

February 2012  
through  
April 2012

## A Word from the Pastor



I hope this finds you having made a wonderful transition into 2012. God is good and He is still on His throne.

My heart aches for the passing of my father. Although he was 90, we are going to miss him terribly; however, my countenance and spirit is uplifted as I am convicted that he is with Jesus and singing loudly in heaven. There is no more pain, tears, suffering or utter frustration on the part of my dad.

Your ministry to my mom, family, and me will always serve as a memory of graciousness and heartfelt expression. So many of you have loved my father while he was alive and you continued to express that love in his death. Blessings from our Lord upon you now and forevermore.

In the last three years of my father's life, he was intent upon getting all things right with the Lord. He really did love everybody and unity in the church, country, family, and the world was so important to him. My father had truly captured one of the essentials of the Christian faith - unity among the brethren.

A New Testament Church derives its doctrines, principles and practices from the New Testament, exhibiting the life of Jesus to the world. Let's look at Ephesians 4: 1-16;

**Walk in Unity....**I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; and one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

**Spiritual Gifts....**But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says:

“When He ascended on high,  
He led captivity captive,  
And gave gifts to men.”

(Now this, “He ascended” - what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head- Christ - from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (NKJV)

Bob Deffinbaugh in his study on Ephesians reminds us that the unity of which Paul wrote already exists. It is not something to be created. We share in one body and one faith - the body of Christ through faith. Christians are possessed, indwelt and sealed by the same Spirit and look forward to the same glorious hope. We have one Lord and one baptism.

It is imperative that we preserve unity. This should be continually pursued (v. 31) by an attitude of humility and demonstrated by gentleness and graciousness in our relationship with others. We should be longsuffering in this demonstration of gentleness and graciousness. Yes, yes, I know that sometimes it takes a lot for there are many disagreeable and puffed-up people who march through life under the auspices of Christianity and the church.

We must never lose sight of the fact that there is always diversity in the church; therefore, unity should never imply uniformity. Each Christian is given the capacity for ministry referred to as a “spiritual gift” to be used in a beneficial way for the body of Christ. The problem is that some Christians just don't use their spiritual gifts for the benefit of the church. Simply stated, they would rather just tear down and get their way at the expense of the others and unity.

A pastor is much like a coach of a sports team that seeks to equip individuals to play as a team by working toward a common goal and being united in spirit. Differences of opinion, arguments, and squabbles must be dealt with as members must work together harmoniously.

This passage tells us that all the saints are to minister and need to be equipped for ministry. So often, many think that ministry is just the “preacher's job.” This thinking is unscriptural and divisive. It will create disunity in the church.

One of the ultimate goals for ministry and team play is maturity. To be mature is to be Christ-like for He is our standard of maturity. We must speak the truth always in love for this is a sign of maturity (v. 15). It could certainly be said that an additional measure of maturity in a church or individual is striving for unity (v. 13).

Yes, my dad had grasped one of the fundamental tenets of the church of Jesus. Unity is vital in the existence of the body of Christ-the church. What plays havoc with so many churches is either immature Christians or folks that believe that they are saved but they've never believed Jesus, calling upon His name for salvation.

My dad died loving everyone. For him, unity and loving Jesus was everything in life. He was right.

Blessings always,

*Pastor Richard*

Providence Baptist Church  
Proclamation



# FEATURED EVENTS

Sponsored by:

Christ's Cultivators  
(Paul Lemon's Sunday  
School Class)



## Church Wide SUPER BOWL PARTY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

6:00 PM

FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Bring your favorite game snacks  
best soup or chili dish,

Be ready to watch the game on the  
big screen TV and cheer on your team!

There will be a devotional during half time.



**Dedication of Windows**

**"The Life of Christ"**

**February 12**

**9:00 am & 10:30 am**

**Coming in 2012**

***"Leading outside the walls"***

A study on how to see the ministry  
opportunities in your everyday life.

Be on the lookout!

**New Discipleship Class**

**Beginning in March**

**Benefit Seafood Dinner &  
Concert with  
The Down East Boys for**

**Saturday, April 28, 2012 @  
Providence**

Times to be announced

**APRIL 29, 2012**

**SUNDAY**

**5TH**

**FELLOWSHIP**

One Sunday School @ 9:00 a.m.  
One Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m.

followed by a Covered Dish  
Fellowship Luncheon hosted by  
Christ's Cultivators-Paul Lemon's  
Sunday School Class

The Down East Boys will be  
in concert @ 6:30 PM  
(love offering will be taken)

# Thoughtful Theology

*from youth & children's pastor Michael Small*

## Leaving a Legacy

The book of 2 Timothy is written by the Apostle Paul to his disciple Timothy as Paul is approaching what he senses will be the last days of his life on earth. For Paul, his ministry to Timothy and the churches were his legacy. Reading these words it is easy not to ponder the question, "What will I pass on?" This question can be particularly important for those of us who are parents. Paul's words in 4:1-8 provide an excellent model for what we should hope to instill in the lives of those who follow us.

### 1. Be faithful in your life and bold in your testimony.

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching." (2 Timothy 4:1-2, ESV)

Paul reminded Timothy that he had an obligation, not just to honor him ("I charge you") but also to honor Christ who had died for him, adopted him and would eventually judge him. We likewise are obligated to those who have invested in us and Christ who died and rose again for us to live lives that will honor them. There is no time for fear and no room for cowards.

### 2. Be ready to take a stand.

"For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths." (2 Timothy 4:3-4, ESV)

Living a life for Jesus Christ means that ultimately we will be opposed both inside and outside of the church. People, even "Christian folk," are typically fine with the Bible until it interferes with living their lives the way they desire. We must be willing to fight the hard battles and take our stand on the Word of God.

### 3. Pursue God's calling on your life.

"As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." (2 Timothy 4:5, ESV)

We have not been given life and salvation so that we can pursue our own happiness and goals. We have been called to a purpose and a cross. We must seek God's will wherever it leads us and whatever it costs us. Our prayer should be that God be glorified in us that we be satisfied in Him.

### 4. Make your life count for eternity.

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." (2 Timothy 4:6-8, ESV)

Paul could have spent his life pursuing popularity and riches; instead, he pursued Christ and winning people for His kingdom. Why? Because he desired to live a life that pleased God and knew that what waited for him after this life far exceeded anything this life had to offer. "He is no fool," said Jim Elliot, "who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." If our lives do not matter for the kingdom of God they do not matter at all.

I am thankful for the countless lives who have invested and still invest in my life, sometimes unknowingly – godly men and women that I have had the privilege of learning from and working alongside. My prayer is that I may be faithful in passing along the flame that was fanned by so many others. My hope, personally, is that the legacy that I pass to others could be summed up in these words – Live for Jesus!



## God is Good!!

The **PBC YOUTH CHOIR** would like to send a BIG thank you to all who prayed, donated, and gave a helping hand to us in preparation for our Youth Choir trip. Our gratitude is deep and wide. Thank you so much for giving to the Lord and serving for His glory!

The **YOUTH CHOIR** is looking forward to singing for **Spring Break**. We are working on new music from some of today's most popular Christian artists; Toby Mac, Kirk Franklin, the Afters, Manafest, Jamie Grace and many more!!

We are excited to sing Sunday mornings and evenings and wherever God takes us. Please continue to pray for the Youth Choir and His ministry.

### **Praise Team!!**

Lord, we are forever grateful! The **praise team** leads praise & worship music every Sunday morning, and some Sunday nights.

**THE SHEPHERD STREET** praise team from Richmond, is coming to PBC February 26 for our **Go 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Evening Worship Service**. Also we are going to combine their team with ours for several songs and have a wonderful worship experience together. Be on the lookout for this special worship event and "Come just as you are!"

In Christ,  
Eden Stanley



### **Mission Project : Peasley Backpacks** (Program to help families in need)

Please bring the following items to church over the next several weeks and place in the box in Goodwyn Hall: Goldfish, grahams packets, Oreo dip packets, crackers, Little Debbie snacks, Kellogg's Cereal, granola bars, big bag of chips, fruit cups, cans of Chef Boyardee, Hormel dinners, Ramen Noodles

We will be packing the backpacks on 2/15, 3/7 & 4/18



*April 7, 2012 @ 7:30 PM*  
**Deacon Led**  
**Prayer & Resurrection**  
**Preparation in the Sanctuary**



*April 8, 2012*  
**Sunrise Service @ 7:00 a.m.**  
**Breakfast to follow**  
**9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**  
**Worship & Sunday School**  
**No Evening Activities**



**WMU UPCOMING EVENTS**

Children's Ministry Day

February 18, 2012

We will be collecting supplies for Weekday Learning Center

Keep checking the WMU bulletin board for more info!



- Scott Buffington
- Hope Berry
- Brian Byrd
- Mike Cook
- Jonathan Eaton
- Ryan Grant
- Eric Knight
- Chris Kerly
- James Oliver
- Wayne Oliver
- Jamie Owens
- Thomas Ratliff
- Trevor Roberts
- Joey Stout

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.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ALL OUR MILITARY MEN & WOMEN!**



North American Missions

**Whatever It Takes**

National Goal: \$70 Million  
www.AnnieArmstrong.com

**MARCH 4 - 11**

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS**

**AND THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG**

**MISSION OFFERING**

**FAMILY MEALS MENUS**

**@ 5:15 p.m.**

- 1st Wed** Chicken Casserole, succotash, glazed carrots, rolls & dessert
- 2nd Wed** Roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls & dessert
- 3rd Wed** Lasagna, Salad, rolls & dessert
- 4th Wed** Ham, mac & cheese, veggie, rolls & dessert
- 5th Wed** Youth Fund Raiser Dinner

**Please join us for meals and fellowship!**

(check the weekly bulletin for changes of menus)

## *Weekly Ministry Opportunities*

## *Church Staff*

### **Sunday**

Intercessory Prayer.....8:30 a.m.  
Worship and Praise Celebration ..... 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Life Changing Bible Study (all ages).....9:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Church.....9:00 a.m.  
Children in Action..... 6:30 p.m.  
Youth Choir.....6:30 p.m.  
Worship Service.....6:30 p.m.

### **Monday**

Staff Meeting ..... 12:00 noon  
GROW Visitation.....6:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday**

Bible Study .....10:30 a.m.  
Family Meals.....5:15 p.m.  
Youth Dinner.....5:30 p.m.  
Children's Choir.....5:45 p.m.  
Youth WORD.....6:00 p.m.  
AWANA.....6:15 p.m.  
Discipleship/Bible Study/Prayer (S-7 & S-9)..... 6:30 p.m.  
Men's Ministry (Bible Class)..... 6:30 p.m.  
Women's Ministry (Friendly Classroom).....6:30 p.m.  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal. .... 7:30 p.m.

### **Thursday**

Praise Team Rehearsal ..... 6:30 p.m.

Every Member.....*A Minister*  
Senior Pastor.....**Richard W. Croxton**  
Associate Pastor/Children & Youth..... **Michael Small**  
Senior Pastor's Secretary .....**Wanda Hansford**  
Administrative Assistant ..... **Brenda Lamberson**  
Music Intern.....**Eden Stanley**  
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

Email: [pbcoffice@pbc.hrcoxmail.com](mailto:pbcoffice@pbc.hrcoxmail.com)

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 15th of each month and may be edited for length and content.*



## *Providence Baptist Church*

3501 Providence Road

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