

**Third Sunday in Advent
December 11, 2011**

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Prelude "Aria" Michael Burkhardt
(Based on "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah")

Welcome and Announcements

+Prayer
Life-changing Spirit, as we prepare the way for Christ,
outline the contours of our repentance---
in our life together as church,
in our relationships,
in our homes and beyond---
that our lives may be turned around,
more than we bargained for
but not less than we dare to hope,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

+Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads" UMH 213

Musical Offering "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
Bells of Providence

Lighting of the Advent Wreath
(8:45) Todd and Louise Foular, Louise Kvasnik, Noah, James, and Emma
(11:00) Dano and Noelle Holland, Jackson and Cole

Song* M. and J. Biery
*Emmanuel comes! Our Savior is near! This candle now burns with a message so clear:
Emmanuel comes! Our Savior is near! God's kingdom is coming, God's kingdom is here!*

TO HEAR THE WORD

A Time with the Children
Old Testament Reading* Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Offering (8:45) "People, Look East" Trad. French Carol
Morning Glory Choir
(11:00) "O Come, Emmanuel, Come Soon" Hopson/Byrd
Chancel Choir

Gospel Reading Mark 1:1-8 **Thanks be to God.**
Sermon "Preparing the Way"

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Witness Cathy Patterson
Hymn* "Jesus, Name above All Names" FWS 2071

Prayer
The Lord's Prayer
*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Offertory Berceuse on "Hyfrydol" Alfred Fedak

Response* "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 94

+Prayer of Dedication

AND SCATTERS TO BE THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

+Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH 206
+Reception of New Members (11:00) Dano, Noelle, Jackson and Cole Holland
+Benediction
+Postlude "Savior of the Nations, Come" J. S. Bach

Thank you for silencing all electronic devices.

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (Red) FWS = The Faith We Sing (Black)

*Words Projected +Please stand as you are able

Greeters: (8:45) Patty Wright (11:00) Phyllis Ranger & Molly Roberson
 Acolytes: (8:45) Laura King (11:00) Tristen Kellam
 Nursery: (8:45) Linda Koertge (Sunday School) Jennifer Ostrum
 (11:00) Laurie Breeden
 Counters: Jimmy Sculthorpe, Captain
 Ushers: (8:45) Bill Blankenship, Chris Healy, Carolyn Bilski
 (11:00) David Sommer, Lee Bradshaw, Bob Fitch, Linwood Hudson,
 T. L. Jenkins, Stuart Watkins, George Winstead
 Readers: (8:45) Kathleen White (11:00) Barbara Sutton
 Audio/Visual Team: Brad Wootten and Tyler Griggs
 Name Tag Organizer: Kyser Family
 Sanctuary Organizer: Bob Gillie

The altar flowers are presented to the glory of God by Nicole Price and in memory of her husband, Ed. They are also in celebration of Paige Crawley's birthday by Grandma Price.

The flowers on the left in the narthex are presented to the glory of God by Renate Brennet in honor of the twelfth birthday of Gabrielle Sullivan, with love from Nona.

The flowers on the right in the narthex are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of John Wildermuth by Bette Wildermuth.

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Nursery Worker	
Our Covenant Missionary	

Mary Beth Blinn
Beverley R. Edwards
Susan M. Clark
Isabelle Sullivan
Charlotte S. Cervarich
Kathleen M. Smith
Linda M. Collins
William J. Duganne
April Basham
Kim King Torres



Providence United Methodist Church

December 11, 2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 11

- 7:45 a.m. United Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting
- 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. Worship Services
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Caroling
- No Pass It On Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts (Room 309)
- 7:00 p.m. Bells of Providence

Monday, December 12

- 10:00 a.m. Line Dancing Class (Room 309)
- 10:30 a.m. Providence Retired Club (Social Hall)
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 4 (Room 206)
- 7:30 p.m. Endowment Committee (Library)

Tuesday, December 13

- 10:00 a.m. Quilters (Room 206)
- 11:00 a.m. Bible Study (Library)
- 11:30 a.m. Whitt Circle
- 6:30 p.m. Disciple 1 (Room 206)
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 14

- 11:30 a.m. Laughon Circle (with Evelyn Hastings)
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner (Social Hall)
- 6:30 p.m. Worship Task Force
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. KC Jam Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 15

- 12:00 p.m. Newsletter Deadline
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting (Library)

Friday, December 16

- 9:15 a.m. Cooks for Christ to Centenary UMC
- 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (Room 309)

Sunday, December 18

- 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. Worship services (Cantata at both services)
- 9:45 a.m. Happy Birthday Jesus Party (Social Hall)
- 12:15 p.m. Church Council Meeting (Room 309)
- 4:00 p.m. Longest Night Service (Chapel)
- 4:30 p.m. Pass It On Choir (Sanctuary)
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts (Room 309)
- 7:00 p.m. Bells of Providence

Welcome, guests. We're glad you're here!

- Children's worship bags and age-appropriate worship activity bulletins are available in the foyer.
- Colorful bags at the back have helpful information.
- Restrooms are located on the main hall to the left.
- Name tags can be found on the clipboards in the pews.
- Assisted listening devices and large print hymnals are available. Ask an usher for assistance.
- A nursery is offered as an option for our children newborn through age four (located downstairs).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday, the Adult Choirs and KC Jam Children's choir will present "**Come Ye Faithful**," a service of lessons and carols at our 8:45 and 11:00 services. Invite your neighbors and friends to hear this beautiful musical expression of our Christmas faith.

You may continue to offer your commitments to the **2012 ministries** of our church through your financial gifts. Commitment cards are available in the pew racks and may be placed in the offering.

Sign up for Wednesday Night Dinner today. Menu: baked potato bar with all the fixings, salad, and dessert. The small group that studied the book, Change the World, will be hosting the dinner next week. They will be collecting **donations of books and Bibles to be donated to a prison library.** The books and Bibles cannot be hard back. Also, there should be no identifying papers or markings in the books or the Bibles. Contact Rob Heare (379-6586) with questions.

All children in 5th grade and below are invited to attend **Jesus' birthday party** next Sunday, December 18, from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in the Social Hall. We will enjoy yummy treats, create a craft, and watch a movie as we remember the real reason for the season. Please bring baby Jesus a gift of canned food to feed the hungry.

Our "**Longest Night**" service will be next Sunday, December 18, at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel. It is named for the longest night of the year, December 20, after which the days grow longer and brighter. You are invited to come to a quiet place to reflect and be encouraged. The service will include scripture, music, and reflection designed to bring comfort and hope. If you or someone you know is feeling loss and sadness in the face of the celebrations of Christmas, this will be an important time for you. The service is open to the community.

The **Chrismons** for the Christmas tree in 2011 are made by Betty Gregory, Billie Dale Vernon, Judy Dotson, Evelyn Hastings and Hilda Lindsey. The project was funded by the Laughon Circle. These Chrismons are made and hung on the tree in memory of Nancy Gillie. Nancy made Chrismons herself and requested earlier this year that the project continue. Billie Dale patiently and expertly refurbished some of the older Chrismons from 1974 and 1994, which have been hung on the tree for this Christmas.

We will be hosting **CARITAS** January 2-6 for single women who are homeless. Check out the poster on the foyer for ways you can involved: washing clothes, fixing lunches, spending the night, and providing other support. Call Brenda Woodward at 914-1259 for more information.

Would you like to **deliver a Christmas greeting** to someone in the church? Mail boxes are available in the second floor hallway by the chapel for you to place cards. Consider channeling the money you save to a ministry that makes a difference. Be sure and check the boxes periodically for cards that may be addressed to you.

God's Creation 2012 calendars (4) are still available from the youth. The cost is \$6.00. Checks should be written to "Providence Youth." Contact Susan Clark (susan.clark@providenceumc.net).

Pairs and Spares Sunday School Class began a study of *The Lord's Prayer* by R. T. Kendall on November 27. The class, led by Stuart Watkins, is primarily discussion. Please join us to learn more about the insights and inspiration from The Lord's Prayer. The class generally meets in the Social Hall at 9:45 a.m.

This year's Advent offering will benefit UMUMR (United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond). The mission of UMUMR is to partner with others to assure food security, educational support, affordable housing, healthcare, and faith development in Greater Richmond. This year's Christmas Offering (special envelope in your December mailing or designate your check) will be divided equally between the following: Branches (a ministry to at-risk children and their families in S. Florida), Pathways (vocational and GED training for at-risk young adults plus community medical support in Petersburg), and Haiti's Children's Project (providing a safe, loving home for children without families).

You are invited to bring extra Christmas treats (cookies and candy) to our worship on Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. They will be packaged up and made available following the service. On your way home, you are invited to stop at stores, rescue squad and fire stations, and other places where people might be **working on the holiday** to deliver a package of treats with our best wishes.

Are you scripping? We are off to a good start to improving our playground with a \$100 profit on last week's orders. Gift cards to your favorite stores return a percentage to our church. Drop off orders weekdays in the office or in library on Sundays. The form can also be found on the PUMC website, under the FORMS tab or on the bulletin board near the library.

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 18: (8:45 and 11:00) Adult choirs sing "Come Ye Faithful," a service of lessons and carols.

Christmas Eve: (5:00 p.m.) Family Service with Holy Communion; child care provided
(11:00 p.m.) Candlelight and Holy Communion

Christmas Day: One service at 10:00 a.m: "What Child is This" (no Sunday School)

New Year's Day: One service at 10:00 a.m. (no Sunday School)

PRAYER MINISTRY

Hospitalized: Janet Fattizzi (Johnston-Willis)

The prayer request forms are located on the clipboards and may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. In order to keep our GATHERED PRAYER CONCERNS list up-to-date, names will remain in the bulletin for four weeks. You may resubmit a request at any time.

Our gathered prayer concerns: Helen Bowman (Laurels of Bon Air), Mae Clarke, The Family of Callie Gregory, The Family of Alma Groome, **Leon and Dottie Headley** (Lisa Fleenor's parents), **Joann Hill** (Jeanette Houston's cousin), Sally Hunter (grandmother of Glenn Jones), Mildred Isbell, Gilda Jordan, Ruby Milby, Catherine Milholen, Clyde Randall, Dr. Barbara A. Ritch-Brant, A. M. Davis students, faculty, and staff

Our service men and women, wherever they serve, and their families.

Julia Berger	Kevin Judd	Megan Thomas Clark	Bobby Swanson
Nathan Berger	Kenneth Wagner	Brent Davis	Jennifer Collins
Hunter Blankenship	Wayne Lee	Brian Wilson	David Dias
Matt Latimer	Bob Muchow (home!)		

Providence Church has an email Prayer Ministry. Please call the Church Office at 276-4289 if you have an immediate need for yourself or a family member.

Metro Richmond Prayer for December 11, 2011: We pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For elderly persons living in their own homes, in retirement communities, and in nursing institutions; for all in the midst of life transitions.

If you feel led to Christian baptism or would like to transfer your membership to Providence, please contact Pastor Mary Beth Blinn at 276-4289 or Marybeth.blinn@providenceumc.net .
