



# VOICE

of PROVIDENCE  
United Methodist Church

2810 Providence Road • Charlotte North Carolina 28211

Telephone 704.564.2825 Fax 704.564.6800

[www.providencemc.org](http://www.providencemc.org)

Vol. 42 No. 20

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

October 5, 2011

## Sundays in October Blessing of the Animals

This Sunday afternoon, October 9 at 2:30, we will celebrate the meaning of our animal friends. If you have a pet or even a farm animal that you would like to receive a special blessing, bring them to the grassy area behind Charter Hall on Sunday afternoon for our second annual Blessing of the Animals Service. We will gather, hear scripture, sing a song and offer blessings to each of our animal family members. Dogs, cats, ferrets, fish, guinea pigs, hermit crabs, cows, elephants, lobsters... all are welcomed, as long as they are on a leash or in a carrier. We hope to see you and your animal(s) here!

## Children's Sabbath

Jesus invited the little children to come to him; and as Disciples of Christ, we invite our children into the life of the church to experience God's love.

Everyone at Providence UMC plays an important role in welcoming children into our church family and nurturing them in the faith.

Together, on Sunday, October 9th, we will celebrate our children's role in ministry here at Providence UMC on 'Children's Sabbath.' Our children will assist in worship that day, and the bulletin cover will feature special art designed by our children.

Our first graders will graduate from 'Worship Readiness' class and receive Bibles during the 11:00 o'clock worship service. Make plans to join us as we celebrate what ministry means to our children and what our children in ministry means to us. *(Continues on page 3)*

## Children's Mini-CROP Walk

Our children will participate in a 'Mini-CROP Walk' this year on 'CROP Walk' Sunday, October 16, during Sunday School, 9:45am-10:45am. *(more page 3)*

## Fall Festival October 16

3:00-5:00pm Bring Your Family

## Extravagant Generosity-Count Yourself Blessed

To Providence UMC Family,

Due to the hard work and past financial commitment of all of you, our church has made major progress in the life-changing work that began last year and that has been accomplished in 2011. The long-term strategic plan and focus on debt reduction have transformed Providence UMC into a force for good, not only in Charlotte but beyond our shores in places that would never be touched if it was not for the support and commitment from the members of Providence.

Our affect on these lives can and will continue to ripple through our world in ways we do not even know. I have been blessed by being able to travel and speak around the world in the past couple of years and have seen the impact church communities can and do have. By our commitment of our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness, we continue to help our brothers and sisters in need at home and around the world. We demonstrate that by our giving as illustrated in 2 Corinthians 9:11, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." As we know, there is a time to give and a time to receive.

Thus brings me to announce the emphasis for this year's stewardship/generosity campaign: **Count Yourself Blessed**, "Give and it will be given you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Luke 6:38

This theme was chosen to emphasize that we all have been blessed in some manner in our lives and when we give of ourselves, we do receive blessings back. This ties with our church mission; *a growing body of Christ, glorifying God and serving others* helping us focus on how we glorify God when we give of ourselves through our gifts, whatever gift that may be.

Each year our staff and lay leaders respond to the needs of our community with a projection of how much money will be needed to continue our missions into the coming year. Needs grow annually as more people locally and around the country need support. People who used to be on the giving end, now find themselves in a challenging place of needing the assistance of others. We are all faced with challenges that make us humble and rely on others to see us through. That is actually one of the many things we all have in common.

Over the next five weeks, in collaboration and support of our ministers, you will be exposed to messages from the pulpit and church family members that will share their faith stories, their thoughts on giving and give you their perspective on the power of prayers, presence, financial gifts, service and witness. You will be receiving a weekly link to one of their messages to view and contemplate. We will have the video message of the week on the Providence website so in the event you do not have email, can see it on the web. We will also be running their video message in the atrium on Sundays between worship services. For the first time, we will offer the opportunity to make your financial pledge on the website to make it as easy as possible to make your gift however you desire, online, through the mail or in person on **Stewardship/Extravagant Generosity Sunday, November 20, 2011.**

I received a blessing from God on January 15, 2009 when God's hands guided US Airways flight 1549 to a safe conclusion. I have had and continue to have the opportunity to share God's grace around the world, impacting places and people who need to hear a message. I count myself blessed and I do know that we all have been blessed some way and know and believe in the spirit of generosity that exists at Providence. That is where our faith steps in that God and this church will be there for you if your circumstances ever change. Count yourself blessed, knowing that give and it will be given you, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

November 20, 2011 will be a day that is meant for ceremony as we deliver our pledge cards to the altar during worship service or go online to make our commitment. On that day, we have the privilege of practicing the commitment we all made when we became members, praying, being present for God, giving our financial commitment of what we can give, serving God and being a part of our mission, being a part of a growing body of Christ, glorifying God and serving others. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Grace and Peace, Dave Sanderson, Chair 2012 Stewardship-Extravagant Generosity*

**from Pastor Fitzgerald . . . All of Me**

C.S. Lewis asked; "How much of myself must I give to be a Christian?" Before you say to yourself, "I know the answer," consider the following information.

The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the average workday for most Americans is still eight hours a day, but over the past few years more and more people have been working on weekends. Tack on an additional 3.69 hours a day for work related activities such as continuing education, homework, or research. Household chores make up a little over three hours of our day. We spend 2.58 hours a day watching television. So, we are talking about 17.3 hours of our day. If you want eight hours of sleep, that brings the total to 25.3 hours, and we have not talked about relationships, social time, or recreation. You get the idea. There are not enough hours in the day!

The problem is that we try to pay off these demands and have time left over for the things that make life worth living. But there is nothing left over at the end of the day. According to Lewis, "Christ says, 'Give me ALL.' I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want YOU."

Let's give ourselves to Christ and allow Him to guide us in setting our priorities. How much of myself must I give? The answer is ALL OF ME! When we fully give ourselves to Christ all things will fall into their rightful place.

In Christ, *John*

**Care of Members**

**SYMPATHY**

We offer the strength of our resurrection faith to Sadie Byerly, 5100 Sharon Road Unit 222, Charlotte, 28210, 704.602.7772, and her family and friends, on the death of her husband, **Guy Lee Byerly, Jr.** who died October 1, 2011, in Charlotte.

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**CHARTER MEMBER**  
**Guy Lee Byerly, Jr.**  
**July 23, 1921—October 1, 2011**

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

Oct 5	Deuteronomy 6.10-25	Oct 14	Psalms 99
Oct 6	Exodus 32.1-14	Oct 15	1 Thessalonians 1.1-10
Oct 7	Psalms 106.1-6,19-23	Oct 16	Matthew 22.15-22
Oct 8	Philippians 4.1-9	Oct 17	Revelation 18.1-10, 19-20
Oct 9	Matthew 22.1-4	Oct 18	Revelation 18.21-24
Oct 10	Jude 17-25	Oct 19	Matthew 17.22-27
Oct 11	Exodus 33.1-6	Oct 20	Deuteronomy 34.1-12
Oct 12	John 6.25-35	Oct 21	Psalms 90.1-6, 13-17
Oct 13	Exodus 33.12-23	Oct 22	1 Thessalonians 2.1-8

**The Five Practices as a Daily Spiritual Discipline**

This fall we are offering a thirty-day email devotional study as a gift to our entire congregation from Bishop Robert Schnase's book, *Practicing Extravagant Generosity*.

We hope that this experience will deepen your commitment to Christ and strengthen our church as a whole.

Contact Carol Grinham regarding email delivery questions at [cgrinham@providenceumc.org](mailto:cgrinham@providenceumc.org).

**WORSHIP at PROVIDENCE**

**Children's Sabbath Sunday, October 9**

**Preacher** Rev. John Fitzgerald  
**Sermon** "Children's Sabbath"  
**Text** Matthew 19.13-15  
**Hymns** No.160 "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"  
 No.147 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"  
 No. 549 "Where Charity and Love Prevail"  
**Anthem** "Rejoice, the Lord Is King" by Malcolm Archer  
 "Look Around!" by Helen Kemp  
 Chamber III, 8:30; Chancel & Junior Choirs, 11:00

**World Communion Sunday, October 16**

**Preacher** Rev. John Fitzgerald  
**Sermon** "Things to Think"  
**Text** Philippians 4.1-9  
**Hymns** No. 147 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"  
 "Come and Find the Quiet Center"  
 (from **The Faith We Sing**)  
 No. 715 "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"  
**Anthem** "They'll Know We Are Christians" arr. Lloyd Larson  
 "Pie Jesu" (from **Requiem**) by Andrew Lloyd Weber  
 Youth Choir, 8:30  
 "I Will Greatly Rejoice in the Lord" by Knut Nystedt  
 "Rejoice in the Lord, Always" by Anonymous  
 Chancel Choir, 11:00

**Care of Members**

**BAPTISM**



The sacrament of baptism was administered on September 25 to **Samuel Bernard Desourdy**, son of Anna and Dave Desourdy, 9412 Lawyers Road, Mint Hill, 28227, 843.991.4222; Anna and Dave are new members who joined by transfer of membership September 25.

**NEW MEMBERS**



**Jo Ann Bridges**, 6121-A Heathstone Lane, Charlotte, 28210, 704.770.1478, joined by transfer of membership August 28, 2011.

**Susan and Dave Brown**, 570 N. Church Street, Charlotte, 28202, 704.358.4685, joined by transfer of membership and reaffirmation of faith September 25.



**Jan and Lewis Phibbs**, 4011 Quail Forest Drive, Charlotte, 28226, 704.557.6038, 704.839.9564, joined by transfer of membership and reaffirmation of faith September 25.

**WEDDINGS**

Congratulations to **Stacy Reynolds and Mike Runyon** who were married in our sanctuary September 23, 2011.

Congratulations to **Lauren Zimmerman and Taylor Dennard** who were married in our sanctuary October 1, 2011.

**Baskets for Beginnings**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and this is the 12th year Providence UMC will be conducting the Baskets for Beginnings project to support and benefit the Shelter for Battered Women. We fill laundry baskets with new household items that are needed by the women and children as they leave the Shelter to begin an independent lifestyle. The shelter sincerely appreciates our donations. Throughout October drop off your donations in your SS classes or in the Missions Armoire. A list of new household donation items will be placed in each Sunday School class, inside the Missions Armoire, and on the Local Missions Bulletin Board. Thanks so much for your support. Questions-contact Joy Kenney or Carol Shinn, cshinn@providenceumc.org.



**Providence On Wednesday  
Destination Station**

**October 12—Destination France**  
Ham and Broccoli Quiche Garden Salad  
Fruit Medley Cake  
Children—Hot Dogs and Chips  
Tea Coffee Lemonade

**October 19—Destination Mexico**  
Chicken Enchiladas Rice Black Beans  
Cookies and Ice Cream  
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)  
Reservations on the web [www.providenceumc.org](http://www.providenceumc.org)

**Children's Ministry**

**Children's Sabbath**

*(Continued from page 1)*

The 2011 Worship Readiness Class includes: James Vernon Anderson, Evan James Berkey, Griffin Thomas Bohmfalk, Allison Elizabeth Boyd, Virginia Marie Cook, Jack Stephen Douglas, Tate Jameson Efrid, Cameron Gregory Enos, Shea Elizabeth Fuqua, George Ernest Gates, Anna Marie Hilliard, Davis Nicholas Howard, Carson William Jeff, Amy Nicole Lautenschlager, McCrae Lillie, Caitlyn Marie Mancz, Aidan Tate Mason, Hannah Cole McGee, John William Murphy, Nina Lucille Osherow, James Richard Rantala, Peter Samuel Rantala, Justin Tyler Roark, Ryan Aubrey Kenyon Sanders, Caiden William Seufert, Benjamin Otto Stephens, and Courtney Jane Volpp.

**Children's Mini CROP Walk**

*(continued from page 1)*

Did you know that one out of every five children in the United States lives in poverty and suffers from hunger? Let's go walking together and help end world hunger! On Sunday, October 16th, our children will be walking to make a difference in the lives of children by participating in a 'Mini CROP Walk' here at Providence. Families and friends can sponsor our children and all proceeds will go to CROP to help fight hunger in our community and in the world. The children will meet in their Sunday School classrooms at 9:45am and then report with their teachers and class to the Discovery Center for an educational program. We walk a designated path both inside and outside the church (weather permitting), so we invite our young walkers to wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Our youth will provide water stations for the walk. We invite our children to bring one can of food for a donation to 'Loaves and Fishes.' Children can turn in their 'Mini-CROP Walk' sponsor forms and monies to their Sunday School teachers on the 16th. Additional sponsor forms are available, by contacting Cindy Smith at 704/914-9372 or csmith@providenceumc.org.

**Youth News Wear One, Bring One!**

In Charlotte, the number of homeless is increasing and includes everyone, men, women, children and even babies. In these tough times, our shelters need our donation help more than ever.

With this in mind, the Providence UMC Youth Outreach is supporting a sweatshirt campaign: "Wear One, Bring One". Providence pastors are supporting the Youth and ask the congregation to wear a sweatshirt to worship service or Sunday School on Sunday, October 16 and bring one for the sweatshirt drive. Since the need this year is so wide-spread the Youth Outreach is expanding our past sweatshirt drive from just men (donated to the Men's Shelter) to include women and children (donated to the Salvation Army Center for Hope).

So Wear One, Bring One! But if a Sweatshirt is just "not your thing" consider bringing one for the Youth Outreach Sweatshirt Drive.

Attention Parents! Do you have a theatre background or experience in drama and are looking for an outlet? We have just the place for you! A group of very excited youth (The Providence Players) are interested in meeting a couple times a month to explore the Word through drama. A leader and helper will make it possible! If you are interested in working with our talented youth, contact Elaine Levi at ewlevi@bellsouth.net or 704-372-2625. We look forward to a great year beginning this ministry!

**Visitation Ministry**

<p><b>October 9</b> <b>First Time Visitor</b> Kathy &amp; Tim Harris Michelle &amp; Camp Marks <b>Bread Bakers</b> Lea Morrison</p>	<p><b>October 16</b> <b>First Time Visitor</b> Peggy &amp; Phil Adams Cannon &amp; Charlie Hunt <b>Bread Bakers</b> Jenny Bolt</p>
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**Youth News 2011 Pumpkin Patch Pitch**

in at the Patch! Pumpkins Arrive October 5

There are nearly 300 shifts to cover for the Patch each season. Each shift provides you an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ. You may meet people that have only negative experiences with the church and YOU can make a difference in their life. You may meet people who are in need of someone to simply say, "Hello," and YOU can make a difference. You may meet someone who shares in your desire to care for those who are in poverty and by effectively staffing the Patch, YOU can make a difference. Each PUMC Youth is invited and encouraged to make a difference by working a minimum of three shifts at the Pumpkin Patch. Questions? Contact Jackie Logan @ 704-617-2187 or jaclogan@bellsouth.net.



**CONTRIBUTIONS**

2011			2010			YTD
Date	Week total	YTD	Date	Week total	YTD	Comparison
25-Sep	\$ 22,053.97	\$1,287,129.18	26-Sep	\$ 51,274.06	\$1,293,084.68	\$ (5,955.50)
2-Oct	\$ 24,827.65	\$1,311,956.83	3-Oct	\$ 24,956.00	\$1,318,040.68	\$ (6,083.85)

**ATTENDANCE**

September 25	8:30am—162	11:00 am—457
Sunday School—521	October 2	
8:30am—124	11:00 am—488	Sunday School—627

**LiveWires**

LiveWires, our age 55+ seniors fellowship group, will meet Thursday, October 20, for fellowship time from 11:30am-12:00pm, followed by lunch at noon. Our program will feature Rev. Stephanie Moore Hand, Minister of Evangelism and Discipleship, and Stephanie will talk about 'The Plan' and share about her life and faith. Please make your reservation by noon on Wednesday by calling 704.714-9383. Cost is \$7.00. For more info about Live Wires, contact Cindy Smith at csmith@providenceumc.org.

**UMW Fall Pecan Sale**

- 1 lb Pecan Halves \$10.00
- 1 lb Pecan Pieces \$ 9.00
- 1 lb box Milk Chocolate
- Dipped Halves \$12.00
- 6 oz Doubled Dip Milk Chocolate
- Pecan Snack \$ 6.00
- 6 oz Doubled Dip Dark Chocolate
- Pecan Snack \$ 6.00
- 22 oz Collectible Gift-Box Chocolate Pecans, Honey Crisp Pecans & Butter Roasted/Salted Pecans \$16.00

Order by:

October 30, 2011

Return forms to Atrium or Mail

\*Please Note  
 "New Crop" pecans from Young's Pecans, Florence, SC scheduled to be shipped the week of November 7-11. Date depends on harvest date and may vary. When pecans arrive and are ready for pickup you will be contacted.

Linda Guilford  
 2210 Roswell Ave #103  
 Charlotte, NC 28207  
 704.608.5964

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Optional: Circle # \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sunday School Class \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**All items must be pre-paid**

**Checks should be made payable to "PUMW"**

**ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE UPTOWN SOUP KITCHEN**

**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, Greg Fisher, George Gouge, Jonathan Hendrick, Tom Jewell, Bill Keever, and Troy Ledford. *If you are aware of PUMC members serving in the military, please call 704.714.9368.*

**United Methodist Women Circle Meetings**

UMW always welcomes new members.  
 For information about the circle that will best fit your needs, contact Mary Lou Paterson at 704.554.6448.

Circle 1	Mon	Oct 10	10:00 am	Parlor
Circle 2	Tues	Oct 11	10:00 am	Parlor
Circle 3	Thurs	Oct 13	10:00 am	Bethlehem Ctr.
Circle 4	Tues	Oct 11	7:00 pm	Parlor
Circle 5	Tues	Oct 11	9:45 am	Room A103
Circle 6	Tues	Oct 11	9:15am	Providence UMC Parking Lot-Carpool to Crisis Assistance
Circle 7	Wed	Oct 12	10:00 am	Charter Annex
Circle 8	Wed	Oct 12	11:00 am	Aldersgate
Circle 10	Tues	Oct 11	9:30 am	Providence UMC Parking Lot-Carpool to Classroom Central
Circle 11	Wed	Oct 12	9:30 am	Room A101
Circle 12	Sun	Oct 9	4:00 pm	Samaritan House

**UMW Fundraiser Silent & Live Auction**

Save the Date  
 Sunday December 4, Charter Hall  
 Immediately following 11:00am Worship  
 Bring your husband, bring your family,  
 Invite friends and neighbors  
 Lunch served ticket info available soon!



**Music Ministry News**

**Children's Sabbath Sunday, October 9, 8:30&11:00 am**

Our children will lead in all aspects of worship as we celebrate the joy of our young people in the life of our church.

Junior Choir and the Children's Handbell Choir will both participate. Music by Malcolm Archer and Helen Kemp.

**Sunday, October 16 at 8:30** Youth Choir and the Youth Handbell Choir will lead in worship. Music by Larson and Andrew Lloyd Weber.

**Sunday, October 9 at 7:00 pm** Our first Chamber Music Recital of the new season will include music for flute, oboe and clarinet by Phillips and Arnold; for brass trio by Poulenc; and for mandolins and guitar by Arnold. The recital is free and open to all.

**Submit VOICE articles Friday, Oct 14, 2011 for Oct 19 VOICE to [cgrinham@providenceumc.org](mailto: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.

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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