

THE PROVIDENCE POST

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



May 2019

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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

10:30 - Women's Prayer Group

Thursday

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

Every Other Thursday

7:00 pm Men's Group Study

7:00 pm Women's Group Study

Today we wrapped up another year of Bible Club at Junaluska Elementary. Every Tuesday at 3 pm. Renee Allsbrook and I have had the privilege of sharing the gospel through words, crafts and our presence for several years in that place. Today was Darcy Tripp's birthday. A happy seven year old. She is always so receptive to our Bible stories and interactions. I got to know her dad several years ago at Faith Community Church's Celebrate Recovery ministry. Since then her dad David and I have become fast friends and because he has recently become a pastor in the area, we've been getting together for support and encouragement every other month for coffee. Here's a quote from her dad: "Darcy has been talking about salvation lately, and we have been having a lot of conversations. She probably still needs more time to fully understand but I am thankful that she has already developed a love for Jesus. She has loved Bible Club, thank you so much for everything you and Renee have done to teach her about our Savior. PS she's excited about next year already!" How amazing that we have a wide open door to share the gospel with kids in our public schools. That's just one story from a Christian home but we also have many kids in the program that are not from such homes. Keep praying Providence! Thank you for your support! And we could always use more volunteers!

Pastor Edward



Session Notes

The Session discussed and prayed about the book *Becoming a Blessed Church*, chapter 7.

After hearing the faith journeys and having been examined by the session, it is with great joy that Jason and Roberta Edwards and Sherry Alvarez will join the fellowship of Providence on Sunday April 14, 2019.

It is with mixed joy and sadness that on March 31st, Gaby Lowell went home to be with her Lord and Savior. Gaby was a charter member of Providence and will be greatly missed.

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Providence Happenings



Please take note of the local ministries and global missionaries we support and pray for them on a daily basis. They are doing what we can't or won't do for the Lord. They can use our prayers and \$.

30 Days of Prayer booklets for praying for the Muslim world have been ordered and will be available on the welcome table before/during Ramadan.

Cortney and Krista Roes will be here Sept 22. They will lead Sunday School and preach, with a pot-luck lunch after the service. Come hear how technology is helping to spread the Word.

The Polletts (George and Cynthia) are starting a new ministry - Murphy Mission - Art classes as an outreach. Information may be found at

<https://www.murphymountainmission.org/>

Thank you

My sisters, Wally, and I want to thank you all for your kindness shown to us in response to Mom's illness and death. Your visits, calls, cards, emails, food, hugs...all wonderful expressions of love and concern, were a great comfort to us. It is a true blessing from God to be part of his family. We love you all.

Toni Cook



Letter from Karen Taylor - Gaby's daughter:

To our friends at Providence Church!
I want to thank you all so very much for the beautiful service held for my mom, Gaby!

Please know how appreciated you all are to me and my family. The music, the words spoken, the food and the hospitality were wonderful!! God bless you all!

Open Door Soup Kitchen

Providence will cook, serve, and clean up at the Open Door on Friday, May 3rd. Please join us to bless and be blessed.

Name Tags & T-Shirts

I would like to place an order for name tags for our newest members and need to know if anyone else has not had one or needs a replacement.

Also, I want to order T-shirts but I need to know who needs one. I have found a few that we can use for determining sizing. Please let me know if you need a name tag or T-shirt.

Barb Dresdow

Ramadan Prayer Guides

The EPC's missions organization, World Outreach, is focused on bringing the gospel to predominantly Muslim areas that have been previously unreached. With that focus in mind, your missions committee is providing prayer guides for use during the Muslim Ramadan beginning May 6th. There are also children's versions available. The guides are located on the missions table.

CHURCH WORK DAY - May 18th 8 am to 1 pm

Four work groups: Landscaping, parking lot, sanctuary, and classrooms. Food and refreshments will be provided. Sign-up sheets in hallway. Questions? See Deacons Will Roberts or Bill Allsbrook.

The Well

Will meet on Monday, May 6th, at 5 pm in the fellowship hall.



Mission News



Update from Albania - Steve Woodworth: World Outreach, EPC

Let me tell a quick story: Two days ago, on Easter Sunday, I was at a nearby lake after our Church service for a baptism. It was a beautiful day. The sun was out, the cold rain that had poured throughout the week before was finally gone, and after celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus, I was now watching a new brother and sister reenact the resurrection and enter into the Kingdom. Even more beautiful was the fact that the couple being baptized were a Turkish man (a former Muslim) and his wife from Thailand, who had heard and received the gospel through the testimony of a member of our church who is from Albania. What a picture of God's global church!

Of all the countries that ITEN (International Theological Education Network) partners with, I have spent the most time in the country of Albania where these conversions from Islam to Christianity are happening more and more. And yet, Albania remains a country whose population is still over 70% Muslim. As evidence of their country's religious identity, the photo is of the large mosque being built in the center of Tirana, Albania's capital. I have watched its construction for years now, and the next time I touch down in this beautiful country, Muslims from all over the Mediterranean and Europe will join with Muslim Albanians in daily prayer within its doors. The mosque serves as a constant reminder that Albania has endured decades of intrusion from outsiders with little space to dictate their own future. But Christianity is on the move, and the Christian leaders we are privileged to partner with in the country are ample evidence that Christ's Kingdom is spreading throughout this beautiful land.



In early April, I traveled north to Pennsylvania to spend time on the campus of Grove City College. While on campus, I taught an evening course on Global Christianity and spoke in their weekly chapel (pictured left). I also had the chance to meet with students planning to be missionaries after graduation as engineers, medical workers, and business leaders. My visit ended with a wonderful night of fellowship, introducing the people of Harmony, EPC to the ministry of ITEN.

Prayer Requests

- A focused season of work this spring as I give attention to things that require more time at my desk than on a plane
- Wisdom and discernment about our new site in Vietnam
- Strength, God's constant presence, and patience for Carrie and our boys while I travel to speak & teach

Summer Camp

Vine of the Mountains Church will be presenting "Created for a Purpose" summer camp for our community this summer, August 5-9. We are partnering with them by offering them use of our building during that week.

It is a creativity camp for rising 3rd graders to 8th graders. The students will be divided by age groups and enjoy learning that they are created by God, in his image, for a purpose. The campers' week will be filled with awesome projects: sewing, cooking/ baking, paper crafting, painting, and building/sculpture; talks; devotionals; and worship. Opportunities to volunteer will be presented in the near future.



HOLE IN MY HEART

MINISTRIES

IT'S *Time.*

If you have even stepped a toe into the LGBT+ conversation you know it can be fraught with pain, sacrifice, and anger.

Many of us don't want to go there as it will perhaps (and inevitably) offend someone to even say one word.

But we must. This conversation has been owned for too long by the shrillest, extreme voices in the church and out of the church. If we want to walk like Jesus and reap a harvest of souls primed to hear a different way, we must study and lean in with grace and truth.

Pastor Jeff Maness of Element Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming first faced his need for deeper introspection several years ago when a same-sex couple came to his church and asked questions about involvement in the church they now loved.

Initially he rattled off answers, but soon he realized more in-depth study was required. He read Preston Sprinkle's book *People to be Loved* and it—along with other resources—convicted his heart. Instead of repeating his beliefs, Jeff apologized and moved into genuine friendship with the same-sex couple.

Jeff did not change his theology, but his deepening theology changed him. *Am I going to argue people into daily surrender of their sexuality? Or am I going to love people like I want to be loved and trust God's sanctifying work in their life—saying only what needs to be said when the Holy Spirit prompts?*

The relationship with this couple still took work. The difficult, narrow road of grace and truth we are all called to walk is not called the "difficult, narrow road" for no reason! (Matt. 7:14, NLT) But God empowered and equipped Pastor Jeff to engage with gentleness and truth.

Two years later, one of Jeff's staff members, John Wilson, came to him with a secret that felt like it was burying him alive. "I'm gay," he said. By this he meant, "My default attractions when I struggle with lust are toward men. But I am surrendering them daily to the Lordship of Christ like you are called to do with your version of broken sexuality."

In our podcast interview with the two of them, Jeff reflected on this moment: "He didn't pull any punches... 'I'm gay' [John said.] Four years ago? I probably would have fired him on the spot just thinking that by him saying, 'I'm gay' he meant, 'I'm pursuing gay sex or a same sex romantic relationship.' But praise God, instead of assuming--because God had done so much work in my heart. I learned to actually ask questions."

... serving them and the Church at large in their courage: When I preached the fourth Sunday in their series they did on the LGBT+ conversation about 14 people came to Christ! The following day, friend and author, Greg Coles, and I were able to help field questions from the congregation about how to engage this conversation with grace and truth *at Element*. After we left, Pastors Jeff and John were able to further support the global Church when we connected them to pastors wrestling with the same grace/truth walk either as leaders or as pastors wrestling with their own identities.

In the end, Jeff said this conversation and study didn't just make their congregation better conversationalists about all things LGBT+, it *has made them better Christians, period.*

"This has held a mirror up to our whole congregation—a mirror that needs to be held up to the big "C" Church," Jeff said on the podcast. "Have we lost people? Yes, we have lost a few. ... [But] we are going to stand on what we believe is the truth, we are going to offer what we believe is the radical grace of Jesus, and we are going to present to everyone this gospel message [that] all of us are called to die. And if that means we have some death in the process ourselves? Then that is the cost for us in this . . . It's time. It's time for the Church to speak into this boldly."

It is time. It is time, dear Church, to shred our fear and walk boldly, courageously, and lovingly like Jesus.

Laurie



Thank You

FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY!

Here are some of the ways your partnership is impacting those God has us serving:

“”

“A little over 4 months ago, my husband of 20 years [Christ-follower, pastor, and father] told me that he was gay. It has been a whirlwind roller-coaster.

I’m not even sure there’s a word for it. Though God had been preparing my heart and I have always felt compassion and love towards LGBT people, it was a

lot to take in. Your website was one of the first places I landed. It has been so encouraging! We have read a ton of books and blogs, and I love listening to your podcasts . . . You ARE making a difference in peoples’ lives! You were the first ray of hope that I found online. Keep letting your light shine.”



You can listen to Laurie’s latest teaching on our home page by going to himhministries.com and scrolling down to “THE LATEST.” Hear: “Facing the Unthinkable” (about lament) and “Broken and Beloved People” (Laurie’s story + the woman caught in adultery).



HOLE IN MY HEART
PODCAST

OUR MISSION

To equip Jesus-followers with a gospel-centered approach to sexuality.

Would you like to join us in equipping Jesus-followers with a gospel-centered approach to sexuality? Share our weekly podcast with your friends and family!

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HIMH



PODCAST

We are so thankful for the HIMH podcast guests he has provided including Michael Card, Ann Voskamp, Dr. Christopher Yuan, Dr. Kurt Thompson, and Sharon Garlough Brown.

Praise God for the numerous opportunities



TEACHING

We are so grateful for the opportunity to teach 5 Journey Well Workshops in the first half of 2019. **Please pray** for wisdom for Laurie.

We are also thankful for 16 total church, university and conference speaking



WRITING

We are thankful God has been moving toward a publishing contract with Laurie and Matt for a marriage book. Details coming soon!

We hope to **self-publish our Journey Well curriculum** this spring. Please pray

Want Ads

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

For Sale: Baker Furniture wardrobe and a Bernhardt china/display cabinet. Both in excellent condition. also like recommendations for an exterior house painter. Contact Toni Cook at 226-1679 for details. We would also like recommendations for an exterior house painter.

Providence Church Divisions

Edward William Brouwer, Pastor & Worship

Our Session

Class of 2019

Wally Cook - Congregational Care

Thom Morgan - Finance

Class of 2020

Sam Mitchell - Clerk

Class of 2021

Bob Dresdow

Phil Inglis

Our Diaconate

Will Roberts - Class of 2019

Bill Allsbrook - Class of 2021

Music Director & Worship - Renee Allsbrook

Providence Church Summarized Financial Information March 31, 2019

Tithes/Offering collections	3 8,417
Designated income	<u>6,841</u>
Total Revenue	45,258
Missions	3,900
Church Operating Expenses	<u>37,351</u>
Total Expenditures	41,251
Increase (Decrease) in Cash	4,007
Cash in Bank Beginning of Year	<u>64,875</u>
Cash in Bank End of Month	68,882
<u>Breakdown of Cash</u>	
Checking Account	68,882
Savings Account	<u>0</u>
Total	68,882

April 28 Update

Total Income	58,361
Expenditures	<u>60,297</u>
	(1,936)

May Volunteers

Snacks

May 5	LuAnn Davis team
May 12	Paula Rhodarmer team
May 19	Glenda White team
May 26	Susan Kingshill team

Sunday School/Children's Worship

May 5	Renee Mitchell
May 12	Glenda Brouwer
May 19	Jenny Alt
May 26	LuAnn Davis

Counters

May 5	Wally Cook
	Sam Mitchell
May 12	Bill Allsbrook
	Phil Inglis
May 19	Bob Dresdow
	Pat Inglis
May 26	Thom Morgan
	Bruce Kingshill

Power Point

May 5	Linda Roberts
May 12	Barb Dresdow
May 19	Derek Rhodarmer
May 26	Toni Cook

Open/Close/Usher

May 5	Phil Inglis
May 12	Bob Dresdow
May 19	Sam Mitchell
May 26	Thom Morgan

Cleaning Team

Dresdow/Alt

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5  10:45 AM Holy Communion Paula Rhodarmer	6 5:00 PM The Well Paula Rhodarmer	7 12:00 PM Pastor's circle Allison June Kirby	1 10:30 AM Women's Prayer Group	2 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group	3 Cook & serve at Open Door	4 Presbytery
12 Mother's Day	13	14 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	8 10:30 AM Women's Prayer Group	9 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group	10	11
19	20	21 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	15 10:30 AM Women's Prayer Group	16 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group	17 Chuck Torpy	18 Church work day Pat Inglis
26 Makayla Lawrence	27 Memorial Day (Observed)	28 12:00 PM Pastor's circle Charlotte Allsbrook	22 10:30 AM Women's Prayer Group	23 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group Steve White	24	25
26	27	28	29 10:30 AM Women's Prayer Group	30 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Group	31	