

Newsletter



Providence United Methodist Church
 901 S. Providence Road
 Richmond, VA 23236
 *** NEWSLETTER MAILED August 24 ***
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday	
8:45 am	Worship Service
9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:15 pm	New Fire Choir
3:45 pm	A Cappella Choir
4:30 pm	Pass It On Choir
5:30 pm	Youth
7:00 p.m.	Bells of Providence

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
 Youth website: www.providencyouth.org
 E-mail: providenceumc@comcast.net
 Pastor: pastormarybeth@comcast.net

Church Staff

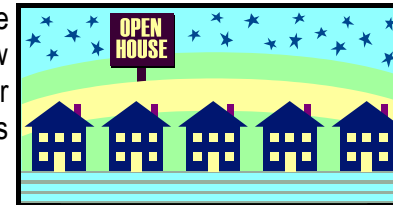
Pastor	Mary Beth Blinn
Director of Music Ministries	Nancy F. Burks
Director of Youth Ministries	Susan M. Clark
Director of Christian Education	Isabelle Sullivan
Church Secretary	Kathleen M. Smith
Office Assistant	Linda M. Collins
Director of Preschool Ministries	
Custodial Service	Mary Elliott
Nursery Attendant	April Basham
Our Covenant Missionary	Kim King Torres

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September is Open House Month

Beautiful Bible stories, drama, wonderful music, and a warm welcome are a part of our preparations for **Open House Month** on Sunday mornings at Providence. Invite a guest, then plan to stay after worship at 12:00 for refreshments and conversation.

New welcome bags are now available for our guests each Sunday.



Cross Trainers



If you are in the 5th or 6th grade, we have a new youth group just for you! It is called The Cross Trainers and we will meet on Sundays from 12:15-2:00 in the FIRE House. We will talk about how to survive in school, getting along with friends and family and learn exciting things in the Bible. And of course there are fun games, activities, and outings! For more information contact Susan Clark (providencyouth@yahoo.com) or Isabelle Sullivan (isabelle.pumc@comcast.net)

Kim King Torres, Missionary, to Speak

September 26th will be United Methodist Women's Sunday. Our speaker will be Kim King Torres, our missionary with South Florida Urban Ministries, who is the founder/manager of Branches and the daughter of Charles and Diane King. Branches ministry provides mentoring, camps, after-school assistance and snacks and so much more to disadvantaged school children in the area. They are still rebuilding their facilities after a devastating fire in May, while continuing their programs in a nearby church building. Kim will be collecting items for making and stuffing Christmas stockings, and can always put cash donations and Wal-Mart gift cards to good use.

The **Providence Retired Club** meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Social Hall on the second Tuesdays of each month. Bring a bag lunch and join in the fun.

Upcoming programs for the Providence Retired Club:

- **September 13:** Susie Bridgeman of Heritage Oaks Retirement Living will provide a program and dessert for everyone.
- **October 11:** Ice cream social with your bag lunch.

The Family Council is pleased to announce: **The Providence Pride Reasons We Love PUMC Tee Shirts are here!** Thanks to everyone who participated in the "Why I Love PUMC" campaign! We will be selling the shirts after both services every Sunday thru Sept 5th. Please stop by the library to see the shirts and to place your orders. There are lots of colors and sizes to chose from, youth sizes too! Don't miss this great opportunity to support PUMC and to show everyone why PUMC is so special.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

*The Family Council cordially invites
our youngest members to the
Royal Sweet Pea Ball,
Saturday September 25th from
1:00—3:00 p.m.*

*All **Princes and Princesses**
can gather in the Social Hall
for this spectacular event.*

*The Veggie Tales "Sweet Pea" movie will be shown
and there will be lots of fun crafts, games and food.*

*Come dressed to impress and get ready for a royally
good time. Feel free to bring friends, neighbors, and
grandchildren.*

Thank You and God Bless

On Sunday, August 15, Betty-Anne Roberson announced to our congregation that she is taking a new job and resigning as director of Providence United Methodist Church Preschool. Betty-Anne, with the support of the church, first organized the preschool in 1992, and has served as director and teacher for the last 18 years. Many children and families have found support and direction from Betty-Anne as she has developed a program that nurtures and cares for the children of our church and community. The program has been inclusive of special needs children and children from various ethnic backgrounds. We will miss you, Betty-Anne, and pray God's blessings on you as you begin a full-time teaching position in special education. Thanks and blessings also to Phyllis Ranger, who is retiring after serving as preschool bookkeeper, and in other roles, for 18 years.

The Preschool Committee is actively recruiting a new preschool director for the 2010-2011 school year.

Flu Shot Clinic

October 10
12:00—2:00 p.m.
In Social Hall

The clinic is run by
Nurses from IVNA.



YOUTH C.R.E.W. NEWS



Fall Kickoff September 12th!

Calling all 7th-12th graders! Fall youth group is starting up again with a kick-off party September 12th from 5:30-7:30. If you have never come to youth group, this is the event to come to!

Youth Council Interviews

If you are interested in joining the youth council, we will be conducting interviews on September 19th at 6:00 in the FIRE House. The Youth council is the governing body of the youth group. They consist of President, Vice President, Grade Representatives, Hospitality, and more. Applications for youth council will be outside the youth office starting September 12th.

TOPS night in a box update

Thank you to everyone who supported our efforts to raise money and awareness for Teens Opposing Poverty. We raised \$216 to help buy bug spray for homeless people in Richmond.

See you at the pole

September 22nd is the Global Day of Student Prayer. Meet Christian students before school at the flag pole to pray.

Worship in September

Sept. 5	Labor Day Prayers "On Our Way to Work, Life Happens"	Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37	Holy Communion Duet: Emily & Clare Henderson
Sept. 12	Sunday School Kick-Off "Learning and Serving: Mary and Martha were Sisters"	Colossians 1:15-23 Luke 10:38-42	Blessing for teachers and students
Sept. 19	"Lost and Found"	1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10	Duet: Vann Barden & Isca Wilms
Sept. 26	United Methodist Women's Sun- day	Guest Speaker: Kim King Torres, missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries, and founder of Branches, Florida City, Florida	

PUMC Three-Year Plan Update

At the August meeting, the Church Council conducted its second evaluation of progress toward accomplishing our three-year plan. Committee chairpersons and staff presented the status of tasks and objectives for which they are responsible.

Functioning as a "team of teams," our committees and staff have been diligently working to-

ward accomplishing our goals. Thirteen specified tasks and objectives had been completed as of the August meeting. Substantial progress was being made toward accomplishing the remaining items with completion dates in 2010.

In the October newsletter we will provide more detailed information regarding the items which have been completed, along with some of the ongoing projects.

	Offering	Attendance	
		Worship	Sunday School
07/25	\$5,296.45	245	107
08/01	\$7,807.10	243	110
08/08	\$5,996.00	379	93
08/15	\$6,786.53	244	105

Spotlight on Nancy Burks

Nancy Burks is the newest member of the staff at Providence United Methodist Church. She started as our Organist and Music Director this April and had also subbed for PUMC a few times in 2003/2004. She has enjoyed getting to know Providence and working with the vocalists and musicians in the congregation. Nancy was particularly excited about July fourth's performance of the Battle Hymn of the Republic which combined musical talents of timpani, piano, organ and choir, and looks forward to future performances that showcase the wide variety of talents in Providence's congregation.

Nancy is a Richmond native and Thomas Jefferson alumni, and studied Sacred Music at Virginia Commonwealth University. She has worked for several churches in the Richmond area, including New Covenant Baptist where she met her husband. He was part of the hiring committee and very involved in the music ministries. They worked closely with the choirs, began dating, and have now been married for 17 years.

In her spare time, Nancy enjoys visiting historical sites and watching old TV shows like Gunsmoke

and Cagney and Lacey, as well as modern sitcoms like Two and a Half Men. She loves pizza- especially pork sausage and pineapple. Her favorite Richmond restaurant is Longhorn Steakhouse, and looks forward to dining at Tony Roma's when she visits family in North Carolina.



In addition to her organ and piano playing, Nancy also studied the violin. Although she has not played in quite some time, she still has her grandfather's violin that he bought from his teacher in 1901 and dates back to the 1700s. Maybe with enough encouragement she might try out the violin again.

On behalf of Providence, thank you Nancy for your diligence, preparation and inspiring performances that contribute so much beauty to our worship services.

The SPRC has designated September as Nancy Burks Appreciation Month. We encourage you to find simple and creative ways to show your love and appreciation for Nancy.

"Seasoned Adults Spice-Up-the-Church"

A retreat sponsored by the Older Adult Council and Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc., will be held **October 5-7** at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC), Blackstone. Keynote speakers, workshop leaders and concert performers include: Cheryl Kirking from Madison, MN, who is an author, inspirational speaker, musician and communicator; and Ed Kilbourne from Rock Hill, SC, who is a musician, composer and speaker with a humorist side. A variety of workshop sessions and fellowship opportunities will be available. Cost for each participant is \$150. Scholarship assistance is available. **Registration deadline is Sept. 24.** Additional information can be on the Conference website (www.vaumc.org) and registration forms can be obtained from the church office.



There were fifty days between Easter when Christ rose from the tomb and Pentecost when the Holy Spirit invaded the lives of the disciples with wind and fire, energizing them to be the agents of God's life and love in the world. Reconnect, a fifty-day experience of study, worship, sharing and prayer is designed to help you to experience a new connection with God, with God's people, with God's generosity and with God's transformation of the world. Beginning in October, our congregation will embark in a congregation-wide Bible study. Through Sunday School classes and small groups, there will be a place waiting for you. Come reconnect with God, each other, and the world around you.

Fellowship Sunday, September 5th

The Educational Committee invites everyone to join us on September 5th during the Sunday School hour. Bring a dish to share (or not it's ok) and a picture (photo or magazine picture) of your favorite summertime activity. We will use this for a quick ice breaker activity followed by some announcements of educational opportunities. Let's catch up on our summer activities before fall starts.

WND (Wednesday Night Dinner)

WND returns this fall beginning September 22 and continues for 8 weeks. Dinners are from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. and are \$4 per person. A drop-in Bible series will be offered in room 309 at 6:30 p.m. We are still looking for cooks. This is a great opportunity for individuals, families, or groups to raise extra funds. Please sign up outside room 203.

Sunday School Kick Off

We will again have a pancake breakfast on September 12 at 9:45 a.m. in the Social Hall to kick off the start of Sunday School for all kids in grades kindergarten through 12th grade. Parents will need to help children in grades K-2 get their food. We are very excited that the following folks are dedicating their time and talent to the children of PUMC for the next nine months:

- Preschool**
Virginia Randall & Mary Ann Walton
- Kindergarten—2nd grade**
Carol Urso
- 3rd—5th grade**
Isabelle Sullivan & Robin Bowers
- 6th—8th grade**
Laura Griggs
- 9th—12th grade**
Mike & Cathy Patterson

Nursery Schedule

- September 5**
8:45 am Lori Justice
Sunday School Wendy Collins
11:00 am Peggy Gillette
Ann Busbee
Valerie Stevens
- September 12**
8:45 am Linda Koertge,
Ellen Koertge
Sunday School Kelly Horne
11:00 am Sallie Elliott
Jane Logan
- September 19**
8:45 am Jennifer Ostrum
Sunday School Wendy Collins
11:00 am Mike & Wendy Collins
- September 26**
8:45 am Mark & Elizabeth Melancon
Sunday School Ann Busbee, Carol Urso
11:00 am Jean Riekers
Laurie Breeden
Nicole Riekers

Communion—September 5

- Early Service:**
Barbara Blankenship
- Late Service:**
Jean Riekers

Grass Cutting Schedule

- Sept 5** Pairs and Spares Class
- Sept 12** United Methodist Men
- Sept 19** Faith Sharers Class
- Sept 26** Growing Christians Class

Acolyte Schedule

- September 5**
8:45 am Molly Roberson
11:00 am Nicole Riekers
- September 12**
8:45 am Andrew Bowers
11:00 am C.J. Alred
- September 19**
8:45 am Winton Justice
11:00 am Emily Kyser
- September 26**
8:45 am Laura Yuhase
11:00 am Laura King

Counter Captains:

- Sept 5** Bobby Wood
- Sept 12** Gary Wright
- Sept 19** Jimmy Sculthorpe
- Sept 26** Linwood Hudson

Name Tag Organizers

- Sept 5** Gracie Martin
- Sept 12** Amy Mott
- Sept 19** Emma Fleenor
- Sept 26** Laurie Breeden

Audio / Visual

Bob Gillie

Ushers

- 8:45 a.m.**
Billy Blankenship
Chris Healy
David Tokich
- 11:00 a.m.**
Gary Vest
Bob Fitch
Linwood Hudson
T. L. Jenkins
Stuart Watkins
George Winstead
David Sommer



Church Directory Updates

October 2009 Directory

CARTER, Steve, 6209 Battleford Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612

EMORY, Margaret, Lucy Corr Village, 6800 Lucy Corr Blvd., Chesterfield, VA 23832

FEDERSPIEL, Emily, 5104 Evelyn Byrd Rd., Richmond, VA 23225

GAINES, Suzy, 804-794-3413, 1730 Bantry Dr., Midlothian, VA 23114

MOYER, Matthew & Carrie, 804-739-9579, 5704 Saddle Hill Dr., Midlothian, VA 23112

MOYER, Melanie, 804-339-4530, 24 S. Colonial Ave., Richmond, VA 23221



OVERBEY, Ellen, 804-717-5455, 5651 Elfinwood Road, Chester, VA 23831

PATTERSON, Michael Jr. &

Sarah, 1880 Pierce St., Daniel Island, SC 29492

POWELL, Joan - chg to: WILBORN, Joan, 210 S. Main St., Apt. 6, Burnsville, WV 26335

SEAL, Rod, 29680 Carter Rd., Princess Anne, MD 21853

TARKINGTON, Kendall, 438 Creek Ave., Hampton, VA 23669

THOMPSON, Sarah Lowe, 1200 Stone River Road, Richmond, VA 23235, 804-674-0975

WALTON, Pamela - chg to: COOK, Pam Seay, 230 Monath Rd., Richmond, VA 23236

Additional Families We Need Addresses For:

- Bishop, Joey 1994
- Boyer, Laura
- Brown, Jerry & Stephanie
- Furr, Max & Marguerite 1989
- Green, Evelyn Ann
- Hague, Alice 1966
- Hietala, Jerry & Carolyn 1965
- Miller, Michael 1981

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

Hannah Malisa Stnons was born on August 3, 2010 to Matt and Lisa Stnons and big brother Tyler. The proud grandparents are Janice and John Bradley.

+ + + + +

Welcome to Sarah Lowe Thompson who became a member of Providence on August 15th. Her membership was transferred from another United Methodist Church.

+ + + + +

Our prayers and sympathy are offered to Ruby Agee and her family in the death of Marshall Agee on August 2nd; and to Lee Bradshaw and his family in the death of Kathryn Bradshaw on August 9th.

+ + + + +

I would like to thank all of my church friends for all the support, cards, hospital visits, phone calls, flowers, visits, food, and prayers during Kathryn's long illness. We made it as far as we did, only because of your support. The Bradshaw Family wishes to thank all the church for being there. God Bless.

Lee Bradshaw
and the entire Bradshaw Family

+ + + + +

We would like to thank our wonderful church friends for the cards, phone calls, food and support during Ed's illness and passing. The prayer shawl was greatly appreciated. Also for Mary Beth's visits and prayers.

Thank you, Klaus, for the beautiful posters.

Mae, Dave & Doug Clarke
+ + + + +

Dear Growing Christians Sunday School Class, Miss Betty Anne, Miss Phyllis, Miss Mary, Miss Robin, Miss Isabelle, and Providence United Methodist Church,

Tom and I would like to thank each and every one for all of their Christian fellowship these last eight years as we brought our granddaughter, Jasmine, to Pre-School and Sunday School at Providence United Methodist Church.

Jasmine was moved to Louisiana on August 1, 2010. She began school on August 12, 2010. We are praying that she will have an easy transition to her new home and school and that her father will permit her to come to Virginia for her Christmas break in December and her summer next year.

We thank you for your continued prayers on Jasmine's and our behalf.

In Christian Gratitude,
Mardene and Tom Wyant

+ + + + +

Get It While It's HOT!

Mark your calendars for October 9th for the annual Brunswick Stew. Many hands are needed to make the stew a success. Please let George Winstead know how you can help (794-7814 or 873-7814-Cell). Pre-orders for quarts of stew to be taken home on October 9th can be placed with either the church office (276-4289) or with Shirley Hudson (276-2495). Quarts are \$5.00 each. Orders will be taken until the supply is exhausted, at which time orders will be suspended.



Missions Committee

Gardeners are welcome to join Joe, Morris, and Paul in the garden every Monday from 9:00—11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to come out and help. Tomatoes were picked in August and donated to the Good Samaritan and Belmont Food Pantries. Pumpkins have been planted for fall harvest. Contact Joe Gillette if you need more information or just come out. Thanks to all the volunteers who are helping in the garden.


The feeding program at Centenary United Methodist Church is on the third Friday of each month at 9:15 a.m. Eight to ten **Cooks for Christ** (CFC) are needed to prepare a meal and serve it to 180-200 guests. If you would like to help in this missions project which Providence United Methodist Church has been a part of for over 30 years, meet us in the church parking lot on Friday, September 17th. Centenary is located at 411 Grace Street in Richmond. Cooks for Christ will depart promptly at 9:15 a.m. for Centenary.

Are you going through your closets and getting ready for fall? Do you have things you really don't need anymore? This year's **Project Homeless Connect** will be held on November 18, 2010 at the Richmond Convention Center. Last November we helped over 700 individuals

facing homelessness. We are now collecting new or used adult size hats, gloves, scarves, socks, and clothing. Donations may be dropped off in the basket at the Missions table or contact Valerie Reese at 909-3659 to pick up donations. For more information on Project Homeless Connect visit www.homewardva.org.

Thanks to everyone who supported the July Homeward Point-in-Time Count. We provided clothing, toiletries, granola bars and water to approximately 300 people facing homelessness.

Branches Buddies are making Christmas stockings for the children at Branches. We would like to send items for the children to use to decorate their stockings and stocking stuffers along with the stockings. There are approximately 65 elementary school children and 50 older children attending the program. Suggested items for stocking stuffers include toothbrushes, toothpaste, lip balm, silly bands, playing cards, note pads, pencils and pens. Items will be collected in September and October and may be placed in the basket labeled Branches on the Missions table. Cash donations or Wal-Mart cards will also be accepted. They may be given to Lisa Fleenor, Diane King, Gracie Martin, Valerie Reese, or you may place your donation in the offering plate marked for "Branches Christmas Stockings".



Open House with the Blinns

You are invited to an open house at the home of Mary Beth and Bob Blinn at 515 N. 1st Street (Richmond 23219) on Saturday, September 11, 1-4 pm. Carpooling is encouraged!

You're Invited!

College Students for 2010—2011

Jordan Barden (VCU)
 Steven Bradley (VCU)
 Emma Breeden (VCU)
 Eric Byers (VA Tech)
 Martha Crosby (John Tyler)
 Jarrod Ficklin (Hampden-Sydney)
 Clayton Fleshman (VA Tech)
 Kelsey Fleshman (Christopher Newport)
 Katie Griggs (VA Tech)
 Emily Henderson (VCU)
 Ellen Koertge (VA Tech)
 Matthew Latimer (VA Tech)

Tina Magee
 Holly Mayton (Longwood)
 Heather Riekers (VCU)
 Christine Roberson (John Tyler)
 Kendi Roberson (John Tyler)
 Heather Thompson (John Tyler)
 Logan Wettle (George Mason)
 Billy Yuhase (VA Tech)


Please let us know of correct addresses to this list; also, send us mailing addresses.

Get to Know the Missions Committee

Each month, usually on the second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., a group of folks excited about missions gets together to talk and plan. They identify needs in our community and world and get busy helping our church make a difference. Ministries include CARITAS and Homeward (homeless outreach), Branches Outreach in Florida and missionary Kim King Torres, Providence Road Partners, UM Urban Ministries of Richmond, the mission garden, Upward Soccer, blood drives, downtown feeding program, Society of St. Andrew potato drop, financial support of various outreach ministries, and much more. Valerie Reese (914-2987) chairs the committee and would be happy to include you in it's work.

Beginning Sunday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m., Nancy Burks will be offering a class on **handbell fundamentals** for anyone who is interested in learning to play handbells.

Chancel Choir	Wednesday, 9/8	7:30
Morning Glory Choir	Thursday, 9/9	7:00
Handbell Choir	Sunday, 9/12	7:00
Sonrise Sisters	Wednesday, 9/8	6:30



Choir Rehearsals
Resume

Come, Sing Praises to the Lord! Children and Youth

Starting in September the Youth and Children's Choirs will be practicing each week. If you enjoy singing and would like to be part of a wonderful fellowship, I hope you will prayerfully consider joining one of the following groups:

CHERUB CHOIR is for our preschool children. The choir meets on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour. Practices will resume on September 12 in the preschool room in the basement. The leaders are Elizabeth Melancon and Emma Fleenor.

KC JAM - Kids Choir, Joy and Music. This Children's Choir will practice on Wednesday evenings from 6:10 - 6:40 p.m. beginning on September 22. The choir meets in room 306. The leaders are Carla Wootten and Robin Bowers.

The High School **A CAPPELLA CHOIR** meets in the sanctuary on Sunday afternoons from 3:45-4:30 p.m. The next practice will be on September 5. This choir sings without accompaniment. The leaders are Carla Wootten and Ashley Kiper.

PASS IT ON YOUTH CHOIR also practices in the sanctuary on Sunday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Their next practice will be on September 5. This group is open to Youth in grades 6 - 12.

Come and join this wonderful music ministry. If you are not sure this is where you want to be ... just come and visit us during a practice and you will see that this is a very special time for our Youth and children - a time to sing, fellowship and praise God through music.

If you have any questions, please call Carla Wootten at 276-5683. Let's have the biggest choirs we have ever had! That would be very exciting!

Faith Foundations Class Offered



Are you new to the faith? Have you come back to church after a while and want a refresher course? Would you invite someone who is interested in knowing more about the Christian faith? **Faith Foundations** is a new 6-week class offered on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. beginning on October 3rd. Topics will be: What is faith all about? Who is God? What about the Bible? Who are United Methodists and what do we believe? What does it mean to live as a disciple? Christopher Wilms and Mary Beth Blinn will be teaching this class. There is no homework and children are welcome in the nursery and in Sunday School classes.

United Methodist Women

Open to all Women

On Friday and Saturday, September 17th and 18th, the United Methodist Women will have a **Fall Retreat** at the Dowd's river house. There will be fun, fellowship and an interactive program about Esther (being at the right place in God's time!). Come late Friday afternoon and spend the night or Saturday morning, leaving early afternoon. We would love to see you. Details are on the UMW bulletin board or see one of the UMW members listed on the bulletin board for more information and to let us know you are joining us Friday afternoon or Saturday.

The Richmond District will hold a **Mini School of Christian Mission** on Friday, September 10th at St. Mark's UMC at 5:15 p.m. See the registration form on the UMW bulletin board for more information. The deadline to turn in registration was in August, but you might still be

able to call the number on the registration form.

The Virginia Conference United Methodist Women will have a **Young Women's Event** on Friday and Saturday, September 24th and 25th. See the registration form on the UMW bulletin board. **OPEN TO ALL WOMEN 18-35.** Registration deadline: September 15th.

The **UMW District Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, September 26th at Woodlake UMC with registration and refreshments at 2:30 p.m. followed by the program from 3:00-4:30. See the UMW bulletin board for more information.

Upcoming Event

Monday, October 4th, the UMW will have a **Potato Bar and Pledge Service** at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. More details will be on the UMW bulletin board and in the October newsletter and bulletin.

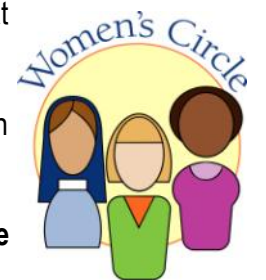
The **Newton Circle** will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14th at Lois Reil's home.

The **Laughon Circle** will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 14th in the Social Hall at the church.

On Thursday, at 7:00 p.m., on September 18th, the **Betty Gregory Circle** will meet in Room 309 at the church.

The **Whitt Circle** will meet on Tuesday, September 21st at 10:30 a.m. in Room 206 at the church. Bring your lunch.

The **Executive Board** will meet on Thursday, September 23rd, at 7:00 p.m., in the Library at the church.



Pastor's Note

Back to school. . . . Back to church. . . . September is a good time to invite someone to come to church with you. For some, it might be coming "back" and for others it may be coming for the very first time. Think about your Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, and Neighbors (FRAN) who may appreciate a fresh start. People are much more likely to attend church for the first time if they are invited by someone they know.

If we want Providence to be a growing church, gone are the days when we put up signs, mail letters, open the door, and assume people will come. Each of us has been individually given the responsibility to build relationships that lead to invitations. Matthew 28:19 says, "Go therefore and make disciples..." Jesus is talking to his disciples, who now include us. We could easily add the missing but implied word: [You] go therefore and make disciples. How do we shift to a culture at Providence where each of us understands this to be our responsibility and privilege?

Many of our recent new members are here because one of you invited them. Thank you. Think of how many more folks could find a home at Providence, and experience God's life-changing grace, if more of us took that step. Why not start now? It's September.

Peace,

Mary Beth

Providence Road Partners Launched

A new relationship with A. M. Davis Elementary School is being forged with the help of a Providence planning group and connections with Principal Rachel Foglesong. This ministry was envisioned in recent years and was included in the 3-year plan of our church. Jane Logan has agreed to coordinate our efforts with the support of other interested persons. Already, school supplies are being brought to the church to have on hand at the beginning of the school year. There will be many opportuni-



ties for us to be partners, offering things like: an extra set of hands on the first day of school (Sept. 7), mentoring students, helping kindergarteners open their milk, etc., at lunch time, tutoring, aiding teachers either in the classroom or with projects done from home, assisting in the library, providing childcare for ESOL parents, providing breakfast for the teachers and staff, etc.

Chesterfield County volunteer applications for those interested in working with the children at school are available in our church office.

September is "Virginia Advocate Month" at Providence

All church officers should be reading the Advocate to stay abreast of what's going on in the conference. New members can become familiar with the United Methodist Church and the Virginia Conference. Subscribing to the Advocate will help you stay connected with:

- Messages from Bishop Charlene Kammerer
- Details of upcoming events in Virginia
- United Methodist news in the conference and the world
- Inspiring stories of faith.

Use the form below to start or renew your subscription. Some recent issues are in the church library if you'd like to review them. Additional information will be in the September bulletins and on the church's website.



YES, I want to be informed ...

(Please check appropriate boxes and enclose payment with your Sunday offering.)

Subscribe for 2 or 3 years and SAVE \$5-\$9! (Save off the cover price of \$24/year.)

Enter my **NEW** subscription to the Virginia Advocate.

RENEW my subscription to the Virginia Advocate.

I have enclosed payment for 1 year (\$15).

I have enclosed payment for 2 years (\$25, save \$5).

I have enclosed payment for 3 years (\$36, save \$9).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Place this completed form and payment in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Providence UMC and earmark "**Virginia Advocate**".

Update on Communications Survey Results

The results are in and a big “thank you” to the 104 friends of Providence UMC who responded to the Communications Survey! We asked for your feedback and many of you were very willing to provide candid responses, which is exactly what was needed. Overall, it appears as a congregation we are happy with the many forms of communication we have at Providence. We have a few tips to share with you now to help with some concerns that were voiced and we have shared the results and your comments with the pastor, the Church Council, the Worship Committee, the Education Committee and the Church Staff for further action.

We heard you loud and clear! The website www.providenceumc.net will be a top priority project to (hopefully) create a site you will want to bookmark and visit frequently. The Communications Task Force is immediately addressing these concerns starting with a brainstorming session held August 12th open to all who were willing to share their ideas, recommendations, identification of shortcomings/flaws, etc. Stay tuned for more updates!

Here are some quick-hits to hopefully help improve the way we communicate:

- Printed copies of the **Newsletter** are available in the hallway outside of the church office, if you prefer to pick them up rather than have them mailed to your home or receive via e-mail. If you do prefer to pick them up, please call or e-mail the church office and have your name removed from the mailed distribution list. This will help reduce postage

and printing expenses.

- Birthdays/anniversaries** are e-mailed monthly and printed copies are also available in the hall to be picked up if you are not on the e-mail distribution list. They are typically available the first week of each month.
- Worship **Bulletins** and **Newsletters** are available on the church website. Did you know they are also often available on-line earlier than waiting for the broader distribution? Did you know Audio files of recent sermons have been added to the website – this is a new addition, be sure to check it out if you miss a Sunday or would like to hear something you may have missed or would simply like to hear it again!
- You Can Increase Font Size on On-line Documents.** The font on the website can be increased by selecting “View” and “Text Size”, or a similar string of commands depending on your software version. The font of items posted to the website (pdf files) can similarly be increased by choosing a larger percentage through “View” – again different versions of Adobe Acrobat may have slight variations, but all should allow you to increase the font to an optimal size.
- Prayer Request Information.** While many of you have requested additional information be listed, the information provided in the bulletin, announcements, etc. is intentionally limited to names, hospitals/addresses and sometimes a brief status update as a matter of privacy. Your sincere requests for additional information is appreciated and understood.

Pam Asbury
Communications Task Force

Newsletter Deadline — CHANGED!

NewsLetter DEADLINE

The deadline for the October newsletter has been changed to **September 13th, at 5:00 p.m.** This is for the October newsletter only. I’d like to apologize now for the inconvenience this is causing, but would greatly appreciate your assistance in meeting this deadline.

Linda Collins



Rachael Harvey is still collecting aluminum cans. As of August 15, she had collected 4,805 cans (125 pounds worth \$72.50)!

Keep them coming!

Name Tag Ministry

Have you gotten out of the habit of wearing your name tag each Sunday? Now’s the time to recommit yourself to this great habit. They’re easy to get, beautifully stored, organized every week (thanks to Gracie Martin and her crew), and easily replaced if lost. Thanks for thinking of others—which is the reason we have them.



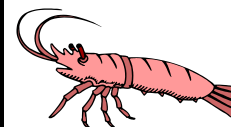
Friendly Reminders



Sunday School Classes—please remember to check the mail slot near the church office for mail.



The **church office will be closed** on September 6th, for the Labor Day Holiday.



Don’t forget to get your tickets from any of the United Methodist Men for the **Shrimp Boil** on October 23rd. Adults - \$12; Children (3-12) - \$7.00. Seatings at 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.