

# Providence United Methodist Church

*Belong. Be transformed. Make a difference.*

*December 2012*

## Journey To Bethlehem

December 5, 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Join us for a family friendly evening of food, fun, and fellowship. During the month of Advent, let Journey To Bethlehem help you prepare your mind and spirit for the Christmas season. This event is for everyone! You will start your journey in the chapel. In small groups you will travel through the streets of Bethlehem stopping off to hear from the Angel of the Lord, the shepherds, the star gazer, and from Mary her-



self. In each station you will make a small ornament to hang on your tree to remind you for the rest of the Advent season of the greatest gift ever given, Jesus Christ! When the journey is through, you will enjoy cookies and hot cocoa. Mark the calendar now. Call your family and friends. Sign up for the community wide dinner from 5:30 to 6:15 and take off for an amazing journey afterwards, The Journey to Bethlehem.

Contact [isabelle.sullivan@providenceumc.net](mailto:isabelle.sullivan@providenceumc.net) for more information. (This event is free and everyone in our community is invited!!)

## Advent Dinner

The congregation is invited to share a turkey dinner and all the trimmings on Sunday, December 2, at Noon in the Social Hall.



Our traditional **Hanging of the Greens** service will be held on December 2 at 11:00 a.m. This year we will focus on traditions and music from around the world including Germany, Mexico, Africa, USA, England, the Czech Republic and the Ukraine.

The Christmas Cantata  
**"Morning Star"**  
Sunday, December 23, at 11:00 a.m.

### Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. Family Service  
including a children's musical, **"The Whole Story"**  
Child care will be provided.

11:00 p.m. Candlelight and Communion

## Worship in December

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

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Dec 2	1st Sunday in Advent Holy Communion	Luke 21:25-36	Hanging of the Greens (11:00)
Dec 9	2nd Sunday in Advent	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 3:1-6	
Dec 16	3rd Sunday in Advent	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:39-45	Ministry in Motion (9:00) Pass It On (11:00) SonRise Sisters (11:00)
Dec 23	4th Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 12:2-6	Worshiping through music (9:00) Cantata: (11:00)Choir with orchestra
Dec 24	Christmas Eve	Luke 2:1-20	5:00 Family Service 11:00 Candlelight & Communion
Dec 30	1st Sunday After Christmas	John 1:1-14	



Join us on December 23 to celebrate the birth of Jesus. All children in grades K-5 (preschoolers will also have a special event in their classroom) are asked to bring the Christ child a gift of canned goods that will be donated to CCHASM. (Let the kids go to the store and pick out the canned goods for greater impact.)

This event will be during the Sunday school hour and is sponsored by the education department and the middle school Sunday school class. Children will play games, create an angel snack, and, of course, learn about Jesus' birth.

Bring the grandkids visiting from far away, bring your neighbors, and bring a friend. This is a great day to bring visitors to church. Contact [isabelle.sullivan@providenceumc.net](mailto:isabelle.sullivan@providenceumc.net) for more information.

## *Pastor's Note*

Christmas. Every year it comes before we know it and before we're ready. People will say to us many times over the next few weeks: "Are you ready for Christmas?" And very few of us will say "yes," even on Christmas eve.



What if getting ready wasn't so much about cooking, buying or wrapping presents, although these may be things on our list? What if being prepared for Christmas was more a spiritual matter? I encourage you to participate in spiritual disciplines that will prepare

your heart for Christ. Some ideas include attending worship each Sunday in Advent, reading a devotional daily (available at church), praying and being quiet each day for 15 minutes, setting aside extra gifts for the Advent and Christmas offering, adopting a family or funding weekend backpack meals. In some traditions, fasting is also encouraged as a way to open our spirits to the Holy.

Join me in choosing one or more of these disciplines, so that when people ask, you can say, "yes."

Peace,  
*Mary Beth*

## **Church Conference**

On Sunday, December 2 at 7 pm, the congregation is encouraged to attend our Church Conference. Our District Superintendent, Dr. Steve Jones, will lead us in the sanctuary. At 6:45, we will begin with music and pictures of the past year's ministries. Our council chair, Laura Griggs, will report on our goals, and Pastor Mary Beth will update the congregation on ministry from the pastor's perspective. Officers and leaders will be elected for 2013, as well as some additional business. All church members have a vote in these matters, although anyone may attend.

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## **Looking for a Meaningful Christmas Gift?**

Feed a hungry child at A. M. Davis Elementary School on the weekends! You can feed one child for a week (\$12) or a month (\$48) or for the remainder of the school year (\$288) in honor of a family member or friend.

Make checks payable to Providence UMC with "A. M. Davis Elementary School" on the memo line. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Collins (phone: 276-2418, email: [MrsCollins17@aol.com](mailto:MrsCollins17@aol.com)).

## Chesterfield Ruritan Club

On September 17, 2012, The Chesterfield Ruritan Club began having their monthly meetings at Providence UMC.

The Chesterfield Club was organized in 1940 and for those 72 years has been active in the communities of Chesterfield County. We thank Providence UMC for allowing us to use the church for our meetings and look forward to a good working relationship with each other.

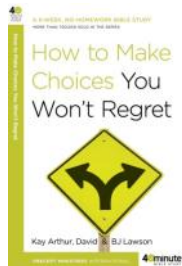
The Ruritans motto is Fellowship, Good Will, and Community Service. And, we believe that the way to grow Ruritan is to "JUST ASK" someone to join.



We meet on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall with a meal, a program, and a business

meeting. If you are interested in serving your community and having a good time while doing it, come join us any Monday night. We would be glad to welcome you into our group.

For more information, please email Bobby Burton at [bobbyburton@verizon.net](mailto:bobbyburton@verizon.net) or call him at 804-794-2898.



### Men's Study Group

The next topic for the Men's Thursday Study Group will be: **"How to Make Choices You Won't Regret"**. The group will begin meeting on January

3, 2013, at 6:00 pm. For more information, contact Ron White (744-3644) or Dave Long (687-0476).

### Upward Update

One hundred and seven (107) children participated in our fall Upward Soccer program. A big Thank You to Brad Wooten, who was the head commissioner and all those who assisted in any way.



### Potluck Dessert Bar

Do you love to bake during the holidays? December 12, Wednesday Night Dinner, bring some baked goods to share with your fellow diners. Gracie and friends will provide dinner; however, let's have a true dessert fellowship!



## News from Providence Road Partners

If your family or group (Sunday School class, Disciple Group, UMW Circle, UMYF, UMM, etc.) is willing to provide Christmas gifts for families at A. M. Davis Elementary School, please contact Wendy Collins (Email: [MrsCollins17@aol.com](mailto:MrsCollins17@aol.com), Phone: 276-2418).

Thanks so much for all of the cakes that were provided by church members for the A. M. Davis Fall Festival; students had a wonderful time

participating in the Cake Walk and taking home those yummy cakes!

Two students in each classroom received free books at the Fall Book Fair due to the generosity of church members. Thanks

for putting smiles on their faces and books in their hands.

~ Wendy Collins



Thank you for supporting our Fall season Wednesday Night Dinners. Look for new opportunities to sign up to host dinners for Winter and Spring 2013. A schedule should be on the WND bulletin board by mid-December. Also, you may sign up again (or for the first time) as a regular attendee, because the existing list will not be carried over to the next season.

## 2011 Directory Updates

### ADD:

**Baron, Barbara**, 804-837-2494, 8900 Grinnell Ct., Richmond, VA 23236, [bbarontz@gmail.com](mailto:bbarontz@gmail.com)

**Earley, Nikki**, 804-276-6942

**Ezell, John C. & Jeanie**, 804-275-6117, 2411 Dowd Lane, Richmond, VA 23235

**O'Neil, Marsha**, 10201 Greglyn Rd., Richmond, VA 23236

### CHANGE:

**Bolte, Joy**, 1110 Falls River Ave., Apt 506, Raleigh, NC 27614



**Drowne, Jeremy & Bonnie Estes**, add Aricin **Estes, Barbara**, 1032 7th St., Apt. 11, Santa Monica, CA 90403

**Jones, Justin**, 1323 Bloom Rd., Danville, PA 17821

**Long, Dave & Carey** - change phone to 804-687-0476

**Nicholas, Elizabeth Diggs** - Shepperson, Michael & Elizabeth Diggs, 6364 Springside Dr., Powhatan, VA 23139

**Swanson, Bobby**, 323 Forrest Ave., Savannah, GA 31404

**Swanson, Mandy**, 8412 Spruce Pine Dr., Richmond, VA 23235

**Woodcock, Ellen**, 1219 W. 46th St., Richmond, VA 23225

# Youth Crew News

Christians reaching everyone worldwide

## December 2—"God Grew Tired of Us"

Our Christmas lesson will focus on scenes from a documentary that follows three young men forced to flee Sudan and are now living in America during the Christmas season. The boys have many questions as to how Americans prepare for the birth of Christ compared to Africa. Christmas is about the birth of Christ, but can others tell that by looking at our lives?

The last 30 minutes of youth group we will go to the Providence Charge Conference in the sanctuary so the youth can hear the 2012 report and celebrate all we do at our church.



## December 9—Youth Christmas Party

Help us decorate the youth house for Christmas! We will celebrate the season and have our annual gift exchange. Bring a \$10, wrapped gift and come have some fun!

## December 16—Caroling to Shut-Ins

Here come the Providence Carolers! Once again we will spread our tidings of good cheer to our home-bound friends and neighbors at Providence. We will eat lunch at the youth house at Noon and leave from there. We will return by 3:30 p.m. No evening youth program. Bring your own bagged lunch. A permission slip is needed for this event.



## December 23—No youth group event.

## December 30—Movie Night!

It's time to relax. We will extend the time to 8:00 p.m. so we can watch an entire movie.

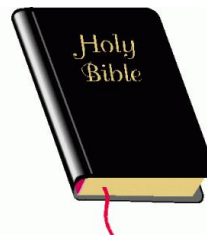
Youth Director: Susan Clark  
Susan.clark@providenceumc.net

Youth Group Meeting times:  
Sunday Nights, 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
Dinner is provided.

Youth Meeting Place  
Youth FIRE House next to Providence Church.



**Poinsettias and Bibles** will be available for Christmas again this year. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletin.





## Church Family News and Notes

Welcome to our new members:

- \* **Barbara Baron**, who was baptized and became a professing member on October 28;
- \* **Marsha O'Neil**, who transferred her membership from another UMC on October 28;
- \* **John and Jeanie Ezell**, who transferred from another UMC and from another denomination on October 28;
- \* **Ellison Channing Bailey**, who was baptized on November 11, daughter of Mike and Erin Bailey;
- \* **Judy Jacobs**, who transferred her membership from another denomination on November 18.

Our sympathy is expressed to the family of **James Burleigh** who died on October 28 and to the family of **Mike Nagosky** who died November 18.



Congratulations to **Justin Jones**, who completed the graduate accelerated nursing program for a Bachelor of Nursing Degree from DeSales University in August. Justin recently passed his NCLEX certification and is now a Registered Nurse. He works in Adult Intensive Care Unit at Geisinger Medical Center, a Trauma One Hospital in Danville, Pennsylvania.

### PRESCHOOL NEWS



#### A Note of Thanks

Thank you for all of the items that were donated to the Preschool in the months of October and November! We appreciate the great partnership we have with the members of PUMC!

#### Canned Food Drive

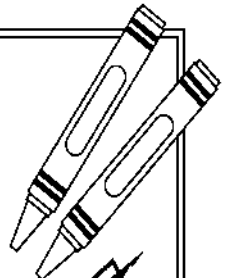
In November, we talked with the children about being thankful...and what wonderful things for which we have to be thankful, like

Jesus, our families and friends, and so much more. We held a canned food drive for the Central VA Food Bank and collected 8 large boxes of food to donate from the Preschool families.

#### Christmas Celebrations at Preschool

The Pre-K students are getting excited about our upcoming Nativity play, which will be presented in early December. The 2's and 3's will be presenting a program of favorite Christmas songs.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** to you and yours from the Preschool Staff and Students!

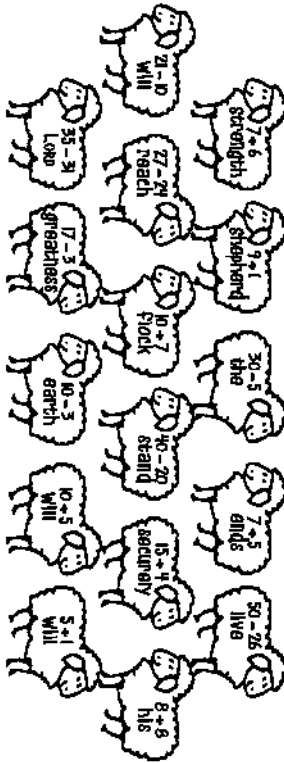


# PUZZLE

## A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He \_\_\_\_\_ 15 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ 17

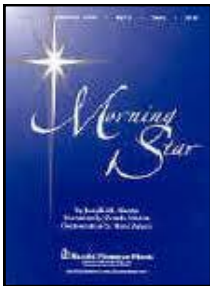
in the \_\_\_\_\_ 13 \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ .... And they \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 24

\_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_, for then \_\_\_\_\_ 16 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ 6

\_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ 26 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ "

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV



Join us as we celebrate Christ's birth with Joseph Martin's *Morning Star*, an Advent Cantata.

The performance will be Sunday, December 23, at 11:00 a.m. Performers will include the Providence Chancel Choir, a small instrumental ensemble, Don Kyser, and Carla

Wootten. You won't want to miss this musical event! May we all this Christmas sing with the angels in celebration: **"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star!"**

## Make a Difference in Our Community



Please consider baking or buying chocolate chip cookies and hot coca mix for our community wide event on

December 5.

All treats should be dropped off by December 4<sup>th</sup> in room 309. If you have questions, contact [isabelle.sullivan@providenceumc.net](mailto:isabelle.sullivan@providenceumc.net).



### Acolytes

Dec 1—*Communion*  
Emma McConnell  
Dec 9 Jackson Holland  
Dec 16 Emily Kyser  
Dec 23 Cole Holland  
Dec 24 Rachael Harvey  
(both services)  
Dec 30

### Communion Preparers

Dec 2  
9:00 Barbara Blankenship  
Dec 24  
5:00 Lisa Fleenor  
11:00 Janice Bradley

### Greeters

9:00 Jean Riekers  
Mike Patterson  
11:00 Judy Miles  
Pam Groome

### Name Tags

Dec 2 Jahna Seymour  
Dec 9 Jean Riekers  
Dec 16 Amy Mott  
Dec 23 Gracie Martin  
Dec 30 Gracie Martin

### Ushers

9:00 Bill Blankenship  
Chris Healy  
Carolyn Bilski  
11:00 George Winstead  
Lee Bradshaw  
Bob Fitch  
Linwood Hudson  
T. L. Jenkins  
Stuart Watkins  
David Sommer  
Allen Branson

### Counters

Dec 2 **Gary Wright**  
Anne Baird  
Wayne Smith  
Dec 9 **Jimmy Sculthorpe**  
Paul Martin  
Hugh Miles  
Dec 16 **Klaus Worrell**  
Steve Oliver  
Stuart Watkins  
Dec 23 **Ron Wootten**  
Janice Bergeron  
Bobby Johnson  
Gracie Martin  
Dec 30 **Gary Wright**  
Anne Baird  
Wayne Smith

### Nursery

**Dec 2**  
9:00 Jennifer Ostrum  
SS Jennifer Ostrum  
11:00 Shirley Collins  
**Dec 9**  
9:00 Kelly Horne  
SS Lori Justice  
11:00 Anne Blane & Brad Wootten  
**Dec 16**  
9:00 Linda Koertge  
SS Jennifer Ostrum  
11:00 Laurie Breeden  
**Dec 23**  
9:00 Ann Busbee  
SS Wendy Collins  
11:00 Mike & Wendy Collins  
**Dec 30**  
9:00 Pam Groome  
SS Wendy Collins  
11:00 Michelle Butler & Carol Urso

### Sanctuary Organizers

Bob Gillie

### Audio / Media Shout

**Dec 2**  
9:00 Tyler Griggs (A)  
Brad Wootten (M)  
Mary Elliott (B)  
11:00 Tyler Griggs (A)  
Brad Wootten (M)  
**Dec 9**  
9:00 Tyler Griggs (A)  
Bob Gillie (MS)  
Bob Gillie (B)  
11:00 Gary Wright (A)  
Bob Gillie (MS)  
**Dec 16**  
9:00 Tyler Griggs (A)  
Dano Holland (MS)  
Dano Holland (B)  
11:00 Ron Wootten (A)  
Dano Holland (MS)  
**Dec 23**  
9:00 Tyler Griggs (A)  
Steve Oliver (MS)  
Mary Elliott (B)  
11:00 Keith King (A)  
Steve Oliver (MS)  
**Dec 30**  
9:00 Tyler Griggs (A)  
Brad Wootten (MS)  
Bob Gillie (B)  
11:00 Tyler Griggs (A)  
Brad Wootten (MS)



## Missions Minutes

As we get ready for the arrival

**Our Mission Garden:** Our mission garden is in hibernation right now so more to come about that in the spring when we get ready to plant.

**Our BIG Homeward** event was a huge success. We helped over 400 people stay warm for the winter. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who donated. And, a BIG THANK YOU to our team that spent 2 days down at the convention center setting up and helping out. It takes a village and we had a village on Tuesday. We will have another, but smaller, event in January. We will keep you posted. Again, thank you for all that you do to support our community.

**CCHASM:** Thanksgiving Boxes: Providence UMC has done it again. We collected enough for 12 Thanksgiving Boxes. Thank you for making sure that others had a blessed Thanksgiving.

**Salvation Army Christmas Stockings:** Valerie Reese still has stockings so if you would like to make sure that a child will wake up on Christmas morning and have a great stocking to open, please see Val and she will hook you up.

**We are still in need of a builder.** We are looking to build a new Mission Area in the church to clean-up the area on the second floor. If you are good with wood and nails please contact me. I promise it is a simple concept.

We will not be meeting in December due to the Holidays. Again, thank you all for the help that you have provided.

If you have questions or would like to contact me for any reason, I can be reached at [pastor-billandsue2@verizon.net](mailto:pastor-billandsue2@verizon.net)

Blessing to each and every one,

~~ Sue Duganne

## Special Ways to Give

Our Christmas Offering Recipients:

**Red Bird Mission:** a ministry to underserved residents of Appalachia (SE KY) that includes a K-12 Christian School, health and dental clinic, preschool support and older adult outreach. <http://www.rbmission.org/>.

**Shalom Farms:** a UM ministry that grows fresh vegetables at Camp Westview on the James, and provides them to urban families.

Education on growing and eating healthy foods is provided for Richmond city residents. <http://shalomfarms.org/>.

**Food Backpack:** provide food for the weekend for nutritionally at-risk children who attend A. M. Davis Elementary School through the rest of the school year.

**United Methodist Family Services:** a ministry headquartered in Richmond that serves children and families that have suffered abuse, neglect, crisis, and trauma. <http://www.umfs.org/>.

## United Methodist Women

The **Newton Circle** will have their Christmas covered-dish dinner party on Friday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m., at the home of Pam Groome.



The **Laughon Circle** will have their Christmas Luncheon on Monday, December 10, at 11:30 a.m., at the home of Evelyn Hastings.

The **Gregory Circle** will meet for their Christmas Party at Laura Griggs' house, on Friday, Decem-

ber 7, at 6:30 p.m.

The **Whitt Circle** will meet on Tuesday, December 18, at 10:30 a.m., in the Social Hall at the church.

**District UMW Advent Service**, Saturday, December 1, Registration 10:00, Program 10:30-11:30 a.m., at River Road UMC, 8800 River Rd., Richmond, VA 23229

The Unit Christmas Party and Officer Installation with covered-dish dinner will be Monday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

## Newsletter



## Distribution Changes

In order to be better stewards of God's (and our church's) resources, beginning in January we will no longer be mailing the newsletter to everyone. Each month we will have printed copies available at the morning services on the Sunday prior to the newsletter month. The January 2013 newsletter will be available at the services on December 30. Email copies will continue to be distributed and posted on the church's website. A small number of copies will be mailed to those who are unable to come to church.

Since this is significant change, I'm sure we will need to make some changes in the process so let's work together to make this change a success. In the meantime, I welcome your comments and suggestions.

Linda Collins  
Linda.Collins@providenceumc.net

## The Season of Giving

During this holy season, we thank everyone who has supported **Providence UMC** this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions.

Visit [www.providenceumc.net](http://www.providenceumc.net) or contact the church office for more information.

## *Providence United Methodist Church*

*Belong. Be transformed. Make a difference.*

### **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

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](http://www.providenceumc.net)  
E-mail: [providenceumc@providenceumc.net](mailto:providenceumc@providenceumc.net)  
Pastor: [marybeth.blinn@providenceumc.net](mailto:marybeth.blinn@providenceumc.net)

### **Church Staff**

Pastor	Mary Beth Blinn
Director of Music Ministries	Margaret Taylor
Director of Contemporary Music	Eve Minter
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 27\*\*\*  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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