

THE VISION

Quarterly Newsletter of Providence Missionary Baptist Church



Years of Faith and Service

"For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building." 1 Corinthians 3:9 (NRSV)
⁸⁹"The Lord exists forever; your word is firmly fixed in heaven. ⁹⁰Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. ⁹¹By your appointment they stand today; for all things are your servants.." Psalm 119:89-91 (NRSV)

Won't He Do It!!!

A church can stand the test of time, the test of building repairs and the many other ups and downs of life. God has assured us that we (the church) can endure.

Acts 20:28 says "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. "

We are commissioned to follow the principles of Christ and follow His example. We

have a foundation and a guide from the Word in how to do so. The church is the foundation and the place we gather to gain more knowledge and share with our brothers and sisters the greatness of our Father.

Providence is blessed to have 145 years of service; establishing itself as a beacon to its followers, community and many others. It is an obligation to follow what God has promised us, and it is also a testament to endure the years. God's Glory abounds.

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. "

Matthew 16:18 (NRSV)

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

You are Forgiven, Accepted and Loved

THE POWER OF YOUR TESTIMONY

By Patricia Ryan

You get married, you have a family and you live happily ever after, right? At least you did when I was growing up. I met a young man from a two-parent, upstanding family and after a short courtship, we got married. Things went well for about a year but changed rather quickly. My plan to live the American dream soon turned into a nightmare, one for which I was totally unprepared. I had no idea that alcoholism and abuse happened in "good" families.

I remained in the relationship for more than 5 years for the same reasons that most people do - one, we had children, two, I had no where to go and three, I had no resources. My situation was complicated by the fact that my husband's family was well-known. His father was the pastor of one of the largest churches in the city and a lot of pressure was exerted to keep the matter private. I was expected to put on a brave face and hope that things got better. Well, things never did get better.

Abusers are very good at what they do. In public, they are often very likeable and outgoing and they use fear, intimidation and isolation to keep their public image intact.

I am here today because I had a Hero! My cousin came to my aid on more than one occasion and she never judged my decision to return home "for the children." I'm sure she was frustrated by my actions, but she never refused my requests for help.

The final straw came when my children (who were all under 5) began to be affected by the situation. They were fearful and would get very upset at loud voices, even when people were playing and happy. I didn't want to be in that situation but I certainly didn't want my children growing up fearful and intimidated.

Fortunately, my father agreed that I could come to live with him in Atlanta. I'm sure my cousin must have given me the money for a train ticket.

I was lucky enough to get a good job and things were okay until I made one last decision to reunite with my husband. He made all kinds of promises to stop drinking and to do

better. He even said that God had been working on him and he had answered the call to ministry, but he wanted his family with him.

Things were great as long as we were in Atlanta, but he soon convinced me to return to his home town. Within two weeks, he had started drinking and shortly after, the arguments resumed.

I left for the final time with just enough money for a train ticket and Thank God I didn't have to pay for the children. I didn't even have money for the taxi, but I waited until we were close to my father's house to let him know that he might have to make another trip to get paid if my Dad was not at home.

I knew things were not going to be easy for a young woman with not enough education and few skills to make it, but I prayed to God that if he would give me the strength to get up each day and put one foot in front of the other, I would do everything I could to take care of my children. A parting irony, I was pregnant with my fourth child when I made my escape. I'm sure that if I had known, I would not have had the courage to leave.

Fast forward to today, my family has grown to include 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. I know that I have been blessed and God does answer prayers. Opportunities that I never expected presented themselves at just the right moment and I was able to survive and thrive. I thank God for the blessings and I make sure my cousin knows how much her willingness to help meant to me.

My advice to anyone in my situation: Do not suffer in silence, seek help. No one should live in terror. My advice to others, reach out when you see someone in need. You may wind up being their saving grace.

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A Word From Our Pastor

Fall Back ... Into Christian Education

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

Fall is the season of change. Soon the leaves will be changing, the weather will be changing, and in early November even our time will be changing as we set our clocks back one hour in observance of daylight savings time. This is truly a season of change. When we set our clocks back, we use the popular phrase "fall back" to remind us that we are taking our clocks back one hour in an effort to save energy and make better use of the daylight God has provided. During this season let us also apply this "fall back" phrase as a reminder to fall back into the Christian education courses that Providence offers so that our knowledge of God's Word can continue to increase.

Honestly speaking, we all know that in the Christian church attendance at Sunday School and Bible Study always pales in comparison to worship. If a church is consistently able to get 10% of its membership to participate in Christian education then they are doing well ... just 10%!!! The reasons for this 90% lack of attendance across the Christian church may vary, however the truth is that we just don't value, or emphasize, knowing the Word as an essential part of our daily Christian walk.

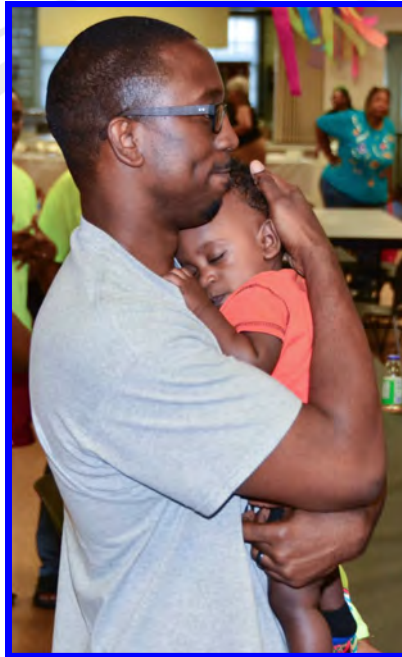
Christ has called us to not only be hearers of the Word, but doers also. To be doers of the Word, and implement in the practice of our daily lives that which Christ teaches, we must first know what the Lord has said. This is why Christian education through Sunday School and Bible

Study are so important. PMBC has a new Youth Pastor, Rev. Dominique Robinson, who is implementing an iFlow, iStudy, & iWorship program for our youth to offer them Christian education in ways that are practical and meaningful to them. For the adults we offer two bible studies and multiple Sunday School classes each week that engage active learning and are dialogue based. We want the PMBC members to engage scripture, apply it to their lives, and then practice it daily as a part of their Christian journey. Without the education the worship will be lacking, becoming stale and void of substance. I want to avoid this at all costs!!!

For this 4th quarter, don't just set your clocks back, but fall back into Christian education. Join us on

Wednesday afternoons at 12pm as we survey the Book of Isaiah. Or join us on Wednesday evenings at 7pm as we investigate "I'm Not the Only One! Even God's People Find Mess." Then on Sunday mornings before worship choose between "When Christians Want Justice", "Loving the Sick Without Getting Sick," or "Old Testament Essentials." Join us as we all fall back into Christian education to ensure we make better use of the light God has given each and every one of us.

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



With babe in arms. Little Thomas feeling secure with his father



The Mission: Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia

145 Years of Faith and Service

1871-2016 by Leonard Brown

After the Civil War, a period called Reconstruction was initiated. In this period, the government began to rebuild the country following the most devastating war on the shores of the United States. In fact, the Civil War killed more Americans than any war since that time. This rebuilding or **Reconstruction** was to also signal a total transformation of the southern states, a transformation that was designed to include freed slaves in every aspect of society. It was during this period of Reconstruction and transformation that the illustrious history of Providence Missionary Baptist Church began.

From the divine foresight of visionary, Reverend Robert Grant, Providence Missionary Baptist was born. Through the commitment of 19 dedicated pastors and faithful congregants, Providence has flourished.

While the Civil War raged on, a group of formerly enslaved men and women, under the leadership of Reverend Frank Quarles, was organizing what would become the first African-American Baptist Church in Atlanta, Friendship Baptist Church. (1862)

Providence was one of several missions that grew out of Friendship and traces its roots directly to this "Mother Church." Providence has the distinction of being the third oldest Black Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Under the trellised branches of a brush arbor, at the corner of Greensferry and Chapel Streets, a site then adjacent to the quarters that had been occupied by Union soldiers, Willow Tree Baptist Church was organized, located under a brush arbor.

During the pastorate of Reverend George Washington Martin (1871-1907), a church building was erected and the congregation was able to leave the brush arbor. The building remained on Greensferry Street, and the church received its present name, Providence Baptist Church. In the late 1970's, the term missionary was added to the name, reflecting the church's history and goals. The church was officially chartered in 1874.

From a succession of dedicated pastors at Providence, three went on to establish the following churches:

Zion Hill Baptist Church (1872)-Reverend Robert Grant

Beulah Baptist Church (1896)-Reverend W. Frank Paschal

Little Rock/Mount Moriah Baptist Church (1913)-Reverend W. H. Brown.

To make way for the development of the nation's first public housing projects in Atlanta, the Greensferry church was sold. At the corner of Larkin and Maher Streets a new sanctuary was built, under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Charles D. Hubert in 1941. The church remained at 659 Larkin Street for 54 years.

For over 58 years, Providence was blessed with a "Repository of Wisdom," which included the following ministers: Reverends Charles D. Hubert, Lucius Tobin, Clarence Gresham, Walter R. McCall, Phillip Terry, Bernard Blount and Vanester Pugh.

From 1987-2012, Providence was led by Reverend Dr. Gerald L. Durley, Ph.D., the second longest serving pastor of Providence. Under Reverend Durley's leadership, an historical event occurred in 1995 when the congregation moved from Larkin Street to its present location at 2295 Benjamin E. Mays Drive.

Upon the retirement of Reverend Durley, Providence experienced a first in its history. Reverend Kathi Chavous was selected by the Intra-Board of Deacons to serve as the first woman Interim Pastor, in July of 2012.

Preaching his inaugural sermon on Sunday, November 4, 2012, entitled **"You Do Not Have The Right To Remain Silent,"** Reverend Dr. Damon P. Williams, Ph.D. became the 19th pastor of Providence. Understanding that Providence has been Positioned by the Past, Poised for the Present and Focused on the Future; Providence is experiencing a Renaissance of spiritual growth.

The foundation of Providence Missionary Baptist Church has been and is its people. This church continues to serve as a vanguard of Georgia's ecclesiastical, cultural, political and social movements as evidenced by its involvement into the larger community-beyond the walls. Providence's members and pastors have held some of the most prestigious positions in the City of Atlanta: ranging from college presidents and administrators, to doctors, entrepreneurs, educators, lawyers, civic leaders and politicians. As well, Providence has welcomed the "least of these" and has served as a source of guidance and inspiration for the homeless, the incarcerated, the materially improvised, and persons from all social strata.

At Providence Missionary Baptist Church, "You are Loved. You are Forgiven. You are Accepted."



THE YOUTH OF PROVIDENCE

Getting to Know the Youth Pastor

Reverend Dominique Robinson



I am a native of New Jersey, born as the eldest of three to Mr. and Mrs. Willie Frank and Barbara Ann Smith. Both of my parents are one of ten children; I am a member a very large family! I matriculated to the Essex County public school system as a child and moved on to earn a B.A. in Government and Psychology from Georgetown University, in Washington D.C., I then earned a Master of Divinity in Homiletics and Black

Church Studies, and a Master of Theology, concentrating in Homiletics and Pastoral Care from Emory University's Candler School of Theology. I am currently a Doctorate of Ministry candidate at Columbia Theological Seminary concentrating in Homiletics and Christian Education. My research has led me to become the founder and curator of iHomileticO, a method of preaching that focuses on the ways in which technology and social media impact how Black millennials hear, receive, experience and live out the preached Gospel. I am the last recipient, 2015, of the Beatitudes Society J. Philip Swander Brave Preacher Award; this award speaks to the very things I am most passionate about: God, social justice and Black youth – aside from cooking, Marvel comics and fashion.

I grew up in the Pentecostal tradition where my paternal grandmother founded and pastored Deliverance House of Prayer (DHOP) in Irvington, New Jersey until her transition to glory. It is at DHOP, I accepted Christ into my life and began the genesis

of my liturgical dance and preaching ministries – at the age of 13. Church has always been a core tenet of my childhood and young adult life. I cannot remember a day when I did not attend worship or church functions. As a matter of fact, I used to go to church just about every day of the week while at DHOP which included shut-ins, where we stayed all night in prayer – very different from a lock-in. I am grateful for the firm foundation that I was given through God and my family. It is because of my upbringing that I am so passionate about children, youth and young adults; I know the significant role that spiritual development can and has played in my life and in the lives of others.

I pray that as I serve the Providence Missionary Baptist Church I offer innovative holistic and spiritual paradigms and programming for “doing youth ministry.” It is my desire to establish intentional discipleship in the lives of our young people from birth and throughout their young adulthood; my goal is to engage, educate, expose, equip and elevate them. With this in mind, biblical literacy through worship and bible study as well as social justice/community service are key foundations of the Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYAM). We have already launched our new youth worship and discussion experience, iFlow; we now have a new group for our middle school boys which PMBC did not have beforehand. We are working towards establishing space for our elementary children to worship and learn every 2nd and 3rd Sunday alongside iFlow in the new year; Message and a Move (M&M) is already in progress every 2nd Sunday. We will launch our weekly youth bible study in November, iStudy, specifically designed for middle and high school students. Our arts ministries have been revived and are looking for more participants – training sessions and workshops are on the horizon. Our young adults will add a monthly prayer line and Brunch & Bible Study (B&B) to their ministry efforts. Many projects and endeavors are well under way, and I ask for my new PMBC family to pray with and for me as I march to the drumbeat of God’s heart. Let’s reach, teach and save today’s generation together!

Great Activities For Our Youth

Reverend Dominique Robinson (Reverend D.) is bringing excitement to our Youth Ministry. She is the new minister overseeing this important ministry (See page 5 for information about her). She is presenting new ideas and giving inspiration to our Youth.



We will begin a youth worship experience every 2nd and 3rd Sunday known as **iFlow**. Please start bringing your young person to Sunday School so that he/she can be a part of the new movement of ministry.



We will begin a youth Bible Study experience every Wednesday Night known as **iStudy**. Please start bringing your young person to Bible Study so that he/she can be a part of another movement of ministry.

Youth Events

Backpack Buddies—Service Project

The Youth hosted a Toiletry Drive. They collected donations September 4th – October 9th. The expectation is for our young people to lead the way in donating items. This service projects requires them to actively participate in collecting the donations.

Hell's Gate Trip

On Saturday, November 5, 2016, the Youth Ministry will go to **Hell's Gate**, which is a walk-through drama of the Book of Revelation.

Girl's Scout Troop

There is now a Girl's Scout Troop at Providence. Please see Julie Hodo for more information.



Youth Lock-in was held at the end of August. The children had a great time and learned a lot. See next page for pictures

Scenes from the PMBC Lock-In



Fun Time



Study Time



Water Slide Time

WHAT A BLESSING IT WAS!!!

WORSHIP ON THE LAWN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 • 10:00AM



God provided the sunshine, breezes, and nature. Church members enjoyed a great worship service with: the choir singing beautifully, recognition of our police and firemen and participation from all.



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PMBC Tech —Advancing to New Technology, Improving Communication

Lights, Camera, Action!

Providence you no doubt have noticed the new data projectors, screens, and cameras that adorn God's majestic and beautiful sanctuary. You may be wondering to yourself, "Wow, I wonder how we are going to use these?!!!" Well I am so glad you asked.

The camera will allow us to both live stream and record worship. On the days when you are traveling and unable to be physically present with your church family, you can still be digitally present! We want to connect with you not only at God's physical house inside the building, but also at God's digital house on the internet. This also will give first time visitors and guests an opportunity to check us out live online.

In addition, it is my goal as your Pastor to bring the Bible ALIVE for you. I want to make the stories, the teachings, and the truths that are in the scriptures truly mean something for

your life and your walk with Christ. To augment the preached Word I can now show you videos, photos, presentations, etc. to help scripture come alive. For example, when Jesus taught the parable of a mustard seed (Matt. 13:31-32) I can now show you just how small a mustard seed truly is in comparison to other seeds to help make Jesus'

point even clearer. We can now view artists renderings from across the globe of some of the most famous bible stories so we can experience how our brothers and sisters in other countries view scripture. The sky is the limit!

We are used to engaging the word through our hearing and this is appropriate since "faith comes by hearing" (Romans 10:17), but now we will increase our experience by adding in what we see. It was God who said let there be light, and it was God

who said the light was good, so now at Providence it's Lights, Camera, Action!



PMBC App & Website

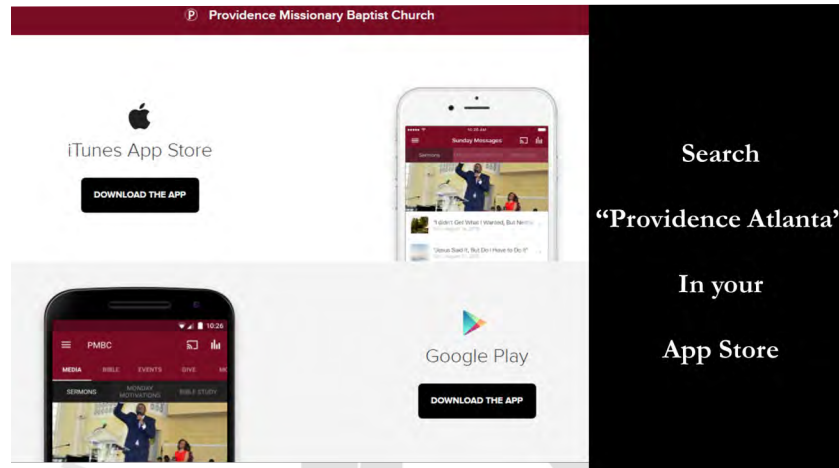
Providence is proud to present to our membership, friends, and guests a new website and a new app.

We have streamlined our digital vision on the Providence Website to make it easier and more aesthetically pleasing for guests and members to connect with us. We want to make our information sharing as seamless as possible so

that all who desire can take part in the wonderful things that are happening around Providence. Visit our new website <http://www.providenceatlanta.org>.

Your thoughts and feedback are certainly welcomed!

In addition to a new website, we want to bring communication from your church right into the palm of your hand. Our new app on your smartphone will allow you to watch sermons, listen to Monday Motivations, receive announcements, engage our youth ministry, and so much more! Visit the app store on your device, search “Providence Atlanta” and be connected with your church family.

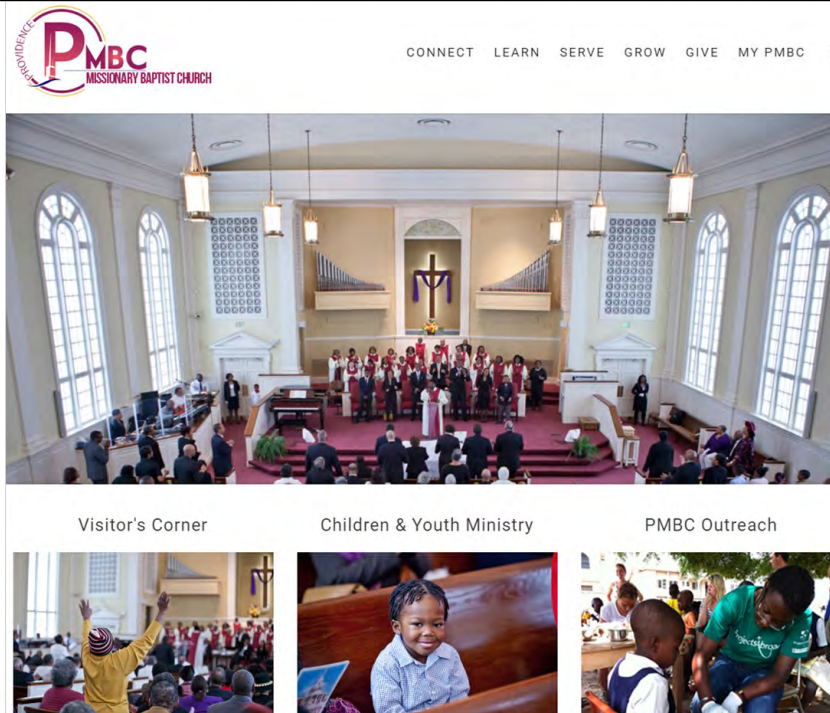


New App—an additional way to receive communication and information

www.providenceatlanta.org

Did You Know?

If you are curious about the history of PMBC, go to our website, at the top of the page (menu bar), click LEARN and from the dropdown menu choose “The History of PMBC.”



Browse Around

Our new website is interactive and has a modern design. We hope you enjoy it and go to it often to receive information..

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Race and Reconciliation Forum

The month of August consisted of great discussions about race and reconciliation after the newsworthy reports of some African Americans being killed by police officers.

On July 10th, Reverend Williams delivered a message about reconciliation in wake of the news. It was inspirational and reminded us that in the midst of horrible incidents we need to stay mindful of God's power.

The first Wednesday in August, Reverend Williams gave an overview on Reconciliation, Forgiveness and Repentance. He used scripture to support each of those concepts and how we as Christians should behave.

The following Wednesday night meetings in August focused on discussions led by professionals in the fields of law enforcement, law, and aptly young people who feel the magnitude of the dynamics personally and emotionally. These meetings led to some obtaining a better understanding and gaining a better perspective.

We are grateful for the participation from the panelists and audience.



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Sponsored By
October		
9th	Pamper Me Pink—after 10:45 AM Service Fellowship Hall and outside (Breast Cancer Awareness Event)	Peach State Health, Health Ministry, Women's Ministry
12th-14th	Fall Revival—7:00 PM nightly Sanctuary	Church Wide
16th	145th Church Anniversary	Church Wide
25th	Angel Tree Collection Begins	Church Wide
November		
6th	Veterans Recognition	Church Wide
27th	1st Advent Observation	Church Wide
December		
4th	2nd Advent Observation	Church Wide
11th	3rd Advent Observation	Church Wide
18th	4th Advent Observation	Church Wide
25th	Christmas Presentation	Music & Arts Ministries
22nd-31st	Church Office Closed—Holiday	



Providence Missionary Baptist Church

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Reverend Damon P. Williams. Ph.D.

Senior Pastor

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