***The Lord has done great things for us;***

***We are glad.***

 Psalm 126:3

**Providence Bible Church**

*Celebrating …*

twenty-**five\*** years of God's *Providence!*

\* Updated from our 20th Anniversary Celebration,

with the updates in **bold**.

 Sunday, September 13, 1998

 to

 Sunday, September **17, 2023**

Twenty-**five** years of God's *Providence!*

1. Providential availability – I was serving in a very troubled church in an what we called an "extended candidation" / Interim Pastor. It had become very clear that it was not a long-term ‘fit’.
2. Providential preparation – Frustrated after pastoring *two* 150-year-old churches, laden with traditions, a fellow pastor challenged me, *'Sometimes it's easier to give birth than it is to resurrect the dead.'* This was the encouragement I needed to consider church-planting!
3. Providential mail – In the fall of 1997, walking home from our *very-*local post-office, I opened the TMS placement list. One posting caught my eye – 'Three families in Fort Collins looking to plant a Christ-centered church' (*Expository Preaching, Elder led, Solas of the Reformation*).
4. Providential employment – In 1996, as we were between churches, I worked at a local Home Depot. As we began to consider the Fort Collins opportunity – and the need for additional employment, I remembered that Home Depot had plans to open a store in Fort Collins. I reached out, interviewed, and was hired.
5. Providential accommodations – We (the Frascos) purchased our first-*ever* home. As a Church, we began meeting in people’s living rooms. After a few months, we relocated to the Webber Junior High lunchroom.
6. Providential timing – I worked – bi-vocationally – at Home Depot for the first three years of the Church. Near the end of those three years, the Church decided that it was time for me to go full-time in ministry, to "sink or swim." I put in my notice, but little did I know the significance of my last day at Home Depot … 9/11/2001 (yes, *that* 9/11).
7. Providential changes – In 2003, Cornerstone Presbyterian Church offered to share their building with us. We jumped at the opportunity and enjoyed this arrangement for the next 13 years! We also officially changed our name from 'Community Bible Church' to *Providence Bible Church*.
8. Providential relocation – I had breakfast with my friend John Magnuson at the 2004 Shepherds' Conference. I asked him to consider moving to Fort Collins to help us establish this Church. He came and served as our Worship Leader for 18 years!
9. Providential necessity – By 2005, because of the economy and our finances, it became clear that I would have to go back to bi-vocational work (this time with Bosch Tools). The "sink or swim" mindset had given way to the conviction that there *was* a place in Fort Collins for PBC. But I appealed to the saints that, if we were going to survive, everyone would have to step up and exercise their own God-given gifts. And they did!
10. Providential crossings – Saints we love and miss:

*Christens, Greenidges, Gathanys, Halls, Klenks, Marks, Cowlings, Kruegers, Kleintops, Hargroves, Lams, Ulams, Neumayers, Vargas, Lauries,* ***Greenacres, Hupps, Kerrs, VanderDussens, Fines, Oakleys, Bests, Joys, Shepards, Ramseys, Magnusons, and Boulters****,* (and many others!)

1. Providential guests – In our **25** years, we have been privileged to host and enjoy nearly 30! PKs (pastor's children), MKs (Missionaries’ children), and EKs (Elders’ children). They have always been such a blessing!
2. Providential farewells – We have seen saints off to glory:

*Shizuko Held* (2001) … *Mike Hanschen* (2013) …

*Dave Hungerford* (2013) … *Linda Lacey* (2014) …

 *Dorothy Zielinski* (2016) *… Janice Eads* (2016) …

***John Davies* (2023)**

1. Providential *in*-reach – In 2004, several families from *Providence* and other area Churches, started a homeschool enhancement program with a Christian worldview. Since then, now **20-years ago**, OliveTree has served more than **600** families, and well over **6500 students**.
2. Providential encouragement – We have had a tremendous amount of help establishing this church: *Littleton Bible Church*, *FIRE* ('02), *Shepherds' Conferences* (ten times!). The greatest help has come from our *Elders*: John Magnuson (’09), Frank Geter (’11), **Danny VanderDussen (’19)**.
3. Providential events – We had the privilege to host *The Master's Chorale* … twice! Our first opportunity was in2010, when we only had one day's notice before their arrival. In less than 24 hours, we had to find a venue and room & board for 65 people. And the Lord provided! Then again in 2016, we had a second opportunity, with plenty of time to prepare. This time we hosted them for two nights at the YMCA of the Rockies!
4. Providential servants – As a Church, we are blessed with faithful Deacons: Cliff Abeyta, Isaac Howe, Mike Irish, Barry Johnson, and Alan Stockdale **(waiting on the Lord for additional deacons)**. We also have many others who serve *without* titles.
5. Providential building opportunity – In 2015, our host church, Cornerstone Presbyterian, folded. Through an amazing series of events, they ultimately offered us the facility for – basically – *what was in our pockets*!
6. Providential 'helper' – **In the long history of our Church, we have never had a Church Secretary, a Women’s Ministry Coordinator, a Wedding Coordinator, a Church Administrator, a Music Secretary, a Facilities Manager, a Webmaster, etc. Barbara has been all of those and so much more!**
7. Providential development – My favorite "church" – this one!
* ‘98-‘00 'The *Founding* Church'
* ‘01-‘04 'The *Sampling* Church'
* ‘05-‘11 'The *Flourishing* Church'
* ‘12-‘14 'The *Winnowed* Church'
* ‘15-‘18 'The *Seasoned* Church'
* **‘19-date 'The *Enduring* Church'**

**I chose the title ‘The *Enduring* Church’ because, given the battle with Covid (we conducted worship nine different ways in six months!), the Social / Political upheaval, and now rampant sexual perversion, we are living proof of Christ’s promise, “I will build My Church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” Still our Church prevails!**

1. Providential instruction – The core of our ministry has always been Expository Preaching. In our 25-years, I have had the privilege of preaching 943 **1172** sermons, including: 1st Peter, Titus, Philippians, Ephesians, 1st Timothy, The Gospel of Luke, Romans, The Gospel of John, James, **Hebrews,** and **1st Corinthians**.
2. **Providential *ministry* milestone – On December 29th, 2019, I preached my 1000th sermon.**
3. **Providential relief – If someone had told me five years ago that we would soon lose – the Hupps, Kerrs, VanderDussens, Fines, Oakleys, Shepards, Ramseys, Magnusons, and the Boulters, I might have wondered whether we would even survive as a Church. But, in that same five-year period, the Lord has brought in twenty-three new individuals, couples, or families. In addition, the Lord has provided for some sweet reunions as well – the Crauns, the Stephens, and the Shepards.**
4. **Providential influx – Since 2019, we have enjoyed a thrilling *youth movement* – Helmuth, Rueys, Stockdales, Howes, Carr, Schneiders, Showalters, Durham, Wright, Pritchards, Boulters, Haralambupolous (Stas), Phillips, Sniders, Ballards, Perrys, Van Marens, and Lopez’. These believers, in large measure, are already impacting every area of our fellowship. But they are also the future of the Church!**
5. **Providential determination – During this five-year window (’18-’23), we studied *Shepherdology* three times in pursuit of Elders, and in April of 2021, we presented Larry as a candidate.**
6. **Providential *family* milestones – Emily and Zeke got married on January 1st, 2021. My mom died six months later (6-20-21). In the Fall of ’21 (thru May of ’22) our little friend Emma stayed with us, bringing us much joy. And our first grand-child, Ella Joy Perry, was born on April 25th!**