



The Proclamation

A monthly newsletter of Providence Baptist Church

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

Philippians 3:10

April 2009



From the Pastor...

Spring has finally come to the Gloucester area and it is something that has been welcomed with opened arms. A lot of the community enjoyed the "Daffodil weekend" with all the festivities. I particularly enjoyed watching those compete in the 5K race on Sunday afternoon. We had quite a few people from the church family running in the race and it was fun to cheer for them. Springtime also holds a special place in my heart because of my farming background as a young person. There are many fond memories of plowing the fields, disking the soil, and planting seeds in the ground that held forth the hope of wonderful summer rains and a bountiful fall harvest.

For the Christian, springtime holds forth the realized hope of eternal dimensions because of the celebration of the resurrection of our precious Lord from the grave as the Father brought the Son into eternal light, securing *our* victory over the grave and removing the sting of death. This established resurrection hope is a victory to be claimed by the child of God as we sojourn in this life preparing for the everlasting, heavenly life with the Savior who took on Calvary, sin, death, and the grave and lives forevermore!

Humanity is so drawn to fictitious comic book or television / movie characters because they present an avenue of escape as a conquering hero of awesome proportions that moves us beyond ourselves and our sometimes downtrodden existence. Oh yes, when I was a child, I lived vicariously through the exploits of *Superman*, so much so, that I flew from the top back of our living room sofa--donned in red shorts, blue shirt, and red cape/towel-- right into the metal corner of our big old floor model television. I burst my head wide-open. Next came Lucas McCain, the *Rifleman*. I would take my repeater BB gun and shoot all the bad guys that got in the way of what was right and good, protecting all the defenseless people who couldn't fight for themselves. Then came *The Wild, Wild, West*. I fancied myself as Jim West, U. S. Secret Service agent for President Ulysees S. Grant. Along with my side-kick Artemus Gordon, there was no situation I couldn't get out of. Then it was Adam West's portrayal of millionaire Bruce Wayne that captivated my attention as he became the *Batman!* Well, you get my point. Innately, there is something within us that yearns for a conquering hero that nothing or no one can defeat, who will fight for us and celebrate with us when the battle is over-- someone who sees good in us and is always championing our cause. Well...**Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!** We Christians have a conquering hero! His name is JESUS and He is the *real* Savior. Jesus champions our cause everyday and the Holy Spirit is our advocate before God's throne of grace and mercy. This same Jesus who was crucified, buried and raised from the dead has overcome His enemies and *ours*. In His death and resurrection, our Lord defeated the world (John 16:33), the flesh (Romans 6:1-7), the devil (John 12:31), and death itself (I Corinthians 15:50-58). You need not be afraid of life or death, time or eternity (Revelation 1:17-18). Child of God, when you face the world, the evil one, and the unjust assaults of an evil and hostile environment, remember your conquering hero. Recall that the devil told Jesus, "Serve Yourself!" (Matthew 16:21-23). Peter said, "Pity Yourself!" (Matthew 16:21-23). His unsaved relatives said, "Show Yourself!" (John 7:4). The world says, "Defend Yourself!" but Jesus was silent (Mark 15:1-5). The world says, "Pamper Yourself!" but Jesus refused the drug (Mark 15:23). The crowd at Calvary said, "Save Yourself!" but Jesus remained on the cross and finished the Father's work at Calvary. Jesus was deaf to all these appeals to do "something for Himself." He simply, yet profoundly *gave* Himself for you and me. Oh, what a hero! Oh, what a Savior!

Blessing Always,

Pastor Richard

Dr. Richard W. Croxton, Senior Pastor



“He Lives”

A Rodeheaver editor, George Sanville (in his *Forty Gospel Hymn Stories*) tells the story of how a young Jew asked evangelist-musician Alfred Ackley, “Why should I worship a dead Jew?” Ackley replied, “But Jesus lives! He lives, I tell you! He is not dead, but lives here and now. Jesus Christ is more alive today than ever before. I can prove it by my own experience, as well as by the testimony of countless thousands.”

Sanville explains further: “Mr. Ackley’s forthright, emphatic answer, together with his subsequent triumphant effort to win the man for Christ, flowered forth into song and crystallized into a convincing sermon on ‘He Lives!’ The scriptural evidence, his own heart, and the testimony of history matched the glorious experience of an innumerable cloud of witnesses that ‘he lives,’ so he sat down at the piano and voiced that conclusion in song.”

Thus this text is a personal confession of faith about the living Christ whose deeds of love and mercy are ongoing in the world today; this testimony is borne out by the Spirit’s witness within the believing child of God, from an intimate walk with the Lord, and collectively from the experience of all Christians.

Resurrection celebration in any evangelical church would not be quite the same without this fine hymn of testimony. However, do not restrict it to Resurrection time—the truth of this hymn is valid anytime!

*I serve a risen Savior, he’s in the world today,
I know that he is living, whatever others say;
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need him he’s always near.*

*In all the world around me I see his loving care,
And though my heart grows weary, I never will despair;
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast,
The day of his appearing will come at last.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.*

*He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way,
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.*

From the Youth and Children's Pastor...

Michael Small

My teen has gone Twilight-crazy, should I be concerned?

She was just your average girl bored with her mundane life and then he came in. What girl could resist that clean boyish face? But their love was a forbidden one. Yet in spite of opposition from everyone they knew they desired only one another, regardless of the cost. Wasn't *Dirty Dancing* romantic? Or am I thinking about *Titanic*? It is truly a testimony to William Shakespeare how many times (and to what degree of variation) *Romeo & Juliet* has been knocked off.

Twilight is yet another of those movies that receive unparalleled praise from teen & tween girls and worried frustration from their parents. From a Christian standpoint, Twilight tends to receive praise for its lack of sexuality, profanity & gore (Stephenie Meyer, the author of the series is a fairly devout Mormon). Twilight also receives criticism from Christians who are concerned with Bella's poor decision making (e.g., pursuing an admitted murderer who, to some degree, desires to drink her blood, lying to her parents, running away from home), her narcissistic attitude (everything is about what she wants), and, of course, the book / movie to some degree glorifies vampirism (though the Cullen family, to be fair, does not hunt humans, but they do not necessarily oppose the practice in others).

Should you be concerned? It depends. If your teen begins obsessing over vampires and death, there may be more going on than just a teen movie fascination. The best cure is probably to spend more quality time in conversation with your child (Note: less "this is weird", more "how was your day?"). If your child is just "Edward"-crazy or "Bella"-crazy, it's probably just a teen crush & it'll pass (think "New Kids on the Block" or, for some of you, "the Beatles"). For most parents the real concern is probably that your child is starting to take notice of the opposite sex— in which case welcome to adolescent parenting, get ready for a bumpy ride.

For the rest, it's extremely unlikely that your child will be drawn to the occult as a result of watching Twilight. What really matters is that the decisions they make and the lifestyle they lead are Christ honoring. In reality, and despite some parents' best attempts, you cannot shelter them from the world forever (in fact, they are called to engage their world, cf. Jn. 17:15, 1 Cor. 5:9-13). But you, for better or worse, are their biggest influence. The appeal of Twilight for most teens is that they deeply desire to know that, in spite of their flaws, there is someone out there who thinks they're wonderful and will love them unconditionally. Let them see through your example that they have a God in heaven who already feels that way & a parent on earth who does too!

Coming in April

4/6 @ 6:30pm—Youth Visitation Night leave from the church.

4/7-9 @ 11am-1pm—Lunch and Work on Youth Room.

4/11 @ 10am-1pm—Children's Resurrection Celebration at Church.

4/17-19 starts @ 5pm—Disciple Now (featuring Speaker Jason Turner & live music).

4/23 @ 5-7pm—Youth Potluck @ the Fulchers

4/24 @ 5-7pm—Fundraising Meal & Silent Auction for Youth Mission Trip.



WHERE: PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH

WHEN: MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

PLEASE CALL JILL DYNIA AT 804-869-3078

4 things **YOU** need to know about stroke prevention:

- 80 % of stroke victims had no apparent warning signs.
- Ultrasound screenings can help you avoid a stroke.
- Stroke is a leading cause of death and permanent disability.
- Screenings are fast, painless, affordable and convenient.

Stroke, Vascular Disease & Heart Rhythm Package; all 4 test \$139

Add an osteoporosis screening for \$10 more; all 5 test for \$149 (a savings of \$66)

Providence
Men's Quartet

May 2, 2009
12 noon

Shared
Memories

70's Banquet

Prizes &
Surprises

Good Food &
Fellowship



Tiny Press News
Weekday Learning Center
Linda Nuttall, Director



April Showers bring....tears of joy as children have been evaluated and teachers are inspired by the progress the students have made. We have 93 wonderful children that have matured academically, spiritually, emotionally, morally, and physically. It is such a joy to see the progress each child has made to the credit of our super teachers and wonderful parents.

This year we are having an Open House for the public and the parents of our WDLC children. This is our first ever spring open house. We invite anyone interested in meeting the teachers and learning about our curriculum to come on Thursday, April 2 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. The teachers will be here ready to answer any questions about their day in the classroom.

April happenings:

- 2** Open House 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
(opportunity to come meet the teachers)
- 3-13** Spring Break No school
- 16-17** Cap & Gown and Class pictures taken
- 29** Hat Day!
- 30** Pre-K to Blue Bird Gap Farm

Curriculum Study:

- Pre-K*** Pet week, Discovering Bubbles, Farm Life
- Three's*** Grow a garden, Noah's Ark, Farmer Help
- Two's** Transportation, Learning about Spring

Chapel - Twice a month with Pastor Michael & Pastor Phillip

Music - Every week with Pastor Phillip

We are registering for Fall Preschool.

- Enrolled:
- Two year olds.....10....14 seats open
- Three year olds.....26....6 seats open
- Pre-K.....18....22 seats open

We appreciate your prayers!



Men On Mission

Hearing

After working in an industry where there was plenty of noise (jackhammers, air drills, heavy equipment, chainsaws etc.) and not always wearing the correct ear protection, I've developed a ringing in my ears, which will sometimes drown out like sounds. For some it becomes annoying, but for me, I treat it like a background sound that you may hear in a busy office, hallways or shopping malls. The only time the ringing can then be heard is when I'm in a quiet place in my life and choose to listen. It can be the same way with each of us as we travel through the highways and byways of our lives. We are so wrapped up in life and the sounds of life that we totally miss that sweet voice of our Lord and Savior. I've taken a moment to look around and see Gods miraculous hand at work here at Providence. New members, the renewing of hearts and minds to the obedience of His will in our lives, the unifying of the hearts and minds of the body, are so wonderful to witness as people step into a new found relationship with our Lord. How blessed we are here at Providence and how we should be in prayer constantly for one another as we continue to seek to honor God in all we do. My prayer is that as each of us go through the business of life that we don't forget the source of our strength and direction in life. God calls us individually to service, may our hearts and ears remain open to His calling. On April 18, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. the men of providence will come together for breakfast and fellowship, followed by a program and devotion. Hope to see you there!

T.G.B.T.G.
 Patrick Lemon

April 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 5:15 Worship Committee Meeting	2 6:30 pm WDLC Open House 7:00 pm Madge Dudley Group 7:00 pm Joy Group	3 3-9:30 pm Olan Mills	4 10am-5pm Olan Mills
5 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 7:00 pm Deacon's Meet	6	7 7:00 pm Commission Keepers	8	9	10 7:00 p.m. <i>The Risen Christ</i>	11 10am-1pm Children's Resurrection Celebration 7:00 p.m. <i>The Risen Christ</i>
12 <i>Resurrection Sunday</i>	13 Church Office Closed	14 10 am RSW/Alice Fields Group 3-9:30 pm Olan Mills 7:00 pm Church Council	15 3-9:30 pm Olan Mills 6:30 pm Quarterly Business Meeting	16 Disciple Now Weekend The Splendor of His	17 The Splendor of His	18 16th -19th Glory
19 2:30 pm Gloucester House	20 7:00 pm WDLC Committee	21 7:00 pm Sister's in Christ	22	23 5:00 pm Youth Dinner at the Fulcher's	24	25
26	27 Lifeline Screening	28	29	30		

April Birthdays

1-Wesley Hodges, Mae Hudson
 2-Rachel Connaughton
 3-Gwen Emerson, Christopher Smith, Ian Woodford
 4-John Amos, Phillip Higgins, Ruth Hogge
 6-Claire Bunting, Jimmy Hall, Carlton Harper
 7-Catherine Harvey, Joan Lindsey, Jackie Motley,
 Brooke Roberts, Khloe Sweat
 8-Glynnecarynn Croxton, Steve Hogge, Mervin Hogge,
 Nancy Redd
 9-Paige Austin, Shirley Dudley, Trevor Fowler, William King,
 Amy Smoot
 10-Mona Hogge, Liz Hurst, Janet Johnson, Sarah McDaniel
 11-Linda Nuttall
 12-Edward Hogge
 13-Jesse Hogge, Mandi Koziol, Sam Lane, Adrienne Machie,
 Hector Rios
 15-Carter Borden, Adam Brock, Margaret Harris, Joy Jenkins,
 Mercedes Jenkins, Ruth Thompson, Deanna West
 16-Gail Brown, Jennifer Wilton
 17-Rick Blaylock, Tom Hodges, Marion Thomas,
 Katie Whitcomb

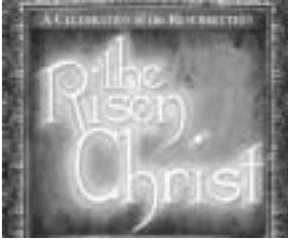
19-Jenny Frisby, Zachary Phillips, Bill Schramm,
 Sydney Taylor, Sophia Wilburn
 20-April Garrett, Kelsie Hendricks, Gus Lemon
 21-Julia Conner
 22-Alexander Kemp, Mike Stout
 23-Devin McGrew
 24-Jamie Owens
 25-Shirley Hudgins, David Johnson
 26-Jackson Waddles
 27-John Davis, Beth Snow, Keith Waddles
 28-Doug Ambrose, Chastity Haynes, Ryan Haywood,
 Sara Lane, Kameron Milby
 29-Andy Anderson, Barbara Conway, Isabella Nolte,
 John Poole
 30-Nancy Lane, Lianne Lemon, Lennah Massengill,
 Dan McGowan

HIGHLIGHTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Join Us!

As We Celebrate

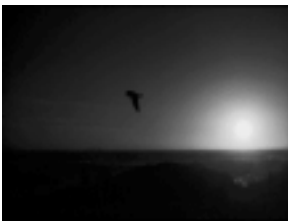
the Resurrection of Our Lord!



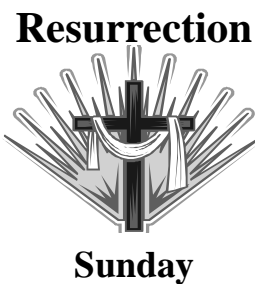
“*The Risen Christ*,” our musical presentation, will be preformed at 7pm on Friday, April 10th and Saturday, April 11th. Arrangements are by Krystin & Stuart Townend and Keith Getty and will be performed by our Sanctuary Choir. Admission, as always, is free.



There will be a ***Children’s Resurrection Celebration*** on Saturday, April 11 from 10:00am to 1:00pm. This Celebration will include the Resurrection Story, face painting, the Obstacle Course, Giant Slide, and Moon Bounce inflatables, hotdogs & hamburgers and more.



The **Community Sunrise Service** will be at VIMS beginning at 6:30am. The Providence Sanctuary Choir will be leading worship. Breakfast will be served at Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church which is also the location if there is inclement weather.



Our **Resurrection Sunday Services** will be held in the Providence Sanctuary. At 9:00am, the Praise Team will lead in worship, and Pastor Croxton will give the Sermon titled “Accounting for your hope” (I Peter 3:15). At 10:30am, the Sanctuary Choir will lead in worship, and Pastor Croxton will give the sermon titled “Blessed Assurance” (I Timothy 1:12). Sunday School classes will meet both hours, at 9 & 10:30am.

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 PastorDr. 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
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

Phone: 804.642.5812 FAX: 804.642.4902

Email: 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 10th of each month and may be edited for length and content.



Providence Baptist Church

3501 Providence Road
Hayes, Virginia 23072
804.642.5812

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED