



# The Messenger

August 4, 2022

2807 Lee Road 166, Opelika, Alabama Phone: (334) 745-4608 Email: pbc@providencealive.com

Visit Providence online: [www.providencealive.com](http://www.providencealive.com)

## STAFF

Dr. Rusty J. Sowell *Senior Pastor*  
 Dr. Thomas R. Smith *Music Minister*  
 Rev. Charles Adams *Assoc Pastor-Student/Media*  
 Mrs. Deana Stone, *Senior Adult Minister*  
 Mrs. Tammy Senn, *Children's Director*  
 Ms. Shannon Hughes, *College Director*  
 Mrs. Jennifer Hughes, *Church Secretary*  
 Mrs. Sarah Yeager, *Financial Secretary*  
 Ms. Mandy Steward, *CDC Director*  
 Miss Pam Morris, *Music Assistant*  
 Mrs. Suzanne Harris, *Pianist*  
 Mrs. Gayle Smith, *Organist*

## FACTS & FIGURES 7/24/22

Budget Giving.....	11,372.00
Designated Giving .....	1,175.00
Budget Needs Weekly.....	21,382.49
Budget Giving YTD .....	328,091.45
Building Debt .....	160.00
(Budget Year April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023)	
Sunday School.....	118
8:00 AM Worship.....	89
10:45 AM Worship.....	186



One of two preachers who will be involved in the Sunday night meeting of the Seeker Revival is Jerry Lynn Ray. Jerry is a native of Opelika and grew up in the Beaugard community. He attended Beulah, Beaugard, and Scott Preparatory schools, graduating from Scott in 1972. He subsequently earned degrees from Mobile College, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the University of Virginia. In September of 1969 Jerry became a Christian under the ministry of Robert Dismukes during Providence's annual fall revival, and not long afterward accepted the call of sharing God's Word. Early on he served as pastor of Hatchchubbee Baptist and Smiths Station Baptist churches in Alabama, Beaver Dam Baptist Church near Charlottesville, Virginia, and First Baptist Church of Shellman, Georgia. Since 1993 he has taught at Georgia Baptists' Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, where he currently serves as Professor of New Testament. Among his publications are *Narrative Irony in Luke-Acts: The Paradoxical Interaction of Prophetic Fulfillment and Jewish Rejection*, Mellen Biblical Press, 1996; and *Our Messianic Age: The Story of a Spiritual Legacy*, Lighthouse Christian Publishing, 2012. Jerry resides in Dublin, GA with three of his four children. Jerry's mom, Shirley Myrick, is still a part of the Providence family.

SEPTEMBER 11-14 | 6:30 pm | EAST CAMPUS



## Pastor's Thoughts Dr. Rusty J. Sowell

By the time you receive this letter, one main event, Choir Tour, will be complete. I'm so thankful this annual event is back on track. I so appreciate our Music Ministry and for sure, our Music Team, under the direction of Dr. Tom Smith. What a joy and blessing it has been to serve with Dr. Tom.

The second event will be well under way, the IRT Health Fair. This is a wonderful opportunity for our Community and Community of Faith. While it will change our schedule somewhat, the witness and difference in the life of our community will be a positive moment for years to come.

Pray for our choir as they continue to make a difference here, and pray for the remainder of the health fair that a positive contribution will be made for the health and welfare of our community.

I trust to see you in church this Sunday, East Campus.

Pray for our students, faculty and staff as they return to school this week.



## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE August 7-13, 2022

SUNDAY 7	MONDAY 8	TUESDAY 9	WEDNESDAY 10	THURSDAY 11	FRIDAY 12	SATURDAY 13
Worship (EC) 8:00		Joy SS Class 10:00	Youth Kinect (EC) 6:00 Prayer Meet (EC) 6:00			
Sunday School (EC) 9:30	 <p align="center"><b>IRT HEALTH FAIR WITH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND VALLEY HEALTHCARE</b>            Medical, Vision, Dental and Veterinary Care at No Cost            Aug 3-12   8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p>					
Worship (EC) 10:45						
Children's Church (EC)						
Ladies Bible Study <i>Lies Women Believe</i> (FSH) 5:00						

DEACONS ON CALL  
Brad Ennis & Jay Hovey

LIVESTREAM on Facebook *Providence Baptist*  
Website @ [providencealive.com](http://providencealive.com)

## August Scripture

I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you." Isaiah 44:22 NKJV

## College & Career Ms. Shannon Hughes [pbccollegeministrygo@gmail.com](mailto:pbccollegeministrygo@gmail.com)

I recently facilitated a Sunday school lesson from 1 Samuel 17, the story of David and Goliath. As we talked about the story, I asked the class to tell me the giants they face today. It reminded me that as a new class of students make their way to campuses this August they will face giants that will be new and intimidating. Some that are unique to this generation of students and then some that are part of adulthood. What are some of these challenges the class of 2022 will face as they arrive on campus?

1. Exposure to differing world views- In our technology age young adults have been exposed to different ideas and world views from the palm of their hand. What makes this environment different? There is a strong desire to belong among college students and the influencers in their circles are embracing and normalizing world views contrary to what they've learned in church. The challenge facing a new student is continuing to grow in the truth of the Word and remaining in a community of faith that will support them as they

live out the gospel among contrary ideas.

2. Making their faith their own- Along with new influences, college brings a freedom and autonomy in making decisions. As high school students they had some say in how they spent time with but overall the family influence remained primary. In college, young adults are suddenly free to decide for themselves how they will spend their time and define their own priorities. The challenge facing a new student is will church and the pursuit of spiritual growth be an important part of my life and will I carve out time in my life (from studies, part time jobs, social lives) to prioritize it.

3. Adjusting to the demands of college life- Becoming the little fish in a big pond is jarring especially for students not emotionally or mentally prepared for the pressures and demands of college. Failure, disappointment, rejection, relationship difficulties, and stress are a normal part of life but I'm seeing a generation of students ill prepared to deal with the ups and downs

of life. They often isolate themselves or seek out external influences to cope. The challenge facing a new student is seeing their identity as secure in Christ and not defined by how they perform or who they are within their social circle. A young adult who knows who they are in Christ sees the challenges of life as part of their journey and seek out help when they need it.

The Goliaths facing our students are real and challenging but our Lord still slays giants. Just like in the story God used the encounter with Goliath to remind David who He was and when David placed his faith in Him there wasn't anything He could not do through him. Pray for our Providence students as they start or return to our local colleges this August. Pray that they will boldly proclaim the gospel and with their lives be a witness to the Lord especially on a college campus completely opposed to their values.