

THE PROVIDENCE POST

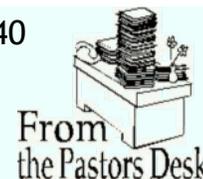
Providence Church - an Evangelical Presbyterian Church congregation
Located on the Haywood Christian Academy senior campus - 1400 Old Clyde Road, Clyde



March 2017

Set clocks forward 1 hour
2 am Sunday, March 12th.

March 1 is the beginning of Lent. This is a time of 40 days where we remember the suffering of Jesus before his death and resurrection. The number 40 has great significance in the Bible and is mentioned 146 times, mostly in reference to testing, trial and purging. The Great Flood saw 40 days and nights of straight rain causing the drowning of every human except Noah and his family. The people of Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness before entering Canaan. Jesus fasted and was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days before entering into ministry. Jesus was faithful to the end, in spite of his suffering hunger, deprivation and Satan's attacks. Since he has led us in victory we rejoice in his completed work. This is the gospel. And yet as we consider him who endured such opposition...in order that we not grow weary or lose heart, let us run the race with perseverance and throw off the sin that so easily encumbers us. It is customary for believers to give up something for Lent. The idea of a fast is intended to focus us more on the Lord and less on our wants and needs and desires. What do you need to fast from? Whatever that is, let us turn from ourselves and set our eyes on Jesus the Author and Perfector of our faith.



Contact us:

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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.

Pastor Edward



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

Session Highlights

The Southeast Presbytery meeting was held in Thomasville, GA, February 3rd and 4th, 2017. Pastor Edward, Phil and Pat Inglis attended. The May Presbytery meeting will be in Knoxville, TN on May 5th and 6th at Cedar Springs.

Diaconate Report - Will Roberts will be Moderator and Rick Boen will be Scribe. The diaconate reviewed and updated existing benevolence guidelines. Suggestions were offered, and they will incorporate these and submit the final version to the Session.

We will celebrate communion at the Tenebrae service on Good Friday, April 14th. There would be no communion on Easter Sunday.

The next session meeting will be March 14th, 2017.

Providence Happenings



July 4th Baseball and Fireworks

Mark your calendars, wear your RED WHITE & BLUE, and reserve your seat for the Asheville Tourists Baseball Game and Fireworks. July 4th of course, tickets are \$11.00 each and we have reserved extra for your friends and family. For more details and to reserve your seat, call TJ Anthony at 230-6501 or

Teresa.anthony@hotmail.com



Providence Church Divisions

Edward William Brouwer, Pastor & Worship

Our Session

Pat Inglis - Clerk of Session

Class of 2017

Phil Inglis - Missions

Bruce Kingshill - Finance

Class of 2018

Luke Allsbrook - Discipleship & Christian Education

Bob Dresdow - Discipleship & Christian Education

Class of 2019

Wally Cook - Congregational Care

Thom Morgan - Finance

Our Diaconate

Will Roberts - Class of 2017

Jeffrey Alt - Class of 2018

Rick Boen - Class of 2019

Music Director & Worship

Renee Allsbrook

Administrative Assistant

Barb Dresdow

Potluck Lunch

Sunday, March 26th, we will have a Potluck lunch following our morning worship service. Bring a dish to share, church will provide the beverages. Use this opportunity to invite someone to worship with us and then get to know us better through a fellowship meal!

WOMEN'S RETREAT

The annual Christ's Community Women's Retreat will be Friday March 10th & Saturday March 11th at Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain. Erica Griffin will lead based on the theme "Enough", focusing on how Jesus is the only One we need. Join us as we gather with a community of believing women to spend time in prayer, in the Word, and in conversation that points us ever back to the One who is enough. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 1 Corinthians 12:9

Friday: 7-9 pm; a light, sweet and savory buffet will be served with coffee and tea. Child care not available.

Saturday 9am-3pm; a continental breakfast served at 9 am. Lunch will be provided. Child care available upon request in the Henry Building.

Registration is open now to March 8th. See Barb Dresdow for a link to registration on-line.

The cost of the retreat is \$25 per person.

Easter Services

Good Friday service at 7 pm Friday, April 14th.

Easter Sunrise Service at Lake Junaluska. Join us Easter Sunday morning (April 16th at 6:30 am) to praise our Risen Lord and watch the sun rise! Following our service, we will continue in fellowship with breakfast at the Lambuth Inn.

Please let Barb Dresdow know if you will be attending so that we can make reservations for the breakfast.

Morning worship service will be held as usual at 10:45 at the church.



Mission News



From the Facebook page of Norine Brunson

I have seen Andrew every Monday for a month now, THANKS TO YOUR PRAYERS!

Last time he told me one of the men had been set free - it was the one who stood up for Andrew when necessary. He said others do not understand his culture (of course) and consider him unclean. Anyway, Andrew really felt his departure and was down.

He was also discouraged about the lack (seemingly) of action from the new administration.

On the bright side, the prison miraculously allowed 10 English books in to him.

Andrew's situation has made our church landlord nervous. He is asking us to be out at the end of March and he wants to sell the place. This is a blow because our location has proven to be a very good one - many people stop by to look inside, ask questions, take New Testaments and books and receive prayer. We need you to pray.

Update from the Luptons

"So you're saying that Jesus gives us a second chance? Oh, that changes everything!" Justin is a high school junior living in Bogotá while his father works in the U.S. Embassy. Last month he pulled Andrew aside during an event at Justin's school and asked if they could get coffee. Everything he thought Christianity was about (i.e. doing the right thing and having a clean life) had been challenged in the three months since he started attending our youth group as we spoke week after week of sin, salvation, and God's grace in Jesus. Christianity wasn't worth following if it meant that he had to live the perfect life. He was failing, like the rest of us. But one afternoon over a cup of fine Colombian coffee, he experienced freedom as he heard about what Jesus did for him. Grace changes everything.



About half of our high school youth group is unchurched. You might even consider some, like Justin's schoolmate, Fernando, antagonistic to Christianity. "I don't think it's appropriate to talk about religion. That's where many of the world's problems come from." Yet, he attends week after week. In fact, Fernando's mother isn't religious either, but she contacted us at the end of the year wanting to know how she could write a check to support the church's youth ministry.

And then there's Sharon, who is really worried about what exploring Christianity might mean for her. She's either going to disappoint her family or her peers. After a tearful conversation, she realized that trying to blend Christianity with other world religions isn't logical. But she also realized that staying apathetic or ignoring the matter altogether isn't safe either. "I have to find the truth."

Why do these students come week after week? It isn't because of the gimmicks. I can promise you that. Aside from the Holy Spirit's pursuit, it seems they attend for three reasons:

- They found a community where they belong
- They found caring and godly adults who regularly tell them that their story matters
- They are allowed to ask life's hard questions and are beginning to realize that Christianity makes sense of the world around them.

Laura Kate and I have moments where we say, "I can't believe we get paid to do this job!". Thank you for sacrificing so that we can stand at the intersection of the nations and the next generation proclaiming the good news of sinners who have a savior named Jesus. Please pray for students like Sharon, Fernando, and perhaps our new brother in the Lord, Justin. Pray that God's grace changes everything for them.

Gratefully, *Andrew w/Laura Kate, Fox, Evie Jude, & Lucy*

McKays February Update

We are continuing to adapt to the transition that defines the lives of most of the refugees here. Perhaps the greatest need is for love and relationship. The brother of one refugee man that we know well shared that he has noticed that it is only the Christians who come to visit and help, particularly in terms of Westerners.

One Syrian man has had his fill of life here, and wants to return to Lebanon where he lived for about 4 years. Little does he know that his two oldest daughters plan to stay here... having begun to be Westernized. These types of cultural clashes are all too common here. There is not enough power in the laws of religion to counter the forces of culture and sin. May His Spirit lead!!

Prayer/Praise:

- home sale in the U.S.
- meaningful local relationships for all of our family
- we are under \$1,300/month for support need
- it is finally above freezing, weather-wise!!



Sandra has begun taking a weekly introductory Arabic course in order to help facilitate our communication. Sam and Ian continue to do well in school, both of them are learning German quickly. Thank you for your participation and support in Engaging the Displaced.

His peace, *Adger, Sandra and boys*

Update on George & Cynthia

Thank-you for continuing to pray for Cynthia and me. My blood work was checked again this morning and everything looked great. There are about 100 things listed on the report, most of which I have no idea what they mean but white blood cell count, red blood cell count, oxygenation, and blood pressure were all excellent.

Cynthia will see a Dr. to start investigating whether or not she has arthritis in her neck and if so is it causing the headaches that she has experienced recently. If it is there, and if it is causing the headaches please ask God to heal her and for the Dr.s to have wisdom in what we need to do.

We do hope to go back in May. From a health standpoint, we should be ready although that depends some on what we find out about Cynthia's neck and possible arthritis. We hope to see our ministries expand, especially Cynthia's teaching of art to more students and ladies and to looking into the possibility of me teaching English.

We do need to raise more support to be able to afford these increases in supplies and for a larger apartment so that we can host more students. Please lift us up for God to put it on more churches to work with us and more individuals to consider supporting us even if only in small amounts. We are not walking in fear with this ahead of us but we really are trusting God to meet to needs for what He is telling us to do. Thank you for your prayers, love, and support!

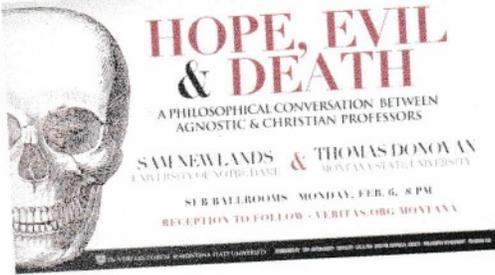
In Him, *George and Cynthia*

Update on Timothy and Emily Bantola

Greetings from Orlando, Florida! That's right, we've moved! We still have about 5% left before we reach our monthly financial goal and can officially report to our assignment. But we have made a big step and, in faith, moved to Orlando in preparation for reporting. We are overjoyed to be here and loving our new apartment and neighborhood. Ephraim started walking in the midst of this move.

We are looking forward to working with operations teams such as the Mongolian Operations Team .Did you know that today there are more churches than Buddhist temples in Mongolia? Religious freedom is written into the national constitution and a Christian television station regularly airs a message of hope in Jesus. We are beyond excited to be so close to starting in our roles in Global Operations, equipping teams around the world to build ministry capacity so that more people can hear about Jesus.

FEBRUARY 2017



Above: About 1400 people attended this year's Veritas forum! Many great spiritual conversations have been cultivated from this night!

Prayer

- Please praise God for the student leaders in their motivation to live our their faith in conviction and love other students with the love of Christ. Please pray that this vision would not die out.
- Praise God for transformed lives of Huiwu, Ambika, and Nataliya. Please pray for their protection and growth in Christ.
- Please pray for our upcoming Men's and Women's retreats (Feb 10-12th and 17-19th)...for freedom from enslavement to sin, and deep bondedness with other students.
- Please praise God for such an amazing turn out and response from our Veritas Forum!



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It Started With Prayer and Fasting...

In Isaiah 58 we read about what true fasting looks like. The motivation of seeking the Lord's face and interceding on behalf of the broken, and poor, and oppressed. This is what fueled us to have us and our 50 student leaders have a 2 day fast together as we started this new semester. There has been a noticeable lacking in spiritual fervor and zeal in our movement, and we are not ok with that. We don't want to be lukewarm Christians. So we fasted together and spent a weekend praying and worshipping, confessing sin, and interceding on behalf of our campus. Our student leaders and we left the retreat filled and invigorated with fresh vision over how God could use us to share the gospel boldly on campus, and be looking for ways to tangibly move toward others with the love of Christ this semester. As a result, we would say that we are full of faith that Jesus is beckoning students to himself, and we want to be part of it more and more. Just this last weekend, two international students, a guy Huiwu from China and Ambika from India, surrendered their lives to Christ. We have a few students (Dave, Emily, Kayla, Caleb, and others) who have devoted their time to investing in international students, over last semester and this semester, and over the weekend, the Lord did a powerful work in their lives. Please pray for Ambika and Huiwu that their faith would remain strong and that they would grow to maturity in their new faith in Christ.

On a similar note, we have had the joy of seeing one of our neighbors, Nataliya, grow in her new faith. Just 2 weeks ago, Nataliya's in-laws came to her house and shared the gospel with her as she was going through some hard things. The next day, her in-laws (visiting from out of town) brought her to E-Free on a day when Matt just so happened to be helping lead worship. With tears in her eyes, she told Matt about how she had fully surrendered her life to Christ and was experiencing the peace of God in the face of all these hard things she is experiencing. Over these past 2 weeks, MeeHee has had the privilege of taking Nataliya through follow-up Bible studies and teaching her the fundamentals of following Jesus. How sweet it is to see God moving all around us. What a privilege to get to see God moving and transforming lives.

Over the next two weekends, we are poised in expectation and hope that God will continue in this saving, transforming work as we pull away for our annual men's and women's retreats. Please pray for students to surrender all to Christ, and to experience true fellowship there!



From the Krieg's Newsletter

God is not limited. He continues to impress on me (on us) that he works with the infinite rather than the finite. The spaces that I am weak, God is strong; the places that I feel out of my element, God has been there before.

Without fail, there will be a time in counseling where I am feeling inadequate. I will sit there listening to the pain and heartache that my client is expressing and know that I do not have the ability to change the situation.

But God can.

We have said for a while now that distance counseling through video conferencing is about 90% as good as face to face, but I need to amend that statement. Because while tele counseling may feel limiting to my human self I need to remind myself that the God I serve is not limited by anything.

Limitless.

God bless!

Matt (for both of us)

With Gratitude:

We have our first Australian client! It's so cool to expand our reach through video chat counseling through Thera-Link. God is not limited!

We are still working with Preston Sprinkle and Clare DeGraaf to hopefully put something together to work together at some level...more info to come on this. It's still exciting no matter what that God is moving in this area.

Matt has been meeting with counselors in the area to train in how to journey well with LGBTQ/SSA clients. It's neat to see him grow as a leader, and for us to learn from others.

For Prayer:

Matt is speaking at the No Regrets men's conference this week. We are both speaking at Wellspring Church in a couple weeks. Please pray for an outpouring of God's Spirit to make all hearts turn to Him.

Laurie is still writing—putting what Matt and Laurie have learned through their experience and practice to paper to train others, and offer material for LGBTQ/SSA people to process on their own.

Thanks for praying for the conference details for our Caring Well conference. God is slowly plinking them in place!

We are starting to help some churches more concretely with how to navigate the LGBTQ conversation and legal pieces. Honestly, we feel over our heads most days, but "he who calls [us] is faithful" (1 Thess. 5:24). We can't; he can.

Keep praying for clients and people with whom we interact online to come to know Jesus more and more deeply.

We are leading Soul Healing groups starting this month. We have both been in groups like this before and grew a lot from them. Pray for us to lead as the Spirit leads, and for lives to be transformed because of Jesus.

Our nation is so divided, and all of us need Jesus. Please, continue to pray for our nation...



Want Ads

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

For Sale: 2'x4' Samsonite plastic folding table. The plastic is light gray. \$10. Call Rita Sevig, at (828) 550-7677 or email ritasevig@gmail.com

Food Assistance

Providence Church continues to collect non-perishable food items for Haywood Christian Ministries. Remember to purchase an extra item when you are shopping, and place it in the box outside the sanctuary door on Sundays.

Providence Church Summarized Financial Information December 31, 2016

Tithe/Offering collections	173,384
Miscellaneous income	318
Thanksgiving offering	269
Designated giving	<u>6,276</u>
Total Revenue	180,247
HCA Renovation Expense	0
Missions	34,897
Church Operating Expenses	<u>176,056</u>
Total Expenditures	210,953
Revenue over (under) expenditures	(30,706)
Prior year bills paid	(2,373)
Bill yet to be paid	0
Accounts receivable/Prepaid	<u>0</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Cash	(33,079)
Cash-in-Bank-Beginning of Year	<u>271,535</u>
Cash-in-Bank-End of Month	238,456
<u>Breakdown of Cash:</u>	
Checking Account	16,471
Savings Account	<u>221,985</u>
Total	238,456

March Volunteers

Snacks

Mar 5	Susan Kingshill team
Mar 12	Eleonore Shelton team
Mar 19	Glenda White team
Mar 26	Pot luck lunch

Nursery

Mar 5	Susan Kingshill LuAnn Davis
Mar 12	Rhonda Lear Joan Parker
Mar 19	Paula Rhodarmer Bob Dresdow
Mar 26	Courtney MacMillan Eden MacMillan

Counting Teams

Mar 5	Bob Dresdow Pat Inglis
Mar 12	Thom Morgan Bruce Kingshill
Mar 19	Luke Allsbrook LuAnn Davis
Mar 26	Wally Cook Sam Mitchell

Set Up/Close/Usher

Mar 5	Luke Allsbrook Will Roberts
Mar 12	Phil Inglis
Mar 19	Bruce Kingshill
Mar 26	Bob Dresdow Jeffery Alt

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5  10:45 AM Holy Communion T J Anthony	6 Abigail Cole	7 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	8	9 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group	10 Penelope Godfrey Bruce Kingshill	11
12  Daylight Savings begins	13	14 12:00 PM Pastor's circle 7:00 PM Session meeting	15 11:15 AM Serving at Open Door	16 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group	17 Women's Retreat at Blue Ridge	18
19	20	21 12:00 PM Pastor's circle Jason Davis	22	23 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group	24	25 Talya Morgan
26 12:00 PM Pot luck lunch	27	28 12:00 PM Pastor's circle Carole Douglas-Spink	29	30 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group	31 Jason Godfrey	