



# The Proclamation

A monthly newsletter of Providence Baptist Church

*"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"*

*Philippians 3:10*

May 2009



## From the Pastor...

We have enjoyed such beautiful days over the last several weeks with various reminders as to the splendor of our Creator. As you look forward to the summer, please remember the ongoing needs in our community, church, and individual lives. Strive to keep the Lord in your plans for the "good ole summertime."

Mother's Day is approaching and with it the wonderful celebration of motherhood and the opportunity to thank the Lord for our moms and show appreciation to them for their availability to be used by Creator God.

One of the mothers of the Bible that has always held intrigue for me is Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. During the time of Elizabeth, societies (even Israel) determined a woman's value based upon her ability to bear children. If a woman was aged and without children, it often led to public shame and personal hardship.

Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah came from priestly families and two weeks of every year, Zechariah had to go to the temple in Jerusalem to perform his priestly duties. As he returned from one of those trips, Zechariah was excited but speechless about the good news that his aged wife would become pregnant. Elizabeth knew that this child was a gift from Almighty God.

Elizabeth's relative, Mary, also unexpectedly became pregnant as a result of an angel's message that she would give birth to the Messiah. Within days, Mary—who was 70 miles to the north of where Elizabeth lived—went to visit Elizabeth. God had given them unique gifts and this brought them together in the bonds of family, womanhood, and motherhood. Elizabeth was quite aware that Mary's son would be greater than her son, since her baby would be the messenger (forerunner) for Mary's son. Amazing, isn't it, that's Elizabeth was not jealous of the younger Mary whatsoever? (You know how family members can get sometimes). Elizabeth would insist on her baby being named John.

Don't you think that as Elizabeth cared for and rocked baby John the Baptist that she must have praised God over and over. She certainly must have marveled at God's timing with both Mary and her. Well, things had worked out better than Elizabeth could have ever imagined or planned. Elizabeth truly love the Lord, her baby John, and Mary and never did stop believing that all things are possible with God for those who love the Lord. Luke 1:43-45 tells us, "But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished." Elizabeth should give pause to moms, dads, and all Christians to consider that God really is in control of every situation. When did we last stop and truly consider God's timing in the events of our lives?

Certainly, Elizabeth reminds us that God does not forget those who have been faithful to Him. Not only did God remember Elizabeth in old age, but she was the first woman beside Mary to hear about the coming Savior. Additionally, the life of momma Elizabeth calls attention to the fact that God is really not about meeting *our* expectations. His methods and timetable do not have to conform to what we expect.

Elizabeth was a devout and spiritual person who always looked to God. Hallelujah, praise God, we have the opportunity to be like Elizabeth in 2009!

*Blessing Always,  
Pastor Richard*

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



### ***“Take Time to Be Holy”***

“In time even a bear can learn how to dance.” So goes the old Jewish proverb. It points out with a light-hearted clarity that, given time and training, even wild beasts can learn to do things which do not come naturally to them. “Take Time to Be Holy” is a poetic treatise on how human beings, who are so ill-inclined towards goodness, can achieve some measure of holiness.

Jay Adams once said, “You may have sought and tried to obtain instant godliness. There is no such thing...we want someone to give us three easy steps to godliness, and we’ll take them next Friday and be godly. The trouble is, godliness does not come that way” (*Godliness through Discipline*, p. 3; Presbyterian and Reformed Publ. Co., 1972). To this Jerry Bridges added, “If a boy has developed the wrong style of swinging a baseball bat, he cannot change it instantly. Much discipline—much correction and retraining—is required to break that bad habit and develop a new one. In the same way, our patterns of disobedience to God have been developed over a number of years and are not broken easily or without discipline” (*The Pursuit of Holiness*, p.103; Navpress, 1978).

This hymn is a call to holiness that enumerates the disciplines required to achieve it. Prayer, meditation upon God’s Word and adherence to it, fellowship with other believers, active personal ministries, submission to God’s will, even careful monitoring of one’s thoughts and motives—all are called for in our quest to be truly “fitted for service,” both in this life and in the life to come.

*Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;  
Abide in Him always, and feed on his Word.  
Make friends of God’s children; help those who are weak,  
Forgetting in nothing His blessings to seek.*

*Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;  
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone;  
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;  
Thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.*

*Take time to be holy, let Him be thy guide,  
And run not before Him whatever betide;  
In joy or in sorrow still follow thy Lord,  
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word.*

*Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,  
Each thought and each motive beneath His control;  
Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love,  
Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.*

May God bless you as you seek to be more like Christ in your words, thoughts, and deeds. We are on this pilgrimage together—a pilgrimage of holiness. Let’s continue to strive to give the Lord Jesus the pre-eminent place in our lives, so that other’s may see Jesus through us—and live!

Phillip Higgins  
*Associate Pastor/Music*

# From the Youth and Children's Pastor...

**Michael Small**

## God's Word for Graduates

Seniors – Congratulations. The time has come. It is a bittersweet moment for us all that you will spread your wings and fly from the nest. Whether you land in New York, Mississippi, Virginia or wherever else the wind may blow you my charge to you is this, "exalt Jesus".

In Philippians 1:20-21 Paul says, "...I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

In his book, *Don't Waste Your Life*, John Piper writes, "I will tell you what a tragedy is. I will show you how to waste your life. Consider this story from the February 1998 Reader's Digest: A couple 'took early retirement from their jobs in the Northeast five years ago when he was 59 and she was 51. Now they live in Punta Gorda, Florida where they cruise on their 30-foot trawler, play softball and collect shells...' Picture them before Christ on the great day of judgment: 'Look, Lord. See my shells.' That is a tragedy."

Piper tells another story in the same book of two women, one nearly eighty the other older than eighty, who were serving Christ in West Africa "two decades after most of their American counterparts had retired to throw away their life on trifles." Their brakes failed and their car went over a cliff. "Was that a tragedy?" Piper asks. "No, that is not a tragedy. That is a glory. These lives were not wasted."

Will you waste your life? Before you are two roads. You can pursue your own happiness and your glory or you can deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus. Know that these two paths are not the same. If you follow the first path you may get some of the things you desire, but you will not likely ever be satisfied and you will never accomplish the purpose for which you were put here. If you follow the second path you may never be noticed, but O the glory that awaits for those who labor diligently for the glory of God. I am resolved that whether in my life or in my death that Jesus Christ would be glorified. This is my prayer and hope for you also. Make us proud.

### Coming in May

Every Sunday @ 4pm—**Youth Praise Team** .

5/8 @ 5:30-8:30pm—**Parents Night Out**  
(donations benefit the Youth Mission Trip).

5/11 @ 6:30pm—**Youth Visitation Night**.

5/31 @ 4pm—**Children's Ministry Recognition Night** (includes AWANA, RAs & GAs, the AWANA store will open afterward).

### What's going on this Summer?

Sunday Nights will be Mission Nights. We will be reaching out to our community, surrounding communities & the ends of the earth. Wednesday Nights will be our activity nights with something new every week. Also be on the look out for our Terrific Tuesdays for Children and Thumpin' Thursdays for youth. There's a whole summer of fun coming your way !!



***"Shoeboxes coming together to change the world"***

This year, the Providence Family will have the opportunity to support Operation Christmas Child (OCC) again. We will be accepting ready-made shoeboxes, and taking up special offerings for OCC as in past years. Additionally, we will be collecting specific items during each of the summer months on a specific Sunday, to fill empty shoeboxes by the end of August. **All items must fit inside a standard sized shoebox, and must be new items.**

**Targeted collection items**

**May: Toys** (small bears, soft toys, tennis balls, finger puppets, puzzles, yo-yos, building blocks, small musical instruments, trucks and cars, dolls, clip on earrings, etc.)

**June: Hygiene Items** (toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of wrapped soap, etc.)

**July: Educational Supplies** (felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, coloring books, notebooks, pencil case, chalk, stickers, etc.)

**August: Items that can be eaten or worn** (hard candies, gloves, scarves, sunglasses, caps, hats, bangles, necklaces, etc.)

**\*\*\*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 labeled receptacle has been placed in Goodwyn Hall for collection purposes. This month, on "Children's Sunday May 31", we will have baked goods available in Goodwyn Hall between the morning services, and we will be collecting the May toy items at that time.

**Dates to remember:**

1. May 31: Collection Day for **Toys**
2. June 28: Collection day for **Hygiene items**
3. July 26: Collection day for **Educational Supplies**
4. August 23: Collection day for items that can be **eaten or worn**
5. August 30: **OCC Shoebox Pack Day:** Covered Dish luncheon after Sunday 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.*
6. September 13: **"Shoebox Sunday" celebration**/dedication of shoeboxes to be held in conjunction with the Fall Kickoff
7. September 14: **Shoeboxes delivered** to distribution center site





# Tiny Press News

Weekday Learning Center

Linda Nuttall, Director



### May flowers.....

Warm sunshine, children's laughter, grilling out, baseball, Mother's Day, all reminders that it is spring and summer is coming!

This is our last month of school.....

We have so much we want to do and so few days left, so this is what our plans are:

- May 7th Three year old classes and parents to Newport News Park for a picnic
- May 8th Pre-K "trip" to Mexico
- May 14th Pre-K Bike Parade
- May 14/15 Sunglasses and flip flop days
- May 28th 11:30 a.m. 2 & 3 yr. old graduation
- May 29th 6:00 p.m. Pre-K Graduation

### School is out for the summer!!!!!!

#### Enrollment Update:

Two's	11 enrolled	13 openings
Three's	21 enrolled	11 openings
Pre-K	25 enrolled	15 openings

#### Staff Update:

Two of our teachers will not be returning this fall, Sarah Small is staying home to have a little one and Jill Ward is going to work as a permanent substitute teacher for Gloucester County. We wish both on them the very best.



Come the 28th and/or the 29th and support Weekday in our Promotion and Graduation programs. We would love to have you!

# WMU CORNER

Christy West, Director

During my devotion time one morning, the Lord laid some scripture on my heart to share with the church for encouragement. It comes out of 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 and 12-31. Verses four through 7 reads, "Now there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us. A spiritual gift is give to each of us as a means of helping the entire church." I encourage and challenge everyone to seek your gift or gifts that the Lord has given you and use them and grow them and not let them go to waste, because the Lord also tells us that if we do not use the gifts He has given us He will take them away from us. That also means that we will be missing out on the blessings He has for us as well.

The second set of verses is 12-31. I will not write them out but I will summarize them. I encourage everyone to look them up and read them. It compares the human body with the body of Christ. Verse 18 reads, "But God made our bodies with many parts, and He has put each part just where He wants it." Our body as well as the body of Christ is made up of many parts, and it cannot fully function with a missing part. As a person is handicapped without a leg, the church is handicapped without everyone doing their part. God desires the church to work in harmony with each other so we may have unity. Verse 25 and 26 reads, "This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other equally. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and the one part is honored, all the parts are glad."

So I encourage everyone to pray and seek those gifts and to grow them, putting them into practice within the body of Christ. The more we seek His will for our lives, as well as the church, the more He will bless us and the church.

# May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal	2 12 Noon 70's Banquet 3pm Wedding
3 6:00 pm Music Night 7 pm Deacon's Meeting	4	5 7 pm Commission Keepers	6	7 7 pm Madge Dudley Group 7 pm Joy Group	8 5:30-8:30pm Parent's Night Out	9 10am WMU Installation of New Officers Fellowship Hall reserved
10 Happy Mother's Day	11 6 pm Stewardship Committee	12 10 am RSW/ Alice Fields Group	13 5:30 pm Operation Christmas Child Meeting	14 6:30 pm Nominating Committee	15	16
17 2:30 pm Gloucester House	18	19 7 pm Sisters in Christ	20	21	22	23
24	25 Church Office Closed	26	27	28 11:30 am WDLC Promotion	29 6:00 pm WDLC Graduation	30
31 6pm Children's Recognition Service			** No evening activities on May 10 & 24**			

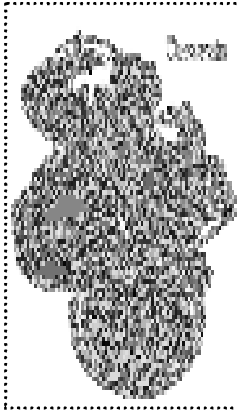
- 1-Cindy Hogge, Elizabeth Owens, Noah Waddles
- 2-Melodie McManus
- 3-Sydney Early, Amy Moore, Debra Spencer
- 4-Graham Byrd, Betty Dame, Joseph Sullivan, Gwen Thomassen
- 5-Scott Denton, Brandon Rudisill, Elizabeth Wirt
- 6-Katherine Armstrong, Gene Smith
- 7-Cheryl Denton, Thomas Hardy, Caitlin McGowan, Trevor Smith Mark Ward
- 8-Senora Greene, Carol Hall
- 9-Chris Long, Kenny Parks, Cathryn Young
- 10-Shirley Crotty, Brown Hall, Dannette Lopez, Alexis Walker, Brittanie West
- 11-Austin Hammock, Jennifer Motley, Alice Owens
- 13-Loralie Seawell
- 14-Jimmy Garrett, Connie Welch
- 15-Jacob Hines, Caleb Lawrence, Joshua Santore, Millie Wood
- 16-Paul Brown, Wendy Warrington
- 17-Alicia Giles

- 20-Chirstine Vest
- 21-Lisa Hansford, Madison Hutson, Steven Tores, Damon Watford
- 22-Garnett Basta, Emma Guy, Gavin Keller
- 23-Angel Trundy, Sally Wiley
- 24-Gary Griffith, Randy McDaniel, Jazlyn Whiting
- 25-Frank Crotty, Lewis Fletcher, Kenneth Wicker
- 26-Joyce Belvin, Chris Lawrence, Jean Smith
- 27-Andrea Blake, Pam Farinholt, Carroll Foster, Dot Keyser, Amelita Thomas
- 28-Colin Walke, Megan Zens
- 30-Mackenzie Bass, Mark Davis, Valerie Hogge, Nikki Rowe
- 31-Brady Barefoot, Katie Enz, Braedon Redd

# HIGHLIGHTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Friday, May 8  
 5:30 - 8:30 PM  
 This is sponsored by the Youth and all donations go toward the Youth Mission Trip this summer.



There will be a "last supper" here at Providence and it's not Holy Communion....rather, Pastor(s) Richard, Michael and Phillip will be preparing and cooking the last family meal of May (27th) before the summer break.

## Children's Day of Recognition

Sunday, May 31 starting at 4pm

We will have game booths, food, a recognition service for RA, GA & AWANA participants at 6pm and a few surprises...

Following the service, we will have desserts and the AWANA store open in the Fellowship Hall.



## Recognition



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 29TH -JULY 2

Teachers and helpers are needed

### Strap on your sandals for fun, adventure, and God's love--in Rome

Join us as we explore a crowded Roman marketplace ....tiptoe past Roman guards ....encourage Christians in an underground church...and visit Paul for daily discoveries about God's love! Rome....where the Bible comes to life! Race a chariot, try on a toga....nibble on a rat (actually it's chicken)...and experience the power of Scripture and the courage of the early church! Rome...where the Apostle Paul is your Bible teacher! Each day we will visit Paul's cell, soaking in Scripture as Paul shares what he's writing and applies it to kids' experiences. To hear from Paul, chained to a Roman guard...it's memorable learning-and powerful!

## Weekly Ministry Opportunities

## Church Staff

### Sunday

Worship and Praise Celebration.....9:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Church.....9:00 a.m.  
Discipleship Classes.....5:00 p.m.  
AWANA.....5:45 p.m.  
Finding your Way with Brian Gray.....6:00 p.m.  
Evening Worship Service.....6:00 p.m.

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

Staff Meeting..... 10:30 a.m.

### Wednesday

Bible Study.....10:45 a.m.  
Skater & Sport's Ministry..... 3:00 p.m.  
Family Dinner.....5:15 p.m.  
Youth Study, Preschool & Children's Choirs.....6:00 p.m.  
Mission Friends, GAs, RAs, Acteens.....6:30 p.m.  
Discipleship Classes.....6:30 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.  
Men's Ministry (S7 & S9).....6:30 p.m.  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal.....7:30 p.m.

### Thursday

Worship Team Rehearsal.....7:00 p.m.

Every Member .....*A Minister*  
Senior Pastor .....Dr. Richard W. Croxton  
Associate Pastor/Music.....Rev. Phillip Higgins  
Associate Pastor/Children & Youth.....Rev. Michael Small  
Administrative Assistant.....Wanda Hansford  
Weekday Learning Center Director.....Linda Nuttall  
Organist.....Kenneth Brown  
Treasurer .....Jerry West  
Financial Secretary .....Jean Brown  
Custodian.....Jay Rector

### Office Hours

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

Friday — 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

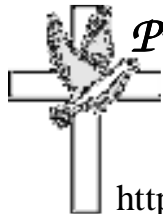
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The purpose of "The Proclamation" is to inform our members and those interested in the exciting ministries and activities that God has led us to accomplish through Providence Baptist Church and to encourage them in their daily walk with Christ.

**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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED