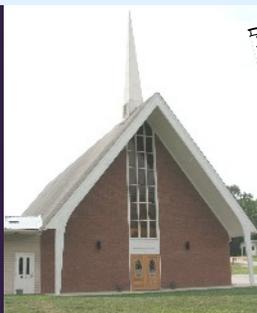


THE PROVIDENCE POST

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



November 2018

Set clocks back 1 hour at 2 am Sunday, November 4th



And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see to it that you are not troubled for these things must come to pass--but that will not be the end. Jesus spoke those words nearly 2000 years ago. In the past 100 years our world has seen the most devastating conflicts of human history. Untold misery, unspeakable savagery, countless lives snuffed out. As believers, regardless of our national citizenship, we are a people of peace because we owe our allegiance to the Prince of Peace. And we know that lasting peace will never come until Christ reigns in all hearts. He is our peace Who has broken down every wall. On Sunday, November 11, the world remembers the sad carnage of World War 1. On the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour, a cessation of hostilities was declared as the "end of the war to end all wars". We remember on that day that human efforts will fail, as seen in the devastation of WW2 and all subsequent wars. We remember also and express our gratitude to God for the incredible sacrifice of the men and women who gave their utmost for their country. As we commemorate this 100th Anniversary of the Treaty of Versailles, let us earnestly, through prayer and gospel outreach, share the hope of the Gospel of Peace to a conflict torn world.

Pastor Edward



Session Highlights

- 1) The session continues to study the book *Becoming a Blessed Church*.
- 2) We have connected with a local realtor to help secure appropriate businesses to lease the upstairs rooms of the education wing.
- 3) Sunday evening Oct. 21 at 6PM we will have an open prayer meeting at the church focusing on discernment of Providence's vision and mission. Everyone is encouraged to come.
- 4) The session continued to work on budget matters for the remainder of 2018 and 2019 as it related to the work directed by the mission committee.
- 5) A report was given from those elders who attended the 105th Presbytery meeting in Rome, GA last weekend.

The session covets your prayers for these items in addition to the work of the nominating committee and the finances of the church.

Contact us:

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

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

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

Providence Happenings



Mark Your Calendars

OCC packing party on Tuesday, **Nov 6th**, at NOON at Providence in the adult Sunday School room. If you would like to bring items to help assemble OCC gifts, you may either leave them in the donation box in the corner of the fellowship hall or you may bring them with you to the packing party. TJ Anthony is going to order some Pizzas to sustain us so please RSVP to TJ by noon Monday, **Nov 5th**.



OCC Shoe box collection Sunday, **Nov. 18th**.

Deck the Halls: Join us on Sunday, **Nov. 25th**, following the worship service to decorate the church for the Advent Season. Grab a snack or bring a bag lunch and beverage and we'll jump right in!



OCC Processing Center Volunteer Opportunity: Millions of shoeboxes are collected during National Collection Week, the third week in November every year. Before these special gifts can bring hope and joy to children around the world, each one has to be carefully inspected and made ready for overseas shipment by volunteers like you.

Who ? : YOU! We have a limited number of spaces allotted to Providence so contact Renee Mitchell (dvm@charter.net) if you would like to go. This is first come/first serve.

When ? : Friday **Nov 30**, 3-7 pm (Meet at Providence with your tummy full of lunch at noon and return around 10 to 11 pm.)

Where ? : Charlotte, NC processing center

How? : More details will be divulged as we get closer to the event.

Why? : Because it is fun... Kind of like being an elf with an eternal purpose!

December

Christmas Meal: A holiday potluck meal is being planned for Sunday, **Dec. 9th**, following morning worship. Turkey and ham will be served and we are asking that you bring a holiday side dish, salad, rolls or dessert. Susan Kingshill is overseeing this event and is looking for help setting up on Saturday, **Dec. 8th**, as well as cleaning up afterwards. Please contact Susan if you have questions or are willing to help.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing at WalMart on Tuesday, **Dec. 4th**, 10 am - 8 pm, one hour time slots. See Bill Allsbrook if you would like to ring.



Christmas Worship in a Stable - The 3rd generation barn loft in Canton. Saturday, **Dec. 1st**, 5:30 pm. Historic barn with singing, Scripture and story, animals, hay bales, special music and fellowship. Free Admission. Please bring a non-perishable food item to place at the Manger.

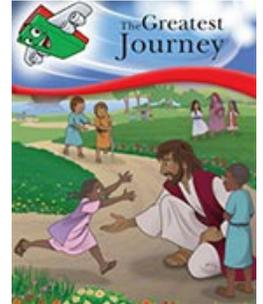


Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

The Amazing Journey of a Shoe Box Gift Begins with **You** and Results in Evangelism, Discipleship, and Multiplication.

After receiving shoe box gifts, many children are invited back to participate in Samaritan's Purse discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. Through this 12-lesson course, which includes Bible stories and Scripture memorization, children learn how to follow Christ in their daily lives as they share Him with friends and family. More than 14.9 million children have enrolled in this program since 2009. So join in and help Providence as we spread the true gift of Christmas this year with children around the globe in over 130 countries. We will even supply the box!



How to pack a box: Start with a quality "wow" item such as a stuffed animal, soccer ball with pump, or clothing outfit that will capture the child's attention the instant he or she opens the box. See our gift suggestions according to age and gender listed below for other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies to fill the shoe box. We have premade boxes at Providence so pickup as many as you will use.

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoobox-suggestions/>Items which are **NOT**

allowed are : **Candy; toothpaste;** gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.



Don't forget to include a short note or prayer to the recipient. Moreover, a picture of yourself or your family will be a special gift which many children cherish. Lastly, a [\\$9 donation](#) per shoebox gift is critical to provide for shipping and other ministry expenses.

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



Mission News



Update from the Luptons

"It's been four years since I've spoken to another Christian and here you are!"

So much of ministry at the intersection of the nations and the next generation is finding ourselves in the right place at the right time, ready to do the right thing as God signals. So when someone told me that there was a sick U.S. Citizen in a remote area of Colombia and asked if I would go and help transport him to hospice-style care, I (Andrew) agreed.



Dan and I sat in a small, hot airport waiting to board our evacuation flight to Bogotá and eventually the States. Dan was slumped in his wheelchair as he told me about his hard life and the layers of terminal diseases that threatened his life, the most violent of which was ALS. Unable to use his arms and hands to reach his face, tears streamed down his face as Dan told me about how he had been saved by Jesus. "It's been four years since I've spoken to another Christian and here you are!"

"There it is," I thought, "the reason I'm here is to listen to Dan's profession of faith and comfort him that he'll meet Jesus face-to-face any day now. We didn't board our flight because Dan had a medical emergency in my arms attempting to do so. A chaotic ambulance ride, a confusing new dialect of Spanish in the ER, even a scary encounter with some of Colombia's famous 'bad guys' were all God's place, God's time, and God's care for Dan. In a sweltering hospital room, two men enjoyed God's promises together from God's Word as one prepared to meet Jesus face-to-face. We can minister to people like Dan at the intersection of the nations and the next generation because of your prayers and generosity. Thank you.

Will You Pray?

Speaking of hospitals, Andrew sends this from one of Bogotá's finest. We are supposed to be serving missionary families this week in Mexico at the Americas' Area Retreat. Instead, I damaged an artery in my neck during exercise and have been hospitalized for a week while the doctors thin my blood to prevent stroke or other life-threatening complications. Please pray for a full recovery over the next three to six months, that the artery would heal fully and that the migraines would subside. Evie's detailed and pictorial instructions for the nurses on how to take care of daddy are a favorite among my excellent caretakers.

Gratefully,

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

THREE PRIMARY BARRIERS BETWEEN LGBT+ PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH

BY LAURIE KRIEG



We feel it intrinsically: there is something different about this conversation than others. We believe that “all fall short, all are loved,” but when we start talking about anything related to the LGBT+ community, we feel the room electrify with tension. Why is that? Why can’t we engage this topic like others? And what is preventing those who are affirming and LGBT+ (those who believe God allows and blesses same-sex marriages) from surrender?

1. Culture

The extremes on either side of this conversation think they have the answer for those who identify as a sexual or gender minority: Those on the extreme right (for lack of a better term) believe LGBT+ people must accept a “heterosexual/cisgender gospel.” It sounds something like this: “Come to Christ, and you will be straight and identify with your given gender easily.” I used to think that way. I used to think I needed to pray the gay away. Now I have learned that the Holy Spirit can empower me to surrender my broken sexuality every day—like He can empower every other person. Those on the extreme left (for lack of a better term) believe the only way to care for those who wrestle with their sexuality or gender is to say, “No more struggle! This is who you are! Love is love.” They don’t consider the definition of love includes “never giving up,” and “rejoicing when the truth wins out” (1 Cor. 13:6,7). It is not loving to hug someone to hell. “True compassion takes into account far more than what a person feels today; it takes into account what he or she will feel on judgment day,” Francis Chan wrote in his incredible new book, *Letters to the Church*, “What some do in the name of being open-minded and compassionate is actually done out of self-love and cowardice. We want to be accepted, so we listen and coddle but refuse to rebuke. If that is love, then the prophets, apostles, and Jesus were the most unloving people to ever walk the planet” (Chan, 137).

2. Shame

Conviction feels like a pinprick on our heart. It sounds like, “What you did right here isn’t worth it. Confess this specific thing.” Conviction happens after we sin. Shame feels like someone shoving our heads in dirt. It sounds like, “Who you are is worthless. Hate yourself.” Shame can enter before, during, and after we sin. It makes us feel worthless for even struggling with temptation. The world says, “Rip off both feelings! Be who you are without limits!” Jesus says, *I died for you (a person made in my image) while you were a sinner (Rom. 5:8). Don’t confess personhood. Confess sin.*

3. Suffering

We American Christians have a poor theology of suffering. Instead of expecting and rejoicing in it, we run from it. We may not all hold to the old health and wealth gospel, but we have a new one: Our prosperity gospel sounds like, “God doesn’t want you to be sad.” Pain at work? Quit. Pain in marriage?

Leave. Pain in singleness? Find your person. Pain at church? Exit. Pain from childhood? Numb out with Netflix. We are weak. *I am weak.* And because we are so weak, when we see our friends *truly* wrestling with their sexuality and gender, *truly* getting mistreated, *truly* wishing they could end their whole life because of *true, sincere, deeply rooted pain* we don't know what to do with them. We've been numbing out on our own emotional painkillers for so long we have nothing to offer them. Except we do. We must collectively learn how to return to the only One who can transform beauty from ashes joy for mourning, hope for despair (Is. 61:3). This transformation does not happen by removing suffering and pain; it happens in the midst of it and *because* of it (1 Peter 4:12-14). This conversation is different, but it also isn't—if we are willing to look with the same gospel lens we view our own lives.

Don't give up,

Laurie—for the team

FOR PRAYER - TOP THREE

1. **Direction.** We sense God bringing us back to the roots of HIMH and the gospel: All fall short. All are loved. We recognize the necessity of speaking into the world's great need right now (the LGBT+ conversation), but we do not want to lose track of the greater conversation about God's good design for sexuality, gender and how it metaphors the gospel story. Pray we are wise in approaching this old/new/bigger direction.

2. **Spiritual attack.** I (Laurie) have been battling discouragement and fear. Some of it is inexplicable, and so I know that is the enemy trying to wipe us/me out as we grow. Will you pray?

3. **Books.** We have a publisher contract for my curriculum I wrote to help people wrestling with sexual brokenness walk without shame and with courage, but we haven't signed it yet. Matt and I sensed God calling us to write a bigger book on Core Needs, and so we proposed that to more publishers. Two are seriously considering this one as our first book. Please pray. If God wants it, we want it. If he doesn't, we don't either.

HIMH BY THE NUMBERS

§ **74%** increase in unique visitors to the website in the last year

§ **10** new podcast guests this season including Gabe Lyons, Jackie Hill Perry, Wesley Hill, and David Bennett. (We are scheduling some incredible guests for the winter including Larry Crabb, Curt Thompson, and more. Look for and share the Hole in My Heart Podcast wherever you get your podcasts.)

§ **28,000** downloads of our podcast YTD

§ **4** consistent, incredible volunteers with HIMH

§ **2nd** Journey Well Group completed by Laurie

§ **56** people regularly pray for this ministry

§ **1** new board member, Gay Kaashoek (Welcome!!)

JOURNEY WELL: TEAM TRAINING

We have been training several churches in the Grand Rapids area to answer the question "how"? If God's design for marriage and sexuality is one man and one woman, how is it possible to walk this out with grace and truth?

Journey Well by the Numbers:

300 people trained

100% of those surveyed would recommend the workshop

100% of those surveyed said they left feeling more equipped than when they began

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.

October 31 Financial Update

Revenue. \$138,859.33
Expenditures. \$165,526.20
Budget Shortage (26,666.87)
Cash in bank. \$50,354.25

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

November Volunteers

Snacks

Nov 4	Glenda White team
Nov 11	Church
Nov 18	Paula Rhodarmer team
Nov 25	LuAnn Davis team

Sunday School/Children's Church

Nov 4	Phil Inglis
Nov 11	Glenda Brouwer
Nov 18	LuAnn Davis
Nov 25	Renee Mitchell

Counters

Nov 4	Luke Allsbrook Bill White
Nov 11	Wally Cook Sam Mitchell
Nov 18	Bill Allsbrook Phil Inglis
Nov 25	Bob Dresdow Pat Inglis

Open/Close/Usher

Nov 4	Luke Allsbrook
Nov 11	Bob Dresdow
Nov 18	Sam Mitchell
Nov 25	Wally Cook

November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4  10:45 AM Holy Communion Ariel Morgan Daylight Savings--set back 1 hour  3	5	6 12:00 PM Pastor's circle 12:00 PM Shoe box packing party	7 6:30 PM Behold your God LuAnn Davis	8 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group Malcolm & Carole Spink	9	10
11 Veterans Day	12 Eleonore Shelton	13 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	14 6:30 PM Behold your God	15 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group	16	17
18 OCC Shoe box Sunday	19	20 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	21 11:15 AM Serving at Open Door Wally & Toni Cook	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25 12:15 PM Decorate for Advent Renee Mitchell	26	27 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	28	29 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group	30 12:00 PM OCC Charlotte processing center	
1 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group 3:30 PM Women's Prayer Group					2	3