

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

What the world needs

"You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world." – Matthew 5:13-16

One of my favorite writers/theologians is John Stott. He writes that salt and light are the most common of all household commodities. They were the images Jesus chose in order to illustrate

the influence, both evangelistic and social, that he meant his followers to exert in the world. What did he mean? By the salt and light metaphors, Jesus was teaching at least four important truths. Let's take a look at them and see if they apply to our lives at Providence Presbyterian Church.

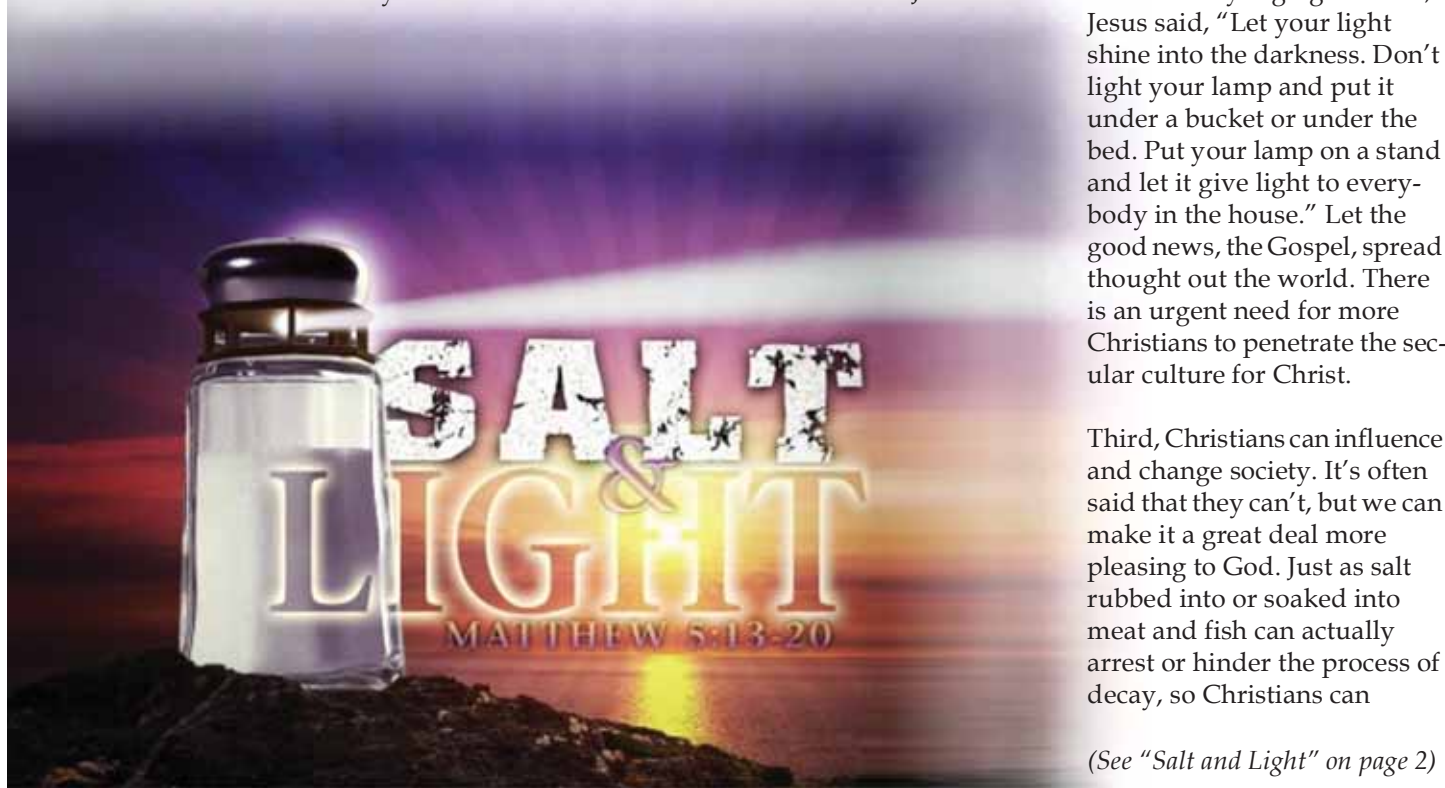
First, Christians are fundamentally different from non-Christians. There is the world that, with all its tragedy and its evil, is a very dark place. Christians are to be the light of this dark world. Today we would probably say they that they're as different as oil from water. . . . Jesus said

they are as different as light from darkness and as salt from decay.

Second, Christians must penetrate the non-Christian community. Although they are spiritually and morally distinct . . . light and darkness, salt and decay . . . they are not to be socially segregated. No, Jesus said, "Let your light shine into the darkness. Don't light your lamp and put it under a bucket or under the bed. Put your lamp on a stand and let it give light to everybody in the house." Let the good news, the Gospel, spread thought out the world. There is an urgent need for more Christians to penetrate the secular culture for Christ.

Third, Christians can influence and change society. It's often said that they can't, but we can make it a great deal more pleasing to God. Just as salt rubbed into or soaked into meat and fish can actually arrest or hinder the process of decay, so Christians can

(See "Salt and Light" on page 2)



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Evangelical Missions

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- Donnie Garner
- Melodie Garner
- Mary Mastrangelo
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hinder the degenerative process of human society. Just as light shining into darkness dispels the darkness, so Christians can dispel the darkness of evil and sorrow from the community with the good news of Jesus Christ.

And fourth, Christians must return to the Christian distinctness. Salt has to retain its saltiness. Otherwise, it's useless; it isn't good for anything. It's only if we are prepared to go the way of Jesus, without compromising his values or standards, that our salt will retain its saltiness and our light will shine clear and bright.

Our salt and light are what the world needs. It needs the church to be there, addressing every brokenness caused

"The church has been sent by God into the world to reflect his heart for the world; this is what is means to be on mission with God . . . partnering with God."

by sin, reflecting the heart of God to the world as partners in his redemptive mission.

The church has been sent by God into the world to reflect his heart for the world; this is what it means to be on mission with God . . . partnering with God. It is not a mission that is pursued as something added to daily

life, something outside the normal range of activity, a quest to do something beyond your life's assignments.

No, instead, it is a way of seeing oneself as partnering with God in our daily life, executing the mundane as well as pursuing the sublime, with the intention of blessing people and sharing the life of God with them.

"I've seen you stalking the malls, walking the aisles, searching for that extra-special gift. Stashing away a few dollars a month to buy him some lizard-skin boots; staring at a thousand rings to find her the best diamond; staying up all night Christmas Eve, assembling the new bicycle.

"Why do you do it? So the eyes will pop, the jaw will drop. To hear those words of disbelief: 'You did this for me?'"

"And that is why God did it. Next time a sunrise steals your breath or a meadow of flowers leaves you speechless, remain that way. Say nothing, and listen as heaven whispers, 'Do you like it? I did it just for you.'"—Max Lucado, The Great House of God (Contributed by Donnie Garner)



“Yooahoo!”

By Laura Anderson

The soil is calling. The weeds are trying to look like they belong. It’s time to get your hands dirty.

Join us to get the garden ready for spring planting on **Saturday, March 15,** at **8:00 am.**

We will be cleaning the beds for people to plant, restringing the trellis for the return of the loofah, getting landscaping timbers cut to house the dedications/memorial plaques, cleaning weeds out of the compost bins, and doing several other things. We will also be putting up fencing around part of the beds to try and slow down the rabbit.

If you are able to come, please bring the tools that you think you might need, such as shovels, weeding tools, gloves, and saws.

We would also welcome any leaves/mulching materials that you might want to donate to the cause. Mulch can be dropped off any time before March 15.





Thanks . . . and please . . . from McKemie Place

By Shelli Bell, Volunteer Coordinator at McKemie Place,

February 20, 2014

Hello F.O.M.P [Friends of McKemie Place]!

First let me just say a huge THANK YOU for the recent response we've gotten on the paper towels, bleach, cleaner, deodorant, detergent and other miscellaneous items!! If you've been collecting but haven't dropped off, that's OKAY!! We still need them!



Second, I'd like to report that we have been in contact with Kimberly-Clark, which has generously donated 10 cases of toilet paper. These 10 cases will last us about one-and-a-half months. I will pick that up on Friday morning. So you will be seeing future emails from me for requests for toilet paper.

Next, I'd like to say that I encourage each of you, as our Friends . . . to become our Partners . . .

Please go to our website (mckemieplace.org/donate/)

and click on the "Donate Now" button.

We now have a feature that allows you to set up monthly automatic transfers in any designated amount of your choosing. Whatever amount that you prayerfully consider, we want it to be something that you will not miss or have to think about.

Please consider asking others in your office and church to participate as well. Think outside the box. Get everyone involved that you can!

There are approximately a quarter of a million people in Mobile. If we can get even half of Mobile to contribute an amount they wouldn't miss . . . we could offset the expenses of our monthly budget, which would be wonderful!

And finally, I'd like to ask that you see the attached picture of the Trash Can Liners at SAM's Club. These are the ones that best fit our cans.

Also, we need weekly bus passes . . . these cost \$10 each, and we currently need



4-5 a week to ensure that our ladies get to their substance abuse treatment program. We are nearly out of them, and so these will be the immediate need for the week.

If you know of anyone else that may want to be on the email list, please ask them

to email me at friendsofmckemieplace@gmail.com, so I can add them.

Thank you for the continued support of our ladies! Y'all are awesome!



Building & Grounds

Emmett Proudfoot, Elder

All-Church Workday

There will be an all-church workday on **Saturday, March 8**, beginning at **8:00 am** and lasting until **12:00 noon**.

Feel free to come and go at times convenient for you.

We will be concentrating on the outside, but there are always things to do inside.

If you want to work outside, please bring tools, such as loppers, for working with small trees and vines, as well as gloves.

If you want to work indoors, bring a vacuum, dust catcher, or similar tool.

See you on March 8.





Boy Scout Troop 292

*By Manny Russo,
Scoutmaster*

Your troop had an awesome February, and March will be even more remarkable.

The troop camped in Stockton in February with a focus on helping our younger scouts master basic outdoor skills, such as learning how to safely cross a body of water (without a boat), how to start a campfire using flint (not matches), how to treat injuries while in the

wilderness, and how to use a compass and a map to find your way. In addition, the scouts learned their responsibilities and rights under the constitution.

Starting on March 11, new families will begin orientation for joining the troop. It is expected that 21 new scouts will join. This is the largest number that has ever joined the troop. Scouts will be coming from Hutchins, Collier, and Dodge. Troop

292 has a good reputation for having a strong Boy Scout Program and one that offers plenty of opportunities for growth and to become an Eagle Scout.

Speaking of Eagle Scouts, there were 19 Eagle Scouts in the district this past year. Of those 19, 7 were from your troop. It is quite remarkable how many of our scouts excel in scouting, and they do it by also excelling in school, sports, band, and the

list goes on. These scouts will be recognized on March 13 at the district banquet.

Troop 292 wants to thank Providence Presbyterian Church for being our charter organization. We also appreciate you allowing us to "mess up" your facilities from time to time. Thanks again for your support of the troop.



This page and the next: Camp Pinetreat campout



The Choir says goodbye to Dorinda Hilbun

At their January 22 practice, Choir members presented Dorinda Hilbun with a collection of small gifts that best described each of them.

Dorinda and her husband, Elmer, officially moved to Baton Rouge, LA, on February 24.



Top left (L-R): Frank Rey, Justin Gipson, Dorinda Hilbun • Top right: Dorinda Hilbun • Left (L-R): Frank Rey, Justin Gipson, Dorinda Hilbun, Leslie Rey, Laura Fletcher, Joanne Hayes • Photos by Laura Anderson

Session Activities

Ken Gadomski, Clerk of Session



January 19, 2014, Stated Session Meeting

- Approved a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2013, and December 8, 2013, Stated Session Meetings and the January 8, 2014, Called Session Meeting.
- Received Elder Dorinda Hilbun's resignation from the Session due to her impending move to Baton Rouge, LA, and thanked her for her service to Providence.
- Reviewed the Pastor Nominating Committee's draft Minister Information Form (MIF).
- Approved a motion to approve the MIF with the Session's emendations.
- Thanked PNC Chair Al Drinovsky and the other members of the PNC for their hard work compiling the MIF.
- Received the Administration Team's written report.
- Received the pastor's report.
- Were informed that Pastor Mary Montei Clark has met with Director of Music Ministries Justin Gipson and Accompanist Laura Fletcher to discuss worship music.
- Were reminded by Pastor Mary Montei Clark of her deep involvement with McKemie Place and that this mission is currently very low on operating funds.
- Were informed by Pastor Mary Montei Clark that a New Members Class will begin next week.
- Reviewed the church calendar.
- Received the Treasurer's Report.
- Discussed the current usefulness of the church van.
- Approved a motion to sell the church van.
- Reviewed the proposed 2014 budget.
- Approved a motion to approve the 2014 budget as emended.
- Were informed by Building and Grounds Elder Emmett Proudfoot that we had a great turnout for the church work day on January 8 and that we were able to accomplish a great deal although there is still more to be done both inside and outside the church.
- Were informed that Building and Grounds Elder Emmett Proudfoot will talk to Boy Scout Troop 292 Scoutmaster Manny Russo about the possibility of the Boy Scouts pulling vines in the woods.
- Continued the discussion about a new church sign.
- Were informed that Building and Grounds Elder Emmett Proudfoot will research the owners of the property to the north of Providence to see if they will give us permission to clear the underbrush, so Providence will be more visible to motorists traveling south on Schillinger Road.
- Received Communication Elder Ken Gadomski's written report.
- Were informed by Communication Elder Ken Gadomski about changes to the church's website.
- Agreed that we want to move forward with getting a tutoring program approved at Anne Place.
- Were informed that Discipleship Elder Linda Payne is planning to have a Children's Choir, comprised of children from Providence and The Grove, perform during the combined worship service on March 30.
- Were informed by Discipleship Elder Linda Payne that a regular group of children is attending Discipletown each Sunday now.
- Were informed by Discipleship Elder Linda Payne that the Spring semester of MEGA Wednesday will begin in February.
- Received Evangelical Mission Elders Dorinda Hilbun and Joan Rommes' written report.
- Were informed by Evangelical Missions Elder Joan Rommes that members of Closely Crafted will assume responsibility for preparing the backpacks during their Thursday meetings and that Bob and Donna Ellis will continue delivering them to O'Rourke Elementary School.
- Were informed by Evangelical Missions Elder Joan Rommes that Closely Crafted members have made 16-18 comfort dolls during the past year.
- Were informed by Evangelical Missions Elder Joan Rommes that we need more mulch around the fruit trees in the orchard and that some Food Pantry patrons are interested in having a garden plot this year.
- Were informed by Evangelical Missions Elder Joan Rommes that an evaluation and planning meeting is planned for later in the month.

(See "Session" on page 10)

("Session," from page 9)

- Were informed that Fellowship Elder Debbie McLendon has been working with William Whatley from The Grove to combine our coffee/tea service during the fellowship time between worship services.
- Were informed by Fellowship Elder Debbie McLendon that our next potluck luncheon with The Grove will be following the combined worship service on March 30.
- Were informed by Fellowship Elder Debbie McLendon that the proposed Super Bowl Party will not be held this year due to multimedia issues.
- Were informed by Nurture Elder Melodie Garner that sheep have been redistributed among the shepherds.
- Received thanks from Pastor Mary Montei Clark for all who helped stage and attended the baby shower the church threw for Ashley Weitzel.
- Were informed that Pastor Mary Montei Clark has met with Director of Music Ministries Justin Gipson and Accompanist Laura Fletcher to evaluate the worship services offered during the Christmas season in order to better plan for the Easter season.
- Were informed that a schedule for the sound-board and multimedia computer will be drawn up with our high school and local college students staffing these areas.
- Were informed that the next Presbytery meeting will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on February 7-8, and agreed



March worship volunteers

Contributed by Mary Mastrangelo and Melodie Garner

Date	Liturgist	Communion	Ushers	Nursery
2	Graham Hayes	Intinction	Bill Berry	Kathy Taylor
			Buck Bolton	
			Mary Mastrangelo	
			Joan Rommes	
9	Pam Fredelake		Ann Bosarge	Joan Rommes
			Aggie Roebuck	
			Buddy Low	
			TBA	
16	Jerry Williams		Debbie Purvis	Pam Fredelake
			Don Purvis	
			Marlene Taylor	
			Les Taylor	
23	Laura Anderson		Tom Fletcher	Barry South
			Al Drinovsky	
			Debbie McLendon	
			Myrna Andrews	
30	Bethany Andrews		TBA	Sue Drinovsky
			TBA	
			TBA	
			TBA	

that elders Tom Fletcher and Melodie Garner will represent Providence.

January 26, 2014, Congregational Meeting

- Presented the 2014 budget, as approved by the Session, to the congregation.



March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.—Exodus 33:14</i></p>						1
<p>2</p> <p>9:15 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Administration Team meeting 11:00 am The Grove</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Mardi Gras</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:15 pm MEGA Wednesday dinner 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday service (with The Grove) 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30–8:30 pm AA meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00 am Worship Team meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00 am– 12:00 noon Work Day</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:15 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am The Grove</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:15 pm MEGA Wednesday 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00 pm Closely Crafted 7:30–8:30 pm AA meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00–11:00 am Food Pantry 11:00 am Evangelical Missions Team meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:00 am Garden Work Day</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:15 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 10:45 pm Session meeting 11:00 am The Grove</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:15 pm MEGA Wednesday 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00 pm Closely Crafted 7:30–8:30 pm AA meeting</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:15 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am The Grove</p>	<p> 24</p> <p>5:00 pm Dinner at Ronald McDonald House Janet Lambard</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:15 pm MEGA Wednesday 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00 pm Closely Crafted 7:30–8:30 pm AA meeting</p>	<p> 28</p> <p>10:00–11:00 am Food Pantry Katelyn Knowles</p>	<p> 29</p> <p>Tom Fletcher</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:15 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am The Grove</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p> 2</p> <p>5:15 pm MEGA Wednesday 7:00 pm Choir Josh Andrews</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 pm Closely Crafted 7:30–8:30 pm AA meeting</p>	<p> 4</p> <p>Carla Massey</p>	<p>5</p>

P

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REMEMBER WHEN?

Providence LOGOS youth around 2004 (L-R): Josh Harden, Jessi Gadomski (partially hidden), Peter Bloom, Emily Clever, Laura Williams, Amy Fletcher Messer, Marty Forsyth, Sarah Clever, Ian Williams

