



NOVEMBER 2011

Reflections on the Journey of Faith

People had come to Jesus and had taken time to stop and consider the teachings of this man from Nazareth. His words captivated their imaginations. They wanted their lives to reflect the beauty of his words.

The master taught them saying,

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink or about your body or what you shall wear.

Look at the birds of the air, they neither reap nor sow nor gather into barns...

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you Solomon was never arrayed like one of these.

Instead **seek** first God's kingdom and God's righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well.

Today we can still cultivate a thankful heart and weave a spirit of thankfulness in the fabric of our faith. Each one of us can continue to appropriate the spirit of thanksgiving which will last long after the last bite of turkey is consumed, and long after we have celebrated the coming of the Christ-child. Thanksgiving should be a way of life.

Look at what God has already done in your life. Consider how much God cares for you, and seek God's kingdom first, and you shall have everything you need. And, you will have a thankful heart as well.

John Henry Jowett observed,

Life without thankfulness is devoid of love and passion. Hope without thankfulness is lacking fine perception. Faith without thankfulness lacks strength and fortitude. Every virtue divorced from thankfulness is maimed and limps along the spiritual road.

Most of us want to have lives of love and passion. We want to be able to perceive the important things in life and separate them from the trivial and mundane. We do not want to limp along in our journey of faith. We want to have strength and fortitude.

When Jesus told us not to be anxious about what we will eat or what we will wear, he was not asking us to turn aside from those who need food, or shelter, or clothing. Jesus was giving us a way to be free from our own anxiety, so we can help others.

Our sense of gratitude must move away from ourselves. It is so easy

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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of Providence met Tuesday, October 11, 2011 and:

- † Heard from The Rev. Dr. Burns how he will be spending his study leave that begins 12 October;
- † Discussed key changes to the Book of Order;
- † Received word that the Lilly Endowment approved a \$49,000 grant request to fund activities associated with The Rev. Rodgers' upcoming sabbatical;
- † Heard that Allan Jones will attend an information session at National Presbyterian Church on the topic of on-line giving;
- † Reviewed the timeline and activities for preparation of the church's 2012 annual budget;
- † Received a Board of Deacons report and thanked the Deacons for their faithful service and support expressed in so many ways;

- † Approved calling a Congregational Meeting in November for the purpose of acting on a proposal to revise church bylaws to permit the gradual reduction in the size of Session from 18 to 12 serving elders over the next several years as part of a broader effort to improve Session's ability to conduct strategic planning and provide leadership;
- † Received an update on the status of the ongoing and planned Annual Financial Commitment Drive activities and recognized Jim McKeever, Sharon Miller, Darlene Lane, and Kevin Burel for their heartfelt and inspirational financial commitment talks before the congregation;

The next meeting of Session will be November 9, 2011 at 7:30pm in the Parlor.

Reflections continued from Page 1

...SEEK GOD'S
KINGDOM FIRST,
AND YOU SHALL
HAVE EVERYTHING
YOU NEED.

to pat ourselves on the back. Sometimes we deserve it, and sometimes we need it. But our thankfulness expressed to God moves us beyond ourselves to a world of need.

I am thankful to be a part of a congregation where mission and outreach are a priority. Our offering from our Thanksgiving Eve service will again go to help support local mission here in Fairfax. Because God has done great things for us, we continue to make a difference in God's world with our donations of time, talent and money.

Faithfully,

Mick

The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Burns
Pastor

Stewardship & Finance



2012 Stewardship Drive is Here!

Here at Providence, we have the opportunity to show our love for the Lord, the Church, and those in need, by supporting with our wealth, time, and talent an impressive list of programs and activities within the church:

- Worship and Spiritual Formation:** This includes our weekly traditional and contemporary services as well as special services during Holy Week, Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve. Also included are an extensive variety of music programs, adult education classes, and small groups.
- Children and Youth:** Here we find activities such as Vacation Bible Camp, Upward Basketball, Christmas Pageant, Easter Eggstravaganza, as well as numerous mission trips and retreats.
- Mission and Outreach:** This area is aimed at helping those in need, using our facility for spiritual development and educational purposes, and familiarizing our nearby community with Providence. More than ten percent of our annual budget is targeted on many hands-on activities, financial support for local as well as international programs and to making our facilities available to numerous local groups.
- Congregational Life and Fellowship:** Included are pastoral counseling, weddings, funerals and memorial services, meals and cards to members in need, member visitation and rides to attend church or doctor appointments, prayer requests and a wide variety of other events designed to bring our growing congregation closer together.

Last Fall PPC members and friends made pledging decisions totaling \$735,000 to support God's work ongoing at Providence (82% of our budget).

From that have come programs and activities that have enabled peoples' lives to be touched both within Providence and in communities near and far. Our giving resulted in the following 2011 Operating Budget.

Providence 2011 Operating Budget

Our largest expenditures are Personnel and Operations. Outreach is our next largest item, and we as a church community have committed to generously supporting our outreach programs, both in the community and internationally. Although budgets are not drafted until the results of the Fall campaign are known, we believe that to continue programs and activities at the current level will require about 5% more than was pledged for 2011.

To the extent that you are able, please prayerfully consider increasing your giving a minimum of 5% for 2012. And for those of our members and friends who did not pledge last year, please consider joining our growing, pledging family in supporting God's work in our community and in our world. It takes all of us, working together, to accomplish God's work!

A couple of days ago, you should have received a letter from the church talking about "Giving In Love," the theme for this year's campaign. It suggested that a person can give without loving, but cannot love without giving—that true affection for one's church, as well as one's family and friends, leads to generosity. That letter included a pledge card and stressed how our pledges can show our love for God's work here at Providence and enable our church programs to continue and to move forward in 2012.

Commitment Sunday is October 30. Please join your Providence friends by bringing your pledge card to church on that day.

PPC 2011 Operating Budget

Outreach	\$125,084
Education	\$18,700
Worship	\$10,700
Personnel	\$529,200
Church Operations	\$175,500
Debt Reduction	\$36,288
Total	\$895,472



KidsQuest

THE CHILDREN ARE
LEARNING ABOUT
THE POWER OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT AND
GOD'S SPECIAL
AGENT – PAUL.

This fall, the children in Kids Connection are learning about the Power of the Holy Spirit and God's Special Agent – Paul. We're exploring Pentecost and some of the ways the Holy Spirit moves through God's people.

We are so grateful for the 60+ volunteers who are sharing their faith with our children and infants by giving their time to the Children's Ministry program.

Preparations for the Christmas Pageant have begun! A big "Thank You!" to Cheryl Crosswait for directing and to all the volunteers who make the evening one of the highlights of the year. If you'd like your child to participate and haven't signed up yet, we have a part or a job for everyone! Please talk to Cheryl, Kyle Durbin, Helen Burvis or Leigh Burke. Please fill out a registration form, so we know exactly how your child would like to participate.

Finally, as the Advent season approaches, we hope you will join us on November 27 for our annual Advent Wreath Making event. As the excitement for Christmas builds, these Advent Wreaths help our children remain focused on the true joy of the season.

Leigh Burke



Advent Wreath Making

**November 27
10:00am**



Christmas Pageant

**December 18
5:00pm**



Upward Basketball

**Every Child Plays.
Every Child Learns.
Every Child is a Winner!**

**Practices Start:
December 2, 2011**

**Games Start:
January 7, 2012**

www.providenceupward.org

YOUTH CORNER



It's not too early to begin mapping out your summer plans! Let me suggest a couple events to put on your calendar for next summer.

Opening Worship of the 2012 PC(USA) General Assembly!!

Saturday, June 30 at 1:30pm at the Pittsburgh Convention Center! Presbyterians of all ages and opinions will be there to begin the business of discerning God's plan for the church by worshipping together. This is big. Huge, actually! An amazing opportunity that we will not miss! We'll make it a day trip! Put it on your calendar!

Montreat Youth Conference!!

July 8-14 for current 8th-12th graders. This is THE youth conference for young Presbyterians! It happens in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina. Worship, small groups, games and activities, silliness and other things are done on a big scale with lots of people you'll be so glad you've met!

Here's what our youth are saying about Montreat: "We need to bring everyone next year!" "It was awesome!"

LOGOS Conference East!!

July 15-21 for current 8th-12th graders. This is a smaller conference but the same idea: worship, small groups, activity groups, fun free time! This conference is

at Scranton University up in Pennsylvania (yes, the home of The Office!) and you get to stay in college dorms and eat surprisingly delicious cafeteria food!

Here's what our youth are saying about LOGOS Conference:

"Experiencing God's kingdom here on earth. Everyone is amazing and embodies the Holy Spirit in their own way." "Everyone is welcome, it's a place where people can come together and be perfectly accepted." "LOGOS is about getting to make tons of new friends, truly experiencing the Holy Spirit, and being surrounded by a supportive, faithful community."

There is NOTHING like worshipping with tons of people you don't (but will soon) know! Being together in worship with the larger body of Christ is an amazing experience that I want all of our youth to have. Put these events on your calendar and let this be the year that we make it happen!

We'll be having a meeting about Montreat, LOGOS Conference, and the Sr High Spring Break trip at 12:30, November 13 in the Youth Lounge. All 8th-12th graders and their parents are invited to come learn about this summer's adventures!

Dreaming of a bright summer!

Mary Ellen



MISSION



Operation Christmas Child

It's not too late to participate in this special outreach ministry which brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through simple, gift-filled shoe boxes. If you have not already had the fun of packing a box, please pick up an instructional brochure at the Operation Christmas Child display in the Gathering Area at church or download the brochure at www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ. All filled boxes must be returned to the display area at Providence no later than Sunday, November 13.

Christmas Cards for the Adult Detention Center

Here is an opportunity to share your extra Christmas cards with residents at the Adult Detention Center! Place your unused cards and envelopes in a basket located in the Commons Area

by December 4, so that we may distribute the cards in a timely manner.



Operation Share-A-Coat

Winter is approaching! Many of our neighbors could benefit from a warm coat, hat, and gloves. How many winter coats are in your coat closet? Let's be good stewards by sharing our gently used coats, hats and gloves with a homeless person or one of our day laborers.



Please dry clean your coats, before bringing them to our collection point, at the "Share a Coat" coat rack, located in our coat closet off the Commons Area. Also, please put gloves in a zip lock bag, so we can keep matching pairs together. The most commonly needed coat sizes are Men's 40-48 and some extra large. (A few women's coats are also needed.) Watch the Sunday bulletin for the start date to bring in your coats.

This small effort will symbolize Providence's warmth and Christian hospitality.

Hypothermia Sheltering Program

Providence will be supporting the Hypothermia Sheltering Program again this year. We have four hot meals planned for the second Wednesday of the month starting on December 1, 2011 and ending on March 31, 2012.

A dinner for 50 will be prepared and delivered to the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter by 4:45 pm. We encourage volunteers to stay and serve the food, starting at 5:15 pm. The Mission Committee is providing support for

this important outreach to some of our neighbors in need. We also plan to enhance this worthy program by providing 50 bag lunches to the shelter.

Please indicate your willingness to help prepare meals and/or fill the 50 bag lunches by calling Mary Lee Di Spirito.

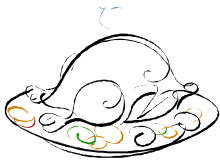




MISSION

Holiday Adopt-A-Family for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas

Thanksgiving and Christmas offer opportunities for friends and members of Providence to help make the holidays a bit happier by helping those who live “on the edge” financially have a special Holiday Celebration. The programs are coordinated through local helping groups.



Thanksgiving

You provide the makings for a Thanksgiving meal which the needy family will prepare for themselves. Referring agencies provide the names, address and size of the family. YOU put together what will be needed to prepare the meal and deliver the groceries to the recipient family a day or so before Thanksgiving. Family assignments will be made November 13.



Christmas

This is another opportunity to provide groceries to a needy family, this time for a Christmas meal. A few gifts for the family you adopt can be added to the food basket delivery. This may be the same family you served at Thanksgiving, or another family referred to the Adopt-A-Family program. Again, information about the family will be provided. Put your gifts together with the food needed to prepare the Christmas dinner and make your delivery a few days before Christmas.

If you would like to provide only Christmas gifts, there is need for this type of adoption as well. Fill in the information box below and drop it in the Adopt-A-Family box in the Commons Area. If you have any questions call Mary Lee Di Spirito.

OPERATION
CHRISTMAS CHILD

OPERATION
SHARE-A-COAT

CHRISTMAS CARDS
FOR ADULT
DETENTION CENTER

HYPOTHERMIA
SHELTERING
PROGRAM

HOLIDAY
ADOPT-A-FAMILY

NAME _____

PHONE / EMAIL _____

I want to adopt a family for Thanksgiving _____

I want to adopt a family for Christmas _____

I will provide Christmas Gifts only _____

**Please leave this form in the box in the Commons Area
marked for Adopt-A-Family.**

THANKS!



Come One, Come All!

PROVIDENCE'S got TALENT!

\$10 PURCHASES
A NET AND SAVES
5 LIVES!



NICKELS 4 NETS
IS A PROGRAM OF
PC (USA)'S
HEALTHY
WOMEN,
HEALTHY
FAMILIES
MINISTRY.

Sunday, November 6, 5:00 – 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Spaghetti dinner, Variety Show, Dessert Auction, and Raffles!

\$5.00 per person, \$15.00 family maximum

ALL TO BENEFIT NICKELS 4 NETS!

Please sign up in the Commons Area
or phone the church office 703-978-3934.



Contemplative Prayer

This monthly informal drop-in gathering meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the Parlor. The next gathering is November 21. An Evening of Quiet and Reflection will be on December 19. If you have questions, call Terry Lamb.

You Can Save a Life

Future Red Cross blood drives are scheduled on the following dates:
Tuesday, December 13, 2011
Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Tuesday, September 11, 2012
Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Thank you for your continuing support.



The Property Committee extends a hearty and heart-felt "thank you" to the many volunteers who helped beautify the church building and grounds on September 24 and October 8. Many of the items on our to-do list are now crossed off. We: painted the metal railing outside Mission Hall; cleaned window wells; fixed a portion of the fence; cleaned the area around the bus stop; weeded and mulched many of our flower beds; weeded the medians in the back parking lot; divided and moved plants (and removed dead ones); felled and/or limbed up trees; and cleared the picnic area of all brush.

Our hard-working volunteers included: Erik Burvis, Ray Monroe, Terry Lamb, Rietta Klair, Julia Blackwell, David Nebhut, Maribeth Luftglass, Jacob Luftglass, Pete & Bertha McClintock, John & Carol Miller, Daniel Miller, Ann Roman, Harry Bridges, Jim Curtis, Allen & Sue Baker, Toby Fitzkee, and Nancy Jones. Many apologies to anyone we missed in this list. We appreciate everyone's time and talents!



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below:

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

Punch
Dec 8-1915

John McCrae



VETERANS DAY

11~11~11

Providence Presbyterian Church
9019 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA 22031

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



November 2011

REMINDER:

Clocks "Fall Back" November 6.

Worship

Traditional, 9:00, Sanctuary
Sunday School for All Ages
Traditional, 11:00, Sanctuary
Contemporary, 11:15, Fellowship Hall

Communion

November 6
Daylight Savings Time Begins

Congregational Meeting

November 13, 12:15pm

Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 23, 7:30pm
joint worship with Fairfax Presbyterian
at Providence

N4N Variety Show

November 6, 5pm

CROSSing Paths Indoor BBQ

November 13, 4:00pm

Contemplative Prayer

November 21, 7:30pm, Parlor

THANKSGIVING

Church office closed
November 24 & 25



Providence Presbyterian Church
9019 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA 22031
703-978-3934 Office
www.providencechurch.org

STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Burns, Pastor
The Rev. Mary E. Rodgers, Associate Pastor
Mary Ellen Moss, Director of Youth Ministries
Leigh Burke, Director of Children's Ministries
Joe Moss, Business Administrator
Kathy Knorr, Executive Secretary
Terry Stoneberg, Director of Music
Jane Kaye, Organist
Rick Thiele,
Music Leader & Technology Coordinator
Arwen Norman, Children's Choir Director
Gene Kaye, Providence Singers
Richard Mudd, Sexton
Good News Editor: Kathy Knorr