Guided Prayer & Discernment Gathering
Wednesday
July 8 @ 7:00pm

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Cuba Presentation & Dinner
Wednesday
July 15 @ 5:30pm

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Providence 101
Sunday
July 19 @ 11:30am

2014 Blessing of Rafael & Malvert Pastors of Gethsemane
PBC’s Sister-Church in Cuba

“A community that exists among God’s people despite language differences, and political & cultural barriers is a witness to the world.”

~ Michelle McClendon
From the desk of Pastor Michelle...

I must confess that on Sunday, June 28 when I prayed a prayer of support and blessing on our Cuba Team, I found it hard to concentrate because I was distracted with my own vivid memories of the trip that I took to Cuba about 7 or 8 years ago. So many memories!

One was of the hair-raising, faith-testing experience before we even arrived—of getting separated from the rest of our group due to a connecting flight arriving late in Cancun. My youngest son and I were left in the Cancun airport, with no way to communicate with our team, with only my rusty Spanish and a group of Mexican nationals to rely on—brave folks who probably risked their jobs to help us get on to Cuba. There’s way more to this memory than I have room to write here, but suffice it to say, we arrived at midnight, after a flight in a dubious looking plane through a torrential downpour. I can still feel the sense of relief we had as we walked out into the Havana airport from Cuban customs to be greeted by familiar faces—both Cuban and American. Fear and stress gave way to gratitude in an instant.

That whirlwind beginning continued as we spent days full of laughter, learning, and forging new relationships with some of the most gracious, loving people I have ever met. We learned about the Guanajay church, which met in the home of Pastor Javier. The more we learned about this community of faith, the more it resembled the early church—they prayed together, they learned and studied together, they worshipped together, they shared what they had together.

We learned about the church’s “Patio Project”—born out of the need to address the fragmentation of Cuban families. Church members were encouraged to use part of their home space to create gardens where herbs, vegetables, and flowers were grown and animals were kept—chickens, goats, rabbits, pigs. In fact, in the large patio of one of the Guanajay families we met the pig that we later ate after our closing outdoor worship service together! These patios served to draw families together around a common purpose and a shared communal space.
We were welcomed into homes where the dry and barren countryside had literally been transformed into beautiful gardens in which to gather. We were welcomed into a home where a small third-floor stone courtyard had been transformed into an inviting oasis within that home. We were present as church members with patios shared generously the bounty from those patios with each other. We worshipped in those patios—lavish country gardens, and rooftop patios alike.

We spent hours traveling around the Cuban countryside, meeting people in other Cuban churches, and seeing the Cuban landscape. We met Cubans who worshipped in ways other than Christian, but who shared a common purpose with the Guanajay Christian community. Both groups worked to enhance and to better the lives of the Cuban people—to fight the aimlessness, addiction, and poverty in which so many lived. So Christian and Santeria banded together to serve. They did not allow their religious differences to divide them or deter them.

So many sights, smells, songs, and spiritual experiences flooded my mind and heart on Sunday as I prayed. What a gift it is to partner with these amazing people, who share a common faith in Jesus, whose commitment to servanthood is stalwart despite consistent economic and political threat, whose creativity is unbounded, and whose joy in worship is free and open and full of life. What we all noticed last summer about Malvert and Rafael was their exuberant joy and their deep abiding trust in God’s goodness. They never stopped smiling, sharing, giving, or loving. That is what my most powerful memory of my days in Cuba is—of being loved. The community that exists among God’s people despite language differences and political and cultural barriers and walls is a witness to the world. The walls and barriers are illusion, temporal smoke and mirrors. The deep community and common purpose of the people of God that finds a way to get over the walls and around the barriers are what’s really real.

As we celebrate our nation’s independence, we also celebrate the tearing down of walls between our two countries. May our relationships with our Cuban friends continue to grow as we put down deeper roots in the soil of newfound freedom. May our partnership bear much fruit as we work together to share the love of Christ and welcome all to come and sit at God’s table.
A Unique Partnership…

Thank you again PBC family for supporting the 2015 Cuba Partnership Trip. From beginning to end, this journey has been one of growth and sustainability through your continued prayers, generous financial support, gift of supplies, and the many volunteer hours our busy bees have put in to help make this trip and all aspects of its launch such a success!

Please join the Mission Team for a special presentation about their recent trip to Cuba where they spent time and shared in ministry with the pastors and families of our sister-church, Gethsemane. Plus learn about other visited areas and adventures our team went on during this trip.

Dinner will be provided at no-cost, however, donations are welcome. Always plenty of food & fellowship, so share this invitation with a friend or neighbor!

Cuba Presentation & Dinner
Wednesday
July 15 @ 5:30pm
Fellowship Hall
Guided Prayer & Discernment Gathering...
Wednesday, July 8 @ 7:00pm at Providence House
If you have yet to attend one of these gatherings, please join us!
In this third Guided Prayer & Discernment Gathering we will continue to ask questions as we seek the way of God for this Body of Christ.

Men’s Breakfast...
Friday, July 10 @ 8:30pm at The Blackberry Mountain Café
Bible study and fellowship every second Friday of each month.

Cuba Presentation & Dinner...
Wednesday, July 15 @ 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall
Dinner is no-cost, donations welcome. Invite a friend or neighbor!

PROVIDENCE 101...
Sunday, July 19 @ 11:30am at Providence House
A class open to New Members and those simply interested in learning more about PBC’s beliefs, values & ministries. RSVP to the church office by July 15.

PASSPORTchoices Youth Camp...
Sunday – Friday, July 19-24 @ Greensboro College
Please keep our youth in your prayers!

Hymn Sing & Potluck...
Wednesday, August 5 @ 5:30pm at the Hales
Mark your calendar and watch for details.

Women’s Fellowship...
August TBA
Have an idea for a special presentation or perhaps you are available to host a luncheon? Contact Pastor Julie if you can help with the August gathering.
MEDICAL MISSIONARY
HONORED AS “RURAL HERO”
From the PBC Mission Team

The Book of Acts teaches Christians to reach out to the entire world, first in Jerusalem then to Judea and then to the ends of the earth. Providence Baptist Church reaches out both to our local community, and also to the larger world. PBC’s Mission Team recently received the following news about Dr. Laura Parajon, one of the international missionaries that PBC supports. Dr. Parajon visited Providence and shared her work several years ago.

Email from The American Baptist International Ministries board:
Dr. Laura Parajon, an American Baptist International Ministries (IM) medical missionary and member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, has been named one of three 2015 “Rural Heroes” by the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA). Dr. Parajon’s passion for community health began as a student at Brown University in 1987, where she volunteered to help establish an English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) tutoring program. While teaching ESL, she discovered most of her students had medical problems, which prompted her to pursue a medical degree at the University of New Mexico that focused on underserved populations.

In 2001, Dr. Parajon and her husband, David (an internist and preventive medicine physician) became missionaries and settled in Nicaragua where they worked with David’s father, the late Dr. Gustavo Parajon, a former IM missionary and personal friend of Dick Pierard. They continued the ministry he started in 1967, which trains and supports local health promoters in remote areas of rural Nicaragua. In 2006, the Parajons started AMOS (A Ministry of Sharing) as a way to expand the health ministry.

During the past 45 years, there have been significant reductions in the number of deaths among children and women in the communities where AMOS serves. Many lives have been saved by training locals to understand basic health concepts and to recognize that major health concerns can arrive from minor cuts and bruises. For Dr. Laura Parajon to be recognized by a World Health Organization for her work is testimony that their work is changing lives.
Disturbing Hunger Trends
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
By Elisha Freeman
Children & Family Resource Center

The number of Henderson county students who qualify for the schools’ free and reduced meals program grew from 55% in 2013-2014 to 59% in 2014-2015. This equates to 7,965 children!

One in four children in Henderson County is living in poverty. Families in poverty struggle to cover basic needs including food which leads to chronic “food insecurity.” When a family or person is “food insecure,” the availability and quality of food to which they have access is not adequate for an active, healthy life.

In Henderson County, Sugarloaf Elementary School and Balfour Education Center participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program, meaning the program offers school lunch and breakfast at no charge to all students enrolled in those schools. A school becomes an eligible CEP site based on the percentage of students in poverty in those schools.

During the summer months of 2015, the schools are partnering with our community to offer a Summer Food Service Program to provide healthy meals to children and teens in low-income areas at no charge. There will be three locations where children, ages 2-18, can receive a free meal during the day. Meals, prepared by the Henderson County Public Schools' Child Nutrition Department will be delivered to the sites and served to children Monday through Friday beginning June 22, 2015 – August 14, 2015 from 12:00 noon until 2:00 pm. The proposed sites are the Edneyville Community Center, the Crosswalk (operated by First Baptist Church) and King Creek Commons.

Organizers are requesting volunteer helpers from our community to help serve meals and to provide books, activities and crafts for children to enjoy during the meal time. Volunteers will need to complete a simple training and will need to provide a Driver’s License for a background check.

VOLUNTEER!!!
Contact: Amanda Stansbury
(828) 891-6310 / arstansbury@hcpsnc.org
Homes For Youth & Henderson County DDS

Foster Parenting Information Night
Thursday, July 30 from 6:30-8:00pm
Mike’s on Main 303 N. Main Street, Hendersonville
Homes For Youth invites you to come learn more about the Henderson County Foster Care program in a casual setting and enjoy a tasty treat.
RSVP to Darlene Stone
(828) 694-6252 / families4kids@hendersoncountydss.org

12th Annual Camp Heart Songs
Sponsored by Four Seasons Compassion For Life
Saturday-Sunday, August 15-16
Camp Tekoa in Hendersonville
For Children 6 through 12 years of age.
Camp Heart Songs is a two-day overnight journey of healing that is devoted to the expression of grief within a fun and safe environment. Children are assisted throughout the day by professional grief counselors.
Registration ends July 24.
Contact Susan Bumgarner
(828)-233-0334 / sbumgarner@fourseasonscfl.org

Children Are The Future
From IAM’s Summer Newsletter
“Children are the future of our community. Last year, you helped us touch the lives of over 3,000 children 18 and younger when you helped their families cope with financial crises. Also, with your support, we made it possible for 525 children to start the new school year with the supplies they needed and two sets of new clothes. You do indeed make a difference in the lives of people, both young and old, when you support IAM. Thank you!”

Have a safe and pleasant summer!
David R. Cook, IAM Executive Director
Summer Sunday School...

**Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You**

In this adult study facilitated by Merlin Merritt, we will be looking at how to nurture and care for our soul using John Ortberg's book, “Soul Keeping” as a guide. Ortberg says the health of your soul isn’t just a matter of the saved or unsaved; it’s the hinge on which the rest of your life hangs. It’s the difference between deep, satisfied spirituality and a restless, dispassionate faith. In this study Ortberg highlights his relationship with Dallas Willard, a “professor of the soul” and what he learned from him in the midst of his own struggles. You may purchase your own book or participate in class with handouts provided.

**Study of Hebrews**

This adult class will continue in the upper room at Providence House. Facilitated by Herb Sierk, the class will deal with the priesthood of Christ, the superiority of his sacrifice and his covenant.

**Deep Blue Kids**

For children K-3rd, we will continue to use the Grow, Proclaim, Serve curriculum this summer as we then transition into Deep Blue Curriculum. Deep Blue is the new awe-inspiring resource for children which includes adventure, exciting stories, science experiments, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games—all combined into a living—faith experience that will help children discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ today! Parents, learn more about Deep Blue Kids by visiting their website: [www.deepbluekids.com](http://www.deepbluekids.com). We are always in need of SUBS, especially over the summer, please contact Glenda Tapper if you can help!

**Faith in Motion (U-Turn)**

The Youth are currently using Faith In Motion (U Turn) by Cokesbury. They will also be helping with the Summer Preschool & Elementary classes.
Scripture Readings - *Free For All Verse
July 5 ~ Michelle McClendon preaching

July 12 ~ Julie Merritt Lee preaching
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 / Psalm 24 / *Ephesians 1:3-14 / Mark 6:14-29

July 19 ~ Julie Merritt Lee preaching
2 Samuel 7:1-14a / Psalm 89:20-37 / *Ephesians 2:11-22 / Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 26 ~ Julie Merritt Lee preaching

*Free For All
Every Tuesday at 8:30am at the Dandelion Eatery, 127 5th Ave West.
Join us as we discuss the upcoming Sunday’s scripture reading.

Mid-day Prayers - Tuesdays & Thursdays 12-12:20pm
Providence House
Join us for a time of prayer, song, reading, and reflection. All faiths welcome to come rest and reconnect with the Spirit!

Choir Practice – Tuesdays, July 7 & 21 @ 7:00pm
PBC Sanctuary
Want to share your musical & instrumental talents? Contact Robert Hudson to be a part of Sunday morning music! Practice schedule is every other Tuesday at 7:00pm. Look for dates in the weekly Worship Guide and E-News.

Mission Team Meeting – Thursday, July 9 @ 7:00pm
Providence House
Those interested in being part of the PBC Mission Team please join us!
July Birthdays

2 Joan Carter
4 Lisa Obermiller
12 Randy Wright
21 Linda Crisp
24 Sandi Price
26 Joan Sutton
29 Dean Crisp
30 Phillip Allen

IAM JULY DONATIONS

FOOD:
Peanut Butter, Jelly, Crackers, Canned Pasta

SUMMER CLOTHING:
Men's Everyday Shoes & Work Boots;
Children's Shorts, T-Shirts, Sandals, and
Athletic Shoes in School Age Sizes.

GARDEN FRESH PRODUCE NEEDED:
Share the bounty of your garden!
IAM has a large walk-in cooler so donations
of fresh fruits and veggies are welcome!

*Place non-perishable donated items in the bin
located near the main entrance of the church.

*Large donations & Fresh Produce may be taken directly to
IAM at 210 Ehringhaus Street & 3rd Ave West, Mon-Fri 9:00am-3:30pm
Questions? Call 828-697-7029

Middle & High School Backpacks
and School Supplies for all ages needed
Sunday Schedule

9:00am Sunday School All Ages
10:30am Worship
11:30am Deeper
2:00pm Brookdale Worship
4:00pm 7th Ave Worship Meal

Our Values

Going to the Other ~ Growth ~ Hospitality
Inclusiveness ~ Simplicity ~ Worship

Rev. Julie Merritt Lee, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Michelle McClendon, Associate Pastor
Robert & Annette Hudson, Music Directors
Rev. Gail Coulter, Pastor Emerita

In partnership with...
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Forming Together & Building Bridges
www.cbf.net