

February 1, 2021



PROVIDENCE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Start Here



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1

“PROVIDENCE WILL” Keeps Moving Forward



Lee Canipe

The God of heaven is the one who will give us success, and we His servants are going to arise and start building. Nehemiah 2:20

I love the book of Nehemiah. It's the story of what God can do when God's people work together with a shared purpose and a common goal.

For Nehemiah and his fellow Israelites, the task before them was rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem that the Babylonian army had destroyed many years

earlier. It took a great deal of faith and a tremendous amount of work, but that wall got built more quickly than anyone—except, maybe, Nehemiah—believed possible. And when it was done, all the people in the land surrounding Jerusalem were amazed, “for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God” (Nehemiah 6:16).

Almost three years ago, our deacons adopted—and we, as a congregation, later endorsed—a strategic plan to guide the missions and ministries of Providence forward through the next eight years. The plan, called *Providence Will*, established five priorities for our work together as the body of Christ, gathered on Randolph Road and scattered across the Charlotte region. I hope that, by now, these priorities are familiar to you. They are: Cultivate Generosity, Make Disciples, Engage Cotswold, Bless Charlotte, Send Apostles.

Providence Will is an ambitious plan. The deacons who crafted it intended it to be that way. I'm glad they did, because we get stronger when we are challenged. We grow when we are stretched. We become more resilient when we are pushed. *Providence Will* challenges, stretches, and pushes us to become more faithful followers of Jesus and more effective witnesses to God's redeeming, life-giving love. In other words, *Providence Will* is intended to help us fulfill, together, our God-given mission as the church.

Now, as a *Baptist* church, we practice what's called “congregational governance,” which is a fancy way of saying that we decide for ourselves how we'll go about pursuing our shared work as God's people in the world. Every Baptist church does things a little differently. At *Providence*, we've chosen to trust our member-led ministry committees with a great deal of responsibility, not only for overseeing the routine activities of the church, but also for implementing our ambitious strategic plan.

Taking this responsibility seriously, then, the Coordinating Council has identified four specific goals from our *Providence Will* strategic plan to address in 2021:

- Taking the Master Plan generated by Tim Cool and tailoring it to address our current and future facility needs. The finished product will be a multi-phase plan that begins with existing deferred maintenance issues and moves toward renovations needed to support our *Providence Will* priorities. Action on this goal will be led by the Property Committee and the Grounds Committee.
- Organizing innovative efforts to engage our Cotswold neighborhood. Action on this goal will be led by the Activities Committee and will involve collaboration with the Children, Student, Music, and Senior Adult Committees.
- Creating and implementing a plan to establish Families Forward Charlotte as the primary recipient of our local missions funds. Action on this goal will be led by the Missions Committee.
- Educating church members about including Providence endowments in their estate planning, and then facilitating those commitments. Action on this goal will be led by the Stewardship Committee and the Endowment Committee.

These are ambitious goals—which makes sense, because *Providence Will* is an ambitious plan. I applaud the Coordinating Council for taking a deliberate, focused approach to moving us forward along the path our deacons charted in 2018. Next year will bring another set of goals, and by then, God willing, we'll be able to look back and celebrate the good progress we made in 2021.

One of the lessons we learn from Nehemiah, though, is that worthy endeavors are almost always community efforts. *Everyone* has a role to play and a contribution to make. What will yours be? How will *you* help Providence bless Charlotte, cultivate generosity, engage Cotswold, make disciples, and send apostles? Maybe you'll pray more. Maybe you'll give more. Maybe you'll volunteer more. However you choose to make a positive difference, now's the time for us to arise and continue our work together, trusting that the God of heaven will give us success.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

Commitment to the Common Good



As we begin February, all the information about Covid-19 spread in Mecklenburg County continues to be grim. That's the bad news. The good news is that vaccines are becoming available to more and more people each week, which means that we are moving in a positive direction. For now, though, it's crucial that we continue to honor Jesus' commandment to love our neighbors by doing our part to practice safe habits.

Our Covid-19 Task Force convened on January 21 and reaffirmed the safety protocols in Phase 3 of the regathering plan published last June. Our ministers will resume livestreaming worship from our Sanctuary on February 7, in full compliance with the safety guidelines issued by our public health authorities. We will begin to regather for in-person worship in the Sanctuary when these same public health authorities deem it safe for 150 or more people to gather indoors in a movie theater-like space. Right now, that number is 100. Here are the other guidelines now in effect under Phase 3 of our regathering plan:

- Worship remains online only, with services broadcast on Sunday morning at 10:30am and then archived on our website for later viewing. Outdoor worship events remain suspended.
- Church offices are open on a limited basis during the week. Ministers and staff still have the option to continue working remotely. Those working on-campus are observing posted safety protocols.
- Sunday school classes, Bible studies, prayer groups, and committee meetings are still online only.
- Outdoor meetings on-campus are limited to 50 people or fewer.
- Small weddings and funerals are allowed on campus, provided that social distancing practices are followed.
- The Activity Center is open on a limited basis, with guests observing posted safety measures.
- The Weekday Education Ministry and the Oaks School classes are meeting on campus, in strict compliance with guidelines established by North Carolina health officials.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to Ursula Taylor, our Weekday Education Ministry director, and her entire staff, who have worked long and hard to provide quality early childhood education under extremely challenging circumstances. Please consider sending Ursula and her team a note of thanks during February.

There is good reason to believe that, at some point this year, we will happily have many occasions to celebrate the return to something that looks like normal. Between now and then, let's continue to be faithful in our relationships to one another, in our support of God's ministry through Providence, and in our commitment to the common good.

Q1 Conference

Wednesday, February 10
7:00pm ZOOM

The Q1 church conference will be held online via Zoom.

The Zoom meeting link will be published in the weekly churchwide Diaspora email. Conference materials have been posted online. Hard copies are available by request. Simply email Summer Sneed. ssneed@providencebc.org



Minister on Call

Even though we are unable to visit people, our ministers continue to find new ways to support the Providence congregation amid Covid-19 restrictions. If you have a need, please call the number below and be connected to one of our ministers any time, day or night.



Minister on call: 704.366.4030x147

Be A Souper Star



Julia Wright

Sunday, February 7
1:00pm – 2:00pm

Help us tackle hunger in our community by donating cans of soup on the biggest day in sports—Super Bowl Sunday!

This is a **Drive-Through Blessing Event**, so drive through the Sanctuary parking lot to drop off your donation.

We are supporting Second Harvest Food Bank, so just like in years past, this event is for everyone. Drive through the Sanctuary parking lot and drop off your canned goods. (All foodstuffs are welcome. NO glass jars, please.) Thank you for being a “Souper Star!”

Children's Bible Drill

Sunday, February 7
12:00 – 2:00 pm

Join in the Souper Bowl of Caring at the Gazebo and bring your soup donation to the Gazebo. (Lunch provided for drillers.)



Children's Bible Drill continues:
February 14 – March 14
4:00pm – 5:30pm
Rotunda Front Porch

It's not too late; you can still sign up!
Call Mrs. Julia.
704.366.4030x140

Love in Abundance

Jesus is love and a caregiver's affection shapes a child's happiness for life. We all live busy, stressful lives and have endless concerns, but it is clear that one of the most important things we need to do is genuinely express our love for the children in our care. Research over the past decade highlights the link between positive affection in childhood and health and happiness in the future.

Beyond having their physical needs met for food, water, shelter, and hygiene, young children also need plenty of emotional and cognitive support, love, and nurturing. Adult caregivers should make it a point to express love and affection for their children every day. Doing so helps young children to feel safe, comforted, and included in a warm, bonded relationship. Such feelings of security actually increase children's capacity to learn and to develop mentally and physically.

Caregivers can show love to their children in many different ways. Cuddling, hugging, fist bumps and other hand gestures can all be used to communicate physical affection. Families can also verbally nurture their children through statements of unconditional love, such as a daily, “I love you.” Reinforcing words of praise can be offered any time caregivers notice their young children making a positive choice, displaying a new skill or ability, or being loving towards others. For example, Mom can say, “Jimmy, thank you so much for helping us set the table for dinner.” This statement of praise shows Jimmy that he (and his behavior) is important to Mommy. Furthermore, he'll start to internalize such affirmations and they will encourage him to engage in helpful behavior in the future. Love and nurturing can also be shown through thoughtful gestures. Dad can make a point to remember that Katie enjoys helping him whenever he works around the house. By asking her to join him in building new shelves, Dad shows Katie that her presence is enjoyed and wanted.

Overall, caregivers communicate love and nurturing through how they live their own lives. If caregivers keep an upbeat positive attitude, smile, and stay as calm and patient as possible during difficult situations, they will create a peaceful and positive environment for their children, no matter their age.



Ursula Taylor

Ursula S. Taylor

Summer Camps 2021



We will be offering lots of day camp fun this summer!

Day camps are a time for making memories with friends. It is a time for outdoor play, and enjoying yummy ice cream. Your child will experience all of this and MORE in the day camps of Providence.

Our camps are half day with each camp beginning at 9:00am and ending at 1:00pm. Early morning drop off care is available beginning at 7:30am at a cost of \$5.00 per day. Campers will need to bring a lunch and drink each day.

Some of our camp choices for this summer include flag football, basketball camp, soccer camp and MORE. Registration will begin online February 15. Watch your e-mail box for more information!

Bible Buddies

An introduction to Bible Skills For Children in Grades 1 and 2
Beginning February 7
12:00pm – 2:00pm (lunch provided)
Gazebo



Bible Buddies continues:
February 14 – March 14
4:00pm – 5:30 pm
Gazebo

MOPS

We invite mothers of young children to join us for fellowship, education, and support for parenting in these early years. For meeting information, contact:

Erin Young 813-480-2770
Caroline Cuellar 704-942-8549



Teacher Workday



Monday, February 15

We will be closed as our teachers participate in Professional Development and TEAM building exercises. Teachers will learn about self-care and how to manage stress. They will receive instruction on how to implement new practices in their personal lives and procedures to be used in the classroom. Investing in ourselves gives us time to refresh and receive, so that we will be able to give to others out of our abundance.

Current Openings

Providence Weekday still has a few openings!

- Preschool 3s
- Full Care Young 4s
- School Age Flex program



Please call 704.366.4030x129 to learn more about about our 5-Star facility.

Summer Enrollment

Interested in having your child attend our preschool summer sessions? We have openings for children 1 year through 5 year olds. Enroll NOW! Visit our website for more information.

Fall Enrollment

We are in the process of planning for Fall Enrollment 2021. Enrollment will begin in March.

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

For more information about the Weekday Education Ministry, visit the website at www.providencebaptistweekday.org.

We All Need Resurrection



Dane Jackson

The word “lent” isn’t in the Bible, but the concept is. The word itself comes from the Old English and German words for “spring” and “long.” During the 40 or so days from Ash Wednesday to Easter, the days grow longer as we enter into spring. We begin in the darkness of winter and arrive in the brightness of spring. This is what Lent is all about: following Jesus into the hope and beauty of the resurrection. I think that rings truer than ever this year. I’m sure many of you, like myself, are feeling like you’ve been living in an extended period of darkness.

Even if you’re not familiar with Lent, you can probably agree that Easter is essential to the life of Jesus’ followers. It’s the day He came back to life! And because Christ invites His followers to not just hear about the resurrection, but to participate in it, I am inviting students, parents, and really anyone to join me in intentionally aligning our hearts to prepare for his returning.

Do you need a resurrection in your life? Is the stress overwhelming? Are the temptations crippling? Are relationships crumbling around you?

I believe the answer to our struggle is Jesus on the cross and Jesus on the throne. Spring is coming. Easter is coming. Resurrection is coming.

Grace & Peace,

Student Daily Devotions

Journey to the cross is a meditative thought and prayer for each day of the Lenten season.



Looking for a daily devotion geared toward students? Start your mornings right. Visit www.d365.org to sign up.

Let’s Connect

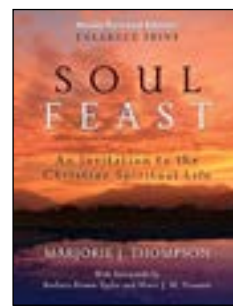


Check us out for daily scripture images and words of encouragement.

Get connected. You’ll be the first to know about all things student related!

Soul Feast Study

We are “feasting” on the Word as together we study Marjorie Thompson’s book “Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life.” Book study participants will gather online to watch a video presentation on that week’s material. Then, we periodically meet via Zoom to discuss the book and build community. The culmination of this 10-week study is an outdoor, socially-distanced prayer retreat.



bkendrick@providencebc.org

ZOOM Session 3:
Wednesday, February 24
6:30pm

Mark your calendar:
Prayer Retreat
Saturday, March 27 @ 10:00am

Thursday Bible Study

Every Thursday, Providence adults are invited to learn and grow together in Christian discipleship. We are in the midst of an 11-week journey through Matthew’s Gospel, retracing Matthew’s account of Jesus’ life and public ministry, culminating with the saga of Holy Week and Easter.



Blake Kendrick

If you haven’t joined us already, consider “tuning in” as we dig deep into God’s Word. Watch for the video link in each Wednesday edition of the Diaspora email. Join at any time and do the study on “your” time!



Make Disciples

Lenten Devotional Available

As you prepare your heart for the crucifixion and the Easter resurrection, consider using “Living Well Through Lent,” a devotional series offered by Living Compass. Copies of the series will be available for those who request it. Just email Blake Kendrick at bkendrick@providencebc.org by Monday, February 15. (NOTE: Why not take part in the “Providence Pilgrimage” as we pair this devotion with a “Living Well” activity. More info on page 9.)



Cooking with Kendrick

Wednesday, February 17
12:00pm

You saw him make “Brunchy Tacos” in January, and now Blake is stirring up some more homemade goodness in his Facebook Live offering of “Cooking with Kendrick.” Watch for these fun cooking “shows” on Facebook every third Wednesday at noon.

For February’s event, Blake will be whipping up some yummy Valentine’s Pancakes, so parents and grandparents can enjoy this recipe with their young ones.



Mark your calendars for upcoming shows: March 17, April 21, and May 19

“Cultivating Faith”

Our very own Natalie Lodato of the Young Adults Sunday school class will be creating seven original pieces of artwork that will be featured during the seven Sundays of Lent.



“Cultivating Faith: A Lenten Art Series” will build upon the theme of an acorn; first it cracks open, then a small seedling emerges, then finally it grows into a majestic oak.

The artwork will move from darker tones towards lighter tones, from “despair” toward resurrection!

We will feature these pieces on our social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram), so follow Providence on those platforms for first looks.

The Production of Worship



Timothy Hill

Over the past year, we have been forced to think about worship in new ways. The things that we once considered necessary for proper adoration and edification have simply been impossible to do as a separated congregation ... well, at least it sometimes seems that way.

We have had to make room in our homes for new holy places, setting aside time each week to connect via screens and messages. Our routines have been disrupted, causing us to ponder what it is to sing, pray, listen, and meditate “together.” And yet worship continues. Worship continues because it is God who calls us ... to lives of worship.

The world has changed. The way we connect has changed. And, yes ... the service of worship has changed. However, worship, at its core, remains ... the work of the people (liturgy) that places God above all things (adoration), and seeks to build up the church (edification) so that the world might be redeemed and restored.

May God give us strength to press on, and may worship move us closer to God and to each other. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Worshiping in new ways creates opportunities for service. As we continue to refine our live-stream platform, helping Providence extend the Word of God *to all the world*, volunteers are needed for the ongoing production of this new arm of ministry. Training for these new teams will begin soon. For more information, or to express your interest in serving, contact Tim Hill. thill@providencebc.org



Ash Wednesday Drive Through

Wednesday, February 17
5:00pm - 7:00pm



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a day of repentance, when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God. Traditionally, we gather for a somber service of

remembrance where we receive the imposition of ashes. This year, we will be offering a drive through event where we will be placing ashes in the shape of the cross on a piece of cardstock along with a special Bible verse. Drive through the Sanctuary parking lot to receive yours.

Sermon Scripture

February 7: 1 Corinthians 9:16 - 23

February 14: Mark 9:2 - 9

February 21: Dane Jackson Preaching

February 28: Mark 8:31 - 38



For more information about the Music Ministry, visit the music ministry website at www.providencebc.org/music.

Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday, February 16
12:00pm

February 16 is Shrove Tuesday—and that means pancakes! Our ministers will be cooking at noon that day live on Facebook, showing off their flapjack skills, and talking about the traditional significance of this day in the life of the church.



Who knows? There may even be Mardi Gras jazz playing in the background! See you at noon on February 16!

Why not find your own pancake recipe and join in the fun?!

“Sharing the Word”

Every Wednesday in Lent
12:00pm
Facebook LIVE



Mark your calendars! Beginning Ash Wednesday, our ministers will pick a reading from the Lectionary weekly to share on Facebook LIVE.

These Wednesday readings will be short and contemplative. We will invite you to “share the Word” with your friends by sharing the video on your social media pages.

Find peace mid-week as you contemplate Scripture and ponder the journey to the cross.

Providence “Pilgrimage”

This Lenton season, the Activity Center is challenging you to care for your body while you focus attention on your spiritual health. We are pairing the “Living Well” devotion (*see info on page 7*) with physical activity.

We are asking you to collectively log miles; run, walk or jog as we journey together on a virtual pilgrimage. This churchwide “pilgrimage” is for everyone! Go for a walk around your neighborhood or come to the church campus and walk on the outdoor track. Participate with the entire Providence family and log your miles (we’ll tell you how in future communications). Each week an update of miles traveled will be announced.



We will be using the “Living Compass Well-Being” model, which helps congregations as they seek to live the life God calls them to in all areas of life—heart, soul, strength, and mind. We invite you to take advantage of the “Living Well” devotion (*more info on page 7*),

so that you can strengthen your faith while you strengthen your body.

Contact Katelyn DeVane to participate. kdevane@providencebc.org

Senior Adult News

Greetings from your Senior Adult Committee!

We met in January via Zoom and started working on what we hope will be an exciting year for our Providence PrimeTimers. As we await the COVID vaccine, we have decided to put safety first and are offering our February and March gatherings virtually. Tune in on **February 18** for “**The Art of Lent**” presented by Blake Kendrick. Viewing information will appear in the Diaspora churchwide email.

The committee is finalizing our March, April, and May programs and details will appear in the monthly Providence *Connections*.

Our two-night trip to the Mepkin Abbey Creche Festival (which was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID) has now been confirmed for December 2-4, 2021. Itinerary, cost, and sign-up details will be available in April. So, start thinking now about signing up for this exciting trip.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our PrimeTimers events for fellowship and fun when we can safely meet again!

Submitted by Wilna Eury

*** PrimeTimer’s Event: February 18 ***
“The Art of Lent”

Sympathy for Loss

Our hearts are united in sympathy and compassion, as we pray for those who have recently experienced loss.

- June Nunn lost her husband, Stuart Nunn (12.22). Stuart was father to Heather Sanford (husband Alex) and the grandfather of Carson and Jacob Sanford.
- George Mackie (1.1)
- Shirley Burns lost her husband, Gene Moore (1.1)
- Dorothea Compton lost her husband, Dudley Compton (1.3)
- Burt Banks lost his father, Thomas Banks (1.13). Thomas was also father-in-law to Kari Banks and the grandfather of Andy, Will, Tom and Kathryn Banks.
- Janie Creech lost her uncle, William “Billy” Henry Woodard, Jr. (1.16)
- Damaris Rivera lost her aunt, Rosa Gutierrez (1.20)



Welcome, Baby!



George Wade Townsend was born on January 14. He is the son of Greg and Margaret Townsend.

What Is A Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide one on one care to those that are experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people in a time of need.

If you sense that God might be calling you to serve as a Stephen Minister, let me encourage you to talk to one of our Stephen Ministers or Stephen Leaders.

Submitted by Bill Griffin



For more information contact
Rev. Martha Haigler.
mhaigler@providencebc.org
or 704.608.7947

Save the Date

Sunday, March 14
6:30pm

“Know the 10 Signs of Alzheimer’s”

Providence is hosting an online event aimed at educating the public on how to recognize the symptoms of this disease. Watch for details in the Diaspora email.



Here for You



Do you need prayer? We want to stand in the gap for you! Martha Haigler cares for our Providence community by

scheduling visits, notifying deacons and praying with those who are hurting.

If you or a loved one are hospitalized or are in need of prayer, please contact Martha so we know how to help!

Contact Martha Haigler.
mhaigler@providencebc.org or 704.608.7947

Keeping the Faith

Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9



Our Stewardship focus for 2021 was “Keep Doing What’s Right.” After experiencing 2020, an unprecedented and most uncertain year, our Providence family truly took our chosen scripture to heart. We received more financial covenants for 2021 than we did in 2020—the first time since 2015 that the number of commitments has increased from one year to the next—and we have achieved 95% of our commitment target. Providence, THANK YOU, for keeping the faith, extending your generosity, and for continuing to do what is right. Blessings!

*Submitted by Jonathan Bensch and Sheila Winborne
2021 Stewardship Co-Chairs*

Being Faithful

We are blessed to have a giving congregation. You have been faithful through the last year, continuing to give despite a pandemic. We are in a new year, and with that brings a new budget. Please continue to give faithfully . . . our ministries are still very active. Consider scheduling your giving directly through your bank, saving us processing fees.

Mail your gift to:
Providence Baptist Church
4921 Randolph Road
Charlotte, NC 28211



Cultivate Generosity

See all your giving options when you visit our website:
providencebc.org/why-give

Church Staff Anniversaries

Debra Motsinger has treated the tastebuds of all Providence people for the last five years (with our Wednesday night suppers), but she recently came on board full time as the Church Chef. Even though she is not preparing food for the Church Family thanks to the pandemic, Debra daily feeds the hearts and souls of our Preschool children with breakfast, snack and lunch.



Debra Motsinger

Stephanie Nivens is our longest tenured employee with 25 years of service to Providence. She celebrated her 50th birthday in July amidst the pandemic. We have missed her smile since the Providence Campus has been closed. Stephanie continues to check in, and is ready to return to work as soon as it is safe for her to do so.



Stephanie Nivens

George Mulley is our Student Ministry Associate and we celebrate his fifth year on staff. George gives 110% to our students. He and Dane make a great team as they care for and minister to our tweens and teens. George is back after undergoing treatment for cancer and we are truly DELIGHTED!



George Mulley

Julia Wright has been the Minister to Children and their Families for 18 years. Even though the pandemic has interrupted a year's worth of traditions (Angel Breakfast, Vacation Bible School), Julia has worked tirelessly to continue engaging children, offering ways to help parents teach them “in the way they should go.”



Julia Wright



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“SuperBowl of Caring”

Sunday, February 7 from 1:00pm – 2:00pm
Drive-Through Event in the Sanctuary Parking Lot



QI Conference

Wednesday, February 10 @ 7:00pm
ZOOM



Shrove Tuesday FaceBook Live

Tuesday, February 16 @ noon
Join us on Facebook





Ash Wednesday Drive Through

Wednesday, February 17 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Sanctuary Parking Lot

Next Connections is March 1, 2021.

Deadline for submitting articles, photos, or announcements is **Noon, Monday, February 15th.** Articles should be 350 words or less. Email your submissions to: ssneed@providencebc.org.
Thank you!

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