

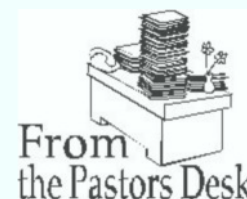
THE PROVIDENCE POST

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



December 2021

Christmas may not come this year! Or so said some media pundits recently because of supply chain issues. First, let me assure you that Christmas is indeed coming--because we as believers understand that Christmas is the celebration of Christ's birth. It is not, as this culture has too often made it, some crass, materialistic reveling in cheap mass-produced products from here and overseas. We know that the reason for the season is Christ. Christ, the exact representation of God in human form. The Incarnation. Emmanuel: God with us. Now by rights, some in the media have explained the "delay/non-arrival" of Christmas as a supply chain issue in which demand (especially high in Covid times), for products of every kind, faceoff with ships moored off our coasts, heavy laden with stuff. And we don't have enough truckers to get it from there into our hands! That got me thinking about the connection between material and spiritual supply chains. The Puritans spoke often of the spiritual reality that we all need, but Christ is all supply. What are some of the things that disrupt our connection with Christ? In my own life, I can attest to times of prayerlessness, confidence in the flesh, materialism: ultimately anything that gets my eyes off of Jesus. Rid yourself of these. But there are also times when our eyes are indeed on Christ yet we don't feel the connection. When we pray, it seems that the answer is delayed or simply not forthcoming. Don't be discouraged. God is faithful. At the right time, God will deliver on His promises. He did that in Jesus 2000 years ago and He will do it for you today, on Christmas Day, and indeed every day of your life--until He comes again.



Contact us:

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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 105, right on Jones Cove Road, then as above.

Worship and Church Activities

Sunday

9:45 am - Morning Worship

11:15 - Sunday School

Tuesday

10:15 - Women's Prayer Group

12:00 Pastor's Bible study

Thursday

6:45 am - Men's Prayer Group

Pastor Edward

Providence Happenings



Haywood Children's Outreach

Would you like to help Christ's love shine in a special way this Christmas upon children in Hme!

If you are interested in donating a Storybook Bible for those children affected by the flooding in Cruso, please mark your gift donation as "Haywood Children's Outreach". The Bibles will be distributed at an event December 4, "Hope for the Holidays," a workshop for families and individuals who have suffered loss during the past year.

Any surplus funds from this collection along with other mission funds will be used to help purchase Bibles for the Junaluska Bible Club's Christmas party. There are currently 37 children in the club, which meets every Tuesday at Junaluska Elementary and is currently being led by three members of Providence Church. Thank you!

Christmas Eve service will be at 5 pm on Friday, December 24th.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing:



It's that time of year! We have the privilege of ringing the bell for Salvation Army donations. Providence has the date of December 7th, from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. Each slot is for one hour. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex. You can also contact Bill Allsbrook, 828-734-4536.

Nursery Worker Needed

Providence is looking to hire a part time nursery worker for each Sunday from 9:45 to 12 noon. Please contact Edward Brouwer 828-550-4615, or Linda Wilson, 901-230-7178 (providencechurchassistant@gmail.com), if you are interested or know of anyone that might be. Also, please be in prayer that God will guide this process.

Open Door Soup Kitchen:

This is an ongoing commitment of Providence Church to the least, the last, the lost and the lonely of our community. While Open Door is no longer able to serve meals, we are still volunteering to cook the meals on the first Friday of each month. If you can serve in this way, please let Linda Wilson know at 901-230-7178. Thanks for your faithfulness. **Please join us this Friday, December 3rd, to bless and be blessed.**

Thank you

Many thanks to all of you who provided food when Glenda was in the hospital. It was delicious, and we truly appreciate the concern of our church family.

Bill and Glenda White



Mission News



THE BACONS IN BRUSSELS

Greetings from the other side of the Atlantic! We arrived in Brussels on the 12th of August, and so much has taken place in the two and half months since. We'd like to share with you some of our major updates so far and ask you both to rejoice and pray with us as we look back and continue to look ahead. During our first two weeks here, we hit the ground running after arrival with a whirlwind of administrative obligations, settling into our new home, and meeting many new people. We hardly even had time to give in to jet lag, which was a bonus! Thank you, sincerely, to all who prayed for our initial transition to Belgium; although there were certainly moments of stress and concern with establishing residence and acquiring health insurance for Rachel and the baby, the Lord answered those prayers and provided what we needed more quickly than we anticipated. Of course, September was the most monumental month yet in the Bacon home. We welcomed our daughter, Sophia Aline Bacon, on the 27th of September! We have gotten a whole month of her now and have experienced such joy and delight in her as her parents. She is a treasure! There is much inexpressible gratitude to our Lord for this gift of new life, and to you all who prayed earnestly about her arrival. We experienced wonderful care throughout the whole process, and yes, we were even impressed with the hospital food! In ministry news, we have loved jumping into involvement at LifePoint Brussels. Julian has preached in French several times (an exciting first for the church!), and we have begun a Francophone life group this fall exploring the big story of Scripture. We have had the opportunity to meet many people from all over the map at LifePoint and are very excited to be building new relationships here. On my part (Rachel), I have had some great French practice thus far! Developing friendships with French speakers at church has had the bonus side effect of me being challenged to engage with the language even more than I would have expected before arriving here, for which I am grateful.

I am also being challenged to grow in my French Biblical vocabulary, with my involvement in a French-speaking women's CBS study through the book of Luke. We have women from over six countries represented. I have also been co-leading an English-speaking CBS study through the book of Exodus, which has been a treasured time each Thursday night. In our six weeks together so far, I have witnessed much growth, learning, and "light bulb" moments of understanding God's Word, both for myself and the members of our group. What a joy to be involved in this ministry and to be able to come together with brothers and sisters across the world to grow in intimacy with God!

BRIEF GIVING UPDATE: Thanks to your generous giving, I am now at 94% of my annual support goal! It is so exciting to be this close to being fully supported, and I would love for you to consider helping me get there.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Giving thanks to the Lord for his provision during our transition to Brussels and the birth of Sophia
- The early stages of relationship building and effective discipleship in our local church (particularly with the French-speaking part of our congregation)
- For the men & women with whom we are studying God's Word in CBS this fall, that they would see more of Jesus
- Continued provision through financial support to become 100% funded
- Continued French language acquisition for Rachel

Update from the Luptons

“You don’t belong here!”

Imagine hearing that as a 19-year-old and having your life threatened by your own government. A series of social media posts against the injustices of his Islamic regime landed Hasheem in handcuffs and seeking asylum. So he left his university, his house, his car, his friends, and his family, unsure if he would ever be able to return to his home country ever again.



Flash forward two years and hearing from a few more countries, “You don’t belong here either!” Hasheem’s process of seeking asylum hadn’t gone as planned. But God’s plan was starting to make more and more sense. Hasheem found himself living in Latin America next door to Christians who spoke his language and gave him a Bible. They pointed him in the direction of an international church. Covid interrupted his process in that country so he made his way to Bogotá.

I sat down with him shortly after his arrival. His story was heartbreaking. It was clear he was on a quest not only to find a home country, but to find God, someone to make sense of the chaos of his life. He was astonished to hear me say that I felt like God was after his heart. He began reading and meeting regularly with me to talk about it.

He loved the morality of Christianity more than that of Islam, but he was hesitant to declare that Jesus is the unique Savior. Plus, becoming a Christian would mean he could never reenter his country and live to tell about it. “You don’t belong here and you’ll never belong here!”

A few months ago we sat down over lunch. Something had changed. Hasheem had experienced the beauty of the gospel and the welcome of our God. “You may not belong here or there, but you belong with me!” My heart melted as I heard this new brother in Christ gush about how the God who holds history in his hand would care enough about Hasheem to pursue him and to offer him belonging in his family.

While Hasheem has found asylum in Jesus, his refugee status is still complex and frustrating. As you read, Hasheem is living in our home planning his next steps. Sadly, he doesn’t belong in Colombia either, as the government has issued him an expulsion notice that we’ve been unable to overturn thus far. He doesn’t know where he will one day call home, but he knows that God is with him. Would you pray for Hasheem and the likely perilous journey ahead of him? Hasheem is not his real name, but God knows who you’re referring to.

Thank you for giving us the honor of serving people like Hasheem as we minister on your behalf to the nations and the next generation!

Gratefully,

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

Want Ads

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

Providence Church Divisions

Edward William Brouwer, Pastor & Worship

Our Session

Class of 2022

Luke Allsbrook

Bruce Kingshill

Class of 2023

Jason Edwards - Building & Grounds

Will Roberts - Clerk

Elder Emeritus

Kent Roberts

Music Director & Worship - Renee Allsbrook

Administrative Assistant - Linda Wilson

Providence Church Summarized Financial Information As of October 29, 2021

Tithes and Offerings	\$128,849.97
Expenditures	(123,149.63)
Collections over expenditures	5,700.34
Mission Income	2,230.00
Mission Expenditures	1,145.00
Breakdown of cash:	
Checking account	21,477.17
Savings account	75,076

December Volunteers

Snacks

Dec 5	Renee Allsbrook Linda Wilson
Dec 12	Sarah Altman LuAnn Davis
Dec 19	Paula Rhodarmer Glenda Brouwer
Dec 26	Renee Allsbrook Linda Wilson

Sunday School/Nursery/ Children's Church

Dec 5	LuAnn Davis Calvin Allsbrook
Dec 12	Renee Mitchell Jenna Dale
Dec 19	Glenda Brouwer Margaret
Dec 26	Christina Roberts Susan Kingshill

Counters

Dec 5	Luke Allsbrook LuAnn Davis
Dec 12	TBD/Linda Wilson
Dec 19	Will Roberts Linda Wilson
Dec 26	TBD/Bruce Kingshill

Communion

Dec 5	Bill & Jerry Allsbrook
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Open/Close/Usher

Dec 5	Luke Allsbrook
Dec 12	Will Roberts
Dec 19	Will Roberts
Dec 26	Bruce Kingshill

Cleaning (week of)

Dec 6	Edward/Jeffery
Dec 13	Linda Roberts/Susan
Dec 19	Mitchells
Dec 26	Edward/Jason

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Lydia Lizarazu Sam Mitchell Christina Roberts	6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group	6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group	Hope for the Holidays	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Glenda White	6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group	6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group	10:00 AM Ring bells 10:15 AM Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group	6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group	6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Jennifer Alt	10:15 AM Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM Pastor's circle Natalie Brouwer Thom Morgan	10:15 AM Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	10:15 AM Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group	6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group	5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
 Christmas	Thom & Jacque Morgan	10:15 AM Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	10:15 AM Women's Prayer Group 12:00 PM Pastor's circle	6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group	6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group	6:45 AM Men's Prayer Group