

# 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

## The truth is . . .

While writing a letter inviting people to attend a new members class, I asked myself the question "Why would someone be inclined to join a church?"

I didn't ask the question out of anger or cynicism — I simply wanted to understand what would move someone to become part of a larger group committed to serving Jesus Christ. When everyone is so busy, why would they make belonging to a congregation of people following Christ a priority in their lives?

Perhaps the word "belonging" is key to the answer.

I can belong to many things: a sports team, a school, a club, a family, a commu-

nity, a political organization, even a nation. Some of the organizations I belong to I have chosen for myself. Others I have been born into, giving me the choice to remain or not.

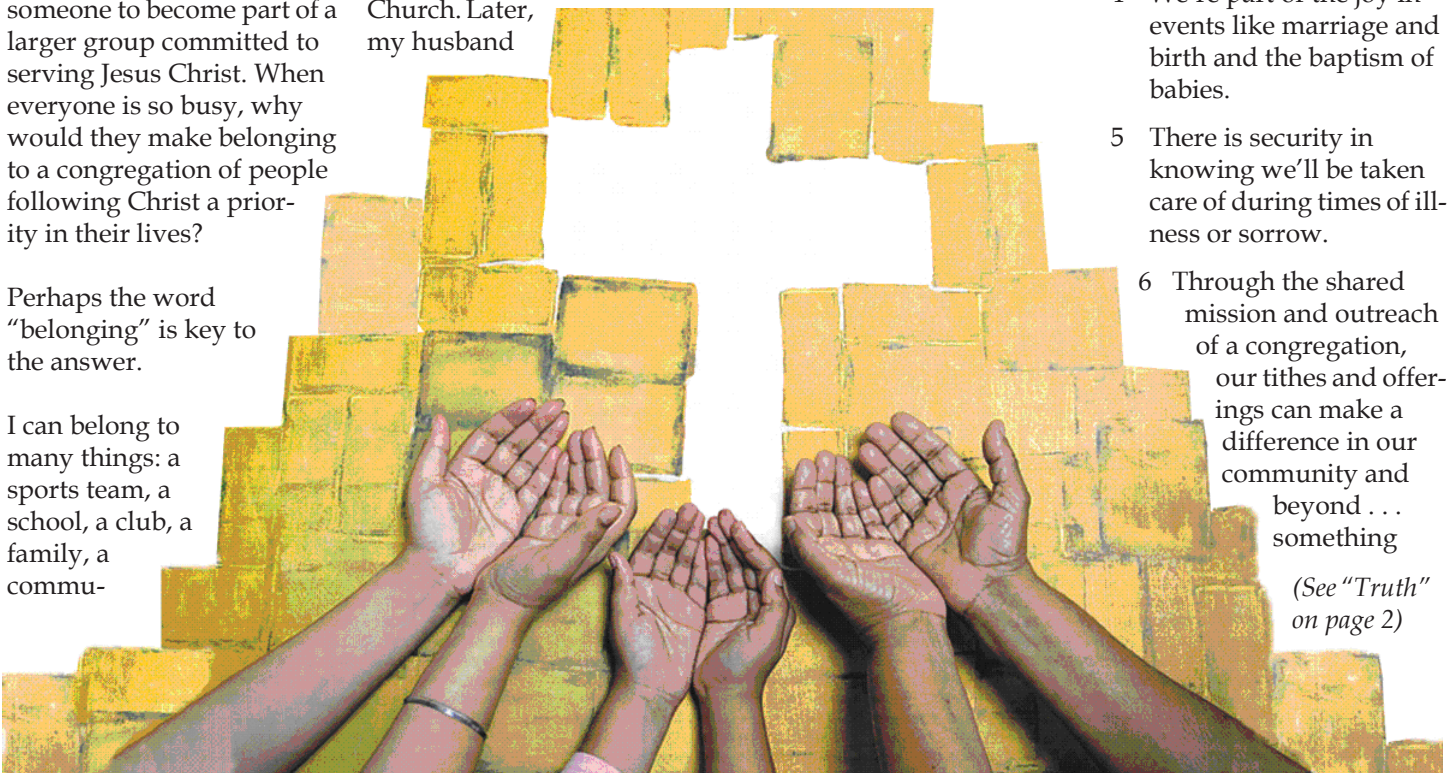
The church is one of the latter. I was born into the Evangelical United Brethren Church. Later, my husband

Stuart and I chose to join a congregation of the Reformed Church in America, and we now serve within another denomination, the PCUSA.

As members of Providence Presbyterian Church, we chose to belong for many reasons . . . not the least of which may be one of the following:

- 1 It provides a shared purpose in worship, discipleship, and missions.
- 2 There is a feeling of safety, acceptance, and caring.
- 3 It expands our view through the shared perspective of others.
- 4 We're part of the joy in events like marriage and birth and the baptism of babies.
- 5 There is security in knowing we'll be taken care of during times of illness or sorrow.
- 6 Through the shared mission and outreach of a congregation, our tithes and offerings can make a difference in our community and beyond . . . something

*(See "Truth" on page 2)*



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Providence Press is published monthly by Providence Presbyterian Church. Email articles to [kengadomski@comcast.net](mailto:kengadomski@comcast.net).

This month's contributors:

- Mary Montei Clark
- Ken Gadomski
- Mary Mastrangelo
- Amy Fletcher Messer
- Joan Rommes
- Manny Russo
- Barry South
- Jeny Williams

*("Truth," from page 1)*

that would be difficult to do on our own.

7 We like and respect the people we meet at church and want to be associated with them.

8 We're better together . . . it's that simple.

I'm certain your list will have other reasons for belonging. Our heritage, personalities, and life circumstances all differ, consequently our reasons for belonging to this church are varied. It's in that kaleidoscope of differences that it's often necessary to bend a bit to accommodate the needs and wishes of others.

However, the one thing that holds us together is our belonging to Jesus Christ. Listen to the first question of the Heidelberg Catechism:

Question: What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

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**"The truth is . . .  
I belong to God,  
body and soul,  
in life and in death."**

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Answer: That I belong . . . body and soul, in life and in death . . . not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

I think I want that on my tombstone. I'm not being morbid — it's just that I love how well it explains my "belonging" to my Lord and Savior.

I can be any race, age, or political persuasion, and that statement remains the same. I can live on any conti-

nent, in any century, and whether rich or poor, that statement remains the same. I can be developmentally disabled or the next Albert Einstein, and that statement remains the same. I can be orthodox, reformed, evangelical, or any label I want to put on myself . . . and that statement remains the same . . .

The truth is . . . I belong to God, body and soul, in life and in death.

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**"While writing a letter inviting people to attend a new members class, I asked myself the question 'Why would someone be inclined to join a church?'"**

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**FIRED UP** returns in September with 2 hot new classes

*Beth Moore*  
**BELOVED  
DISCIPLE**

John the apostle must have thought he had seen everything. Having been with Jesus all the years of his ministry, John witnessed more miracles than he could count, saw more displays of power than he could comprehend, and experienced more love than he could fathom. And one unforgettable morning young John outran Peter to his Savior's empty tomb.

Every disciple and early follower of Christ left a legacy for future believers. John's legacy was love.

Perhaps like no other disciple, John understood that relationship is the point. Every command of Christ and call to obedience is to enhance relationship and place the recipient in a posture the Giver can bless.

Beth Moore's *Beloved Disciple* is about finding our way to

the heart of Jesus and reclining so closely that our pulse begins to throb in tandem, loving what He loves and hating what He hates.

In this class, you'll explore the life of the apostle John and the legacy of love he left for future believers. John understood that relationship is the point, and he was uniquely chosen to receive the "Revelation" of Jesus Christ. Christ still

*(See "Beloved" on page 4)*

*Old Testament*  
**Stories**  
**FROM THE**  
**BackSide**

J. Ellsworth Kalas opens up new possibilities of insight into selected Old Testament stories by entering them from the "back side," through a unique starting point, a creative retelling, a new "lens," or

the eyes of a minor or unsympathetic character.

This creative approach both clarifies basic teachings and introduces new possibilities of meaning, even for those who are most familiar with the stories.

Enriched with illustrations and personal experiences, this book will provide new perspectives on Old Testament stories.

**Lessons**

- The Second Sin (Genesis 3:1-13)

*(See "Back side" on page 4)*



("Beloved," from page 3)

desires this kind of love relationship with you.

## Lessons

### ■ Part 1 – Fresh Winds over Galilee

- Since that Time
- The Identify of Family
- For They were Fishermen
- Old Ties and New Ties
- A Hard Act to Follow

### ■ Part 2 – Sightings and Insights

- A Solitary Place
- Three and One
- Right-Handed Disciples
- Reclining Next to Him
- From the Edge of a Garden

### ■ Part 3 – Defining Moments

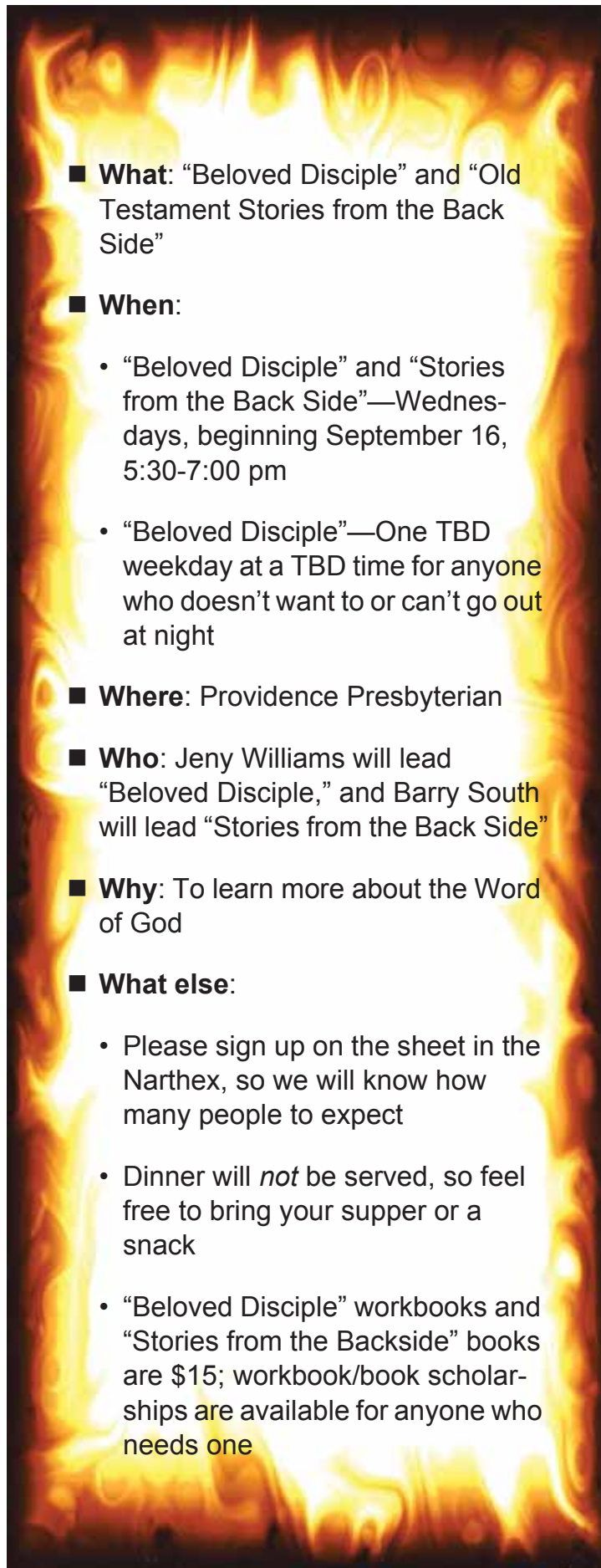
- Standing Nearby
- A Race to the Tomb
- What about Him?
- If and When
- Just a Handful

### ■ Part 4 – Beyond the Limits

- A New Fire
- Devastation
- The Right Hand of Fellowship
- Lessons from Obscurity
- The One Jesus Loved

## About Beth Moore

Beth Moore is an American evangelist, author, and Bible teacher, and the founder of Living Proof Ministries, a Bible-based organization for women based in Houston.



■ **What:** "Beloved Disciple" and "Old Testament Stories from the Back Side"

■ **When:**

- "Beloved Disciple" and "Stories from the Back Side"—Wednesdays, beginning September 16, 5:30-7:00 pm
- "Beloved Disciple"—One TBD weekday at a TBD time for anyone who doesn't want to or can't go out at night

■ **Where:** Providence Presbyterian

■ **Who:** Jeny Williams will lead "Beloved Disciple," and Barry South will lead "Stories from the Back Side"

■ **Why:** To learn more about the Word of God

■ **What else:**

- Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, so we will know how many people to expect
- Dinner will *not* be served, so feel free to bring your supper or a snack
- "Beloved Disciple" workbooks and "Stories from the Backside" books are \$15; workbook/book scholarships are available for anyone who needs one

("Back side," from page 3)

- The Importance of Naming Joseph (Genesis 30:22-24)
- Because My Mother Told Me (Exodus 2:1-10)
- Moses' Midlife Crisis (Exodus 2:11-22)
- Patron Saint of the Minority Report (Numbers 13:1-3, 25-33)
- Tragic Son, Tragic Father (Judges 11:1-6, 30-35)
- Honey in the Lion (Judges 14:5-14)
- Beauty and the Beast (1 Samuel 25:2-42)
- A Refugee at the King's Table (2 Samuel 9:1-13)
- In Defense of Job's Wife (Job 2:1-10)
- Jonah's Christmas Story (Jonah 3:1-6, 10; Matthew 12:38-42)
- God is Better than His Plans (Ruth 1:1-5, 4:13-17)

## About J. Ellsworth Kalas

J. Ellsworth Kalas is the former president of and current professor at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY. He also served as a United Methodist pastor for 38 years.





### City of Mobile donates duplex to Family Promise

The Family Promise of Coastal Alabama’s mission is to provide temporary shelter, related services, and nurturing support to families as they work to achieve and sustain independence.

It is the only organization in Mobile that helps homeless families with children – providing shelters via networks of churches and case management.

Providence has been a part of the church network for over 7 years, initially, providing shelter for these families and then later becoming a

partner with Episcopal Church of the Redeemer and providing volunteers when Family Promise clients stay at that church.

For many homeless students in Mobile and Baldwin counties, Family Promise of Coastal Alabama is the first step toward finding permanent housing.

The City of Mobile has gifted a duplex on Delaware Street to Family Promise to serve as affordable housing

units for two families at a time. Each unit consists of two bedrooms and one bath, and it totals 725 square feet. What a blessing!

Now these apartments need to be furnished. You can assist by donating money or unused furniture (space is limited). You can drop off items at the Family Promise Center, located in Central Presbyterian Church at 1260 Dauphin Street, or you can call Sherri at 441-1991 to have someone pick up the items.

You can also directly purchase items from the wish list registry at Target. The registry is listed as a wedding registry under the first and last name of Family Promise or Nancy Whitley.

Any way you can help these families is appreciated. You may also consider posting a request for assistance on Facebook.

If you have any questions, contact Evangelical Missions Elder Joan Rommes ([buttonsjpr@bellsouth.net](mailto:buttonsjpr@bellsouth.net)).





### Backpack Food Ministry resumes this month

The Backpack Food Ministry resumes this month.

The mission of the backpack program is to meet the needs of chronically hungry children in our neighborhood by providing them with nutritious and easy-to-prepare food to take home on weekends when other resources are not available.

Providence sponsors 15 of these children at O'Rourke Elementary School each year.



Items needed are single juices and entrees with easy-open tops, such as soups, beans and weenies, tuna fish, peanut butter, and spaghetti.

You can place all donated food items in the backpack basket located in the church hallway.

Money donations are always accepted as are prayers for these children.

Your donations *will* make a difference. One out of every three children in Alabama lives in a household struggling to put food on the table.



## blood drive—sunday, august 30

Providence will host a blood drive on Sunday, August 30, 8:30 am–1:00 pm.

**one donation  
saves three lives**



Bring a friend to church that Sunday and save a life (or three or more) by donating.

# 2015 Christmas Cards

to benefit the Presbyterian Home



Wishing you Joy and Peace  
at Christmas  
and throughout the New Year

Get an early start on Christmas by ordering your holiday cards from the Presbyterian Home for Children -- and make a donation to this worthwhile cause at the same time.

The Presbyterian Home is taking orders for Christmas cards to be delivered in September. The artwork for the card (shown above) was painted by a former resident at the Home. All proceeds from the card sales will be used to support the educational programs of the Presbyterian Home.

You may order Christmas cards until August 14. Orders will be available for delivery in September.

By purchasing cards from the Presbyterian Home for Children, you will receive a high quality card at a reasonable price while supporting a valuable cause. Your cards will demonstrate your special interest in the Home and the proceeds will make a difference in many lives.

*Order in advance to be sure you receive all the cards you need to share with your friends!*

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## Presbyterian Home Christmas Card order form

How many packages? \_\_\_\_\_  
*(10 cards per package)*  
x \$15.00 each (includes shipping) \_\_\_\_\_  
Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Ship cards to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER ONLINE**  
**WWW.PHFC.ORG**

Deadline for orders is August 14, 2015.  
Cards will be shipped in September.

Mail check and order form to:  
PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN  
P. O. Drawer 577, Talladega, AL 35161



*By Manny Russo,  
Scoutmaster*

July has been a hot and quiet month. Many scouts have been on vacation or visiting relatives. At each meeting, we have had various competitions, from "scout trivia" to tying knots. The scout patrol that won these competitions was rewarded with Coke/Dr. Pepper/Sprite and chips. It doesn't take much to make a bunch of young boys happy!

The troop will camp at Vortex Springs in Ponce De Leon, FL, on August 1-2. They will enjoy the rope swings, water slides, and clear 60° water while snorkeling. The springs are 60' deep and perfectly clear.

On August 4, the troop will hold its end-of-the-year swim and pizza party. The boys and their families will enjoy 3 hours in the pool. We will also hand out information regarding our yearly popcorn sales, which will begin on August 15.

Another important function for the troop is the semi-annual Court of Honor. This ceremony will take place on September 29 at Creekwood Church of Christ. At this ceremony, the scouts will be recognized for rank advancement, earned merit badges, leadership positions held, and much more. The Court of Honor is a BIG event in the life of a troop. Gambino's will cater the event.

During August, 14 scouts participated in a compass/map reading course at the University of South Alabama. The scouts acquired new skills in reading a map and using a compass to navigate. They also took a 5-mile hike and did much more. These skills are required to advance in rank.

Duane has completed his Eagle Project by cleaning up the Prayer Path, planting flowers, and building two new benches. Duane has a few badges to complete, and then he will be ready for his Eagle Review.

Jacob will be starting his Eagle Scout project in August. He will build an outdoor worship site with benches to seat about 60 people. This project will require precise measurements to make and install benches. This outdoor worship site will be enjoyed especially in the fall and spring.

Dade also completed his Eagle Project at Corpus Christi. He built a 70' picket fence that encloses a toddler playground. All of our scouts who complete projects learn how to be in

charge of a project and see it through to completion.

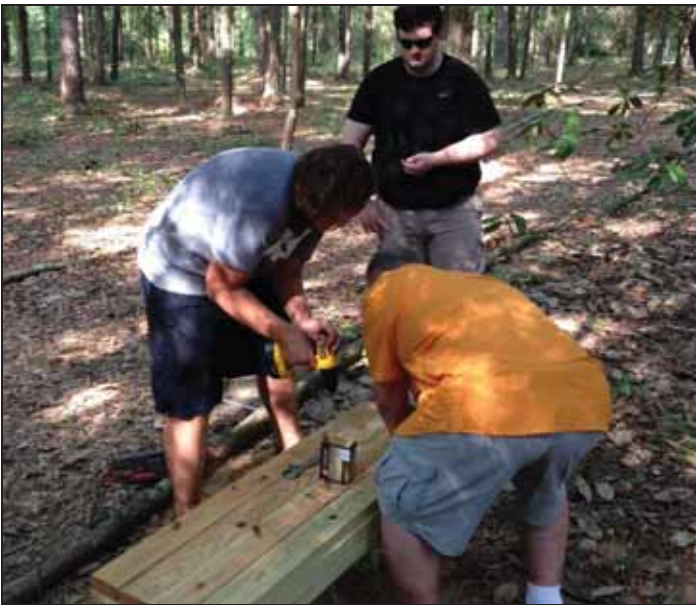
While activities slow down during the summer, the troop was busy teaching scouts to be honorable, good citizens and to follow the Scout Law.

As been stated many times in the past, we thank you for providing a meeting site for the troop and for allowing us to "mess up" the facility from time to time. Thank you.



*Eagle Scouts Cam, Kalen, Alec, and Chris recently attended the wedding of Eagle Scout Josh. These scouts all grew up in Providence's Troop 292. Lifelong friends are made through scouting.*





## Living above the weather

Have you ever boarded an airplane in a snowstorm? The sky is gray with heavy clouds. Snow is coming down hard, with no sign of letting up. Plows clear the runway and unfamiliar machinery de-ices the wings. Passengers might consider it madness to fly in such weather.

But the pilot knows the storm is earthbound. Past the clouds is glorious sunshine. The plane can fly above the weather, if only it can get off the ground.

When troubles overtake us like a storm, we may wonder in the midst of the darkness if God still cares or if he is even there at all. But if we believe that God, like the sun, is unchanged in good weather and in bad, we can ride it out. For storms are earthbound, but we are not.



## August worship volunteers

Date	Liturgist	Communion	Ushers	Nursery
Aug 2	Jerry Williams	Intinction	Bill Berry	Myrna Andrews
		Laura Anderson	Buck Bolton	
		Curtis Andrews	Joan Rommes	
			Amy Westerberg	
Aug 9	N/A Worship at Cottage Hill Presbyterian			
Aug 16	Barry South	Bill Berry	Marlene Taylor	Sue Drinovsky
		Don Bloom	Les Taylor	
		Buck Bolton	Bob Ellis	
		Steve Crenshaw	TBA	
Aug 23	Barry South		Al Drinovsky	Kathy Taylor
			Debbie McLendon	
			Myrna Andrews	
			TBA	
Aug 30	Ken Gadomski		TBA	TBA
			TBA	
			TBA	
			TBA	

## The Army of the Lord

A preacher was standing outside the church greeting everyone as they came out of the church.

There were a lot of people because it was Easter Sunday and there were many he did not know.

Suddenly he saw someone he knew from town, a man who seldom came to church except Christmas and Easter.

As the man passed in front of the him, the preacher grabbed him by the arm and pulled him aside saying in his ear, "You need to join the army of the Lord!"

The man quickly replied, "I'm already in the army of the Lord pastor!"
















"What" exclaimed the preacher, "Then why do I so rarely see you in church?"

The man whispered into the preacher's ear, "Shhhhh! I'm in God's secret service!!!"

**THEY WILL FIGHT YOU, BUT THEY WILL FAIL. FOR I AM WITH YOU, AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU. I, THE LORD, HAVE SPOKEN. —JEREMIAH 1:19**

# August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice. — Psalm 97:1</i></p>						 <b>8:30 am-4:30 pm</b> Safe Haven Bethany Andrews
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>8:20 am</b> Morning Prayer <b>8:30 am-4:30 pm</b> Safe Haven <b>9:15 am</b> Combined Worship with Cottage Hill Presbyterian <b>10:45 am</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 am</b> The Grove</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>6:30 pm</b> Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>6:30 pm</b> Choir (at Cottage Hill Presbyterian)</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>7:00–8:00 pm</b> AA meeting</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>10:30 am</b> Worship Team meeting</p>	<p> <b>8</b></p> <p>Sharon Smith</p>
<p> <b>9</b></p> <p><b>11:00 am</b> Combined Worship with Cottage Hill Presbyterian (at Cottage Hill) <b>11:00 am</b> The Grove Amy Fletcher Messer Emmett Proudfoot</p>	<p> <b>10</b></p> <p>First day of school—Mobile County Public Schools  Katrina Westerberg</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>6:30 pm</b> Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>7:00 pm</b> Choir</p>	<p> <b>13</b></p> <p><b>5:50 pm</b> Backpacks <b>6:00 pm</b> Closely Crafted <b>7:00–8:00 pm</b> AA meeting Pam Fredelake Leon Paige</p>	<p> <b>14</b></p> <p>Ricky Bolton</p>	<p> <b>15</b></p> <p>Curtis Andrews Les Taylor</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>8:20 am</b> Morning Prayer <b>9:15 am</b> Worship <b>10:45 am</b> Sunday School <b>10:45 am</b> Chili Cookoff meeting <b>11:00 am</b> The Grove</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p> <b>18</b></p> <p><b>6:30 pm</b> Boy Scouts Megan Berry</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>7:00 pm</b> Choir</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>5:50 pm</b> Backpack Ministry <b>6:00 pm</b> Closely Crafted <b>7:00–8:00 pm</b> AA meeting</p>	<p> <b>21</b></p> <p><b>9:00–11:00 am</b> Food Pantry <b>11:00 am</b> Evangelical Missions Team meeting Donald South</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p> <b>23</b></p> <p><b>8:20 am</b> Morning Prayer <b>9:15 am</b> Worship <b>10:45 am</b> Sunday School <b>10:45 am</b> Session meeting <b>11:00 am</b> The Grove Mina Bolton</p>	<p> <b>24</b></p> <p>Linda Proudfoot</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>6:30 pm</b> Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>7:00 pm</b> Choir</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>5:50 pm</b> Backpack Ministry <b>6:00 pm</b> Closely Crafted <b>7:00–8:00 pm</b> AA meeting</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p> <b>29</b></p> <p>Lucky Esneul</p>
<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>8:20 am</b> Morning Prayer <b>8:30 am- 1:00 pm</b> Blood Drive <b>9:15 am</b> Worship <b>10:45 am</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 am</b> The Grove</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>6:30 pm</b> Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>7:00 pm</b> Choir</p>	<p> <b>3</b></p> <p><b>5:50 pm</b> Backpack Ministry <b>6:00 pm</b> Closely Crafted Barry South</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>10:30 am</b> Worship Team meeting</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>

**P**rovidence Presbyterian Church  
2320 Schillinger Road South  
Mobile, AL 36695

[www.providence-pc.org](http://www.providence-pc.org)

## REMEMBER WHEN?

*Usher meeting, May 25, 2007 • (L-R) Don Blakeman, Jeanne Schnaars, Aggie Roebuck (then Worship Elder), Sharon Smith, Stephen Fitzpatrick, Buddy Low, Michelle Nall, Betty Blakeman • (In the background) Graham Hayes*

