



the INVITATION

Seeking Insight from Young Adults

In the press, much is made of the fact that a majority of young adults (between the ages of 19 and 29) are missing in action when it comes to today's church.

In an effort to determine possible ways for the church to become relevant in the lives of this age group, PPC will host *Home for the Holidays* on Wednesday, December 28, from 7PM - 9PM. A team of church members will be contacting younger adult members of the church to invite them to this summit where they'll be asked to help identify ways that the church might engage their age group.

The event will take place in the church Narthex and will feature a variety of interesting beverages and snacks. Additionally, participants can qualify for an assortment of valuable Christmas gifts (including i-Tunes and Starbucks gift cards). Please encourage your younger adult family members to set the date aside (Wednesday, December 28) to re-connect with some of their favorite folks from the church and lend a hand in helping the church think through new mission and ministry opportunities.




If you have questions or current contact info for folks in this age group, please contact Pastor Billy at familylife@provpres.org or 420-6159.



Join us for a four-session
Advent Study titled

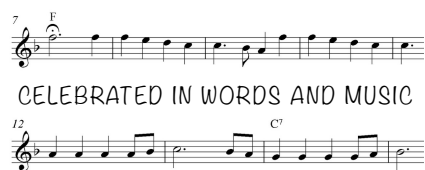
**BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM
I HAVE A SAVIOR
IN HEAVEN**

Sunday mornings from
November 27- December 18
in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 am

All middle/high students and adults are invited.

*BECAUSE OF
Bethlehem*  **MAX LUCADO**

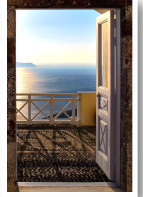
 **CHRISTMAS
AT
PROVIDENCE** 


CELEBRATED IN WORDS AND MUSIC

Sunday, December 11, 2016

11:00am A Service of Lessons and Carols
7:00pm Christmas Vespers

Five Lessons from *A Christmas Carol*



When Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* was published in 1843, he likely had no idea it would be a Christmas staple nearly two centuries later. Some see the book as only a tale about a bitter miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, who is visited on Christmas Eve by four spirits who force him to examine his selfish ways. But I think it's really a story of reflection, renewal and a revitalized life. I find that there are five lessons from this holiday classic that are worth thinking about:

Learning begins with listening. Initially, Scrooge wants nothing to do with the spirits. But once he realizes they have his best interest at heart, he willingly lets them lead. "Spirit," he tells the Ghost of Christmas Present, "conduct me where you will." When we listen, we learn. When we learn, we have the potential to grow and change in ways that will not only help us, but those around us. Proverbs 18:13 says: "To answer before listening—that is folly and shame."

Bitterness will poison you. Scrooge's nephew, Fred, is a wise man. It is Fred who points out that "the consequences of (Scrooge's) taking a dislike to us, and not merry with us, is, I think, that he loses some pleasant moments ... he loses pleasant companions." In other words, in rebuffing Fred's invitation to join in the Christmas merriment, Scrooge himself loses. It's been said that bitterness is like swallowing poison and expecting that the other person will die. That will never happen. The victim of bitterness is generally the bitter person.

There's joy in starting over. I think that Scrooge gets a bad rap. Too much attention is paid to his mean-spiritedness and not enough to the all-new Ebenezer. We see the sullen, bitter, biting Scrooge, but not the laughing, giving, joyful Scrooge. On Christmas morning, however, he reminds us that starting over washes us in newness. "I'm quite a baby," he says. "Never mind, I don't care. I'd rather be a baby." People get in ruts and forget that they don't need to stay there. Scrooge's turn-around reminds me that there's hope for all of us, if we're willing to begin anew.

We must be present to win. On Christmas morning, one of the first things Scrooge does after realizing he's been given a second chance at life is to fling open his window. He moves from the narrowness of self to the vastness of the world at large. He notices life around him instead of only himself. To notice is to see; to see is to feel; and to feel is to build connections with those around us. It is in building connections with those around us that we bring love to the world.

We need to live with the end in mind. "Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on that stone," says Scrooge when the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows him the headstone with Ebenezer's name on it. The catalyst for Scrooge finally realizing he's wasted his life on money and power is seeing that there's an end to that life — and it's a rather depressing end. To live with the end in mind is to be inspired to change now. As someone once said, the best time to plant a tree was fifty years ago but the second best time is now. It's a lesson that Ebenezer Scrooge teaches us well every Christmas.

See you in Church!

Expanding your Faith Journey *Exploring Church Membership*



Are you interested in Providence Presbyterian Church? Do you want to know the inner workings, the secret handshake, the process for becoming an Active Member? Then set aside Sunday, December 4 from 4:00-7:00 to join others and learn about the Reformed Faith, the PC(USA), and Providence specifically. We'll have dinner as part of our gathering, so we'll need you to let us know you're coming. Call the church office (420-6159) to reserve your space or register on-line. Questions? Speak to Pastor Jeff.

THIS MONTH AT PROVIDENCE

FRIDAY, December 2

Cierra Martin's Birthday
Hannah Stephenson's Birthday

SATURDAY, December 3

7:30am Men's Breakfast
Marietta Connor's Birthday
Lennox Owensby's Birthday
Lauren Richardson's Birthday

SUNDAY, December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent
8:45am Merry Bells
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
12:30pm Mission Matters
4:00pm Expanding Your Faith
Journey Dinner

MONDAY, December 5

7:00pm Boys Scouts
7:00pm Committee Chair Meeting
7:30pm Committee Meetings
Sondra DeHaven's Birthday

TUESDAY, December 6

11:30am Gad-A-Bouts Luncheon
7:30pm Bells of Providence

WEDNESDAY, December 7

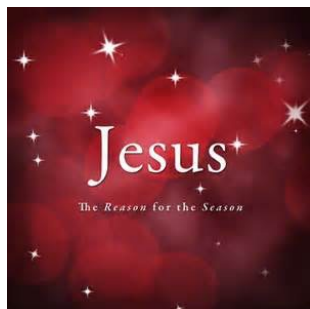
7:00pm Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, December 8

7:00pm Women's Bible Study

SATURDAY, December 10

7:30am Chancel Choir Breakfast
Virginia Arcipowski's Birthday
Ray Hall's Birthday



SUNDAY, December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent
8:45am Merry Bells and
Chancel Choir
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship - Special Music
7:00pm Christmas Vespers
Howard Boose's Birthday

MONDAY, December 12

7:00pm Boys Scouts
7:00pm Session Meeting
Terri Raney's Birthday
Betsy Salter's Birthday

TUESDAY, December 13

10:00am Dorcas Circle
7:30pm Bells of Providence
Abby Maifeld's Birthday

WEDNESDAY, December 14

9:45am Mary & Martha Circle
7:30pm Chancel Choir
Jim Thomas' Birthday

THURSDAY, December 15

Newsletter Submission Deadline
7:00pm Care Team

SATURDAY, December 17

Sandra VanDercook's Birthday

SUNDAY, December 18

4th Sunday of Advent
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
12:15pm MOE Event

MONDAY, December 19

7:00pm Boys Scouts

TUESDAY, December 20

4:00pm MOE Event
7:30pm Bells of Providence

WEDNESDAY, December 21

7:30pm Chancel Choir
Dudley Crosland's Birthday
Bryan Lytle's Birthday

THURSDAY, December 22

Nathan Miller's Birthday
Annette Molleen's Birthday

SATURDAY, December 24

Christmas Eve
7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service
George Fitzgerald's Birthday
Pat Steward's Birthday
Donna Zamorski's Birthday



SUNDAY, December 25

Christmas Day
11:00am Worship in the
Fellowship Hall
June Estep's Birthday

MONDAY, December 26

Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, December 28

7:00pm Home for the Holidays
Ike Steward's Birthday

FRIDAY, December 30

Carol Hickman's Birthday
Meredith Paynter's Birthday

SATURDAY, December 31

New Year's Eve
Ruth Brigg's Birthday
Graham Fitzgerald's Birthday
Mike Schroeder's Birthday

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Christmas Joy Offering

Received on December 20

This offering supports PC (USA)
church workers and their families
during times of critical need.

Make checks payable to
Providence Presbyterian with a
notation of "Joy Offering".

MUSIC NOTES FROM VALETTA

Sunday Morning worship on December 11 will be a traditional "Service of Lessons and Carols" with anthems and carols alternating with readings from the Bible. Familiar carols will be sung, as well as anthems and arrangements provided by the Chancel Choir, music director, Valetta Fellenbaum, organist, John Dixon, and flautist, Carole Stockmeier.

Our *Christmas Vespers* evening service will be informal, with choral anthems, bell selections played by both handbell choirs, Christmas piano duets, and a carol sing-along, where you get to choose your favorite Christmas hymns and carols. After the music we will enjoy desserts in the Fellowship Hall.

PROVIDENCE WOMEN



Happy Fall Providence Women! We had another great turnout for our Fall Retreat. We were blessed with 22 women who joined us in Corolla, NC, three of those were first timers and a good time was had by all. It was a weekend to remember as we had to construct someone or something out of the Bible with rolls of toilet paper as an ice breaker. We have some very artistic women. Lol!

This year's bible study was on "Prayer". Knowing God's Presence through Prayer, feeling the peace through prayer and the power of prayer, led by Sue Bell, Karen Moore & Jane Pritchett. Fantastic message, music and [Sunday Morning](#), Robin

Birdwell led our morning service.

Did I forget to tell you.....we had lots of fun, fellowship and wonderful food prepared by Donna Zamorski. We enjoyed coloring and making cards for students and shut-in's, did puzzles and made jewelry. Yes, we even had time to go shopping. A must, after all we are women. If you haven't checked out Providence's Facebook page, you might even see Providence women singing some carols, bringing holiday cheer at a local store. Thank you to everyone who participated and to those who organized this retreat. If you missed us this year, maybe think about joining us on the next retreat. The more, the merrier!

Mark your calendars for Upcoming Events: PW Mission Project Day - [Feb 4th](#), 9am.-3pm. Lunch provided and child care upon request.

We are in process of updating our PW email list. If you have changed an email or are not receiving emails or updates from our PW email, please give Cecilia a call at [479-5558](tel:479-5558) or email to ppw@provpres.org, so we can add you to our list with upcoming women's event

As we continue our Beach bag Ministry, we can't thank you enough for helping us supply meals for Fairfield Elementary children in need over the weekends. We currently are in need of individual cereal boxes, and main meals. Please check the PW Bulletin board for a complete list of items provided each week. If you can help in building up our stock, that would be great, just drop off a container marked beach bags in the old kitchen. Monetary donations may be made to PPW and we will use that to purchase items in need.

Until next month...Thank You Ladies...You are the Best!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Providence Presbyterian Church Men's Group will gather on Saturday, December 3rd, in the church Fellowship Hall at 7:30A for a delicious home-cooked breakfast. Afterwards, attendees will work on several projects around the church facility.

In the following months, the group will resume the model of dinner out in January. On February 11, the group will host the annual Valentine's dinner at the church. If you have any questions, please contact Pastors Jeff or Billy in the church office.



MISSION MATTERS YOUTH GROUP



The *Mission Matters* Youth Group focuses on serving others. This group of middle and high school students will

meet on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 12:30P.

This Advent season, the group will operate a modified Alternative Gift Market focused on selling Christmas cards and gift cards to support mission partner, Blankets for the Homeless. Last year, *Mission Matters* raised enough money through the Gift Market to provide (144) pairs of thermal socks and (100+) gift cards to provide food for those who have no place to live.

On January 8, the group will journey to MacArthur Mall for an ice skating activity complete with hot chocolate!

Mission Matters continues to offer Blessings Bags for our congregation to use to help those whom we encounter who have no place to live. Bags may be found in the Fellowship Hall. While they are provided at no cost to our congregation, donations to support the cost of supplies will be accepted.

Online Parenting Network

In the last decade we've seen lots of research in the area of youth and religion. A clear position statement emerged from the studies and surveys that said "contrary to misguided cultural stereotypes and frequent parental misperceptions, we believe that the evidence clearly shows that the single most important social influence on the religious and spiritual lives of adolescents is their parents." The same source (The 2003-05 National Study of

Youth and Religion) also stated that researchers confirmed that the second most important influence on young people was their grandparents!

In an effort to support parents and grandparents as they help guide young people in their faith journey, PPC has started a FaceBook page titled "Family Life @ Providence." This is a "secret" page that cannot be accessed by those who aren't part of the official group. The page currently has articles like *Letting Go of Adult Kids*; *The Importance of Family Faith for Lifelong Faith Formation* and *What Is My Role as a Grandparent?*

If you'd like to be a part of this FB group and receive future postings, please drop Pastor Billy a request (familylife@provpres.org). If you are not a FaceBook user and would like to receive the articles via e-mail, please also send a request and note that you seek hard copies of this material.

SESSION

The Session met on Monday 11/14 and concluded the following business:

- Approved a motion to offer a four-part series "Because of Bethlehem" by Max Lucado for middle school, high school, and adult classes during Sunday school in Advent.
- Approved a motion to offer a class "Aging with Grace of God" by Christian Bible Study.com for the Sunday school class led by Dianne Stockmeier.
- Regretfully approved a request from Jennifer Zimmerman that she be removed from the church role. Joyfully, Jennifer is attending Christ Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach.

Christmas Food Baskets & Giving Tree

Providence will help 10 less-fortunate families have a bountiful Christmas. Slips of paper listing food items needed may be found in baskets in the narthex and fellowship hall. You may also pick a tag from the Giving Trees to donate a personalized gift. Tags removed from the small tree are for foster children and those gifts need to be returned by December 4, unwrapped. Bring all other items to the grocery carts by Sunday, December 18, placing turkeys in the freezer and butter in the refrigerator. Questions? Call Karen Caani, 467-3286 or kpcaani@aol.com

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Please e-mail newsletter items
no later than the 15th of each month
for the following month's edition to:
office@provpres.org

Providence Presbyterian Church
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Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Jeffrey S. Bell
Pastor of Family Life Ministries	Pastor Billy Ricketts
Director of Music	Valetta Fellenbaum
Organist	John Dixon
Administrative Assistant	Lisa Nixon
Nursery Supervisor	Michelle Wofford
Treasurer	Carolyn Knowles
Financial Secretary	Ted Salter
Sextons	Gus and Mary Ann Villies

The Session

Moderator: Rev. Jeffrey S. Bell • Clerk of Session: Gary Reese

Administration

*Glynn Rogers, Mike
Schroeder, Dianne Stockmeier

Christian Education

*Karen Moore, Carol Hickman

Congregational Care

*Don Singletary, Ray Maxwell

Fellowship

*Susan Ayers, Ray Hall

Mission/Outreach/Evangelism

*Cecilia Daley

Property

*George Fitzgerald,
Riley Hensly

Worship

*Rich Lindgren,
Cathy Polychroni

*committee chair

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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