

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

It's going to be a great adventure

The sun has just come up over Destin Harbor, bringing in a new day and a new year. The streaks of clouds are painted in a rainbow of colors, promising a beautiful day.

Stuart and I are driving across the Florida Panhandle, taking a few days off and searching out some of the back roads we never see when we hurry by on Interstate 10.

We don't know where we'll spend the night . . . that's part of the fun. Who will we meet? What will we find? How far will we get before calling it a day and turning in? All are questions that could be met with fear . . . or with anticipation.

Those are similar questions as I think and pray about our church. What will the new year bring? What confidence can I have that our journey together will bring us to our "preferable conclusion"?

The map for this journey is always found in scripture. 2 Corinthians 13:14 says, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the koinonia of the Holy Spirit be with all of you."

That word, "koinonia," can be translated into "communion," "fellowship," "participation," "partnership," "sharing," "contribution," and "taking part."

As we journey into this new year, following just that verse, I have no doubt our travels will take us to new discoveries in this kingdom of God.

And as I lean into that scripture, trusting in God's plan

for our lives, it becomes clear that it's not my "preferable conclusion" I am hoping for . . . it's God's!

The sun is up, and it's going to be a beautiful day to travel. The Son is here . . . he came as the Christmas child, giving us a new path to follow.

Together, we're following Christ into a lost and

broken world, confident in our mission because of the koinonia we share through the Holy Spirit.

God is good, and it's going to be a great adventure!

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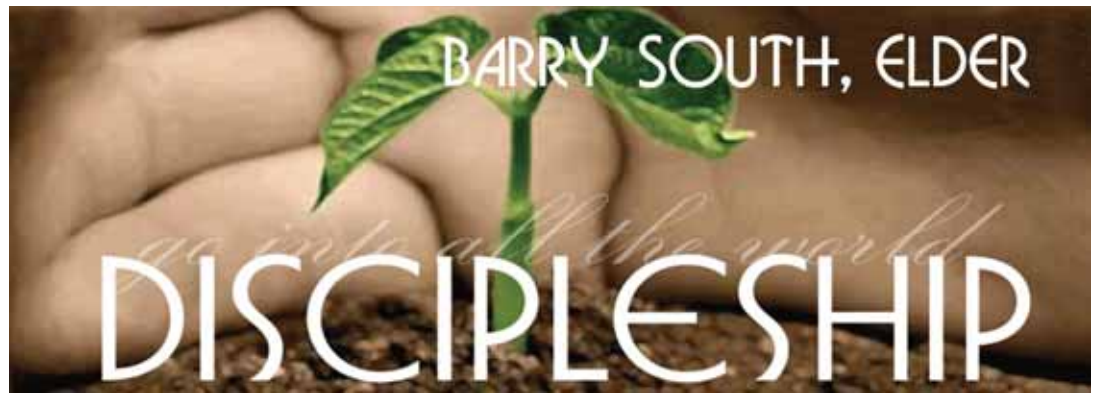
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FIRED UP begins the new year with a new class—**Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations**

"FIRED UP," Providence's Wednesday night dinner and discipleship class, begins the new year with a new class on Wednesday, January 7. FIRED UP is an acronym that stands for "Fellowship-Inspired Readings Evangelized to Direct Usual People."

We begin with a home-cooked meal at 5:15 pm, followed by a study of a book called *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase.

We have ordered some of these books from Amazon. If you're interested, contact Barry South.

About Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations was written by Robert Schnase, bishop of the Missouri Area of the United Methodist Church.

Though he first wrote it to

describe the five core practices of congregational life for his Missouri congregations, the book is proving useful for

congregations across the country and across denominations of the Christian faith.



It includes a chapter on each practice plus a chapter on excellence and fruitfulness. The five practices include Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity.



An overview of *The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*

This overview is reprinted from fivepractices.org/.

Radical Hospitality

The Congregational Practice of Radical Hospitality

Congregations that practice Radical Hospitality demonstrate an active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers, so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the unending richness of life in Christ. Radical describes that which is drastically different from ordinary practices, outside the normal, that which exceeds expectations and goes the second mile.

The Personal Practice of Radical Hospitality

Radical Hospitality in our personal walk with Christ begins with an extraordinary receptivity to the grace of God. In distinctive and personal ways, we invite God into our hearts and make space for God in our lives. We say Yes to God and open ourselves to the spiritual life. We accept God's love and acceptance of us. We receive God's love and offer it to others.

Passionate Worship

The Congregational Practice of Passionate Worship

Worship describes those times we gather deliberately seeking to encounter God in Christ. God uses worship to transform lives, heal wounded

souls, renew hope, shape decisions, provoke change, inspire compassion, and bind people to one another. The word passionate expresses an intense desire,

return. Followers of Christ develop patterns of listening to God, allowing God to shape our hearts and minds through prayer, personal

support groups, and prayer teams. Congregations who practice Intentional Faith Development offer opportunities for people to learn in community for people at all stages of faith. They offer ministries that help people grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God. Intentional refers to deliberate effort, purposeful action, and high priority.

The Personal Practice of Intentional Faith Development

Through the personal practice of Intentional Faith Development, we do the soul work that connects us to others, immerses us in God's Word, and positions us to grow in grace and mature in Christ. We place ourselves in the most advantageous circumstances to learn and grow in our following of Christ. We cooperate with the Holy Spirit in our own spiritual maturation. We learn in community.

Risk-Taking Mission & Service

The Congregational Practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service

Mission and Service refers to the projects, efforts, and work people do to make a positive difference in the lives of others for the purposes of Christ, whether or not they will ever become part of the community of faith. Risk-taking pushes us out of our comfort (See "Five" on page 8)



an ardent spirit, strong feelings, and the sense of heightened importance. Congregations who practice Passionate Worship offer their utmost and highest; they expect worship to be the most important hour of the week.

The Personal Practice of Passionate Worship

Through the personal practice of Passionate Worship, we learn to love God in

devotion, and community worship. We love God.

Intentional Faith Development

The Congregational Practice of Intentional Faith Development

Intentional Faith Development refers to all the ministries that help us grow in faith outside of weekly worship, such as bible studies, Sunday School classes,



EVANGELICAL M·I·S·S·I·O·N·S

Joan Rommes, Elder

Providence Presbyterian Church Food Pantry

Christmas groceries

The Food Pantry crew provided for a total of 35 families, and we were able to include a ham for 30 of these families.

Several of those in need were too elderly to prepare or enjoy the ham, so we gave them canned turkey with the groceries.

Thank you, Providence, for supporting this mission.

Food Pantry changes

The Food Pantry schedule is changing in 2015.

Starting this month, the Food Pantry will be open the third Friday of each month. The time of food distributions will remain 10:00-11:00 am.

The Food Pantry will serve those who live in the following Mobile County zip codes:

- 36582
- 36609
- 36619
- 36693
- 36695



Preparing Christmas groceries (L-R): Joan Rommes, Sue Drinovsky, Mary Mastrangelo, Linda Bailey, Donna Ellis, Earnestine Bates, Pastor Mary Monteï Clark, Debbie Simmons, Stuart Clark, Les Taylor, Nate Rommes



By Manny Russo,
Scoutmaster

A fun month

December was a fun month of camping, recruiting new scouts, and celebrating the holidays.

It all started with a campout for fifth-grade Cub Scouts, who will be moving to Boy Scouts in March. The purpose of this campout was to show the young boys what Boy Scouting is about and how it differs from Cub Scouts. The boys enjoyed the campout; they woke up running around and did so until about 10:30 pm. Wow! This old Scoutmaster was glad when they finally tired out.

The troop celebrated Christmas by having a pot luck dinner and playing Christmas games, such as "Dirty Santa." Maybe that is not a

Christmas game, but they had fun.

The last week of Christmas was Winter Camp at Camp Maubila in Grove Hill. Thirty-five scouts and 9 adults enjoyed 3½ days of fun in the woods. The boys took classes, such as Citizenship in the Community and Nation, how to manage money, how computers work, weather and astronomy, crime prevention, and much more. They had fun, learned a lot, and developed new skills and a better knowledge of the world we live in.

January will be another fun month, with a snow skiing trip. The boys will ski, snowboard, hike, and just have fun in the mid-20° weather! Don't you wish you could be there for 3 days without heat?



As we wrap up 2014, we can say that it was a huge success of outdoor programs and fun. The troop is fortunate to have so many fine scouts, parents, and especially a chartering organization like Providence Presbyterian Church, that makes all this possible. Never forget the impact you make on the lives of these young boys. Many will make better life decisions just because their troop met in God's House. Thanks for your continued support.

Your troop helps those in need

Thanks to Providence Presbyterian Church and the Angel Tree, Troop 292 helped a grandmother and her grandson with Christmas. Gifts were bought for the grandson, including clothing, toys,

snacks, and a Christmas stocking filled with goodies.

One of the troop's moms picked up the grandmother and took her shopping for herself. She was thrilled to get much-needed clothing and Christmas food, including a turkey, groceries for three different sides, dessert, and bread.

All wrapped gifts were delivered to the grandmother the week before Christmas.

The scouts all contributed a few dollars for this cause. The Scout Oath states, "A scout will help others at all times," and the Scout Law states, "A Scout is helpful." The boys lived up to the founding concepts of Boy Scouting.







Another successful year

We have completed another successful year at Providence Presbyterian Church, and I want to take this opportunity to thank those who have helped me with the Building and

Grounds upkeep, work parties, setups, and all the other tasks and menial chores performed.

There were many of you, and I don't want to list

names for fear of leaving someone out.

Our next endeavors will be to dismantle the Christmas decorations inside the church and also take

the Journey to Bethlehem items down outside.

I feel sure we will have a good turnout for these tasks and start 2015 off well, just as we are ending 2014.



news from



the grove

By Nancy Bowen

■ Sunday, January 4

- 11:00 am – Service
- Backpack collection – Oatmeal, grits
- 5:15 pm – Youth

■ Thursday, January 8

- 11:00 am – Pack backpacks

■ Sunday, January 11

- 11:00 am – Service

- Backpack collection – Mac and cheese

- 5:15 pm – Youth

■ Wednesday, January 14

- McKemie Place – Serve evening meal

■ Thursday, January 15

- 11:00 am – Pack backpacks

■ Sunday, January 18

- 11:00 am – Service
- Backpack collection – Canned tuna and chicken
- 5:00 pm – Financial Peace University
- 5:15 pm – Youth

■ Thursday, January 22

- 11:00 am – Pack backpacks

■ Sunday, January 4²⁵

- 11:00 am – Service
- Backpack collection – Beans
- 5:00 pm – Financial Peace University
- 5:15 pm – Youth

■ Thursday, January 29

- 11:00 am – Pack backpacks

Condolences

To Kathy Taylor

- On the death of her mother, Wanda Neubert, on December 25, 2014.



("Five," from page 3)

zone, stretching us beyond service to people we already know, exposing us to people, situations, and needs that we would never ordinarily encounter apart from our deliberate intention to serve Christ. Congregations who practice Risk-taking Mission and Service offer endless opportunities for people to make a difference in lives of others through service projects, volunteer opportunities, and mission initiatives.

The Personal Practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service

The personal practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service involves offering ourselves in purposeful service to others in need, making a positive difference even at significant personal cost and inconvenience to our own lives. We offer ourselves, our gifts and abilities and passions, to God so God can use us to transform the world by relieving suffering. We serve.



January worship volunteers

Contributed by Mary Mastrangelo

Date	Liturgist	Communion	Ushers	Nursery
Jan 4	Barry South	Intinction	Bill Berry	Myrna Andrews
		Laura Anderson	Buck Bolton	
		Bill Berry	Joan Rommes	
			Amy Westerberg	
Jan 11	Barry South		Ann Bosarge	Amy Westerberg
			Aggie Roebuck	
			Buddy Low	
			Mary Mastrangelo	
Jan 18	Jerry Williams	Curtis Andrews	Marlene Taylor	Sue Drinovsky
		Buck Bolton	Les Taylor	
		Jerry Esneul	Bob Ellis	
		Leslie Rey	TBA	
Jan 25	Jerry Williams		Al Drinovsky	Kathy Taylor
			Debbie McLendon	
			Myrna Andrews	
			TBA	

Extravagant Generosity

The Practice of Extravagant Generosity

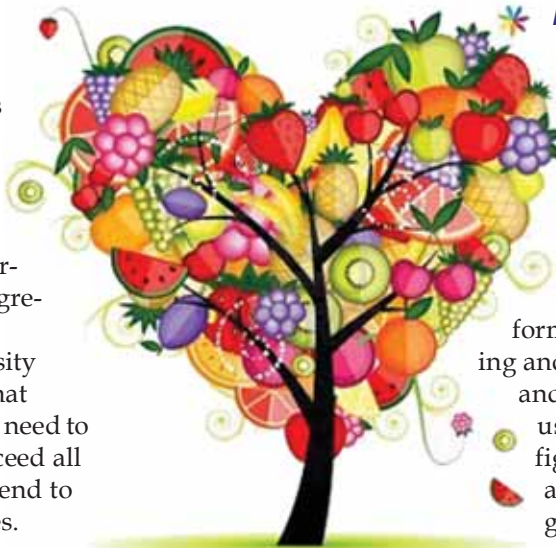
Generosity describes the Christian's unselfish willingness to give in order to make a positive difference for the purposes of Christ. Congregations that practice Extravagant Generosity provide ministries that address our spiritual need to give in ways that exceed all expectations and extend to unexpected measures.

Fruitful congregations thrive because of extraordinary sharing, willing sacri-

fice, and joyous giving out of love for God and neighbor.

The Personal Practice of Extravagant Generosity

Through the practice of Extravagant Generosity, we offer our material resources in a manner that supports the causes that transform life and relieve suffering and that enlarges the soul and sustains the spirit. God uses our giving to reconfigure our interior lives and form us anew. We give back.



January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Behold, I MAKE all things new.</i> REVELATION 21:5</p>				1 7:00–8:00 pm AA meeting New Year's Day Church office closed	2 11:00 am Worship Team meeting	3
4 8:20 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am The Grove	5	6 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	7 5:15 pm FIRED UP 7:00 pm Choir	8 6:00 pm Closely Crafted 7:00–8:00 pm AA meeting	9 Cody Pritchett	10 8:30 am- 12:30 pm COLT training at Government Street Presbyterian Church
11 8:20 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am The Grove	12 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	13 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	14 5:15 pm FIRED UP 5:30 pm McKemie Place (The Grove) 7:00 pm Choir	15 7:00–8:00 pm AA meeting	16 10:00–11:00 am Food Pantry 11:00 am Evangelical Missions Team meeting C. J. Kriner	17 10:30 am Prayer & Care Team brunch
18 8:20 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Session meeting 11:00 am The Grove	19 Mykailah Knowles	20 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	21 5:15 pm FIRED UP 7:00 pm Choir	22 6:00 pm Closely Crafted 7:00–8:00 pm AA meeting	23	24 TBD Bettina Kelson sewing class
25 8:20 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am The Grove	26 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	27 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Pam Garner	28 5:15 pm FIRED UP 7:00 pm Choir	29 6:00 pm Closely Crafted 7:00–8:00 pm AA meeting	30 Jude Mosley	1

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REMEMBER WHEN?

Souper Bowl of Caring • February 1, 2009 • (L-R): Myra Roebuck, Linda Crossley, Katrina Westerberg • Providence youth raised \$251.56 for the national Souper Bowl of Caring, and they donated the money to the Providence Food Pantry.

