

# THE PROVIDENCE POST

*Providence Church - an Evangelical Presbyterian Church congregation  
Meeting at the Regional High Tech Center, 112 Industrial Park Drive, Waynesville*

*February 2008*



## **Providence Church**

P.O. Box 266

Hazelwood, NC 28738

(828) 550-4615

<http://www.providence-epc.org>

## **Worship and Church Activities**

### **Sundays**

9:45 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:45 am - Morning Worship with  
nursery and Children's Church

### **Tuesdays**

7:00 pm - Adult Bible Study

### **Thursdays**

6:45 am - Men's Prayer Group

Looking back on the first four months of Providence Church, I am amazed at how God has worked in our midst. **From the Pastors Desk**

Immediately, a faithful steering committee was dedicated to giving glory to Jesus Christ through Providence. Immediately, a suitable place of worship was secured. Immediately, Providence was financially self-sustaining. Immediately, Providence devoted a tithe of income to mission. In twelve weeks five elders were prepared to serve on the first session. In sixteen weeks, Providence became a full-fledged congregation of the EPC with 71 charter members. I hope you really see that four months is a short amount of time for all that has occurred at Providence. So saddle up, this is only the beginning of the adventure that God has set us upon!

As you know, there are a number of challenges for Providence in the coming months. First, we want to continue to grow -- spiritually and numerically. We want to grow in our walk with Jesus Christ, faithfully serve him, and reach out to our community in the name of Jesus Christ. Second, we need to look for a permanent home, whether that is land or a building on some land. Third, we want to identify our gifts and make sure we are using those for God's glory at Providence. Finally, we want to identify our specific mission as Providence Church. Who does God want us to reach in Haywood County? What is our congregation's role in the Kingdom in Haywood County? What is God's vision for Providence Church?

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## Providence Church

Josh Cole, Pastor

### Your Session

#### Class of 2008

Bill Allsbrook

Alan Bush

#### Class of 2009

Sam Mitchell, Clerk

#### Class of 2010

LuAnn Davis

Phil Inglis

#### Musicians

Renee Allsbrook

Kent Roberts

### Our First Session and the Celebration Cake



### Session Notes

The session met for the first time on Monday, January 13 and made the following actions: elected Sam Mitchell as clerk, elected Bruce Kingshill as Treasurer, agreed to keep three month operating expense in checking and move remaining reserves to a three month CD, and adopted an organizational structure for the church.

**Making such a list overwhelms me, but I know nothing overwhelms the Father. He has been faithful to Providence Church in the first four months and he will continue to be. I would ask you to pray. Let us be like Nehemiah: dedicated to prayer. Pray for God to continue to work in our midst. Pray for God to continue to guide us. Pray for the areas listed above. Pray for the session. And let us take joy in this adventure of the Spirit.**

Josh



### Providence Church is Official!

As you know, from our celebration on January 13, you, Providence Church, are no longer a mission church of Montreat Presbyterian Church, but an official church, a non-profit corporation in the state of North Carolina. While preparing for this celebration, we petitioned the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) National Transitional Presbytery for membership. This would make our congregation a member of an EPC Presbytery (a group of presbyterian churches). On Thursday, January 17, this Presbytery met and voted to welcome Providence Church as one of their own. Although we celebrated our independence on January 13, we were officially an EPC congregation on January 17. In addition, elders, active or inactive, who wished to transfer ordination, are now elders in the EPC.

The next step for our congregation is to request entrance to a geographic Presbytery. The National Transitional Presbytery, of which we are a member, is a non-geographic, temporary Presbytery. Its purpose is to be a temporary stop for congregations, such as ours, that left the Presbyterian Church (USA) and wanted to land in the EPC. Providence Church lies in the boundaries of the Presbytery of the Southeast. This Presbytery contains 19 congregations stretching west from Newland, NC, east to Knoxville, TN and south to just north of Atlanta, GA. Although most of the congregations of this Presbytery are centered in Knoxville and Chattanooga, there are two EPC churches in Franklin and one in Murphy. You can find out more about this Presbytery on their website:

[www.epcsoutheast.org](http://www.epcsoutheast.org)

## Providence Church Organizational Structure

At its first meeting, the session adopted a working structure for Providence Church. In this structure there are eight church committees. Any member can serve on or chair one of these committees. The purpose of each committee is to oversee the specific ministries of Providence Church in their respective areas. In addition, each committee comes under a division. There are three divisions in our church. Two elders will work in a particular division to encourage, support, and oversee the committee work in that particular division. This would include that elder attending meetings of the various committees in their division and bringing motions and information from those committees to the session. The idea is to encourage more congregational participation in committees, ensure members are using their gifts for the glory of God, allows elders to be aware of different ministry areas, and keeps the session focused not just on committee work and tasks, but shepherding.

Please understand, this is a new structure and will take some time to fully implement. At this time, not all committees are fully functioning. In the weeks ahead the session will make opportunity for you to learn more about the committees and their ministries. If you would like a "job description" of any committee, please contact Pastor Josh or one of the elders.

### Divisions

#### A. Administrative Division

1. Finance/Stewardship Committee
2. Personnel Committee
3. Building/Land Committee

#### B. Evangelism and Nurture Division

1. Mission Committee
2. Outreach Committee
3. Congregational Care/Nurture Committee

#### C. Worship and Discipleship Division

1. Worship Committee
2. Christian Education Committee

### Nehemiah Sermon Schedule

Nehemiah 1:1-11	January 6,13
Nehemiah 2:1-10	January 20
Nehemiah 2:11-20	January 27
Nehemiah 3:1-32	February 3
Nehemiah 4:1-14	February 10
Nehemiah 4:15-23	February 17
Nehemiah 5:1-13	February 24
Nehemiah 5:14-19	March 2
Nehemiah 6:1-14	March 9
Nehemiah 6:15-7:4	March 16
Nehemiah 7:5-73 -- Genealogy	
Nehemiah 8:1-12	April 6
Nehemiah 8:13-18	April 13
Nehemiah 9:1-37	April 20
Nehemiah 9:38 - 10:39	April 27
Nehemiah 11:1-12:26 -- Genealogy	
Nehemiah 12:27-13:3	May 4
Nehemiah 13:4-31	May 11



### Building/Land Committee

As you are aware, we are just beginning to look for a permanent location for Providence Church. If you have any ideas or leads on property or a building, please contact one of the following: Bill and Jan Sterrett, Khris Locker, Mike Shelton, or Thom Morgan. If you are interested in assisting this group, please let one of them know as well. Finally, pray and pray fervently that this committee and the session discern the Father's will.

# Providence Happenings

## The Well

We have a new ministry of Providence Church and it's called "The Well". It is a Healing ministry that will meet every three weeks for support, prayer, and personal testimonies. Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 18th, at 6:45pm at the home of Michael and Eleonore Shelton, 43 Budding Drive, Waynesville. If you are interested to learn about and experience God's Healing Grace, please come. For directions call 452-5518 or 507-6175.

## A Look at the Reformed Tradition

The class, led by Pastor Josh and Jason Smith, on the Reformed tradition (our theological tradition) and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church will continue through the month of February. The class meets during the Sunday School hour, and covers the history of the Presbyterian Church, the major beliefs of the Reformed tradition, the Presbyterian form of government, and the distinctives of our own denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.



The next meeting of the **Congregational Care/Nurture** Committee will be held immediately

following the February 3 worship service.

## Pot Luck Dinner



The next pot luck dinner will take place at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, February 6th, at the Waynesville Rec Center. Come and bring a friend, along with a dish to share.

*Thank you*

*Our deepest appreciation to those who supported us with your prayers, cards, food and memorials during the recent illness and death of my father. What a wonderful outpouring of Christian love surrounded us during the past month. We are truly grateful to be in such a wonderful and loving congregation.*

*Renee Mitchell and Family*

*There is no way I can ever say thank you enough for all of the telephone calls, cards, prayers and food that everyone has bestowed on me. I feel truly blessed and grateful for all the love I have felt both before my surgery and now during my recovery. I am anxiously awaiting the day I can return to worship with all of you at Providence.*

*Nancy Rhoades*

## Time and Talent

Many of you are volunteering your time and gifts in numerous ways within our congregation to glorify God. However, if there is an area of mission or church work that interests you, please approach one of the session members to express your interest. We want you to use the gifts and interests God has given you in Providence Church to glorify Him. We hope to have a pot luck dinner and ministry fair this spring, where you can learn more about where you can use your gifts in Providence Church.



## Missions & Outreach News

Your Mission Committee continues to try to reach out 'even to the ends of the world'. After discussion and contemplation we decided to order 50 Bibles for the Skate Park Ministry. Once the Bibles have been received, we will select a Tuesday evening (the night of their Bible study), go and take pizza and soft drinks when we present the Bibles to them. We will let you know the date so that anyone that would like may attend. We feel that reaching out to the youth is critical to getting them the Word and helping them find Christ.

We reviewed information on the good work and success that Matt Kirby has had with Campus Crusade for Christ at Montana State University. We voted to provide a one time belated 'Christmas' gift to Matt of \$100, and to provide \$50 per month to help with his ministry to that college campus. In his last newsletter Matt asked for our prayers of support and specifically for more ministry partners to help on campus.

The EPC World Outreach list of missionaries was reviewed. As we pray for God's direction as to which family to 'adopt' for our support, we voted to begin to send \$100 per month to the general World Outreach fund to use as they best see fit. The committee feels the need to select a particular family to begin to support. Please pray for guidance as we go through the process of reviewing the many worthy missionary efforts that are available to support.

Be sure you have January 31 on your calendars as we cook and serve our first meal for the Open Door as Providence Church. We can always use additional help in serving and clean up. Plan on 11:00 to 2:00 on that Thursday, the fifth Thursday of the month. It is a filling and fulfilling time. See you there

Next Sunday plan to look at our 'Mission Board' which will be set up in the lobby. It will have current information about each of our local missions and details about the missionaries we are supporting. If you have additional ideas about mission opportunities, please pass them along to anyone on the mission committee. As always you are welcome to join us at our next meeting, which will be on March 5th, at 6:00 PM, in the home of Pat & Phil Inglis.



## February Snacks



February 3	Renee Mitchell
February 10	Jane Ladner
February 17	Holly Godfrey
February 24	Toni Cook

If you can help in March, please call  
Glenda White at 235-1897.



## Welcome Center Volunteers

February 3	Rhonda Edwards
February 10	Renee Mitchell
February 17	Jan Sterrett
February 24	Glenda White

## Nursery Volunteers

February 3	Toni Cook Wally Cook
February 10	Holly Godfrey Jason Godfrey
February 17	Pat Inglis Phil Inglis
February 24	LuAnn Davis Wesley Roberts

## Children's Church

February 3	Jane Lee
February 10	Becky Locker
February 17	Rhonda Edwards
February 24	Linda Faulkner

# February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Renee Allsbrook	2
<b>3</b> 9:45 AM Reformed Tradition/EPC Class 12:00 PM Nurture Comm Mtg	<b>4</b> Curt Sevig	<b>5</b> 7:00 PM Tue Night Bible Study	<b>6</b> 6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner 	<b>7</b> 6:45 AM Mens' Prayer Group	8	9
<b>10</b> 9:45 AM Reformed Tradition/EPC Class Nancy Rhoades Sherry Shelton	<b>11</b> Samantha McGlone	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM Tue Night Bible Study <i>Judy &amp; Tim Phelan</i>	13	<b>14</b> 6:45 AM Mens' Prayer Group	15	16
<b>17</b> 9:45 AM Reformed Tradition/EPC Class	<b>18</b> 6:45 PM The Well <b>President's Day</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00 PM Tue Night Bible Study	20	<b>21</b> 6:45 AM Mens' Prayer Group	22	23
<b>24</b> 9:45 AM Reformed Tradition/EPC Class	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 PM Tue Night Bible Study	27	<b>28</b> 6:45 AM Mens' Prayer Group Nathan Cole	29	