A message from our pastor...

What a year 2016 has been! The wind of change has been at times in our face and at our back. Major transitions have occurred this year in our staff. Brian was lead into a new chapter of life and we have brought on board Chris Hix and Christian Beamguard to assist in our Discipleship training. In order to provide more opportunities for Bible study and growth we amended our Sunday schedule - 8:30 for chapel, 10:00 for Class Studies, and 11:00 for Traditional Worship. Our Contemporary Worship Service of Meizon (Greek for Greater) began a new schedule on Sunday evening at 6:00. Shepherding Groups have been reactivated giving wonderful opportunities to fellowship with members in the neighborhood. Each Wednesday afternoon and evening offers a wide variety of programs for young and old, not to mention a great time of fellowship around the supper table. The wind of the Spirit has blown hard and we have sensed God’s gracious hand on us. We were protected through hurricane Matthew and the turbulence of great cultural change. Still Providence remains true to our core values –

- Christ-centered, Biblically faithful, and hopeful in all we do
  - Joyful, praiseful, and grateful in worship
  - Spirit-led, purposeful, and faithful in discipleship
  - Welcoming, nurturing, and respectful in fellowship
  - Generous, gracious and caring in service
- Prayerful, trusting and focused in leadership and decision-making

We endeavor to be a light for Jesus Christ amidst confusion within the PCUSA. Still we reach out to like-minded churches in our presbytery, hoping to create encouragement and nurture to others who wish to remain faithful to Biblical truth. It has been our foundation from the beginning and with our recent 30th church anniversary we realize how blessed we are.

As we look forward to 2017 we anticipate God’s miraculous work being done in and through us. We are “Riding a Crest.” Soon visions will be enabled to become a reality, as we band together to answer God’s call. We will find ourselves like the generation of Providence disciples before us, walking across our blessed property in dedication for future believers. It all is very exciting! Causing God Joy brings us joy too. Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you.

I am your brother…
In Christ,
John Wall
Caring Evangelism

Providence Strategic Plan, Goal # 1, is to increase member efforts to invite and lead people to believe in Jesus Christ, to follow his word, and to share his love with others.

1 Peter 3:15 says, “Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that you have ....” Many Christians would like to be able to talk confidently about their faith with others, but they can’t. They don’t know how. They think they have to be fully prepared to win any argument before they can talk about God’s Good News. The Caring Evangelism Course helps Christian people know how to speak about the good news of Christ’s love. It also shows people that there are many different ways to evangelize.

The Caring Evangelism Committee would like to extend an open invitation for everyone to get involved in this important ministry. We have trained approximately 40 caring evangelists over the past two years at Providence and we will be offering a new class in the fall of 2017. You may be asking yourself, what is caring evangelism and why should I get involved? The answer is, caring evangelism is a fresh, biblically-based approach to training church members to be more effective Christian witnesses. You will grow in your own faith and will learn how to tell others about God’s love in ways that are natural and comfortable for you. If you have questions or would like to get involved in this exciting ministry, please contact Jack Dempsey at 843-686-6270 or jkdempsey@hargray.com.

Communication

Chair: Rick Reichel
Committee: Joe Patton, Keith Walston, Tom Rausch, Adrian Klimetz, Rev. Chris Hix, Christian Beamguard

2016/2017 has been and will be a challenging year for Communications.

We have started a coordinated effort with an agency to improve communications with existing Members and to present a marketing plan to attract new Members.

We will be utilizing print material, digital targeting, TV broadcast, website and social media (Facebook).

Collateral material will be updated-i.e. copy, photography, etc.

Providence Today is being published on a bi-monthly basis. Email blasts will be utilized on an as needed basis.

Providence Presents will be marketed to a larger audience.

A Welcome Packet is being finalized along with updated fulfillment pieces.

If you have an interest to join the Communications Committee please contact Rick Reichel at rickreichel13@gmail.com.
Contemporary Worship

Providence's Contemporary Worship service was re-branded as Meizon in September of 2015. The core experience of worship in a contemporary style remains, but many of the moving pieces have shifted to allow a more unique worship experience. Meizon meets Sunday evenings at 6 pm. Dr. John Wall, Rev. Chris Hix, Christian Beamguard, and Rev. Kevin Bruchert rotate teaching responsibilities from week to week, bringing a variety of knowledge and perspective to the service. Leadership in music also rotates, that role has been filled by Kevin, Christian, and Jonathan King. They are supported by many great musicians. We appreciate your prayers and support as Meizon continues to grow.

Diaconate

Moderator: Kathy Carter
Secretary: Paige Sullivan
Pastor: Dr. John Wall

Deacons worked with ministries in three areas—Church Support, Congregational Support and Local Missions. Diaconate members and ministry responsibilities for 2016 are listed below.

- **Church Support**
  - Nancy Bossart (Kitchen)
  - Ruth Crankshaw (Office)
  - Sandy Haines (Property)
  - Sam Imler

- **Congregational Support**
  - Anne Bender (Visitation)
  - Kathy Carter (Shepherding Groups)
  - Paige Sullivan (Fellowship)

- **Local Mission Support**
  - Sangkyun Kim (Evangelism)
  - Gerry Pinkerton (Missions)
  - Cade Reddy (Missions)
Discipleship Ministry

Providence Strategic Goal # 6 is to Develop, Grow, Strengthen and creatively equip disciples.

Our adult programs are focusing on Experiencing God, learning about His Grand Plan and how to live a wise and Godly life through the Proverbs. The Adult discipleship groups have been living this out in their lives by going deeper into the word of God for direction and growth. Our Adult Sunday School ministry is focusing in on gathering people together-longtime members as well as newcomers- around the living word of God and trying to live together as a community together for his glory.

Our approach is 1. **Intentionality:** By sharing our faith people hear the gospel not only in our programming but individually as well.  2. **A Personal touch:** Welcoming newcomers with a sense of being personal, friendly and welcoming.  3. **Creativity:** Finding real needs and meeting them is the best way to share the Gospel.  4. **Passion:** Outreach and Evangelism are at the heart of our programs and we strive to have a passionate love of Jesus for the world and to reach out to our neighbors and friends with this message.

If you have the gift of teaching and feel called to facilitate a discipleship class, please contact Chris Hix at cphix@windstream.net or call the church office.

Membership

Chair: Melba Hildenbrandt

Members: Sara Beebe, Barbara Blankenship, Don Carlson, Jenny Meseke, Sue Mountan, Gerry Pinkerton, Gloria Scott and Fred Wynne.

Membership ministry strives to assure accurate membership rolls, to encourage people to join as full or affiliate members and to be active in Providence ministries. We reach out, through members of the congregation, to those in the community that seek to join the Body of Christ and serve our Lord, as a part of the Providence family.

2016 Accomplishments

- Received 14 new members and 1 affiliates
- Baptized 2 infants
- Lost 11 members due to death
- Transferred 10 members with their letter or by their request
Missions

2016 MISSIONS MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT

In response to God’s direction in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), Acts 1:8 and Matthew 25:40, Providence supported the following ministries with prayer, funding and/or personal involvement in 2016. Financial support for 2016 was $86,117.

Mission Team Members:
Lynn Clanton - Co-chair, Jan Crudden – Co-chair, Anne Montgomery – Co-chair
Ruth Germany, Sheryl Holdren, Wayne Oakes, Marney Sheldon, Gerry Pinkerton, Deacon

Regional Ministry:
Presbyterian Communities
Thornwell Home for Children, Clinton, SC.
CRU Military Ministry, Parris Island SC

Local – Community Needs:
Deep Well Project’s food collection, Thanksgiving Dinners & Christmas Toy Shop
Pregnancy Center & Clinic,
Adventures in Mission (AIM) summer residency
Stephen Ministry
Every Little Bit Ministry

Local – Children and Youth:
South Coastal Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)
Christian Heritage Breakfast, Week of Champions
Good News Club Afterschool program
Providence Early Learning Center (PELC)

Global Ministries

Pratt & Ashley Butler
Managua, Nicaragua with Young Life

Tom Braak
Faith in Action International, Haiti

Fred & Ruby Amoah-Darko
Ambassadors for Christ, Int’l, Ghana, Africa

Middle East Ministries
Mission India
The Ministry of Hope (MoH), Malawi, Africa
Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child (Worldwide)
Personnel

Chair: JoAnne Brandes
Members: Rich Prange, Ron Montgomery, Carol Wilson and Warren Norris

2016 Accomplishments:

- Completed a Re-draft of the Personnel Guide and presented to Session for approval
- Commenced employee file review and update
- Conducted a leadership training session for church leaders
- Developed resource templates, including offer letters, job descriptions, exit interview questions
- Reviewed 2016/2017 Plan, Goals and Participation
- Completed government required employee filings
- Advised leadership on best practices for handling employment matters

Providence Early Learning Center

The board and staff at Providence Early Learning Center have been hard at work this year. The center has gone far beyond the requirements for licensing and earned a B+ rating from the state. Level B+ programs have the highest scores on South Carolina’s ABC standards. There are only 167 programs in the state that have earned a B+. Our participation in the ABC program allows us to serve children whose families cannot afford quality care and children with special needs. We are expanding our reach beyond the center, and partnering with Low Country Therapy Center, Intensive Family Services, Deep Well, the Stork’s Nest and Family Promise to assure that every child receives the best opportunity for success in school and in life. God has brought us to this place and will continue to guide us as we represent the Church as resource for families.
P.U.P.S.
(Property Use & Program Support)

Property Use & Program Support has had a very busy year. 2016 brought some wonderful opportunities and new challenges to our ministry. Some of the highlights of 2016 include the following:

- Completion of the parking lease agreement with our neighbors at Marriot and the beginning of construction on the East Campus. Providence Church and Marriott Vacation Club entered into an agreement to lease to Marriott parking for up to seventy-five cars on a newly constructed parking area that Marriott would pay to build on the East Campus. This parking area would be the first phase of the East Campus redevelopment plan and its design and construction will confirm to the design created by Whitmer Jones for Providence Church in 2016. The cost of this construction is paid for by both lease and capitol payments from Marriott. At the time of this writing the lot is almost completely finished, with only lighting and landscaping to be installed.

- Tropical Weather Visits Providence Church Campus. PU&PS had its hands full with four tropical weather events that culminated with Hurricane Mathew helping to significantly reduce our tree canopy. Tropical storm Bonnie brought rain and a little wind to our area over Memorial Day weekend but other than flooding Christian Beamguard’s cabin, was really just a warm up for a busy tropical season. Hurricane Hermine which dissipated to a tropical storm when it impacted us the first week of September made a mess of our church campus with debris and limbs littering the campus. A work team was quickly assembled to assist Brian Burns in getting the campus cleaned up. But just as we got everything put back into proper condition Tropical Storm Julia, the first tropical storm to ever form over land visited our island in the middle of September bringing torrential rains and significant wind. Several specimen trees were uprooted in Hermine and the campus once again was covered in leaves, limbs, and debris. Once again many members quickly volunteered to help clean up and get the campus ready for Sunday worship. All of this though was just practice, for on October 8th Hurricane Mathew landed rolled up the beachfront of Hilton Head Island lashing the island with hundred mile per hour winds, a six foot storm surge and heavy rain. Once the storm had passed the destruction, from one end of the island to the other was revealed, the likes of which hadn’t been seen here in over a hundred years. It was truly shocking. The cleanup started immediately with crews from Celand Construction bringing in heavy equipment to make our campus accessible. Additional work from two different tree companies, MAJ construction, and teams of volunteers from the congregation worked for weeks to restore the church campus. To date our storm damage and cleanup costs have exceeded $38,000.00. However we are blessed that we had so little damage.

- A New Church Sexton. Following the resignation of long time Property Manager Brian Burns in October the Property Use & Program Support Ministry began to revision the maintenance and upkeep of the Providence Church Campus. What evolved from those conversations was a decision to eliminate the Property manager position and replace it with a more traditional Church Sexton. PU&PS advertised for the Sexton position in November and interviewed a number of candidates in December. Just prior to Christmas an offer was made and accepted by Mr. Michael Foy and he started serving as Sexton on January 9th. Mr. Foy is a long time resident of the island, he and his wife live in Hilton Head Plantation and just celebrated the birth of their second grandchild. We are excited to welcome Mike to the Providence Church family.

Property Use would like to thank all volunteers who helped to make our church campus a welcoming place for members and visitors.
Session

The Providence Session continued its efforts in 2016 to provide clear leadership at the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery as a voice for those that cannot, as a matter of conscience, support positions adopted by the General Assembly and now the Presbytery, that violate our core values. Following a decision relating to Biblical standards by the Presbytery in March that conflicted with the core values of Providence, the Session began to redirect those funds that would otherwise have gone for unrestricted support of the Presbytery, to be restricted for mission ministry support as directed by the Providence Missions Committee. This is similar to the longstanding position of Providence that prohibited direct support for the PCUSA. Said another way, Providence does not now provide direct financial support to either the PCUSA or the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery. The funds that would have otherwise gone to the Presbytery are being sent directly to mission ministries that we can jointly support. We are seeking to do God’s work, while not violating our stated values. These mission gifts are in addition to the regular mission projects that are a part of the Providence budget. The Providence Core Values are listed in Pastor Wall’s report. Additionally, the Session has been addressing the many deferred maintenance and ministry needs for our buildings and other historic property. A detailed plan that provides for these has been developed and will be presented to the congregation early in 2017. This initiative will allow us to build on the first 30 years at Providence and Ride the Crest into the future!

Shepherding Groups

Chair: Kathy Carter
Members: Don Carlson, Gloria Scott, Anne Bender

Shepherding Groups are one of the primary ways our Providence family cares for its members. Groups consist of members who live in the same geographical areas. The basic goals of our Shepherding Groups are:

- Provide an emergency network for members especially in times of sickness, death, celebrations or other special requests;
- Welcome and assimilate new church members; and
- Provide a context for members to fellowship with one another.

2016 Accomplishments

- Identified co-leaders for 13 geographic regions including Daufuskie Island and two in Bluffton.
- Assigned all members of the church to one of these Shepherding Groups.
- Provided co-leader training with an emphasis on best practices and how to use items in the tool kits.

Eight groups hosted get-together events and many groups provided meals and other services to their members.
Stewardship

Chairman: Robert Crudden
Members: Don Carlson; Anne Montgomery; Greg Viventi; Vic Samuelson; Larry Holdren; Carol Wilson.

2016 was a challenging year for Providence Church as we took on additional salary expenses in the areas of Christian Education and Youth; and in addition, increased our commitment to Missions on a local; national and international basis. These additional expenses along with our normal budget costs led to a large increase in Providence’s annual budget. During the year timing of certain expenses along with effective cost control allowed us to minimize the effect of the increase. Additionally, powered by the Holy Spirit significant contributions during the month of December brought our year in at a virtual breakeven level showing a minimal net deficit of less than $3,400.

Providence continues to operate with a faith based giving program whereby members are not asked to pledge, but to give in response to their faith and the acknowledgment that all things really belong to God.

LOOKING AHEAD: Our challenges will continue in 2017 as our budget will continue to support our efforts in Christian Ed.; youth; membership programs; and a continued increase in our Mission areas. Please continue to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as we follow this path.

ENDOWMENT FUND: During 2016 the Endowment Committee was fully reconstituted as efforts continue to expand this area of giving.

COUNTERS: Another facet of our Stewardship Ministry is the giving of time of a group of members who meet weekly to count, record and deposit contributions on a weekly basis. We thank them for their service.

PROVIDENCE ANNUAL REPORT 2016 ACTUAL 2017 BUDGET
Receipts $852,661 $884,000

Expenses
Personnel $536,917 $567,195
Missions 74,125 88,440
Worship & Music 17,668 22,800
Children & Youth 4,938 7,850

Communication 12,711 20,600
Discipleship, Membership & Fellowship 12,725 19,084
Building and Grounds 145,072 141,540
Stewardship 13,361 14,000
Office 38,535 38,500

Summary Balance Sheet December 2016
Cash and other assets $32,297
Restricted Funds 485,482
Fixed Assets 3,161,400
TOTAL ASSETS $3,679,180
Restricted Reserves $485,482
Accounts Payable 1,200
Capital Investment 3,216,097
Fund Principal Account -23,400
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE $3,679,180
Worship & Music

Members during the year included chair Nicky Wynne, Jo Prange, JooSoo Son, Gene Ann Ellison, Ruth Russell, Sue Mountan, Christian Beamguard, John Wall, Joe Patton, Sue Parsons, Susan Wilson and Jill Schrott.

Worship times are 8:30 in the Chapel, 11:00 Traditional and 6:00 Meizon (which means Greater). Meizon replaced the 9:00 contemporary service. Sunday School classes are at 10:00. Fifth Sunday combined services established so all members and visitors can get together. The service will be at 10:00.

Special music included Easter and Christmas cantatas by JooSoo Son and the chancel choir with added musicians. Providence Presents included the Korean Jubilee Choir Presbyterian Bell Choir, JooSoo’s organ recital, Elizabeth Tsai piano concert, Brian Luckett Classical guitar, Children of the World concert. We also hosted a fundraising concert for the Gullah Museum by Sanford Jones and other musicians. Cymbells were purchased. Chancel choir members sang every Sunday except a couple of Sundays, and there were average 20 numbers for Sunday worship. Handbell choir members regularly played at 11 am Sunday worship. Children’s choir met regularly on Wednesdays and sang at 11 am worship in special Sundays and on Christmas Eve.

Gerry Mills’ 30th Anniversary of his first sermon was in September and December 11th was our 30th Anniversary of the church. Founder of the church, Dr. Gerry Mills preached. Service of Comfort and Hope was led by the Stephen Ministers. Arranged greeters, angel desk, ushers, flowers, pew materials, communications and seasonal sanctuary decorations.

Youth & Children

Providence Strategic Goal # 6- Develop, Grow, Strengthen and Creatively Equip Disciples.

Children: The children on Sunday mornings this year have been studying the themes about how God loves their families, God’s amazing power and that Jesus is alive. The Sunday school teachers have been doing a wonderful job teaching and encouraging our kids who attend Sunday School during the morning time. We believe that our children need to understand, that as they believe and trust in God, they will be given a wonderful well-spring of strength and courage. We are teaching our kids to put their hope in a God who is with us and is in control of every situation. The Providence Children’s program is in full swing by offering consistent Biblically Based curriculum each week with Sunday School and Children’s worship as well as discipleship time at the Meizon evening service. We are looking forward to another successful Vacation Bible School this summer as well. Please continue to pray for these ministries as we build on the existing foundation that has been put in place here at Providence going into 2017. If you have any questions or feel called to help disciple our children or youth, please contact Chris Hix at cphix@windstream.net or call the church office.

Youth: 2016 was an exciting year for youth ministry at Providence. Christian Beamguard was hired as full-time youth director in April, and continued the work of building the program. We could see God's light in the mountaintop experience of FUGE camp, as well as in the weekly Bible study on Wednesday nights. 2017 will continue the exciting tradition of youth summer trips that are service-based and Biblically grounded. Your prayers and support are appreciated as we continue to run the race God has set for us.