

PROVIDENCE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH · EST. 1767

PRESS RELEASE

Friday, April 30, 2021

For immediate release

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Historic Providence Presbyterian Church (1767)

Acknowledges & Remembers

African-American Enslaved Members

Buried in Church's Historic Cemetery

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Sunday May 2, 2021

11:15 AM

Inside the Christian Life Center

10140 Providence Church Lane

Charlotte, NC 28277

Homecoming Sunday at historic Providence Presbyterian Church offers a time for reflection and recollection of the more than 254 years of history on Providence Road.

- We will remember founding fathers and strong-willed mothers who traveled down the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road and settled here.
- We will remember Alexander Craighhead preaching on the rock to these early settlers and William Richardson who was the first installed pastor of Providence.
- We will remember with pride that three of Providence's members were signers of the Mecklenburg *Declaration of Independence*.
- We will remember the stories of Providence such as the woman at the old "Billy Rea Place" who upon being told to bring water from the well for British Colonel Tarleton drew the water, walked over and instead of giving it to him to drink, threw in his face.

- We will remember that Providence Presbyterian Church almost baptized a United States President - James K. Polk, whose father though would not confess the faith and so Reverend Wallis would not proceed with the baptism ceremony.
- We remember the oldest grave on the big rock side of the rock wall is dated 1764.

ACKNOWLEDGING & REMEMBERING OUR PAST

- **We will remember the enslaved African-American members and participants who worshiped and served at historic Providence Presbyterian Church.**
- **We will read their names as their presence and contributions to this church (and to subsequent churches which they founded such as the *Jonesville AME Zion* and *Matthews Murkland Presbyterian* churches) will never be forgotten.**

Our public worship service is offered toward the cause of Jesus Christ and his kingdom.

QUOTE:

*To remember is the first step.
To acknowledge the work, effort, and presence of all God's children, as many as we can, by name, is also in order. It is our hope that this ritual of acknowledgement and gratitude be a beginning of our deep appreciation for one another, our genuine love for brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers, for we are all one in Christ Jesus to the glory of God.*

Providence Presbyterian Church 10140 Providence Church Lane Charlotte, NC 28277

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