



The Proclamation

A monthly newsletter of Providence Baptist Church

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

Philippians 3:10

NOVEMBER 2009

From the Pastor . .

This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! I hope this finds you and your family staying well without any viruses and flu. If you become sick, just rest in the Lord. He will restore you!

You and I are blessed people of the Most Holy God! We should be in a spirit of thanksgiving everyday for the goodness of the Lord! He loves His creation more than we can fathom! Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Over the years I have heard many people talk about the need for revival. We talk often about revival within the family of Providence and yes, we need the fires of Holy Spirit led revival to sweep across our congregation. While growing up in my home church, we followed the plan of many local churches and had a scheduled series of services every year that we embraced as "revival"... but were these "times" truly revival?

Most churches embark on a quest for results, success, and numbers. We tend to jump from one new program to another hoping that something will "take and stick". Much like the world, the church has found itself jumping from one novelty to another with our latest obsession of how to do things and prosper the church. In the 60s, the big push was Sunday School and it was decided that this was the way to grow the church. In the 70s, we were all about soulwinning and getting as many converts as possible. The 80s saw the church promoting discipleship and small groups. The

90s emphasized cell churches and seeker-sensitive churches. As we came into a new century, churches embraced the concept of "finding our purpose" and becoming "driven" by that purpose. Now there seems to be a lot of people once again talking about revival. It is exciting to see a lot of people genuinely carrying a burden for revival. Also, there is much prayer going on for revival! Many churches and denominations have united and pooled their resources in an effort to promote revival; however, in the promoting of revival it would serve us all well to step back and increase our understanding of the nature and ways of God in genuine revival.

First of all, the church of 2009 does not need another program or novel approach as a means to an end, the end of course being revival. Our mission really, is not to seek revival but to seek the face of the Lord. Our need is the presence and power of the Lord! All of our prayers, fastings, preparations, gatherings, and efforts to promote and "hold" revival serve as no guarantee that God will be pleased to unleash revival in our midst. The Lord will not revive a people who have not first sought Him and Him alone! Revival is one of those "divine moments" when there is a supernatural outpouring of God's Spirit upon His people that cannot be explained in human terms. It is not a religious happening or movement relegated to the status of a "capsuled" event.

Secondly, we must come to terms with the fact that revival is not a way to get rid of our problems, to increase giving, to get greater numbers in attendance, or to pump life into folks. Revival is for the glory of God that His will might be done on earth as in heaven!

Thirdly, genuine revival will bring about deep brokenness and contrition over the seriousness of sin against a holy and just God. You see it is not enough for us all to agree that there is a need for repentance for it does not follow that we have indeed repented. We must be led by precious Holy Spirit to grieve over our sin and rebellion against the One who loves us more than our finite minds can comprehend. The one who genuinely repents will be transformed by the presence of God and not just confess sins and say "I'm sorry". You see, it has been said there is a big difference between "venting" and repenting.

Fourthly, we can all have a burden for revival in the church in this corporate setting; however, we must all yearn for personal revival. It really is easy to talk about Providence Church needing revival but what about our own individual life? Do I need revival? What about my family? Do we need revival? It is truly a blessing of the Lord for Him to send corporate revival; however, is it still not a concern when we have unresolved contention, strife, turmoil, and conflicts in our own homes and individual lives? Dear folks, we all need to deal with the issues of pride, idolatry, bitterness, and selfishness in our own lives and that of our families.

In a few short weeks, we will all come together for a wonderful celebration of thanksgiving. Might we consider that genuine thanksgiving issues forth from a well-spring of a life and church that has experienced the sweet savors of repentance before a loving Lord! Repentance that provides a seedbed for the Lord sending revival and revival yielding the fruit of thanksgiving in our hearts... well now, could that be a plan? Yes it is! It's the Lord's plan...It's His will!

Blessings Always,
Pastor Richard

Dr. Richard W. Croxton, Senior Pastor



Music Ministry

We Gather Together (1597)

*So the nations shall fear the name of the Lord, and
all the kings of the earth Your glory.*

Psalm 102:15 (NKJV)



Those who have visited the Netherlands with its picturesque dikes and windmills may be unaware of the terrific struggle for religious freedom that took place there in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 1555, the Low Country was given to King Philip II of Spain by his father, Emperor Charles V of Germany. Philip was an

arch-Catholic, but the winds of the Calvinistic Reformation had reached the Netherlands. Roman Catholic churches were plundered, and the authority of Spain was resisted.

In 1557, King Philip sent the dreaded Duke of Alba (Fernando Alvarez de Toledo) to bring the Netherlands back into the Pope's fold. He established a reign of terror during which ten thousand people were executed and another forty thousand exiled. His ruling counsel was called the "Council of Troubles", but it's better known to history as the "Blood Council". The bodies of thousands of people were hung in the streets and on the doorposts of houses. Alba didn't hesitate to massacre whole cities. An attack on Leiden was stopped only by cutting the dikes and flooding the countryside.

On January 6, 1579, the Catholic southern regions of the Netherlands (modern Belgium) declared their allegiance to Philip; but three weeks later the northern part (modern Holland) refused to submit to the Catholic rule of Spain. In 1581, Holland declared its independence, led by the courageous William of Orange. Holland was devastated by warfare, and in the process William was cut down by an assassin's dagger; however, the brave nation would not be denied, and eventually Spain lost its hold on the Dutch Republic.

This hymn, "We Gather Together", which Americans associate with their Thanksgiving holiday, was actually written sometime in 1597 to celebrate Holland's freedom from Spain. Its author, an unknown Dutchman, was full of thanksgiving that his people were finally free from Spanish tyranny and free to worship as they chose. Notice how he expressed this theme in the these three beautiful verses:

*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to His name: He forgets not His own.*

*Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning:
Thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory by Thine!*

*We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our Defender wilt be.*

*Let thy congregation escape tribulation:
Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!*

Thoughtful Theology

from youth & children's pastor Michael Small

Understanding How Salvation Works, Part 2: Eternal Security, it's not for everyone...

Can a person lose their salvation if they persist in sinning? This is a difficult question to answer, not because the Scriptures are not clear, because they certainly are. One needs go no further than Romans 8 wherein the doctrine of eternal security is clearly laid out and defended. (If you would like to go further, however, cf. Jn. 6:37-39, 10:27-28, Php. 1:6, 1Pt. 1:1-5, Heb. 10:14-17, 1 Jn 2:19).

Rather the difficulty with this doctrine is that many people believe they are saved when they are, in fact, not. As ministers, we must walk the fine line between assuring those who have genuinely received Christ of their secure salvation while at the same time avoiding giving those people who are "Christians" in name only a false sense of hope. It is for this reason the Bible calls each us to examine ourselves to see if we really are Christians (2 Cor. 13:5). The Bible does not say what sort of test we should apply, but let me suggest two questions:

1. Are you trusting in anything except Christ for your salvation? Many people believe that they are saved because they have faithfully attended church, read their Bible regularly, were raised in a Christian home or were baptized. The fact is, we should never be looking toward anything WE HAVE DONE for our salvation, rather we should be trusting in WHAT JESUS DID on the cross. Don't be ignorant. There are many "good, religious people" sitting in the pews every Sunday who are on their way to hell. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'" (Matt. 7:22-23).

2. Do I see evidence of God's work in my life? As Christians, our flesh with it's desires is being put to death (Gal. 5:24, though crucifixion is a slow and painful process). Our old man is gone and we should have new desires (2 Cor. 5:17). None of us is perfect, but we should be getting closer over time. No growth means there is no life.

If you are, right now certain, of your standing with God because of Christ's work in you, great! Know that nothing can separate you from God's love (Rom. 8 again).; however, if you are unsure, my plea with you is this: right now surrender to Christ as your Lord and trust in his death and resurrection as a full payment for your sins (past, present & future). Then you can know you are saved & you always will be!

Coming in NOVEMBER

11/6-8: Youth Purity Conference @ Petsworth Baptist—Meet at Petsworth at 6:00pm for registration (\$10 student) the conference lasts until Sunday Morning (the students will attend their home churches). Students are asked to bring their own bible, notebooks, writing supplies, clothing, toiletries & sleeping bag & pillow.

11/20-21: 30 Hour Famine—We will meet at Gloucester Point Baptist at 5:30 to serve in a hunger banquet. There will be games later in the evening at Providence and we will break the famine the next day at Newington Baptist. More details will be posted in the coming weeks.

11/29: A Night in Bethlehem (5:30-8pm)—Children of all ages are invited to come out and experience the marketplace of Bethlehem with it's food and shops. Plus, travel with shepherds and hear about the visit of angels and meet the newborn king!!

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



THANKSGIVING

Luke 11:9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you, seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

The women of Providence did and now here we are... the beginning of a new Women's Ministry. In addition to the great WMU already in place, we have two Bible/Book studies in place and moving forward. Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall is a book study on "Pursuing More of Jesus" by Anne Graham Lotz, facilitated by Holly Handy and Vickie Lemon. Wednesday in the Friendly Classroom, Tina Fulcher and Linda Nuttall facilitate a Bible Study. Please join either or both of these ministries any night because each night is new and different and blessed by our Father. We also have a Coffee House scheduled, November 21, 7-9 p.m. at the home of Carolyn Higgins hosted by Monica Galewater. We are still sharing ideas for a continued ministry so come and bring your thoughts and wishes.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all the women. Keep the prayers coming. Join us on Thursday morning for intercessory prayer at 7:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. It's a wonderful way to start your day with the Lord.

God Bless!
Vickie Lemon

In Romans 1:18 Paul "Thank God through Jesus Christ for all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the world".

I researched thankfulness and all the related words and found there was an extensive amount of scripture relating to the important term of thanks. Words of adoration and appreciation to the Lord and the faithful. Thanksgiving for all that has been done and all that would be done.

For all that you have done and all that I know you will do...THANKS BE TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOR... May this month be a month of reflection. May our heart actions resonate with all we meet... THANKFULNESS.


The men of Providence have taken on a number of projects that will allow us to use our gifts and talents. Stan Phillips is spearheading clean up projects for some of our members and is scheduling times and project action. Please contact Stan Phillips or myself if you would like to take part.

In keeping with the spirit of Thanksgiving, the Men's Ministry will again be hosting the community Thanksgiving dinner. This is a tremendous undertaking and will require the support of all the talents and gifts of the Providence's church body. If you wish to help please contact Ronald Hogge at (804)693-7108, Patrick Lemon at (804)815-0210, or the church office at (804)645-5812. God has a place for you in this wonderful ministry. We are looking forward to sharing and experiencing God together with you.

T.G..T.G.

Your Brother in Christ

Pat Lemon



FAMILY DINNER MENUS

NOVEMBER 2009

5:15 P.M.


1ST WEDNESDAY: BEEF TIPS OVER NOODLES, GLAZED CARROTS, SUCCOTASH & DESSERT

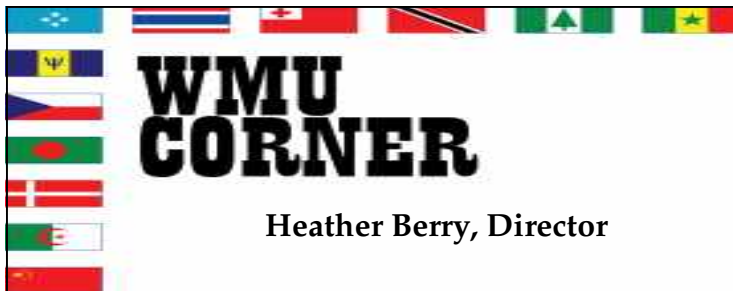
2ND WEDNESDAY: BAKED CHICKEN W/DRESSING, SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE, BEANS, ROLLS & DESSERT

3RD WEDNESDAY: LASAGNA, SALAD & DESSERT

4TH WEDNESDAY: DESSERTS & HOT BEVERAGES

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE





“How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?” Thessalonians 3:9

Who led you to Christ? Maybe it was your youth leader, a brother or sister, your parents or grandparents or someone off of the street? Either way it was someone with a heart for the Lord. Someone who loved you so very much that they wanted you to have a beautiful heart full of Christ, WOW! What a gift you received! Now think of someone you know who would need a gift that magnificent. What an awesome Thanksgiving for you and that person just knowing that you get to share eternity with him or her, serving our Lord. What a great time of year to show that special person how much you are thankful for them sharing God’s love with you, by sharing with someone else in need. Let’s share the love of Christ and give others a chance to feel his warm embrace.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Heather Berry

WMU Events Coming up:

- November 2– Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer
- November 6-8—Women’s Getaway to Eagle Eyrie
- November 8th—Christmas Stockings for Troops in Afghanistan
- November 22nd—Lottie Moon Mission Emphasis
- November 29—Walk to the Manger Lottie Moon Christmas Offering



**Thanksgiving Day is a happy day and we say
Thank you God**

On November the 4th we will begin our fund raiser for the preschool. We will be taking orders for candles from Partylite. The profit is 50% of the total sales. Weekday will use these funds to replace worn puzzles, books, games and also to help with special activities for the children.

November 25th, 11:30 a.m.—Thanksgiving Preschool Program. All Families and friends are welcomed!!

- Our calendar for November:
- 4-18 Partylite candle fund raiser
 - 5 & 6 Dress up days and school pictures
 - 18 Fire Drill
 - 20 Pre-K trip to Jamestown
 - 25 Thanksgiving Program 11:30
 - 26 **Happy Thanksgiving !!!**

Music every Tuesday with Pastor Phillip
Music every Friday for the W/F 2’s



*Thanksgiving Eve Service
6:30 p.m.*

Please come be a part of the Thanksgiving Eve Service @ 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall this year. We will be sharing testimonies about the Lord’s goodness, musical selections, and a devotion. We will have desserts, coffee, tea and hot apple cider provided by the church staff and deacons. At the conclusion of the devotion, we will observe the Lord’s Supper together.



NOVEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4:30 pm LSCT Rehearsal 6:30 pm Family Night 7:30 pm Deacons Meeting	2 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer 6:30 pm Grow Visitation	3	4 10:45 am Bible Study	5 7:00 pm Joy Group 7:00 pm Madge Dudley Group	6 WMU Women's Getaway to Eagle Eyrie	7 Deacon/Wife Retreat With Dr. Larry & Donna Johnson
8 4:30 pm LSCT Rehearsal 5:30-7:30 pm Stockings for Troops 7:30 pm Season of Prayer/ Deacons	9 6:30 pm Grow Visitation Deacon/Wife Retreat	10 10:00 am RSW/Alice Fields Group 7:00 pm Commission Keepers	11 10:45 am Bible Study Veterans Day	12	13	14 Fellowship Hall Reserved
15 Youth Sunday 4:30 pm LSCT Rehearsal	16 6:30 pm Grow Visitation	17 7:00 pm Sisters in Christ	18 10:45 am Bible Study	19	20 Youth 30 hour Famine	21 Baptist Men's Community Dinner Youth 30 hour Famine
22 4:30 pm LSCT Rehearsal 6:30 pm Lottie Moon Mission Study	23 6:30 pm Grow Visitation	24	25 10:45 am Bible Study 11:30am WDLC Thanksgiving Program 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Service	26 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28
29 9 & 10:30 am Walk to Manger Lottie Moon Offering 6:30pm Hanging of Greens 5:30-8 pm Night in Bethlehem	30 6:30 pm Grow Visitation					

November Birthdays

- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Billy Blalock, Billy Martin, Kathy Matelyan, Landon Spivey 2. Joan Gary 3. Michael Reed 4. Eric Hovan, Amy Wood 5. Robert Altrath 6. Douglas Curtis, Delia Hudgins, Christy Layman 7. Morgan Hines 8. Nathan Altrath, William Nuttall 9. Fay Burris 10. Miguel Feliciano 11. Jerry Henson, Elizabeth Moylan 12. Carolyn Crewe, Cody Griffey, Sue Shaffer 13. Otis Marshall 14. Carli Walke 15. Jeanell LaFata, Tiffany Shetterly, Stacy Williams 16. Fred Ambrose, Mabel Davis, Lauren Handy, Wilbur Templeman 17. Vernon Booker, Blake Taylor 18. Kayley Fullerton, Kelly Williams 19. William Crews 20. Donna Alexander, Christian Banks, Grace Burgess, Kristi Milby 21. Eric Anderson, Donna Phillips, Alyson Ridge, Samantha Shetterly 22. Pat Hogge, Barbara Smith, Chris Walser | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23. Raymond Burris, James Santore 24. Phillip Brown, Mallory Cullison, Randy Garris, Debbie Rowe 25. Joseph Britton, Barbara Crim, Larry Johnson, Zac Ratliff 26. Cassandra Conrad 27. Barbara Page, Mary Shackelford 28. Ethel Brown, Casey English 29. Kevin Phelps, Carla Stanley, Tina White 30. Alexis Church, Peggy Douglas, Leo Moylan |
|--|--|

Sunday, November 1



HIGHLIGHTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Stockings for the Troops




in Afghanistan

Mission Friends, GA's, RA's, Acteens, and Challengers will be filling Christmas stockings for troops in Afghanistan on November 8. Please bring hard candies.....**no chocolate, sugar free candy or anything that may melt in the heat of the desert.....**to the church and place them in the library or church office.



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
6:30 PM**

There will be something for all ages. Our Acteens & Challengers will be doing a skit.


WALK TO THE MANGER
November 29, 2009
9:00 & 10:30 AM

**Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering**



*Please pray about what God is leading you to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We will be taking a special offering on **Sunday, November 29** at both the 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM Services.*



A Night in Bethlehem

Nov. 29, 5:30-8:00 PM

Bring out the kids for a great experience of the Bethlehem marketplace. Visit shops! Eat food! Plus go with shepherds and listen to their account of angels appearing and meet the newborn Messiah, laying in a manger.

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 Slam5:30-7:30 p.m.
Women's Ministry Book Study.....6:30 p.m.
Mission Friends, GA's, RA's, 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.

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study.....10:45 a.m.
Family Meals.....5:15 p.m.
Kingdom Kids Choir5:45 p.m.
WOW Youth Drama & Music5:45 p.m.
AWANA (Children)6:15 p.m.
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Sanctuary).....6:30 p.m.
Men's Ministry (S7 & S9).....6:30 p.m.
Women's Ministry (Friendly Classroom).....6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night witness (Youth).....6:30 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal.....7:30 p.m.

Thursday

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

Every Member*A Minister*
Senior PastorDr. Richard W. Croxton
Associate Pastor/Music.....Rev. Phillip Higgins
Associate Pastor/Children & Youth.....Rev. Michael Small
Senior Pastor's SecretaryWanda Hansford
Administrative Assistant.....Brenda Lamberson
Weekday Learning Center Director.....Linda Nuttall
Organist.....Kenneth Brown
TreasurerJerry West
Financial SecretaryJean 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

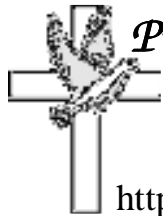
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Website: <http://www.providence-baptist.com>

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.



Providence Baptist Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED