



The Proclamation

A monthly newsletter of Providence Baptist Church

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

Philippians 3:10

SEPTEMBER 2009

From the Pastor...



Can you believe that summer is drawing to a close? It does seem that it went by so quickly. Please, let's covenant together to pray for our children, teachers, administrators, bus drivers and all school personnel as the new school year commences. Right now, I'm reflecting upon old comments by Josh McDowell about choices, so let's begin.

These are difficult days in our country with so much economic concern and difficult decisions for so many people. Fierce discussions are taking place from the hallowed halls of congress to the café coffee shops and town halls of America. Preachers and/or spiritual leaders are often asked, "What do you think is going on?" Preachers and/or spiritual leaders often get involved in fierce discussions about hot topics of the day. For instance, in the thirties preachers were often asked about the country's plight in light of the Stock Market crash of 1929. In the forties, preachers were asked about how Jesus would feel about the dropping of atomic bombs that wipe out the enemy and also civilians. In the fifties, Elvis Presley shocked a lot of people and spiritual leaders discussed his appropriateness for young people (Billy Graham was asked about Elvis and he replied that

he wouldn't walk across the street to see him). As we look back at the sixties, spiritual leaders were often asked about the "Jesus movement" where large number of "hippies" and "yippies" began professing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In the seventies and eighties, preachers were almost forced to discuss their reaction to the rise and fall of televangelists. In the nineties, many wanted preachers to comment on the "me-ism" that seemed so prevalent in our society. As we began the 21st century, the hot topic of course was post 9/11 and how to defeat these terrorists. Preachers were often asked about where was God in all of this malaise and was He judging America? One of the current hot topics often asked for comments from spiritual leaders is the U.S. economy and our overwhelming deficit and debt. Preachers are often asked about the declining moral values and the devaluing of human life in our society.

None of these topics were part of a fierce discussion during Jesus' day. People didn't know who Elvis Presley was, and television or the internet had not been invented by Al Gore. There were no "hippies" running around Jerusalem. There were no planes being flown intentionally into tall buildings. The hot topic among preachers, teachers, and spiritual leaders during Jesus' day was, "which commandment is the greatest?" Let's look at this discussion for just a moment.

You see, a law expert came to Jesus with that very question. He was part and parcel of the religious group called the Pharisees. They knew the commandments up one side, down the other, and inside-out. They believed that there was a commandment to cover every facet of life, if not, they would come up with a new rule and regulation. Let's look at the exchange between Jesus and a young Pharisee who was an expert in the law, found in Matthew 22:35-40. "Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him and saying, 'Master which is the great commandment in law?' Jesus said unto him, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'"

Now, what was Jesus saying? Simply this...that everything that God has revealed to us about good and evil, right and wrong, do's and don'ts, should and should nots, good choices, His commandments and demands, and obedience all hinge upon, are explained, amplified, and solidified by His commandment to love! All of our choices/decisions in life have to center upon and be issued from the well spring of His love!

My Christian friend, more than ever our world is crying out for God's love. In the choices you make, whether they be spiritual, emotional, physical, or relational, you have the opportunity to show forth the love of God. If we don't ...? If we don't...? If we don't...who will?

Proverb 17:17 tells us, "A friend loves at all times." Make the choice to love, to be a friend even to those who hate you and malign you. If your heart is right before God, you truly can cast your burdens upon Him and He will care for (cover) you. Sounds like a plan!

*Blessings Always,
Pastor Richard*

Dr. Richard W. Croxton, Senior Pastor



Music Ministry

“We’re Marching to Zion”
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God will shine forth”.
Psalm 50:2 (NKJV)

On the night of November 30, 1940, German planes bombed Southampton, England, and destroyed the Above Bar Congregational Church. The pastor and caretaker were able to rescue the church records, but all else was destroyed—except for a bust of Isaac Watts, the “Father of English Hymnody.”

The destruction of those old buildings was a blow to Christian history, for within the walls of the Above Bar Church the hymns of young Isaac Watts were first sung.

Watts was born in Southampton on July 17, 1674, the oldest of nine children. He was a brilliant lad who started learning Latin at age four and Greek and Hebrew soon after. It’s said that even before he could speak plainly, he would cry out, “A book! A book! Buy a book!” whenever anyone would give him money.

Isaac advanced so quickly in school that a local physician offered to finance his education at a major university. As members of Above Bar Congregational Church, however, the Watts were committed “Dissenters”, Christians who didn’t believe in joining the State Church. Dissenters opted instead for establishing independent congregations where they could worship without conforming to government regulations. As such, they were bitterly persecuted, and Isaac’s father had even spent time in prison for his beliefs. Dissenters also were not allowed to attend the state universities. So, at sixteen, Isaac enrolled instead in an independent academy in London and graduated with honors.

Returning home, Isaac spent two years more living with his parents and attending Above Bar Congregational Church. One day, discontented with the quality of the singing at the church, he wrote a hymn for the church to sing. This was a new and radical innovation, for at that time only the Psalms of David were sung in English churches.

Nonetheless, Above Bar Congregational Church gamely tried the young man’s hymn and liked it so much they asked for another. For two and a half years, Isaac churned out hymns for that little congregation. Those two post-college years at home became the “Golden Years” of Watt’s hymn writing.

How remarkable that some of the greatest hymns ever sung in the English language—such as “We’re Marching to Zion”—should be produced by the “Father of Hymnody” who was only twenty years of age.

The old church building may be gone now, but the hymns first sung there will never die.

*Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known.
Join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.*

*Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry.
We’re marching through Immanuel’s ground, we’re marching through Immanuel’s ground.
To fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high.*

***We’re marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion.
We’re marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.***

Phillip Higgins
Associate Pastor/Music

Thoughtful Theology

from youth & children's pastor Michael Small

How should Christians feel about success and failure?

In our results driven society, we often measure the success or failure of things in terms by how big they are. We are successful if we have big houses, big bank accounts and are popular with the people. The trouble is, for many of us, we don't have these things and so we begin to wonder if we are really making a difference.

It is an easy trap to fall into. Certainly there are those who feel that Providence is not successful unless a certain number of people show up on a given Sunday. I once heard about a youth minister who bragged, "We have so many kids in our group, we don't even know all of their names." Is this truly the mark of success? I wonder where many of those kids will be in ten years.

I have good news for all of you who have ever felt unsuccessful: God doesn't care about how important or popular you are. "Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart" (1 Sam 16:7). If God wanted to make you "successful" He certainly could: "the Lord makes poor and rich, He brings low, He also exalts" 1 Sam. 2:6-7. In fact, the Bible says that God, "works all things after the council of His will" (Eph. 1:11).

Jesus was not impressed by big numbers. He would often draw away from the crowds to minister to his disciples or pray by Himself (Mt. 14:22-23, 15:39, Mk. 6:45, Lk. 4:42, Jn. 5:13). He was not impressed by a lot of money. Jesus was homeless (Mt. 8:20) even though people wanted to make Him king (John 6:15). He even told the rich young ruler to sell everything he had and give it to the poor before he could follow Him (Mk. 10:21). Jesus was not even impressed by power, because he knew God was behind it all. Jesus even told Pontius Pilate: "you would have no authority over me unless it had been given to you from above" (Jn 19:11).

So if success and failure are all part of God's will and God's doing, what does He desire? Faith and obedience (cf. Mt. 21:28-32). Consider the words of Paul, "'Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:11-13).

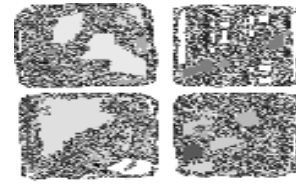
Coming in September

9/6-7—Youth Back to School All Night & Day Party— Youth meet at the Church at 5:30pm with \$10 and an overnight bag for the next day. We'll drop them back off at home on Labor Day afternoon.

9/11-13—Father/Son Weekend—Everyone will meet at church at 5. Everyone will need to bring a tent, sleeping bags, etc. and \$20 each. We will get back Sunday afternoon.

9/18—5th Quarter—After the GHS home football game, all youth and their friends are invited back to Providence for a multi-church celebration with food, games, door prizes and more...

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



Men On Mission

TOTAL WORSHIP -

Leaf Peepers! Come join us for a day trip to Graves Mountain Lodge Apple Festival in Syria, VA. The date is October 10, 2009. We will be leaving Providence at 8:30 a.m. and returning, hopefully, between 8 and 9 p.m. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board beside the church office. Information about the festival is beside the sign up sheet. Only 40 seats are available! The cost of the trip is \$15 per person. Lunch and dinner are up to the individual. Lunch will be at the festival. Not sure where dinner will be yet but may be at Graves Mountain Lodge, if reservations are available. Last sign up date is September 30, 2009. There is a lot of walking on this trip so wear comfortable shoes! Any questions? Please call the church office at 642-5812 or Cheryl Grimes at 693-6226.

Praising God in song is almost a part of everyone who comes in the doors of Providence, but I wonder if everyone uses their gifts and talents to worship Holy God.

It becomes easy in the everyday activities of life to lose sight of the fact, that as we live our lives, each activity or action of our lives should show worship.

Imagine a world focused on that attitude. We would even be able to communicate our differences in worship styles, because we would understand the importance of Christ-likeness in all our affairs.

I would like to thank all of those who have used their gifts and talents recently to help create that atmosphere of worship. Those who fixed and painted the fence of our neighbor across the field, those who have given their talents and time for the Habitat for Humanities project down the street, those who work diligently each and every week to help the congregation have a more worshipful experience on Sundays and Wednesdays.

As we move forward as men on mission, may that spirit of worship become contagious so all that we do becomes worship before God.

Come join us September 29 at 8:00 a.m. for a men's breakfast and time of worship.

*Your Brother In Christ,
Pat Lemon*



Isabella Nolte

Who joined in August 2009

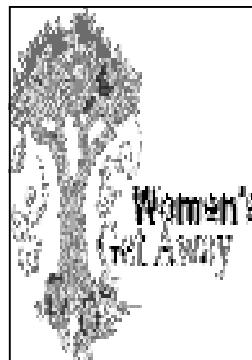
FAMILY DINNER MENUS

September 2009

5:15 p.m.

- 1st Wed:** Meatloaf, potato casserole, glazed carrots, rolls & dessert.
- 2nd Wed:** Baked chicken w/dressing, sweet potato casserole, beans, rolls & dessert.
- 3rd Wed:** Salad & Potato Bar
- 4th Wed:** Pork chop casserole, peas, rolls & dessert.
- 5th Wed:** Fried chicken, potato salad, applesauce, rolls & dessert.

Please join us for these delicious meals and fellowship.



"Master Piece in the Making"

November 6-8 to Eagle Eyrie

Please contact Heather Berry for more information, 804- 832-1819. Sign up



**WMU
CORNER**

Heather Berry, Director

“The spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”
Luke 4:18-21

Who is Alma Hunt?

“Miss Alma” as she is affectionately known, was a young woman with a heart for the Lord and others. She traveled to 93 countries in nine decades, held the position of Executive Secretary of WMU for 26 years, and helped to further mission worked in the State of Virginia. We as Virginian’s have a great sense of pride that our great state is home to such a woman. A woman, that followed God’s will to provide other Virginians with the Love of Christ. In 1998 the State Missions offering of Virginia was named Alma Hunt in her honor. In 2008 “Miss Alma” went home to be with the Lord and to continue watching over those in need. Now it’s our turn to make her proud. We can do this by seeking God’s will to help others in need. One way of doing so is by donating to the State Missions during the month of September. Here are a few ways your donations will help our state:


- New Church Investment Grant—\$380,000
- IMPACT VA—\$18,750
- Deaf Ministry—\$5,000
- Equipping Women, Students, and children to lead a Mission Lifestyle—\$78,100

State Goal—41,167,500; Providence Church—\$4,000

For more information on Alma Hunt and State Missions please visit www.almahunt.org

WMU Events Coming up:

BCM September 6th—meet at church at 2:30 to cook and leave for William & Mary at 4:00 p.m.
Alma Hunt Emphasis Week—September 13-20



Woman’s Missionary Union is still changing lives and there is a place for YOU!

Women on Mission Groups and Meeting Times

1st Thursday	7:00 pm Joy Group
1st Thursday	7:00 pm Madge Dudley Group
2nd Tuesday	10:00 am RSW/Alice Fields Group
2nd Tuesday	7:00 pm Commission Keepers
3rd Tuesday	7:00 pm Sisters in Christ



Tiny Press News

Weekday Learning Center

Linda Nuttall, Director




ABC 123....
Preschool begins!

September 8th	Director’s Meeting
September 10th	Open House 6:30 pm
September 15th	First Day of Preschool
September 16/17	Chapel
September 18	Fire Drill
September 24	Happy Birthday WDL
September 24/25	Tee Shirt Days
September 24	Director’s Meeting
September 29	Fire Drill

Curriculum Subjects for September:

- Starting School
- Learning about Me
- My Family
- Friends
- I am Special

NEW THIS YEAR ..Signs for our Playground!
Weekday has purchased signs for our playground and also for our Crosswalk. We also have added more mulch as a safety cushion for our play area.

Teachers this year:

Pre-K-	Tavy VanNess, Tina Fulcher Tracey McFarland, Amber Byrd
Three’s-	Heather Berry Vicki Morrison Gina Cook, Kendall Tayman
Two’s-	Dawn Shannon, Nydia Seaton
Office-	Linda Nuttall, Connie Johnston Shirley Crotty, Angelina Wicker

Please PRAY for our staff and children and God’s will for Weekday Learning Center.

2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:30 pm Youth Council 7:30 pm Called Business Meeting	3 7pm Madge Dudley Group 7pm Joy Group	4 Fellowship Hall reserved 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal	5 2:00 p.m. Wedding
6 No Evening Activities	7 Labor Day Church Office Closed	8 10am RSW/Alice Fields 7pm Commission Keepers	9 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	10 6:30 p.m. WDLC Open House	11 Wedding Rehearsal Fellowship Hall reserved	12 2:00 p.m. Wedding Fellowship Hall reserved
13 4:00 p.m. LSCT Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. Fall Kickoff Grandparents Day	14 6:30 p.m. Grow visitation	15 7pm Sisters in Christ	16 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	17	18 Voeghty/Brown Rehearsal 10:30 p.m. "Fifth Quarter"	19 3:00 pm Voeghty/Brown Wedding
20 2:30 Glou. House 4:00 p.m. LSCT Rehearsal 6:30 Alma Hunt Mission Study	21 6:30 p.m. Grow visitation	22 1:00-7:00 PM Blood Drive @ Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church	23 10:45 a.m. Bible Study	24 1:00 p.m. Director's Mtg. Fellowship Hall	25 Living Singing Christmas Tree Retreat	Living Singing Christmas Tree Retreat
27 4:00 p.m. LSCT Rehearsal	28 6:30 p.m. Grow visitation	29	30 10:45 a.m. Bible Study			

September Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Larry Furr, Timmy Mayo 2. Wade Foster, Carey Hogge 3. Samantha Bauer, Dustin Garrett, Phyllis Hudgins 4. Lynwood Hogge, Cynthia Lemke 5. Teresa Altemus, Michelle Guy, Robert Haynes, E.W. Motley, Tyler Oliver, Thomas Owens 6. Angela Frye, Brittany Graveline, Troy Hansford, Boyd-D. Jenkins Alfred Little 7. Gwen Callis, Beverly Kemp, Kim Pickett, Trey Watford 8. Marie Foster, Justin Hansford, Carrie Kitchell, Trevor Roberts 9. Dorothy Dudley, Carol Jessie, 10. Thomas Hogge, Austin Smith, Gracie West 11. Nancy Bourne, Virginia Conway, Bradley Hudgins, Jodi Lane, Mary Alice Robbins, Albin Fulcher 12. Delores Goode, 13. Taylor Sites 14. Trent Halterman, Andy Jenkins, Sawyer Lemon, Baker Picardat, Kimberly Santore, Joann Smith, Timothy Tillage 15. Wionna Hogge, Sylvia Moore, Timothy Motley, Cindy Zens 16. Wanda Hansford, Katie Hunter 17. Matt Crim, Mary Hodges, Tom Hogge, Gail Mongold 18. Ridge Motley | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Slade Dunn, Ryleigh Fowler, Connie Johnston, 20. Gary Broughton, Valinda Stairs 21. Eric Bauman, Crystal Copenhaver, Braea Redd 22. Bonnie McAvoy 23. James Foretich 24. Sarah Loveland, William Taylor 25. Martha Borden, Raymond Forrest, Mark Howder, Karen Rhoden, Joseph Tayman 26. Kimberly Colarick, Edward Lemon, Dylan Mohan, Homer Rhoden, Wiley Shackelford, Millie Watford 27. Bobby Wood 28. William Ambrose, Jennifer Burgess, Phyllis Lawrence 29. Robbie Hansford, Ron Hansford, Rick Stanley 30. Christen Marshall |
|---|--|

HIGHLIGHTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday afternoon rehearsals begin September 13, 4-5:30 p.m. SIGN UPS for the Choir and the IN-HOUSE CHOIR RETREAT September 25-26 are on the table in the Goodwyn Hall!



We are inviting singers from other churches in our community to be a part of the Living-Singing Christmas Tree this year. Please keep the ministry of the LSCT in your prayers!

Retreat info: Friday, September 25: 6:00p.m. Supper; 7:00-9:00p.m. Rehearsal; Saturday, September 26: 8:00a.m. breakfast; 9:00-11:45a.m. Rehearsal; 12:00-1:00p.m. Lunch; 1:00-2:30p.m. Rehearsal

LSCT Performance Dates and Times:

Friday, December 11, 7:00 p.m.
 Saturday, December 12, 7:00 p.m.
 Sunday, December 13, 3:00 p.m.
 Sunday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.



Sunday September 13 6:00 P.M.

FALL Kickoff Preview Come see the ministry opportunities at Providence starting this fall! There will be stations set up in the Fellowship Hall that represent the children's and youth programs, missions programs, Music, Discipleship Training, Sunday School, etc. Bring the family for an evening of church family fellowship.

Don't miss this exciting evening!



The new church year begins in October. On October 4, starting at 4:00 p.m. we will have a church wide picnic at the home of Barbara & Tom Crim that officially kicks off the new church year. There will be food, music, inflatables for the kids and great fellowship.

PROVIDENCE FALL SCHEDULE Beginning in October

SUNDAY EVENINGS (First Sundays are Family Night)

4:30 PM LSCT Rehearsal
 5:00 PM Discipleship Classes
 5:30-7:30 PM Sunday Night Slam
 6:30 PM Mission Friends, GA's, RA's, Acteens, Challengers
 6:30 PM Worship Service

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

5:15 PM Family Meals
 5:45 PM Children's Choir
 5:45 PM Youth Choir/Drama Team
 6:15 PM AWANA (Children)
 6:30 PM Bible Study/Prayer Meeting
 6:30 PM Wed. Night Witness (Youth)
 6:30 PM Men's Ministry
 6:30 PM Women's Ministry



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.
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.
Family Meals.....5:15 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 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

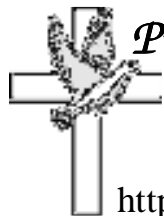
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Website: <http://www.providence-baptist.com>

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