

Providence United Methodist Church

Belong. Be transformed. Make a difference.

May 2013

The Sweet Potato Festival is coming May 11.

Help bag 40,000 lbs. of sweet potatoes for area food banks beginning at 7 a.m.! Celebrate our community festival 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. There will be moon bounces, petting zoo, games, cake walk, face painting, dog training demonstration, and free food! And more potato bagging! Spread the word!



You can help with the Sweet Potato Festival in several ways. Please sign-up on the sheets near the water fountain in the hallway to assist by donating a cake, or by assisting with traffic control, face painting, and the Moon Bounce, or by giving out bracelets, working in the games or cake walk areas.

PUMC Focus

Our focus for 2013 and 2014 will be on reaching out to families of all ages to connect them to Christ. We will build on our strengths in youth ministry, music ministry, welcoming outreach, and our 18.1 acres of property. Some strategies we hope to use in the next 12-24 months are: *The Alpha Course* (a practical introduction to the Christian faith over 10 weeks starting in January); Creative Arts Ministries for Children; and a weight loss and/or exercise program. If you have ideas that relate to our focus or these strategies, contact Pastor Mary Beth or Laura Griggs.



Westview on the James Mission for All Ages

Help repair and beautify Camp Westview on the James in Goochland, Virginia. Cabin camping with air conditioning and full kitchen.



Friday night cookout and campfire. Saturday morning devotion, mission work, lunch and end with swimming in the lake or hanging out on

the beach. Cost is \$16 plus \$15 to swim. Sign up sheet for food supplies coming soon. RSVP to Mary Elliott at peapot@cavtell.net

Worship in May

9:00 a.m. Connections Worship (come as you are)
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Contemporary Worship "Connections" at 9 am is informal and led by Ministry in Motion praise team. Traditional Worship is at 11 am, includes a variety of music, and is led by the Chancel Choir and other musical groups. Our pastor, The Rev. Mary Beth Blinn, brings the message at both services.

May 5	The Way of Salvation #2— "The Door"	Ephesians 2:1-10 Romans 5:1-10	Holy Communion
May 12	The Way of Salvation #3— "The House"	Ephesians 5:16-26 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24	Mother's Day
May 19	Pentecost "People Power"	Romans 8:14-17 Acts 2:1-21	Confirmation Sunday
May 26	Trinity Sunday "Getting Along: Father, Son and Holy Spirit"	Proverbs 8:22-31 John 16:12-15	Peace with Justice Sunday

Church Family News and Notes

Our prayers of sympathy are offered to Dave Robinson and his family following the death of Mary Lou Robinson on April 4, 2013. better now. Hope to be back in church soon. Frances and Lewis Miller



Blessings on Tru Wynn Holland, son of Noel and Dano Holland, who was born on April 1, 2013.



We wish to thank our church family and friends for the cards, phone calls, visits, and prayers while we were in the hospital. We are doing lots



My family and I thank all the Providence UMC family for all the prayers, visits, cards, phone calls, food delivered to our home, and many other expressions of love and concern for our family during Mary Lou's illness. Thank you for coming to Mary Lou's "Celebration of Life." It meant so much to all of our family to have you there, and thanks again for the wonderful meal that was provided. You are truly loved.

Dave Robinson and Family

A Letter to the People of Providence

On a recent Sunday, our church focused on outreach evangelism. We discussed how the word “evangelism” has gotten a bad rap because of pushy techniques and high-profile televangelists who fell hard. But we’d like to reclaim the word, because it means “to share the good news.” We believe that there is a short supply of “good news” in our world and it is up to all of us to share what we know.

Our good news centers on Jesus. There are three questions that you can answer for yourself that will help you be more confident in sharing and inviting others. **Why do people need Jesus?** My answer is: Jesus offers us the way of salvation, forgiveness of our sins through God's love, and wholeness of body, mind and spirit. Because of Jesus we can have abundant and eternal life. There is nothing quite like it. How would you put it into words from your own experience?

The second question: **Why do people need the church?** At our workshop, people talked about the comfort of not being alone in difficult

times, the joy of worship with others, learning from each other in study groups, and working together to make a difference. Can you imagine bagging 40,000 pounds of sweet potatoes to help alleviate hunger all by yourself?

The third question: **Why do people need Providence United Methodist Church?** The truth is that our church will not be the church for everyone. But we offer excellent ministry opportunities that you can tell someone else about, and it may be just what they are looking for. What are the things about Providence that get you excited? What are the things that we do well, that have brought you closer to God or changed your life?

If you have an answer to these three questions, then you have some good news to share. Now . . . who, in particular, needs to hear it? Who will you invite?

Peace,
Mary Beth



Do you have a graduate in your family?

We are looking for PUMC youth, young adults, or adults who have graduated from high school, college, or university this year. Please forward their names and the school/degree to the church office at:

providenceumc@providenceumc.net

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thanks to all of you for your generous giving during the first quarter of 2013; because of that, our year-to-date giving total is running about 20% ahead of last year's total. Remember, however, that reflected in that increase is a portion of the large gift received at the end of 2012, a significant gift received in 2013 and a fifth Sunday in April, which always adds a few additional funds to the coffers. Even so, the news is positive and we remain optimistic.

Expenses for 2013 can be described as normal,

but we remain cautious and believe that the remaining three quarters of the year will present challenges, some expected and some unexpected (kudos to our Trustees who took care of the parking lot water line repair).

All of the things that we want to accomplish through our work at Providence United Methodist Church will be possible because of your financial gifts coupled with your selfless service. Thank you for all that you do in the service of our Lord.

Rick Jeffrey
Chairperson

2011 Directory Updates

CHANGE

AGEE, Evelyn, Manor Care, Room 139, 1719 Bellevue Ave., Richmond, VA 23227. Note: She is unable to read mail but can have visitors

HARRIS, Sharon, Hopewell Health Care Center, 905 Cousins Ave., Room 225-B, Hopewell, VA 23860

HOLLAND, Dano Noelle - add Tru

RUST, Brian & Colleen, 13512 Castleway Rd., Midlothian, VA 23114



United Methodist Women

The **Newton** Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 7 at 7:00 pm at Lisa Fleenor's home.

The **Laughon** Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 10:30 am at the church.

The **Gregory** Circle will meet on Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 pm at a member's home.

The **Whitt** Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 21 at 10:30 am at the church.

Unit UMW News:

Membership Tea, Sunday, May 5 at 12:15 pm at church.

Executive Board Meeting, Thursday, May 23

at 7 pm at church.

UMW Family Picnic, Thursday, June 9 at church picnic shelter.

District & Conference UMW News:

Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat at Blackstone, May 3-5 at Blackstone.



Upcoming Dates:

District Mission Trip to Ferrum College, June 7-8

District UMW Day at Ferrum College, June 8

YOUTH C.R.E.W. NEWS

Christians Reaching Everyone Worldwide Sundays, 5:30-7:30 At the Youth House

Support Our Branches Mission Trip

This summer, fifteen members from our church are spending a week at Branches, an organization in that helps children and their families with educational support and life skills. To help raise money, we are asking you to:

Take Stock in Youth.

By purchasing stock, you are investing in the spiritual growth of our youth and those we will serve at Branches with the materials we bring. The youth in turn will serve you, the investor, with a "stockholders dinner" on July 21st as they share pictures and stories from their trip.

The cost of each stock is \$25 and can be purchased from Susan Clark.

Checks should be made out to Providence Church



Join us on the front lawn for muffins and juice as we celebrate all the moms in our life! We will gather after the 9:00 and 11:00 services.

2013 Confirmation Class



Blessings on:

Tristen Kellam
Laura King
Emily Kyser
Emma McConnell
Ethan Palmer
Gabrielle Sullivan

Going through 18 weeks of study, these six students will have the opportunity to answer God's call to become followers of Jesus on May 15, Pentecost Sunday, at the 11:00 service.

Extreme VBS 2013

August 5-9, Grades 5-8

Get the answers you need

Invite your friends

Free event



Help Us Report Our Mission Work

If your class or group has a mission project, let us know! On our church website, go to “forms” and indicate what the project was and how many people participated. We would also like to know if your groups gave money to a particular mission project. In July we will report on how we are doing to reach our goal of 200 people engaged in mission in 2013.

You're Invited to join the Providence Retired Club!



The Providence Retired Club's regular meetings will include the following entertainment:

- May 13—Gene Wade, plays guitar and tells a story in song
- June 10—Picnic at Shoney's (Rt. 360 & Courthouse Road)
- July 8—Charlie Wills, “The Virginian”
- August 12—Paul Lee, musical entertainment
- September 9—10:00 a.m., Bon Air UMC (we will be traveling)
- October 14—Frances Richardson, slides and history of old Bon Air
- November 11—Margaret Taylor and some of her students will do a musical program for Thanksgiving
- December 9—11:15 a.m., catered luncheon, staff invited. No entertainment, just enjoy being together.

The Bishop's Convocation on Prayer

Our new leader, Bishop Young Jin Cho, is calling us all to a Convocation on Prayer on Saturday, May 18, 9-2:30. It will be held at Bon Air UMC, 1645 Buford Road. The keynote address will be by Dr. Dwight Judy on “A Quiet Pentecost: Inviting the Spirit into Congregational Life.”

The following workshops will be offered:

- Prayer Discernment in Making Congregational Decisions
- Prayer 101
- Spiritual Disciplines
- Contemplative Prayer
- Congregational Prayer

If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office by May 6. The cost is \$10 and includes lunch.

2014 Holy Land Trip

Members of the Growing Christians class are planning a trip to the **Holy Land** in 2014 and have space for additional travelers.

Are you interested in joining them on this spiritual journey or do you know of anyone who would



like to join? The trip is April 7-16, 2014 and the [\$2898] all inclusive cost covers airfare, first class accommodations, breakfast and dinner daily, ground transportation, tours with guided sightseeing, admission fees, etc. For details contact Dave Long at dave.long@earthlink.net

Wednesday Night Speakers

Valarie Reese has worked very hard to secure speakers for our **After Dinner Series**. Please try to join us for dinner and stay afterwards for some informative speakers.

- May 1: Jennifer Hawthorne from the **Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities**. The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success through inclusion by addressing prejudices in all forms in order to improve academic achievement, increase workplace productiv-
- ity, and enhance local trust.
- May 8: **YWAM** (Youth With A Mission). An international volunteer movement of Christians from many backgrounds, cultures and Christian traditions, dedicated to serve Jesus throughout the world. Our purpose is to know God and to make him known.
- May 15: **Pathways—Youth Civic Engagement**. The speaker will tell us about Youth Build, a uniquely comprehensive, fulltime, non-residential, community-based program that offers at-risk youth an immediately productive role in rebuilding their communities.

VBS Scheduled



Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for August 5-9. The theme is: **Everywhere Fun Fair: Where**

God's World Comes Together, is for children ages 5-grade 5. See page 5 for information about Extreme VBS.

Coming in June

On Sunday, June 9, all our music groups will combine at 11:00 a.m. for **Music Sunday**. The Connections service will also focus on music as a gift from God. Thanks to all our musicians and their leaders who will participate.

**Chesterfield Triad's
14th Annual Senior Day**
"Let the Good Times Roll"
Wednesday, May 1
7:30 a.m.—12:45 p.m.

Victory Tabernacle Church
11700 Genito Road, Midlothian

Light Breakfast, Entertainment, Door Prizes
Dispose of Medications Properly

Learn about services offer by local businesses
and non-profit organizations to make life more
enjoyable and safe!

A Night to Remember

Plans are being made for the **North Carolina Boys Choir** will give a concert at our church in June. Complete details will be available soon. If you are interested in hosting one or more of these singers, contact Margaret Taylor at (717) 419-4309.

Missions Minutes

WOW what a wonderful week we had with our CARITAS families. I would like to give a BIG thank you to everyone who helped make this a huge success. There were tears and hugs and comments of how this was the best week they had ever had and they all wanted to stay. It's very hard to keep a stiff upper lip when a grown man is crying. You know you have done God's work and have made the life of others a little better. During their visit we did have two families that secured housing. YEAH!! That is what it is all about.

Thank you Brenda for coming every night and being a presence with our families. I know the little ones enjoyed you. Thanks to the numerous people who washed clothes and prepared food. This church was amazing. The youth stepped up and came and played games and Laura King even rose early to come and help me prepare breakfast for everyone. So again THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart.

I also want to thank **Panera** for all the good breads and pastries that were provided. What a blessing. We not only had enough for our families for the week we were also able to take bread to Meals on Wheels. (Thank you Val for getting up early to get the bread.) Thank you Brenda for taking bread to Hillside Court. They were going to pass it out among the community so everyone would receive some goodies. We even had enough left over for our Church family to get some. So it was a win-win for everyone!

Potato Drop

Our Potato Drop is fast approaching. May 11 will be here before you know it. Joe Gillette is heading up the Potato Drop. So, if you know of a church that would be interested in helping or if you know of an organization that could benefit from receiving pota-

toes, let Joe know.

Our Lenten offering was over \$500 and will go toward the cost of the sweet potato delivery.

Valerie Reese is heading up our **Potato Festival**. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board as you come in the front door by the library. We really need cakes for the cake walk. There are all kinds of ways to get involved and we hope you will consider helping. The day of the drop (May 11) we will begin at 7:00 AM. So don your gardening shoes and work gloves and come on out and help bag some of these wonderful potatoes. Then hang around for the Festival. There will be a Bouncy House for the little ones, a cake walk, face painting, food and fun. This is a community event so please tell all your friends. Flyers are available on the table outside the office if you would like to take some to work or know of a place to display one.

Our Easter offering enabled us to give \$520 each to the following missions: Ghana Water Project, Sierra Leon Child Rescue Center, and Branches.

Please remember to complete the Mission Report on the website. This gives us a view of what is being done at Providence and how many are involved. It is super easy and short.

WND

We hope everyone enjoyed the Taco Salad night and will come back and join us again in May. If you have questions or would like to contact me, I can be reached at pastorbillandsue2@verizon.net

Blessing to each and everyone,
Sue Duganne, Missions Chairperson

Acolytes

- May 5**—*Communion*
Meredith Kyser
May 12 Cole Holland
May 19 Rachael Harvey
May 26 Jackson Holland

Communion Preparers

- May 5**
9:00 Lindsey Collins
11:00 Judy Miles

Name Tags

- May 5 Nickki Earley
May 12 Jahna Seymour
May 19 Carolyn Winstreak
May 26 Jean Riekers

Ushers

- 9:00 Bill Blankenship
Neal Fleenor
Ron White

11:00 Bobby Burton
Charles Groome
Tom Koertge
Bobby Wood
Ed Harper
Ralph Vernon
Lori Justice
Kathy Cullen

Sanctuary Organizers

Bob Gillie

Nursery

- May 5**
9:00 Pam Groome
SS Lori Justice
11:00 Shirley Collins
May 12
9:00 Jennifer Ostrum
SS Wendy Collins
11:00 Laurie Breeden
May 19
9:00 Kelly Horne
SS Wendy Collins
11:00 Mike & Wendy Collins
May 26
9:00 Linda Koertge
SS Ann Busbee
11:00 Anne Blane &
Brad Wootten

Counters

- May 5** **Klaus Worrell**
Steve Oliver
Stuart Watkins
May 12 **Ron Wootten**
Janice Bergeron
Bobby Johnson
Gracie Martin
May 19 **Gary Wright**
Anne Baird
Wayne Smith
May 26 **Jimmy Sculthorpe**
Paul Martin
Hugh Miles



Audio / Media Shout

- May 5**
9:00 Keith King (A)
Bob Gillie (MS)
Bob Gillie (B)
11:00 Keith King (A)
Bob Gillie (MS)
May 12
9:00 Tyler Griggs (A)
Steve Oliver (MS)
Mary Elliott (B)
11:00 Tyler Griggs (A)
Steve Oliver (MS)
May 19
9:00 Tyler Griggs (A)
Brad Wootten (MS)
Bob Gillie (B)
11:00 Ron Wootten (A)
Brad Wootten (MS)
May 26
9:00 Tyler Griggs (A)
Bob Gillie (MS)
Mary Elliott (B)
11:00 Gary Wright (A)
Bob Gillie (MS)

ATTENDANCE

This 2013 our goal is to reach **255** in average worship attendance. So far this year, our average attendance is **248**, which includes Easter attendance at **386**. Thanks for your faithfulness!

Music Ministry News:

Attention All Children and Youth in Grades K-8!!!

Beginning in the fall of 2013, PUMC will be adding two new choirs to the Children's/Youth Ministry.

Chorus for Grades 4-8

Hey, Kids! Do you like to sing? Do you want to learn how to read music? This is the perfect choir for you!

Children's Bell/Chime Choir

This choir will be open to those in grades 4-8. You will not only learn to read music but you will also experience the importance of 'teamwork' as you prepare songs. No prior music experience is necessary.

KC Jam Children's Choir invited all children in grades K-3 to join their weekly practices. The children will sing, dance, and play instruments! Come and join the fun!

Feel free to chat with either **Margaret Taylor** (cell-717-418-4309) or **Carla Wootten** (home-804-276-5683 or cell-804-543-5495) while you are at church or just give them a call.

Please remember that our children and youth choirs are open to **ALL** children regardless of whether or not they attend PUMC. Perhaps your child has a friend who would like to be part of this special ministry. Why not reach out and invite them to visit us?

*"The fact that children can make beautiful music is less significant than the fact
That music can make beautiful children."*

~~ Cheryl Lavender ~~



Prayer of the Month: PSALM 8

Psalm 8

For the months of May through August, we will be focusing on a particular psalm that will become our prayer at PUMC. Each of these psalms has been chosen because they are directed to God and they highlight different kinds of prayer. Psalm 8 is a prayer of praise. Use the NRSV translation below or your own translation and offer up this prayer to start your day, or at any other time during the day. You may choose to memorize it, or to memorize the key verse. Pray it individually, or with others. Put a copy in your car, your purse, your wallet or your car. May this scripture bring us closer to God and to each other during this month.

Key Verse: "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"



O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Thanks to Barbie, the Flower Lady

Barbie Vest has created up to three flower arrangements each Sunday for 14 years! A big thank you for providing us fresh flowers as part of our worship. We are looking for a team of individuals who may want to help with this ministry, sharing the responsibility of providing these flower arrangements with purchased or grown blossoms. These are funded by members and placed in honor or memory of individuals or groups. Volunteers are needed starting July 1. Please contact Pastor Mary Beth Blinn if you are interested in finding out more.



A New Way to Welcome

This past Sunday we introduced a container of soup mix which is available for you to give visitors to our congregation and for you to take and give a new neighbor, co-worker or others when you welcome them and invite them to our church. The soup mix will be available in the library along with a log-in sheet for you to record the date and contact information of the person getting the mix.

The soup mix is made up of various types of dried beans, rice and lentils. Some pieces are large and some small. The mix is made up of different colors and textures.



Together they make a tasty soup. Just like the members of our congregation, some of whom have been members for a long time, while others are relative newcomers, we all come together in a wonderful mix we call Providence UMC.

We want to make sure we recognize all visitors to our congregation and invite them to become part of our 'mix'.

On Sunday, May 12, you will have an opportunity to give to the **Samaritan Fund of the United Methodist Homes**. This Fund allows senior adults, who live at one of our Homes across Virginia, to remain as residents even when their money runs out. Thank you for considering this second mile giving opportunity.

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Sunday

9:00 am	Connections Worship Service
9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service
4:30 pm	Pass It On
5:30 pm	Youth
6:00 pm	Girl Scouts
7:30 pm	Bells of Providence

Wednesday

5:30 pm	Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 pm	KC Jam
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir

Thursday

7:30 pm	Ministry in Motion
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Church Telephone	276-4289
Fax Number	745-2501
Pastor's Home Telephone	562-5169
Pastor's Cell Phone Number	658-8046

Contact us at:

Website:	www.providenceumc.net
E-mail:	providenceumc@providenceumc.net
Pastor:	marybeth.blinn@providenceumc.net

Church Staff

Pastor	Mary Beth Blinn
Director of Music Ministries	Margaret Taylor
Director of Youth Ministries	Susan Clark
Church Secretary	Kathy Smith
Office Assistant	Linda Collins
Custodial Service	Bill Duganne
Nursery Attendant	April Basham
Our Covenant Missionary	Kim King Torres