

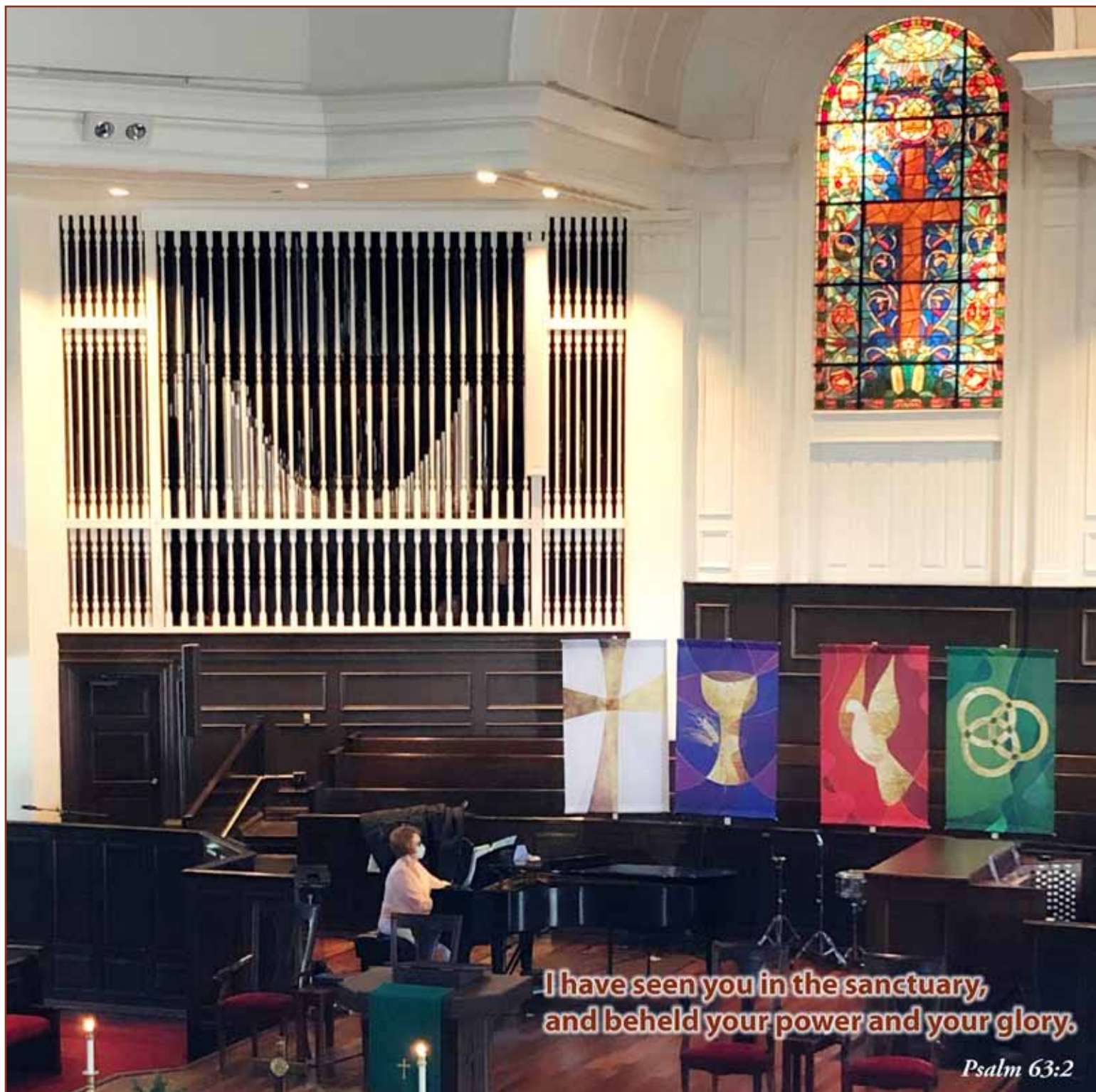
August 1, 2020



PROVIDENCE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Start Here



**I have seen you in the sanctuary,
and beheld your power and your glory.**

Psalm 63:2

Gathering with Gratitude



Lee Canipe

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

The other day I was in a conversation—via Zoom, of course—with a few of my fellow Cooperative Baptist pastors here in North Carolina. We spent most of our time talking about the logistical, financial, and spiritual challenges of trying to be the church in the midst of a pandemic.

We also talked about stuff we’ve tried that has worked—and stuff we’ve tried that *hasn’t* worked. Across the state, it appears that, these days, we’re *all* improvising.

That said, I especially appreciated what one of my colleagues in the conversation had to say about a crucial attitude adjustment he recently made: “I had to shift from thinking about what we can’t do, to concentrating on what we can do.” From what we *can’t* do to what we *can* do. From what we *don’t* have to what we *do* have. From what we *aren’t* to what we *are*. There’s a profound difference between these two ways of seeing the world. The former assumes *scarcity*—and goes from there. The latter assumes *abundance*—and goes from there.

Only one of these world views is biblical. Hint: It’s not the one that comes naturally to most of us.

The New Testament proclaims abundance. Jesus invites us to put our trust in God, on a daily basis for our daily bread. In the book of Acts, we see the earliest Christians joyfully sharing what they have so that everyone gets what they need. The apostle Paul urges us not to worry but, instead, to lift up our prayers to God with thanksgiving.

We’re discovering, though, that a pandemic puts all this New Testament teaching about abundance to the test. These last few months have been hard on everyone—for some more than others—but, in the midst of it, God has been faithful to us. We all have reasons to be grateful, blessings to count, and prayers of thanksgiving to offer up to God.

That’s why we are going to gather for outdoor worship on **Sunday evening, August 9**, to practice being grateful. It’s the best way—the most *biblical* way, really—to reorient ourselves toward abundance and away from scarcity, toward what God provides and away from what we lack, toward faith and away from fear.

Here’s how we’ll do it. We’ll begin at 6:00pm on the softball field. Bring lawn chairs, wear masks, and practice social distancing. We’ll have live music. We’ll sing hymns together, pray together, and listen together. There will be opportunities for us to tell our stories about God’s faithfulness over these last few months (back in the day, we Baptists used to call these stories “testimonies”).

And, for the first time since March 1, we will share the Lord’s Supper together, using safe, pre-packaged, individual servings of bread and juice. It’s been a long time since we had *communion* in worship—but, then again, it’s been a long time since we have been gathered as a worshipping *community*.

I love how Paul makes a direct connection between thankful spirits and peaceful hearts. Indeed, grateful people tend to be joyful people—and joyful people tend to be in tune with the abundance that Jesus promises to those who come to him in faith. This grateful, abundant way of looking at the world may not come naturally to us—but, like any habit of the heart, it *can* be developed.

So, let’s work on it together. I look forward to seeing you, worshipping with you, and being grateful with you on August 9.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

A Service of Gratitude

Sunday, August 9 at 6:00pm

As Christ-followers, we are called upon to always be looking to our God who is still moving and working in spite of—and in the midst of—unprecedented times. To that end, you are invited to join with your Providence family to share in a celebration of gratitude on Sunday, August 9 at 6:00pm on our softball field. As Scripture reminds us, “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:18), we will join together outside, in a safe and socially-distanced context, to give thanks to God for what He has done and is doing even in the midst of COVID-19. Join us as we celebrate in song, in sharing, and hearing God’s Word. *by Allen Schuyler*

Celebrating Staff

Providence is blessed with a talented, passionate, and capable staff. This page is full of those celebrating anniversaries in July and August. We would like to recognize them for doing their part to bring the Kingdom of God to earth. Thank you for what you do for the people of Providence and this community of faith!

DANE JACKSON celebrates his third anniversary on August 15 as our Minister with Students and Their Families. If you've ever spent any time with Dane, you know he is truly called to serve students. He is creative and has a vision for his ministry. He is energetic, fun, and has a wicked practical-joker streak!



Dane Jackson



Rocky Cannon

ROCKY CANNON celebrates 10 years of service at Providence on August 19. While he started out in various part-time roles, Rocky became the Facility Manager in 2013 and transitioned to the Interim Business Administrator in November 2018. Rocky will be retiring this October. We have been blessed by his leadership!

SAM SALLARD celebrates his first year at Providence. He is a knowledgeable custodian who not only serves as a capable repairman, but also ensures our facilities are clean and ready for use. Sam is always smiling and has a happy "Hey!" waiting for anyone he encounters. We're glad you are here, Sam!



Sam Sallard

KIM GRAY is celebrating her second year as the Assistant Director of the Weekday Education Ministry. Kim's smile and infectious laugh make you want to stop and hang out for awhile. She is a hard worker and children are her passion. She and Ursula make an exceptional team!



Kimberly Gray

URSULA TAYLOR celebrates her second anniversary with Providence on August 20. Ursula is our highly qualified director of the Weekday Education Ministry. Ursula puts as much energy into the spiritual development of our children as she does into their safety and well-being. She is a prayer warrior and truly loves the children she cares for.



Ursula Taylor



Tim Hill

TIM HILL celebrates his sixth anniversary at Providence on July 29. As Minister of Music, he oversees all aspects of the Music Ministry. His passion for music and worship is evident in the planning and worship leadership at Providence. His "In Tune with Tim" Facebook Live was a crowd favorite!

EBONY WHITE celebrates her fourth anniversary with us on August 3. She is a member of our custodial staff and is tasked with cleaning and sanitizing our restroom facilities. She is a hard worker and takes great pride in a job well done. Let her know that you appreciate her diligence.



Ebony White



Julia Wright

Last Call for Camps

Soccer Day Camp

For Children
K – 5 completed

August 3 – 7

Cost: \$125

Only a few spots
are available!

E-mail Kristen Hendrix
to register.

khendrix@providencebc.org

Weekday Appreciation

Sunday, August 23
10:30am

Watch online and lend your prayers
and support as we honor our Weekday
Education Ministry teachers and staff.



Rising 6th Grade Event

Wednesday, August 26
6:00pm

See the Student Ministry page for details!
Mark your calendar
for this important event!

1st Grade Bible Presentation

September 2
6:30pm
At the Gazebo

This is a special time
for our first graders,
as they are presented
with their first Bible
from Providence.



Mothers of Preschoolers

Begins September 9
“Decide to Rise!”

Join us for fellowship and education
as we share the mothering journey.

More details to come!

M
this is motherhood

For more information about the Children's Ministry, visit the website at www.providencebc.org/cherish-the-gift.

Openings for Fall

Our 5 Star Providence Weekday Education program has openings available this fall!

We have openings in our Preschool (part day) program for ages toddlers, twos and threes. The program is from 9:00am – 1:00pm.

For an additional fee, families also have the option of enrolling in morning Extended Care 8:00am – 9:00am and/or afternoon Extended Care 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Contact us!

kgray@providencebc.org
or 704.366.4030x129

Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, August 23
10:30am

Please join us for virtual worship on Sunday, August 23rd at 10:30am as we pray for our children, families, and staff for the upcoming school year.



Ursula Taylor



Support for School Age Families

With the announcement that the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) will be operating in an online environment, the Providence Weekday Education Ministry would like to support families and **Bless Charlotte** by offering flexible teacher-led guidance for approximately 40 students. We will utilize the Crouch Fellowship Hall to house the teachers and students, and we will follow the CMS teaching guidelines for virtual learning. Current CDC and public health guidelines will be in effect as they are for our Weekday Education Ministry as well.

The program is offered to students Kindergarten through Fifth Grade, with both full day and school day options available. Group sizes are noted to the right, and are estimates only. These numbers could fluctuate depending upon enrollment at each grade level. Students will bring their lunch, but Weekday will provide an afternoon snack.

We are offering this opportunity from September 1st through December 18th (roughly the first semester), and we need 25 enrolled students to make this program a reality. The August tuition will be prorated by 50%. We will review the viability of the program before moving into the 2nd semester. Providence Baptist Church members are offered \$25.00 off the registration fee. Families may enroll between now and August 14.

Please contact Ursula Taylor if you have questions.
utaylor@providencebc.org or 704.366.4030x135

DETAILS

Weekday Flex Options

***Register NOW through August 14**

One-Time Registration Fee
\$100 (non-refundable)

Full Day: 7:30am – 5:30pm
\$1,000/month

School Day: 7:30am – 2:30pm
\$850/month

Grades and Teacher/Student Ratio

Group 1:	K-1	1:10
Group 2:	2-3	1:15
Group 3:	4-5	1:15

For more information about the Weekday Education Ministry, visit the website at www.providencebc.org/preschool.

Plan and Pivot



Dane Jackson

“Faith over fear.” Many of us have heard the phrase, seen the logos, and maybe even used it as a battle cry in our personal lives. It’s a phrase that requires a posture of trust, especially in this season where we may doubt God’s work in our lives is even happening.

As the summer comes to a close and a new school year is quickly approaching, I have been thinking about that phrase and what comes next for the Student Ministry. I believe this is a time to do a new thing. Many of us are still grieving losses—past, present, and future.

If you are like me, “Zoom fatigue” is a real thing and the thought of meeting on screens instead of in person for the foreseeable future just sounds awful. We are living in a reality with an uncertain future that will require something from us.

I believe that those things are a plan and the ability to pivot.

As we look to meet the challenge of what Student Ministry looks like in the months ahead, I want to assure you that we are focused on making disciples, loving people, and serving. That goal hasn’t changed; and knowing that goal helps us with the plan.

What is the plan? I don’t know yet, but I assure you that George and I, with the help of the Student Committee and COVID-19 task force, will have one soon. We will be taking into account government guidelines, the findings of the church-wide survey, and the church’s policies and procedures. And we’ll be communicating this plan with students, parents, and volunteers in a timely manner.

We’ll also lean into some creative problem solving by thinking missionally and acting strategically. We’ll look for opportunities among obstacles. This is a time for innovation and adaptability.

Most importantly, we will do all this under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. After all, we are a people of great and unstoppable faith and we are being called, in this hard season, to do the work of carrying on. To help with that, may we be able to look back to seasons where we took this posture of trust, seasons where we stepped into believing God and the work being done in this ministry.

2020 Graduates

We are proud of our 2020 high school graduates! We celebrated their accomplishments on Sunday, July 19 with a drive through event, so our church family could wish them well.



*1-r 1st row Ella Mulley, Madi Skinner, Lauren McCraney
2nd row: Viktoria McCue, Helen Canipe, Chloe Ayscue
3rd row: Dane Jackson, Brandon May, Brady Sneed*

For Rising 6th Graders

Wednesday, August 26 @ 6:00pm

More info to come!

Rising 6th grade students and parents are invited to an “Ice Cream Social Meet & Greet” with Dane, Julia and some current students at the Gazebo. This will be your opportunity to talk to students, ask questions and be presented with your 6th grade Bible before the start of the school year. This will be a small gathering intended to make parents and students feel comfortable during the transition. Join us. We want to welcome you!



For more information about the Student Ministry, visit the student website at www.providencebc.org/students.

Summer Mission Project

This summer, our Providence College Students focused on a special mission project called “Little Free Library” and “Little Free Pantry” as a way to Engage Cotswold and Bless Charlotte. They volunteered their time through building, painting, and installing these structures in the Activities Center parking lot, near the soccer fields. Both the Library and



l-r: Ella, Kayla and Lauren Mulley

Pantry will be maintained by the College Ministry as a long term service project to our church and community. The best news is, it’s an easy way to participate in sharing with and loving our neighbors!

What is a Little Free Library? It is a world-wide book sharing movement that builds community, sparks creativity, and inspires readers. It functions under a “take a book, leave a book” system. What is a Little Free Pantry? It is a crowd-sourced solution that facilitates feeding neighbors. This mini pantry is an easy way for neighbors to help neighbors in need of food, hygiene, or paper items. It functions under a “give what you can, take what you need” system. The Little Free Pantry intentionally provides 24-hour anonymous access to

food and supplies (when other options close at specific times).

Both the Little Free Library and Little Free Pantry provide an outreach and mission opportunity for Providence. With the amount of foot traffic we receive in the recreational area from nearby neighborhoods and apartments, plus the added benefit of being located via maps on their websites, it is a great way to include Cotswold, Weekday Education families, and our church members in serving our neighbors.

We invite you to join us as we Engage Cotswold and Bless Charlotte with this initiative.



Caitie Jackson

Drive by and check them out! Swap a book or bring a donation for the pantry following these guidelines:



Bless Charlotte

Foods that are shelf-stable, sealed, unexpired, and able to withstand high temperatures.

Non-food items such as baby wipes and diapers, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, gloves, etc.

Please, no glass or sharp objects.



August Dates

“What’s Next” (High School Graduates Only) – Sunday, August 2 at 4:30pm

While the transition from high school to college is an exciting time, it can also be daunting. This virtual time together is designed to foster open discussion on topics that will help equip high school graduates for “What’s Next.” Our guest will be Sarah Blackwell, who will lead a discussion on conflict resolution.

End of Summer Celebration - August 8 (Get it on the calendar.) Details are being determined!

Safe travels to your campuses and good luck in your courses! Your Providence Family is praying for you!

For more information about the College Ministry, visit the website at www.providencebc.org/college.

Zoom Fall Book Study

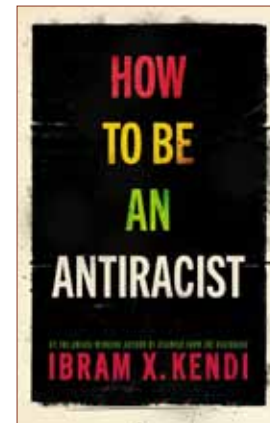


Blake Kendrick

Blake Kendrick will lead a 5-session study of Ibram Kendi's book entitled "How to Be An Antiracist." This book can be purchased online.

To sign up, purchase your copy of the book and email Blake Kendrick at bkendrick@providencecbc.org by September 9. Once you are signed up, Blake will email you the ZOOM link. (Need help? Just reach out!)

The first zoom session will be Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30pm. Read chapters 1-3 prior to the first session.



Prayer Retreat

Saturday, September 26
9:00am - 12:00pm



Join us at the McDowell Nature Preserve for this prayer retreat, which will feature a socially distanced morning prayer under a picnic shelter, a self-guided hike

and time of reflection and prayer in the nature preserve, and a bring-your-own-lunch. This event will require a registration, which will open in September. The cost will be \$12/individual or family to cover the cost of the accompanying book: "Daily Prayer." All ages are welcome. The hikes range from very easy to moderately challenging. Make plans to join us!

August Sermon Scripture

August 2: Matthew 14:13 - 21
August 9: 1 Kings 19:9 - 18
August 16: Romans 11:1 - 2a, 29 - 32
August 23: Romans 12:1 - 8
August 30: Exodus 3:1 - 15



Come Play Frisbee Golf

Saturday, August 15
10:00am

Come have fun with your church family! Bring your own discs (any frisbee will do) and wear your face mask. Meet on the soccer field for some intergenerational FUN!

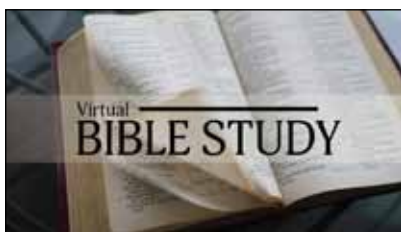
Email Blake to sign up!



Thursday Bible Study

Virtual Study Resumes Thursday, September 17

We will devote 10 sessions to studying the Psalms (September 17 - November 19). In a year like 2020, we need the Psalms more than ever. According to biblical scholar Walter Brueggeman, "The book of Psalms provides the most reliable theological, pastoral, and liturgical resource given to us in the biblical tradition. In season and out of season, generation after generation, faithful women and men have turned to the Psalms as a most helpful resource for conversation with God about things that matter most." This fall, we will continue this tradition as we dig deeper into the Psalms. New videos will be posted to the Providence website every Thursday under the "Adult Studies" tab.



Singing in the Spirit

In his letter to the church at Ephesus, the apostle Paul wants to encourage the people he loves, even though he cannot be with them. His words are full of encouragement and warning. I've often wondered how the church reacted when they heard his words. Did they audibly sigh upon hearing his salutation ... "Ahhh ... we love you too, Paul!" Did they gasp at his warnings? When he tells them to sing Spirit-filled songs rather than songs because they're filled with spirits, did they get upset? As a church musician, I have often quoted from Ephesians 5:

"... but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Paul's point here is not to say sing one type of music over another, but rather, sing to the Lord! As we continue to be apart, we need to – more than ever before – make music in our hearts. Singing together cannot happen right now, at least not in the way in which we have become accustomed. Perhaps we hum along as we watch the service. Perhaps we sing an old hymn with loved ones around the piano. Perhaps we joyfully belt out a song of praise as we cut grass in the backyard ... ok, that last one might have been me. Regardless of the how, what, when, and where ... we must continue to sing and give thanks to God.

As a singer, I never had a strong desire to be a recording artist. Singing in front of a live audience was always more gratifying. The feedback from listeners was immediate and evident. Even when perfection was not attained (it never really is), I knew I could keep singing, finish strong, win them over with a smile. On the few occasions where I have recorded something, I have rarely gone back to listen to my own work – I'm my own worst critic.

Many years ago, a friend asked me to sing a song on an album he was working on. It was a simple Christmas record, one that he was producing as a gift for others. Our goal during the recording session was a "live" feel ... the instruments and vocals were recorded together, rather

than with individual playback. What that meant for me was ... well, "don't mess this up, Tim!" With each take, I would often think to myself, "I could have done that better." But, after a few takes, the recording engineer gave a thumbs up and I was all done. Had I given my best? Would anyone like the song? Well, I had prepared as best I could ... I sang with passion ... I gave my all. So, that was as far as I could go. Ensuring that someone might actually like the song was out of my control.

As we worship together over live-stream, I often feel these same anxieties.

*Is anyone singing along?
Did I choose the right song to tell God's story?
How does my hair look? :)*

Needless to say, I don't always get it right. But, as we continue to seek new ways to worship together, I assure you that we will seek God first in all that we do. Our songs, whether sung together or apart, will be offerings of praise to God, creating space for the Spirit of God to fill and sustain us.

I leave you with two things.

First, you may be curious about what song I recorded those years ago. Well, it was "White Christmas," and I assure you – Bing sang it better. But (and this is the second and final thing) I am strengthened, encouraged, and challenged by these words of Fred Pratt Green:

*When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried Alleluia!*

May the peace of Christ be with you.

Tim




Timothy Hill

A Personal Thank You



Sarah Blackwell

Hello, Providence Family,

How I miss your friendly faces and the words of encouragement you have offered as I have been working toward my Masters of Divinity at Gardner-Webb the last four years! I currently have only five classes (15 credit hours) remaining in my 90-hour program and hope to graduate in the spring of 2021.

I appreciated the opportunity to complete the first part of my required internship at Providence during the fall of 2019. I learned a lot about working with community partners and volunteers as we launched our partnership with Families Forward Charlotte. As that portion of my class work is now complete, I am working with Mike Arim and the Missions Committee to transfer oversight of the partnership to them, where it will be for the long-term. Mike has graciously agreed to be the point-person between the two organizations and will also work with Blake Kendrick and Dane Jackson, staff liaisons to the Missions Committee.

We are off to a great start with this project, and I know the energy and enthusiasm of the volunteers on this committee will lead to even more growth in the coming years. I will be completing the second part of my required internship during the spring of 2021. My plan is to focus more on teaching and writing in the area of spiritual formation.

Again, I am so grateful to Providence for your support of me as an individual, but also our church's support of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). CBF aids our seminaries and divinity schools in a variety of ways that would not be possible without the support of local congregations. It matters so much to me and my classmates! Thank you, Providence family!

2020 CROP Walk

This year, we are doing ALL KINDS of things differently, thanks to COVID-19! The 2020 CROP Walk will be VIRTUAL!

What does that mean? It means you can walk in your neighborhood, around a track, in the woods, on your treadmill. Essentially, you can walk ANYWHERE on October 11 and make a difference in your community by supporting the CROP Walk!

The Providence fundraising goal is \$8,000. Karen and David Miller are our Team Captains this year, and they will be coordinating our church-wide efforts.



Look for more information in the September issue of "Connections." Until then, get your walking shoes on and train for the big day!

CROP Walk Date Announced!

October 11th, 2020,
2:30 pm



Join us on the
Charlotte CROP
Hunger Walk

Facebook Page on
Walk Day to watch a
program filled with inspirational
messages to remind you and your
team why your walking and fundrais-
ing truly makes a difference!

Sympathies

Our love and prayers surround those who have lost loved ones. With sympathy we remember:



- The family of Jane Ebermayer (died June 27)
- Carolyn Taylor, *Ursula Taylor's mother-in-law*, (died July 2)
- Roberta Teachey (died July 3)
- Barbara Horton, *Ursula Taylor's mother*, (died July 4)
- Madielee Hodges, *Patsy Blackley's mother*, (died July 5)
- Ruth Bishop (died July 24)

Welcome Baby



Emery Estelle Nussman was born on June 26 and is the daughter of Chad and Ashleigh Nussman. Her paternal grandfather is Tommy Nussman and her big sister is Kayleigh.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry being used by thousands of congregations to increase care and outreach to hurting people. Through Stephen Ministry, congregations are able to equip and empower a team of lay people—Stephen Ministers—who provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, unemployment, hospitalization, loneliness, divorce, financial stress, a terminal illness, or other life difficulties.



If you are in need of talking to someone—someone who can provide you with one-on-one Christ centered care—or if you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister please contact either Martha Haigler or Bill Griffin.

Stephen Leader Martha Haigler (704.608.7947)
Stephen Leader Bill Griffin (704.651.2569)

A Thank You to Students

This summer, on their own, a group of Providence students researched ways to help not only fellow church members, but also the Cotswold community. Ultimately, the students chose to make meals for homebound, pick up trash along Randolph Road and volunteer at a local construction charity. (One could say their desire to serve runs deep.) Two church members who were helped were Harold and Anne Eddins, whom the students prepared a meal for and visited with (outside). Mr. Eddins was their 4th grade Sunday School teacher years ago, and the students wanted to reach out to “Mr. Harold” during the COVID separation. Mr. Eddins wrote a note of thanks to the students:

Dear Chloe, Helen, and team of caring students,
I am so impressed with you for adjusting to keep both the group safe and those people you came in contact with from COVID-19. Chloe and Helen, it is evident that you spent a lot of time organizing and researching projects such as food preparation for the members of your church and families with physical limitations (such as Anne), Randolph Road Police call, trash pickups, and many others. For many years, I was fortunate enough to have been a part of the 4th grade teaching team for these senior leaders. It was evident then, and more so now, that you think like an Army Ranger – to be mentally tough you have to be physically strong. Drop for ONE–ZERO! HOOAH!

Love, Mr. Harold





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www.providencebc.org
704.366.2784

Minister on Call

Although we are not allowed to visit members in the hospital, and our personal contact must remain at a minimum, we are still ministering, praying and supporting our church family. Please call if you need anything.

Minister on call: 704.366.4030x147

July 28 - August 3: Julia Wright
August 4 - 10: Timothy Hill
August 11 - 17: Lee Canipe
August 18 - 24: Blake Kendrick
August 25 - 31: Julia Wright



Faithful Giving


Please continue to give faithfully . . . our ministries are still very active. Consider scheduling your giving directly through your bank, saving us processing fees.


See all your giving options below:
providencebc.org/why-give

Or mail your gift to:
Providence Baptist Church
Remote Finance Office
5118 Shadow Pond Lane
Charlotte, NC 28226-3217

Next Connections is September 1, 2020.

Deadline for submitting articles, photos, or announcements is **Noon, Monday, August 17th.** Articles should be 350 words or less. Email your submissions to: ssneed@providencebc.org.
Thank you!

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