to achieve greatness.

Again, my heart is so fulfilled after our years in the Weekday Education Ministry program. Knowing God had His wonderful hand in her beginning years of education is priceless.

Thank you, Jen and all the Weekday staff! We are forever grateful!"

Submitted by Susan Good

Sundays for Students

Sunday Morning Series

"The Future Was Then" - Apocalyptic stories are about a lot more than gloom and doom. In this series, students will study excerpts of biblical apocalyptic writings in search of messages of hope, comfort, and God's loving power, guiding them to see beyond chaos and doubt in the texts as well as in their own lives.

Sunday Night LIVE



May Schedule

- 5/6: NO SNL (Children of Eden)
- 5/13: NO SNL (Mother's Day)
- 5/20: Special SNL (Senior Night)
- 5/27: NO SNL (Memorial Day)

Summer Calendar

Our summer calendar is now available! Visit the website to download yours today and be in the KNOW!!



Upcoming Events

Cookout & Kickball

June 3rd is the official start to summer for Student Ministries! Students and their friends are invited to a cookout and kickball game! Join us at the Gazebo at 5:30pm and bring your A-Game!



Baccalaureate Sunday

June 3rd - Information is being mailed to Parents and Students about all the festivities and important reminders for Baccalaureate Sunday. Let Dane know if you have not received it.



Providence Student Scholarships

Providence has two scholarships offered for high school seniors: **Elle-J Scholarship** and **Clark Family Scholarship**

For scholarship criteria and nomination information, see the student page. Recipients will be announced Baccalaureate Sunday, June 3 at 10:30am.

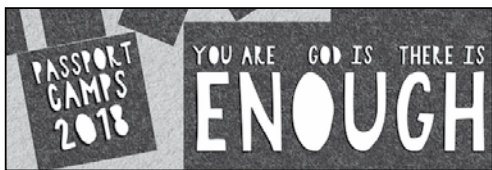


Applications are due to Dane Jackson by May 20th.

Summers at Providence

Passport:missions Camp

Registration is closed for students. If you still would like to go, please contact Dane. Spaces are not guaranteed but may become available. Registration is still open for Adult Chaperones. Visit the website.



High School Mission Trip

We are headed to Knoxville, Tennessee to serve others July 22 - 28. Registration is open for Students and Chaperones, so sign up today. Visit the website.



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

Gathered Together ... As It Is in Heaven

In their book, “Worship Together in Your Church as in Heaven,” Josh Davis and Nikki Lerner challenge readers on the discussion of worship. “Many times as we approach the subject of worship, we are asking the wrong questions. What kind of music do we like? What are the felt needs of the congregation? Who is our target audience? In what ways can we best worship God? But, what if, instead, we were to ask the question: what does God desire? Ephesians 5:10 exhorts us to ‘try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord’ (ESV). Instead of focusing on what is pleasing to us, let’s find out what pleases God.”

While their book specifically discusses the importance of multicultural worship, its implications for us cannot be overlooked. As we approach Pentecost and the celebration of Providence’s anniversary, we begin an exciting time in which we can all worship together—on earth as it is in heaven! In preparing for this, perhaps we can more sincerely consider the question posed above, “What does God desire?” Throughout the Bible, we see many diverse worship expressions: “standing up, sitting down, bowing down, laying prostrate, clapping hands, raising hands, shouting, silence, stillness, and dancing – it is easy to find all of these in scripture.” Clearly, there are many ways in which God’s people worship – and I think all are pleasing to God. When we get to the heart of the matter, God desires us—

His people. Our worship, then, should be a glorifying “Thank You!” to God. When we can do this together, I believe we are strengthened as a community. I am reminded of the glimpse at heavenly worship John gives us in Revelation 7.



Timothy Hill

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb ... They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

These heavenly worshipers are gathered together, proclaiming with one voice as God’s people. I am excited that we at Providence Baptist Church will soon have the opportunity to do the same—to gather together as a church, the people of God. May our worship echo that of the heavenly creatures that surround the throne of God as we proclaim,

*“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”*

Soli Deo Gloria!

Providence Presents ...

From musical theatre greats Stephen Schwartz and John Caird, this inspirational, foot-stomping musical takes a look at timeless conflicts between parents and children through the prism of the Bible’s story of Genesis.

Adam, Eve, Noah and the “Father” (who created them) deal with the headstrong, cataclysmic actions of their respective children. The show ultimately delivers a bittersweet, but inspiring message: that “the hardest part of love ... is letting go.”

We are excited to welcome Stephen Ware back to the stage as he reprises the role of Father alongside an amazing cast. Join us in the Sanctuary and we will take you to Eden. Tickets are \$10 each and are on sale now. They will also be sold at the door.

**CHILDREN
OF THE EDEN**

Providence Sanctuary
Tickets \$10

Thursday, May 3 at 7:00pm
Friday, May 4 at 7:00pm
Saturday, May 5 at 7:00pm
Sunday, May 6 at 3:00pm

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

Deacon Nominations



Providence members are encouraged to submit names to be considered for Deacon. Boxes for suggested names can be found in the Rotunda, Narthex and Activity Center from Monday, April 30 until Thursday, May 17.

The Church Bylaws give the following qualifications for a deacon. "All nominees for the office of Deacon shall exhibit Christian maturity and shall have demonstrated their desire and willingness to give generously of their treasure, time, and talent in support of the Church's mission and ministries."

This year we will have a slate of 12 prospective Deacons to be voted on by the church Sunday, October 7.

We want to hear from you. Fill out a nomination form and place it in one of the collection boxes located in the Narthex, the Rotunda or the Activity Center.

Q2 Conference

Wednesday, May 16
5:45pm
Sanctuary

College Graduates

We need to hear from you!
We want to celebrate your accomplishments with the entire Providence family.

Let us know about your degree, when it was earned, where it's from and what honors you received!
Deadline is Friday, May 11.

Contact:
Lea Evelyn Tatich
letatich@windstream.net
704.846.9150



Your Generosity

Thank You, Providence!

Our March Mission Collection project was a huge success!

We gave money for the "More Than Nets" mission project in Ghana, Africa.

Our pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars totaled \$2,057.52!

That's enough to purchase 200 nets!

Thank you, Providence, for your generosity and for spreading God's love and Word to all corners of the globe.



Blood Drive

Sunday, May 6
9:30am - 12:30pm
Rotunda Green
Walk Ins Welcome!

Adult Mission Trip



NYC Mission Trip
May 9-12
All adults are invited to serve in New York City mid-May.

Our home base will be Metro Baptist Church. We will work alongside multiple charities, serving the hungry and the homeless.

\$200pp (plus your airfare)
\$100 Deposit due NOW

Contact Randy Ballard.
rballard@providencebc.org

The Providence Process

Missions Grant Process: Did you know?

Did you know that each spring our Missions Committee makes decisions, on behalf of Providence, to offer monetary funding for grants? We want to tell you about our process and get you behind-the-scenes by answering the most basic questions:

Who, What, When, Where, Why and How it is done.

Who Can Apply for a Grant? We have received grants from every kind of organization—local to international—that performs some type of mission activity. We even have folks from within PBC who are a part of missionary work; they are able to apply for funding!

What kinds of organizations do our grants support? In the past we have given grants to all different kinds of organizations. We have supported those who help deal with hunger, homelessness, and refugee issues as well as groups who provide counseling and help with all sorts of children's problems. Many of the organizations are local, but we have had funds go as far as Africa and Canada to help specific missionaries. Ultimately, we strive to research and support organizations that we feel align with Providence's call to missions.

When does the process take place? The grant process begins in March with the application deadline. The Missions Committee then reviews the grants and

makes decisions during our April and May meetings. The organizations will be notified in early May.

Where does one find information on applying for a grant? The application and instructions are available on our website at www.providencecbc.org/do/causes.

Why do we offer Grants? As a church, we decided long ago that it was important to help fund causes and missions we were passionate about. The Missions Committee provides funding to larger organizations as a part of our budget, like CBF NC and WMU NC. In addition, the Grant process is a way to meet the needs of specific smaller groups that are aligned with Providence's vision.

How does the Missions Committee make decisions on who to give funding to and how much money are we talking about?

This year we have \$66,500 to offer for grants. The Missions Committee asks each organization to detail the impact the grant would make as well as a method for evaluation on the application. Small groups within the Committee research each application and the full committee decides if the grant will be funded. We earnestly seek to place funding where we believe it is most needed and where it will have the greatest impact.

Please stay tuned! In June we plan to share with you the results of this year's process and ask that you pray with us for all of those organizations we seek to assist.

Submitted by Natalie Lodato

Act Justly
Love Mercy
Walk Humbly

Micah 6:8

WMU Meeting

Tuesday, May 1

Nalley Missions Center

The General Meeting is at 11:30am. We will have a report from the Providence mission team that recently returned from their time in Quebec, Canada.

Lunch will be served.

For event information contact:

Penny Hewett at 704.552.0688

or

Anne Tunstall at 704.567.9593



Mission Collection

Detergent Pods

We are collecting detergent pods (any brand) for Dove's Nest (Charlotte Rescue Mission's women's shelter).

Drop off your donation any time during the month of May at the collection table in the hallway leading to the Crouch Fellowship Hall.



Contact: Julia Wright
jwright@providencecbc.org

PrimeTimers Road Trips

Day Trip July 19

Flat Rock, North Carolina

\$85.00 per person

Seats are still available. Don't miss out on a fun day with your friends as we travel to Flat Rock, NC for lunch and the matinee performance of "Broadway on the Rock."

Cost is \$85.00.

Payment is due by Monday, June 4th.
Make your check payable to Providence Baptist and show "Flat Rock" in the memo line.



Atlanta's Southern Splendor

October 5-7

3 day/2 night trip to Atlanta, Georgia

Includes:

- Round Trip Motor Coach
- Breakfast Daily and Two Dinners
- Stone Mountain Park's Pumpkin Festival Laser Show and Dinner
- World of Coca Cola, Georgia Aquarium
- Guided Tour of CNN Studio and the Margaret Mitchell Home
- Concludes with Sunday Worship at FBC Decatur

Accommodations:

- Holiday Inn Express Stone Mountain
- May take 30 (min) - 48 (max) passengers

Price per Person/Occupancy

Single \$669 / Double \$599

Triple \$519 / Quad \$499

\$200 deposit due upon reservation

RSVP Deadline May 17

PrimeTimers

Thursday, May 17

12:00pm

Crouch Fellowship Hall



With Special Guest
Noel Freidline

Noel will tickle the ivories and your funny bone. Enjoy this end-of-year favorite!

\$7.00 per person

RSVP by Sunday, May 13 to 704.366.4030x211 or sign up on the Senior Adult Bulletin Board in the hallway leading to the Crouch Fellowship Hall.

Tour Info Meeting

Atlanta's Southern Splendor

Info Meeting

May 17 at 10:30am

A representative from Christian Tours will be at Providence on Thursday, May 17th for a visual presentation of the upcoming "Atlanta's Southern Splendor" trip.

Please RSVP for the meeting by Thursday, May 10th at 704.553.2615 or email her at wilna.eury@att.net.

Meeting

REMEMBER:

If you attend this meeting you'll get a discount toward your trip!

Breakfast Happiness

Sunday Breakfast Fellowship

May 20 - September 30

Make your Providence friends happy and fill their tummies one Sunday morning this summer. Sign up to provide doughnuts (or other breakfast items of your choice) for our fellowship time!



Sunday School classes, Bible Study groups, service groups and individuals are welcome to help.

Our breakfast fellowship Sundays run from May 20 through September 30, so you have plenty of opportunities to help.

Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the Crouch Fellowship Hall. We'll provide instructions and make it super easy for you. Just sign up!

Pickleball

It's PICKLEBALL TIME!

Don't know what that is?

It is the fastest growing sport in America for people over 50. (We like younger folks, too.)



We provide the equipment and the lessons. All you have to do is come have fun! We play every

Monday night from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

It's great exercise AND great fun. Come join us!

Prayer Vigil

Saturday, May 26

8:00am - 12:00pm

Gordon Weekley Chapel

Stop for a moment and pray.



The Gordon Weekley Chapel will be open for you. Simply come, sit, pray, ponder. This is your time.

Rama Road Wrap Up

Thank you, Providence, for helping us have another successful year of tutoring with our Rama Road students.

We appreciate your generous support throughout the years. Thank you for the many ways you continue to share in this ministry through your prayers, snack donations, prizes for our End-of-Year Carnival and more.

This year's Carnival was incredibly well supported! We received all kinds of items, from jewelry to figurines to stuffed animals. Ella Rose Hill brought an entire bag full of her precious "stuffies" for our Rama Road friends to choose from.



Ella Rose Hill

Our students were able to select gifts for themselves AND win prizes for their siblings and Mother's Day! Thank you for your support as we seek to make a difference in these children's lives!

Grounds Committee

Many thanks to our Grounds Committee and volunteers! Look around the Providence Campus and you'll see evidence of their hard work everywhere!

With the help of many volunteers and our landscape contractor, they've been attacking some long overdue yardwork. They've removed overgrown or dying bushes and added fresh mulch campus wide.

In the coming weeks they will be cutting back other bushes to maintain their health and beauty. (The bushes will come back better than ever!)

Anniversary Sunday Schedule

Sunday, May 20th

8:30am

Breakfast Fellowship in the Rotunda

9:00am

Sunday School

10:30am

Worship

Special Day of Music and Worship

12:00pm

Celebration Luncheon
Activity Center



Celebration Luncheon

Join us for a special birthday luncheon following worship.

\$10 per plate in the Activity Center

Turkey and Dressing

Carrot Souffle

Yeast Rolls

Green Beans

Cranberry Salad

Birthday Cake

Tickets will be sold in the Rotunda Sundays and Wednesdays prior to the event. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Special Memories from Martha Iley

Martha Iley is one of our remaining seven Charter Members. On this, our 64th anniversary, Martha remembered the first days of Providence, and told the story about how this church, OUR church, began the journey we are still on today.



Martha Iley

Originally, my husband Bryce and I were members of St. John's Baptist Church. But we built a house on Creola Road and Providence was in the neighborhood, so we decided it was the church for us.

The first Providence meeting was held at Dr. Franklin Bumgardner's property on Meadowwood Lane (off Randolph Road about a 1/2 mile from our current location). Dr. Bumgardner had a recreational hut on his property and he allowed us to meet there. I remember our first worship service was there and I sang a solo, "The Penitent," and Mrs. Parnell played the piano.

Then we moved to Eastover Elementary School for Sunday worship. Our original location was going to be on Providence Road, which is why we are called Providence Baptist Church. But we decided the site would be too small, so we changed directions.

They began working on the chapel (now the Gordon Weekley Chapel) and in early 1955 we were able to move in. We didn't have money to pave the parking lot, so it was covered in gravel. I remember the rocks tore up our good shoes!

In January 1955, they offered me the position of Minister of Music, but they

couldn't pay me anything. Even though I had two babies and only one car and I was just overwhelmed at the thought of it, I accepted and did my best because they needed someone. I taught music in the public schools, so I had experience and a love of music. Then, in 1956, I was awarded a salary of \$25 a month. In 1957, it went to \$50 a month.

We had 15 people in the choir at first. I remember some of our first choir members: Nita Moss, John West, Chris Doyle, Dick Hartaway, Aleine Echerd, Trudy Gill (who played the violin with the symphony). Thanks to Trudy, during the Christmas of 1955, we had a little string ensemble because she knew the people to ask to help us. Our pianist was Jeane Benton. Wilma Grady was also in the choir. Her husband was an evangelist with Billy Graham. They joined the church that first year.

We hardly had money for hymn books, so we used the old Broadman Hymnals that were cast-offs from some other churches that were using more up-to-date hymnals. We really tried to have the best quality of music we could from the very beginning.

Kenneth and Lib Lail (1955 or 1956) gave our first piano. We got our first organ because Margo Grimes got married in the Chapel and she wanted an organ for her wedding, so she rented one. After the wedding, (Pastor) Gordon Weekley said, "We just can't let it go. We've got to have an organ!" So we scraped together enough

money for a down payment, then paid monthly on it.

Several churches gave us anthems they didn't want anymore, like St. John's Baptist and Myers Park Baptist. And we often had guest singers from those churches, because we had a hard time filling all the parts.

After stepping down as Minister of Music in 1957, I worked with the children's choirs for 24 years. We had the Cherub Choir and little Billy Griffin was a member. ("Little Billy Griffin" is none other than our all-grown-up Bill Griffin. Martha said, "He always refers to me as his 'choir teacher'.") The Melody Choir was for our 6-8 year olds and the Carol Choir was our elementary school children. We didn't have but just a few high school students, so they sang with the adults.

We got choir robes in 1955 or 1956. We had a giant sewing day and the ladies of the church came together and we MADE choir robes. We cut out patterns and materials and the ladies who sewed took them home to sew them. We used white vestments with different colored stoles for the different choirs.

My fondest memory of Providence is being able to personally direct the congregational singing, and having all those people lifting their voices to God.

Martha also taught the Connie Andrews Sunday School class for 30 years. Appropriately, the members changed the name to the Martha Iley Class almost 11 years ago.

Charter Members

It's been 64 years since that first 1954 Sunday in May. More than 60 years have passed since our 165 charter members put the stake in the ground and claimed it for God. They had a vision of what Providence COULD be, and their choices led us to where we are today.

We are blessed that seven of our original 165 charter members are still with us and still worship with us. When you see these people on Anniversary Sunday, give them a hug and thank them for their bravery, vision and wisdom.

May we carry their mantle for the next generation.

Current Providence Baptist Church Charter Members

Mrs. Jo Barksdale

Mr. Howard M. Byrum

Mr. Joe M. Helms

Dr. Martha S. Iley

Mrs. Juanita (Nita) C. Moss

Mrs. Lorraine Starnes

Mrs. Bernice (Jo) H. Taylor

A Note of Appreciation

Thank you to my Providence Baptist Church family for the incredible outpouring of love and support in the loss of my mother, Marjorie Karabatsos.

We all have appreciated the cards, notes, words of encouragement, the hugs and smiles you have shared. I am so grateful for my church family and the message of love and hope that you continue to provide.

Karen Dukes

Sermon Notes

A number of people have asked for a copy of Mahatma Gandhi's seven deadly social sins that Dr. Canipe referenced in his sermon on April 22.

1. Wealth without Work
2. Pleasure without Conscience
3. Knowledge without Character
4. Commerce without Morality
5. Science without Humanity
6. Religion without Sacrifice
7. Politics without Principle

Campus Closing

The Providence Campus will be closed on Monday, May 28 as we observe Memorial Day.

Welcome Our Very Newest

- Holland Chase Trahan was born on March 27 and is the daughter of Chason and Catherine Trahan. She is the granddaughter of Jim and Amy Shoemaker. Welcome, Baby Holland!

In Sympathy

- Michael Efird in the death of his stepmother, Joann Efird on April 5.
- Jim Ford in the death of his stepfather, Fred Morris Nelson on April 6.
- Bob Hays in the death of his wife, Mary Gae Hays on April 7.
- Maxine Dunn in the death of her brother, Max Tucker on April 10.
- The family of Joan Ervin Belk in her death on April 14.
- Liz Ross in the death of her great aunt, Linda Sikes Rorie on April 16.

Wednesday Night Meals



Our Wednesday Fellowship Meals are almost over for the school year. (We will resume in September.) Come enjoy these last few evenings of good food, fellowship and fun.

Join us for this family-friendly buffet Wednesdays from 4:45pm - 6:00pm in the Crouch Fellowship Hall.

May 2

Roast Pork with Gravy
Roasted Potato Wedges
Sugar Snap Peas
Rolls
Yellow Cake
(with Chocolate Frosting)

May 9

Smothered Chardonnay Chicken
Basmati Rice
Vegetable Medley
Yeast Rolls
Chocolate Tres Leches Cake
Pumpkin Cake
(with Caramel Frosting)

May 16

Country Style Steak
Mashed Potatoes
Broccoli Casserole
Rolls
Apple Cobbler
(with Vanilla Ice Cream)

No Fellowship Meal May 23 or May 30

Sunday Worship

May 6

8:30am and 11:00am
Hot breakfast
Communion
1 John 5:1-6

May 13

8:30am and 11:00am
Hot Breakfast
Acts 1:1-11

(Enjoy a hot Sunday breakfast! \$5 per person.
May 6 and 13 from 7:30am - 9:30am.)

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS

May 20

8:30am Breakfast Fellowship
9:00am Sunday School
10:30am Worship
Acts 2:1-21

May 27

8:30am Breakfast Fellowship
9:00am Sunday School
10:30am Worship
Dane and Caitie Jackson Preaching

Wednesday Nights

May 2 at 6:00pm

A Magic Evening for Children
Activity Center

Cake, Coffee and the Fishbowl (Adults)
Crouch Fellowship Hall

May 9 at 6:00pm

Children's Choir Concert and
Missions Recognition Service
Sanctuary

May 16

(5:45pm) Quarterly Conference
Crouch Fellowship Hall

(6:00pm) Vacation Bible School Training
Sanctuary

May 23 and May 30

No Wednesday Activities
or Fellowship Dinner

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

Providence Endowment Funds

This month, our scholarship endowments are featured, which provide one-time grants for the first semester of college for two Providence graduating seniors.

The **Clark Education Scholarship Fund** provides a scholarship for a graduating high-school student that is active at Providence Baptist who demonstrates Christian ideas in the church, the community, and in their daily lives. The Minister with Students, in collaboration with the Student Committee, oversees the selection.

The **Elle-J Endowment Fund** is in honor of Charlie & Sheila Winborne's daughters Ellis and Jaclyn. This fund honors a graduating senior that is active at Providence Baptist who shows compassion, acceptance, tolerance, steps outside their comfort zone, and sees all people solely for what is on the inside. Nominees come from the students and the Minister of Students and the Student Committee oversees the selection.



Richard Landers

Staff & Commitment

Welcome, Damaris Rivera!



Damaris is our new front desk Receptionist at the church office. You will be touched by her kind smile and warm demeanor. She comes to Providence with lots of administrative experience. Many have already commented that she is a joy to have on staff. Stop by and meet her!

Summer Sneed



Summer celebrates her 5th year on staff May 13th. Beginning in 2015, she was promoted to Communications Manager. Her expertise and grace have been and continue to be a blessing to our many facets of communication. She keeps all of us connected with Providence.

Beverly Tucker



Beverly celebrated her 15th year on staff April 1. She began her tenure as Admin. Asst. to the Church Administrator and Min. of Edu., and quickly assumed office management responsibilities, becoming critical in all aspects of Human Resources. In 2013, her title changed to HR Manager. Her compassionate heart and sense of fairness are helpful to every staff member and volunteer at Providence.

Julia Wright aka "Mrs. Julia"



Julia has been the Minister with Children and their Families at Providence for 15 years. Her anniversary was February 1st. We are grateful for her leadership and the many ways she has blessed our children and their families along the way. Her unique relationship with them makes an eternal impact every day.

ARTWORK FOR SALE The Property Committee has agreed to sell the Charles Pate paintings, which were created during different Providence worship services. The minimum bid for each painting is \$1200. Proceeds from the sale will fund new artwork. Contact Richard Landers for more information at 704.366.4030x145.



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Children of Eden

May 3, 4, 5 at 7:00pm and May 6 at 3:00pm
Sanctuary



Choir and Missions Recognition

Wednesday, May 9 at 6:00pm
Sanctuary



PrimeTimers

Thursday, May 17 at 12:00pm
Crouch Fellowship Hall



Anniversary Sunday

Sunday, May 20 Sunday School at 9:00am
Worship at 10:30am, Sanctuary
Luncheon at 12:00pm, Activity Center

Next Connections is June 1, 2018.

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

Thank you!



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