


Providence United Methodist Church

Belong. Be Transformed.  Make a Difference.

December 2016

The Christ Child is a promise from God the Father, that in the midst of bad times and in the midst of tough times, great things will come from small things.

It is God's way of saying, when you least expect it expect it.

December Worship and Events

- 4 Sunday Hanging of the Greens (11 am)
- 17 Saturday Joys of Christmas (10 am-12 pm)
(children's event in the social hall)
- 18 Sunday Christmas Cantata (11 am)

Christmas Eve Worship

- 24 Saturday Family Friendly Service (5:00 pm)
Candlelight & Communion Service (7:30 pm)
Candlelight & Communion Service (11:00 pm)

Christmas Day Worship

- 25 Sunday Worship — ONE Service



Thank you to all of the parents, players, volunteers, and supporters of Upward Soccer 2016 at PUMC. Your prayers, your presence and your positive attitude helped this program, led magnificently by Commissioner Joe Gillette, succeed

and be a blessing to the community and a glorification of God. There are many who deserve recognition and we have included as many as possible in this report.

Thank you,
Ed Blackwell

(continued on next page)

2016 PUMC Upward Soccer Recognition

Director

Joe Gillette

Assistant Director/Head of Referees

Ron Wootten

Advisor

Jennifer Clemmons

Referees

Tyler Griggs
Ron Wootten

Steve Reese
Mark Melancon

Timekeeper

Laura Breedon

Coaches

Al Riekers	Jean Riekers
Ed Beatty	Brock Kiser
Ronda Oakes	Mitch Early
Michael Vasquez	Mike Collins
Gary Wettle	Shawn Lundvall
Sean Collins*	Kelly Horne
Jen Swanson	

****Also trained beginning coaches***

Director of Devotions

Wendy Collins

Devotion Leaders

Rev. Parson
Sherry Jeter
Brenda Woodward
Daniel Burch
Laura Griggs
Cathy Patterson

Thank you for helping at evaluations: *Pam Asbury, Derrick Parson*

Players: 90

Matches: 8 (excluding 2 rainouts)

Leagues: 3 (4&5, Grades 1-2,
Grades 3-5)

Teams Per League: 4

Awards Ceremony

Upward Gifts (backpacks) &
Guest Speaker





We will again be providing **Christmas gifts for students at A. M. Davis Elementary School**. Parents are currently completing forms to provide information for their children and we will be contacting church members soon for their help. A number of people expressed interest in this project in September; if you or your group is interested, please email your contact information to Wendy Collins (MrsCollins17@aol.com).

Remember, we continue to provide **food backpacks to students at A. M. Davis** each Friday during the school year. It costs **\$12 to feed one child for one weekend**; each backpack contains food, juice and milk for 6 meals. If you would like to contribute to this mission, you can write a check to the church with A. M. Davis on the memo line. If you'd like to use your contribution as a Christmas gift, cards and envelopes will be available in the church office beginning November 27th.

United Methodist News Daily and Weekly Digest

Please do not wait for television or newspaper accounts of what is currently happening in the United Methodist Church. Get your information daily or weekly, your choice, for FREE from the United Methodist News Service! Click on the link below and sign up now:

[United Methodist News](#)

Blessings,
Ed Blackwell, 2016 Lay Delegate

Youth Information

- Youth Session every Sunday 5:30-7:30 at the Youth House next to the church. Middle school youth and high school youth are both welcome! Parents are welcome as well for our weekly Bible study, meal and fellowship.
- Sunday School classes every Sunday between services from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
- December 17—The Joys of Christmas Brunch (10 a.m.-12 noon).
- December 18—Dress rehearsal for Youth Crew Christmas Eve Service 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- December 24—Christmas Eve Service: Youth Production 5:00 p.m. service.
- During December, the Youth will be volunteering with the Salvation Army.
- Upcoming Youth Retreat—February 17-19 at Eagle Eyrie.

Church Family News & Notes



The Chesterfield Ruritan Club would like to say THANK YOU to those Providence UMC members came and supported our fundraiser dinner in July. Your attendance made it a success and you also helped local youth to attend camp in July. The Ruritan motto is "Fellowship, Good Will, and Community Service" - and gatherings such as our fund-raising dinners are always filled with good fellowship, good food, good will, and helps us to do good community service.

Thank you again for helping us "serve our Community". Be on the lookout for other such events and we hope you can again give "your Community" your support!

Dear Providence UMC Family,
Thank you so much for the flowers I received from your church. Judy Gindhart brought them to me. They are absolutely beautiful. God bless each of you.

Mrs. Buchanan

PS — I spoke to Doris and Bob Smoot recently and they said to tell everyone HELLO.

Christine Forte and Alexandre Klotz were married in his hometown Paris, France in July. They continue to live and work in Shanghai, China.

Christine's email is in the church directory.



Mary and Howard Busbee are proud to announce the birth of a grandson, Watson Alain Busbee Summerfield, born May 24, 2016. Parents are Stacey and Toby Summerfield.



We welcome our new members:

- Donna Smith (Sept. 4)
- Sherry and Terrence Jeter (Oct. 2)
- Alexandra Alli (Oct. 30)
- Raina Vann (Oct. 30)



We are saddened by the loss of:

- Helen Overstreet (Sept. 2)
- Pauline Pace (Oct. 6)
- Isabell Bodtke (Nov. 12)
- Helen Bowman (Nov. 25)

and extend our heartfelt sympathy to their families.

Dear Providence family,

We want to thank you for all your love and support as we journeyed with Stuart through his brain cancer and also thank you for caring support as we try to find the new normal in our lives.

In Christian love, Linda, Melvin, Lisa,
Julie & Mike.

Children Active in Ministries @ Providence: CHAMPS

On the first Wednesday of every month, the children gather for their own chance to learn how to participate in ministry in a child-centered way. Fellowshiping with other Christians is one of the foremost purposes of church and they have really enjoyed this time with their church family.

The children have been learning Bible stories, doing crafts and singing worship songs. They also helped in packing backpack lunches for A.M. Davis and we will be exploring other ways the children can participate in community missions.

I'm really excited to be a part of Providence this Christmas season. We have some wonderful activities planned to celebrate the true meaning of the season.

Important Dates:

- December 7 6:00 pm Next **CHAMPS** meeting
- December 17 10:00 am The **Joys of Christmas** Brunch (with fun activities and pictures with Santa)
- December 24 5:00 pm **Christmas Eve** family-friendly worship (More information about rehearsal to come!)
- January 4 6:00 pm **CHAMPS**
- January 8 12:30 pm Children's Ministry **planning meeting**

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sherry Wright-Jeter

Sherry.Jeter@providenceumc.net



United Methodist Women

Circle Meetings Dates

Contact your leader regarding possible December dates for meetings or gatherings. January meeting dates will be announced soon.



Dear friends, as we enter into the season of Advent should we be grateful for the expression, “**Humbug**,” or be grateful for the concept, “**House of Bread?**”

The word humbug no precise meaning, no artful etymology from an ancient and respectable language, but it is clear, concise and forceful when put to hard use. The children of its day would use it or say it because they liked the sound of it. “Humbug!”

The sound is expressive while drawing our attention to the motion picture of Ebenezer Scrooge. Scrooge’s character was more insipid than little Tiny Tim perhaps because of Ebenezer’s use of that wonderful evocative word “Humbug!”

Our friend, Charles Dickens, who spends and expends pages on descriptions, doesn’t waste time with definitions; he lets his pictures do the talking. Maybe Humbug is best defined as the late Justice Potter Stewart who once tried to define obscenity. He couldn’t define it, so he said, “**I know it when I hear it.**”

In our hearts of hearts, I think this is true of the word humbug, and of us particularly during this season of the year and that is why we so often find ourselves trapped in this seasonal and

emotional pressure cooker called Christmas-time.

We are surrounded by good cheer and folks saying good day or Merry Christmas. Lights are everywhere — on our homes and in the shopping malls and somehow we see lights as they filter throughout our lives. We see lights and decorations in our churches regardless of their denomination. We see shops filled with happiness and commercial joy. And for some, we may still want to say, “Bah, Humbug!” Get on with it!

To be honest, even the most cynical of us will get caught up in the commercialism of Christmas if only for a moment. Our lives at this time of year are filled with all kinds of efforts to make us feel good. We spend money, go to parties, dinners and concerts to make ourselves feel good. We over extend ourselves monetarily; we use more energy and are stretched emotionally more than any other time. It would be easy for us to look at these seasonal trappings and yell out, “Bah Humbug!” Get on with it.

There are some of us who understand this because we are excited that Christmas is coming but wish only for it to be over as soon as possible. “Bah Humbug!”

The problem with this kind of thinking at Christmas is that we are all made to feel that we ought to be happy and that anyone who isn’t happy at this time of the year is truly miserable and that their unhappiness is self-inflicted. So the problem is between what we know and

what we feel!

What we know is that the true meaning of Christmas is about the story of Christ's birth; of Mary and Joseph, of the little baby Jesus and of how God the Father watched over them to bring Salvation into being. That's the Christmas we know! And yet what we feel is that everyone we know and love ought to receive a gift from us and we expect to receive a gift from them. That's the Christmas that we feel. So we can see how this problem continues to become compounded by mixing this all up; the church of Jesus Christ, Christian faith and thinking somehow that a Christmas tree and the scent of pine will make everything alright!

Christmas faith is not the sugar-coated pill we swallow at Christmastime to make us feel better or to make the world look better. Indeed the church has a medicine for this condition, a cure for Bah Humbug. Perhaps the Apostle Paul's letter to the church of Corinth can be helpful because it gives us the wondrous virtues of Faith, Hope and Love of which he says that the greatest of these is Love.

However, when we look at the letter to Thessalonica where Paul uses the same sort of theme, he gives honor and specificity to Hope. If we were to divide them up on the church calendar for the year, we would assign Love to the season of Lent and Faith to the season of Pentecost.

But my friends, Hope, the imperishable theme of Advent, is called the season of waiting and anticipation. It is hope and hope alone that

gives meaning and purpose to waiting. It is hope that helps us see beyond our present condition and rescues us from fear and despair. It is true that without Hope, Love has no meaning. It is also true that without Hope, Faith has no purpose. It is equally true that without Hope there would be no Advent! You can see how we are able to bear the dark times because Hope tells us that the dawn is coming!

Now you are beginning to see the stretch of light between **Humbug** and **House of Bread**!

The word Bethlehem means "**House of Bread**" and refers to the fact that the village was situated in a fruitful and fertile place, where with work, its soil would yield food and harvest to the faithful. Grain and fruit could be grown and there was an abundance of fresh water in the wells. My friends, it was not a flourishing place in the sense of a great market town and trading center, but it was a special place where favorable circumstances stimulated by effort could produce refreshment and sustenance for its people.

To the people of its day, it was not considered the Holy City. It was not Jerusalem, the great capital, the center of worship and influence. It was a modest village, not favored with riches and great opportunity, but with a history that was dear to the Jews!

It was in Bethlehem, the House of Bread, where the monument to Rachel, the wife of the patriarch Jacob, can be found. The House of Bread was called the city of Ruth because it is

that's where she and her husband, Boaz, lived. Ruth became the great-grandmother to King David. It was Bethlehem, the House of Bread, where King David was born. It was in Bethlehem that the first live nativity was ever experienced. It was in Bethlehem where the baby Jesus was born!

So you see that Bethlehem, the House of Bread, and its historical associations, speak well of Hope and speaks well of our future together.

Grace and Peace
Reverend Derrick Parson



Providence United Methodist Youth Crew “Intergenerational Ministry”

As the holiday season rapidly approaches, it is important to redefine our vision for the future, both on a personal and collective level. Most importantly, it is important to connect to the vision that God has for this youth ministry. Providence United Methodist Church is built upon a long **legacy of Tradition**, which is still alive today. Over the past couple months, the Providence United Methodist Church Youth Crew has connected with the vision of Providence's preceding, intergenerational ministry. One of the primary purposes of the Youth Crew is to continue to cultivate **Relationships**. Within the kingdom of God, relationships are the vessel through which tradition can be taught

and preserved.

Intergenerational ministry can be defined as an exchange between age groups in an effort to cultivate an exchange of wisdom from one generation to another. Throughout the past couple months, our Youth Crew has fully participated in intergenerational ministry with the elder generations at Providence, through their involvement in local ministries. It is important to highlight and congratulate their efforts. For the first time in the history of the annual Brunswick Stew Event, our youth were fully involved by participating in this event. **The continuation of Providence traditions depends fully on the strength of intergenerational relationships between our youth and elder members.** Our youth were able to grasp the importance of receiving the wisdom from their elders as they participated in this community service event. This type of hands-on community service encourages **ministry in action**. Our youth have tremendous potential to embody intergenerational ministry through these acts of service. The Fall Festival was also another great opportunity for the Youth Crew to participate in an event which draws members from the community to experience the hospitality, openness and agape love that Providence seeks to share. Most recently, our youth had the privilege to participate in the annual CARITAS event. By participating in the preparation of meals for homeless families, our youth were able to begin to understand all of the behind the scenes efforts that are required to facilitate community service events. Overall, our youth crew is beginning to **bridge the gap between generations by cultivating relationships**

with those that have walked before them.


As believers, we have an advantage over the materialistic approach that pervades our Western culture during the holiday season. Our youth will benefit from the practice of intergenerational ministry because of the values it instills. Above all, Providence Youth Crew is learning **the value of the gift of relationship** in three key areas. First and most importantly, our youth are learning to develop their **relationship with God** by anchoring their minds, hearts and spirits in scripture. Second, our youth are learning to cultivate **relationships with one another** which ensures the preservation of authentic connection through Godly fellowship. And lastly, the disciples of the Providence Youth Crew are learning to cultivate a **healthy relationship with themselves** as they are embracing the challenge of becoming the future leaders for this community.

Alexandra Alli
Director of Youth Ministries

New Sunday School Class

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT)

Growing Christians and
Faith Sharers classes
have combined and will meet in
Room 309.



Church Directory
UPDATE

Updates to April 2015 Directory

CHANGES:

FORTE, Christine — change to Klotz, Alexandre & Christine Forte

GRIGGS, Tyler — 3125 Queens Grant Dr., Midlothian, VA 23113

LATIMER, Matt — 1476 Avon St., Charlottesville, VA 22901

LATIMER, Morgan — 840 Oak Tree Blvd., Christiansburg, VA 24073

WOODCOCK, Ellen — change to Houpp, Jarrod & Ellen — same address

BLACKWELL, Eddie IV—119 S. 1st St., Apt. 306, Richmond, VA 23219

BREEDEN, Emma — 2716 Waterford Way, Apt. 2B, Midlothian, VA 23112

KINCAID, Kelly — 1001 National Dr., #238, San Bruno, CA 94066

MOYER, Matthew & Carrie — delete address





CARITAS

PUMC hosted the CARITAS Family Focus Group during the week of November 5th. We sheltered, fed and loved on nine adults and 19 children. The outstanding volunteerism during that week was a sight to behold. Sue Duganne, a former member who now attends Stockton Baptist Church, came to Providence each morning at 4:30 and prepared and served a hot breakfast. She did all this before going to her job at 7:30 a.m.! Our guests said on their first morning with us that this was the first hot breakfast they had gotten in over three weeks. Gracie Martin came in each day to clean and organize the kitchen after breakfast and to purchase items needed from the grocery store. What a rewarding blessing to send women and children out to start their stressful days armored with a nourishing, hot breakfast.

To our overnight chaperones; this program could not exist without your willingness to be a church presence during the overnight hours. Steve & Val, Barbie & Gary Vest, Jean, Mary & Kathy, Donna Smith, Doug Sheek, Linda Koertge and Jane Gilliam, Jim McConnell and Carla & Ron – you are the best!

A big thank you goes to Al & Jean Riekers , who came each night to help out. Al became famous for being the “homework king”, and the

children looked forward to his help every evening. Valerie Reese was also with us every night to help with the children, prepare a meal, wash towels every day and to do everything else that needed to be done. Cathy Patterson came most evenings to bring special toys, games, puzzles, and they even had a dance party, and Sherry Jeter, Linda Koertge, Steve Reese & Danielle Hellams were also there most every night to help where needed. Sean Collins came in on Friday evening to do a special art project with the kids.

Thank you to the Sunday School Classes, UMW circles and the choir for purchasing items and packing lunches each day and to the many volunteers who took laundry home each night to wash. This is such an important gift as it gives our guests clean clothes when they are able to have so few items in their possession. Also, thank you to those who purchased GRTC Bus Passes. This gives the mothers and children a chance to move around the city to appointments and other tasks without having to walk all day.

And to our Pastor, thank you for your support in this mission. Thank you for staying late on Sunday, after two services and a funeral, just so you could greet our guests and welcome them to Providence. Thanks to you, Natalia and Joshua, for packing lunches, helping with homework and playing with the children; and for arriving before 6:00 a.m. on Saturday to give them a word of hope and encouragement before they left for the last time.

I hope that most of you had the opportunity to

observe some part of this week, where so many members of our congregation were able to be the hands and feet of Christ and were able to show them the face of Christ when these women and children looked into their faces. It truly does take everyone giving a little to make big changes in our world.

Homeward's Homeless Connect

On November 15th, 500+ of our neighbors who are homeless or members of the working poor came through the Richmond Convention Center to be served by a variety of service providers. Once again, Providence UMC was there providing clothing and other personal provisions to those in need. Twelve of us from Providence, along with six other volunteers that we have met along the way, traveled downtown in a truck, a trailer and 3 SUVs to unpack and set up our donations for the next day.

On the day of the event, eleven of us caravanned back to the convention center to spend the day providing for and serving those who came through our area. A special thank you to Jean Riekers & Sue Duganne who each took off two vacation days to participate; and to Valerie Reese, Bill Duganne & Gary Vest, Al Riekers, Doug Sheek and Rob Heare who also took off time from work. I keep reiterating how I am surrounded with the best people in the world!

Thank you to all of you who donated clothing, shoes, bags and snack items. Every item was appreciated.

Please remember at all donated clothing must be in good clean condition. Many hours are spent in the Mission Room sorting through donations and organizing them by size and season. Bags of clothing are discarded due to being stained, dirty, covered in pet hair or smelling of tobacco. This takes up much of our volunteer's valuable time. Remember; if we would not wear it, we will not distribute it. If possible, it would save our volunteer's time if donations were separated by men's and women's and summer and winter. If that is not possible, that's O.K., we'll take it anyway! Also, after today's event, we have determined that size small in men's and women's are not needed, so please donate those items to the charity of your choice. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission.

CCHASM

During the year, CCHASM provides food to families in need through various food pantries at churches throughout the county. In November, Thanksgiving bags containing specific items, including a grocery store gift card to purchase a turkey, are collected and distributed at the county fairgrounds. Shirley Hudson is our CCHASM Representative. Last year, Providence UMC pledged to provide 30 bags & gift cards, and we exceeded our goal and provided 39 bags. We hoped to provide at least 39 bags again this year, and we came through with 69 bags! Once again, the members of PUMC have demonstrated their generosity and their love for helping others. Thank you to Shirley Hudson and members of the Christian Builders Sunday School Class for organizing

this project and delivering the food to CCHASM.

Salvation Army Christmas Stockings

Christmas Stockings are located on the bench outside the library and are ready to be filled with gifts for children in our area. This mission was started by our beloved Mary Lou Robinson, and we continue it in her memory. Please get a stocking (or several), fill it with items recommended on the attached card and return it to the box located on the bench. Filled stockings will be taken to the Salvation Army Distribution Center.

A.M. Davis Christmas Families

Each year PUMC is provided with a list of children attending A.M. Davis whose families need some help in providing gifts at Christmas. Many Sunday School classes provide gifts for a family, as do some individuals in our church. If you are a member of a Sunday School class or other small group, please consider sponsoring a family to make sure that all of the children have gifts on Christmas morning. For more information on sponsoring an A.M. Davis family, contact Wendy Collins at:

Mrscollins17@aol.com.



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Weekly Schedule

Sunday	
9:00 am	Connections Worship Service
9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service
2:00 pm	Disciple 1
5:30 pm	Youth & Inukshuks
Tuesday	
6:30 pm	Jesus in the Gospels
7:00 pm	Young Adults
Thursday	
6:15 pm	Men's Study
6:30 pm	AA
Friday	
8:00 pm	AA

Informal Worship "Connections" at 9 am led by Ministry in Motion praise team.

Traditional Worship at 11 am, includes a variety of music and is led by the Chancel Choir and other musical groups. Our pastor, The Rev. Derrick Parson, brings the message at both services.

Contact us at:

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

Pastor (201) Derrick Parson

Derrick.Parson@providenceumc.net

Church Secretary (203) Linda Collins

Linda.Collins@providenceumc.net

Children's Ministries (205) Sherry Jeter

Sherry.Jeter@providenceumc.net

Youth Ministries Alexandra Alli

Alexandra.Alli@providenceumc.net

Music Ministries (207)

Young Adult Ministries Daniel Burch

Daniel.Burch@upsem.edu

A/V Coordinator Tyler Griggs

tgriggs87@gmail.com

Custodial Service Bill Duganne

Nursery Attendant Cynthia Liverpool

Our Covenant Missionary Kim King Torres