



PROVIDENCE TIMES

Happenings on Harshaw

2252 Harshaw Road Murphy, NC

[Click to Visit us Online!](#)

Tuesday, June 2, 2026



It's That Time Again!

The 53rd General Assembly (GA) of the PCA will gather in Louisville, KY, later this month (22nd to 26th) under the banner, "The Welcome of God" (see Romans 15:7). I, Pastor David, plan to be in attendance and thought a brief preview might be helpful.

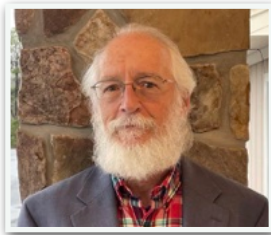
Over the past few years, each new GA has brought record attendance, and signs indicate the same for 2026. There are almost a hundred [overtures](#) (requests for action from presbyteries, sessions, and even individuals), a record for the PCA by a substantial margin. Perhaps this is a healthy sign of active and engaged elders and sessions; then again, maybe it means something else! Overtures that have succeeded since 2021 have taken the PCA in what I would consider to be a very positive direction. A helpful summary of this year's overtures is [available online](#).

Following some controversy surrounding our prior Stated Clerk, a new clerk, Fred Greco, will almost certainly be approved as the PCA's fifth stated clerk. TE Greco has a background in law, has pastored for many years in Katy, TX, and is widely known as a brilliant, quick-witted, faithful servant and possesses a tremendous gift for administrative acumen. I knew him from my year in the North TX Presbytery, and am looking forward to his filling this important role.

Two study committees were established last year, and both are scheduled to present their reports. The first, on the topic of "Christian Nationalism," has not yet made its report public. The other committee was to revise the PCA's "Directory for Worship" and to make it constitutionally binding in its entirety – more on this in a future newsletter! That report, requiring significant effort, has been completed and is [publicly available](#).

As usual, this year's GA will be live-streamed (for free...what's better than that?), and you can find the [schedule online](#).

Welcome New Member!



While not yet “official,” Bob Gritter, a very familiar face around Providence for years, has completed the Inquirer’s Class and is set to become a member of Providence Church.

Born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Bob attended Christian schools as well as reformed Christian churches. He was blessed to be admitted to Calvin College, where he majored in biology and chemistry, with a minor in psychology. During his time in college, he worked at the local hospital as a CRNA but was soon promoted to surgical tech for the new regional burn center, where he performed wound care, which he found to be very educational and great fun.

After college and of much surprise to Bob, he was admitted to the physician assistant program at Western Michigan University. After PA school, while still in the process of life planning and resume sending, God once again took over and changed Bob’s plans, handing him a career in Florida on a silver platter.

Bob reflects, “Despite all of my planning, the power of prayer allowed God to offer me better plans than what I could’ve come up with. I worked at St. Luke’s Surgical Center from 1980 til my retirement in 2022.”

Bob came up to WNC and purchased a house in Marble thinking it was very convenient; he could just go down to the church at the bottom of the hill. “But God...” The first time he went there was on Easter, and he was so disappointed that he traveled directly from the sunrise service to Providence, heard a fantastic sermon, and has been hooked ever since. And for that we are eternally grateful!

† New Sermon Series †



We began a new sermon series a couple of weeks ago in Matthew’s Gospel account. As you will know if you have been with us, we are focusing upon the final week of Jesus’ ministry – chapters 21-28. What a privilege ... and what a responsibility!

It should give us pause when we consider what this account covers. These words from J.C. Ryle’s commentary on Matthew help provide perspective: “Four distinct Gospels tell us the story of Christ’s doing and dying. Four times over we read the precious account of His works and words. How thankful we ought to be for this! To know Christ is life eternal. To believe in Christ is to have peace with God. To follow Christ is to be a true Christian. To be with Christ will be heaven itself. We can never hear too much about Jesus Christ.”

Family Worship



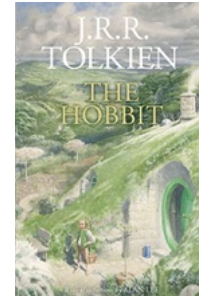
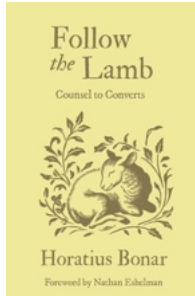
In Joshua 24:15, Joshua says, “But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua was the head of his family and was responsible to teach his family to worship God. Ideally, family worship is morning and evening, but some schedules make it impossible to do it more than once per day. I really enjoy family worship and wish that we could do it twice per day. We read the Bible, Daddy explains the passage and we discuss it, and we talk about what it means and how it applies to us. Then we pray and sing either the doxology or a psalm or hymn. I highly recommend Joel Beeke’s family worship booklet. It is very helpful.



What's New in the Library?!



Here are three new books for your viewing pleasure: Follow The Lamb by Horatius Bonar, The Humility Project For Men by Edward Welch and The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien.



Our feature book set this month is a new set by J.C.Ryle. There are some of you that really enjoy his work, so please come and check them out! He lived from 1816-1900. He was an English writer who was also an Anglican bishop and preacher in the evangelical and Calvinist traditions.

“Remember the Sabbath Day, to Keep It Holy.”

Exodus 20:8

Before Israel ever built houses, planted fields, or settled in the land, God taught them how to rest. They were a people who had come out of slavery. For generations, their worth had been measured by bricks, labor, output, and survival. In Egypt, they were not treated as sons and daughters. They were treated as workers. Their bodies were used. Their time was controlled. Their strength was demanded.

Then God rescued them. And at Sinai, one of the first rhythms He gave them was this, rest. That command must have sounded strange to former slaves. Rest was not laziness. Rest was freedom.

The Sabbath reminded Israel that they no longer belonged to Pharaoh. Their lives were no longer defined by endless labor. They belonged to the Lord, the God who created, rescued, provided, and sustained them.

“Remember the Sabbath day” was not just a command to stop working. It was a command to remember who holds the world when their hands are still. God Himself rested after creation, not because He was tired, but because His work was complete and good. So when Israel rested, they were learning to trust the God who works even when they pause. That is still deeply needed today.

Many of us live as though everything depends on us. We keep moving, producing, planning, answering, serving, and striving. Even when our bodies stop, our minds keep running. We fear that if we slow down, we will fall behind. We forget that our value is not measured by how much we accomplish. But Sabbath confronts that lie. Sabbath says, you are not God. You are not a machine. You are not loved because you are productive. You are sustained by grace. Jesus later gave this invitation, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

The deepest rest is not found merely in a quiet schedule. It is found in Christ. He gives rest to the anxious heart, the tired soul, the burdened servant, and the weary disciple who has forgotten that God is still faithful even when we stop striving.

Sabbath is not just a pause from work. It is a protest against slavery. It is worship. It is trust. It is a weekly reminder that God remains God even when we are still.

So today, do not only ask, “Am I busy?” Ask, “Do I trust God enough to rest?” — The Undaunted Disciple