



Providence Press



Providence Presbyterian Church

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

Pastor's message

My apologies for stealing from you

Last week a letter addressed to my husband, Stuart, arrived at our church office. There was no return address . . . it was simply addressed to Rev. Stuart Clark, with the address of Providence Presbyterian Church.

Here's what the letter said:

"Dear Stu: You may not remember, but I worked for you briefly at the Crazy Horse Saloon. At present I'm working the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, and in keeping with the 9th step I need to make amends to you. I never stole from the till, but I poured plenty of free drinks in my weeks behind your bar, some for friends and some for myself. According to my best recollection, I owe you around \$100. Please accept the enclosed check, together with my apologies for stealing from you. Thanks in advance. Yours, Robert"

And sure enough, there was a check for \$100.

It's been more than 30 years,

and a lot of water has gone under all of our bridges. We aren't the same people we were back then . . . and yet we are. There's this grand design that God has for our lives. The key is in allowing and trusting God to take us into His preferred future.

During those days back in the Crazy Horse, I would never have imagined Stuart as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact, the LAST person in the world I wanted to be married to was a minister. But God has a sense of humor, and you'd better not tell God there's something you won't or can't do . . . because before you know it, there you are, watching your husband graduate from seminary and moving into a parsonage!

And for myself . . . when Stuart was called to go to seminary, I knew it was OUR

call. I knew there would be no separate career for me. I was as committed to the church and its ministries as Stuart was. . . so here I am, 30 years later and serving as your Interim.

I appreciate those days in the Crazy Horse. They gave me an understanding of life that I might not have gotten if I had gone a more predictable way. God has used our lives for His benefit . . . and isn't that what life is all about? As we use our

experiences, gifts, talents, interests, and energy for sharing Christ with others, everything begins to make sense.

Robert may have found Stuart through the Providence website . . . so Robert, if you're reading our newsletter, we all say thank you for remembering. The money will be passed on to a young lady who can really use a little help right now. And bless you . . . God has been good to us; may His blessings rain down on you.

Mary
(and
Stuart)
Clark



Mary Montei Clark, Pastor
Debra Ehman, Nursery Staff
Bob Ellis, Treasurer
Laura Fletcher, Accompanist
Justin Gipson, Director of Music Ministries
Joanne Hayes, Bookkeeper
Amy Messer, Administrative Assistant
Wendy Mouner, Nursery Staff
Jimmie Roebuck, Percussionist

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Evangelical Missions

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This month's contributors:

- Laura Anderson
- Don Bloom
- Ken Gadomski
- Melodie Garner
- Hollye Noce
- Joan Rommes
- Manny Russo

In Remembrance

Eugene W. Noce (1921-2013)

Editor's Note: Pastor Mary Montei Clark delivered the following eulogy at Gene Noce's funeral on October 5, 2013.

It seems the love story of Gene and Marian Noce began with a snowball thrown by a young Harvard student at a pretty girl from Wesley.

That girl was Marion . . . that boy was Gene . . . and they were married on March 1, 1945. Gene served in Europe during the war, where he built bridges and worked on water supply routes for the troops.

After the war was over, they finished their educations and started a family. Gene and Marion traveled across the United States with Gene's career of managing industrial plants for Diamond Shamrock.

For all of us who had the pleasure of knowing, working, living near them as neighbors, and worshipping with them, thank goodness they ended up here in Mobile.

Gene was the treasurer of Providence Presbyterian Church since its beginning, and every Monday morning Gene was at the church, writing checks and making deposits. On the last Monday of his life, Gene still wanted to come over to the church to take care of our finances!

Gene was a private sort of person . . . he was quick witted . . . the kind of person

you listened to when he spoke. He was a committed husband and father and a good friend to have. He cared about how things were done, and when asked about the procedures of the church finances, he said they were "smooth sailing."

That comment reminded me of writing by Victor Hugo entitled "What is Dying?"

I am standing upon that foreshore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength and I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other. Then someone

at my side says "There! She's gone!"

"Gone where?"

"Gone from my sight, that's all." She is just as large in mast and spar and hull as ever she was when she left my side; just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of her destination.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her.

And just at that moment when someone at my side says "There! She's gone!" there are other eyes watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout.

"Here she comes!"

And that is dying.



During the September 8 worship service, Pastor Mary Montei Clark (L) and Clerk of Session Ken Gadomski (R) recognized Gene Noce (C) for his almost 24 years of service as Providence's Treasurer • Photo by Hollye Noce



EVANGELICAL MISSIONS

Dorinda Hilbun & Joan Rommes, Elders

Christmas Angel Tree

By Joan Rommes

If anyone gives even a cup of water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.

— Matthew 10:42

The privilege of helping those in need through the Providence Food Pantry has been a blessing and would not be possible without the support of you – the congregation – and the Evangelical Missions Team. We are seeing more children being raised or living with a grandparent or grandparents who are on limited incomes and, at times, cannot afford their basic needs.

We have been asked in the past for such things as underwear, socks, and jackets, and we have obtained these items through the generosity of Evangelical Missions Team members.

This year we have decided to have a

Christmas Angel Tree and provide items to local families identified through



the Food Pantry and Social Services. There will be a small tree with information about the family and each child. Please consider helping these local families.

For those who feel called to prepare Christmas shoeboxes, as we have done for a number of years, The Grove will be involved with the Operation Christmas Child shoebox program this year.

Paperbacks needed

Looking for a way to help Providence’s feeding ministries? Have a lot of paperbacks that you need to get rid of?

Donate your gently used books to the church. They will be sold at Providence’s booth at Southern Pickers (4052 Dawes Road).

The profit will be used for the feeding ministries. Your donations can be left under the Missions table next to the food collection bucket in the Narthex.



Community Garden & Orchard

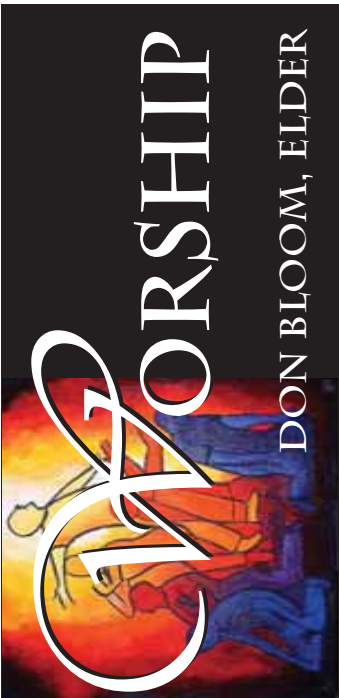
By Laura Anderson,
Evangelical Missions Team

Have you noticed that weeds disappeared?

Or that the overseeded turnips thinned themselves and replanted themselves in the neighboring garden bed?

No, it was not some cool magic trick – it was the hard work of Riley Henderson, Joan Rommes’ grandson.

Riley is a ninth-grader at McGill Toolen High School. His work in the garden was a wonderful gift to the Providence Presbyterian Church family and very much appreciated.



November worship volunteers

Date	Liturgist	Communion	Ushers	Nursery
3	Nedra Bloom	Intinction	Bill Berry	Myrna Andrews
		Joan Rommes	Buck Bolton	
		Aggie Roebuck	Mary Mastrangelo	
			Joan Rommes	
10	Dorinda Hilbun		Ann Bosarge	Melina Ramseur
			Aggie Roebuck	
			Buddy Low	
			TBA	
17	Pam Fredelake	Leslie Westerberg	Debbie Purvis	Kathy Taylor
		Mary Mastrangelo	Don Purvis	
		Barry South	Marlene Taylor	
		Sharon Smith	Les Taylor	
24	Barry South		Tom Fletcher	Pam Fredelake
			Al Drinovsky	
			Debbie McLendon	
			Myrna Andrews	



Boy Scout Troop 292

By Manny Russo,
Scoutmaster

October was an awesome month. Scouts took the oath of their new position, scouts were recognized for their achievements at our semi-annual Court of Honor, popcorn sales are going well, and the troop camped at Oak Mountain State Park.

The scouts had a blast riding their bikes on the BMX course and the bike trails at Oak Mountain State Park. We had a few bloody elbows, a scraped knee or two, and bruises of the side and chest. Despite these hard knocks, the boys had fun and want to do this again.

The November campout will be a trip to the Talladega National Forest. The Phil-



mont Backpacking Crew will backpack while the other scouts will stay in base camp and work on outdoor skills, play in and around the water falls, and take a 5-mile hike,

including a 1-mile orienteering course.

The troop just completed the "Scouting for Food" drive. Each scout was asked to

collect 10 small bags of non-perishable food, which will be turned in to the Bay Area Food Bank. This service project is part of the troop's effort to "Help Others at all Times."



During October the troop had 20 fourth- and fifth-graders, who are Cub Scouts, visit with us. The purpose of this visit was to introduce them to their next step in scouting, which is Boy Scouts. The Cub Scouts had a blast.

By the way, the reptile study in the narthex went well with the exception of one large California King Snake that is still loose in the Sanctuary! If found, please contact me.

Thanks for your support of the troop.



Oak Mountain State Park

Above and previous page

Webelos Visit

All but one of the snakes were successfully returned to their owners. If you see the red one (pictured right) in the Sanctuary, please contact Scoutmaster Manny Russo.



Session Activities

Ken Gadomski, Clerk of Session



September 8 Stated Session Meeting

- Approved a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11 Stated Session Meeting and August 21 eMeeting.
- Received Pastor Mary's report on Interim training at Montreat.
- Tabled the Treasurer's Report until next month's meeting.
- Received written reports from Building and Grounds Elder Emmett Proudfoot, Communications Elder Ken Gadomski, Evangelical Mission Elders Dorinda Hilbun and Joan Rommes, Nurture Elder Melodie Garner, and Worship Elder Don Bloom.
- Discussed church signage.
- Discussed cleaning the woods.
- Were informed by Evangelical Missions Elder Joan Rommes that Nathan Rommes and Bob Ellis replaced the shelving in the storage closet off the hallway for use storing supplies for the Food Pantry and the Backpack Feeding Ministry.
- Were informed that the Building Usage Team would be meeting shortly.
- Were reminded that an all-church workday was planned for Saturday, September 14, to clean the garden, plant trees in the orchard, and complete other maintenance tasks both outside and inside the church. Pastor Mary will inform Pastor Todd McGehee, so members of The Grove can also participate.
- Were informed that Communication Elder Ken Gadomski has begun sending a Friday email to the congregation, identifying the praise songs and hymns (along with the YouTube links Administrative Assistant Amy Messer posts on Facebook), the scriptures, and the sermon topic for the following Sunday's worship service.
- Were informed by Discipleship Elder Linda Payne that MEGA Wednesday is going well.
- Were informed that Discipleship Elder Linda Payne is looking into ways that Providence can best serve the children who live across Schilling Road at Anne Place.
- Approved a motion to host the women of McKemie Place at Providence on Saturday and Sunday, September 21-22.
- Were informed by Evangelical Missions Elder Dorinda Hilbun that the Backpack Feeding Ministry is going wonderfully and that the donation bags are being returned filled with supplies.
- Were informed by Evangelical Missions Elder Dorinda Hilbun that the monthly Ronald McDonald House dinners are going well. In addition, since we responded to an emergency need a couple of months ago, we may be contacted again in an emergency situation.
- Were informed by Fellowship Elder Debbie McLendon that a combined Providence/The Grove luncheon will be held following the combined worship service on September 29.
- Discussed holding child protection training.
- Discussed the Sunday Pre-Worship Service Prayer Group.
- Discussed the music used during worship.
- Were informed by Youth liaison Linda Payne that no youth attended the first Fall meeting of Mobility.
- Were informed by Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) member Elder Linda Payne that Presbytery of South Alabama Executive Presbyter Samford Turner attended the PNC's first meeting to give them an overview of the process.
- Were informed that PNC officers are Al Drinovsky, chair; Sharon Crenshaw, secretary; and Linda Payne, scribe.
- Compiled input from the all-church survey as a first step toward creating a new mission statement.

**BLESSED ARE THE PEOPLE
WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD**
It is good thing to give
thanks unto the Lord
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
Giving his love endures forever
THANKS
in all things
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift
**FROM THE FULLNESS OF HIS GRACE WE HAVE
ALL RECEIVED ONE BLESSING AFTER ANOTHER**

September 12 Session eMeeting

- Approved a motion to elect Bob Ellis as Treasurer effective immediately.

Covenant Gospel Quartet—October 20

The University of Mobile's gospel quartet Covenant, directed by Providence's Director of Music Ministries Justin Gipson, shared several songs during worship on October 20.

Photos by Melodie Garner



November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and announce His works with shouts of joy —Psalm 107:22</p> 					<p>1 </p> <p>8:30 am Backpack Feeding Ministry</p>	<p>2 </p> <p>Barbara Fitzpatrick Stephen Fitzpatrick Marlene Taylor</p>
<p>3</p> <p>8:30 am Corporate prayer</p> <p>9:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:45 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 am Administration Team meeting</p> <p>11:00 am The Grove Turn clocks back</p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:00 pm Pastor Nominating Committee</p> <p>6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:15 pm MEGA Wednesday</p> <p>6:00 pm Mobility</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 pm Closely Crafted</p> <p>7:30–8:30 pm AA meeting</p>	<p>8 </p> <p>8:30 am Backpack Feeding Ministry</p> <p>10:00–11:00 am Food Pantry</p> <p>11:00 am Evangelical Missions Team Meeting</p>	<p>9 </p> <p>Sharon Crenshaw Myra Roebuck</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8:30 am Corporate prayer</p> <p>9:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:45 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 am Child protection training video</p> <p>10:45 am Session meeting</p> <p>11:00 am The Grove Adria Mosley</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00 pm Pastor Nominating Committee</p> <p>6:30 pm Boy Scouts Renee Knowles</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:15 pm MEGA Wednesday</p> <p>6:00 pm Mobility</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 pm Closely Crafted</p> <p>7:30–8:30 pm AA meeting</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>8:30 am Backpack Feeding Ministry</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>8:30 am Corporate prayer</p> <p>9:15 am Worship</p> <p>10:45 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 pm Worship Team</p> <p>11:00 am The Grove</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00 pm Pastor Nominating Committee</p> <p>6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>5:15 pm MEGA Wednesday</p> <p>6:00 pm Mobility</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 pm Closely Crafted</p> <p>7:30–8:30 pm AA meeting Buddy Low</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30 am Backpack Feeding Ministry</p> <p>10:00–11:00 am Food Pantry</p> <p>11:00 am Thanksgiving meal (Food Pantry patrons and Providence congregation)</p> 	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>8:30 am Corporate prayer</p> <p>10:00 am Combined Worship with The Grove</p> <p>11:30 am Potluck with The Grove</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:00 pm Dinner at Ronald McDonald House</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30 am Backpack Feeding Ministry</p> <p>6:00 pm Pastor Nominating Committee</p> <p>6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30 am Backpack Feeding Ministry</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Thanksgiving Church Office Closed</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 </p> <p>3:00 pm Hanging of the greens Josh Mosley</p>

P

rovidence Presbyterian Church
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REMEMBER WHEN?

Graham and Joanne Hayes sailing out of Grand Mariner Marina on Dog River aboard the Schooner Joshua on April 4, 2004.

