



VOICE

of PROVIDENCE
United Methodist Church

2810 Providence Road • Charlotte North Carolina 28211

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www.providenceumc.org

Vol. 43 No. 1

Our Vision: A growing body of Christ glorifying God and serving others

January 4, 2012

2012 Mission Focus: Children in Poverty

Carol Shinn, Director of Missions

The statistics should frighten us all. In Mecklenburg County, one in five children now lives in poverty; a 49% increase from 2008-2010. According to A Child's Place, the national graduation rate of homeless children is less than 25%. Homeless children are four times as likely to be sick as those with homes and are twice as likely to repeat a grade. Not only do homeless children go hungry at twice the rate of other children, but they naturally experience emotional and behavioral problems three times more than children in stable homes.

Globally, Providence UMC supports missions in Haiti, Cambodia, and Kenya. Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, and children there are even more susceptible to hunger, sickness, and lack of education than our local neighbors. In Cambodia, 80% of the population is under the age of 30, and yet the culture there reveres the elderly. In Kenya, members of our church support six orphans in Nairobi.

In 2012 and beyond, Providence UMC will take a stand for the most vulnerable of our neighbors. Our collections will benefit children throughout the world, and on March 4th at our annual Day of Service, we will work on behalf of the children in our community. Join us March 17th for a dinner honoring children across the world, and find out more about the ways in which Providence UMC changes young lives. The missions we support with volunteer time and with our financial resources make a tremendous impact, but we must do more. We must move to a new reality, that these children are our children, too, and offer them the same nurturing love that we offer our own biological sons and daughters. What will you do differently in 2012?

We can all witness to the love of God in our lives. Imagine what God will do through us when all 2,400 members of Providence UMC unite and advocate for the young lives of those in greatest need!

2011 New Members Of Providence

are cordially invited to a
Luncheon with the Pastors
to...

share how your transition into the life of
Providence has been,
ask us questions, plus get to know the
staff better

Join us in the Atrium

January 8, 2012

12:15pm to 1:30pm

Regrets and RSVP to

Rev. Stephanie Moore Hand

704.714.9378

shand@providenceumc.org

We look forward to seeing each of you!

Childcare Provided

"We the people of Providence are the
growing body of Christ, glorifying God
and serving others."

New Sunday School Class Launching January 8 & 15

Start your new year off with

Soul Purpose

Join us in Room A102 at 9:45am

For coffee, conversation and questions



You may ask . . . what is *Soul Purpose*?

. . . a casual Sunday school class
dedicated to the renewal of mind, body
and spirit.

Our focus explores faith through devo-
tions, fellowship and great coffee!
Come as you are and grow spiritually with
Soul Purpose!

Save the Date March 9-11 2012

The Balancing Act:

"Does Your Life Get Off-Balance Sometimes?"



A Retreat Women for Women

YMCA Retreat Center

Black Mountain, NC

For more information contact

Rev. Stephanie Moore Hand

shand@providenceumc.org or 704.714.9378

Update 2012 Stewardship *Count Yourself Blessed*

Thank you for everyone who has made their estimate of giving pledge toward the 2012 campaign. If you have not made your commitment of your estimate of giving, please give your prayerful thoughts on your gift, no gift is insignificant. Contact Robin Furr in our business office of your intent; **make your pledge via mail, drop it off at the business office or go online at <http://providenceumc.org/new-to-providence/stewardship>** by January 16 so we can finalize our operating budget and make sure all missions and programs we all know, love and participate in can be funded.

Dave Sanderson, Stewardship Chair

Number of Pledges 404 Total \$1,531,334 (78%) 2012 Stewardship Goal \$1,975,000

from Pastor Fitzgerald . . . Martin Luther King Weekend

I want to tell you about an invitation that has been extended to Providence UMC. On Saturday, January 14 2012, from 11:00am to 4:00 pm, St. Mark's United Methodist Church has invited us to "walk hand in hand" with their congregation at the MLK Dream Festival. The event will be held at The Pointe Church (formerly known as the Bobcats Training Center), 2266 Deerfield Drive, Fort Mill, South Carolina. To obtain tickets, go to <http://thedreamfestival.eventbrite.com>. This region-wide event promises to be a mountain top worship experience and an opportunity for Providence UMC to be a leader in reconciliation.

On Sunday, January 15, 2012, we will participate in a pulpit/choir exchange with Saint Mark's UMC. The Reverend Paul Milton and the St. Mark's Chancel Choir will be leading our 8:30 and 11:00 worship services. The Providence UMC Chancel Choir and I will be leading worship at 8:30 and 11:00 at Saint Mark's UMC, 917 Clanton Road, Charlotte NC, 28217.

Dr. King said, "I have a dream...that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together... With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

I hope that all of us will join the dream. Mark your calendars for January 14 and 15.

In Christ, John



**Lifetime Church Council
Members Honored**

Canses and Fred Smith have become a Providence UMC Lifetime Member of our Church Council. At its November 2011 Charge Conference, the Council announced its selection of Canses and Fred for this unique honor and continuing leadership role in our Church. They join current Lifetime members Polly and Gene Brown and Mary and Roy Freeman. The Smiths are not only active members in a variety of organizations at Providence, they are also involved in many "behind the scenes" efforts which support Providence's daily and weekly events. When you see Canses and Fred, please let them know how much we all appreciate their continuing leadership and service to Providence.

Church Councils meets January 25 at 7:00pm in the Chapel. Church Council is the governing board of our congregation; as a body it adopts our budget, approves major mission initiatives and serves as a liaison with a variety of constituencies. Tom Foster serves as chair in 2012, and Meredith Ritchie will serve as chair in 2013 and 2014. Below are members of Church Council. Please keep them in your prayers and contact them for information about our church's mission.

<u>2012 Class</u>	<u>2013 Class</u>	Dan Owens
John Anderson	Fallon Boland	Cindy Parsons
Donna Bishop	Gene Buccelli	Rives Webb
Jo Bishop	Susan Brown	<u>2014 Class</u>
Jim Bolt	Kyle Caddell	Peggy Bond
Scott Efirid	John Calcagni	Jay Harrill
Laura Fricano	Clidell Conston	Kathryn King
Sarah Hinson	John Koch	Scott Makemson
TJ Hooper	Eric Landis	Rachel Nilender
Mollie Routh	Kenny Lautenschlager	Susan Patterson
Kevin Sherwood	Brett Logan	Sue Spears
Delta Sonderman	Dave Mauney	Sandy Tupes
Gary Thompson	Laura Miralia	Larry Valenti

WORSHIP at PROVIDENCE

Baptism of the Lord, January 8

Preacher Rev. John Fitzgerald
Sermon "Baptism of the Lord"
Text Matthew 2.1-12
Hymns "When Jesus Came"
 "At the Fount We Start Our Journey"
 "Let Streams of Living Justice"
Anthems "Wash Me Thoroughly " by Samuel Sebastian Wesley
 Chancel Choir
 "Shall We Gather at the River" by Aaron Copeland
 Garet Garland, soloist

Pulpit Exchange St Mark's UMC January 15

Preacher Rev. Paul Milton

2012 Lay Speaker Training Course

Have you ever considered becoming a certified United Methodist Lay Speaker? Our Charlotte District offers special training for anyone who wants to become a better speaker as part of your personal and/or Church wide ministry. Classes will help give you added confidence for sharing God's Good News. A goal for this ministry is to provide effective leadership for Sunday School class teachers, Bible study groups, UMW Circles and many other opportunities within our Church and beyond.

There are four Monday night classes held February 6, 13, 20 and 27 for the Certified Lay Speaker program. Class begins at 6:30 pm and end at 9:00 pm at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Charlotte. The cost is \$10 for a basic curriculum and \$30 for the advanced course. If you think you may be interested in becoming a certified lay speaker, you may obtain a registration form from our Church office or contact Jim Spears, Providence Lay Leader at 704.362.1948.

**Church Offices will close January 16
for the observance of Martin Luther King day**

DAILY BIBLE READINGS			
Jan 4	Genesis 1.1-5	Jan 13	Psalm 139.1-6, 13-18
Jan 5	Psalm 29	Jan 14	1 Corinthians 6.12-20
Jan 6	Matthew 2.1-12	Jan 15	John 1.43-51
Jan 7	Acts 19.1-7	Jan 16	Genesis 12.1-9
Jan 8	Mark 1.4-11	Jan 17	Genesis 32.22-32
Jan 9	Genesis 35.1-15	Jan 18	Jonah 1.1-10
Jan 10	Isaiah 6.1-13	Jan 19	Jonah 3.1-10
Jan 11	Jeremiah 1.4-10	Jan 20	Psalm 62.5-12
Jan 12	1 Samuel 3.1-20	Jan 21	1 Corinthians 7.29-31

Stephen Ministry News

Your Providence StephenLeader Team shares with you the good news that three of our Stephen Ministers, Bill Langley, Gail Shepherd and Mary Wintzer, will be traveling on January 8, 2012 to Orlando, Florida to attend the Stephen Series Leader's Training Course.

This will be a life-changing experience for them as they are joined by persons from dozens of denominations from all parts of the US and abroad united in mission; learning how to bring Jesus' love and care ever more deeply to hurting people. This fast paced seven day effort, focused on the administrative and supervisory aspects of Stephen Ministry, will fully prepare them to join the current Stephen Leader Team as it recruits, selects, trains and supervises Stephen Ministers, and identifies persons with needs for care and matches them to a Stephen Minister.

Gail, Mary and Bill each bring their unique skills and gifts, making a wonderful addition to our team as we look to the future in the new year of bringing God's love and care to members of the Providence family. We ask that you join with us in praying for and encouraging them for their answer to the call and commitment to deeper service to God's children.



Providence On Wednesday

January 11—Destination China
 Stir Fried Chicken Rice Oriental Slaw
 Ice Cream and Fortune Cookies
 Tea Coffee Lemonade

January 18—Destination Grandma's House
 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Green Beans
 Garden Salad Rolls Cake
 Tea Coffee Lemonade

Journey through the Bible John Fitzgerald 6:30pm in the Chapel
Dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:30pm

\$7 Adult Plate \$4 Children 10 years and younger

\$25 Family (one household living at the same address)

Make reservations by **noon Monday, 704.714.9380**

Make a reservation on the website www.providenceumc.org

POW's 'Destination Station' Returns in 2012

Destination Station will return on Wednesday, January 11. Standing reservations are still in effect. Make plans to get on-board and set sail with us for more travel fun, food, as we continue our Bible study with Rev. John in the new year.

ATTENDANCE

December 18 Lessons & Carols
 8:30am—298:11:00 am—716 Sunday School—
 December 21 Service of the Longest Night—32
 December 24 Christmas Eve
 3:00pm—510, 4:00pm (Chapel)—45
 5:00pm—850, 11:00pm—238
 December 25 Christmas Day 11:00am—181

Children's Ministry

Bethlehem Star Thank You

Our Children's Ministry would like to thank everyone who shared the joy of Christmas with a child from the Bethlehem Center through our Star of Bethlehem Tree. All of the gifts have been passed on, and we have sent these to the children with our love and prayers. Providence provided 101 star gifts this year as part of a 1,000 gift campaign for the center. A special thank-you goes to our UMW Circle 6 for wrapping the gifts for the children. Please remember to pray for your star child that they may feel God's love all year through.

Our Children Led Us to Bethlehem

Thank you to all of our children, parents, families and friends for your participation in our recent Children's Christmas Pageant. Our children brought the story of Christmas to life as we journeyed to Bethlehem through story and song. The manager was surrounded by angels and shepherds, camels and cows, prophets and wise men, and of course, Mary and Joseph. It was a joyful time in Bethlehem as our children led us in the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child. A special thank-you to our pageant children, Children's Council, music leaders and volunteers, Nancy Kucera and Pat Treadaway for their help with our pageant costumes, and Fred Smith for his help with our sound system. Donations of canned goods have been given to Loaves & Fishes to help feed the hungry in our community. May you continue to enjoy your own spiritual journey.

Visitation Ministry

January 8 First Time Visitor Marion & Mike Bruner Ann & Gayle Wylie Bread Bakers Wanda Entwistle	January 15 First Time Visitor Judy & Norm Stephens Nancy & Gene Thompson Bread Bakers Diane Duke
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Providence United Methodist Church

WeekDay School News

The Weekday School at Providence United Methodist Church is currently holding registration for the 2012-2013 school year. Tours and an Open House will be held on Tuesday, January 10 and the following Wednesday, January 18 at 10am. Registration brochures and forms can be picked up at the main desk, outside of the preschool office or online at providenceumc.org and selecting the education tab. Please note—All registration forms are due in the preschool office by Tuesday, January 24, 2012. If you are looking for a preschool home for your child, please come by and take a look. We would love to have you join our Weekday School family.

Harris Teeter VIC Card for WDS

Please stop by the Weekday School table before services on Sunday, January 9 or Sunday, January 23 to link your Harris Teeter VIC card to our Providence UMC Weekday School. After linking your card, Harris Teeter contributes a percentage of select Harris Teeter brand purchases to the Weekday School. All you need to provide is your VIC card number (it's on the card) or you name and phone number. Thank you in advance!

CONTRIBUTIONS

2011			2010			YTD
Date	Week total	YTD	Date	Week total	YTD	Comparison
18-Dec	\$ 74,449.78	\$1,781,421.03	19-Dec	\$ 97,419.35	\$1,753,151.88	\$ 28,269.15
25-Dec	\$ 60,842.72	\$1,842,263.75	26-Dec	\$ 27,825.00	\$1,780,976.88	\$ 61,286.87

Special Collections

Christmas Offering
 \$7,646.89
 Shepherd's Gift
 \$11,761.00

LiveWires - Faith Stories & Scrabble

Live Wires, our Christian fellowship group for seniors age 55 plus, will kick off the new year on Thursday, January 19, with a program on faith stories. As we make our New Year's resolutions, let us consider writing the story of our faith journey to share with our children and grandchildren. Dorothy Trotter, co-founder of *True Treasure*, a Christian writing, speaking, teaching ministry, and member of Christ Episcopal Church, will join us to lead a program on *Writing our Faith Stories*. She will offer tips on ways to write about your life and faith through letters, journals and other creative means of expression, to share with the ones you love. Social fellowship time begins at 11:30 am, followed by a delicious lunch and program at 12 noon. Please make your reservations by calling 704.714.9383 by noon on Monday, prior to the meeting that week. On Ground Hog's Day, February 2nd, let us beat the winter blues and have some fun and games with a LiveWires' Scrabble Tournament from 10:00am- 11:00am in Charter Annex. If you have a Scrabble game board you can bring or donate, please contact Cindy at 704.714.9372.

Save the Date!
Day of Service
Sunday, March 4, 2012

**Charlotte District Office News
 Revitalizing the Local Church**

Mark your calendar and plan to attend our District Leadership Conference Sunday, January 22 from 2:45-5:30 pm at Myers Park UMC. This year's DLC is called *Vitality Rally* as we put emphasis on how we can be vital congregations. Dr. Mark Ralls will be our keynote speaker. A list of the workshops will be published in early January.

For more information view the brochure at www.chardist.org
 Advance Childcare Registration Required
 Contact 704.525.3395 No later than January 13

Prayers for Peace and Safety

We pray for all persons serving in the military, for their safety and protection, and for their families, that they would be encouraged, Sean Barrow, Christopher Brinkmann, Greg Fisher, George Gouge, Tom Jewell, Bill Kever, and Troy Ledford. *If you are aware of PUMC members serving in the military, please call 704.714.9368.*



MUSIC MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next Providence Chamber Music Recital is Sunday, January 8, at 7:00 pm. The program will feature Antonin Dvorak's *String Quartet No. 13 in G Major, Op. 106* and Australian composer Martin Wesley-Smith's *White Knight and Beaver* for trombone, marimba, and 'tape'.

United Methodist Women January Circle Meeting

UMW always welcomes new members!

For information about the circle that will best fit your needs, please contact Mary Lou Paterson, 704.554.6448.

1	Mon	Jan	09	10:00 am	Parlor
2	Tues	Jan	10	10:00 am	Parlor
3	Thurs	Jan	12	10:00 am	Home of Rebecca Cox, 10500 Kilmory Terrace 28210
4	Tues	Jan	10	7:00 pm	Parlor
5	Tues	Jan	10	9:45 am	Room A103
6	Tues	Jan	10	10:00 am	Room A105
7	Wed	Jan	11	10:00 am	Charter Annex
8	Wed	Jan	11	11:00 am	Aldersgate
10	Tues	Jan	10	10:30 am	Room A102
11	Wed	Jan	11	9:30 am	Room A101
12	Sun	Jan	08	4:00 pm	Parlor

Methodist Men's Fellowship

Sunday, January 22, 2012 A.D. 12:05 Luncheon (after 11:00 service)

Join us for our traditional first program of the year with our Senior Minister John Fitzgerald delivers his inaugural *State of the Church* message .

To step up to your own plate, please answer an MMF e-mail, sign up in Sunday School or call 704.714.9381. Everyone is invited.

Temple Beth El Presents

Fifteenth Annual Comparative Religion Series

"One God? Yours or Mine...A Provocative Look at the Concept of God"

Tuesday Evenings January 10 - February 21, 2012

Temple Beth El

5101 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226

For more information, visit www.beth-el.com or call 704-366-1948

Submit VOICE articles Friday, Jan 13, 2011 for Jan 18 VOICE to cgrinham@providenceumc.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. John Fitzgerald, Senior Pastor; Dr. Bill Jeffries, Senior Associate Pastor; Teresa Dunn, Minister with Youth and College Students; Cindy Smith, Director of Children and Family Ministries; Stephanie Moore Hand, Minister of Evangelism & Discipleship; Carol Shinn, Director of Missions; Anna Smith, Weekday School Director; Dr. Adam Ward, Director of Music Ministries; Charlotte Judge, Associate Director of Music Ministries; Robert Ivey, Organist/Music Associate; Marcia Conston, Student Assistant Pastor; BUSINESS OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER 704.714.9366

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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 Charlotte, NC 28211
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 Charlotte, NC
 PERIODICALS

The Voice of Providence United Methodist Church *USPS (No. 075-000) is published bi-weekly by Providence United Methodist Church at 2810 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28211
 PERIODICALS Postage Paid
 at Charlotte, NC
POSTMASTER:
 Send change of address notices to "The Voice," 2810 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211. For more information, call 704.366.2823.