



Providence Press



Providence Presbyterian Church

"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood."

Which question are we answering?

By Pastor Mark Renn

The Wrong Question: "How Do We Grow This Church?" (that is, "How Do We Get Them to Come to Us?")

The Tough Question: "How Do We Transform Our Community?" (that is, "How Do We Hit the Streets with the Gospel?")¹

In our culture, we have reason to believe that spiritual interest is very high while the desire to participate in an organized church is relatively low. Part of the reason for this is the fact that people have been trained to believe that churches are self-serving, inwardly focused, and overly concerned with numbers and budget. Remember that "instead of advancing religious institutionalism, Jesus talked about experiencing abundant life based on a personal relationship with God."²

This is not to say that church growth cannot be a valid goal of ours, but rather that our primary goal is *Kingdom* growth, regardless of whether the people we serve ever join our church or any church. If we are going to break this mentality in the hearts and minds of the people we encounter, it will require us to live differently, speak differently about our goals, and mobilize our resources for the purpose of transforming lives.

The answer to the "wrong question" listed earlier is to "focus . . . on methodology—how to catch people's attention, sign 'em up, keep 'em busy, and get 'em to contribute money, talent, and energy to church efforts."³ While some of our positive growth and membership will naturally flow from this methodology, it tends to err on the side of being only passively involved in the ministry of making disciples. Rather than pro-actively bringing Christ to the people, we wait for them to come to us. This leads to a Pharisaic attitude that results in the assumption "that only people interested in church (the way we do it) are genuinely interested in God."⁴ This assumption is no longer valid.

Think about your current group of friends and acquaintances. How many of them would be interested in growing in their relationship with God even if they don't want to come to church? We have made the mistake of thinking that because certain people show little interest in attending a church, they have cast their vote once and for all on their spiritual life. Things are not that black and white. The missionally minded Christian takes note of these people's lack of interest in the conventional church experience *and then gets creative*, thinking about other ways that he or she might show them the love, grace and hope that Christ offers.

(See "Pastor" on page 3)



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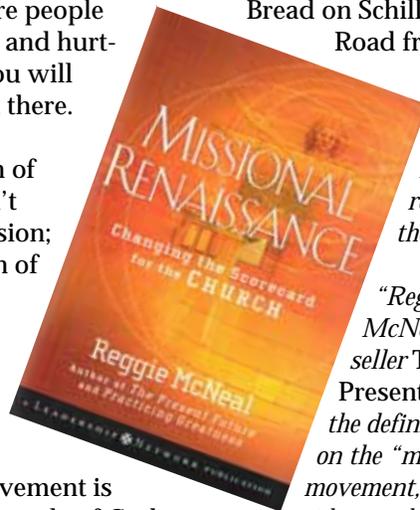
Missional Renaissance by Reggie McNeal

When I met Reggie McNeal at the WeeKirk conference at Montreat last October, I was struck by the simplicity, creativity, and straightforward nature of his charge to the church. What he says is essentially this:

- Get out there and be a part of what God is already doing in the world.
- Go to where people are broken and hurting, and you will find Christ there.
- The church of God doesn't have a mission; the mission of God has a church.
- And, finally, the missional church movement is about the people of God partnering with God in His redemptive mission for the world.

Following the keynote discussions he gave throughout the weekend, I had the chance to sit down with him and discuss some of the ways Providence was already implementing some of his strategies. While many of the churches represented at the conference were unable to make the shift in thinking past simply staying afloat and keeping the doors open, I was proud to share with him that we are a church that "gets it."

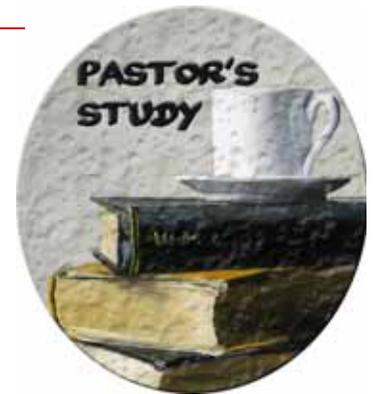
He recommended that our church continue to grow in our understanding of what is needed to minister effectively beyond our walls by studying his recently released book, *Missional Renaissance*. Please join us for this exciting discussion and brainstorming opportunity along these themes. We will meet **Tuesdays, April 6 and 20, and May 4** at Panera Bread on Schillinger Road from **6:00-7:00 pm.**



From the Amazon review of the book:

"Reggie McNeal's best-seller *The Present Future* is the definitive work on the "missional movement," i.e., the widespread movement

among Protestant churches to be less inwardly focused and more oriented toward the culture and community around them. In that book he asked the tough questions that churches needed to entertain to begin to think about who they are and what they are doing; in *Missional Renaissance*, he shows them the three significant shifts in their thinking and behavior that they need to make that will allow leaders to chart a course toward being missional: (1) from an internal to an external focus, ending the church as exclusive social club model; (2) from running programs and ministries to developing people as its core activity; and (3) from professional leadership to



leadership that is shared by everyone in the community."

The book is filled with in-depth discussions of what it means to become a missional congregation and important information on how to make the transition. With an understanding of the nature of the missional church and the practical suggestions outlined in this book, church leaders and members will be equipped to move into what McNeal sees as the most viable future for North American Christianity.

Missional Renaissance offers a clear path for any leader or congregation that wants to breathe new life into the church and to become revitalized as true followers of Jesus.

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(“Pastor,” from page 1)

In his book *The Present Future*, Reggie McNeal puts the matter boldly on the table, saying: “If they aren’t going to come to us, then we’ve got to go to them. This is the crux of the issue. Churches that understand the realities of this present future are shifting the target of ministry efforts from church activity to community transformation.”⁵ God wants us to be fishers who go looking for fish, not lazy anglers who wait for the fish to come to us. To continue this metaphor, think of it this way: “We can keep trying to get them to want what we have, or we can start offering what they need. They need what people always need: God in their lives.”

This doesn’t mean that the various programs and ministries offered at Providence can’t meet this essential need in people’s lives. What it does mean is that we can’t rely on church programs as our *only* means of ministering to the world. The missional church sees the church and its programs and ministries as a staging point for its greater work in the world rather than a destination. The church becomes a place where Christians and those seeking Christ are refreshed, fed, equipped, and strengthened for the missional lives they live outside of these walls. As long as the church is thought of as a clubhouse for the “already there,” we will be missing our call to be salt and light in the world.

At Providence Presbyterian, we are not about building this church for the sake of growing in numbers or budget. We are about *being*

the church in every relationship and network for the sake of growing the Kingdom of God and announcing hope and salvation to the world at large. As Reggie McNeal writes, “Missional spirituality requires that God’s people be captured by his heart for people, that our hearts be broken for what breaks his, that we rejoice in what brings him joy.”⁶ With the heart of God as our guiding influence, we can begin to appreciate that when we are being the people of God and doing the work of God, our church and fellowship of believers becomes something to which people are naturally drawn.

Studies show that people in this culture want to be a part of organizations that are making a difference in their world and community. As churches become places of outward action as much as they are currently places of inward reflection and fellowship, I believe we will witness a cultural “change of heart” toward the church.

Our part in this transformation includes shifting from an internal to an external focus, from merely running programs to developing people as our core activity, and from a church-based leadership to a community-engaged leadership.⁷ None of these shifts or changes will happen overnight, or need to happen in any given way, but as we change the way we think about our call to serve the world, we need to think about how we present ourselves and our church to the community.

As your pastor, I love to hear visitors say about Providence, “There is something different about this church than others we’ve visited,” and I would love to hear people in the community who’ve never visited say, “I hear good things about that church.” The way that we become a “different kind of church” is for us to include in our focus serving the needs of our world and community as much as we currently serve the needs of our members. In this way of thinking, members are not patrons to be served, but fellow workers in our shared call to love and serve our neighbors. With this as our vision and focus, our church becomes a place where people want to grow and serve God, as long as the church itself is the platform off of which we spring into action, and not the destination.

This has been a very brief explanation of some of

the exciting ways that our church is longing to be more effective in our ministry. From the formation of a new Outreach/Evangelism committee that is thinking along these lines to the upcoming study of Reggie McNeal’s latest book, *Missional Renaissance*, I believe that our church will begin to share a common language and mentality when it comes to the decisions we make about where to invest our time, hearts, and resources. The church is the Body of Christ—let us put that body to work.

To love is to serve,



¹These questions are taken from *The Present Future*, by Reggie McNeal.

²McNeal, 29.

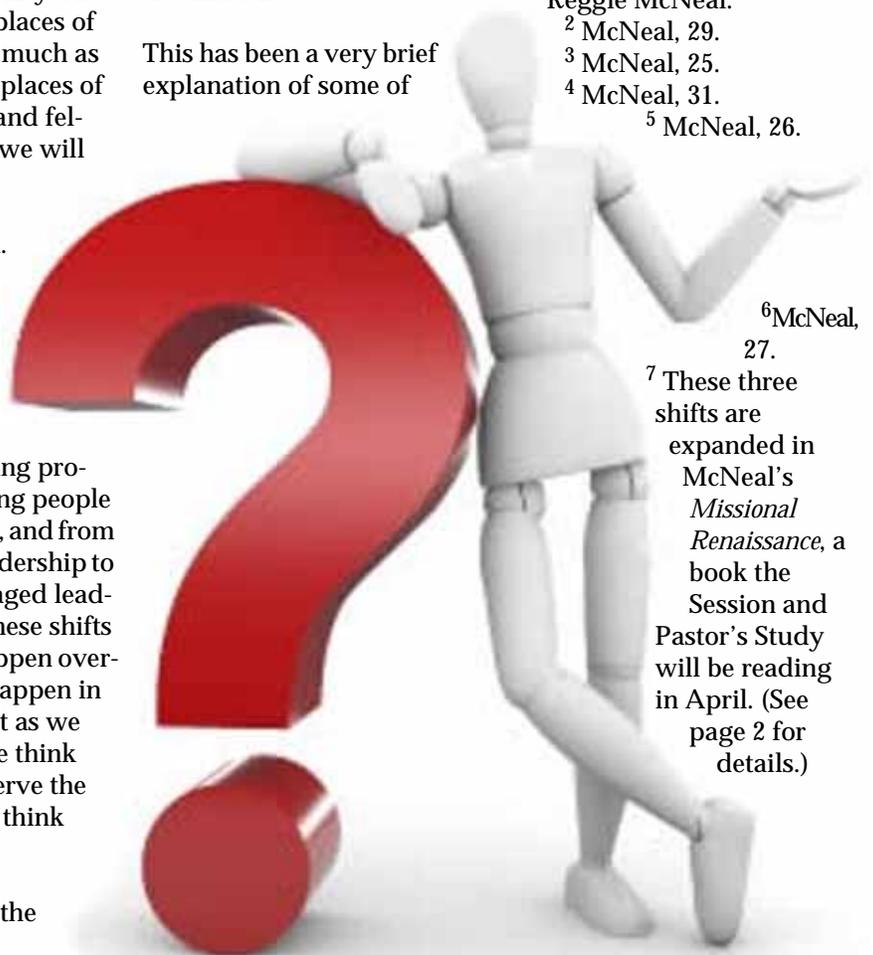
³McNeal, 25.

⁴McNeal, 31.

⁵McNeal, 26.

⁶McNeal, 27.

⁷These three shifts are expanded in McNeal’s *Missional Renaissance*, a book the Session and Pastor’s Study will be reading in April. (See page 2 for details.)





M·I·S·S·I·O·N

By Jerry Williams, Mission Coordinator

Providence is very active with our mission life on two fronts—donations and service.

My thanks go out to all who continue to serve Christ through these gifts of resources and time.

Donations

In January 2010 we gave over \$1000 for the denomination's Haitian fund. More will be available from the sale of the Heart for Haiti t-shirts that the Senior High girls in Mobility are selling—sales are brisk. The youth also raised over \$250 from the Souper Bowl in February.

In March we will be giving to the L'Arche community. As most of you are aware, L'Arche International is a wonderful program of Christian homes, which are open to mentally handicapped people. L'Arche Mobile has four homes and an activity center.

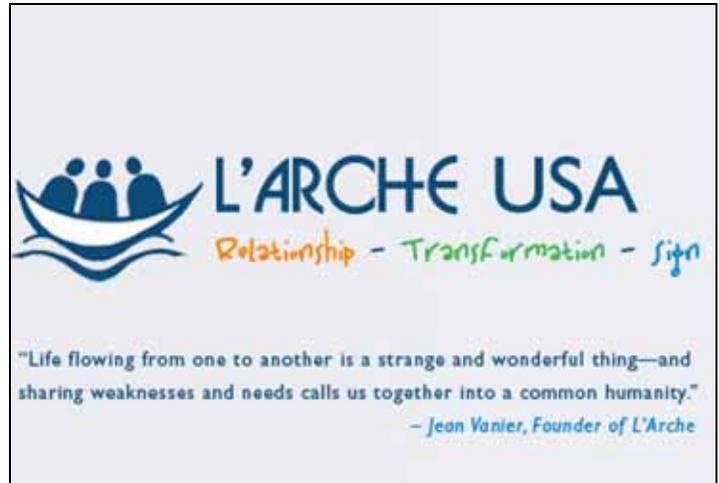
L'Arche is one of the organizations the Session has approved for church-wide giving. Therefore, in March, if you would like to make a donation toward this mission, please put your contribution in an envelope and designate "For L'Arche." Put it in the

offering plate, or drop it by the church office. We will present the money to members of the L'Arche community in late March or early April—depending upon their schedule.

Throughout the year, we will continue to call for donations to designated programs—such as the Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega and Penelope House—and to call for donations to the denomination's regular programs, such as the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Service

We continue to add service activities to our mission program. In the fall of 2009 we worked at a Habitat house and visited the homeless as well as entering into a



variety of work projects for the L'Arche community.

Thus far, over 20 members and friends of the church have helped clean, repair, paint, build, and do yard work for the L'Arche activity center and three of the houses. We have one more major project, which is the installation of cabinets and painting of the kitchen in one home. The volunteers are lined up, and we are waiting for L'Arche to let us know about the cabinets. When the final project is completed, we will turn our attention to other activities.

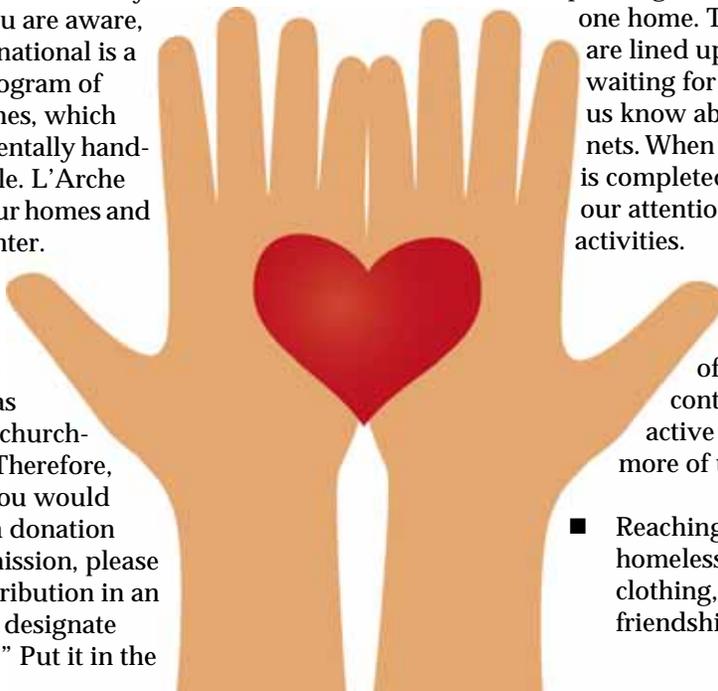
In the meantime, members of the church continue to be active by doing one or more of the following:

- Reaching out to the homeless with blankets, clothing, food, and friendship

- Serving the homeless through IHN
- Stocking Providence's Food Pantry
- Contributing to the food kitchen in Bayou La Batre
- Serving in the Kairos prison ministry
- Developing Providence's Community Garden
- Serving on mission activities in Merida, Mexico, and (with Providence youth) in Austin, Texas
- Volunteering for the LPGA tournament
- And more . . .

Throughout the year, we have many opportunities for service. I hope everyone is involved in some way.

If you know of a particular need and would like to see our church give time and resources to another mission program, please let me know about the opportunity.





Homeless Outreach



By Melodie Garner

On Saturday, February 20 I, along with **Donnie Garner, Linda Payne, Ken Gadomski, Benny and Valerie Harden, and Al Drinovski**, had the privilege of meeting and distributing food and personal items to some of the city's homeless population. In all honesty, we weren't very well prepared but, as always, God was faithful!

We loaded up with a very delicious-smelling potato soup that **Pastor Mark** was gracious enough to prepare, doughnuts, coffee, and bottled water along with a few personal items, such as underwear, socks, toiletries, blankets, and a few jackets and clothing items.

We hit the road, hoping that we would find someone who could use these items. We began at the park by the police station on Government Street and fed six people. Of the six, only two really stayed around to talk with us.

One man, Joe, said he was ready to get off of the street. He was an unemployed construction worker from the Michigan area. He was very knowledgeable about scriptures and wanted us to pray with him. He and his traveling buddy, Kenny, were both so appreciative of the food. Joe was thrilled with the items as his backpack

and bicycle had been stolen downtown during Mardi Gras, so all he had were the clothes on his back.

We moved on to Bienville Square but had trouble identifying if anyone there might need a hot meal.

Donnie spotted a squirrel in a tree and began "barking" a squirrel noise at it. I was approached by a gentleman, Howard, who asked what in the world Donnie was up to. I told him Donnie was "talking" to the squirrel, and Howard asked if it was talking back?!

He pulled Donnie aside and asked him if he had any money for something to eat,

and Donnie told him he had something much better!

We began with soup for Howard, and several more people approached. I was astounded that almost all served wanted to sit on the curb by us and just visit with us. All were so thankful for a delicious hot meal!

I was so humbled by this experience and was reminded of how many things I take for granted each day. All were so nice and so appreciative. I was astounded that even though they had nothing, they didn't take more than they needed. One of them said he didn't want to be greedy because someone else may need it.

I strongly encourage each of you to become involved in some way with future homeless outreach opportunities. If you cannot actually go and distribute, you can help in very real ways by volunteering to make soup or cookies or by donating small toiletries, socks, underwear, tee shirts, backpacks, or duffle bags. We will also need people available to sort the donations when they are received. We also need people willing to help plan, and we ALWAYS need prayer.

I ask that each of you thoughtfully consider through prayer how your gifts may be utilized for this outreach, being the hands and feet of Christ. The blessings are ours a thousand-fold!

15 Place outing

By Melodie Garner

We are planning an outing to tour 15 Place to learn more about the resources this agency offers to the homeless community.

is a teacher workday, and the youth will be out of school. All youth and adults are invited to join us.



15 Place, a project of Loaves and Fish Community Ministries, is located at 15 North Joachim Street in Mobile.

We have planned the trip for **Monday, March 15**, since it

Contact **Linda Payne** or **Melodie Garner** if you would like to attend. We hope that this will better equip us in our efforts to reach out to the homeless in the Mobile area.

Help BUCK UP 15 Place!

During Lent 15 Place is asking everyone who can afford it to donate ONE BUCK—the price of a candy bar or bottle of water.

With the organization's matching funds, it can turn each \$1 into \$5, and with \$5 it can provide 5 hot lunches or 4 showers or 3 hygiene kits. Just ONE BUCK can make a huge difference. Bring \$1 with you on March 15 or donate at www.15place.org.



from the

Worship Team

CHRISTIAN WAYS TO REDUCE STRESS

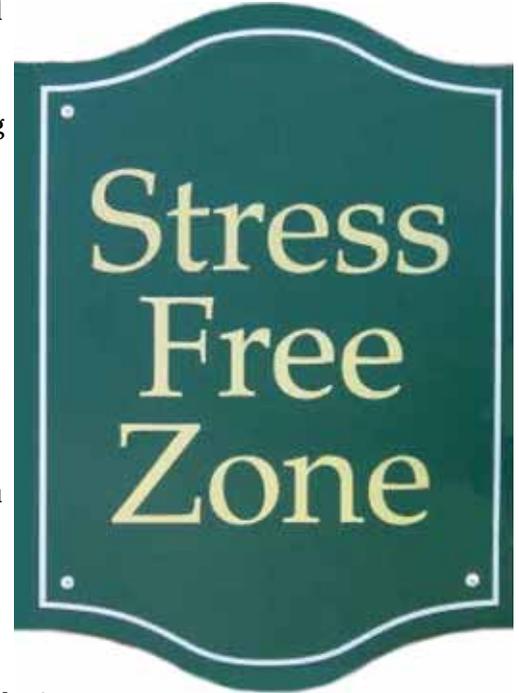
By Mary Mastrangelo,
Worship Elder

“Christian Ways to Reduce Stress” is not usually under the Worship Team’s purview. However, I used a list of the ways to reduce stress as our devotion for February’s meeting, and the folks present thought they were worth sharing, so here goes.

Because the list is 36 items long, I will present them in a series that will be continued in subsequent newsletters.

“An Angel says, ‘Never borrow from the future. If you worry about what may happen tomorrow and it doesn’t happen, then you have worried in vain. Even if it does happen, you have to worry twice.’”

1. Pray.
 2. Go to bed early.
 3. Get up on time, so you can start the day unrushed.
 4. Say “No” to projects that won’t fit into your time schedule or that will compromise your mental health.
 5. Delegate tasks to capable others.
 6. Simplify and unclutter your life.
 7. Less is more. (Although one is not enough, two are often too many)
 8. Allow extra time to do things and to get places.
 9. Pace yourself; spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don’t lump the hard things together.
 10. Take one thing at a time.
 11. Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do, and let go of the anxiety. If you can’t do anything about a situation, forget it.
 12. Live within your budget; don’t use credit cards.
- Well, even if I do parts of some of these, I know I will have less



stress in my life. How about you? Remember—progress, not perfection.



FELLOWSHIP

Upcoming fellowship events

- **Sunday, March 7**—Potluck Lunch
- **Saturday, March 27**— Supper Club
- **Saturday, April 24**—Sailing trip aboard the *Joshua*, leaving from Grand Hotel at Point Clear
 - Board at **4:45 pm**
 - Sail **5:00–7:30 pm**
 - Dinner (Dutch treat) in the

Fairhope area afterwards for all who would like to in the Fairhope area

- **Sunday, May 2**—Potluck Lunch
- **Saturday, May 22**—Picnic at Donnie and Melodie Garner’s house
 - Meet at **3:00 pm**
 - Eat at **6:00 pm**
- **Saturday, June 12**—Supper Club

Serve yourself *and* others

The Potluck Lunch on **Sunday, March 7**, is scheduled for *after* setup for IHN (which occurs immediately following worship service).

Please join us to set up for IHN before lunch. What a great way to serve yourself *and* others. (Besides, the more help we have setting up, the sooner we all can eat!)



discipleship



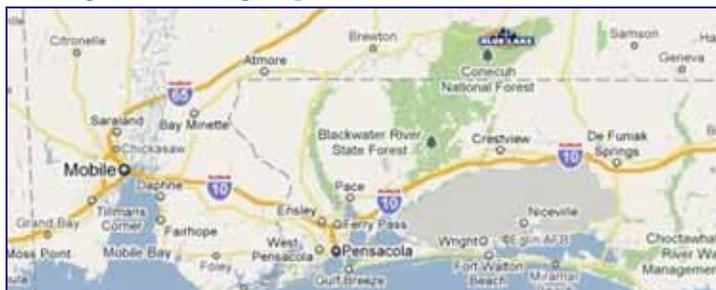
The Outdoor Ministry Committee of The Presbytery of South Alabama is proud to introduce an exciting new camping opportunity for Summer 2010! It's called "The Launch," and it will be held **Sunday, June 27–Thursday, July 1**, at Blue Lake Campgrounds in Andalusia, AL.

We have taken some of the best things about the Pine-treat Camping experience and have integrated them into a fresh and creative new offering for the children of our Presbytery. The week will include daily Bible studies, large and small group

games, competitions, campfires, worship, skits, crafts, great food, swimming, canoeing, paddle boats, archery, and much, much more!

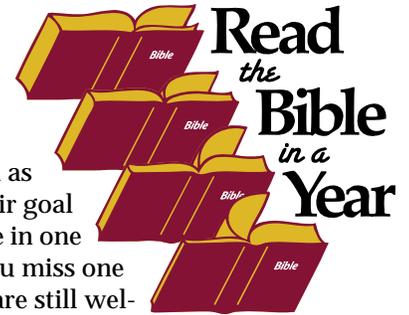
The 5-day camp will have a complete staff of High School and College counselors, a Program Team of Adults and Pastors, and a Full Camp Staff, Licensed Medical Staff, and Trained Lifeguards.

It's a new day for camping ministry in South Alabama! Take "The Launch" with us! If you have any questions or would like more information, talk to **Pastor Mark**.



Women's Bible Study

The women meet in the Conference Room each **Monday** night at **7:00 pm** as they continue toward their goal of reading the entire Bible in one year. Note that even if you miss one (or more) meetings, you are still welcome and encouraged to attend subsequent meetings.

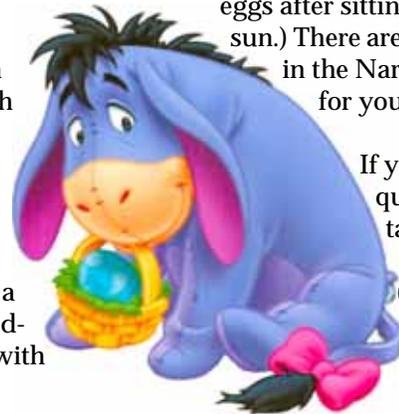


Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **Sunday, April 4, following Easter service.** (The youth will hide the eggs after the sunrise service.)

All children through fifth grade are invited. Bring your parents, a friend, a basket, and a plate of goodies to share with everyone.

In the meantime, we're looking for volunteers to help fill plastic eggs, so they will be ready for hiding. (Please, no chocolate. It melts in the sun.) There are bags of eggs in the Narthex waiting for you.



If you have any questions, contact **Laura Anderson** (607-7230).

Pictorial directory update

By Betty Montjoy

I'll bet that you are wondering, "Whatever happened to our church directory?" Due to unforeseen events in late fall and early winter, it was stalled, but Olan Mills now has our proofs and should be working on it. We should have it in about 2½ months. It will not be perfect because I'm sure there have been some

changes that did not make the proofs. We proofed it with the information we had, so I'm also sure that we will need to print out any information that is incorrect in the directory. In the meantime, please let the church office know of any changes of address, phone number, or other information for you and your family. Thanks for being so patient and understanding.

Who's THAT in the background?*



By Nedra Bloom

When Pam Fredelake was a teenager, envisioning her adult life, she wanted to do three things—be a dental hygienist, be a certified public accountant, and be a veterinarian.

Two out of three ain't bad.

After 20 years as a dental hygienist, she went back to school and earned her accounting credentials. But after just five years, the 60-hour work weeks of tax season seemed ridiculous. After all, she was expecting and Kevin was away in the Mediterranean with the Navy. So she packed in the CPA tax tizzy and headed for the Salvation Army, where she is finance manager.

But she still puts her tax time skills to work at Providence.

For many years, **Linda Crossley** performed the required internal audit of Providence's books. When she stepped aside, Pam took over. Since she's part of the church, she can't do an independent audit, but because the church's finances are relatively uncomplicated – only two debts, one to the Presbytery and one for the mortgage, and the total income is only about \$200,000 – the bank is content with an internal audit, she says.



Beginning in January, the church mails contribution statements to each member. She follows up with a letter to about 20 percent of the contributors, chosen at random, asking them to check the information against their personal records. In all the years, only one person has found an error, Pam said, saying that's a great tribute to bookkeeper **Jo Hayes**.

Those forms may seem like small potatoes, but anyone

audited by the IRS needs to have the form to prove they made donations, she said, noting that the IRS won't accept any other proof, not even cancelled checks.

Next, she makes a random review of checks written by the church against the bills and receipts, verifies that taxes were withheld properly from payroll checks, and then ensures that the checks were properly deposited in the bank.

It could be an enormous job, she said, but Jo's excellent bookkeeping prevents a lot of problems, so the audit can usually be completed in a few solid hours of work. Generally, she tries to complete the work by March.

Pam is perhaps the only member of Providence who first attended during the dedication of the new building.

(See "Who's that?" on page 9)

*wrapped in adding machine tape and surrounded by receipts?

(“Who’s that?” from page 8)

She had grown up at nearby Spring Hill Presbyterian, where her parents still attend, but as the years passed, it just didn’t feel like home any more. On the Sunday when Vernon Hunter announced his retirement, she noticed a bulletin item inviting Spring Hillians to attend the dedication of the new Providence sanctuary. She and her mother attended. The event was so well supported by Presbyterians from throughout the region that she had no idea who belonged and who was just visiting. But she knew she would be back. And she was—the following Sunday.

Welcomed by the people and then-pastor **Brant Baker**, and delighted by the crowds of children and the music, she knew this was the right place. That fall, she participated in an Inquirer’s Class—with some 25 other people—and joined the church along with **Gene** and **Linda Crossley**, **Leslie Westerberg**, and others.

When **Kevin** came along, she worried that he might be put off by the length of the service. After all, most Presbyterian services are one hour on the dot. But Kevin said he was startled at how the time flew by because he was so engaged by the music, the liturgy, and the sermon.

“He was comfortable, and I was comfortable,” she said. Their older daughter, **Ashley**, participated in children’s and youth events until she finished school, and their younger daughter, **Kelsey**, has loved the church from her infancy, Pam said.

“We’re here to praise God.”

The Resume of Jesus Christ

Address: Ephesians 1:20

Phone: Romans 10:13

Website: The Bible



Keywords: Christ, Lord, Savior, and Jesus

Hello. My name is Jesus—The Christ. Many call me Lord! I’ve sent you my resume because I’m seeking the top management position in your heart. Please consider my accomplishments as set forth below.

Qualifications

- I founded the earth and established the heavens (see Proverbs 3:19).
- I formed man from the dust of the ground (see Genesis 2:7).
- I breathed into man the breath of life (see Genesis 2:7).
- I redeemed man from the curse of the law (see Galatians 3:13).
- The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant come upon your life through me (see Galatians 3:14).

Occupational Background

- I’ve only had one employer (see Luke 2:49).
- I’ve never been tardy, absent, disobedient, slothful, or disrespectful.
- My employer has nothing but rave reviews for me (see Matthew 3:15-17).

Skills and Work Experience

- Some of my skills and work experience include empowering the poor to be poor no more, healing the brokenhearted, setting the captives free, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, and setting at liberty them that are bruised (see Luke 4:18).
- I am a Wonderful Counselor (see Isaiah 9:6).
- People who listen to me shall dwell safely and shall not fear evil (see Proverbs 1:33).
- Most importantly, I have the authority, ability, and power to cleanse you of your sins (see I John 1:7-9).

Educational Background

- I encompass the entire breadth and length of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding (see Proverbs 2:6).
- In me are hid all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (see Colossians 2:3).
- My Word is so powerful it has been described as being a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path (see Psalms 119:105).

(See “Resume” on page 14)

Boy Scout Troop 292 Scoutmaster Update

By Manny Russo,
Scoutmaster

February started off with an Eagle Court of Honor. This is a ceremony to recognize a scout who has earned his Eagle Rank. Jared H was all smiles, but nothing compared to his mom's smile! Only 3 scouts out of 100 reach this rank.

Troop 292 is fortunate to have 3 out of 40 who have earned this rank. This says something about the quality of our scouts and their families.



one of the purposes of scouting, and that is to challenge a scout and take him out of his "comfort zone." This is one way scouts build self confidence and learn to perform even when they are uncomfortable or just downright scared! The scouts had a blast at this activity. As usual, they prepared excellent food, consisting of stew, grilled chicken, homemade cobbler, and much more. These guys have acquired excellent skills in the kitchen.

February 7 was Scout Sunday. Seven of our scouts and their families attended Providence Presbyterian Church. Some of our scouts addressed the congregation and explained what Scouting means to them and how they are carrying out their "Duty to God." Duty to God is a core value in the Scout Oath and Law.

The troop camped at Camp Tiak in Wiggins, MS, in February. The scouts participated in the C.O. P.E. (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) Course. A C.O.P.E. or "Ropes" course is a team-building program that challenges each scout mentally as opposed to physically. The scouts are working together at heights of 15-25 feet. They have safety harnesses on and have to work together to overcome obstacles and reach their goal. It is not unusual for scouts to fall off the cable that they are walking on, but they only fall a foot or two as the safety harness catches them. Many scouts are afraid of this activity due to the height. However, this is

The troop is getting ready for elections. These elections will be held on March 2. Many scouts will assume leadership positions, which will enable them to be better leaders. Scouts grow in leadership when they assume responsibility.

March will be a very busy month. New Cub Scouts who want to become Boy Scouts will visit our troop and learn about scouting. We have already received word from 10 families that they plan to join the troop on March 23 at our joining or "Bridging" Ceremony.

Troop 292 is growing, and this is primarily due to the excellent outdoor program that the boys plan and carry out. It is also due to the support of Providence Presbyterian Church. Thanks for all that you do to support the troop.



Jared H at the Eagle Court of Honor



Senior Patrol Leader Robbie at Providence on Scout Sunday



At Scout Day in Montgomery, Barkley (L) had lunch with Governor Riley and was in the flag ceremony.

Scout Day in Montgomery (L—R): James G, Barkley, Joseph



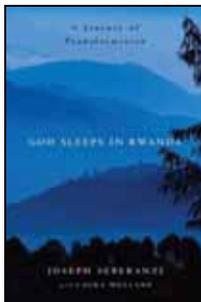
Pages from the Providence Library

God Sleeps in Rwanda

By Joseph Sebarenzi

Book review by Kathy Veland Taylor

The book tells the story of the ethnic conflict, which has continued for many years, in the country of Rwanda. Numerous horrific events have the people living in fear and isolation in this country. It seems to the author that international intervention from other countries might have saved many lives. Instead, he saw the world stand by and watch.



The people of Rwanda have been under siege since the author was a young boy. Sebarenzi barely escaped with his life on four or more occasions. He finally did find a way to complete school. He got his education during a more stable period in this country. He married and had a family of his own. Later, he became a government leader. Then, due to changes in the political arena of Rwanda, he had to seek exile. He and his family came to live in the United States in 2000.

Sebarenzi is still hoping to return to his country and assist in the stabilization of ethnic groups and the government. Rather than choosing to be bitter, he is working in the field of conflict resolution. He believes forgiveness and compassion can bring about healing. Positive changes can begin in individuals and spread to larger groups.

Peace for future generations is possible, and it starts with the individual. Forgiveness over anger and revenge is better for each individual's physical and emotional well-being. In addition,

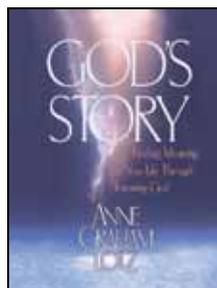
forgiveness is also for our own spiritual integrity. Each religion in the world preaches forgiveness over revenge. The world could find peace, he believes.

God's Story

By Anne Graham Lotz

Book review by Ken Shaw

Her subtitle is "Finding Meaning for Your Life through Knowing God." Lotz confronts the reader as she applies the Biblical narrative to our everyday lives. An example would be Eve's excuse for eating the forbidden fruit. She discusses all the excuses we use not to do as Christ bids. Her eleven chapters are divided under the headings of "I Am Your Creator," "I Am Your Savior," "I Am Your Father," and "I Am Your Redeemer."



Being the daughter of Billy Graham, her snippets of home life give little insights of how living was in her childhood. Many personal accounts of herself and others are included

to illustrate her message.

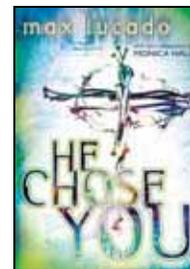
Her devotion to Christ is evident as she responds to questions as seen on her recent appearances on Christian programs. This inspirational book does answer the question of "How do I grow in Christ?"

He Chose You

By Max Lucado

Lucado has been in the ministry for over twenty years and currently is serving as Minister of Writing and

Preaching at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, TX. He is the author of more than 50 books. This book should be addressed to teens as the stories depict typical teen problems. One suspects he must have teens as he presents his stories. His nine chapters talk of living the Christian life as well as salvation.



Lucado writes of Christ's death repeatedly as an illustration of His love and forgiveness. Perhaps he thinks his graphic descriptions will increase the reader's appreciation of all the sacrifice that went into our salvation. I believe a greater emphasis should be on the fellowship that can be developed as we keep our eyes on Him.

Connecting with God

By Ron Luce

Book review by Ken Shaw



Luce is founder of Teen Mania Ministries, which reaches 50 countries, and is a recognized speaker on Christian media.

The subtitle is "A Teen Mania Devotional."

Using the definition of "mania" as a craze, the author strives for the teen reader to become God-crazy. The book is made up of 13 weeks of devotionals.

He begins by asking for a commitment to respond to questions and share what was learned with a trusted friend. An example from Week 6 Day 2 concerns accountability to friends. He admonishes

(See "Library" on page 16)

This month in the history of Providence

March 1990—The Fellowship Bible Task Group held a progressive dinner.

March 3, 1991—Providence's first worship service was held in the new church building (the "trailer"). Services were previously held in what is now El Giro Mexican restaurant in the shopping center across Schillinger Road.

March 3, 1991—**Debbie Calvary, Debra and Randy Davis, John Goldey, and Elaine and Lee Skillman** joined Providence.

March 3, 1991—**Randa and Tyler Davis**, children of **Debra and Randy Davis**, were baptized.

March 29, 1992—**Leslie Thomas Everett ("Tommy") Gore** was baptized.

March 14, 1993—**John Goldey** died.

March 1993—The Logos Youth hosted a Mexican Fiesta. **Jerry Esneul** reported on his recent visit to Merida, and **Shellie White** told about her preparations to go to Russia during the coming summer.

March 1994—The Men's Breakfast/Service Group installed a third trailer, to be used for Christian Education, on the property.

March 1994—The Logos youth held a fundraising spaghetti dinner.

March 1994—The Choir from the Presbyterian Home for Children sang at two services.

March 4, 1995—**Teri LaForty** joined Providence.

March 1995—A surprise 50th Anniversary reception was held after service for **Marion and Gene Noce**.

March 3, 1996—**Irene and Steve Holbrook** joined Providence.

March 3, 1996—**Katherine Holbrook**, daughter of **Irene and Steve Holbrook**, was baptized.

March 1996—Several Providence members assisted in the community building of the playground at Medal of Honor (Cottage Hill) Park.

March 1996—The combined youth choirs from Providence and Hillsdale Presbyterian Churches led worship service at both churches.

March 1996—A family night out was held at Renaldo's Restaurant in Tillman's Corner.

March 1996—**JoAnne Cross and Sue Forsyth** attended the Logos Leadership Training School at Trinity Presbyterian in Fairhope.

March 2, 1997—**Barbara and Bud Ratliff and Karen and Mark McVay** joined Providence.

March 15, 1997—Pastor **Brant Baker** married **Richard Montjoy and Ellen Hawkins** at First Church of the Nazarene.

March 1997—In preparation for moving into the new church building, the Men's Breakfast/Service group painted the light poles in the parking lot as well as the wooden chairs donated by Central Presbyterian for the children's classrooms.

March 29, 1997—**Ethan McVay**, son of **Karen and Mark McVay**, was baptized.

March 29/30, 1997—An "open house" walk through the new church building was held after the service.

March 30, 1997—Two children were baptized: **Alexandrea Pasch**, daughter of **Jeanne and John Pasch**; and **Cody Pritchett**, son of **Amy (Crenshaw) and Lee Pritchett**, and grandson of **Sharon and Steve Crenshaw**.

March 1998—The Logos youth held a yard sale. Proceeds went toward their trip to attend the conference in Massanetta Springs, VA.

March 1998—The Sunday School classes participated in the Heifer Project International for the second year. The donations they collected were used to purchase goats and ducks.

March 6, 1999—A Painting Festival was held under the direction of Buildings and Grounds elder **Dale Estes**. The Narthex and hallways were painted. **Elton Love** donated the paint.

March 7, 1999—A blood drive and ice cream social were held. Twelve pints of blood were donated.

March 11, 1999—**David Zachary ("Zack") McCleery** was born to **Diane and Winston McCleery**.

March 16, 1999—**Victoria Lynn ("Tori") Montjoy** was born to **Ellen and Richard Montjoy**.

March 27/28, 1999—The children of God Choir, directed by **Linda Payne**, and the Logos Choir, led by **Marty and Sue Forsyth**, sang at the Saturday and Sunday services.

March 28, 1999—A reception was held after service in honor of **Gareth ("Gary") Baker**, our Sabbatical Interim Minister, and his wife, **Evelyn**.

March 17, 2001—April Emery, Volunteer Coordinator for Penelope House, spoke to the Women of Providence.

March 18, 2001—The following people joined Providence: **Martha and Don Pearce, Lisa and Kevin**

(See "History" on page 14)

(“History,” from page 13)

DeGroot, Christy and Rob Agren, and Leslie Wright.

March 25, 2001—Rob and Stone Agren were baptized.

March 24, 2002—The following people joined Providence: **Betty and Don Blakeman, Patti Hacker, Michelle Nall, and Carol and Tom Newberg.**

March 30, 2002—The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held.

March 15, 2003—The youth held a late-night prayer walk through a local neighborhood and then had stopped for a snack at MacDonalds.

March 2003—The youth held a bake sale after service each Sunday to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

March 20, 2004—Lydia Ruffin, Site Coordinator for the Christian Job Corps, spoke to the Women of Providence.



Window washing

In order to reduce the church's heating/cooling costs during the winter/summer, the windows in the Narthex, the Sanctuary, and the kitchen were tinted last month. When washing them on the inside, please use only water, and dry them with a cloth towel. Any window cleaning fluids will harm or destroy the tint.

March 20, 2004—Melodie Kane and Donnie Garner were married at Providence.

March 28, 2004—The following people joined Providence: **Irene and Hurd Finnegan, Holly and Mike Mann, Debbie and Larry Simmons.**

March 27, 2005—The youth held a pancake breakfast fundraiser following sunrise service. Proceeds went toward their summer trip to Montreat.

May 1, 2006—The youth treated those attending the Ash Wednesday service to a Pancake Dinner.

March 20, 2006—Ashley Fredelake and Jessica Harden joined Providence.

March 19, 2006—There was a potluck lunch after Sunday School.

March 18, 2007—Ryan Mouner was baptized.

March 24, 2007—A potluck supper was held.

March 2, 2008—The new playground, **John Curtis Andrews'** Eagle Scout project, was dedicated, followed by a picnic lunch.

March 7/8, 2008—A lockin was held for the elementary-aged kids.

March 15, 2008—The Building and Grounds elders held a church workday.

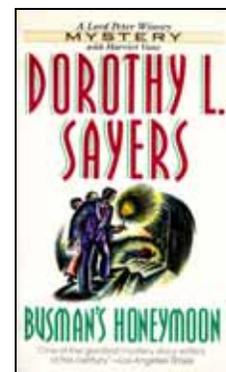
March 21, 2009—The youth held a Chili Cookoff fundraiser. The Davidson High School Warriors Football team, headed by **John Curtis Andrews**, was the winner of the Golden Spoon.

Busman's Honeymoon

Chickasaw Civic Theater will present *Busman's Honeymoon* on **March 5, 6, 12, 13, and 14.**

The play is directed by **Nedra Bloom**. **Don Bloom**, who has also been involved in set construction, plays the Rev. Simon Goodacre. **Ken Gadomski** is scenic artist.

For more information and tickets, go to cctshows.com.



(“Resume,” form page 9)

- I can even tell you all of the secrets of your heart (see Psalms 44:21).

Major Accomplishments

- I was an active participant in the greatest Summit Meeting of all times (see Genesis 1:26).
- I laid down my life so that you may live (see II Corinthians 5:15).
- I defeated the archenemy of God and mankind and made a show of him openly (see Colossians 2:15).
- I've miraculously fed the poor, healed the sick, and raised the dead!
- There are many more 9 major accomplishments—too many to mention here. You can read them on my website, which is located at [www dot the BIBLE](http://www.dot.theBIBLE). You don't need an Internet connection or computer to access my website.

References

- Believers and followers worldwide will testify to my divine healings, salvation, deliverance, miracles, restoration, and supernatural guidance

In Summation

Now that you've read my resume, I'm confident that I'm the only candidate uniquely qualified to fill this vital position in your heart.

In summation, I will properly direct your paths (see Proverbs 3:5-6) and lead you into everlasting life (see John 6:47). When can I start? Time is of the essence (see Hebrews 3:15).

Send this resume to everyone you know—you never know who may have an opening! Thanks for your help, and may God bless you!

Session activities

January 10 Session Meeting

Contributed by Nedra Bloom, Substitute Clerk

- Approved a motion to receive Ann Bosarge and Debbie McLendon into membership.
- Approved the minutes of the December 13 meeting.
- Received the pastor's report.
- Were asked for volunteers to help bring communion to homebound members.
- Were informed that Pastor Mark will be meeting with representatives of a soup kitchen program in Grand Bay, with an eye to working together.
- Were informed that Pastor Mark will lead another day of homeless ministry on Saturday, January 16 [subsequently postponed].
- Were informed that The Well will not meet in April due to Easter weeken.
- Approved a motion to adjust Pastor Mark's schedule as follows:
 - June 26-July 1—The Launch at Camp Blue Lake, the Presbytery's new camp for elementary-aged children. Pastor Mark is the new chair of the Presbytery's Outdoor Ministry team and will be directing the camp.
 - April 11 or 18—Vacation.
 - June 13-20—Providence youth mission trip to Austin, TX.
 - July 4—Vacation day.
- Were informed that it is time to begin planning the annual retreat; elder training must occur before the event and elder examination during the weekend.
- Reviewed the church calendar.
- Were given a final version of the 2010 budget by the Stewardship elder.
- Approved a motion to approve the 2010 budget, which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting [held on January 17].
- Were informed by the Fellowship elder that a luncheon was planned following the annual meeting on January 17 and a Supper Club on January 30.
- Were informed that Betty Montjoy will join the Nursery Care Worker Search Team.
- Were informed that the Music Director Search Team—Laura Fletcher, Steve Crenshaw, Carolyn Weaver, Ken Gadomski, Leslie Westerberg, and Nedra Bloom—is looking for subs and interims while they search for a permanent replacement for Evelyn Watkins.
- Approved a motion to reappoint Pam Fredelake as auditor.
- Approved a motion to reappoint Gene Noce as treasurer.
- Were informed by the Discipleship elder that the Discipleship Team will meet on January 25.
- Were informed that the Evangelism elder has established a team, including Leah Andrews, Graham Hayes, Michelle Nall, Ann Bosarge, and Debbie McLendon.
- Were informed by the Evangelism elder that Ken Gadomski has designed and made new visitor greeting cards.
- Were informed by the Nurture elder that the Shepherds will meet on January 21.
- Were informed that the Nurture elder will begin a recheck of the membership rolls.
- Received a suggestion from the Building and Grounds elders that building maintenance funds carried over from last year be applied to tinting the windows in the narthex and sanctuary in hopes of cutting cooling bills.
- Were informed that the Building and Ground elders are continuing to seek solutions to the roof problems.

The substitute organist

By Anonymous, contributed by Leslie Westerberg

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs.

Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick, and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute.

The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently.

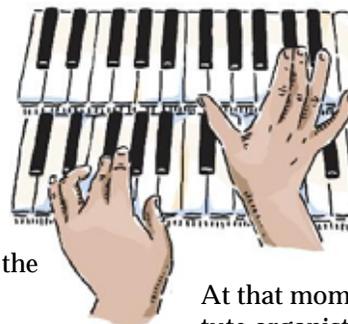
"But you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty. The roof repairs cost twice as much as

we expected, and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up."

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner."

And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!



Condolences

To Barbara and Stephen Fitzpatrick

- On the death of Barbara's mother



("Library," from page 12)

valuing correction as a means to keep oneself on track.

Luce has a good knowledge of teens and their concerns. I believe photos would add interest. It would make a great gift to any teen serious about growing in Christ.



What are YOU reading?

Everyone is encouraged to write a review about one of the books in the Providence Library. Email your submission to kengadomski@comcast.net.



Visit us on the Web

at providence-pc.org

Worship service volunteers schedule

By Mary Mastrangelo, Worship Elder

Date	Liturgist	Communion	Ushers
March 7	Tom Fletcher	No Communion until Maundy Thursday	Bill Berry Buck Bolton Joan Rommes TBA
March 14	Nedra Bloom		Gene Crossley Tom Fletcher Aggie Roebuck Jerry Williams
March 21	Jerry Williams		Mary Mastrangelo Don Purvis Les Taylor Marlene Taylor
March 28	Pam Fredelake		Betty Blakeman Al Drinovsky Michelle Nail TBA

DIRT CUPS

Make this easy snack for your family or your friends at Sunday school. As you eat it, celebrate the miracles God brings in the spring.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving size) box of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) plastic cups
- gummy worms and frogs
- plastic flowers (optional)

What you do:

1. Mix milk and pudding in a large bowl. Beat with a whisk until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Add whipped topping and half of the crushed Oreos.
3. Place 1 tablespoon crushed Oreos in each cup. Fill cups 3/4 full with pudding.
4. Top with remaining crushed Oreos.
5. Chill at least 1 hour or until ready to serve.
6. Decorate with gummy worms and/or frogs.
7. Place the stem end of the plastic flower into the center of the pudding dessert.



God's teaching is like....

In Deuteronomy, Moses' words to the children of Israel remind us of spring, which brings growth and new life.

Use the flower code below to fill in the blanks, revealing Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV.



"Let my teaching fall like



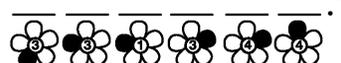
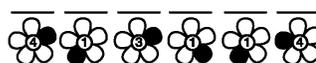
and my words descend like



like



like abundant



Answers: rain, dew, showers on new grass, rain on tender plants

March 2010

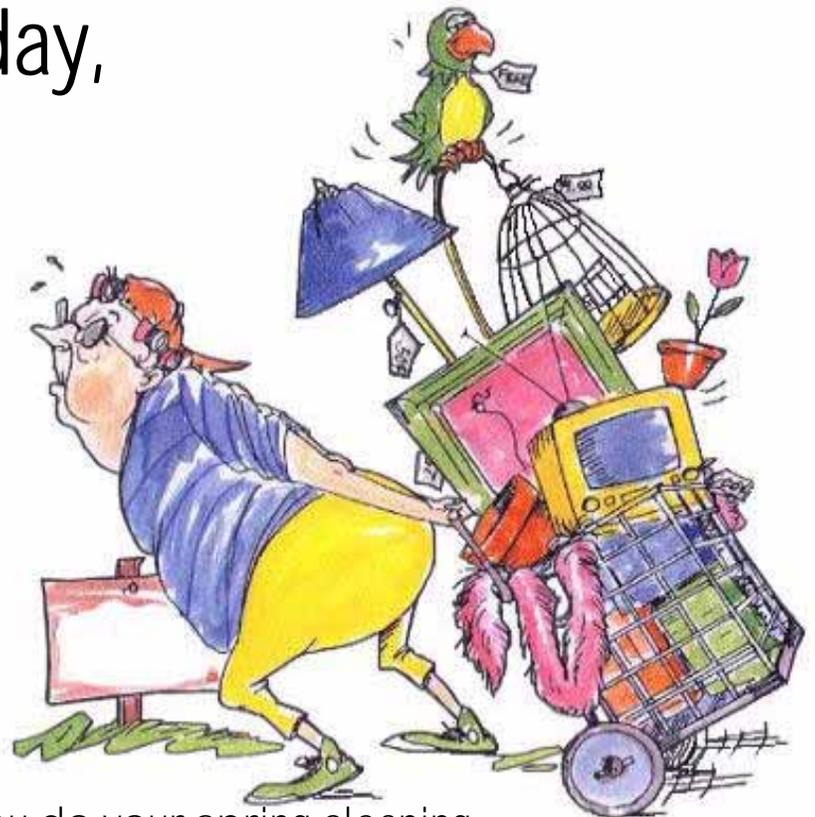
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  6:30 pm Worship Team 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	2  6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop #292	3 5:30-7:30 pm Mobility 7:00 pm Choir	4 7:30-8:30 pm AA meeting	5 Church office closed	6  9:00 am Men's Group 5:30 pm the Well Maria Gomez 
7 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am IHN Setup 11:30ish Potluck lunch 5:30-7:00 pm Ignition March 7-14 IHN	8 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	9 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop #292	10 5:30-7:30 pm Mobility 7:00 pm Choir	11 7:30-8:30 pm AA meeting	12 Church office closed	13
14 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday School 12:10 pm Session meeting 5:30-7:00 pm Ignition Spring Ahead 1 Hour	15 TBA 15 Place tour 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	16 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop #292	17 5:30-7:30 pm Mobility 7:00 pm Choir	18 7:30-8:30 pm AA meeting	19 Church office closed	20 9:00 am Men's Group
21 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday School 5:30-7:00 pm Ignition	22 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	23 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop #292	 24 5:30-7:30 pm Mobility 7:00 pm Choir Janet Lambard	25 7:30-8:30 pm AA meeting	26 Church office closed	27 TBA Supper Club
 28 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday School 5:30-7:00 pm Ignition Palm Sunday Katelyn Knowles	 29 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study Tom Fletcher	30 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop #292	 31 5:30-7:30 pm Mobility 7:00 pm Choir	1 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday service 7:30-8:30 pm AA meeting	 2 12:00 noon-6:00 pm Sanctuary open for prayer Good Friday Church office closed Joshua Andrews	3 9:00 am Men's Group

Providence Presbyterian Church
2320 Schillinger Road South
Mobile, AL 36695

www.providence-pc.org

Coming on Saturday,
April 24 . . .

Youth
Fundraiser
Yard Sale



Please remember our youth as you do your spring cleaning
