



The Proclamation

A monthly newsletter of Providence Baptist Church

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

Philippians 3:10

**SEPTEMBER
2011**

From the Pastor...

It's difficult to believe that summer is almost over and all the local schools will soon be back in session. Hope you're having a great holiday weekend that traditionally marks the end of summer.

Let me pose a question of consequence! Are you enjoying life right now? It's good to look forward to heaven but are you enjoying your life now? If you aren't, you need to know that it is God's will for you to do so. Why? Because of Jesus....that's why. Jesus said that He came that we might have life and that abundantly...that means to enjoy life tremendously right now!



The Scripture says that Jesus came to open blinded eyes (physically and spiritually), prison doors and to set the captives free (ref. Isa. 61:1). Many people attend church every Sunday and they aren't free in Jesus. Many church folks have never really "heard" that Jesus wants to set them free from their past and all those things that keep one in a prison of defeat and discouragement. They've got heaven on their mind but sadly are living lives of defeat, discouragement, and depression.

We all need to remember that although we're often pressed down, we need not be crushed. All of God's children need to press past the things holding them in bondage to the astounding life of freedom allotted for you in Jesus Christ.

According to God's plan, your past has no power over your future. Why? Jesus has set you free from those things that torment you from yesteryear. For instance, let's say you worry over everything-including your past. Worry is not of the Lord. Pray for deliverance from worry (the Lord delivered the Jewish people out of Egypt) and find yourself reading the Word concerning worry, frustration, and anxiety. Second, look at what the Scripture says about God's peace. Thirdly, make a covenant with the Lord not to worry and refuse to live without peace.

God's children need to claim their rights as a believer in Jesus. It will take commitment and determination. You ask, "What rights do I have as a believer?" Answer... The ones that Jesus died for to give to you. In Philippians 3:12, Paul said that he was absolute in taking hold of those things for which Christ died to give him. Paul is putting forth effort is his choice! Let me ask you another question, "How much effort does it take to remain in bondage?" None! It is incumbent upon you to walk in the freedom that Christ has given and it will take effort. If you don't walk in the freedom that Christ has give you through His death, somebody or something will steal that freedom from you!

It is my prayer for your family and you that you have a great fall and enjoy God's change of season. We now begin our journey to Bethlehem for 2011 to once again bask in the goodness and gladness of the Word made flesh that has dwelt among us. Praise Him!

Blessing always,
Pastor Richard

Dr. Richard W. Croxton, Senior Pastor

FEATURED EVENTS

Patriotic Service of Remembrance

September 11, 2011

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Joint Worship

Sermon: God's Deliverance & Redemption

***Special Music: Sanctuary Choir, Praise Team,
Youth & Children Choirs***

Special Guests:

Sheriff Steve Gentry & other law enforcement officers,

Abingdon & Gloucester Fire & Rescue personnel

Mrs. Teresa Dalton/Salvation Army

11:45 AM Covered Dish Luncheon

Thoughtful Theology

from youth & children's pastor Michael Small

Should Church Be “Fun”?

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” (Psalm 122:1, ESV)

It seems that we have lost something in the church. Perhaps it is joy, but I am not sure exactly what the word should be. It seems that there was once a time that the church existed to bring glory to God. I read about a church in the book of Acts (4:32-35) where all the people gave all they had to the church and “no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own.” While I am not suggesting that we adopt this model, it seems that they knew something that we have perhaps forgotten – worship does not exist for us, we exist for worship.

What has happened to us that we would complain about music styles - as if the songs were for us – or choose churches based on who has the best program – as if those of us in the ministry are called to be entertainers? Can God tolerate such things? Should His house become a circus for the sake of popularity? For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned?,” God says in Isaiah 48:11, “My glory I will not give to another.” (That includes you and me by the way.)

This is not to say that we shouldn’t enjoy church, but rather, that it does not exist merely for our enjoyment. Our delight should not be that we receive pleasure; our delight should be that God receives pleasure through our offering and sacrifice. We gather and worship that we may give of ourselves completely to the One who gave up His own Son for us all not so that we can “get something out of it.”

I am reminded of Aaron making a golden calf to please the people of Israel (Ex. 32). The calf after all was more relevant (and “seeker friendly”) than an invisible God. It made everyone happy, and look how it shined. Is this what we are to become, replacing the gospel with glitz? If everything exists for the delight of the people, what is left that exists for the glory of God? At what point do we cease to become a church? “This people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men.” (Isaiah 29:13, ESV)

Where are you, O Christian, who delights in the glory of God – who would say with Paul that you would gladly “count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ” (Philippians 3:8, ESV)? How will we reach the world if we are occupied with simply amusing ourselves to death? It is time to stand up and take back the church of God for God. We must return to the heart of worship. We must take up the cross that Christ has given to us, that He might become everything and we might become nothing for His sake. Forgive us O God for what we have become and remake us for your glory. Amen.

The Fall / Winter Calendar is out for the youth and children’s ministry. So pick up a copy.



PROVIDENCE YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
Fall / Winter Calendar

About This Calendar...
This calendar is a guide for the youth and children's ministry. It contains a list of activities and dates for the season. The calendar is designed to be a helpful resource for the ministry.

What's a Gift?
A calendar for the youth and children's ministry. It contains a list of activities and dates for the season. The calendar is designed to be a helpful resource for the ministry.

Providence Baptist Church 2011
 Fall Kick Off
 September 7 5:30 PM
 Hamburger & Hot Dog Dinner
 Inflatables for the kids
 Introducing the
 Activities & Ministry Opportunities




WEDNESDAY (beginning September 14)

- 10:45 AM Morning Bible Study
- 3:15 PM Afterschool Chill (Youth)
- 5:15 PM Family Meals
- 5:30 PM Youth Dinner
- 5:45 PM Children's Choir
- 6:00 PM Youth WORD
- 6:15 PM AWANA (Children)
- 6:30 PM Bible Study/Discipleship/Prayer
- 6:30 PM Men's Ministry
- 6:30 PM Women's Ministry
- 6:30 PM Praise Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY (beginning September 18 - December 4)

- 8:30 AM Intercessory Prayer (Prayer Room)
- 9:00 AM Worship and Sunday School
(Children's church dismisses during service)
- 10:30 AM Worship and Sunday School
- 4:00 PM Living Singing Christmas Tree Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Youth Choir
- 6:30 PM Children in Action
- 6:30 PM Worship Service
 - 1st SundayPastor Richard
 - 2nd Sunday.....Pastor Michael
 - 3rd Sunday.....Deacon led
 - 4th Sunday.....Go 4th Sunday



**2011 Living Singing
 Christmas Tree
 Rehearsals begin
 Sunday, September 18
 At 4:00 PM**

This year's Singing Tree will be directed by Alyson Ridge. Also, the Youth Choir under the direction of Eden Stanley and the Children's Choir under the direction of Becky White will be practicing and singing several selections. The Praise Team under the lead of Eden Stanley will be singing several praise choruses. The presentation dates of the 2011 Singing Tree will be December 9 & 10 @ 7:00 p.m. and December 11 @ 4:00 p.m. Tell your friends and neighbors to come and sing in this year's tree. Make sure you're here also to be a part of this community outreach at Christmas.



in Concert
 rod propes

date: **September 25**

time: **6:30 PM**

place: **Providence Church**



WMU UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 7TH - BAPTIST WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Providence will be hosting this event. We will begin 9:00 a.m. with a Continental breakfast and then go into the Sanctuary for a time of prayer.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS WHO WERE RECENTLY BAPTIZED

- 7/31/11
Will Pignanelli
- 8/21/11
Blake Carr



- Scott Buffington
- Hope Berry
- Brian Byrd
- Mike Cook
- 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!

WDLC
NEWS

Tiny Press News

Weekday Learning Center

Linda Nuttall, Director



It is so exciting...preschool is starting! September brings to mind; school, football, school supplies, pencils, crayons, paper.. and children!

Thank you everyone who support WDLC in our collection of Farm Fresh receipts. We earned enough points to purchase 8 die cuts and 1 storage unit. THANKS, start saving!

Our curriculum for September:
Color-purple, Shape-circle

Two year olds -

- *All about me/Jesus Grew/Psalm 139:13
- *Friends and Family/First Family/Luke 2:52

Three year olds -

- *I come to preschool/Boy Jesus at church/Luke 5:3
- *I make friends at school/Elisha's Friends/Proverbs 17:17
- *Let's go camping/Paul's Journey/Gen. 32:2

Pre-K -

- *Starting School/Jesus and the children/Matthew 19:14
- *About Me & My Favorite Things/Created by God/Psalm 139: 13-14a
- *Finding out about others/Four friends who helped/Proverbs 17:17

September dates:

- 6 Director Meeting/Fire Prevention
- 8 Back to school night...6:30 p.m.
- 13 FIRST day of school... 9:30 p.m.
- 16 Fire Drill
- 20 Chapel
- 20 WDLC is 23 years old
- 23 Chapel
- 27 Fire Drill
- 29/30 Tee shirt days

Pray for our children and their families as the staff of Weekday ministers each day in Jesus' precious name.



Upcoming Events



Virginia Baptist Men' Gathering

September 17, 2011

Second Baptist Church of Richmond

(The cost is Free)



This is a one day event that starts with a special prayer followed by [The Bigger Breakfast](#).

Tom Stocks and **Dean Miller** lead this years event with an emphasis on [Virginia Baptist Missions](#) throughout the day.

Schedule:

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	The Bigger Breakfast
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Worship Celebration (Derwin Hinson Ministries)
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Special Breakout Sessions
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Worship Celebration

For more information about this ministry, please contact Billy Hutchinson at 804.239.7037

188th Annual Meeting of the Baptist
General Association of Virginia
November 8-9, 2011
Greater Richmond Convention Center



“ReJoice. ReClaim. ReJesus.”

Mark your calendar now so you won't miss the opportunity to connect with other Virginia Baptist at the 188th Annual Meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

This year's guest speaker will be Alan Hirsch, author of ReJesus, and our worship leader will be Annie Moses.

Registrations packets will be sent our in September.

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.

Beginning September 18

Living Singing Christmas Tree Rehearsal.....4:00 p.m.
Children in Action..... 6:30 p.m.
Youth Choir.....6:30 p.m.
Worship Service..... 6:30 p.m.

Monday

GROW Visitation.....6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Staff Meeting 11:00 p.m.

Beginning September 14

Bible Study.....10:45 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.
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.
Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal.7:30 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

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

Hayes, Virginia 23072

804.642.5812

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