



# THE VISION

A Quarterly Newsletter of Providence Missionary Baptist Church

*“For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.”*

Hebrews 10:36 (ESV)

## We Need to *Persevere*

*“More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” Romans 5:3-5 (ESV).*

### Survival in the Storms

We have enjoyed another year in our Church, families and community. There is one word that allows us to carry on despite many obstacles and setbacks. The word that allows us to keep fighting against the odds is *Perseverance*. There is only one way to explain how perseverance is possible and that is by the grace of God. As a Church, as a people, and as a community we have kept going, we have come through and we are victorious.



We should never sit back and think we came through trials on our own. It was the loving arms of God. The protection of our Lord and Savior and the love of Jesus has allowed us to make it to the other side.

As we begin this season and our month of spiritual Revival we can reflect on all of our past experiences and contemplate the roads traveled. And, as we celebrate our Church’s 144th Anniversary, we can know with certainty Providence has been blessed and will continue to grow in faith and God’s will. This issue is focused on giving thanks for making it through.

### Providence Vision

We are improving communication concerning Church events through our Social Media efforts, Web-site, Newsletter, Email Campaigns, and Publicity in our Church. We are a busy and growing church. We would like all members to know what is happening and what is about to happen in the future. Very soon our re-vamped website will be available for your use. We hope you like the look, content, and ease of use.



| Inside This Issue   |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Worship on the Lawn | 2 |
| A Word              | 3 |
| Revival             | 4 |
| Outreach            | 5 |
| Youth               | 6 |
| Appreciation        | 7 |
| Upcoming Events     | 8 |

# Worship on the Lawn

September 20, 2015

What a Great Time It Was!!!!

Hundreds of church members and guests came out for the annual Worship on the Lawn service. It was such a spiritually gratifying event that we hope touched the hearts of all those in attendance. We had powerful singing, a great sermon and warm fellowship as always. But being outside in the air that God created, on the grass that God created and enjoying the breezes that only God can send was the true blessing. We captured a few of the moments below.



# A Word From Our Pastor

## Preparing a Birthday Gift for Christ

By: Rev. Damon P. Williams, Ph.D.

The dictionary teaches us that to persevere is to maintain a purpose in spite of difficulty or discouragement. As Christians we find ourselves, in the face of conflict with others, consistently needing to persevere simply to stay righteous and on the right-side with God. Yes, it is indeed easy to not persevere and give in to our desire to act crazy, talk crazy, and look crazy. Surely, it is simple to stoop to the level of behavior or attitude that another person is showing us. And we know, sometimes it feels good, oh so good, just to say what we really, really, want to say. The concern however, is the shame we cast on the name of Jesus Christ when we fail to persevere in conflict and maintain our proper Christian posture. Truthfully, Providence, we need to learn to hold our tongues, hold our peace, and respond to conflict in ways with which Christ would be pleased.

Our 12:00 noon Bible Study class is studying Colossians, and in the 12th verse of the 3rd chapter the Apostle Paul states, "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." (NRSV) Contrary to popular belief these are actually not nice suggestions by the Apostle, but rather expectations of those who would dare receive the high

calling of being "God's chosen." To clothe oneself is to cover ones nakedness so we do not find ourselves exposed. When we find ourselves incapable of the type of self-control that leads to patience and meekness, what is it that gets exposed about our faith?

Rather than be exposed, there is an alternative. God, through His Holy Spirit, is both willing and able to

provide the clothing of compassion and the outerwear of kindness, if we would simply be willing to put it on and keep it on. This is what it means, for us, in this fall season to truly persevere. Many of us have made it through health challenges, emotional difficulties, financial struggles, and such like these. We have persevered in so many areas of our lives that the old song, for us, is now We Have Overcome. Given God's proven history and track record of leading us to persevere and make it through, why don't we trust Him to

lead us in perseverance as we maintain Godly expectations in the midst of conflict? Christmas is right around the corner, and if we start now, then I believe the Holy Spirit is powerful enough to give us a truly magnificent gift of temperance to provide to Jesus on His birthday!

**God bless you my beloved Providence and may heaven continue to smile upon you!**



# A Revival of the Spirit

Providence Revival—October 14th to 16th—7:00 PM Nightly



**“Gettin’ Serious About Our Faith”**

**Church Anniversary on Sunday  
October 18th**  
Worship Services: 7:45am and 10:45am  
Dinner immediately following the 10:45am service in the Fellowship Hall

## Schedule

**Wednesday, October 14th**  
Reverend Raphael G. Warnock, Ph.D.  
Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church

**Thursday, October 15th**  
Reverend Yvette D. Massey  
Central United Methodist Church

**Friday, October 16th**  
Reverend Aaron L. Parker, Ph.D.  
Zion Hill Baptist Church

**Sunday, October 18th**  
**Church Anniversary Featured Speaker  
Reverend Teresa L. Fry Brown, Ph.D.**  
Candler School of Theology  
Emory University  
Bandy Professor of Preaching

## Featured Revivalists



Rev. Raphael G. Warnock, Ph.D.



Rev. Yvette D. Massey



Rev. Aaron L. Parker, Ph.D.



Rev. Teresa L. Fry Brown, Ph.D.

## Church Anniversary Speaker

# OUTREACH

## SWAT—Saved With a Testimony—Young Adults Serving Others

Submitted by Nykita Howell

At Providence Missionary Baptist Church, we recognize the importance of being spiritually mature while having God at the forefront of our lives. We believe this so much so, that we have created an opportunity for all young adults at PMBC to join a family within our family to fellowship and be uplifted by the Word of God. S.W.A.T (Meaning “Saved With A Testimony”) is a special group of young adults that are more than just spiritual mentors but represent different backgrounds and have been blessed with various gifts and pursuits that we strive to use for the betterment of the Kingdom of God. Our goal within this ministry is to serve; we serve the youth at the Carrie Steele Pitts Home on a monthly basis, and we serve the needs of other ministries by providing volunteers to support their in-reach and outreach service projects. We find service in this aspect to be our primary responsibility because it is the children that matter most.

Oh, what do we do specifically? As our Pastor Damon P. Williams would say “I am glad you asked!” Throughout the year, S.W.A.T. has a number of outreach programs that align with Christian discipleship, all of which take place at the Carrie Steele Pitts Home. Once a month, we interact with youth who have been, in many cases, abused, neglected or abandoned. All team building exercises at Carrie Steele contribute to the overall growth and development of the youth, we strive to teach lessons that otherwise should have been taught by family. Our presence in this orphanage serves as a positive distraction to the youth and gives them an opportunity to have fun and learn new skills. In a nutshell, we educate these youth about the values that are essential to their spiritual and occupational growth. S.W.A.T joyfully invites any member between the ages of 18-24 to have the opportunity to impact the lives of others as well as their own. Together, we believe that we can all reach a mutual destiny by being armored with the love of God. For more information about S.W.A.T. and what you can do to join contact Al or Nykita Howell at 404-451-2362.



Al and Nykita Howell with Dr. Evelyn Lavizzo, Director

## Matrons’ Circle—Outreach for the Year Submitted by Wanda Branch—President

The Matrons’ Circle Ministry has had an exciting and rewarding year. We have provided outreach activities to numerous shelters and nursing centers within the Atlanta area. Listed below are the completed activities through September 2015:

**Lap Robs, Blankets/Throws:** In March of this year, the Matrons’ Circle Ministry delivered over 30 Lap Blankets to the residents at Bonterra Nursing Center. They were extremely grateful for our donations and have extended an invitation for us to visit them again.

**Shoe Box Ministry:** In August, the Matrons’ Circle Ministry prepared over 40 shoe boxes filled with personal hygiene items that were delivered to City Of Refuge. This shelter provides housing for over 250 residents.

**Dial Soap Drive:** In July and August, Providence members and friends provided over 700 bars of Dial Soap to be donated to the Prison Fellowship and Family Unification Network, Inc.

**Genesis Shelter:** In September, the Matrons sponsored breakfast at Genesis for over 30 residents. We provided the residents with a delicious home-style prepared meal. Prior to leaving, they thanked us for the fellowship and delicious breakfast.

The Matrons’ Circle Ministry has provided dedicated Outreach Activities, Leadership and Financial Support to Providence Missionary Baptist Church and the Community for nearly 80 years. We will continue to answer God’s call and provide service when and where it is needed.



# THE YOUTH OF PROVIDENCE

The Youth of Providence are staying busy with many Church activities. We captured a few of the moments at their most recent events. They are having fun, but are also receiving a good spiritual and Christian foundation for their future. We must support our children. They are our future.

## Annual Lock-In Weekend—August 21—August 22, 2015



## Old School Impact—September 12, 2015





# Jobs Well Done

## Francine Owens

*Administrative Assistant / Financial Clerk*

March 1999 – December 2015

On Monday, March 1, 1999, I became part of an extended family. I came to Providence to assume a part-time position that within three months evolved into a full-time, dual-roles position spanning the last sixteen years and nine months. It has been my privilege to serve under the leadership of two visionary pastors, and five capable church administrators.

I have been abundantly blessed throughout my life; and Providence, you have been an integral part of that blessing. It has been my absolute pleasure to work, and to serve here. You have patiently indulged me my opinions, seemed to have trusted my judgment, and by the grace of God, we have nurtured and maintained a mutual respect that exemplifies genuine love for one another.

Being at Providence was in divine order—the place where I was ordained to be at this kairos time in my life (a holy or God-given time, time laden with meaning and choice). You welcomed me when I came; guided me until I got my bearing; relied on me to be conscientious, and to exercise discretion, and I am all the better because you accepted me and loved me. I have watched your children grow up, and cried with you as many of our wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ transitioned. We have prayed together; laughed together and fellowshiped together. I have had the privilege to call you ‘friends,’ and your encouragement to join you in ministry. We have shared family events and fostered, what I hope, will be enduring relationships. Thank you, Providence.

**Retirement is not good-bye...it is just an invitation to call me at home!**

The backbone of a church is often those you do not see or you possibly do not understand the role they play in day-to-day operations.

The office staff at Providence are the first persons you speak to if you call or stop by. They are the ones to initially answer your questions in a courteous, professional and confidential manner.

We cannot say how valued their service has been because it is not measurable. It is beyond any rank or rating we can give. We appreciate all they have done and will miss them greatly.

## Bernadette Hampton

*Church Secretary*

October 2000 – December 2015

Coming to Providence was a turning point in my life because I enrolled in the “Changed Lives Program” in October 2000. This Program was sponsored by the Providence Learning Center, under the leadership of Pastor Emeritus Dr. Gerald L. Durley.

There are many things you learn in life through strife, tears, ups and downs, receiving criticism and dealing with other peoples’ anger. In this daily walk through life, you should always be learning how to serve others by serving God. Some of my favorite Scriptures are, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life.” (John 5:39-47). “But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33). “Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.” (Matthew 7:7-8).

God brought me here and there was a purpose. Providence, you gave me an opportunity to serve. Nothing He does is a mistake. I cannot imagine how my life would have been if I had not stepped through Providence’s doors.

My question to all is, “Do you know Christ?” My challenge is, “Why not serve Him?”

Please show your appreciation to Francine Owens and Bernadette Hampton before their work departures at the end of the year. They may not be in the office but they will continue to call Providence their home. Bernadette will continue to sing in the choir and serve with the Young At Heart as she has so faithfully in the past. Francine will continue to serve with the Matrons’ Circle. She is just a phone call away.

The Best in the Future and God’s Blessings Abound !!!

# Upcoming Events

| Date            | Event                                                | Sponsored By       |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>October</b>  |                                                      |                    |
| 3rd             | Voter Registration                                   | Dorcas Club        |
| 4th             | Open House                                           | Archives Auxiliary |
| 14th—16th       | Fall Revival 7:00 PM Nightly                         | Church Wide        |
| 18th            | Church Anniversary 7:45 AM and 10:45 AM Services     | Church Wide        |
| 20th            | Church Conference 7:00 PM                            | Church Wide        |
| 24th            | Professional/Spiritual Development Workshop          | Women's Ministry   |
| 24th            | Preservation Workshop                                | Archives Auxiliary |
| <b>November</b> |                                                      |                    |
| 1st             | Pastor's Anniversary                                 | Church Wide        |
| 10th            | Candy Chat                                           | Women's Ministry   |
| 29th            | First Sunday of Advent with Oakhurst Baptist 4:00 PM | Church Wide        |
| <b>December</b> |                                                      |                    |
| 6th             | Second Sunday of Advent                              | Church Wide        |
| 13th            | Third Sunday of Advent                               | Church Wide        |
| 19th            | Christmas Program at 6:00 PM                         | SWAG/Youth         |
| 20th            | Fourth Sunday of Advent                              | Church Wide        |
| 31st            | Watch Night Service @ Ben Hill                       | Church Wide        |



Never give up on something you really want. It is difficult to wait but more difficult to regret.

GREAT WORKS ARE PERFORMED NOT BY STRENGTH BUT BY PERSEVERANCE.  
Samuel Johnson

These events come from our Church calendar. If you have an event that is not listed please check with the Church office. We would like to include all events.

**Providence Missionary Baptist Church**

2295 Benjamin E. Mays Drive  
 Atlanta, GA 30311  
 404-752-6869

**Reverend Damon P. Williams. Ph.D.**

Senior Pastor

Postage Stamp