

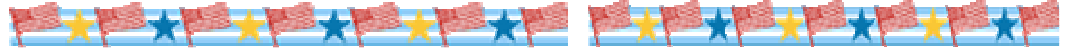
The Proclamation

A monthly newsletter of Providence Baptist Church

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

Philippians 3:10

JULY 2010



As I write this, we are very much in the throes of summer. It is 102 lovely degrees as of the last moments. Sincerely, I hope you are able to stay as cool as possible!

July 4 and the wonderful celebration of America's Independence from England is quickly approaching. The Lord has mightily blessed this country and we are still the land of opportunity for all peoples. So many have come against this country and tried to take away our freedoms and rights and yet we remain the beacon of light for hope, freedom and the pursuit of happiness.

We are often concerned about our continuation of freedoms enjoyed by all and who at the moment might be trying to take them away. Most of us think of some foreign country, terrorist cell, or our own government taking our freedom away; however, we do a pretty good job of hampering our freedom all by our little selves.

Christians are given so much freedom in Christ since we are no longer under bondage to sin (see Romans 6:22) or the evil one as we have been set free through the blood atonement of Jesus. A person is never really free until they accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of their lives. Jesus wants us to live totally free but we do a lot to thwart the freedom of Christ by allowing things in our lives that play havoc with the freedom that Christ wants us to enjoy in Him. At this juncture, we could list so many things that creep into our lives with or without our awareness that hamper our freedom in Christ. In the past weeks, we have discussed just one of those- the busyness in our lives. But now let us continue with observing true freedom in Christ.

Christians are so blessed to have also received freedom from the sentence of death as Paul explained about himself in Romans 8:2... "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and death." Brace yourself for some good reminders! Christians have the freedom to call upon the Father in prayer (Philippians 4:6-7). We Christians have also been given freedom from the cares of the world (Matthew 6:31-34).

Unfortunately, there are so many Christians who equate freedom in Christ with a license to do whatever they want without any parameters; however, even if we observe the United States, we see that freedom brings responsibility to abide by the laws established to protect the freedoms of everyone. Similarly, while we are most certainly freed from sin through the blood atonement of Jesus Christ, this does not mean that this gives us the license to go out and sin further (see Romans 6:15-16). Truly, as children of the living God we see that having been made free from sin, we have become servants of righteousness (see Romans 6:17-18; I Peter 2:15-16). We leave it to James to define the form of righteousness that truly sets us free in Jesus (see James 1:25; James 2:12-13).

I want to take this opportunity to hope for your family and you to have a wonderful fourth of July celebrating the freedoms in this country. May you, as a Christian family always be reminded of the true freedom we enjoy in our precious Lord- a freedom that the world, no individual, terrorist, government, or the evil one can take away!

Blessings Always,
Pastor Richard

Dr. Richard W. Croxton, Senior Pastor

HIGHLIGHTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD is a project of Samaritan's Purse that brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes. It provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple but hands-on project that has the power to transform children's lives.

"Shoeboxes coming together to change the world"

We will be participating in Operation Christmas Child 2010 (OCC packing shoeboxes).

We are asked to bring the following in September - be collecting!

Toys: small cars and trucks, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, building blocks, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries) clip on earrings, etc.

Hygiene Items: toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of wrapped soap (in plastic bag), etc.

School Supplies: felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, coloring books, notebooks, pencil case, chalk, stickers, etc.

Other: hard candies, gloves, scarves, sunglasses, caps, hats, bangles, necklaces, etc.

******(Kids may also bring their items each Wednesday night throughout the summer)******

All items must fit inside a standard sized shoebox, and must be new items.

*****DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:** *chocolate, tinned food or cakes, or any other food, medicine or vitamins, war related items (toy guns, etc.), fragile items, liquids or aerosols of any kind, dangerous items (sharp items, marbles, scissors or razors), novels, or anything political or racial in nature.* ***

A BOX has been placed in Goodwyn Hall for collection purposes.

Dates to remember:

Each Sunday in September will be designated as a **collection Sunday** of particular items.

October 3 OCC Shoebox Pack Day: Covered dish luncheon after morning services to precede the filling of shoeboxes. This is also the deadline date for those who have packed their own shoeboxes at home and boxes that have been collected from co-workers, friends, neighbors, etc.

October 10: "Shoebox Sunday" celebration/dedication of shoeboxes

October 11: Shoeboxes delivered to distribution center site

November 23 - December 11: We are planning on visiting the Charlotte Processing Center



JULY 1 5-9 PM

VBS Commencement Night

5:00 PM Hamburger Supper

6-8 PM Vacation Bible School

8:00 PM VBS Commencement

9:00 PM Fireworks & Homemade
Ice Cream



July 18

6:30 PM

Family Music Night

& Ice Cream Social

Thoughtful Theology

from youth & children's pastor Michael Small

What happens when a person dies? (The answer may surprise you)

As Christians, most of us know that all people who believe in Jesus have eternal life and everyone who does not believe is condemned. In fact Jesus explicitly says this in John 3:18 (cf. John 14:4). But how does this all work? Do we go straight to heaven or do we wait for the resurrection? Do the condemned go straight to hell or does this happen at the Day of Judgment? Do we stay in heaven forever and, if so, what's all this business about a new earth?

Few Christians agree on these issues and for good reason, the Scriptures tend to be confusing. Consider Jesus' statement in John 6:40 that anyone who believes in Him "has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day." Which is it? Will I never die, or will I be raised up? Or His statement in John 11:25-26, "He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.." Come again?

The central misunderstanding for each of these issues actually centers around a common misunderstanding about heaven. For the record, heaven is a **temporary spiritual dwelling for the believer not his permanent home**. That's right. Consider the picture of the souls in heaven under the altar in Revelation 6:9-11 they cry out, "How long, O Lord, holy and true until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" They are then told they must "wait a little while longer". The souls will not dwell forever under the altar crying out to God, they will only wait there until the day of God's judgment. In the mean time it's cool because we get to see what God is doing in the lives of all the other Christians who are still living on the earth (Heb. 11:32-12:1) and we are still there with God and Jesus.

What happens after that? I'm glad you asked, I was just about to tell you. God will give all of us new bodies. First those who have already died, then the believers who are still alive when he returns (1 Thess. 4:13-18, also see 1 Cor. 15 for a fuller treatment of this issue.) Then the unbelieving dead will be raised for judgment and cast into hell along with the devil and all his fellow workers (Rev. 20:10-15).

And after that we all go back to heaven right? WRONG! We are done with heaven. It's gone. "That whole heaven thing is SO pre-judgment. God will make a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21:1) and the holy city, the New Jerusalem, will descend out of heaven (21:2,10) and God will dwell with us (21:3) **on the new earth** (that's where all that cool streets of gold, pearly gate stuff is). This will be our permanent dwelling.

So class, what have we learned today? First, we really do live forever with God (1 Thess. 4:17) but some other things change along the way like the form we exist in, first souls then bodies, and our location, first heaven then the new earth. Second, we really will be resurrected from the dead, at least our bodies will and they will be made new, with some great new 2.0 features like inability to feel pain, grow old, die or that pesky tendency toward sin. Finally, we really will walk streets of gold and eat of the tree of life and all that other cool stuff, just not in heaven. I bet you learned something today didn't you? How's that for good news?

Our Summer Youth, Children and Families calendar is available now. So pick one up and check it out. Seriously go get one. Why are you still reading this?



Follow the youth & children's ministry at twitter.com/psc_youth



This is a serious matter in the life of our church and one that each of us should give a great deal of prayer to. The deacons are the spiritual leaders and care givers of our church. As such, we should be God-led in his entire process. Please read the following passages of scripture as you consider men for this position: 1 Timothy 3:1-13, John 13:1-38 1 Timothy 4:12-16, Acts 6:1-15, John 13:1-38. All nominees for Deacon should be contacted prior to the July 21 business meeting and agree to have their name brought before the church for Deacon nomination.

Please Pray! Pray! Pray!

FAMILY MEALS MENUS

@ 6:00 p.m.

- 1st Wednesday, 7/7 Pizza
- 2nd Wednesday, 7/14 Subs
- 3rd Wednesday, 7/21 Pizza
- 4th Wednesday, 7/28 Subs

We will continue our Family Meals throughout the summer and the best part is the meals are **FREE!**

Please join us for meals and fellowship!

****Remember, the meals begin at 6:00 PM**



PRAY
FOR OUR MILITARY

- Brian Byrd
- Mike Cook
- Ryan Grant
- Eric Knight
- Thomas Lamberson
- Collin Moon
- Thomas Ratliff

If you have a friend or loved one in the military, please call the church office and give us their name so they can be added to our list.



Happy Birthday America!

Everyone loves a celebration and what fun it is to celebrate July 4th!!

At Weekday we are celebrating some very good news; *Nydia Seaton* a teacher of two year olds is expecting a baby girl in July. She has chosen to be a stay at home Mommy and we keep her in our prayers.

The WDLc committee has interviewed and hired *Melanie Hamilton* to fill the two year old teacher position. We are all very excited to have *Melanie* join our staff.

Melani is the wife of *Jeff* and mother of *Haley*. She attends *Petsworth Baptist Church* where she is active in the children's programs. *Melanie* has been substituting at WDLc for this past year and we look forward to working with her.

Current enrollment for 2010-2011

2 year olds18 6 openings

3 year olds32 FULL

Pre-K.....31 9 openings

Call now for registration, 642-5112



Back to School Supplies needed for Weekday Learning Center

Watercolors, waterproof markers, glue sticks and regular glue, snack items (goldfish, Ritz crackers, animal crackers, vanilla wafers and graham crackers), copy paper, paper clips, brass plated fasteners (brads), scotch tape refill, masking tape, hand sanitizer, Lysol spray.

Items for WDLc will be collected

July 25 - August 15th

Collection boxes will be in Goodwyn Hall and by the WDLc office

WELCOME TO HURRICANE SEASON

It's almost as if we are inviting someone into our home every year between June 1st and November 1st, who will always break something and leave our home messy. We don't want this type of guest to even call us, much less show up unannounced. For a lot of people, this is a very stressful time of year. With the eminent threat of flooding, trees on houses and across roads, roofs torn to pieces and power outages, who wouldn't be stressed or scared. Think of the people in Florida, the Gulf and the Caribbean. Anytime there is 'activity' in the waters, they have to be out of their mind with fear.

Out of fear some people will blame God or continue to challenge others that there is no God. Fear can be a very paralyzing feeling. It can cause us to lose all rationale, maybe even our faith. In Psalm 107:28-30, it tells us that all we need to do is call out to the Lord during our times of storms and He will bring us through it. We have so many storms that we face in our day to day life. So, isn't it wonderful to know that we just have to pray about it and God will walk us right through it. He is BIGGER than any storm.

During this season of Hurricanes, let's keep those in prayer who may be in the path of a storm. Pray that those who don't know the Lord will find Him so that He may carry them safely through. Pray that those who do know Him continue to trust in His greatness, and pray that in all things the glory of the Lord will shine through.

God Bless, Heather Berry

Up-Coming Events:

August - Salvation Army and Weekday Learning Center School Supply Drive

September - Alma Hunt

Church-wide Events August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 6:30 pm Evening Worship 7:30 pm Deacons	2 9 am-9 pm Family Day Trip to Nags Head	3	4 6 pm Family Meal 6:30 pm All Ministries	5	6 Wedding Rehearsal	7 7pm Wedding
8 6:30 pm Evening Worship	9	10	11 6 pm Family Meal 6:30 pm All Ministries	12	13	14
15 6:30 pm Evening Worship	16	17	18 6 pm Family Meal 6:30 pm All Ministries	19	20	21
22 6:30 pm Family Night	23	24	25 6 pm Family Meal 6:30 pm All Ministries	26	27	28
29 6:30 pm Church wide Cookout/ Covered Dish Supper	30 **More information about Children & Youth pick up a Youth and Children's Summer Schedule Calendar	31				



BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Scissors-Fiskars for young preschoolers
tissues –small boxes,
disinfectant wipes,
colored pencils, Crayola crayons,
Elmer's glue, No. 2 pencils,
wide tip nontoxic markers,
pocket folders, erasers,
lunch boxes, composition books,
black marble composition books,
3-ring binders rulers,
wide rule notebook paper,
blue or black ball point pens

All age children need to have a back pack.

Items for the Salvation Army need to be at the church by August 8.

There is a box in Goodwyn Hall for the Salvation Army school supplies.

Weekly Summer Ministry Opportunities

Sunday

Worship and Praise Celebration..... 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Children's Church..... 9:00 a.m.

Evening Worship Service..... 6:30 p.m.

****Special Youth & Children's Events on Sunday evenings**

Monday

GROW Visitation..... 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Staff Meeting 12:15 p.m.

Family Meal..... 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night WORD (Youth)..... 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night Children..... 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Sanctuary) 6:30 p.m.

Men's Ministry (S7 & S9) 6:30 p.m.

Women's Ministry (Men's Classroom) 6:30 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal..... 7:30 p.m.

Church Staff

Every Member.....*A Minister*

Senior Pastor**Dr. Richard W. Croxton**

Associate Pastor/Children & Youth **Rev. Michael Small**

Senior Pastor's Secretary **Wanda Hansford**

Administrative Assistant **Brenda Lamberson**

Weekday Learning Center Director..... **Linda Nuttall**

Custodian.....**Lewis Fletcher**

Treasurer **Jerry West**

Financial Secretary**Jean Brown**

Organist **Kenneth Brown**

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Phone: 804.642.5812 Fax: 804.642.4902

The purpose of "*The Proclamation*" is to inform our members and those interested in the exciting ministries and activities that God has led us to accomplish through Providence Baptist Church and to encourage them in their daily walk with Christ.

Articles must be submitted to the Church Office by the 10th of each month and may be edited for length and content.



Providence Baptist Church

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