

THE PROVIDENCE POST

*Providence Church - an Evangelical Presbyterian Church congregation
Located at 1400 Old Clyde Road, Clyde*



Contact us:

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[http://www.](http://www.providencechurchwaynesville.com)

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Directions to Providence 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

10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:45 am - Morning Worship with
Nursery & Children's Church

Tuesday

12:00 pm - Pastor's Circle

Wednesday

6:30 pm - Behold Your God

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 Study

October 2018

I have started a series in the New Testament with a study in the wisdom of Jesus' brother James. James writes to us about where the rubber meets the road in terms of genuine faith. It's as though James tells us "talk is cheap, prove that you are a true follower of Jesus by doing the things Jesus did". The epistle of James has 108 verses and more than half pertain to practical tips for faithful living. Words like: watch your tongue, the true measure of faith is consistency between what we say and what we do. Words like: don't show favoritism because God is not a "respector" of persons and neither should you be. I love how James has a theme and it is that God is the giver of all wisdom and that we have a new birth in the Word of Truth who is Christ Jesus. As we continue in the study of this lovely letter, may each of us resolve to serve Christ in Word and Deed in all that we are in our homes, our work, our church and community.

By grace, *Pastor Edward*



Session Highlights

The session spent the majority of its meeting receiving a report from the finance committee regarding next year's budget.

A reminder of the Church Work Day on October 6th from 10 -2 pm. We have a variety of projects to complete as well as some general cleaning, so there is something for everyone's ability and skill set. Please come for any bit of time that you can - many hands make light work! **We will be providing lunch and drinks.**

In planning for our tasks, we are looking for a few items to borrow. If you have any of these items, it would be greatly appreciated. We are looking for:

a carpet cleaner

a dolly (for moving items)

painting supplies (brushes, trays, rollers, drop cloths, stir sticks)

Questions? Contact Deacons Will Roberts or Jeffery Alt.

Providence Happenings



NEWLYWEDS & STUDENT ADDRESSES

We wanted to share the addresses for our newlywed couples and new college student:

Wesley and Emily Roberts
3306 Eastover Ridge Dr. Apt 332
Charlotte, NC 28211

Matthew and Clair Brouwer
6230 St. Regis Circle Apt 202
Raleigh, NC 27606

Boyd Allsbrook
CPO 56
501 College Avenue
Wheaton, IL 60187



Renters to Owners

We recently asked the local Fire Marshal for a walk-through inspection. Here are some of their recommendations for our safety:

*NO EXTENSION CORDS - Corded power strips are good. Multi-plug adapters that plug into existing outlets are ok only if they have surge protection.

*NO PLUG-IN AIR FRESHENERS.

*Nothing should be stored within 24" of the ceiling - nothing on top of kitchen cabinets or too high in pantry.

*Grid system ceilings - nothing may hang from the ceiling.

*All Electrical panels/boxes must have clear access at all times.

*Never place anything in front of pull fire alarms.

*FIRE SAFETY: Currently our pull alarms and smoke detectors are not connected to anyone

outside the building; they are only good for letting us know of a problem when we are in the building. While false alarms are possible, for everyone's safety, if an alarm does go off we



Providence Church Divisions

Edward William Brouwer, Pastor & Worship

Our Session

Class of 2018

Luke Allsbrook - Discipleship & Christian Education

Bob Dresdow - Discipleship & Christian Education

Class of 2019

Wally Cook - Congregational Care

Thom Morgan - Finance

Class of 2020

Vacant

Sam Mitchell - Clerk

Our Diaconate

Jeffrey Alt - Class of 2018

Will Roberts - Class of 2019

Vacant - Class of 2020

Music Director & Worship - Renee Allsbrook

Administrative Assistant - Barb Dresdow

This Month at Providence



Sunday, October 7th, is Communion Sunday



Sunday, October 21st, pot luck luncheon with the Lizarazus

Testimony of Terry Sloan

5 years ago, I was in Seattle calling on Amazon as a National Account Manager for Novartis Pharma. I was a corporate success story! And then I collapsed on the flight home. The plane was rerouted, and three things happened -

My husband Al broke all speed records getting to Charlotte, I was offloaded into an ambulance, which later my insurance refused to pay as it was "out of network", and I lost my job.

It was only the beginning.

Test after test revealed nothing, but my health continued to decline, until one day...Colon Cancer.

Stage 3. 40% chance of survival. No family history, no symptoms, but there it was Surgery, hospital stay, recovery. And then, chemo.

I had every known side effect, and many that weren't so well known. A 6 month treatment cycle took 9. It felt endless.

And when it was over I praised God. I would begin to feel better, and in 5 years, cured! But... I never really felt better. And at 3 years they found another mass. 5 year clock, and everything else, starts over.

Even worse, the test numbers still weren't quite right. All of a sudden I couldn't stand up without help, it exhausted me to hold my arms up ..to dry my hair or change a light bulb. More doctors, more tests, until an unbelievably painful nerve test resulted in a diagnosis of Lambert Eaton. Never heard of it? Me either. 'Cause its' so rare that only 400 people in the US have it at any one time. And I clearly remember thinking - "I know you won't give me more than I can stand Lord, but you're kind of pushing the envelope here." For aside from the fact that it affects your nerve to muscle synapses, it is a predictor. Of cancer. 80% of the people who are diagnosed with Lambert Eaton get small cell lung cancer within 3 years. 17% survival rate. And all you can do is wait.

There were treatments that helped with the LE symptoms - so by now I was up to 12 doctors' in 4 hospitals - I call them my cartel. Al's and my life was an endless cycle of medical jargon and incomprehensible insurance claims. We sold our house to move closer to my doctor's, and I sold a beloved sports car because I could no longer maneuver to access it. Everything was an effort, and a great deal fell to Al, as I just wasn't well enough to do the simplest things. It wasn't the retirement he, or I, imagined!

Then I began to believe I wouldn't get better, and even worse, saw in my doctor's eyes they thought the same. Faith and hope are so intertwined - mine was waning. It had been too much, for too long.

I believe in prayer, but what was I to pray for? That Lambert Eaton remained, and the physical impairment kept increasing? That LE ended, but I was diagnosed with lung cancer? These were my choices - and I felt lost in a swirl of emotion and despair.

So being the Type A, anal personality that I am, I took action- I wrote out my entire funeral service, including music, biblical readings, where the post funeral luncheon would be held, what food would be served, AND even arranged for prepayment. I did however,

- Continued on next page -

manage to leave the eulogy wording to the pastor I selected.

Then I waited.

And as predicted, in July, two years after the diagnosis of Lambert Eaton, a mass was found on my right lung. It turned out it had been there the year previously, but was smaller and was "missed". A decision was made to wait for 3 months, and do another scan to measure growth. Which happened Tuesday. And there was no mass. None. Completely clear, as if it never existed. Praise be to God.

As Pastor Edward said "Hallelujah for God's grace in healing". And that is so true. But for me, God's grace was in my illness. I thank Him everyday for the severity - and multitude - of my diseases.

For through it, I experienced the tireless love that can accompany "till death do us part" in Al's patience and support, which continues today. Being a caregiver can be as difficult as being a patient! I found strength beyond belief .

In friends, but also the joy that comes when mere acquaintances are there for you. And for those who doubt if Christianity is alive in America - time and time again strangers would unashamedly pray on the spot, in the grocery store, in the drugstore, in a parking lot when they found I was ill. Yes, there were those who disappointed, "friends" who perhaps weren't. But in their lapse, MY grace and forgiveness grew. What a blessing!

And during my darkest days, when I thought my faith was extinguished, I was able to reconnect with two amazingly strong Christians, Bob and Barb Dresdow, who brought me through, and brought me here.

And as Christ's love was shared WITH me during my illness, it ENABLED me to more actively share his love with others. My eyes were fully opened, and my heart became kinder. I could see God's hand in my life, and was able to walk with Christ in a way never previously imaginable. I fed and clothed a homeless man, known to me solely because his chemo time coincided with mine. A young Mother who couldn't share her fears with her family, could do so with me in the stillness of a hospital room, and found the strength she needed to cross over in peace. I could be a witness for Christ to a self proclaimed Wiccan - whose beliefs were turned upside down once she realized the doctors' had done all they could for her.

And right here, your precious Jenny, who was so scared and fearful. I was a stranger, but a stranger with cancer. She could believe me, and have peace, because I had already been there, and could reassure her every step of the way.

I am often asked if I was upset about having cancer, if I ever thought "why me". My reply was always "why NOT me?, I'm not special". But today? Today my answer would be "Thank God it WAS me, and I praise Him for the amazing changes it brought to my life".

I'm not well. My immune system is shot, I'm often exhausted, and I can't concentrate. Don't be offended if I ask your name 5 times, for my memory is impaired. But my relationship with Christ is stronger, more alive, and more joyful than ever. It is an incomparable trade off, and I wouldn't change a thing.

For as was promised in Romans 8:28

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."



Mission News



Lizarazus Visit

Hola Amigos! We are happy to share that the Lizarazu family, missionaries in Bolivia whom Providence has supported since our inception, will be visiting Providence October 19 -23. We would love to have you get to know them on a more personal basis so if you would like to host the family for a meal or even a night or two in your home just let Renee Mitchell know. We also hope to be doing some hikes and adventures with them while they are here so watch for further details to join in the fun.

Eric and Emily present an informational session during the Sunday School hour so join us at 10 am . They will also give a short "Moment for Missions" during the service. Lastly, we will have a church wide potluck on Sunday Oct. 21st following the service so please plan to bring a dish and stay for the fall fellowship.



THE OPEN DOOR

The Open Door is a community based Christian organization located in Frog Level, Waynesville. The Open Door provides food, clothing, living assistance as well as encouragement by offering hope and introducing others to a transformed life through Jesus Christ. The Open Door is supported by churches of all denominations, organizations, businesses, and individuals throughout Haywood County. It is through community involvement and support that they are able to feed, educate, and offer living assistance to those in need. From its inception, The Open Door has been known for providing warm on-site meals to those in need and this has been how Providence Church has joined with them in their ministry. We are committed to volunteering the 3rd Wednesday of every month, to help serve the meal, spend time with those who come for a meal and to help clean up afterward. We also help if there is a 5th Thursday in the month by cooking the meal, serving and cleaning up. We are ALWAYS in need of willing hands and hearts on these days. Please prayerfully consider joining us in this ministry.



McKays September Update

After an eventful summer which included our mission group's Family Gathering in July near Athens, Greece followed closely (one day to wash clothes!) by a trip to the U.S. to both the West and East coast regions, we are getting re-established here in Germany. You will be significantly less than stunned to know that we have already had a meal. (what... FOOD?!) with one dear Syrian family and have a coffee/tea meeting tonight with another Syrian.



Sandra has such rapport with several key women that we feel honored and blessed to watch what the Lord is doing in that area. During a recent visit, we asked the wife/mother of some Syrian friends how her summer was. She initially said, 'fine' but her eyes betrayed her. I asked a second time, more forcefully how she was doing and she said, 'nicht gut' (not good) as tears welled up in her eyes. She had lost her second pregnancy in a 6-month period of time. Ironically, we had walked through the first loss with her and she had shrugged it off as the (usual) will of God. Now, the second one had hit a nerve deeper than her fatalistic perspective could fathom. Sandra and I will continue to pursue her and what our Lord is constructing through this pain... covet your prayers!

We also had a chance to visit some Yazidi friends not too long ago and shared some tea with them. The discussion led to the woman (A.) wondering aloud why there is so much fighting and killing when 'we all worship the same God?' We sought to explain in a simple way the differences between our God of love and grace and the M. God whom she was questioning. Yet another seed planted which we trust the Lord to grow into a fruit-bearing plant.

It was a joy and a privilege to connect with some of you this summer... there are some amazing people serving shoulder to shoulder with His kingdom work!! We know that there are more of you that we did not get to see this time. We hope to see you soon!

Prayer/Praise:

- Deepening of core relationships and God's new ones
- New partners toward our monthly shortfall
- Sam and Ian as they are back in school
- Adger restarts German classes next week

We are privileged to love all these people in His Name. Thank you for your love and support! Just a heads up that the World Outreach has revamped the giving process and we will keep you posted.

Adger, Sandra, Sam & Ian

Update from Steve Woodworth with ITEN

West Africa

I just returned this week from a wonderfully productive time in West Africa. During trips to Sierra Leone and Liberia, I spent a week teaching, preaching, meeting, praying, and developing new partnerships.

As I always do when I leave West Africa, I arrived home with a combination of feelings. I never cease to be amazed by the enthusiasm for the gospel our national partners possess. Their resolve and persistence is humbling. And yet, I am equally burdened by the lack of resources, the level of corruption, and the sheer size of the work left to be done.

Despite all of its challenges, Africa continues to become a growing leader in Christianity. As the population of churches being born in this region continues to rise, so does the need for godly leaders who are equipped to minister the gospel with faithfulness.

As overwhelming the challenges feel at times, I continue to be encouraged by supporters like you who have chosen to come into the trenches with missionaries like me to see the Kingdom come to fruition throughout the world.

Sierra Leone

During my time in Sierra Leone we continued to develop our partnership with RBI (Reformed Bible Institute) in the remote village of Rokassa. In addition to providing teaching, our trip this year included the introduction of two new ministry partners.

1. Through a series of providential opportunities, I was able to re-connect with a childhood friend named Cynthia Bauer who is the Founder and Director of a ministry called Kupenda. Her ministry seeks to provide education and training throughout Africa on the issue of children and disabilities. In many parts of the continent, disabilities of all types are still frequently diagnosed as "witchcraft" and are remedied through isolation, exorcisms, abuse, abandonment and even murder. She was able to join me on the trip this year and spent 5 days with pastors, community workers, and educational leaders to cast a vision for ministering to this often overlooked and marginalized population. To learn more about this ministry please click [HERE](#)

2. We were also able to connect one of our ITEN partners from Liberia with RBI. Many of you might already be familiar with Bill Massaquoi, who was educated in the US, worked at a EPC church and then sensed God's call to return to his country of origin. This year we were able to invite Bill to Sierra Leone to teach a course on Ethics with the purpose of introducing him to the leaders of RBI and establish a larger network of national teachers from the area.

Liberia

After starting the week in Sierra Leone, Bill and I traveled south to the country of Liberia where we were invited to speak at a Leadership Conference. During the conference we also had the opportunity to spend the day with Administrators and Faculty members of the Gbarnga School of Theology in Liberia. During our time together I lead a workshop with the faculty on "A Teacher's Identity" while also discussing questions of accreditation, partnership development, and challenges to education within the country.

Prayer Requests

Praise! School has been going incredibly well for our 3 sons. Luke has joined the cross country team and Zachary and Andrew are preparing for swim team tryouts.

The travel season has begun which means jet-lag, scheduling conflicts, single parenting, and living in airports. Pray for grace and peace in our home!

Preparations for my next trip to Albania in just a few weeks.

Strength, God's constant presence, and patience for Carrie and our boys while I am gone

Want Ads

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

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.

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

Providence Church Summarized Financial Information September 30, 2018

Tithes/Offering collections	124,579
Miscellaneous income	<u>483</u>
Total Revenue	125,062
Missions	19,695
Purchase of HCA	151,760
Church Operating Expenses	<u>128,290</u>
Total Expenditures	319,440
Increase (Decrease) in Cash	(194,378)
Designated Givings	1,070
Cash in Bank Beginning of Year	<u>232,330</u>
Cash in Bank End of Month	58,876
<u>Breakdown of Cash</u>	
Checking Account	58,876
Savings Account	<u>0</u>
Total	58,876

October Volunteers

Snacks

Oct 7	Paula Rhodarmer team
Oct 14	LuAnn Davis team
Oct 21	Potluck
Oct 28	Eleonore Shelton team

Sunday School/Children's Church

Oct 7	Renee Mitchell
Oct 14	Phil Inglis
Oct 21	LuAnn Davis
Oct 28	Glenda Brouwer

Counters

Oct 7	Wally Cook Sam Mitchell
Oct 14	Bill Allsbrook Phil Inglis
Oct 21	Bob Dresdow Pat Inglis
Oct 28	Thom Morgan Bruce Kingshill

Open/Close/Usher

Oct 7	Luke Allsbrook
Oct 14	Thom Morgan
Oct 21	Sam Mitchell
Oct 28	Wally Cook

October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Natalie Lawrence	12:00 PM Pastor's circle	6:30 PM Behold your God Jefferey Alt	6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group Rhonda Lear			Alia Lawrence
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:45 AM Holy Communion Edward & Glenda Brouwer	Columbus Day (Observed)	12:00 PM Pastor's circle	6:30 PM Behold your God	6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group Luke Allsbrook		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Kristin Cook Benjamin Davis	12:00 PM Pastor's circle	11:15 AM Serving at Open Door 6:30 PM Behold your God Will & Christina Roberts	6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group Jacque Morgan		Rachel Bacon	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
12:00 PM Pot luck with Lizarazus	12:00 PM Pastor's circle	6:30 PM Behold your God	6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group			Taylor Cook
28	29	30	31			
	12:00 PM Pastor's circle Michael Shelton	6:30 PM Behold your God				

Anniversaries

Birthdays