

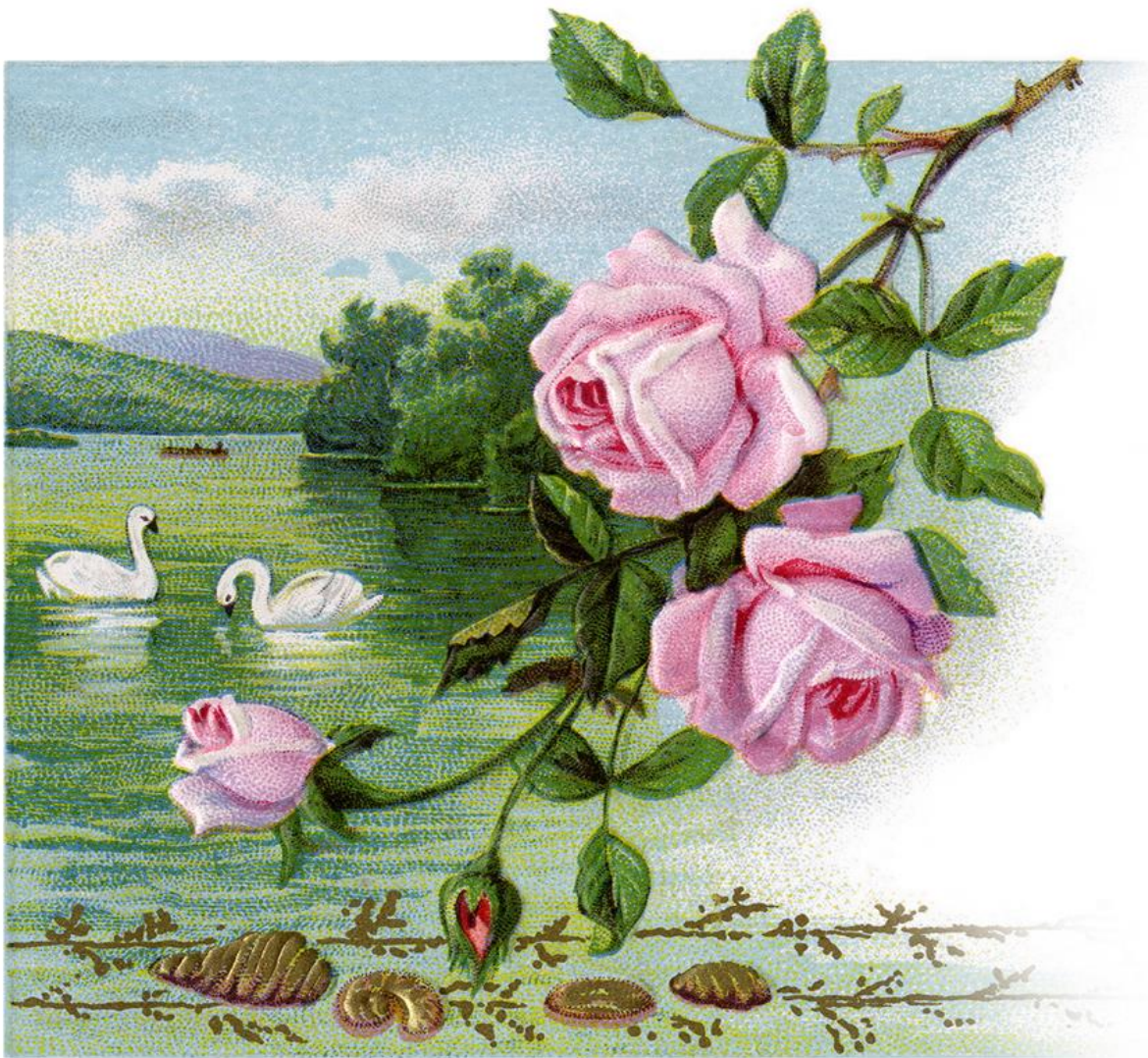
The Providence Proclaimer



Monthly Newsletter

Volume 24 Number 5

May 2014



Wishing you a Beautiful Mother's Day

From The Pastor's Heart

Thom S. Rainer is the CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. He was asked to consult with a church in 2003. The church had its peak attendance in 1975 of 750 members and was running around 85 in 2003. Most members of the church did not want Dr. Rainer's help. The church was not about to pay an outsider to come and tell them what was wrong. One member footed the whole bill for Dr. Rainer's help. Dr. Rainer worked with the church for three weeks and the problems were obvious and solutions were difficult. When asked how long the church may last, Dr. Rainer gave the bad news. "I believe the church will close its doors in five years." Dr. Rainer was wrong. In 2013 Dr. Rainer learned the church survived 10 years, closing its doors in 2013. Dr. Rainer then posted an article about the Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 11 things I learned. LifeWay has a new book, only 102 pages, that Dr. Rainer wrote titled *Autopsy of a Deceased Church – 12 ways to keep yours alive*. I hope you get a copy of this little book. Read it so we can continue the hard work of keeping a healthy church. Here are the 11 things Dr. Rainer learned.

1. The church refused to look like the community.
2. The church had no community-focused ministries.
3. Members became more focused on memorials.
4. The percentage of the budget for members' needs kept increasing.
5. There was no evangelistic emphasis.
6. The members had more and more arguments about what they wanted.
7. With few exceptions, pastoral tenure grew shorter and shorter.
8. The church rarely prayed together.
9. The church had no clarity as to why it existed.
10. The members idolized another era.
11. The facilities continued to deteriorate.

I believe God has a purpose for Providence Baptist Church. This month will you pray for your church leadership as they plan for the future? Encourage those around you. Thank those around you who are serving the Lord. Pick a friend to pray with and someone to visit, simply letting others know you care. As always, I look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

James 5:16
In Him,

W. Lee Cook

W. Lee Cook

MAY EVENTS

Thursday, May 1st – 12th Annual Caswell County **Prayer Breakfast** with speakers and special music, to be held at the Caswell County Civic Center from 7:30 – 9:30 am in observance of the National Day of Prayer.

Saturday, May 3rd – The **Women's Prayer Group** will meet from 7:30 – 9:00 am in the Women's II classroom. Chapters to be covered are 8) "Because He Is a Good God" and 23) "When I See Thing Going Wrong and I Feel Powerless" from *The Prayer That Changes Everything* by Stormie Omartian. See Jennifer Cook for more information.



Senior Adult Luncheon, Sunday, May 4th in the fellowship hall following the morning worship service for those aged 60 and older. Signup sheet in vestibule and on downstairs hallway table.

Wednesday, May 7th – Guest speaker, **Gary Brant** with the **American Red Cross** will be at our joint

WMU/Brotherhood meeting. There will be a covered dish dinner at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall followed by Gary's presentation at 7:00 pm.

Sunday, May 11th – Mother's Day



Monday, May 26th
Memorial Day Observance

Saturday, May 31st – The **Baptist Men** will be performing work for the Baptist Children's Home. Plans are to leave the church by 6:00 am and stop for breakfast along the way. See Sean Kearney for more details.

Mark Your Calendars.....

Mission Friends Summer Program.....be on the lookout for more information on this exciting program.



Vacation Bible School 2014 dates - June 23rd – 27th

6:30 – 8:40 pm

Trace it back to the facts! The evidence is clear. The proof is all right here! Discover, decide, and defend the truth about who Jesus really is with LifeWay's Agency D3.

Summer Missions Trips planned thru Beulah Baptist Association:

Mission Trip dates - Sat. June 28 - Fri. July 4

Group will be staying in Hazelton, Pennsylvania - working with a three-year old church plant, Freedom Community Church, in Leighton, Pennsylvania. Contact Pastor Cook if you would like more information regarding these trips.

Loving God ♥ Loving You

The **Loving God, Loving You Children's Summer Program** for outreach ministry to children ages 6 – 12 will be each Tuesday morning, beginning June 17th and continuing through August 12th from 10:00 til Noon. Lunch will be provided for the children and volunteers. Please see Edith Gentry for more information or if you are able to help on any Tuesday.

Thought: Silence is one of the hardest arguments to refute.

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

Proverbs 21: 23

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER – THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2014

“So that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” - Romans 15:6



**12 Annual Caswell County Prayer Breakfast 7:30-9:30am
Caswell County Civic Center**

A promotional graphic for 'Agency D3' VBS. On the left, a young boy in a dark suit and sunglasses points directly at the viewer. The background is a bright blue sky with clouds. The text 'LIFEWAY'S Agency D3 NEEDS YOU!' is prominently displayed in a stylized font. Below this, a black rounded rectangle contains the text 'VBS June 23rd – 27th' in white.

LIFEWAY'S
Agency D3
NEEDS YOU!

VBS June 23rd – 27th



Pick up a copy of either the *Mature Living* or *Homelife* magazine, located in the magazine rack on the lower level of the Educational Building.

