

THE VISION

Quarterly Newsletter of Providence Missionary Baptist Church

NEW BEGINNINGS THE JOURNEY HAS JUST BEGUN

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” - 2 Corinthians 5:17(ESV).

A New Year, A New Beginning

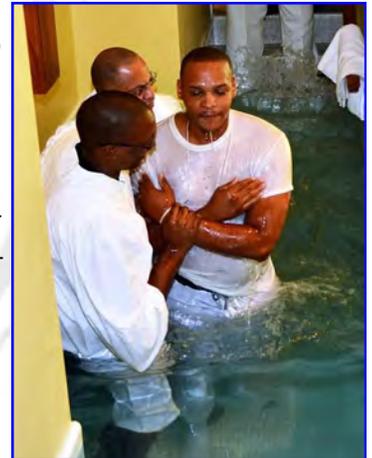
A new year is upon us and we should give thanks that we are able to see it. It doesn't matter what the previous year brought us, the new year begins a new opportunity.



Baptism symbolizes a new beginning.

If 2015 was filled with challenges, struggles, or misunderstandings we can be thankful that it is behind us. It doesn't mean the same will be the case in 2016. Faith in God, belief in greater possibilities and perseverance will bring about their own results.

God gives us the chance to always start over. He forgives us for all of our misdeeds and misdeeds and allows us to confess our iniquities, and then His grace allows us to start on a new path.



A chance to change directions.

Give God the glory He deserves this year. Use your time to study the Word, serve others, and be a disciple by being an example of what God can do to transform a life. It is a gift to live each day and that gift came from God. Use it to better His Kingdom.

“To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Ephesians 4:22-24 (ESV)

Inside This Issue	
Testimony	2
A Word	3
Get Ready	4
Outreach	5
Youth	6
Arts & Music	7
Upcoming Events	8



Reverend Damon P. Williams, Ph.D., Senior Pastor and Reverend Khalia J. Williams, First Lady

You are Forgiven, You are Accepted, You are Loved

A Testimony by Deacon Patricia Showell

From Pain to Peace

At 9:04 AM, February 3, 2014 Mama went peacefully to sleep for the last time. I knew she was at peace, but all I felt was pain – the kind of pain that feels like your heart has been ripped from your chest. The days that followed are mostly a blur filled with loving calls, visits, food and words of sympathy.

Grief is very personal so it's not easy to put it on paper. But I don't want to talk about the pain of grief. Rather, I want to share my experience of finding my own peace.

My journey actually started several months prior to February 3rd, it was December 29, 2013, to be exact. Our 2014 40-Day Church Fast was to begin on January 1st; I was so excited; I cheated and started reading December 29th (LOL). I know God was preparing me. During the Fast I immersed myself in reading, study and prayer. In retrospect, I now know God was working His plan for me (Jeremiah 29:11) through the books I selected (or He guided me to select) Hearing God's Voice by Henry & Richard Blackaby; Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence by Sarah Young; I'm a Piece of Work by Cynthia Hale; Victorious Christian Service by Alan Redpath; the study of Scriptures (some new and others fa-

miliar with new messages for me); through my prayer life and most of all through my listening to His voice. I began to feel different. The February 3rd devotional reading began with these words: "I am with you and for you. You face nothing alone – nothing" (2 Corinthians

4:18). In the days that followed every word of devotion and scripture I read reassured and strengthened me – and gave me hope for the future: Psalm 20:11; Psalm 46:1-2; Romans 8:6; Ephesians 2:6 to name a few.

Where there was pain/loss/grief, peace took hold. I can't explain it or pinpoint the day or the hour but something supernatural took place.

I still have moments, but I have many more moments of feeling God's presence.

"So, we do not lose heart" (2 Corinthians 4:16).

Praise be to God,

Deacon Patricia Whatley Showell

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all."

2 Thessalonians
3:16 (ESV)

If you would like to share your testimony of being accepted, forgiven or loved you may do so by submitting a brief article to communications@providenceatlanta.org or sending it to the Church, 2295 Benjamin E. Mays Drive, Atlanta, GA 30311, ATTN: PMBCCommunications

A Word From Our Pastor

A Resolution for Provocation

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

Normally the goal for a Christian is to not provoke, agitate, or disturb others. We have been called to be the peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). So, in general, it is not our place to be the source of provocation in others. However in this new year, with all the newness that January brings, I want to challenge us to actually go against the conventional wisdom and be the source of provocation in others rather than a source of peace. For many around us, December is the season of giving, paying it forward, and random acts of kindness. We allow this spirit of generosity and kindness to lie peacefully dormant within ourselves and those around us until the Holiday season approaches and then we jump into action buying gifts and sharing love. What would happen in our home, in our community, and in our church if we resolve this January to provoke that spirit within each other at the beginning of the year rather than at the end? How many additional blessings could we bestow if we disturb the typical way of being in ourselves and in other people?

Our call to action this January is a resolution for provocation. Consider what the Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 10:24 (NRSV), "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds." "Let us consider" means this is something we have been called not only to think about, but to actually implement in our lives and the lives of others. The good deeds are simple yet profound: paying for a senior's groceries in the supermarket, offering a

hug or kind word to someone you see that is visibly upset, buying an extra gift card to a restaurant while at Target and then randomly giving it to a struggling single parent, etc. We must have the courage to provoke this type of love and good deeds in others at the beginning of the year so that it will last all year long.

The call of a Christian is to be an agent of transformative change in the world. In a society that focuses so much on everything that is wrong with the world, shouldn't we declare our resolve to show others everything that is right with the world? When it comes to kindness and generosity, if we are willing to provoke it in others and disturb it in ourselves, then like other spirits it will become contagious. The posture of, 'What can I do for you?' will be so overwhelming that the joy of God and the peace of Christ will continually rest upon us. In 2016, during this new month of January, I resolve to provoke love and good deeds in my neighbor. Won't you join me?

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



The Newest Williams Family Member



Thomas Christian Williams made his presence on November 14, 2015. He is the first child of Pastor Williams and First Lady Reverend Khalia Williams. The picture to the left depicts little Thomas in the hands of his parents. He is a welcomed addition to the Williams and Providence families. What better way to begin a new year than with a new baby.

The PMBC family welcomes little Thomas with love. We will enjoy seeing him grow up.

Get Ready!

2016 Will Be A Busy Year

New Ways to Give

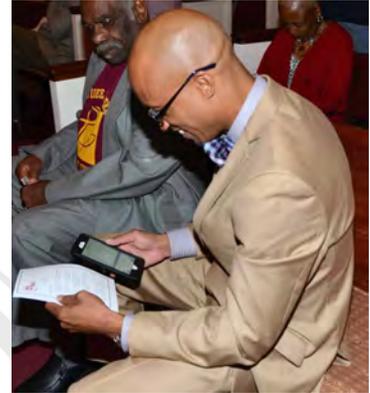
PMBC is excited to offer three methods of Electronic Giving: (1) Online Giving; (2) Mobile Giving; and (3) Text-to-Give.

- Online Giving is a web-based method of giving which can be accessed from the www.providenceatlanta.org website, under the "MyPMBC" link.
- Mobile Giving is a mobile app that works on any smartphone or tablet and provides a remote giving option. The mobile app is available from the Apple App store or Google Play store. Download the app "ShelbyNext Giving".
- Text-to-Give provides an option of giving a gift through one simple text message. After the initial setup, simply text your gift amount to (404)-800-6848.

All three electronic methods allow you to give the way you want, whenever you want, from wherever you want, with flexible one-time gifts or recurring weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual gift options. Donations come directly from your checking, saving, or debit/credit card accounts.

Electronic giving also provides the convenience of viewing your contribution history year round, and the ability to update account information anytime, anywhere. Gifts and account information are protected by the highest security standards to ensure safe and confidential transactions.

Go Paperless! No checks, or ATM stops before church on Sunday. For more information visit the PMBC website at www.providenceatlanta.org/giving.



A New Website

You will see a new look on the PMBC website with an interactive and informative digital publication.

Online Prayer Requests



Latest Sermons



Giving



Welcome Our New Deacons

We welcome Tonya Austin, Julie Brooks, Stanley Drake, OJ Flowers, Reginald Jackson, and James Washington. Ordination Ceremony is January 24th at 3:00 PM. Please come out to support them.

Bible Study Series

In March we will explore and learn more about various religions. We will host an Iman, a Rabbi and a Minister representing Islam, Judaism and Christianity to discuss the principles of their various disciplines.

5th Sunday Surprises

We are reformatting 5th Sunday Worship Services. Join us for a unique experience. Please make sure you are present on January 31st, May 29th, July 31st and October 30th.

OUTREACH

Angel Tree

On December 19, 2015 Providence was able to bless 275 children with gifts for Christmas. The Angel Tree Outreach expanded its giving and served many children and their families.



Christmas in July - The Dorcas Club



On July 26th, members of the Dorcas Club went to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Hughes Spaulding location to deliver toys as their annual outreach effort. The Dorcas Club has provided gifts to children to brighten up their days at a time when it is least expected. Everyone gives toys to children in December but not so much in July. Dorcas decided to give to children when they need a boost in spirit at a time not noted for giving or shar-



Dorcas Members Jackie Roberts, Betty Bethune, Jenelle Wilson, Ann Foster and Helen Stewart with CHO's Sondra Brooks



ing. The staff at the hospital are always appreciative of the gifts, and the children are sincerely excited.



THE YOUTH OF PROVIDENCE

Pulpit Duty—What It Means to Me

Quinn Washington

"It makes me feel special when I am called to serve in the pulpit on Sundays and when Pastor Williams visits another church. I feel special because there are so many other people he could call but he calls me. When I read the Word in the pulpit, it makes me feel responsible. I want to be the best representation of our youth and show everyone what our church does. I hope other kids see me and want to do it too. Since I get to stand up and read at church in front of so many people it makes me more confident to speak in front of groups of people I don't know."

Franklin A. M. Stanley

"My pulpit experience is a fun one, but it takes a lot of commitment. On alternate first Sundays, I either do the welcome or read the Scripture for the morning service. I have to be there by 7:30 in the morning. I also have to be sure that my welcome is a good one, so that our guest can truly feel like they are at home. In addition, I have to make sure that I pronounce my words clearly, and that I don't fall asleep because it doesn't look presentable.

Being up on the pulpit does have its benefits. Reading the Scripture has helped me pronounce my words clearly. It has also improved my creative writing skills and helped with my stage fright. It is a fantastic experience serving the Lord in this way!"

Eugene James Jr.

"My name is Eugene James and the following describes how I feel when I am on our church pulpit. Honestly, I feel nervous and excited both at the same time. If I have a really big speech or role to play I feel really nervous at first, but as I keep talking I get used to it and I start to feel more confident. I think God is there to help me. Overall I feel proud to be on the pulpit at Providence Missionary Baptist Church and it feels really good to be a part of this church."

Endia James

"My name is Endia James and I enjoy being on the Providence pulpit because it is always a great experience giving something back to the Lord. Serving on the pulpit is amazing because each time I serve I learn something new. We never do the same thing. Sometimes I have a chance to do the welcome and other times I have read the scripture. It is exciting and great serving on the pulpit."

We support our children as they serve in the Pulpit with Reverend Williams. They are learning life skills and gaining valuable Christian education.

The Arts and Music Ministries

The Christmas Play

We were blessed with a sermon through a dramatic production of “The Reason for the Season” on December 19, 2015 by the Arts and Music Ministries. It was an inspiring and energetic performance including actors, singers, dancers, and preaching. God has blessed Providence with talent.



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Sponsored By
January		
17th	Kick Off Fair	Women's Ministry
19th	Church Conference	Church Wide
24th	Deacon Ordination Ceremony—3:00 PM	Church Wide
February		
10th	Ash Wednesday Service 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM	Church Wide
20th	HBCU Educational Workshop	Archives & Youth
23rd	Vision Night	Women's Ministry
27th	AARP Smart Drivers Course	Dorcas & SAM
28th	Black Family Life Dinner	Church Wide
March		
13th	Cooking Demonstration—Daniel Fast—Pros and Cons	Health Ministry
20th	Palm Sunday Service	Church Wide
24th	Maunday Thursday with Friendship Baptist Church	Church Wide
25th	Good Friday—Seven Last Words—West Hunter BC	Church Wide
26th	Easter Egg Hunt	Church Wide
27th	Easter—Resurrection Sunday	Church Wide



PMBC Communications Vision Team—Reverend Damon P. Williams, Ph.D., advisor, Gail Glover, Judy Coleman, Fred Tucker, Shannon Cain, Shannon Williams, and Jarrett Milton.

Providence Missionary Baptist Church

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Reverend Damon P. Williams. Ph.D.

Senior Pastor

Postage Stamp