

The 2017 Askings and Commitment forms have been mailed to all church Treasurers. A copy of the 2017 Askings for your church can be found on our website by [clicking here](#). Please prayerfully consider your church's commitment to the larger church during your Stewardship process and return your Commitment Form to the presbytery. QUESTIONS?? CALL ROSE AT 1-800-922-1609 or 803-328-6269, EXT. 4

Need a Supply Organist? Anne Milne is an organist that can fill in at churches. Her phone number is 954-288-8755. She was recommended by the minister Ken Gillikin at Oakdale Presbyterian Church.



Liberty Hill invites all to its Christmas Cantata. The Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church Cantata Choir extends a warm invitation to all members of Providence Presbytery to their annual Christmas Cantata during both services on Sunday, December 18 (9AM and 11 AM). This year's Cantata, Then Came the Light arranged by Derric Johnson and under the musical direction of Rev. Gene Ghent, combines traditional carols and storytelling with a 1950's upbeat arrangement. The Care Team of Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church will serve heavy hors d'oeuvres after each service. Please join us as we celebrate the joys of the season with music and in song! The church is located at 20 Meeting Lane, Liberty Hill, SC 29074. For more information, please call 803-273-9191.

Holiday Healing Service at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church—Wed., Dec. 21, 7PM in the sanctuary. The holidays aren't joy and light for everyone. Sadness and grief, family tensions, job concerns, and other issues can make celebrating difficult, especially when everyone else seems so happy. Churches, as always, face challenges that only God can meet. And, Enduring the fall election has taken its toll on our divided country. Our whole world is in a time of uncertainty and unrest. On the longest night of the year, come lay down your burdens and lift up your prayers. Find healing and hope through music, prayer, Scripture, candles, and time for quiet reflection. Gather with others to be reminded that God is here in our messy world, offering comfort and peace in the midst of a suffering world.

Longest Night Service – Sunday, December 18. Join us at Grace Presbyterian Church in York County on Sunday, December 18, 5:00pm at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2955 Hwy 160 West, Fort Mill, for a quiet service of worship where we have the opportunity to acknowledge our losses and experience the sustaining presence of God in our midst.

Grace Presbyterian Church Christmas Eve Services. You're invited to come to one or both of the Christmas Eve services at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2955 Hwy 160 West, Fort Mill, SC. **Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** – 5PM. This family friendly service will feature our children's choir, a Christmas story, hymns, candles and communion. **Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** – 9:PM. The later service will feature special music, hymns, a quiet meditation, candles and communion.. No nursery at this service.



No Matter Who You Are, E3 has workshops for you! Refresh your worship and spiritual practices in "Like Water for Dry Roots: New Ways of Worship and Prayer" where participants will move and experiment with diverse ways of reaching towards God and allowing God to reach us. Explore the meaning of sacraments in our everyday life in "The Sacramental Way of Life" and learn more about our Reformed heritage's understanding of grace in "Means of Grace and the Practice of Faith." For full workshop descriptions, see the [catalog online](#). Reserve your place today by registering online at [provprese3.org](#). Need a paper registration form or have a question? Please call Ann White at 800-922-1609 or 803-328-6269. or email Ann at ann@providencepres.org.
Beat the rush—register for E3 now!

The PCUSA's Big Tent is meeting in St. Louis, July 6-8, 2017. Mark your calendar and join us for worship, workshops, and the opportunity to engage and connect with other Presbyterians. More information coming soon!

Interim Pastor Training January 23 - 27, 2017 at Calvin Center (Atlanta). This event is perfect for quality individuals looking to expand their skill set. Find out more online at <http://calvincenter.org/programs/interim-pastors>.

Affirmation of York County will view a documentary, ANYONE AND EVERYONE, involving parents from multiple religions, cultures and denominations as they talk about their personal experiences when they found out they had a gay child. This viewing will take place at Epiphany Lutheran Church, 2370 West Main St., Rock Hill TOMORROW, Dec. 13 at 7PM It should be very informative as you put faces and families with the LGBTQ community.. For more information, call Ellen at 803-417-0954 or Melissa at 803-547-6042 or email AffirmationofYC@gmail.com or [FB www.FB.com/AffirmationofYC](http://www.FB.com/AffirmationofYC)

Quick Links

Providence Presbytery
Resource Center
Bethelwoods
South Carolina Inn
PC(USA)

Contact Us

Mark Verdery
Rose Lemmons-Berry
Inez Glasgow
Dot Killian
Ann White
Barbara Kurz
Jill Wilson

Looking for a great place to give this Christmas? Looking for a way to make your gifts matter? Providence Presbytery is building an eye clinic in Honduras. The doctor at the government clinic said that it is a blessing to have Presbyterian groups in Trinidad. The eye clinic will help not just the municipality, but the whole region. The proposal to work with the poorest patients is an excellent example of being in solidarity with the people. The Presbyterian Eye Clinic will be part of the Municipal Senior Center that will provide care and activities for older adults. We hope that you can help us help these – and others—who need cataract surgery. 100% of all gifts will go to the Presbyterian Eye Clinic Gifts are tax-deductible. You may write your check to Providence Presbytery (mail to 515 Oakland Avenue, Rock Hill, SC 29730). In the “for” line, write “eye clinic.” [Find out more.](#)

While Santa is relaxing on our patio, he's not “dreaming of a white Christmas,” he's thinking about what a nice spot the patio could be for meals, small group gatherings, or just a spot for our guests to enjoy being outside with a view of the mountains. The S.C. Board would like to encourage you, as you and Santa are planning for your Christmas giving, to include a special gift to the S.C. Inn designated for “patio improvement” so that we can make Santa's dream come true. You may give a gift in gratitude for the good times that you have spent at the Inn or you may give a gift in honor, or in memory, of friends or family members. We will notify the person about your thoughtful gift. We look forward to seeing you at the Inn in 2017. Download the [Giving Form.](#)

Sign up for Confirmation Cluster. Bethelwoods and EEMT are hosting the annual Confirmation Cluster for churches with just a few youth. The class will begin in January 2017 with a retreat at Bethelwoods and is designed for youth in 8th grade. If you have youth in your church you would like to be a part of this class or would like more information, contact Stephen McDonald at stephen@bethelwoods.org or 803-366-3722.

December Educators Gathering: All who are involved in educational ministry across Providence Presbytery are invited to gather for a Christmas Potluck Luncheon on Thursday, December 15, at 12:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to share; drinks will be provided. We are meeting in the Presbyterian Student Center (PSC) at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill. For more information, please contact Ann White at 800-922-1609 or ann@providencepres.org.

COMING SOON

12/22-26	Presbytery Office Closed for Christmas		
1/2	Presbytery Office Closed for New Year's		
1/5	Registration DEADLINE for E3	Register Online	
1/8	E3--FREE Training Event	Oakland Avenue Presbyterian	1:45-5:30PM



Want to hear great Christmas music with Nativity stories between the songs. Listen Live on your desktop, laptop or mobile device at <http://www.christmascarolsradio.org/>



REGISTER TODAY! 'Tis the season to register for E3 workshops, No Matter Who You Are! Explore new models for leadership and ministry in "Leadership for A Missionary People" and "Common Ground: A New Model for Churches Willing to Think Outside the Box." Brush up on communication skills in "Facilitating Intergenerational Conversations in Our Congregations" and "Church Communication in the Digital Age." Expand options for serving in "Planning and Leading Mission Trips for Small Churches" and think beyond boundaries in "Putting a Face on Syria: Hope Through Education" and "Race is Nothing, Race is Everything!" **E3 is on January 8 at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill.** For full workshop descriptions, [see the catalog online.](#) Reserve your place today by registering online at provpre3.org. Need a paper registration form or have a question? Please call Ann White at 800-922-1609 or 803-328-6269.

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Build better Christian stewards with our year-round programs! *Inspiring Stewardship!* is based on God's Word and works in any church to address challenges faced in empowering people to be better stewards! The program has benefited thousands of churches of all sizes in the US and Canada. This program, which is led by the laity, is not another job for the pastor. Nor is it just a short-term "fund-raising" endeavor. Rather, it is a year-round educational and training program designed to inspire people to be life-long stewards. It consists of 48 principles concerning money, material possessions and giving. [Find out more.](#)



Ruling Elder Preparation. Check out this White Paper on Preparing Ruling Elders. Along with teaching elders, ruling elders are called to be stewards of the faith and champions of the gospel. Those who are called will lead by example. <http://www.providencepres.org/Documents/RegardingRulingElders.pdf>.

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Training for Meditation from Menonite Center. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace." Since 1983, the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) has been proclaiming the message that God is glorified in the highest when Christ's people seek to be faithful in following him in the way of peace, justice, reconciliation, and cross-bearing discipleship. We invite you to partner with us in our ministry of reconciliation by including LMPC in your end of the year giving. We also hope that you will be able to join us for one of our training events (listed below) during the coming year. May you and your family experience all the blessings of the Christ Child this Christmas season! [Join in ministry with the Mennonite Center](#) . Learn about our [Meditation Skills Training Institute](#).

Men's Retreat Coming to Montreat in April. Mantreat at Montreat--Whether it is our job, our faith, mental health struggles, family issues, or insecurities, we all have something that lies hidden in the depths of our lives. Men especially like to keep those issues hidden and out of the way. The trouble is that they are still there....This event was designed to be a gathering of men of all 'types and stripes' – a place where we could come to relax, wrestle with issues we might be facing, do a little introspection, and just be in community together. <http://www.montreat.org/mantreat/>

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