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Passion and commitment are evident in the following three articles written by our elders, Pastor Rick Jones, Pastor Ken Ebert, and Pastor Greg Birdwell.

Please remember to pray daily for our three elders, Pastor Rick, Pastor Ken, and Pastor Greg. Ask God to strengthen them daily for the tasks He has set before them, to encourage them, to fortify their marriages, to create in them pure and clean hearts, to give them wisdom, to enlighten their minds with the understanding of Scripture, to guide them as the heads of their families, to keep them physically healthy, to give them discernment, to grow their faith, and to help them to walk in humility under the guiding light of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our prayers for these three men and their families need to be a top priority for each of us as we not only desire to see our church grow in unity and love internally, but to positively impact the surrounding community, and beyond.

Gratefully His,

Susan Carter

**Discipleship Elder**

**Pastor Rick Jones**

**Missions Outreach and Evangelism  
Elder**

**Pastor Ken Ebert**



by Pastor Rick Jones

While I have multiple responsibilities in the church, my primary focus is that of discipleship. My longing is to see people grow in their faith. It wasn't long ago that I craved a place that offered pure spiritual milk--a place where Scripture was explained and biblical instruction for life was taught in a practical way, a place where God was exalted and Christ clearly proclaimed.

In order to continue what PBF was founded on, we want to ensure that our Sunday School material and small group curriculum teaches the whole counsel of God to the saints, fully equipping them to stand for Christ in every area of their lives.

In the months and years to come, I hope that our church will continue to be faithful to our Lord and His Word. New believers will call Providence Bible Fellowship "home." They will be challenged to grow and deepen their faith. Seasoned believers will be exhorted not to stagnate in their walk, but instead, to finish well. Through this, I believe we will continue to see growth, numerically and spiritually.

A new facility will be built to accommodate our families, new pastors will be brought on staff, we will raise up missionaries and pastors from our flock to minister near and far, we will plant



by Pastor Ken Ebert

Like the other elders, I have many responsibilities. One ministry that I oversee that is very dear to my heart is Missions Outreach and Evangelism. Having served full-time as a missionary for abandoned and displaced children, God has given me a great passion to meet the immediate spiritual and physical needs of hurting families in the community surrounding Providence Bible Fellowship.

My prayer is that by sharing the Gospel and subsequent discipleship while fostering long- term relationships, that hearts would be changed through the power and influence of God's Holy Word. Also realizing that in order to change the outward behavior of those God allows us to meet in a meaningful, permanent way, the heart must first be changed (Rom. 8:8; Heb. 11:8). The vision I have for the future of Providence is that our foremost priority is to introduce people to a personal, growing relationship with Jesus Christ, and then disciple them in renewing their hearts and transforming their lives through His Word (2 Tim 3.16,17)

My global vision and focus is to send out pastors to focus on the planting of churches, and helping to equip those leaders through meaningful partnerships. My future vision for Providence would be to send missionaries and train those in our church to be sent out globally for short or long-term missions, and that we would have a desire as a local church to build a deep relationship with

churches, we will reach out to the poor and downtrodden, we will share the gospel unashamedly, and we will be a light of God to West Chester, Ohio and throughout His creation.

### Meet the Bennetts



by Scott and Joy Bennett

We began attending Providence in June 2009 and joined the church in February 2010. We have been refreshed and encouraged by the families of Providence, and the deeply Biblical and passionate preaching and teaching.

Scott and I met at Cedarville College where we both majored in professional writing. We were married in the fall of 1998 and have four children. Ellie, our oldest, would have turned ten in February, but passed away in October 2008. She was born with severe congenital heart defects and also suffered from cerebral palsy and a host of other complications. Sam is seven, in first grade, and studying karate. Anna will be five in March, starts kindergarten in the fall, and started dance lessons this year. Luke is two, also has congenital heart defects, and tries to do everything everyone else does. We also have two pets, a super-hero-princess dog named Xena and a cat named Jazz.

our missionaries.

These are very precious times for Providence as we are growing not only in numbers, but also in our knowledge of God's Word. My future vision would also be that Providence would be a church praying night and day with praise and intercession, and that through us, Christ would be proclaimed both locally and globally (Eph 3:20,21).

### Teaching and Preaching Elder Pastor Greg Birdwell



by Pastor Greg Birdwell

We are a few weeks into our study on 1 Peter. Hopefully, you are seeing the value of studying the Bible, as well as how simple it is if you just know what to look for. If you haven't been able to make it to Sunday School yet, please don't think you are too far behind to come now. You will still benefit from taking a close look at the message of the book.

So far we have looked at the author of 1 Peter to see what we could learn about him. Next, we looked at the recipients to see not only who they were, but where they came from and what their circumstances were. We identified key words which naturally led to the themes and purpose of the book. We are now

We have lived in the Cincinnati area since our wedding, where Scott works in corporate external relations for Procter & Gamble. He enjoys working on the Providence website, attending the men's studies, and spending time with me and the kids. I stay home with the kids, but also work part-time at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center as a parent consultant. I enjoy playing piano for church, gardening, knitting, and writing (I write a blog and last year began writing Ellie's story).

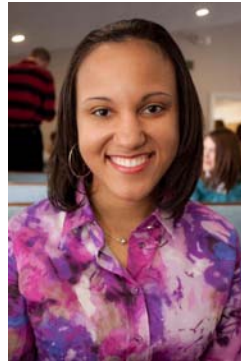
When we aren't scrubbing marker and crayon out of the carpet, rescuing toys from the toilet, or searching for chronically-elusive sippee cups, we enjoy playing games, spending time outside (but not in the winter!), and connecting with friends both in person and through social media (we may, at times, have more computers in our house than people).

taking a close look at the structure of the book and identifying the chapter themes.

Last week we came to the conclusion, as a group, that the theme of chapter 1 is "Be holy and love one another out of gratitude for the living hope we have through salvation."

An excellent resource for studying the Bible is the book, How to Study Your Bible, by Kay Arthur.

### **I Peter Bible Study**



Personal testimony by Jean Buttrom

### **1 Peter and Salvation: Learning, Living, and Loving Obedience**

1 Peter is one of my three most favorite books in the Bible (the other two are Isaiah and Romans). I am elated that the elders of Providence chose 1 Peter to be the book of focus as we learn "How to Study the Bible" in the adult Sunday school class. One of the reasons why I love 1 Peter so much is because it provides such clear instruction regarding how Christians are to live for God in following the example of Jesus Christ. It is almost like a mini-instruction booklet within the larger instructional book that is the Bible. 1 Peter gives specific instructions regarding how anyone who claims to be a child of God should behave in all areas of their life; especially the areas that

people often overlook when it comes to displaying godliness. The Holy Spirit is to control our behavior by causing us to live according to God's Word (the Bible). We do not have any excuses not to allow the Spirit to be our guide as we study and, by God's grace, live according to His Word (the Bible). Peter takes examples from common, everyday areas of life and places those areas against God's holiness and God's desires for His children's behavior as representatives of Christ to the world and servants to God through Christ. I love the way Peter first spends a significant amount of time, especially in Chapter 1, describing who we are to God as believers in His Son, Jesus Christ, and then proceeds to spend the remainder of the book intertwining those facts of our salvation with our behavior in various life situations. Peter tells us exactly how God desires for us to behave in our everyday lives while reminding us that we are held accountable to the free gift of salvation that God so graciously has given us. If there were one set of verses that I could choose to embody the entire book of 1 Peter, it would be **1:14-16**. That is how God desires us to behave and live and hence, that is how we should live at all times - when we are alone, with other believers, or with the rest of the world - at all times; very convicting.

Whenever I begin to read 1 Peter, I am already forced to recognize and realize the facts of my salvation (exactly how God sees me through my faith in Christ) and how I am to behave according to those facts both in Chapter 1 and in the very

first part of Chapter 2. But next I receive even more direct conviction as a result of Peter then breaking down not only how my required holy living is to permeate every facet of my life, but also the reasons why it is to do so. Everything from how I live in front of the world, to how I submit to government, to my behavior at my job and my work ethic, to the proper submissive relationship between husband and wife (which I aspire to experience one day, considering I currently only have the *desire* to be married instead of the actual marriage J), to suffering, to serving others, to leadership, Peter seems to cover everything in writing the God-given instructions we are to follow in living our daily lives as Christians. And then ultimately, I can see that every single instruction Peter gives regarding our holy behavior is directly linked to reasons found in the life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. See **2:21-23**. No matter what we experience in life we must remember Who set the standard of living that we are to follow as perfectly as possible knowing that we will never achieve His perfection. Our Lord Jesus Christ set the standards of God that we are to follow as God's children (**4:11**). God's grace through Jesus Christ is both the ultimate reason why we are to follow the behavioral instructions listed in 1 Peter as well as the ultimate way in which we have the ability to actually follow them. The book of 1 Peter has been a direct source of encouragement and conviction to me through both the heavier and lighter times that I have experienced throughout my Christian life. It provides such

clarity to me in times of sadness or bewilderment by reminding me who I am and who I constantly should be aspiring and striving to become according to my salvation in Jesus Christ my Lord. And then it very practically tells me how to apply all of those wonderful truths to my everyday life. Thank God. I will continue to believe that by God's grace and through His Holy Spirit given to me through my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ I can live and behave according to the truth of **1 Peter 5:10-11**, "After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen." Praise the Lord.

*-D. Jean Buttrom*

Our prayer is that you will be introduced to new Providence activities through the e-newsletter. We welcome you to join us in celebrating Christ by being as involved as you can be.

May God bless you and your families,  
Pastors Greg, Ken, and Rick