

Providence Celebrates

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



State of the Church



Lee Canipe

“I am confident of this,” writes the apostle Paul in Philippians 1:6, “that the one who began this good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” All of us who love the church and are committed to continuing—and furthering—the work of Jesus understand, at some level, the point Paul is making here: Our ministry only makes sense in the context of God’s mission. In other words, our primary task is simply to be faithful Christ-followers—and then trust that God will take our acts of faith and devotion and use them to further God’s kingdom. It’s not our good work. It’s God’s.

We began 2018 ready to dream big about where and how and who the Lord is calling us to serve in Jesus’ name here on Randolph Road, in our Cotswold neighborhood, in Charlotte, and around the world. With the launch of our “Providence Will...” strategic plan in May, we gained clarity about what the way forward will look like over the next eight years. It’s a hopeful time to be at Providence.

Over the next twelve months, we will see the first of our “Providence Will...” initiatives start to move from idea to implementation. That’s exciting. It’s fun to be part of a church that’s on the move. Getting from where we are to where God wants us to be, though, is going to require each one of us to make some sacrifices. Rarely does the Lord call us to do the easy thing. Instead, God’s way tends to challenge, stretch, bend, and pull us beyond what’s comfortable and toward what’s necessary. My prayer is that, in 2019, we will allow God to have His way with us so that we might, together, stand in grateful wonder, waiting to see what He will do next, even as we rejoice about what He accomplished through us this past year.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

2018 Providence on Mission

Adult Mission Trips

Quebec, Canada March 10 - 16
New York, New York October 17 - 21
Lumberton, NC October 21 - 27
Hurricane Relief/ Hunger Relief

High School Mission Trip

Knoxville, Tennessee July 22 - 28
Housing Repair

Student Music & Missions Trip

New York City, June 13 - 17
Hunger Relief

Young Adults Mission Trip

New York City, May 9 - 13
Hunger and Homeless Relief

College Mission Trip

New York City, May 16 - 20
Hunger and Homeless Relief

Did You Know?

Providence Members:

1,986

Sunday Morning Doughnuts Eaten:

2,304

Slices of Pizza Served:

2,460

Meals Prepared by our Kitchen:

14,413

Cups of Coffee Consumed:

26,616

Adult Ministry

As with most years at Providence, 2018 was marked with our members serving others. Whether it was a local effort like Room in the Inn, or an event that helped us serve our neighbors halfway across the globe through Rise Against Hunger, the Providence congregation served as the hands and feet of Jesus. When you count it all together, you will marvel at our outreach, inreach and our commitment to serving others in the name of Christ.

PrimeTimers

Every month our PrimeTimers group offers our seniors an opportunity to share a meal and fellowship together.

PrimeTimers Meals Served - **359**



Adult Volunteering

Altar Guild Advent Decorating -
34 hours

Planted by Grounds Crew -
1,152 flowers

Communion Servers at Waltonwood -
24/year



Rama Road
Children
Tutored -
13/week

Libby Gray Media
Center Hours
Volunteered -
420-500/year

Room in the Inn
Meals Served -
432/year

WMU
Sandwiches
Prepared - **2,012**

Sunday School

Every Sunday, every week of the year.

Classes Offered - **23**

Adults Regularly Attending - **221**

Pastoral Care

Not all outreach is “outside” of Providence. Our team of members and ministers reach out to our elderly and sick, sharing a kind word, a prayer, a scripture, a hug.

Pastoral Care - **91 hours/week**

Men’s Prayer Group

Our men’s prayer group meets bright and early every Thursday morning. They pray for each other, they pray for our church, and they pray for our country. They also write notes to encourage those who need it most.

Prayers Uttered - **Countless**

A MOMENT TO REMEMBER

David Mark Williams and his daughter Sadie made quite the team during our “Rise Against Hunger” event in November. David Mark held the rice bags while Sadie sealed the packages, ensuring the meals were ready to ship. All in all, we prepared **10,384** meals.



Children's Ministry

The Providence Children's Ministry focuses on the spiritual development of our youngest "members." We know the importance of claiming our youngest for Christ and bringing them up in the way they should go. All of our programming is crafted with that singular goal in mind. From singing scripture to learning what missionaries do, we are preparing a safe and scripture-based environment for our children to grow and learn.

Our Children

This is our world:



Providence
Infants
to 5th
grade -
165

Weekday Education Ministry

Infants to 5 years old - **160**

It Takes a Village

Sunday School Teachers - **35**

Missions Teachers - **25**

Weekday Ministry Teachers - **41**

Parents - **300**

Extended Session Volunteers - **598**

Hours Volunteered - **2,692**

A MOMENT TO REMEMBER

RA Racer night is a favorite among Providence families. This year, our students took special interest in the competition. Each student chose an RA to support. Banners were made, cheers were hurled, high-fives were given, and smiles were shared as our students supported our children during one of the most anticipated nights of the year.



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Bible Learning

Hiding Scripture in our hearts is the cornerstone of our ministry.

First Grade Bibles Given - **25**

Bible Drill and
Bible Buddies:

Drillers
Participating -
25

Verses
Memorized - **25**

Key Passages Learned - **10**



VBS

Vacation Bible School is our largest outreach and our most focused effort in Children's Ministry.

Volunteers - **150/day**

Children - **375**

Money Spent - **\$12,000**

Hours Preparing - **300+**



Student Ministry

This past year we have continued to develop our Student Ministry into one that is authentic, formative, relational, missional, safe, and sustainable. We have done this through ministry to students, parents, and volunteers. We give students opportunities to worship, grow in and share their faith, live into God's mission, and spend time in fellowship with one another. We equip and train parents and volunteers to help them understand youth culture and share in faith development. All this happens in and out of the walls of the church, in places created for students to be, think, and do.

Missions

The hallmark of our student mission trips is hard work. We aren't afraid of it. In fact, we thrive with it. Thanks to some serious chaperones, our construction skills are unparalleled.



Chaperones - **14**
Students - **40**
Hours Traveled - **1,472**

Learning

Fusion (Wednesdays) and SNL (Sundays) are filled with activities designed to help our students frame their faith. We launch into games and sing songs, then we break into small groups to really dig in to timely topics. Students are given space to ask questions, offer feedback and live into their faith. Weekly numbers look like this:

SNL Students - **35**
Fusion Students - **25**
Volunteers - **12**

Retreats

Student retreats are essential for spiritual development. Our students are taken out of their routines twice a year, and are placed into an environment prepared for their hearts and minds. We spend time in prayer and faith-building; then students are encouraged to do what they do best—love life!



Chaperones - **31**
Students - **88**
Hummer Rides - **35**

We Must Eat

Our students love food. And our Providence family is gracious to feed us every week! Many thanks to the kind souls who prepare and serve us!

Meals Eaten - **595**
Volunteers - **45**
Sunday School Classes - **5**

A MOMENT TO REMEMBER

Student Minister Dane Jackson, Associate George Mulley, and volunteer leader Sarah Blackwell laid it on the line during the annual YUCK NIGHT festivities. This year, the leadership "raced" down the Slip-n-Slide covered with shaving cream, all vying for the title of "champion." Looks like George won!



Music Ministry

Music and worship are woven deep into the fabric of our lives, and it can lift us into the very presence of God. Consider children singing or ringing bells for the first time. They do not make music for selfish ambition, rather, they offer a pure and joyful sound that leads them towards something more. The Music Ministry seeks to offer the best music, in the best spirit, to the best of our ability, to glorify our God. It is our great hope that the music we offer will draw us closer to God ... and to each other.

Voices Raised in Song



Preschool
(3s, 4, & 5s) -

35

School-Aged
(1st - 5th Grade) -

50

Students (6th - 12th Grades) - **30**

Adults (All Ages) - **50**



Encore
Singers
Senior
Living
Homes
Visited -

8

Instruments Tuned for Praise

Handbells -

3 Choirs

5 Octaves
of Bells

8 Anthems
Performed

48 Rehearsals
Held



Providence
Orchestra -
All Ages:
Trumpets,
Clarinet,
Saxophone,
Trombone,
Baritone, Tuba,
Percussion

Worship Musicians -
Organ, Piano, Guitars, Bass, Percussion,
Saxophone, and Vocals

Music at Providence

60 Anthems Sung

61 Guest Musicians Performed

12 Choral Scholars Supported

250 Hours Rehearsed

150 Hours Volunteered

A MOMENT TO REMEMBER

Each year, Hanging of the Green is one of our most highly anticipated worship services. As is our tradition, every aspect of Music Ministry comes together to offer this service, which ushers us into Advent through beautiful and meaningful worship.



Recreation Ministry

The Providence Recreation Ministry boasts the church's largest outreach opportunity. Most days of the week (especially Saturdays) our campus is swarming with guests who participate in one of our programs. From basketball, to soccer, to Jazzercise and yoga, Providence hosts people of all ages for recreational activities. And don't forget about our special annual events like Trunk or Treat and the Easter Rock Hunt. This ministry touches all of our lives in one way or another.

Soccer



Preschool
Players -
50

School-Aged
Players -
110

Fields Used -
7 days/week

Basketball

We offer leagues for children and adults of all ages.

Gym Used - **7 days/week**

Adults Playing - **60**

Children Playing - **211**

Providence Productions

The 2018 multi-generational production of "Children of Eden" brought in eager members and guests alike.

Performances - **4**



Photo Credit: Debbi Ballard

Annual Events

Our special events draw community and members alike.

2018 Rock Hunt

Grand Prize Golden Rock - **1**

Special Prize Rocks - **6**

Rocks Hidden - **1,200**

2018 Trunk or Treat

Trunks Decorated - **27**

Cotton Candy Cones Spun - **185**

Attendees Welcomed - **450**

A MOMENT TO REMEMBER

Generations abound at Providence and our annual Easter Rock Hunt certainly brings us all together. Here, Pam Stallings, daughter Laurie Bedard and granddaughter Amelia hunt for rocks together. The event is enjoyed by hundreds of church members and community families. It's one of our most beloved events of the year!



Recreation Outreach

70 Men Playing Softball

152 Games Hosted/Year

192 Jazzercise Classes/Year

820 Rec Guests Welcomed/Week

2,496,372 Basketball Dribbles



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With God's Help, "Providence Will ..."

Cultivate Generosity

Nurture trust in God's ability to provide for our daily needs. We will encourage one another to support Providence's ministries and missions with generous financial contributions and through joyful contributions of time, talents, and creative energy. We believe that, in following God's example of generosity, we will grow in our faith and in our ability to share the good news of Jesus in our neighborhood, city, and world.



Make Disciples

Provide high-quality Christian education at Providence in a way that leads to life-changing spiritual formation. We recognize that simply learning what the Bible teaches does not make us disciples of Christ. Instead, we must begin to live differently because of what we have learned in order to become better followers, and more faithful disciples, of Jesus.



Engage Cotswold

Engage our Cotswold neighbors through outreach, service, and hospitality ministries, as well as through our Weekday Education Ministry. We will encourage our neighbors to make good use of our facilities in order to help meet community needs. By engaging Cotswold, we will share the gift of Christian hospitality and invite our neighbors to form ongoing relationships with God as part of the Providence family of faith.



Bless Charlotte

Identify a significant need here in Charlotte that we feel called to address. Our response to this need will serve as the focal point for energizing and organizing the local missions ministries of our church. In doing so, we will provide opportunities for all members of Providence to put their gifts and talents to work, blessing Charlotte and sharing God's love with our city.



Send Apostles

Support and encourage each other to take what we have learned of Jesus and bring it with us wherever we go. We will also continue ministry partnerships with Christians beyond Charlotte and help train those called to vocational ministry. We understand that, in order to be faithful to Jesus, we cannot be focused only on ourselves, but must direct our resources and energy out into the world.



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