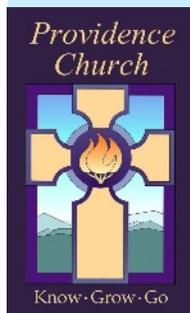


# THE PROVIDENCE POST

*Providence Church - an Evangelical Presbyterian Church congregation  
Located on the Haywood Christian Academy senior campus - 1400 Old Clyde Road, Clyde*



## January 2017

Christmas Day 2016

In "A Charlie Brown Christmas" Charlie Brown laments the commercialization of Christmas. He's depressed and all around him he sees signs of the real reason for Christmas being lost. Even his own sister gets in on the act. Sally asks her brother to write a letter to Santa... "Dear Santa Claus" she says "how have you been? Did you have a nice summer? How is your wife? I have been extra good this year so I have a long list of presents that I want. Please note the size and color of each and send as many as possible. And if it seems too complicated, make it easy on yourself and just send money—how about \$10's and \$20's?" At this point Charlie Brown throws the pad up in the air and exasperated, cries "\$10 and \$20! Aagh--even my baby sister!" to which Sally, a little confused says "all I want is what I have coming to me, all I want is my fair share!" Really? Is that what Christmas has come to? Let us read the account in the gospel of Luke.

Read Luke 2:1-20

Who were these shepherds? They were a rough lot at the bottom of the social chain. Their work with sheep made them smelly, and since it didn't require much brainpower they tended not to be the brightest bulbs in the box. In a court of law, their testimony was barred because they were notoriously unreliable. And yet it was to this riff raff that the angels appeared, with good news. They didn't deserve this honor, but isn't that just like God? To choose the things the world considers foolish to shame the wise and takes the things the world considers weak to shame the strong (1 Cor 1:27) Consider for a moment who the power elites were during those days, consider those who were the educated and the wise...our Scripture sets the stage 'and a decree went out from Caesar Augustus'. The Romans were in power, Israel was occupied. The Romans were the cultural and military might of the day. The Romans inherited many of their ideas about power, success, politics and economic prosperity from the Greeks. All these things were controlled by respective gods. You want economic wealth? Then jump through all the hoops with Plutus, looking for success in war then Mars is your god, you want protection for State and Laws well then Jupiter is your go to god. Pray, offer incense, appease these gods and you will get what you want. The Greek pantheon was remarkable because the people made these gods to look like themselves! They created their idols in their own image! Psalm 135 declares:

The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

16 They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see;

17 they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths.

- continued on next page -

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### Directions to Providence (On 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 the right.

From Clyde: 19/23 to exit 106, right on Jones Cove Road, then as above.

### Worship and Church Activities Sunday

9:45 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:45 am - Morning Worship

Nursery Available

### Tuesday

12:00 pm - Pastor's Circle

### Thursday

6:30 am - Men's Prayer Group and breakfast

3:30 pm - Women's Prayer Group

### Every Other Thursday

7:00 pm Men's Group Study

7:00 pm Women's Group

# Providence Happenings



18 Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them. Who is the wiser? Shepherds kneeling at the feet of Christ or Romans kneeling at the feet of gods they have fashioned for themselves in their own image?

How different then is the way of our God. We are made in His image, and through the great rescue plan God Himself comes in human form, the baby in the manger, God of the Universe humbled to human form, to live and die and redeem humans by becoming human. Was there ever a greater mystery?

Recently I have been put on to a great American author named Flannery O'Connor. Her short stories are brilliant and jarring, and as a devout Roman Catholic she often writes about faith. In her story "A Temple of the Holy Ghost" she writes about a family in the south who have sent their teenage daughters to Catholic school with the nuns in the hopes of reforming them. The twin girls have a younger cousin they are staying with and the story is told from her perspective. To alleviate boredom, one evening the twins' aunt sends them to a travelling County Fair with two boys from the Church of God—trusting they won't get into any trouble. After the fair, the younger cousin asks about the outing and the twins say they had a good time except one "freak show" that was confusing and troubling. They go on to explain what they saw and O'Connor writes "the child felt as if she were hearing an answer that was more puzzling than the riddle itself". Was there ever a greater puzzle or riddle than the Incarnation? The Incarnation is the idea that God became flesh—and this is a mind-boggling mystery—but is harder still to understand the answer to the riddle—which is Christ himself.

The gospel is that Christ came to put an end to the work of Satan and put an end to our own efforts to please God. To put an end to our own righteousness, our confidence in ourselves. Because the gospel is essentially this--YOU will not get what's coming to you, you will NOT get what you deserve! And how does God do this? Through the coming of Jesus and his death and resurrection. HE got what we deserved, HE got what was coming to us. He got the alienation that our sin deserved. And in exchange He gave us life. If we believe this then we are saved! It's a free gift and its called justification—just as if I'd never sinned. But then the next part is the promise that Christ himself comes into our life through the Spirit. We are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. And now we live our lives NOT for our own pleasure and our own satisfaction but for God's glory. In the words of the great Christmas Hymn "O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray, Cast out our sin and enter in, BE Born in Us today! Have you asked Jesus to be born in your heart? Jesus calls that being born again. And those who have, will never regret it. And how will this change you and me? We will have the heart of Christ beating within us, HIS concerns become our concerns, what breaks his heart, will break our hearts! What does this look like for you today? Ask yourself—how am I spending my time, my treasure and my talent? Is it for him or for myself? Run everything, your thoughts words and deeds through a filter of asking is this what Christ in Me wants? The books you read, the news you watch, the work you do, how you spend your time on the internet, what you say to your spouse, how you lead your kids and guide your grandkids? Christ is born. Christ is alive. Christ in YOU, the Hope of Glory.

*Pastor Edward*

## December Session Highlights

- 1) Railing for stage in Sanctuary – Luke Allsbrook reported that we can have a removable metal railing with an oak topper made for \$500. He is hoping that it will be installed by the Christmas Eve service.
- 2) Report of Youth & Family Committee – Luke Allsbrook reported that the youth group is busy meeting at Panacea for fellowship, Sunday School to study the Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis, and Zeke's house for a Bible study.
- 3) Election of new Clerk of Session – Pastor Edward proposed that Pat Inglis serve as clerk in 2017 for one year. Even though she is not currently an active ruling elder, she has served in as clerk before. A motion was made by LuAnn Davis that Pat Inglis serve as Clerk of Session for 2017. After a second by Bob Dresdow, the motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Offering – After a short discussion, the session agreed to place the offering plates out for both of these services. Since no special recipients were identified, all offering received will go toward regular budget expenses.
- 5) Ordination & Installation for new officers – Pastor Edward announced that the Ordination & installation of new officers will be on Sunday, January 8, 2017. Wally Cook and Thom

Morgan will be installed as ruling elders and the new deacons (Jeffrey Alt, Rick Boen, and Will Roberts) will be ordained.

- 6) Open/Close Schedule for 2017 – Ruling elders will follow the current open/close rotation in January of 2017. Any changes that are needed will be discussed at the session meeting in January.

### Providence Church Divisions

Edward William Brouwer, **Pastor**

#### Our Session

Pat Inglis - clerk of session

#### Class of 2017

Phil Inglis

Bruce Kingshill - Finance

#### Class of 2018

Luke Allsbrook

Bob Dresdow

#### Class of 2019

Wally Cook

Thom Morgan

#### Music Director

Renee Allsbrook

#### Administrative Assistant

Barb Dresdow

Providence serves and cleans up at Open Door on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.



To the Pastor and members of Providence Church -

I want to thank all the kind people who helped so willingly to move me, especially our secretary, LuAnn, and so many who came and packed and made the work of moving me so much shorter than it otherwise would be.

I will pray for the church to continue to grow strong. I will remember you. with fond memories,

*Pat Madison*



# Mission News



## End of the year already?

So earlier this fall, Alex was watching a video and got up to use the bathroom. When he tried to exit, the door wouldn't open. What ensued was a bunch of jokes, a call to our landlord, a call to our landlord's friend, an electric saw and 45 minutes later Alex was freed with only minor damage to the door frame. Alex immediately resumed what he was doing, un-traumatized. Oh, the pleasures of a 250 year old building.



Krista's Bible study in September invited a group of the local refugees to participate. They are keen to meet other women and were willing to come to a church to find friendship. The first week was a great success with 4 that came (2 from Syria and 2 from Afghanistan). None of them spoke English or German but we happen to have translators here that speak the languages where they come from. The next week they and their whole community wanted to come, but a scheduling conflict (their mandatory German language classes) kept them from coming. But that second week, a different Syrian lady came alone. Somehow her dad had heard and told her some of the stories of Jesus' miracles in Aleppo when she was a child and she had loved the stories. Now, as she heard them again, she began to weep, and said that she wanted to believe in Jesus! She came back the following week as well. Although we are disappointed that the scheduling issue keeps the others away we know that the Lord provided this time and this freedom with this specific lady for her to make a decision.

A couple of months ago, Courtney felt God stir his heart that he should go to this set of meetings focused on reaching out to Muslims, primarily in the Middle East. Years ago, Courtney had participated but because most of our work focuses on Europe, another similar meeting was a better fit for our ministry. The Lord kept tugging at him, and so he decided to go not really knowing why God had him there. Suddenly it became clear to him that with the refugees now so prevalent in Germany, he can be an incredible connector between people that are doing ministry in the Middle East context and now with people who need to be resourced here in Europe -specifically with Arabic and Farsi resources. God provided abundantly in both connections and resources and he could turn around and share in Europe.

What do these three stories have in common? All three are about freedom.

-- Alex was freed from the bathroom.

-- God created the space for this Syrian woman to have the freedom to respond to Jesus.

-- Your support of our ministry allowed Courtney to respond in obedience to God's call on him to attend this conference. And now many more ministries are connected and resourced with better tools to engage the lost. We're not just about building our kingdom!

Pray with us that all those that are finding themselves in new found freedom will not just return to what they've always done (unless you're a 15-year old watching videos) but that we will all react in ways that maybe counter-cultural and against our norms.

## Notice the Name Change?

Global Youth & Family Ministries (GYFM) is about to celebrate 10 years on mission! Over the past decade, our ministry has developed into an international team of cross-cultural MTW missionaries called to serve the Church...an extensive network of pastors, teachers, families, churches, and advocates for the next generation...and a growing, worldwide movement centered on engaging young people for the sake of the Gospel. In light of this growth & change within GYFM, we have decided to change our name from GYFM to Next.



**E**veryone loves a good rescue story. Meet Margarita, who started attending our church back in February. She's in her mid-twenties and faithfully shows up on Sundays and to a few of our Bible studies. We met last Spring over coffee after she told me she wanted to hear more about Christianity and wondered how to become a follower of Jesus. I have never seen anyone so eager to "get it". She liked the ethics and community of our faith, but didn't see her need for a savior. She didn't have eyes of faith to see the Son of God defying physics, becoming small, growing tall, and dying for her, rising for her, ascending for her, and wooing her. And then she did.

"Andrew, I've been doing my homework", which was to read parts of the Bible, John Stott's Basic Christianity, Tim Keller's Reason for God and attend the accompanying book club led by our teammate, Joanne. "Can we have lunch together? I've got something to tell you". "Could it be?", I thought. It was. "It all makes sense to me now! I now realize that I am a sinner and that I need a savior. And I want to let you know that I've asked Jesus to save me from my sins. So when can I get baptized?" It's not cool to weep in restaurants where grilled meat is being served, but I had to fight it. God rescuing one sinner at a time, right in front of our eyes.

Our eyes? Yes, yours and mine. Those books - I didn't buy them for her. You did. That initial coffee - you helped make it happen. Her changed heart - many of you prayed for Margarita by name. God heard and he answered. He came to the rescue! Thank you for allowing me to purchase books for another seeking young person. Thank you for praying that God would give us courageous collisions with young people. Thank you for sitting with me in the restaurant as I see God do it again.

## Sinclair Uganda Prayer Update



Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights. In this season of lights and gifts, we rejoice in God, the Great Giver. In the past few days we have received two wonderful answers to needs that we have been bringing before the Father for many months.

First, we are delighted to report that New City Community Church has found a new place to meet! We recently signed a partnership agreement with African Bible University to conduct worship services in their beautiful chapel. Please pray for a smooth transition to the new location as we anticipate having our first worship service on New Year's Day.

A second and even greater gift came on Monday of this week. Uganda's National Council for Higher Education approved the licensure application for ARTS (Africa Reformation Theological Seminary). I have the honor of teaching the first class at the newly accredited graduate school of theology next month. Please pray that all of the students from the unlicensed seminary that was forced to be closed last January will resume their training so that they can be more effective workers in the Lord's Harvest.

## From the Krieg's Newsletter

I was driving a couple hours ago down "the 5" (interstate 5 to those of you not in California), and I was praying over our first-ever HIMH event that will take place Sunday night.

At that event, we are excited to share what God has done and is doing with the supporters and people who launched HIMH before we moved back to Michigan.

But as I prayed, I couldn't help but find myself praying bigger--bigger than us. Bigger than the event. Bigger than the span between Michigan and California. I prayed for the big-C church: The Church universal.

There have been too many things that have happened since we moved from CA 1.5 years ago not to look up at God and ask, "What are you doing? Are you using us for something?" We had no home or specific job when we left; all we had was a vague but strong sense of direction. Since then, we have seen God take us this way:

- We went from zero clients to journeying alongside 45 individuals and families this year
- We had no blog following to reaching 31,572 unique people this last year with our site (with over 148,500 hits!)
- We co-wrote a book with a recognized author
- We were featured on two national podcasts
- We are working with people who have a national platform in this conversation
- We have invited two interns to help with the workload
- We have an office
- We are partnering with well-established organizations
- We were interviewed for a national parent/teen DVD curriculum
- We spoke about 15 times to audiences of dozens to thousands of people

What is this?? What is God doing?

All we can say is that God LOVES his people, and he longs to draw ALL PEOPLE to himself. It isn't us. We aren't special in that we have a greater calling on our lives than anyone else. We are simply trying to be two people who raise their hands and say, "Yes, us please!" when God "searches the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him" (2 Chronicles 16:9).

We are trying to faithfully move where his Kingdom is forcefully advancing, and we believe we are supposed to continue here. The harvest is plenty. We simply need more resources to reach people.

Will you join us to help counsel, teach, and write about how the gospel is good for everyone? If you support us already, thank you. Really! We praise God for you every time we see another gift come through digitally or through a check in the mail.

If you don't, will pause right now and ask God if you are supposed to? And if so, for how much? And how often? The best way to give is here and sign up online, or follow the directions at the same link to give in the mail.

To see more ways of how God is moving through testimonies, watch our counseling video here. God is so, so good. And so faithful. Thank you for representing that faithfulness so well.

Thank you. Bless you.

*Laurie (for all of us)*



## Want Ads

Items you wish to buy, sell, trade, or give away may be submitted to Bill White or Barb Dresdow.

**For Sale:** Ford F-150, two new tires, \$14,000. Truck is now in Knoxville. I miss you all. Pat Madison, 865-469-7940.

**Wanted:** Jenny Bryant is in need of a sofa. For more information contact Glenda White (828) 235-1897, or [glendarwhite@outlook.com](mailto:glendarwhite@outlook.com)

## Providence Church Summarized Financial Information November 30, 2016

Tithe/Offering collections	145,545
Miscellaneous income	312
Thanksgiving offering	269
Designated giving	<u>5,274</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>151,400</b>
HCA Renovation Expense	0
Missions	34,593
Church Operating Expenses	<u>157,944</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>192,537</b>
Revenue over (under) expenditures	(41,137)
Prior year bills paid	(2,373)
Bill yet to be paid	0
Accounts receivable/Prepaid	<u>0</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Cash	(43,510)
Cash-in-Bank-Beginning of Year	<u>271,535</u>
<b>Cash-in-Bank-End of Month</b>	<b>228,025</b>
<u>Breakdown of Cash:</u>	
Checking Account	6,046
Savings Account	<u>221,979</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>228,025</b>

## January Volunteers

### Snacks

Jan 1	Paula Rhodarmer team
Jan 8	Jerry Allsbrook team
Jan 15	Susan Kingshill team
Jan 22	Eleanore Shelton team
Jan 29	Men of Providence

### Nursery

Jan 1	Courtney McMillan Eden McMillan
Jan 8	Glenda Brouwer Sarah Altman
Jan 15	Renee Mitchell Charlotte Allsbrook
Jan 22	Susan Kingshill LuAnn Davis
Jan 29	Rhonda Lear Joan Parker

### Counting Teams

Jan 1	Luke Allsbrook/LuAnn Davis
Jan 8	Bruce Kingshill/Thom Morgan
Jan 15	Wally Cook/Sam Mitchell
Jan 22	Bill Allsbrook/Phil Inglis
Jan 29	Bob Dresdow/Pat Inglis

### Set Up/Usher Teams

Jan 1	Luke Allsbrook/Roberts
Jan 8	Phil Inglis/Bill White
Jan 15	Bruce Kingshill/Sheltons
Jan 22	Bob Dresdow/Heises
Jan 29	Thom Morgan/Wally Cook

# January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  10:45 AM Holy Communion  New Year's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 12:00 PM Pastor's circle Carole Torpy	<b>4</b> Michael Lear Sandra McKay Billy Sterrett	<b>5</b> 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group	<b>6</b> Helena Godfrey	<b>7</b> Mary Ellen Fawcett
<b>8</b> Bob Dresdow	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group Malcolm Spink	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Diana Bush
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	<b>18</b> 11:15 AM Serving at Open Door Edward Brouwer	<b>19</b> 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group Margaret Allsbrook Matt Kirby	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Sam White
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Rita Sevig	<b>30</b> Linda Rakes	<b>31</b> 12:00 PM Pastor's circle				