

Providence United Methodist Church

Belong. Be transformed. Make a difference.

December 2011

Free Dinner & Family Activities, December 7

Free Dinner from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for members in our community. After dinner your family will travel back to ancient Bethlehem. You'll see, hear and smell what daily life was like when Jesus was born. You'll find stations and activities for kids of all ages. Stations are from 6:00 8:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the community. Share the story of Christ and bring a guest with you. Visit our web-site for more info www.providenceumc.net



A Service of Hope in the Darkness

Has your life been turned upside down this year? Do you feel loss and sadness in the face of the celebrations of Christmas? You are invited to come to a quiet place to reflect and be encouraged. Our “**Longest Night**” service will be held on **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. Have you or someone you know experienced death, serious illness, job loss or depression? Come, bring a friend, or come to support others. Everyone is welcome.

Other Upcoming Services:

- **December 18** (8:45 & 11:00 a.m.), Chancel Choir and Friends sing “Come Ye Faithful,” a service of lessons and carols.
- **Christmas Eve** (5:00 p.m.), Family Service with Holy Communion.
- **Christmas Eve** (11:00 p.m.), Candlelight and Holy Communion.
- **Christmas Day**, one service at 10:00 a.m. (no Sunday School)
- **New Years Day**, one service at 10:00 a.m. (no Sunday School).



Save the Date: We will be hosting a woman-only **CARITAS** group the first week of January 2012. There will be opportunities to offer your support. Sign-up sheets to help that will be posted on the Missions bulletin board. More information will be available in December.

Worship in December

Dec 4	Second Sunday in Advent	8:45 Holy Communion 11:00 Hanging of the Greens	Pass It On Choir Linda Koertge, Bell Solo Molly Roberson, Solo Adult Choirs
Dec 11	Third Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 John 1:6-8, 19-28	Handbell Choir Adult Choirs
Dec 18	Fourth Sunday in Advent	“Come Ye Faithful” Cantata 8:45 and 11:00	
Dec 24	5:00 Family Service with the Nativity	Holy Communion	Children and Youth Choirs
Dec 24	11:00 Candlelight and Holy Communion		Handbells and Chancel Choir
Dec 25	10:00 Worship Service	“Who Is This Child?”	Carol Singing and Read- ings

Hanging of the Greens and Turkey Dinner

On December 4, the Hanging of the Greens Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Come, hear about and see the traditions of Advent and Christmas with special music and congregational singing. (A service of Holy Communion will be held at 8:45 a.m.) Following the special service, everyone is invited to the Social Hall for the turkey dinner, a gift from the United Methodist Men. If you choose, a donation may be made for the men’s Christmas outreach projects.

Witness for Our Lord

Recently, three of our members have given powerful testimonies to God. It’s not too late to hear them! Check out our website (www.providenceumc.net) and go to “Listen to a Sermon.”

- October 20 **Rob Heare**—“What to do With What You Have”
- November 13 **Christopher Wilms**—“Tithing and Why I Give to Providence” (following Pastor Mary Beth’s sermon)
- November 20 **Ann Scott**—“My Story of Transformation” (following Pastor Mary Beth’s sermon)

Christian Builders News

Beginning in December, the Christian Builders Class which meets at 9:45 a.m. in Room 206, will be looking at passages from Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Galatians. The themes are: God's Covenant, God's Protection and God's Redemption. We have four teachers that rotate and would welcome anyone interested in Bible based studies.

Diane King

Donations for Prison Library

The small group that studied the book "Change The World", by pastor Mike Slaughter will be hosting the Wednesday Night Dinner on December 14. At that time we will be collecting donations of books and Bibles that will be donated to a prison library. The books and Bibles **cannot** be hard back. Also, there should be no identifying paper, marks, or numbers in the books or Bibles. We appreciate your support. If you have any questions, please call Rob Heare at 379-6586.

Did you know that 29 packages of goodies were mailed to our college students and military personnel?

Thanks to the Congregational Care Committee for overseeing this ministry.

"Food Sunday" in December

Remember that the second Sunday is "Food Sunday". Please bring staple foods and toilet paper for CCHASM.

MISSIONS

This year's **Advent** offering will benefit UMUMR (United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond). The mission of UMUMR is to facilitate collaborative partnerships among individuals, congregations, and organizations to assure food security, educational supports, affordable housing, healthcare, and faith development in Greater Richmond: Connecting Greater Richmond for Community. For more information on UMUMR visit www.umumr.org.

This year's **Christmas** offering will be divided equally between:

1. Branches of Florida City
2. Pathways (Pathways provides resources through an on-site medical clinic, visiting dental care, wellness workshops, advocacy and referrals, and counseling and support for mental and physical challenges and addictions in Petersburg and surrounding areas.) For information on the medical program of Pathways and it's many other programs visit www.pathways-va.org.
3. Haiti's Children's Project (Partnering with the Haiti Methodist Church to provide a clean, safe home for homeless children).

Valerie Reese
Missions



December

Acolytes

Dec 4—*Communion*
 8:45 Andrew Bowers
 11:00 Molly Roberson

Dec 11
 8:45 Laura King
 11:00 Tristan Kellam

Dec 18
 8:45 Winton Justice
 11:00 Gabby Sullivan

Dec 24
 5:00 Rachael Harvey
 11:00 Rachael Harvey

Dec 25
 10:00 TBD

Audio / Video

Russ Byers' Team

Communion Preparers

Dec 4
 8:45 Barbara Blankenship
 11:00 Sandi Kneib
 Dec 24
 5:00 Ron White
 11:00 Janice Bradley

Sanctuary Organizers

Bob Gillie

Counter Captains

Dec 4 Gary Wright
 Dec 11 Jimmy Sculthorpe
 Dec 18 Klaus Worrell
 Dec 25 Hugh Miles

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

Greeters

8:45 Phyllis Ranger
 11:00 Molly Roberson

Name Tags

Dec 4 Laurie Breeden
 Dec 11 Kyser Family
 Dec 18 Cathy Patterson
 Dec 25 Gracie Martin

Nursery

Dec 4
 8:45 Lori Justice
 SS Anne McKinnish
 11:00 Anne Blane
 Brad Wootten

Dec 11
 8:45 Linda Koertge
 SS Jennifer Ostrum
 11:00 Laurie Breeden

Dec 18
 8:45 Ann Busbee
 SS Wendy Collins
 11:00 Mike & Wendy Collins

Dec 25
 8:45 Pam Groome
 SS Wendy Collins
 11:00 Michelle Butler
 Carol Urso



All children through the fifth grade are invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus with a special birthday party just for Him on December 18th during the Sunday school hour (9:45 to 10:45am) in our social hall. We will sing songs, make a few crafts, and eat some cake in honor of the greatest gift ever given to us. We ask that children bring nonperishable items to help feed those less fortunate. Parents are welcome to stay with us during this time to share in the celebration. However, we have great adult Sunday school classes you may wish to visit. If you have any questions, contact isabelle.sullivan@providenceumc.net

United Methodist Women

December 5 at 6:30 p.m. Unit Christmas Party at the church - Covered Dish.

Newton Circle Christmas Party - first Friday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Pam Groome's home.

Gregory Circle Christmas Party - second Friday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Laura Griggs' home.

Whitt Circle Christmas Luncheon - second Tuesday, December 13 at 11:30 a.m. at CiCi's Pizza, on Busy Street near Courthouse Rd. & Midlothian Turnpike.



Laughon Circle Christmas Luncheon - second Wednesday, December 14 at 11:30 a.m. at Evelyn Hastings' home.

Why Do I Get a Building Fund Envelope Each Month?

In 2006, PUMC completed a building project that included the elevator, handicap accessible restrooms, showers, and a new HVAC system. We are fortunate to have such great facilities that enable our church to be inclusive of everyone as we do the exciting work that God has given us. The project cost about \$800,000. Through very faithful giving, the balance of the church's mortgage on this project is down to \$219,714.

Our mortgage payments amount to about \$26,000 a year. We have been blessed that some of you have given second-mile gifts by using the Building Fund envelopes which go directly to these payments. So far this year we have not needed to use other current gifts to make most of the payments. While our mortgage payments are included in our 2012 operating budget, so are many other important new and growing ministries. Any gifts received in the Building Fund envelopes will be applied directly to our mortgage loan balance, and will allow Providence to continue and expand all of our other wonderful ministries. 2012 will be a wonderful **and** challenging year! Thank you for your generosity.

Deadlines

Mid-Week Update
Tuesdays, Noon

Bulletin
Wednesdays, Noon

Newsletter
15th of each month*

*unless another date is announced due to weekends or holidays.

Music for Our Hearts

Someone once said that “The greatest gift you will ever receive will never be found under a Christmas tree. It is far too valuable to be stored in any other place but in the depths of your heart.” There are so many treasures

Christmas Music



awaiting you in our services in December this year. On the first Sunday of December we will be celebrating the Hanging of the Greens service, and then on the

last Sunday of Advent, December 18, the Chancel Choir will be presenting a Festival of Lessons and Carols by Hal Hopson. The Service of Lessons and Carols dates back to 1918 at King's College of Cambridge England and was begun in an effort to become more creative in Christmas and Advent worship. While our service will definitely not follow the exact form of the early services of King's College, there will be an opportunity to enjoy Advent

and Christmas carols accompanied by some of our very talented instrumentalists and handbell players at Providence, our children, and of course, the Chancel Choir. If you would like to be a part of the Chancel Choir for the Festival of Lessons and Carols please come to the beginning of our rehearsals on Wednesday nights at 7:30.

Beverley Edwards

EMMANUEL COMES Rejoice! Rejoice!

The Pass It On Youth Choir and the KC Jam Children's Choir are very busy preparing music for Advent and Christmas Eve. You won't want to miss their special music on December 4, 18 and 24! Please join us on Christmas Eve at the 5:00 p.m. Family Service, which will include Holy Communion. The youth and the children will be singing - and ringing - while you enjoy hearing and watching the Christmas Story.

Treats for Those Who Work on Christmas Day

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



2011 DIRECTORY UPDATES



ADD

MILLS, John & Casey-Mills, Mary & Caleb, 804 -325-3566, 707 Boulder Springs Dr., Apt #C-4, Richmond, VA 23225, email: mary.casey22@comcast.net

CHANGE

BARDEN, Jordan, 5711 Wood Creek Court, Apt. L., Richmond, VA 23228, bardenjed@gmail.com

HARGRAVE, Monique, 237 Twin Crest Dr., Richmond, VA 23236

HARRIS, Hugh & Sharon, 5925 Village Lake Ct., North Chesterfield, VA 23234

MALLORY, Daniel & Christa Coaker, zip should be 29033

MOORE, Carol, 806 Abbey Village Circle, Midlothian, VA 23114

SCHLOTTMAN, Chuck, 11914 Porters Mill Place, Midlothian, VA 23114



Pastor's Note

Many of us are thinking, "How can we put Christ back in Christmas?" The worship services on our calendar are wonderful ways to connect with God and the meaning of the season. We even get a chance to worship all together on Christmas Day (10:00 a.m.) this year!

Another avenue to change things around is through our gift-giving. The money we think is necessary to buy gifts often creates bills that come for months after Christmas. And the gifts

don't really make us all that happy after all, do they? Have you thought of other kinds of giving? Homemade items or home-baked goodies? A certificate for an outing together with someone you love? A gift to a mission project in honor of that special person. How about a backpack of weekend meals (\$12) for a student at A. M. Davis Elementary school or a donation to Pathways (our Advent offering)? How will Christ be at the center of your celebrations this year?

Mary Beth

Church Family News and Notes



Our sympathy is offered to the family of Alma Groome who died on November 16.

I came to Providence some as a child and remember Grandpa Davis passing out Hershey Kisses to the children. I remember when they used to have the Brunswick stews on a much smaller scale. Biddie would buy stew for my family and we still think it is the best!

Sincerely,
Nancy Melkerson
Mary Johns' Niece

We welcome our new members Todd and Louise Fouler, and their children, Noah, James and Emma; also to Louise's mother, Louise Kvasnik. Todd, Louise and Louise come by transfer of their membership.



We wish to express our heartfelt thanks for the many gestures of love and concern shown Alma during her illness. The church members have done so much for Alma, providing love, comfort, food, cards, and flowers, in addition to the many prayers and visits. We are truly grateful to each and every one of you for your kindnesses.

Love,
Charlie Groome
Wanda Maiden
Butch Groome



Dear Members of Providence,
We want to express our appreciation for your kind remembrances of sympathy

following the death of Mary Johns. She loved her church and the people in it. Providence had been an important part of her life for over 60 years.

A. M. Davis Elementary School participates in the Campbell Soup "Boxtops" for Education, and the Martin's School Rewards Program. A box will be placed near Room 206 for the labels and "Boxtops". The A. M. Davis number for Martin's School Rewards is 03151. Use it to register your purchases for the school. Thank you for all the little and big contributions you make for the children.



Youth C.R.E.W. News

Christians Reaching Everyone World Wide



December 2—Bethlehem Walk

Bethlehem Walk in Goochland, VA is an interactive outdoor drama where guests experience first century Bethlehem. As you enter the city, allow the sights, sounds and smells to carry you to a period of time that changed the world. Journey through the heart of the city to the marketplace that is bustling with activity from over a dozen authentic shops; enjoy samples from the baker's shop, see the blacksmith at work making crucifixion nails, marvel at the potter's crafts and listen for the rumor of a king's birth from excited townspeople.

This event is one you don't want to miss! Meet at Providence at 5:00 to caravan to Salem Baptist Church in Goochland.

December 4

Youth Christmas Party! Bring a \$10 gift for the gift exchange!

December 11—Caroling

Here come the Providence Carolers! Once again we will spread our tidings of good cheer to our homebound friends and neighbors at Providence. We will eat lunch at the youth house at 12:00 and leave from there. We will return by 3:00. No evening youth program.

December 18—Hilliard House

The youth group is going to bring the sights, sounds, and tastes of Christmas to the women and children of the Hilliard House. The Hilliard House provides shelter and training to homeless women and children. We will be there from 6:00-8:00 p.m. to share songs, crafts and cookies and spread peace, love, joy, and hope. Meet at the youth house at 5:30 with a permission form to attend.

December 21—Youth Council Planning Night

Youth council will work on plans for the winter and spring month, long term goals, and Youth CREW logo for t-shirts and marketing. The meeting will be at Susan Clark's home from 6:00-9:00. Bring a laptop and calendar if you have one.

December 25—No Youth Group

Merry Christmas!

For More information about Youth Ministry at Providence Church, contact Susan Clark at susan.clark@providenceumc.net



Coming in January – Extended Preschool Hours

To respond to the needs of our community and to continue to make a difference, we are planning to explore offering extended, before-and-after care for the students of our Preschool, beginning in January, 2012. We will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. to accommodate families in need of extended-day child care in addition to our current Preschool program.

A child may be dropped off beginning at 6:30 a.m., and will attend Preschool from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Following Preschool, a child can stay with us until 6:00 p.m. During the extended afternoon, the child will eat lunch, and participate in age-appropriate activities such as circle and story time, arts and crafts, center time, math and science and creative movement. The skills and concepts learned in preschool will be reinforced in a more relaxed atmosphere. There will be outside time, as well as a rest or nap time daily, appropriate to the age of the child.



Did you know that children in our community are **hungry this weekend**? There are 25 students at A. M. Davis Elementary School who need meals on the weekends. For \$12 a week or \$324 for the remainder of the school year, you can provide food for these students to feed them until they return to school each Monday. If you are interested in making contributions to this program, please contact Wendy Collins (Email: MrsCollins17@aol.com or (804-276-2418) or the church office. If you would like to pay by check, please write the check payable to the church, with "Backpack Program" on the memo line.

SCRIPTS is Back

This gift card fundraising program is an excellent way to help us raise money for playground improvements. Simply download a script form off our web-site or pick one up on Sundays from the bulletin board in the main hallway across from the water fountain. Look at all the gift cards available. If you know you are going to be visiting one of these business, consider pre-purchasing a gift card to use at that loca-

tion. Gift cards make great Christmas presents too. Filled out forms need to be turned in to Isabelle Sullivan by noon each Sunday so you can pick up cards the following Sunday.

If every family bought one \$50 gas card and one \$50 Kroger card each month we would raise \$4,800 by December of next year. If you have any questions about this program, contact Isabelle.Sullivan@providenceumc.net



Creating Christian Community

Richmond District Conference and Training Event

Sunday, January 8

1:30-5:30 p.m.

Trinity UMC

903 Forest Avenue, Richmond VA

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson

Funding Ministry in Tough Financial Times

Breakout Sessions and Workshops

1. "Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations 101"
2. Financial Vision for the Local Church, Understanding the Present, Planning for the Future
3. Financial Foundations of the Local Church, A Guide to a Solid Financial Ministry
4. Trustees
5. Staffing Issues for Multiple Staff Churches
6. Transformation through Calling
7. Worship Media/Creative Communications
8. VA Disaster Response
9. Being a Missional Church
10. More than Leading a Meeting: Orientation for New Council Chairs
11. Stewardship
12. Equipping Youth leaders
13. Communication Technology

This is also our District Conference so the leaders (or future leaders) of the church are invited to come for this time of conferencing and learning. David McAllister-Wilson's presentation is an important topic for all of us.

The breakout sessions begin at 3:15 p.m. if you are only interested in them. We are requested to register as a church so if you are interested in attending any (or all) of this Leadership Training Event, please contact the church office **no later than December 14**.

If you have additional questions, please call the office at 276-4289. Detailed descriptions of the breakout sessions can be found on our website (www.providenceumc.net) under the **RESOURCES** tab.

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Sunday

8:45 am	Worship Service
9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
4:30 pm	Pass It On Choir
5:30 pm	Youth
7:00 pm	Bells of Providence

Wednesday

5:30 pm	Wednesday Night Dinner
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir

Church Telephone	276-4289
Fax Number	745-2501
Pastor's Home Telephone	562-5169
Preschool Telephone	276-1462

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	Beverley Edwards
Director of Preschool Ministries	Charlotte Cervarich
Director of Youth Ministries	Susan Clark
Director of Christian Education	Isabelle Sullivan
Church Secretary	Kathy Smith
Office Assistant	Linda Collins
Custodial Service	Bill Duganne
Nursery Attendant	April Basham
Our Covenant Missionary	Kim King Torres

Providence United Methodist Church
901 S. Providence Road
Richmond, VA 23236

NEWSLETTER MAILED November 22
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Pre Sort
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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