

# THE VOICE

Providence United Methodist Church

*Loving God, Worshiping Boldly, Changing Lives*  
2810 Providence Road | Charlotte, NC 28211

## At A Glance

**Sat-Fri, March 2-8**

Puerto Rico Mission Trip

**Fri-Sun, March 8-10**

Confirmation Retreat

**Tuesday, March 12**

Love Feast in the Wolfe Annex at  
6:30 PM, Bring a Dish to Share

**Fri-Sat, March 15-16**

Troop 11 BBQ Sale

**Sunday, March 17**

United Methodist Women Sunday

**Fri-Sat, March 23-24**

Middle School Lock-In

**March 1-31**

Registration Open for Vacation  
Bible School

**March 1-31**

"The Sanctuary for Lent" Devotion  
Available for Pick-Up

**For details and more events, visit**  
[providenceumc.org](http://providenceumc.org)



*\*Name has been changed for privacy*

## *Arms Wide Open*

"This place. This building. These people. This is what God's love feels like," Angela\* shared with me as she wiped the tears gently streaming down her face. "I have gone almost 50 years being misunderstood by my family and friends, but I finally feel appreciated for who I am and welcomed to be myself."

Angela is one of many individuals who has been impacted by mental illness. She was connected to NAMI (National Association for Mental Illness) through her sister, and found her home in Providence Place. Providence Place is a partner ministry to NAMI that takes place in PUMC's Mission Center. The first Saturday of every month, Angela and others who have felt the weight that mental illness can bring gather together for a time of food, fellowship and encouragement.

Each month, the group participates in a new workshop that typically has an art or writing focus. Some activities are more collaborative in nature, others require self-reflection. All of this is done in a safe environment with trained volunteers who are available to provide support as needed.

Providence Place not only offers community to those who are personally impacted by mental illness, but also those who have family and

friends with mental illnesses. For Donald Tyson, it has been a place where he can come for support in walking through his son's diagnoses. "Everything NAMI does is particularly impactful. It positively influences marriages, workplaces, and entire families," said Donald. Donald has seen growth in his relationship with his son since attending the Providence Place programs.

As the Saturday proceeded with an art and poetry class, it became evident that what Angela and Donald said was true. People of all different ages and walks of life shared artwork or poetry in an authentic way, and instead of being ashamed, they were cheered on with love and acceptance by those around them. I witnessed hugs that were given freely and listening ears that were lent with no judgement. How could God's love not be present in such a safe place to be oneself?

It dawned on me in that moment: perhaps the radical Gospel love that Jesus calls us to sometimes looks like a wide-open hug or a judgement-free listening ear. When the body of Christ loves, champions and supports one another through thick and thin, we have pulled a bit of heaven to earth. Angela said it best; "You don't have to stay long to know that this is a place full of miracles." I couldn't agree more.

*Article by Anna Egglar*

## UMW Sunday & Celebration



March 17, 2019 will be a special celebration of United Methodist Women. UMW Sunday will include UMW members serving as ushers, greeters, and scripture readers. This celebration is in honor of the 150th year anniversary of United Methodist Women.

Women are more than welcomed to join UMW at any time. It is a community of faith, fellowship and service. The next meeting will take place on April 2 in the Chapel with a presentation entitled "A God-Sized Dreams for St. John's" by Pastor Randy Harry and Brian Mateer.

We hope you will join in celebrating UMW on March 17, and look out for other ways to get involved in their many ministry opportunities!

## The Beginning of Lent



March 6, 2019 marked the beginning of Lent. Three moving Ash Wednesday Services reminded us of our mortality and our hope in Christ our redeemer.

**As we enter this 40 day period of Lent, you are invited to join in reading a Lent Devotion entitled, "The Sanctuary for Lent". Pick a copy up any time during this month.**

## Staff Feature



*Carlos Canarte*

*Financial Associate*

Carlos Canarte's kind disposition, proficiency with numbers and ability to solve all "techy" problems are just a few reasons PUMC is grateful to have him as a staff member.

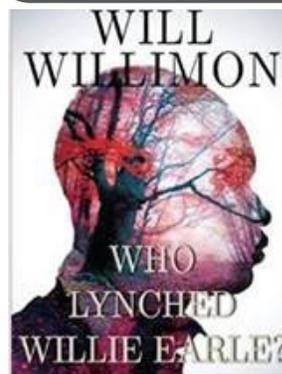
Carlos has served Providence United Methodist Church for over 13 years. He first began as an intern through Queens University of Charlotte. After he graduated with a business administration degree, he was offered the opportunity to continue working at PUMC. Today, he handles everything from financial statements, to reconciliation, to pledges and fund generation.

Prior to his time at Queens University, Carlos lived in Ecuador, where his family is from and still lives today. He began his college education there before transferring to Queens.

One thing that Carlos has been particularly impacted by during his time at Providence is the mission work he has witnessed. He especially has enjoyed seeing all that has gone in to the Haiti Mission. "It has been nice to see that we are really making a difference in the lives of people around the world. This church is really helping people, and that is a great thing."

When Carlos is not working, he enjoys staying active. He loves yoga and taking bikerides to local breweries. Next time you see Carlos, make sure to thank him for the blessing he has been to this community!

## Conference Event



The Metro District of the WNCC is sponsoring a morning with Bishop Will Willimon at **Harrison UMC on March 25, 2019 at 8:00 am – 10 am**. He will lead a discussion of his newest book Who Lynched Willie Earle? Preaching to Confront Racism.

## Special Feature | *Ushering God's Presence*

They are the smiling faces you see when you walk in to church. They are the warm greetings you receive on a Sunday. Nothing says, "Welcome to Providence United Methodist Church" like the loving presence of our ushers.

This month we celebrate Bill Coble who is a retired usher of 40 years at PUMC. Bill began his ministry as an usher when his boss, who was a Head Usher, got him involved. "When your boss asks you to do something, you can't really argue with it," said Bill.

Although this was an unlikely beginning, Bill quickly fell in love with the ministry and gave the next several years to Sunday morning ushering. His favorite part of being an usher was meeting all of the new people. He shared, "You always meet new people. Even after several years, there are new people who come to the church."

Bill claims that ushers experience God in all that they do. They have the opportunity to share God's love through every greeting, smile, and handshake.



Bill and his wife, Helen, still attend the church and participate in Sunday School regularly, as well as other church events.

When asked what prompted his retirement, he said, "I thought it was time to give some of the younger guys an opportunity."

Join us in praising God for Bill and the many other ushers who share God's presence in all that they do!

## The Mission of God | *Puerto Rico*

After the devastating Hurricane Maria that destroyed much of Puerto Rico's infrastructure, Providence United Methodist Church felt moved to help. In partnership with The Puerto Rican UMC, a mission team was developed to assist in repair projects for the many people who lost their homes.

There are an estimated 50,000 homes that are still in need of repair and the PUMC went with intentions to make a dent in that heart breaking number.



Jesus shared these words in the Gospel of John: "My command is this, Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John, 15:12-13)

Love doesn't ask if it will be comfortable or easy. Love is sacrificial and meets the needs of the broken hearted and distraught. Thank you Puerto Rican Mission Team for responding to this call of love.

## A Message From Bishop Leeland



**In a letter and video from Bishop Paul Leeland, he shared the following reflections on the General Conference 2019:**

- “1.) The discussions and decisions at General Conference were a reminder that we are a global church which brings both the blessing of diversity and the challenge of different contextual understanding of social issues.
- 2.) Many are being drawn into the intense emotions of this moment and forget that there is a process that our polity provides for checks and balances. The Judicial Council still needs to review and certify the validity of these decisions.
- 3.) I often remind the church “there is no change until there is a change” and the process allows plenty of space as change of any kind coming out of General Conference does not go into effect until January of the next year (January 1, 2020).
- 4.) I want to encourage our churches to let the process unfold.
- 5.) Finally I would encourage a moment of self awareness to determine where our own attitudes and thoughts reside. Do we have a spirit of kindness, compassion, and forgiveness for all?”

*Direct Quote from Page 2 of Bishop Leeland’s Letter*

**To read the entire letter and watch the video, please go to <https://wnccumc.org>**

**Copies of the letter will also be available at the Welcome Desk of the church.**



### **Provide Lunch for Providence Place**

Several lunch providers are needed for the coming months at Providence Place (mentioned on the first page). Lunches are on the first Saturday of every month at noon.

Contact Linda Phillips to sign-up:  
[linda.phillips4866@gmail.com](mailto:linda.phillips4866@gmail.com)



### **Mission Focus**

The Mission focus of February is the Charlotte Rescue Mission’s Dove’s Nest and Rebound. We are collecting Clorox Wipes, Individual Cereal Packs, Razors, Oatmeal, and Towels. Please contact Brian Mateer at [BMateer@providenceumc.org](mailto:BMateer@providenceumc.org) to get involved in missions.



### **Gathering with Bishop Leeland**

Bishop Leeland will gather with our districts for a time of worship and Holy Communion. The time and location below is for our Metro District. All are welcome to attend.

**March 10, 2:00 p.m. at Assurance UMC in Huntersville – Metro District**

## **Stay Connected**



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