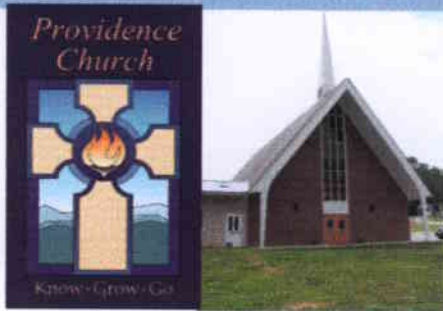


THE PROVIDENCE POST

Providence Church - an Evangelical Presbyterian Church congregation

Located on the Haywood Christian Academy senior campus - 1400 Old Clyde Road, Clyde



Contact us:

Providence Church

P.O. Box 266

Hazelwood, NC 28738

(828) 550-4615

<http://www.providence-epc.org>

Directions to HCA campus 1400 Old Clyde Road

From Waynesville: 19/23 to exit 105, right on Hospital Drive for 0.1 miles, right on Jones Cove Road to end (0.3 miles), right on Old Clyde Road for 0.1 miles, church is on right.

From Clyde: 19/23 to exit 105, right on Jones Cove Road, then as above.

Worship and Church Activities

Sundays

9:45 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:45 am - Morning Worship. with nursery and Children's Church

Thursdays

6:45 am - Men's Prayer Group

February 2014

The Search Process : Part 2

In Part 1 of the Search Process, The Congregational or Church Information Form (CIF) and the Pastor or Personal Information Form (PIF) were discussed. They were referred to as profiles (or snap shots) that were compiled as self assessments. To quote from our EPC information:

"As part of the process of "matching" ministers and congregations, the Office of the Stated Clerk provides resources and advice to both pastors and congregational search committees. To that end, we ask congregations and ministers to complete information forms as an introduction to each other, and a first step in the process of calling a minister for a congregation. For both the individual pastor and the congregation, this is an opportunity for self- study and for evaluation of current ministry and goals. This calls for honesty, effort, and commitment to open communication. The Personal Information Form (PIF) presents the unique skills, gifts, and experiences of a pastor. It is also important to keep in mind that these Information Forms (CIF & PIF) are an initial introduction. The second phase of the process will be more in depth interviews with those who appear to be most compatible with the congregation's vision."

Focusing on Providence and our CIF for a moment, and using the previous statement "this is an opportunity for self-study and for evaluation of current ministry and goals," as a guide. Let's do a little self focus and evaluation. Definitionally speaking our mission is our purpose. Our vision is where we see ourselves at any given time in relationship to our mission. What is Providence's mission statement or purpose for existing? Is our mission broad or narrow and does it have a scriptural basis? What are the vision and goals of Providence? How do we go about formulating a vision or goals? Is it the responsibility of the new Pastor? The Session? The Congregation? Once formulated and adopted by the congregation - do we have a responsibility to monitor our progress towards them? As an example lets examine Know-Grow-Go which is our most current mission statement in its simplest form. Can the majority of the Congregation

- continued on next page -

Providence Church Divisions

Our Session

Class of 2014

Bob Dresdow - Worship

Pat Inglis - Clerk

Class of 2015

Sam Mitchell - Building & Worship

Class of 2016

Luann Davis - Education

Jim Spencer - Missions & Congregational Care



Music Director

Renee Allsbrook

Sunday Morning Prayer

The session would like us to gather regularly to pray for God's guidance and wisdom as we venture into His call for us as a church. Specifically, we would like to pray for:

- 1) Providence church
- 2) Search committee
- 3) Call of new pastor
- 4) Call of interim pastor
- 5) Session
- 6) Pastor Josh, Sara, & the kids

When: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Where: Media center back by the Sunday school rooms

We would like this to be ongoing. As Alan Wildsmith from Presbytery charged us: "pray, pray, pray!" Let's do that as the body of Christ. Hope to see you Sunday.

Humbly seeking Him,

Your Session

articulate its meaning? Would new members or visitors readily recognize and grasp its meaning or purpose? Are we using that phrase as a mission statement or as a slogan? How are we holding ourselves accountable and measuring our progress towards Know-Grow-Go, or any of our goals? Individually are we spiritually maturing in The Faith? Have you ever wondered - Why do we do what we do? Is our mission statement well stated and defined and acting as an over arching purpose that guides us and all of our actions and activities, or are we just going thru the motions of being "a Church"? Was Providence established with the purpose of being another small church in Haywood County? If not, how do we go about sharing the Good News of the Gospel with others and having them want to join us in our mission? How do we make Providence and its mission relevant in all of our lives? These are questions for all of us to reflect on when performing our self study.

Shining the light of self study on our budget for a moment. Potential candidates will have our current and previous budgets as a study tool. Most of us would probably agree that the Works or Deeds that proceed from our Faith speak louder than our words. Candidates can study our resources, and how we allocate those resources. What is the condition of our facility (even if leased)? Does the facility have the ability to accommodate growth? Do we desire to grow? Is Providence entirely self focused or does it have an external focus such as missions and other out reach programs?

Why all of these probing questions about our vision and our goals? If we agree that God is calling a pastor with the "unique skills, gifts and experiences", that will help lead us in achieving our goals, vision or mission, then clearly defining and articulating the Providence mission, will make it easier for us to recognize and identify who that person is. The Search Committee will soon complete and post the Providence CIF. Potential candidates will then start reviewing our CIF and making assessments about us as a congregation and the position we have available. After much prayer, those sensing a call will complete and send in their PIFs - "the initial introduction. The second phase of the Search Committee process will be, with much prayer, reviewing and the narrowing of the candidates to those who appear to be most compatible with the congregations vision."

In Part 3 we will continue the discussion about the Search Process starting with the narrowing of the candidates.

Thanks For Listening

Thom

Thoughts About God's Vision for Providence Church

May God grant you peace and joy and may we be united in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. During this time of transition between pastors we all realize how important it is for us to seek God's will for Providence Church. Just this morning LuAnn Davis sent me an article from Michael Youssef, entitled Prepare to Receive God's Vision. The timing could not have been more perfect. That's just like God isn't it ...to be there at the right time? The article was confirmation that I was to write on what has been on my heart for some time -- God's vision. As I listen to others pray, the words "God's vision" continue to be spoken. I must conclude that we should be praying about what God wants for our church and what is His vision. Yes we know that God has a person in mind for our new pastor and we trust Him to bring that to fruition. But I believe there is much more that we should be seeking from God. To be honest I don't understand completely what those things are, but I continue to get a sense that our vision revolves around our community ministry.

Our Session has talked about growth, not for the sake of growth in numbers alone, but to minister to the lost and needy and to truly seek God's will in the lives of others around us. Yes we are involved in local and foreign missions and give a high percentage of our offerings to those organizations seeking to minister to others. But what would Jesus desire for us to accomplish in our community for the kingdom? Jesus says we are to be a light in the darkness. Do we let our light shine as a church? Do we share our love for each other with our community so they can see that we truly have the love of Christ in us? "For God, who said, Let there be light in the darkness, has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:6.

As Michael Youssef quoted in his article: "The word for "call" in this verse means to do so continuously. We are commanded to ask continuously until God reveals His vision to us. Persistence teaches us to rely on God while He is shaping our hearts to delight in Him. God does a wonderful work in us when we seek His will. As we seek Him for His will, we learn who He is and we begin to delight in Him and His will rather than our own. As He becomes the desire of our hearts, we are aligned and ready to receive His will and vision for our lives."

As I desperately try to separate my life from the "world" and to seek a more spiritual life of commitment to our Lord, I trust God will connect me with those needing His love. Please join the Session in continual prayer asking God to reveal His vision for Providence Church.

I remain in His Service,

Jim Spencer

Pulpit Supply Information

**February 2nd - Edward Brouwer- 828-669-7577;
edward.brouwer@cccmtreat.org**

**February 9th - Brian Thomas - 256-762-8118;
brian.thomas@ruf.org**

February 16th - Brian Thomas

**February 23rd - Dane Boyer (tentative) -
busyboyers@yahoo.com**

Providence Happenings



*Mr. & Mrs. James E. White, Jr.
request you to share in their joy
as their daughter*

Kristin Blair White

writes in Christ with

Taylor Patton Cook

*son of Mr. & Mrs. Wally Cook
on Saturday, March first, Two Thousand Fourteen
At one o'clock in the afternoon*

*Ceremony will be held at
Calabash Presbyterian Church
8820 Old Georgetown Rd NW,
Forest Beach, NC 28468
Reception to follow in fellowship hall*

Please Ring to 910-368-5314

*Providence will host a reception for
Kristin and Taylor later in March.*



Baby Shower

*A baby shower for Khristina and
Dakota Meissner will be held in the
fellowship hall following worship on
Sunday, February 9th. Heavy
hors d'oeuvres will be served.
Khristina and Dakota are expecting
a girl, and are registered at
Babies R Us and WalMart.*



Note from Youth for Christ

Dear Ministry Partner,

Thank you so much for your part in making 2013 a great ministry year. During just the past four months 5 students have dedicated their lives to Christ, 14 have rededicated their lives to a closer walk with Christ.

During our December 30th trip to the Fun Depot in Asheville all 33 students completed their forms stating that they would strive to Obey and Love, and that they would work to find a Bible Study they could participate in.

This year we were able to help over half of the students with the cost of their trip to the depot.

None of this would have happen without committed partners such as you. I am very grateful to each of you, and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

May our God greatly bless each of you in 2014!

In Christ's Love,
Hugh
Hugh H. Constance, Jr.
Executive Director
(828) 421-4304

Planning Meeting

The Congregational Care committee will meet following worship this Sunday, February 2nd, to make plans for a shower and a reception. Everyone interested in helping with the planning is welcome.



Mission News



Mideast Update - Highlights of 2013

We wanted to share some of highlights of 2013 as we live and serve here in the Middle East. We are so thankful the ways you care about us...so this might give you some insight into our lives.

*** God has protected!** We can't write details...but we felt pressures this year as we work in a country without religious freedom. Our names were under scrutiny because of connections with those who have chosen to follow Jesus. We don't feel any fear, but we know His banner is over us.

*** God has sustained!** Our co-workers and neighbors had a devastating house fire. They escaped with only one broken arm. The community gathered, and repaired their house in one week, opening powerful doors for the gospel to be proclaimed. A week later, their son chopped off his finger tip...and the Lord has completely healed that finger.

*** God has been a friend!** All the time, we have friends that come and go from our lives. Our girls constant prayer has been for friends. God has shown us more and more how He is so loving to us Himself. Just when we have felt the loneliness...He has given us good friends and family visits to encourage us.

*** God has shown up!** Last month, a young Arab lady died at 8 months pregnant. She was a big part of our women's program. Lisa was asked to share scripture and pray at her Muslim friend's funeral. God moved and doors were blown open to share how we get to Heaven through Christ.

*** God has been faithful!** He has provided for us in meaningful ways. As one church had to limit their support, the same month another church wrote they were increasing...the exact amount needed. He is the Master Accountant!

It is a privilege to do what we are doing. Our greatest joy is to see lives changed by Christ...and we see Him moving. Pray for more in 2014!

Your friends,

Lance and Lisa



Greetings from Uganda!

Here are our top three praise reports and prayer requests for January.

Praise Reports

Thank God for our Christmas in Uganda with Celeste and the rest of the Uganda team. We enjoyed fun times of fellowship and fruitful evangelistic and discipleship ministry. A special blessing was the arrival of our newest team member, Eva Church, born on December 27, 2013.

Thank God for the progress being made at Westminster Theological College and Seminary. Some major steps toward full accreditation with the Ugandan government have been made. In addition to student body growth, we are pleased to see the development of the campus. The foundation for a much-needed library building has been laid, and further construction is anticipated as the Lord provides funds.

Thank God for His faithful leading and provision in our lives and ministry. Some generous year-end gifts allowed our ministry account to finish the year in the black.

Prayer Requests

Pray for a great beginning to the new school year at Westminster Theological College. Pray especially for Bruce as he teaches an intensive (24 hours in 4 days) seminary course on January 20-23, Ask God to use this Bible Survey course to help students appreciate the unity and diversity of God's amazing Word.

Pray for the ministry at New City Community Church. Bruce continues to serve as interim pastor there, leading the preaching team and guiding the leadership through the strategic planning process.

Pray for humble and teachable spirits among ourselves, our family, the church, the team and the college. Ask God who "gives grace to the humble" cause his grace to abound in us.

Thanks for your prayers and support!

Bruce & Pam Sinclair



January 23, 2014

Providence EP Church
P.O. Box 266
Hazlewood, NC 28738

Dear Friends in Christ:

We are writing to thank your congregation for its generous support of Operation Christmas Child during 2013. The 80 Christmas shoe boxes packed by Providence EP Church will help children around the world experience the love of Christ and begin an individual faith journey that will change their lives forever.

Since Operation Christmas Child began in 1993, more than 100 million shoe boxes have been delivered to needy children in over 130 countries. In 2013, a record 9.95 million Christmas shoe boxes were collected worldwide, with more than 7.5 million from the U.S. (up from 6.5 million in 2012)! For the second year in a row, Haywood County increased the number of shoe boxes it provided by more than 20 percent, providing over 4,500 boxes in 2013.

We look forward to supporting you and your church however we can in the coming year, including a video/power point update at a worship service or special event. Collection week for 2014 will be November 17-24, so mark your church calendar now.

Thank you again for your continued enthusiasm for such a life-changing ministry.

Serving Christ Together,

Bill and Becky Jewell

Operation Christmas Child
Haywood County Volunteers
32 Lark Court
Waynesville, NC 28786
(828) 246-0331

"Now glory be to God who by His mighty power within us is able to do immeasurably more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of - infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes." (Galatians 3:20)

Give God what's right -- not what's left

Benevolence Fund

There is still a need of assistance in the community and in our own congregation. In addition to the minister's discretionary fund, Providence has a benevolence fund to help those in need. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, you can do so anytime and simply mark your gift for "benevolence." If you are in need of some assistance or know someone in need of help with heating, electric bills, medical bills, please let the Session know. Remember, such help is confidential.

Providence Church

Summarized Financial Information December 31, 2013

Revenue

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Tithe/Offering collections | 169,349 |
| Miscellaneous income | 1,513 |
| Designated giving | <u>46,516</u> |

Total Revenue **217,378**

Expenditures

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Revenue over expenditures | 17,651 |
| Prior year bills paid | (32) |
| Bill yet to be paid | 2,709 |
| Accounts receivable/Prepaid | <u>0</u> |

Increase in Cash 20,238

Cash-in-Bank Beginning of Year 217,210

Cash-in-Bank End of month **237,538**

Breakdown of Cash:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Checking Account | 42,674 |
| Building Fund CD | <u>194,681</u> |
| Total | 237,538 |

February Volunteers

Snacks

| | |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| Feb 2 | Jane Ladner, Barb Dresdow |
| Feb 9 | Baby Shower |
| Feb 16 | Rhonda Lear, Eileen Bartlett |
| Feb 23 | Susan Kingshill, Linda Roberts |

Nursery

| | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Feb 2 | Paula Rhodarmer Becky Locker |
| Feb 9 | Rhonda Lear Heidi Davis |
| Feb 16 | Rhonda Spencer Susan Kingshill |
| Feb 23 | Rhonda Spencer Renee Mitchell |

Children's Church

| | |
|--------|----------------|
| Feb 2 | Luke Allsbrook |
| Feb 9 | Rhonda Spencer |
| Feb 16 | Barb Dresdow |
| Feb 23 | Liz Alley |

Set Up/Usher Teams

| | |
|---------|---|
| Week 1: | Bob Dresdow, Jane Ladner, Wally & Toni Cook |
| Week 2: | Jim & Rhonda Spencer, Bill White |
| Week 3: | Pat Inglis, Mike & Eleonore Shelton |
| Week 4: | Sam Mitchell, Mike & Rhonda Edwards Lear |
| Week 5: | LuAnn Davis, Sam & Renee Mitchell |

February 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 10:45 AM Holy Communion 12:00 PM Cong Care Committee | 3 | 4 Curt Sevig | 5 | 6 6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group | 7 | 8 |
| 9 12:00 PM Baby shower | 10 | 11 Samantha McGlone | 12 | 13 6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group | 14 Valentine's Day | 15 |
| 16 | 17 President's Day | 18 | 19 11:15 AM Serving at Open Door | 20 6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group Julia Lizarazu | 28 Nathan Cole | 1 Renee Allsbrook |