



The Proclamation

A monthly newsletter of Providence Baptist Church

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

Philippians 3:10



From the Pastor...

It is so good to come to you once again upon the printed page...alive and well in Gloucester County and believing that with God, all things are possible. Alas, we have averted another major snowfall and I think most of us are feeling really good about that! It is time for spring and breakthrough in new directions that the Lord will give us.

We are all so struck by the world in which we live today as far as turmoil, economic malaise, social injustice, natural calamities and temptations are concerned; however, the Christian is able to counter this with all the things of the Lord, the daily blessings that He give us, and the conviction that he is soon to return to claim His bride, the church. In the midst of all of this, we adults ought to be burdened for and lifting up in prayer the youth of today. They face so many temptations and very often lack a Christian familial structure with which to identify and receive Biblical, Godly counsel.

Always be willing to invest in a young person as Paul did with a young man by the name of Timothy. You see, without really trying, we all model our values. Parents in particular and adults in general, have the opportunity to demonstrate to their children what they consider valuable and important. "Like father, like son" is a cliché that nevertheless holds forth a profound truth that children will often follow the principles of their parents or significant adults that have a strong investment in their young lives.

Yes, Timothy is a good example of one who was influenced by Godly relatives and by a Christian adult who was willing to invest in his life. His mother Eunice and grandmother Lois were Jewish believers in Jesus who helped shape his life and promote his spiritual growth. Timothy was one of Paul's closest companions and became the pastor of the church in Ephesus while he was very young. Timothy faced all sort of pressures, challenges and conflicts within the church and from the culture that surrounded him. Paul wrote very personal letters to encourage his very young protégé. Paul conveyed to Timothy in the first letter, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." This was tremendous encouragement to the young man who was struggling with his calling from God, people and circumstances in which he found himself.

There are many lessons that one can garner from Paul's first letter to young Timothy. As parents, take time to remind yourselves of the profound effect a Christian home can have on family members, You see, a faithful mother and grandmother who loved the Lord led Timothy to Christ and Timothy's subsequent ministry helped change the world. If you are a young person or "young" in the faith, do not let anyone put you down because of your faith. Follow the example of Timothy's life, who imitated the life of Paul and was willing to listen to the counsel of someone who had been and was still in the "trenches". As a Christian adult and leader, take heed as to Paul's relationship with and investment in this young disciple. Paul gave Timothy encouragement, counsel and guidance with an overriding commitment to this young man to see that he prospered in the faith.

Parents, grandparents, adult leaders and those entrusted with any type of influence of young people - there is always some youth that needs you to be the best you can be for them and to show them Jesus Christ!!! Here's looking forward to the springtime and warmer weather.

Blessings Always,
Pastor Richard

Dr. Richard W. Croxton, Senior Pastor



Music Ministry

Chicago due to urgent business concerns, but decided to send his family aboard the *S.S. Ville du Havre* as scheduled. Midway through the trans-Atlantic voyage, *S.S. Ville du Havre* was struck by the English vessel *Loch Earn* and eventually foundered. Spafford's four daughters—Anna, eleven; Maggie, nine; Bessie, seven; and Tanetta, two—were among the 226 who perished in the aftermath. Mrs. Spafford, one of the few who were spared, sent her husband the heartbreaking telegram: “Saved alone.”

Spafford immediately sailed for England to join his grief-stricken wife. As his ship passed the approximate location where his daughters had drowned, his deep sorrow mingled with his unwavering faith in God's goodness caused him to compose the following hymn.

It Is Well With My Soul

Horatio G. Spafford was known as a sincere, devout Christian. He was the father of four daughters, an active member of the Presbyterian church, and a loyal friend and supporter of D. L. Moody and other evangelical leaders of his day.

In November 1873, Spafford decided to take his entire family to Europe for a vacation, intending also to assist Moody in his evangelistic work once he arrived there. However, Spafford was unexpectedly detained in

Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

Probably very few, like Spafford, are able to maintain their faith in the face of such devastating bereavement without spiritually faltering. The natural tendency of one confronted with such senseless tragedy would surely be to question, to doubt, to blame, to accuse God. Yet this hymn reveals a person who had been graced by God to mourn without bitterness, to sorrow without anger, to trust without resentment, to rest in the peace of Christ which surpasses every man's understanding (Phil. 4:6). The remarkable faith exhibited by the author of this hymn is the same precious faith allotted to all the believers (2 Peter 1:1) which enables them to believe steadfastly as the author did, that all things work together for good to those who love God and to those who are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28).

Thoughtful Theology

from youth & children's pastor Michael Small

How should Christians view Alcohol?

Recently, in a youth Sunday School class this question arose and there were many different viewpoints expressed and for good reason. On one hand, the Bible consistently condemns drunkenness on the other, Jesus himself turned water into wine and even instituted it as part of the Lord's supper. In response to this, some Christians have taken the view that it is okay to be a "casual" or "social drinker". Others have come to the conclusion that beer and wine are okay to drink, but hard liquors like vodka, gin and rum are not.

The real issue here is not just drinking, but also interpreting Scripture correctly. Before we start to examine how Jesus viewed "wine" we have to make sure that this word meant the same thing in the middle east 2000 years ago that it does today in the ABC store. What we find, in fact, is that there is a great deal of difference between ancient wine and your standard bottle of merlot or pinot grigio.

In the ancient world all types of grape juice fell under the category of "wine" because fermentation was inevitable. There was no way to refrigerate so, as a result, the juice would get warm and begin to ferment quickly. In order to offset the potency of wine it was diluted with water.

A common ancient formula for mixing wine is 3 parts water to 1 part wine (This is the formula recommended by Hesiod, *Works and Days* 596). Wine mixed 50/50 with water was considered a strong drink. The Greeks believed that to drink wine undiluted was fit only for barbarians and that the Spartan King Cleomenes I was driven mad doing so. That is to say that not only did Jesus not drink the wine that was found in your local liquor store, but even the pagans of that day would've typically refused to do so.

Some have objected that Jesus' turning water into the "good wine" (John 2:10) means that Jesus actually encouraged drinking alcohol of a stronger proof. But again, historical context is important. Wine was not more highly prized for its alcoholic content in the ancient world, but rather how it was made. It is likely that "good wine" was a reference to white wine which was sweeter and typically only reserved for the very wealthy and politically powerful. For a man to serve white wine at his wedding feast would've been very impressive to his guests.

Additionally some have objected that the slur that Jesus "came eating and drinking" and was a "drunkard and a glutton, a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Matt. 11:19). While it is true that the wine did have some alcoholic content (but not likely more than 1/4 that of current wine) and a person could get drunk off of it if they were seeking to do so, the slander seems to be a result of the company Jesus keeps rather than his individual actions (cf., Jesus response to this accusation in Matt. 9:10-13).

In conclusion, a person cannot use the Bible to justify the consumption of modern alcohol. To do is a distortion of the original context. That notwithstanding, I will not condemn those who are of a different opinion but would encourage them to flee from anything that may compromise their walk or give an added temptation, considering Paul's words:

"It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles. The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves." (Romans 14:21-22, NASB95)

This Month

3/18-21 DiscipleNOW— (Youth) Our kick off & dinner will be Thursday from 6-8pm. Registration will be Friday from 4-5:30pm. Youth can be picked up from the church Sunday after the 10:30am service.

3/28 Seder Meal (6:30pm) - (Families) The Seder is a traditional Jewish Passover meal that recounts the events of the Exodus. We will observe this dinner together while also making application to its relation to Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection from the dead.

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



"WAY TO THE CROSS"
SUNDAY, MARCH 7
9 & 10:30 AM SERVICES
ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING

Please bring your North American Mission Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and we will be "Walking to the Cross" during both the 9:00 and 10:30 AM services.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

6:30 pm

Live With Urgency

Share God's Transforming Power
Romans 1:16

FAMILY DINNER MENUS

5:15 P.M.

1st Wednesday, 3/3: Beef tips over noodles, glazed carrots, rolls & dessert

2nd Wednesday, 3/10: Baked chicken, sweet potato casserole, green beans, rolls & dessert

3rd Wednesday, 3/17: Beef stew, salad, dessert & rolls

4th Wednesday, 3/24: Brunswick stew, corn muffins, vegetables, & dessert

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE DELICIOUS MEALS AND FELLOWSHIP!



PRAY
FOR OUR MILITARY

Do you have a loved one or friend that is serving in the military? We would like to pray for them. Please contact the church office with their name, branch of service and address. We will try to post this information in the Proclamation each month.

WDL
NEWS

Tiny Press News
 Weekday Learning Center
 Linda Nuttall, Director



**WMU
 CORNER**
 Heather Berry, Director



**March brings us wind, shamrocks, daffodils,
 and Promise of Spring!**

Preschoolers will be busy this month:

March:

- 4/5 Hat days...silly, crazy, any type
- 4/5 Happy Birthday to Dr. Seuss
- 5 Fire Drill
- 11 Three year old field trip to Ice Cream Store
- 18 Open House, 6:30-7:30 meet the teachers!
- 19 Pre-K trip to Transportation Museum
- 19/30 Art Show in Fellowship Hall
- 23/26 Parent/Teacher Conferences

Curriculum studies will include:

- Dr. Seuss week
- A look at Dinosaurs
- Easter
- Ice Cream.....3 year olds
- Bugs and Insects.....3 year olds
- Learning thru Senses.....Pre-K
- Discovering Spring.....Pre-K

Update on Enrollment:

- 2 yr. olds.....enrolled.....9
- 3 yr. oldenrolled.....11
- Pre-K..... enrolled.....12

**WE ARE NOW REGISTERING FOR THE
 FALL SCHOOL YEAR 2010-2011**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR STAFF AND
 CHILDREN AND GOD'S WILL FOR
 THE WEEKDAY LEARNING CENTER.**

Living with Urgency"

I was remembering the other day a friend of mine that had intentionally taken his life when we were freshman in high school. Here's the really sad part for me personally, I wonder what would have happened if I had shared Jesus with him? Would he still be here? Although we were not that close, we had 2 classes together and we had mutual friends. I had plenty of opportunity to share what God could do with him. Every day when we wake up we enter into God's Mission Field. There are people all around us that are in some way suffering and need to know that there is hope out there for them. Did you know that in the United States, Canada and other surrounding territories there are 3 out of 4 people that live without a personal relationship with Christ. Now that's alarming! When you go to Wal-Mart, look around at those 3 people that you just passed, they might need to hear what a friend they have in Jesus.

At Mrs. Martha's funeral I got goose bumps when everyone in this church was singing hymns. I thought it was a beautiful sound with ALL of those voices coming together to glorify the Lord. Imagine how much more wonderful it would sound if the entire world were singing to God's glory! How glorious it will be in Heaven to hear those voices. Satan has to be shakin' in his boots when he hears the sound of people who are "in the right" with God.

We have a need to "live with urgency." In Romans 1:16-17 it states how important it is to tell others about what God can do for them and how we need to be living a righteous life by letting God do what he needs to do in us. In the notes in my bible it states that "righteousness is the state of being in the right relation to God." We need for Gloucester County, the United States of America, and the world to be "in the right" with God. We want to hear all those voices in Heaven praising God.

This year the Annie Armstrong goal nationwide is \$70,000 and our goal is \$10,000. Join us for the morning services Sunday, March 7th as we walk the "Way to the Cross," and then again Sunday evening, March 14th for Mission Study on how we can further God's Kingdom through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

God Bless,

Heather

Upcoming Dates:

- March 7-14** North American Mission Focus Week
- March 7** "Way to the Cross" both morning services
- March 14** Mission Study at 6:30 p.m.
- March 21** Family Potluck Dinner
- March** Children's Mission Project to be announced

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 pm GROW "G" team	2	3 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	4 7:00 pm Joy Group 7:00 pm Madge Dudley Group @ PBC 7:00 pm Nominating Committee Mtg.	5	6 10:00 am Exercise Class
7 "Way to the Cross" 9 & 10:30 am Worship Services <i>High On the Mountain Boys</i> 6:30 pm	8 6:30 pm GROW "R" team WMU FOCUS	9 10:00am RSW/ Alice Fields Group 7:00pm Commission Keepers WEEK FOR ANNIE	10 10:45 a.m. Bible Study ARMSTRONG	11 EASTER OFFERING	12 March 7-14	13 10:00 am Exercise Class
14 6:30 pm Annie Armstrong Mission Study	15 6:30 pm GROW "O" team	16 7:00 p.m. Sisters-in-Christ	17 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	18 7:00 p.m. Nominating Committee Mtg. Disciple Now Weekend 18-21	19	20 10:00 am Exercise Class
21 5:00 pm Family Pot Luck	22 6:30 pm GROW "W" team	23	24 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	25	26	27 10:00 am Exercise Class
28  6:30 PM Seder Meal	29 6:30 pm GROW "All" teams	30	31 10:45 a.m. Bible Study			

March Birthdays

1-Richard Payne, Laurel Robins, Linda Waddles
 2-Daniel Giles, Janet Lindgren, Lexi Mahler
 3-Lindsey Stewart
 4-Cheryl Grimes, Jessica West
 5-Mara Firth, Emma Hines, Ann Morgan, Phillip Waddles
 6-Joel Kay
 7-Jean Brown, Claudia Rosen, Robert Wilder
 8-Kurt Nealy
 9-Jean Greene, Summer Langell, Ruby Lemon
 10-Larry Burgess, Carolyn Haley, Betty Jean Hogge,
 Brandon Matthews, Ralph Motley
 11-Joyce Bristow
 12-Paul Custis, Teresa Hogge, Christine Rowe,
 Nicole Sours, Connie Stewart, Kendall Tayman,
 Brenda Turner
 13-Anne Hogge
 14-Cynthia Munn, Paul Oliver, Thomas West
 16-Joseph Britton, Erica Machie-Troy Southhall
 17-Peyton Howder, Teresa Williams

18-Kara Smith
 19-Hugh Asbury, Katie Bourne, Gavin Carter
 20-McKenzie Cook, Margie Davis
 21-Brittany French, Ashley Hurst, Helen Lou Smith
 22-Emily Lemon, Nicole Taylor
 23-Beckey Hammock, Stephen Mitchem
 25-Beth Bunting
 26-Joshua Berry, Cynthia Moser
 28-Jimmy Higgins, Nina West
 29-Reggie Connaughton
 30-Doug Cox, Caleb Hines, Mary Hogge, Cleo Huskey,
 William Minnick, Michelle Northrup, Richard Rozecki
 31-Addison Brown, Alexandria Cullison, Savannah Welch,
 Robert Williams



HIGHLIGHTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

High on the Mountain Boys

Combining music, comedy, and spreading the word of God



IN CONCERT AT PROVIDENCE
SUNDAY, MARCH 7 6:30 PM



Family Potluck Supper

March 21 at 5:00 PM

Followed by
Mrs. Kay Bradley
with the
Gloucester/Mathews
Free Clinic

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 28

6:30 PM



Seder
Meal

Disciple Now 2010:

“The Voice”

March 18-21



Featuring:



Paul Lemon



Brian White

Weekly Ministry Opportunities

Church Staff

Sunday

Worship and Praise Celebration..... 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Night Slam 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Women's Ministry Book Study 6:30 p.m.
Mission Friends, GAs, RAs, Acteens, Challengers..... 6:30 p.m.
Evening Worship Service..... 6:30 p.m.

Monday

Pastoral Staff Prayer Time 9:30 a.m.
GROW Visitation..... 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study 10:45 a.m.
Staff Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Family Meal..... 5:15 p.m.
Kingdom Kids Choir..... 5:45 p.m.
WOW Youth Drama & Music 5:45 p.m.

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**
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

Email: pbcoffice@pbc.hrcoxmail.com

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.



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