



FEBRUARY 2012

Reflections on the Journey of Faith

The Christian Faith has a lot to say about time. The Christian faith has taught that there was a beginning of history, long before science came up with the "Big-Bang" theory. The Christian faith reminds us that time is Holy. And the Christian faith teaches us that there will be an end of "time as we know it", a time when God's plan for reconciliation will be complete. There will be a time in which racial battles will cease ... a time when those who perpetrate acts of evil will be held accountable for their deeds ... a time when parents will not have to worry about children being violated ... a time when welfare lines will cease ... a time when we will not see the empty eyes of starving children on the television. But in the in-between time, before Christ returns, we have been given instruction into how we should view time, especially "our time".

In the theological story of creation in the book of Genesis, God is depicted as the author of all of life. The Hebrew oral tradition describes a God who creates with a word. God said let there be light and there was light. After all things come to life God declares that they are good. After the creation of humanity God declares that they are "very good".

After creating everything, God rests. Listen to the text, "**So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, for on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.**" Of all the things which are created only one thing does God declare Holy. That is the Sabbath.

In the Decalogue we are admonished to keep the Sabbath Holy. So we can say that the one thing that God considers Holy is "time". It is the one thing we cannot change.

Today, this is your time, it is my time and it is our time. Our theological question is, "How do we choose to use our time?"

How would our lives change if we really began to believe that time is Holy. Think about your busy schedules. And I'm not talking just to the older adults like myself. Young adults and children in this country are suffering from stress, because time is not viewed as "Holy", as belonging to God.

Karl Barth said, "He who does not join in the rejoicing, who does not rest from his work in this joy, despises God's goodness and faithfulness and puts his hope, not in God's election, but in his own work." (Church Dogmatics, Vol. III)

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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of Providence Presbyterian Church met Tuesday evening, January 10, 2012 at the home of Elder Maribeth Luftglass. Here are the highlights:

- † discussed a request from The Rev. Dr. Burns for the Session to express its interest in further exploring the potential placement of a cell tower on church property as a means of generating church revenue; the Session reviewed conceptual drawings and photos of a proposed new taller church tower that would house cellular equipment and formed a small group to engage the church's original architect and report back at a future meeting with recommendations after exploring costs, benefits, and other related issues;
- † joyfully met with and fulfilled requirement to examine new Elders Bill May, Paige Legenhausen, Eleanor Shubinski-Mosser, and Kevin Wright and new Deacons Mike Greeley, Kathy Nebhut, Carmen Roberts, and Joyce Miller; all new Elders were unanimously approved for ordination and new Deacons unanimously approved for installation on two dates to accommodate individual schedules: Sunday, January 29, 2012 and Sunday, February 5, 2012;
- † approved a request submitted by Children's Ministry Committee to be allowed to sell pizza during Upward Basketball games with all proceeds going to the church's capital campaign;

- † approved the nomination of Elders Eleanor Shubinski-Mosser and Kyle Durbin for church approval as Elder members of the 2012 Nominating Committee;
- † received with praise and joy a report from Julia Blackwell on the Deacon's many wonderful activities over the holidays in support of the church, church members and their families;
- † reviewed actions taken by church office and Stewardship and Finance Committee at year's end to reduce and meet financial obligations in response to lower than expected church pledge fulfillment;
- † received a report on the results of the Financial Commitment Drive, efforts under way to address decline in the number of members pledging from 2011, and preparation of 2012 church budget for the Session's planned meeting on January 24, 2012 where they will prepare a budget for church review and approval at the annual meeting on February 5, 2012;
- † received a report from The Rev. Dr. Burns on the church conference he will attend on evangelism and Small Group Ministries January 16-20.

The next meeting of the Session is scheduled on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 7:30pm.

Reflections continued from Page 1

"THIS IS THE DAY
WHICH THE LORD
HAS MADE, LET US
REJOICE AND BE
GLAD IN IT."

From this we learn from God that "time" is sacred, and our time must be used wisely. So much time is taken up in just wrestling with it. Think about the time it takes just to live in this part of the country.

So if your time is sacred, what are you going to do with it? Before you add another thing to your schedule, why not simply enjoy the day.

Do you remember the words of the psalmist? **"This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."**

Faithfully,

Mick

The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Burns
Pastor



Rummage Sale

Re-organize

Recycle

De-clutter

Help the Youth!

The Youth Rummage Sale and Pancake Breakfast is March 17, 8:00am to noon. As you do your New Year's reorganization, please put your gently used goods aside for the sale.



- ◆ Donations for the 2012 Rummage Sale will be accepted beginning on March 11 through March 15 (Sunday through Thursday) between 5:00 and 7:30pm.
- ◆ Please do not bring donations to the church before the 11th unless you have arranged it with Bertha McClintock or Monica Cameron.
- ◆ We do not accept TVs. (See page 10 for information on recycling.)
- ◆ Do not leave items outside the church!! Inclement weather can ruin your items leaving us with a disposal problem.

For a successful sale many volunteers are needed. If you can help out, please contact Bertha or Monica.

Just a note to let my many friends at Providence know how much I have appreciated your many get well cards, calls, and email notes sent to me. I am slowly recuperating from the surgery I had just before Christmas. The worst of it is the lingering nerve damage that I am dealing with on the right side of my face. The most important thing, of course, is to realize that the loving hands of God surround us even when we are down. "Blessed be those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Providence, thank you for comforting me and my family!

Thank You

David Kopley



Thank you to Sanctuary Choir and other church members who were so kind as to bring meals, visit, call and send cards during the past several months while I have been recovering from surgery! Your generosity and love will never be forgotten.

Lee Schooler



KidsQuest

We returned to our weekly 10:00 Sunday School program on January 8, and are enjoying the winter curriculum for Kid Connection. The children are exploring some of the bible stories they will hear many times as they continue in their bible study. Please share the stories with them during the week, or even preview what is coming up!

Unit 2 (February):
A Baby, a Liar,
and a Bush on Fire

5th: A Laughing Matter (Birth of Isaac)
12th: A Blessing in Disguise (Jacob and Esau)
19th: A Dream Come True (Joseph)
26th: I AM So You Can (Moses)

Unit 3 (March):
Ten Plagues, One Law,
and Two Brave Men

4th: Frogs in Your Bed! (The Ten Plagues)
11th: Family Rules (Sinai)
18th: A Smashing Success (Gideon)
25th: A Bad Hair Day (Samson)

If you're new to Providence, we welcome children at any time who would like to join us.

Need more on your February "To Do" list?

- ◆ Pick up a Lenten Devotional for your family on the children's program table by the office wing.
- ◆ Stop by on Saturday to watch an Upward Basketball game! We're always looking for greeters and people to offer a devotion to the parents.
- ◆ Thank Carol Dahnke for her creative bulletin boards!

Leigh



Upward Basketball
Every Child Plays.
Every Child Learns.
Every Child is a Winner!
Games are on Saturdays
through February.
Volunteers and fans
always welcome!

LOOKING AHEAD ...

Easter
Eggstravaganza
Saturday, April 1
Vacation Bible Camp
July 30-August 3

YOUTH CORNER



It's spring, and that means the youth are busy! They're raising money, doing mission projects, studying the Bible and having all kinds of fun! Here's a quick overview of what's going on in the next couple months!

February: We start the month with the Souper Bowl of Caring on the 5th when the youth collect cash and canned goods to donate to Food for Others. Donations will be collected after worship and at the Annual Meeting at 12:30.

Next up is Youth Sunday on the 12th! This worship service is completely planned and led by the youth, and they do an excellent job. Worship will be at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary and at 11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall.

March: Our first big event in March is the Confirmation Retreat the 9th–11th! We'll be heading to Bishop Claggett Retreat Center in Maryland to join other youth at the Reformed Institute's retreat for confirmands! It will be a fun weekend with lots of learning!

Then it's all hands on deck as we prepare for the Youth Rummage Sale & Pancake Breakfast! We start setting up and collecting donations on the 11th, working tirelessly sorting donations until the big day: the 17th from 8am – 12pm! This is our big fundraiser for the year and many of our events are funded from the proceeds! Spread the word!

April: April opens with the Sr High Spring Break Mission Trip

the 1st – 5th! This year we're participating in The Pilgrimage in DC, a program of Church of the Pilgrims. We'll be working alongside the poor and homeless, seeing another side of our nation's capital. It should be a meaningful and eye-opening experience.

May: In May we're going on our first College Age Mission Week to Hosanna Industries! The 13th – 18th we're having a reunion/mission trip for all of our fabulous post-high school no-longer-youth! Be sure to sign up by Easter!

On the 20th we'll be celebrating our newest group of hard working, hard thinking confirmands! They've been at it since October and deserve a handshake and a big piece of cake!

June: Speaking of celebrations, on the 10th we'll be celebrating our graduating seniors! They have worked extremely hard, and we're going to throw them a party! Details to come!

Finally, after school's out we're going to take a road trip to Pittsburgh for the opening worship service of this summer's General Assembly! We are blessed to be so close to this great Presbyterian gathering. We will not miss this amazing opportunity to worship with hundreds (thousands?) of Presbyterians from around the country and across the world!

Guiding the youth in God's love,
Mary Ellen

Teen Sexuality - A Class for Parents

Do you struggle with how to talk to your teen about sex?

Are you looking for a more nuanced sexual ethic than "No Sex Before Marriage?"

Wonder what issues teens are facing these days when it comes to sexuality?

Parents and teens and tweens are invited to come to this discussion friendly class.

February 19 & 26,
March 4, 18 & 25



MISSION



Hypothermia Sheltering Program

A few numbers to consider:

144 bags of food distributed

Two hot meals for 50 prepared and served

One personal visit with a participant of the program

Two more months for members, friends, groups of Providence to be involved in the Hypothermia Sheltering program

March 31 the program ends

Countless grateful friends at the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter

Contact Mary Lee Di Spirito to find out how you can lend a helping hand to a neighbor in need during the coldest months of the year.

Operation Share-A-Coat

The wonderful warm clothing you have been placing in the box in the coat room will be distributed on Thursday, February 9. If any from Providence would like to be part of the distribution, please call Mary Lee Di Spirito. The distribution will take place at 9:15 am at the corner of Little River Turnpike and Hummer Road (near the 7-11).

Children's coats will be given to children needing them at the ACCA Child Development Center.

Men's and women's outer wear plus sweat shirts and sweaters, gloves and hats will be given to guests at the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter as well as participants of the hypothermia sheltering program.

Dear Providence Friends:

I have now returned home and am enjoying time with my brothers and sisters here in the forest. My visit to Providence during the Christmas Season was a total joy once again! My branches were filled and my roots covered with lovely hats, mittens, children's underwear and oh how they will be enjoyed. Once again, I enjoyed my visit and surely hope to be invited to return during the Christmas Season in 2012.

The Littlest Tree





Thank You
with decorative hearts below.

MISSION

Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program

You heard of the need and responded in such a gracious and generous way. Thirty-three members and friends from Providence "adopted" 26 families for Christmas. Some adopted the same family for both Thanksgiving and Christmas; some adopted for Thanksgiving or Christmas; and some provided gifts at Christmas. So many reached out to these neighbors who surely had a more joyful Holiday Season. This special

ministry to our neighbors brought much celebration and happiness to those who adopted families.

Those served at Christmas included 49 adults and 58 children in those 26 households. Thanks to all who shared the Good News at Christmas with so many.

Thanks so very much.

ACCA and Fairfax FISH



HYPOTHERMIA
SHELTERING
PROGRAM

OPERATION
SHARE-A-COAT



The Shawl Ministry

Forty-three shut-ins received the special Christmas Meals on Wheels delivery. Thanks to the Shawl Ministry those receiving the food also received some very nice scarves as a reminder that they were indeed warmly thought of on Christmas morning. As one recipient wrote me, "please tell those who spent time doing such wonderful handiwork that I am deeply grateful for such a lovely scarf and for the time and talent I know went into making such a nice Christmas gift."

Extra items were then taken to the Baileys Shelter to be used by the Hypothermia Shelter guests. They were so thankful for your work and for having such nice new scarves and hats to keep them warm during the very cold weather.

Mary Lee Di Spirito
Christmas Meals on Wheels Coordinator

Christmas Joy Offering

Again the members and friends of Providence have responded to the Special Offering at Christmas. \$4,073 was collected from this year's Christmas Joy Offering. Many at our ethnic Presbyterian Colleges will be the beneficiary of your generosity...and our retired church workers needing a bit of extra help will benefit from your compassionate giving.

Thank you!

THE LITTLEST TREE

GRATITUDE FOR
BLESSINGS





MISSION



\$10 PURCHASES
A NET AND SAVES
5 LIVES!

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



**At the January 2011 Annual Meeting,
Providence set an ambitious goal
for January 2012 . . .**

**To raise \$10,000
to purchase 1000 mosquito nets
to save 5000 lives!!**

**All U.S. currency is welcome – not just nickels.
Think quarters, bills, & CHECKS 4 NETS!!**

**Please help us meet our goal and
thanks for your support!**

SAVE THE DATE!!!

REBUILDING TOGETHER (FORMERLY KNOWN AS CHRISTMAS IN APRIL)

Providence will be collaborating with ACCA this year. The Mission Committee will help with the cost involved in the repair and rehab of a house. Many volunteers offering many hands will be needed. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 28, 2012** to be part of this community event. More information later.

FAIRFAX FISH

- Providence is a Fairfax FISH Church.
- This means that Providence provides a member to sit on the FISH governing board. Currently, our seat at the table is empty and the Mission Committee is seeking a member to be our link with the FISH organization. The board member would attend regular FISH meetings and bring information from FISH back to Providence members.
- Contact Mary Lee Di Spirito to learn about this important part of Providence's ministry in the community.

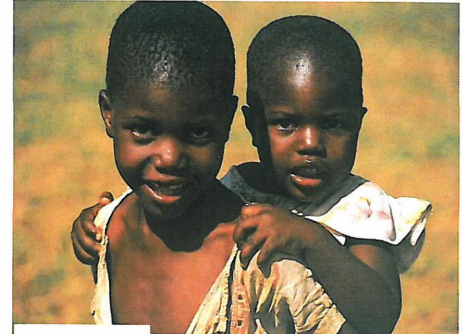
MISSION



LAMB CENTER BASIC SUPPLIES DRIVE

It's that time again . . . Providence Church's opportunity to serve our homeless neighbors by helping to stock the shelves of The Lamb Center. For the past two years, our response to this call for help has been truly impressive and greatly appreciated. In order to provide breakfast and lunch, showers, and laundry service, the Lamb Center needs disposable serving items, and paper products, coffee, creamer and sugar, as well as laundry products, plastic drawstring bags (for collecting and returning laundry) and personal hygiene items. Socks and underwear for both men and women are always in short supply too. We collect travel-size toiletries year-round (for the use of guests in the showers), but once a year area churches are asked to help provide some of the larger items. March is our opportunity to again offer practical aid to our neighbors in need. Here's how you can help.

On the first two Sundays in March, bags will be available for you to take home and fill with urgently needed items. A list of choices will be attached to each bag. The filled bags can be returned anytime in March and left in the coat closet. Anything you can provide will be gratefully received and put to good use. Your generous support of this effort is a simple but meaningful way to respond to God's request that we love and take care of one another. Contact Pat Flowe if you have any questions.



Nickels For Nets

Thank you for supporting Nickels for Nets.

Because of your generosity, more children in Africa are being protected from malaria by sleeping under mosquito nets.

Your gifts share God's love by helping to safeguard His children.



General Assembly Mission Council
100 Witherspoon St.
Louisville, KY 40202

To learn more, please visit:
www.pcusa.org/internationalhealth

This issue of the Good News goes to press before our final total is announced on February 5. Please check the bulletin and display for the final total, and thanks again for your support!



Donations

WE LOVE YOUR GENEROSITY! We are deeply grateful to members and friends of our congregation who make generous donations of material goods—such as books, holiday decorations or a sack full of mittens—for others to receive and enjoy. Please help us fulfill your intentions by following these simple guidelines.

CALL!

LABEL!

DONATE!

What to do:

- ◆ Call the office (703-978-3934) to determine where your donation may go.
- ◆ Label your container(s) of donated goods with your name, contact information, and your intentions for the donation.
- ◆ Donate, *inside* the church please!

Any items that are not marked in any way will have to be considered trash.

What not to do:

- ◆ We do not accept electronics of any kind unless there has been a specific need identified and the donation has been discussed. (See Electronics Recycling information below.)
- ◆ Please do not put anything in the basement without discussing it with someone from the church office or the Property Committee. There is no one person responsible for keeping the basement tidy, so we depend upon everyone to help control the clutter in the basement.

Food Closet: You do not need to label non-perishable food left in the Food Closet. Please do not leave any other type of donation in the Food Closet.

Electronics Recycling Information:

Did you know that you can dispose of electronics—such as TVs and computers—through Fairfax County’s Electric Sunday program?

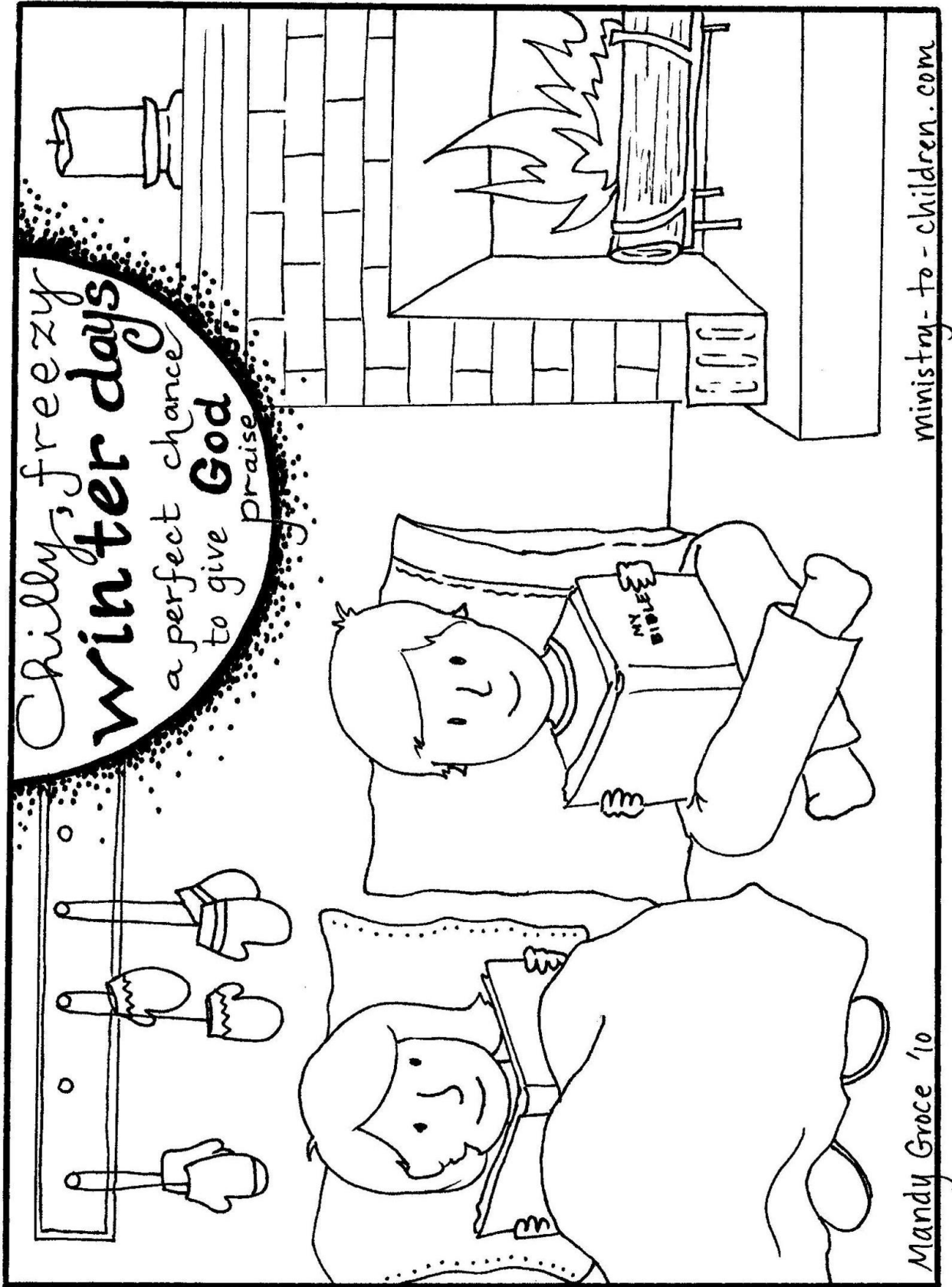
These free monthly recycling events, which includes Fairfax City, are usually on the last Sunday of the month from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Please check this website for the calendar for these events.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/calendar/ShowCalendar.aspx>

Click on Public Works and Environmental Services Events Calendar.

KIDS PAGE



Providence Presbyterian Church
9019 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA 22031

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Merrifield, VA
Permit No. 6284

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Artist unknown



February 2012

A meeting is called for February 5, 2012 at 12:30pm in Mission Hall for the purpose of holding the Annual Congregational Meeting, preceded by a potluck soup lunch.

Worship

Traditional, 9:00, Sanctuary
Sunday School for All Ages
Traditional, 11:00, Sanctuary
Contemporary, 11:15, Fellowship Hall
Communion: February 5

Youth Sunday: February 12

9:00, Sanctuary
11:15, Fellowship Hall
There will be no 11:00 service

Ash Wednesday is February 22

Upward Basketball continues
Saturdays

Annual Congregational Meeting
February 5, 12:30pm

Contemplative Prayer
February 20, 7:30pm

**The Church Office will be closed
February 20, for Presidents Day**

**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
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Gene Kaye, Providence Singers
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