

Providence United Methodist Church

Belong. Be transformed. Make a difference.

December 2013

You are invited to our Advent and Christmas Celebrations!

Sunday, December 8

Hanging of the Greens

Our traditional Hanging of the Greens service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Worship God as we explore the meaning of time-honored practices such as decorating with evergreens, colors of the season, bell-ringing, caroling, Chrismon tree and the nativity. Our 9:00 a.m. Connections service will also include a display of the new Chrismons prepared for this year's tree.

Advent Luncheon at 12:15 p.m.

You are invited to attend a special Advent meal. Come and fellowship with old and new friends in our Social Hall. The luncheon is free with love offering baskets provided.

Friday, December 13

A SonRise Christmas at 7:00 p.m.

Women's ensemble singing Advent and Christmas favorites, such as "O Come All Ye Faithful", to "I'll be Home for Christmas." Stay for the reception with Christmas cookies and hot chocolate.

Sunday, December 15

Birthday Party for Jesus

Join us at 9:45 in the Social Hall, for a Birthday

Party for Jesus. Children are asked to bring the Christ child a gift of adult hats, gloves and socks to be used for the Winter Homeless Count. The party will be during the Sunday school hour and is sponsored by the Family Council. Bring the grandkids, bring your neighbors, and bring a friend. This is a great day to bring visitors to church.

Sunday, December 22

A Connections Christmas at 9:00 a.m.

Sing old and new Christmas favorites at our informal and more contemporary service.

Christmas Tapestry Service at 11:00 a.m.

Worship through music with our brass ensemble, chancel choir, handbell choir, children's choir, and an organ and piano duet.

Christmas Eve Services

Family Service at 5:00 p.m.

Children's Play, including Helen Kemp's *Calling All Angels*, children's boom whacker choir, youth choir, and a service of Holy Communion.

Candlelight service at 11:00 p.m.

Candlelight and Communion with chancel choir, handbells, soloists, brass, and piano/organ duet.

Worship in December

9:00 a.m. Connections Worship

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.

Dec 1	First Sunday in Advent Holy Communion Lighting of the Advent Candle	Isaiah 2:1-5 Matthew 3:1-12 Key Verse: Psalm 122:1	Theme: "Preparing for Jesus"
Dec 8	Second Sunday in Advent Hanging of the Greens at 11:00 am Lighting of the Advent Candle	Isaiah 11:1-10 Key Verse: Matthew 24:42	9:00—Theme: "Jesus' Agenda"
Dec 15	Third Sunday in Advent Lighting of the Advent Candle	Isaiah 35:1-10 Luke 1:39-55 Key Verse: Luke 1:47a	Theme: "Rejoice Anyway"
Dec 22	Fourth Sunday in Advent Lighting of the Advent Candle	Isaiah 7:10-16 Matthew 1:18-25 Key Verse: Psalm 80:3	9 am—a service of traditional and contemporary Christmas music with scripture 11 am—A Christmas Tapestry
Dec 29	1st Sunday after Christmas	Isaiah 63:7-9 Matthew 2:13-23 Key Verse: Psalm 96:1	The Rev. Hugh Harris, guest preacher—"When God says 'Go'"

Draw Close to God through Scripture

During the Advent and Christmas seasons, you are invited to meditate on and memorize a verse of scripture each week. Together as a congregation, we will focus on these verses in the days ahead.

December 1: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1

December 8: Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Matthew 24:42

December 15: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior . . . Luke 1:47a

December 22: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Psalm 80:3

December 29: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Psalm 96:1





Our **Christmas** offering will be going to local, national and world mission causes this year:

- UMFS (United Methodist Family Services) serving children and families that have suffered abuse, neglect, crisis, and trauma in Virginia.
- Medicine Box provides essential medicines and medical supplies for clinics and hospitals in countries that have experienced sudden natural disasters.
- USA: Project Crossroads provides housing, firewood, meals and disaster response for the elderly, the handicapped and families in Appalachia.

Branches Buddies would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Christmas stocking project. The children will be blessed by your offerings.



Thank you for your gifts which provide fresh flowers in our worship space each week. It is time to sign up for Sundays in 2014. The flower calendar is located in the hallway near the water fountain. The prices for 2014 will be \$35 for the Altar and \$30 for the Narthex arrangements. Personalized words in memory of honor are limited to 40 words. Payment is required at the time the flowers are reserved on the calendar. Complete a flower request form and include your check payable to Providence UMC.

2014 Wednesday Night Dinners

The schedule for 2014 Wednesday Night Dinners is posted on the bulletin board (in the hallway near the office).

Please choose a date and sign your group up to host a WND as a fundraiser.



The camaraderie in the kitchen is sometimes worth more than the proceeds from the dinner. You may also begin signing up for seasonal reservations on the bulletin board.



Don't forget to pick up your Advent devotional booklet in the foyer of the church. Cardboard banks are also available for your offerings for the Society of Saint Andrew hunger relief. You may return your Advent offering by December 22.

United Methodist Women

The UMW-sponsored, church-wide, women's event was held November 2 at Richmond Hill. "**Cafe Chocolat**" was the theme of the day. How sweet it is to have God's mercy and grace in our lives.

Twenty-three women, including Pastor Mary Beth, church members and a guest gathered at the beautiful Richmond Hill overlooking the city for a day of prayer, friendship and Bible study. A delicious lunch was served by our new friends at Richmond Hill and the sweetest part of the day was when we learned that the facilitators and guests gather in the chapel three times a day to thank God for his blessings and to ask for protection for the city and surrounding counties, including Chesterfield. If you missed it this year, watch for it next year!

Online Giving Complements Your Commitment

On November 17, many of you took the first step towards answering God's call for financial generosity in 2014 by submitting your commitment cards. A great next step towards fulfilling that commitment is to set up a recurring donation through our church web site, www.providenceumc.net/giving/. This only takes a few minutes,



and you can elect to contribute from your checking account or credit card.

United Methodist Women

- **Laughon Circle's Christmas Luncheon** will meet on Monday, December 9, at 11:30 a.m. at the home of Evelyn Hastings.
- **Newton Circle's Christmas Party** will meet on Tuesday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Pam Groome.
- **Whitt Circle** date and time TBA.
- **Gregory Circle** will meet on Friday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Laura Griggs.

Unit News:

12/2 Unit Christmas Party, covered dish dinner, installation of officers.

District & Conference News

12/7 UMW District Advent Service at Asbury UMC, Church Hill, 324 N. 29th Street, Richmond, VA 10:00-11:30 a.m.



YOUTH C.R.E.W. NEWS

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

Youth group Sunday nights

5:30-7:30

In the Youth house
Next to the church



Youth Director

Susan Clark

providencyouth@yahoo.com
921-9132 (cell and text)

Bethlehem
Walk
Goochland, VA

Bethlehem Walk, Wednesday, December 4, 5:30-8:30

Salem Baptist Church in Goochland recreates the city of Bethlehem for a 45 minute walk during the life of Jesus. The event drew over 13,000 visitors last year. Don't miss this free event! Cross Trainers and Youth CREW will travel together. A permission slip is needed. Parents welcome.

Caroling to Shut-ins! December 8, 1:00-3:00

Cross Trainers and Youth CREW will spread Christmas cheer to our shut-ins and local nursing homes. No youth meeting that night. Lunch is provided at 12:00 in the social hall for the Hanging of the greens.



December 22, 5:30-7:30 in the youth house

Bring a wrapped gift (no more than \$10) for the annual youth gift exchange! Please bring a drink or treat to share.



July 20-26 for Middle and High school

The summer mission trip will be in Topsail, North Carolina to help with home repair projects for families in need. The price is \$289 and includes lodging and most meals. If you're interested in going, contact Susan Clark at providencyouth@yahoo.com.



Youth Ushers Needed!

If you are interested in being a part of the first group of youth ushers (boy or girl), please contact Susan Clark or Tony Fleshman. Appropriate attire required. Blazer and slacks or boys and dress clothes for girls. Training will be provided.



No youth group meeting December 1 or December 29

Thank you to our youth leaders for another great year of youth ministry!

Pastor's Note

There are 25 Growing Days Until Christmas!

“Don't you mean 'shopping' days, Pastor Mary Beth? It's 25 shopping days until Christmas.” No, it's not a mistake. I believe “growing” is the best word for what we, as Christians, do during this season. More and more of us are placing less emphasis on buying gifts and instead focusing on our faith. We're getting back to the heart of what it means to lift up Jesus, who was born that we might have life. The delightful celebrations that we have during December are great. They fill us with joy and often plenty of good food! But what we do in the quiet moments feeds our souls and helps us grow in our relationship with God.

There are several ways we will do this at Providence this year. A devotional booklet is

provided for each family. Take time to grow from it each day. Advent calendars are offered to all of our children by the Family Council. For each week, I have chosen a Bible verse for us all to read, reflect on, and memorize. God's word will truly be in our hearts and minds. Each Monday, I will send out a message, with a reminder to include silence and prayer in your day. On top of all this, we will have lots of opportunities for inspiring worship and outreaching mission as you can see in this newsletter. Let's grow together. I can't think of a better gift to give ourselves and each other and God.



Peace,

Pastor Mary Beth

Backpacks make great Christmas gifts! If you would like to make a donation to the Providence Road Partners A. M. Davis backpack program as a gift, please write checks payable to the church with “Backpack Program” written on the memo line. Holiday donation cards are available in the church office that you can give to friends and family. We are currently feeding thirteen children each week. One backpack (with six meals for the weekend) can be provided for \$12. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Wendy Collins at 276-2418, or

MrsCollins17@aol.com.



A. M. Davis Christmas Families. Our church is providing Christmas for the children of eight families at A. M. Davis Elementary School this year. If you are interested in providing gifts OR money to purchase these gifts, please contact

Wendy Collins or the church office. Donations of money can be made by check, payable to the church with “A. M. Davis Christmas” on the memo line.

Church Family News and Notes

On Sunday, November 10, Judy Ford became a member of Providence by transferring her membership. Welcome, Judy!

On Sunday, November 17, we welcomed two families into our church:

- David Garrison, joining by profession of faith, and Lindsay Garrison, transferring her membership and reaffirming her faith, brought their daughter, Eloise, to be baptized. Blessings and welcome!
- Gene and Penny Duckworth were also welcomed as Gene was baptized and professed his faith in Christ, and Penny reaffirming her faith and transferring her membership.



Our prayers are with the family of Margaret Overstreet who died on November 2.



A Note of Thanks:

25 years? In some ways, it seems like only yesterday!

I have truly enjoyed my work here at Providence for the last 25 years. To me, this is more than a job, it is a ministry. I have appreciated working

with and among all of you over this time. As I looked back through some old directories recently, I saw the faces of many of those special people who have gone to be with our Lord, and I miss them very much, as do you. Every time I see their family member(s), I am reminded of those special people, and how much they have meant to all of us.

I appreciated your recognition of my time here and the nice gift card that was presented to me on September 29, which just happened to be my 64th birthday. (The standing ovation was nice, too!) I'm looking to find just the perfect item that I can keep to commemorate my time spent at PUMC.

I wish to express my love and appreciation to all of you. I look forward to more special times with my "church family."

As I am still recuperating at home from major back surgery, I hope to be back at work shortly. I miss you all!

With gratitude in God's love,
Kathy Smith

Ralph and I would like to thank our friends at Providence for all you have done for us this past year. Your prayers truly were felt by us and by my brother Will Richardson. Your phone calls, cards and words of encouragement have made it possible to get through this difficult time.

Love in Christ,
Ralph & Billiedale

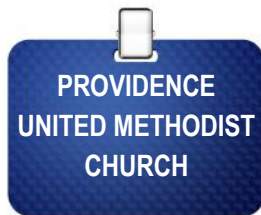
From Your PUMC Endowment Committee

Giving to the PUMC Endowment Fund
without writing a check . . .

There are many ways to make a meaningful contribution to our Endowment Fund without the need to write a check.

One way is to make a gift of a life insurance policy that for one reason or another is no longer needed for its intended purpose. For example, suppose many years ago you purchased a life insurance policy naming your children as beneficiaries, and through their own good works they have accumulated significant assets. The policy may be gifted to the Endowment Fund, and you would receive a nice charitable deduction. Best of all, the Endowment Fund that is professionally managed for us, would invest the monies and provide funding for many years to come for the current and future needs of our church and community.

There are many other ways to contribute to our Endowment Fund. From time to time, there will be additional articles in our newsletter explaining some of these methods of planned giving.



From the time that name tags arrived a Providence, approximately five years ago, a dedicated group, known simply as the “Name

Tag Organizers,” has been responsible for putting the name tags back into the cabinets after Sunday services and keeping them neat and orderly. That group will be dissolving and passing on those responsibilities to the office staff in 2014. Thank you to the Name Tag Organizers who have served during this time: Pam Asbury, the late Kathryn Bradshaw, Laurie Breeden, Nikki Earley, Emma Fleenor, Don and Elizabeth Kyser and the girls, Gracie Martin, Amy Mott, Cathy Patterson, Jean Riekers, Erma Robbins, Jahna Seymour, Ginny Thompson, and Carolyn Winstead.

Directory Updates



ADD:

FORD, Judy
804-840-8410, 11909 West Briar
Patch Drive, Midlothian, VA 23113

GARRISON, Davis & Lindsay; Eloise
804-731-3421, 700 Hartford Lane,
Richmond, VA 23236

CHANGES:

CURTIS, John, 804-318-9343, 5764
Quiet Pine Circle, Apt. #106, Chester,
VA 23831

GRIGGS, Katie, 1105 NW 3rd Ave-
nue., Apt. L4, Gainesville, FL 32601

HARGRAVE, Monique, 237 Twin
Crest Drive., N. Chesterfield, VA
23236

HIGGINBOTHAM, Page & Ansley, 323
N. 27th Street, Richmond, VA 23223

SHEPPERSON, Michael & Elizabeth,
add Halee

WHITBY, David & Amery, add Alivia



Acolytes

Dec 1—*Communion*
Tristen Kellam
Dec 8 Cole Holland
Dec 15 Emily Kyser
Dec 22 Meredith Kyser
Dec 24 Jackson Holland (5:00)
Tristen Kellam (11:00)
Dec 29 Emily Kyser

Communion Preparers

Dec 1
9:00 Lindsey Collins
11:00 Carolyn Winstead
Dec 24 Barbara Robertson (5:00)
Janice Bradley (11:00)

Nursery

Dec 1
9:00 Jennifer Ostrum
SS Wendy Collins
11:00 Anne Blane &
Brad Wootten

Dec 8
9:00 Kelly Horne
SS Troye Hamilton
11:00 Shirley Collins
Emily Kyser (Y)

Dec 15
9:00 Wendy Collins
SS Jennifer Ostrum
11:00 Laurie Breeden

Dec 22
9:00 Ann Busbee
SS Wendy Collins
11:00 Mike & Wendy Collins

Dec 29
Pam Groome
Noelle Holland
Michelle Butler

Sanctuary Organizers

Bob Gillie

Name Tags

Dec 1 Carolyn Winstead
Dec 8 Jean Riekers
Dec 15 Nikki Earley
Dec 22 Jahna Seymour
Dec 29 Laurie Breeden

Readers

Dec 1 Wayne Smith
Dec 8 Jim Chappell
Dec 15 Jim McConnell
Dec 22 Patty Wright
Dec 29 Tracey Kellam

Greeters

Ed Bldg:
9:00 Linda Keery
11:00 Allen Branson
Narthex:
9:00 Mike Patterson
11:00 Mary Lou Branson

Christmas Eve

Ed Bldg:
5:00 Nickie Price
11:00 Allen Branson
Narthex:
5:00 Tracey Kellam
11:00 Tracey Kellam

Ushers

9:00 Bill Blankenship
Chris Healy
Carolyn Bilski
11:00 George Winstead
Lee Bradshaw
Bob Fitch
Linwood Hudson
T. L. Jenkins
Stuart Watkins
Pam Asbury
Joseph Salvaggio

Audio / Media Shout

Dec 1
9:00 Tyler Griggs (A)
Bob Gillie (MS)
Bob Gillie (B)
11:00 Tyler Griggs (A)
Bob Gillie (MS)

Dec 8
9:00 Gary Wright (A)
Steve Oliver (MS)
Mary Elliott (B)
11:00 Gary Wright (A)
Steve Oliver (MS)

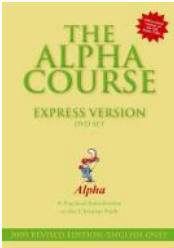
Dec 15
9:00 Ron Wootten (A)
Dano Holland (MS)
Dano Holland (B)
11:00 Ron Wootten (A)
Dano Holland (MS)

Dec 22
9:00 Tyler Griggs (A)
Bob Gillie (MS)
Bob Gillie (B)
11:00 Tyler Griggs (A)
Bob Gillie (MS)

Dec 29
Keith King (A)
Brad Wootten (MS)
Brad Wootten (B)
Keith King (A)
Brad Wootten (MS)

Counter Team Captains

Dec 1 Gary Wright
Dec 8 Jimmy Sculthorpe
Dec 15 Klaus Worrell
Dec 22 Ron Wootten
Dec 29 Gary Wright



Alpha Course

Offered in January

Beginning on Sunday, January 12, 5:00-7:30 pm a 10 week course called "Alpha" will be offered at PUMC. Alpha is the first

letter of the Greek alphabet and indicates that this course is an introduction to the Christian faith. No question about life or God is seen as too simple or too hostile. Participants have an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed friendly setting. The weekly gathering will include supper, teaching, small group dis-

cussion. Child care will be provided.

You can help! If you want to know more about the Christian faith, sign yourself up. If you know someone who wants to know more, invite them. If you want to help with the meals or help provide childcare, this is a place for you as well. Be a part of something new that will help us share the good news of Jesus Christ in our community. For more information, contact Pastor Mary Beth, 276-4289, Christopher Wilms at wilmsfamily@verizon.net or Amy Mott at amott@joelbieber.com or 804-814-8646.

Meeting Space Requests for 2014

The new year will be here before you know it! As the new committees begin their work, it's important that the church office has their scheduled meetings and/or activities on the church's calendar. This way, everyone will have a place to meet and we the office calendar will be as up-to-date as possible.

The best way for the calendar in the office to be accurate is through communication. A hand-written note, an email, or a schedule for the entire year works great! Don't forget to let us know if something changes too. It's all important!



Email your calendar information (or changes) to Linda (Linda.Collins@providenceumc.net) at any time or leave a note in the Office Staff mailbox in the hallway.



Memorial Walk Described

On Wednesday, December 11 at 7 pm, the cemetery committee will provide a opportunity for the congregation to learn about our new Memorial Walk. The Memorial Walk, located in the Providence Cemetery, will offer spaces to purchase for the interment of ashes. The meeting will be held in the chapel.

Financial Update through October 31, 2013

Financial Obligations Met: Yes
Apportionments Met: Yes
Adequate Operating Funds: Yes
2013 Giving (as of July 31): \$338,474

Giving in the third quarter remained on track with a fairly strong month in August followed by a slow month in September. October has started the third quarter off slowly; hopefully we will gain some momentum during the end of Q4. That said, giving for the year remains on track and slightly ahead of 2012. Expenses are comparable to the previous year and that coupled with a strong cash position to start the year due to a large year-end gift have helped the PUMC Operating Fund remain solid.

We remind all that maintenance expenditures

are always just around the corner so it is important that we all stay “on pledge” with our giving; stretching where we can. Please don’t forget that stock gifts are always welcome and PUMC has the mechanism in place to receive such wonderful contributions. Reminder: the IRS has extended through 2013 the opportunity to make substantial gifts from a 401K with no tax implications for individuals over the age of 70.

The budget process is underway. Receipts (giving) over the past five years have remained fairly flat while disbursements (expenses) continue to increase. Therefore creating the annual budget is a challenging task.

For more detail, copies of the most recent treasurer’s report are always available at the church office.

A note from the



Congregational Care Committee

The New Year is nearly upon us and the CCC is ready to serve as an advocate for helping to identify and meet the needs of the congregation. Our concern extends to the whole congregation whether you have just visited us, have recently joined the church, or have been a member for many years. We are all a part of this mission and I would encourage you to let

us know when you become aware of a need or have a concern that might be recognized. Or, if you would like to be part of our group, please let us know. Caring about our church is an important part of our church life.

Our bulletin board will soon have a list of the committee members and how to contact us. We are all called to care and there are many ways this can be demonstrated. One way to look at our mission is to ask “what would Jesus do?” We are a blessed people — let’s share that with others.

Patty Wright
Patty.wright1@gmail.com
276-3469



We will again be offering poinsettias and Bibles for the Christmas Season. On Sunday, December 1 and Sunday, December 8, there will be an insert in your bulletin so that you can place your order. The cost will be \$10.00 for each poinsettia and \$10.00 for Bibles for prison ministry. Each can be placed in honor or in memory. The deadline for orders is December 9.

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
 4:00 pm Youth Bell/Chime Choir
 4:30 pm Youth Vocal Choir
 5:30 pm Youth
 7:30 pm Bells of Providence

Wednesday

5:45 pm Wednesday Night Dinners
 6:30 pm KC JAM
 6:45 pm Studies or Classes
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday

7:30 pm Ministry in Motion

Contact us at:

Church Telephone 276-4289
 Fax Number 745-2501
 Website: www.providenceumc.net
 E-mail: providenceumc@providenceumc.net

Pastor Mary Beth Blinn
 Email marybeth.blinn@providenceumc.net
 Home Telephone 562-5169
 Cell Phone 658-8046

Family & Discipleship Ministries
 Director of Music Ministries Margaret Taylor
 Contemporary Worship Music Leader Michael Kalson
 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

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[@providence_umc](https://twitter.com/providence_umc) and

follow Pastor Mary Beth at:

[@marybethblinn](https://twitter.com/marybethblinn).

