



The Invitation

A Caring Christian Fellowship Reaching Out in Response to God's Love

From My Open Door

Jeffrey Bell, Pastor

May
2013

Each year, Springtime makes a powerful statement around the world. God created the world with a built-in need to grow and reproduce. Spring is a time when nature accelerates with new life.

While I am not much of a gardener, I do know that there are three general laws of the garden:

Law 1: The purpose of life is to bear fruit. In John 15:16 we read "I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last." In many

places in the Bible, life is compared to a garden, and in each instance we learn that the purpose of the garden is to produce fruit. How frustrating it would be to till the soil, plant the seeds, tend and water them, weed the garden and then have no return. God's plan is that our lives produce fruit that lasts forever. Fruit bearing is God's life plan for you.

Law 2: A plant is recognized by its fruit. In Luke 6:43-44 we read that "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit." I'm reminded of the old saying that "you can't fool mother nature." A sour apple tree produces sour apples. A thorn bush produces prickly thorns. A sweet peach tree produces sweet



**Growth is Normal
Stagnation is
Abnormal**

peaches. In the same way, sour people with negative attitudes are drawing that bitterness from deep within. Prickly people who wound others with harsh and piercing words and actions are bad-tempered because they draw from a belligerent source. People who exude love and grace draw that sweetness from a source deep inside. People are known by their deeds.

Law 3: A fruitless plant is a worthless weed. Read Luke 13:5-7 and you'll see that there is no room in God's garden for fruitless Christians. In the end, all fruitlessness is judged and discarded. 2 Corinthians 5:10 tells us that everything we do on this earth will be evaluated by Jesus and either rewarded or discarded. It's not meant to be a threat as much as it is an encouragement so that you might build your life with the right things.

So the point of life is fruitfulness, and a fruitful life is one rich in good deeds and pure speech that arises from Christ that results in spreading the gospel and glory of God.

See you in Church!

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"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:38

All in the family

Because we are a people of prayer, who believe in the power of prayer, we ask you to keep in your prayers those who are unable to worship with us on Sundays due to health concerns:

At Home Members:

- ♦ Bob Collins
- ♦ Mary Davis
- ♦ Edith Hill
- ♦ Joyce Semones

Nursing Home:

- ♦ Virginia McBurney
- ♦ Jim Sherman
Beth Shalom Memory unit, Room 17.
- ♦ Doris Weber
The Oaks of Brecksville, Brecksville, Ohio

Assisted Living Homes:

- ♦ Ivan and Mary Ann Cook
Westminster Canterbury
- ♦ Marilyn Jackson:
Atlantic Shores
- ♦ Inge Keeny:
Chesapeake Place
- ♦ TC Rock:
Chesapeake Place

Please notify the church office if you know someone who needs to be added to this list.

May Birthday Prayer List

On the occasion of each one's birthday, take time to lift them to God in prayer.

05/01 Terry Parson	05/16 Sybil Estelle Naujoks
05/02 Glynn Rogers	05/17 Dylan Thomas
05/02 Cathy Polychroni	05/18 Mary Davis
05/04 Laura Nielson	05/20 Joyce Semones
05/04 Rebecca Wagoner	05/20 Brian Pursel
05/06 Sandy Allwein	05/20 Kelsey Olenych
05/06 Travis Cole	05/21 Ray Hodges
05/07 Nora Bell	05/21 Paul Hickman
05/08 Jo Claire Marshall	05/22 Judy Easton
05/09 Sam Grady	05/26 Terri Hanson
05/10 Petey Reynolds	05/26 Jake Yurasko
05/10 Lucy North	05/27 Tom Chadwick
05/13 Bob Collins	05/27 Mary McBride
05/14 Christina Wichrowski	05/28 Ralph Sturtevant
05/14 Megan Bishop	05/29 Sally DeBellis
05/14 Brooke Bishop	05/30 Homer Wooddell
05/14 Price Tyler	05/30 Ellen Cutchins
05/15 Tony McDonald	05/31 Linda Dean

Session Notes

The Session met on Monday, April 15, 2013, and conducted the following business:

- ♦ Approved use of the facilities by Chris Taylor for a violin recital.
- ♦ To offset the cost of bringing Group Workcamp to Virginia Beach in 2014, we will seek funding through grants from the city of Virginia Beach and donations from private businesses.

Work Camp 2014 Update



Great News!! Work Camp is coming to Virginia Beach **July 13-19, 2014**. We have received confirmation from Virginia Beach Schools and are finalizing all the initial paperwork. Over the course of the next few months we will start making plans for the camp and in the fall we will start

looking at homes to work on. Stay tuned to find out ways that you can help make this a great week for all. Thanks everyone for your prayers and continued prayers for this great event. For more information contact Kevin Daley at mcpx2@cox.net, or 572-3977.

Fellowship Hour Volunteers

May 5	Genesis
May 12	Worship
May 19	Strawberry Festival
May 26	Choir
June 2	Sacred Parenting

Mission Outreach Evangelism

Providence Moves into the Community

Saturday May 4, 8 a.m.-4p.m.

Wear your Providence Volunteer t-shirt

Providence has selected Bow Creek Presbyterian Church for our 2013 mission project. We have a wonderful opportunity to assist the 68 children and staff currently using the church as a day care facility by repairing plumbing, replacing flooring and soffit, painting, replacing and rebuilding and painting the 5 sheds in use. The large cross in front of the church will get a major overhaul. Yard work and replanting will provide this community a church building they can be proud of.

We will visit our church members who are home bound or in care facilities. We will thank our local fire and police departments as well as the staff of Fairfield Elementary school with our traditional gift of homemade cookies. Our womens' circles have made book marks to include with the cookies.

Breakfast for our volunteers is at 8a.m. in the fellowship hall and lunch is provided at 12:00 at Bow Creek Presbyterian Church (715 Rosemont Road). Wear your Providence shirt and bring a smile to share with everyone !

Please contact Carol Hickman at 727-7474 or Karen in our church office 420-6159 to participate or for any questions. A schedule of activities follows:

Wednesday, May 1

9a.m.-2p.m. Bring cookies for Goodie Bags and food items for breakfast and lunch on Saturday

Thursday, May 2

9a.m.-11a.m. Bring cookies for Goodie Bags and food items for breakfast and lunch on Saturday

11:00a.m. Assemble Goodie Bags

Friday, May 3

7:30a.m. Visit Fairfield Elementary School

9a.m.-noon Bring food items for breakfast and lunch on Saturday

Saturday, May 4

8:00a.m. Breakfast and Worship

8:30a.m. Break into Groups, Load Cars, Depart for Work Site

8:30a.m.-4p.m. Nursery Care and Kids Camp for children of volunteers

9:00a.m. Assemble Lunches

Noon Lunch for Volunteers at work site

3:30-4p.m. Return to Church



Partners in Education

Thank you to those who so generously donated pants for the nurse's clothes closet at Fairfield Elementary. She has already used some of them! Please keep this in mind for future "recycling" girls and boys jeans, sizes 5 and up.

May is the last month for the Farm Fresh receipt program for this school year. All receipts must be redeemed in early June. Providence has contributed well over \$14,000 worth of receipts so far and over 400 Box Tops. Box Tops can be saved throughout the year.

Providence Women's Ministries



Join us on Sunday, May 5 when our Providence Women are actively involved in conducting a very special worship service. We are truly blessed with an abundance of talented women who are willing to volunteer to serve. Following worship we will enjoy Birthday cake in the fellowship hall.

We will receive the **Presbyterian Women's Birthday offering** on **Sunday, April 28**. Since 1922 this annual offering has provided much needed financial assistance to many worthwhile programs around the world. This year's theme is based on Romans 12:2,6: *"Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor...so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."* Make checks payable to Providence Presbyterian with an indication for "birthday offering."

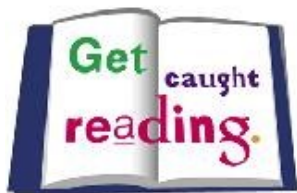
It's time to register for the 25th Annual Summer Gathering at Massanetta, June 13-16. Registration forms can be downloaded at <http://www.provpres.org/ministries/presbyterian-women/25th-annual-pw-synod-summer-gathering.html>. If you would like to attend, but cannot stay for the entire weekend, I plan to take the church bus on Friday, June 14 and return the evening of June 15 to be back for Father's Day. If you are interested, please sign up for the bus on PW bulletin board. Eight Providence women went last year and enjoyed a great weekend of workshops, mission activities and new friends. Plan to join us this year.

Thank you for donating beach bag items during the school year. We asked and you delivered! Looks like we should be good for the remaining weeks of the school year. We have made 270 bags of food thus far for Fairfield Elementary students. Your loving and generous giving has allowed this ministry to continue.

Our circle meetings will soon come to an end for the summer, but we plan to continue our fellowship, so please stay tuned for upcoming PW summer events and outings. Already plans are being made for a PW fellowship and craft day with a date and time to be announced soon.

God Bless!

Cecilia



CHECK OUT ...

The CHURCH LIBRARY

May is Get Caught Reading Month!

Women's Book Club Selection Gods and Kings the first in the five book series Chronicles of the Kings by Lynn Austin
(All 5 available in our library)

This is a FANTASTIC series – NOT just for Women!!

Need to see if the Library has a certain book?
Computer Search Feature available...

STUDY RESOURCES - BIBLE REFERENCES
YOUTH BOOKS - CHILDREN'S BOOKS & DVDS



The Library is **ALWAYS OPEN** – just open the door and turn on the light. Make your selection, sign and date the checkout card and place it in the tray on the table next to the door.

Christian Education

Christian Education Dates to Remember...

May 1

Kingdom Rock Vacation Bible School registration begins.

May 19

Confirmation Class students join the church during morning worship.

June 2

Graduates recognized during morning worship.

June 9

Last day of regular Sunday School; last day of Enrichment.

June 16

Summer Sunday School begins; Middle School/High School/Adult will join together to enjoy the Faith Lessons series and Children in kindergarten through 5th grade will be using Feasting on the Word curriculum.

July 8 – 12, 9am – Noon

Kingdom Rock Vacation Bible School... Where Kids Stand Strong for God!

September 1

Last day of Summer Sunday School

September 8—Rally Day!!!

We need your help!!!!

The Christian Education Committee is interested in updating the library into a media center, and make it a place that you'd want to spend time in!!! We need your ideas to come up with a plan. Our first thoughts went to making it an extension of the coffee bar, with more comfortable seating, internet connected terminals (with appropriate restrictions), and relocating or removing the doorway.



If your idea is used, you may be able to name the new space (depending on how many ideas are adopted!). Please send your ideas to fitzuva@gmail.com or talk to Donna Rae Barrow, Robin Birdwell or George Fitzgerald. We would like your ideas by June 1.

Providence Post



Pentecost Sunday May 19

On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. We will celebrate Pentecost, also known as the "birthday" of the church on May 19. **It is a great day to wear red**, the liturgical color of Pentecost and invite a friend to church that Sunday.

We will receive the Pentecost Offering on Sunday, May 19th. Giving to the Pentecost Offering makes it possible for the church to encourage, develop, and support its young people, and address the needs of at-risk children. A large portion of this offering is retained by Providence to make an impact in the lives of young people within our own community. Make checks payable to Providence Presbyterian Church with an indication for "Pentecost" and place in the offering plate. Envelopes for this purpose are in your box of offering envelopes.



Property Committee

Hello again from Property Committee. I would like to welcome to Art Freeberg to the property committee. Thanks for joining us and sharing your skills. The Property Committee is having a **Property Work Day on May 18th at Providence from 8-1**. We are looking at taking care of some minor repairs, painting, and some landscaping. If you're able and would like to help out a sign-up list is posted on the men's bulletin board. If you have any thing for Property please do not hesitate to contact me or drop a note in my box in the Church office. Kevin Daley (757)572-3977 or mcpox2@cox.net.

Kevin Daley, Property Chair



Play Ball!

The 2013 Men's Church League baseball season begins for Providence with two exhibition games on **April 29 at 7:45 p.m. followed by a second game at 8:45 p.m. at City View Park #1**. Plan to come out and support our team on the following Mondays:

Monday, April 29	7:45 p.m. 8:45 p.m.	City View #1
Monday, May 6	6:45 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	PAAC Green #2
Monday, May 20	8:45 p.m. 9:45 p.m.	PAAC Green #2
Monday, June 3	6:45 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	PAAC Green #2
Monday, June 10	8:45 p.m. 9:45 p.m.	City View #4
Monday, June 17	6:45 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	City View #4
Monday, June 24	8:45 p.m. 9:45 p.m.	PAAC Green #2

Strawberry Festival Sunday, May 19

Enjoy this spring special treat with your friends. The Fellowship Committee is hosting our annual **Strawberry Festival** in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship on May 19.

Don't miss this popular event!



Directory Update

Stuart and Lisa Snell – 613-0789

Mike and Dianne Stockmeier

1083 Cranberry Drive Chesapeake, 23320

Providence Post

Pastor Jeff update...

Did you know? Pastor Jeff was elected to be the Vice Moderator of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia. It is a three year term in three parts. For the first year, he'll serve as Vice Moderator, assisting in leading Presbytery Meetings. In the second year, he becomes the Moderator. And, in the third year, he becomes the Chairperson of the Vision Implementation Team (VIT) which is the Presbytery equivalent of our Session. And the other rumor, about Jeff looking for a new church? When do you think he has time for that!



To My Church family,
I want to thank everyone
for the expressions of
sympathy at the death of
my mother, Joellen
Pearce, on March 25. The

beautiful cards, visits, phone calls and food
were very much appreciated as well as your
attendance at Mom's funeral March 30.

You have given me great comfort during this
difficult time and I thank you for your continued
thoughts and prayers.

Love,
Karen Cagni

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for the lovely cards,
flowers, prayer shawl, visits, and phone calls.
Most of all thank you for your prayers and kind
thoughts. I count my blessings every day for
the love that has been shown me during my
long illness. We are truly blessed to be
members of such a loving and caring church
family. Please continue your prayers as I am
still in recovery.

With Love,
Mary Davis

Thanks to all for the prayers and concerns for
my heart procedure. Everything turned out
better than expected. Prayer works. A special
thanks to Nancy Lindgren for bringing us home
from the hospital. The Sunday flowers were
beautiful and we certainly enjoyed them.

Thanks,
Ralph Sturtevant

It's TIME TO REGISTER for



Vacation Bible School July 8-12

Mark your calendar for July 8-12, 9 am -
noon, and make plans to join us! Pick up a
YELLOW registration form for preschool
children (ages 3, 4, and 5 that have not
completed kindergarten by July 1st, 2013) or
pick up a BLUE registration form for
elementary-aged children (children who have
completed kindergarten through 5th grade
by July 1st, 2013) from the holders in the
narthex, foyer, or from the church office.
Return completed forms to Cathy Polychroni,
Donna Rae Barrow, or to the church office.
Can't wait to see you rocking the kingdom at
Providence where kids stand strong for God!

2013 Graduates Recognized June 2



Providence will recognize
our graduates during
worship Sunday morning,
June 2. We are compiling a
list of high school and
college graduates for the
Sunday bulletin, newsletter
and graduate bulletin board.

Please submit your name, where you are
graduating from, your plans after graduation
and a picture to Donna Rae Barrow or email
to: dce@provpres.org by **Sunday, May 12th.**

May 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:00pm VA Children's Chorus 4:30pm AOM 6:00pm Kirk Night 6:30pm Kirkmusik 7:30pm Chancel Choir	2 National Day of Prayer 5:00pm Project Light 5:00pm AOM 6:30pm Presbyterian Men's Dinner 	3 8:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	4 8:00am Providence Moves Into the Community 9:30am Private Recital 2:00pm AOM
5 9:00am Merry Bells 11:00am Women's Sunday 11:00am Communion 12:15pm Blood Pressure Screening 3:00pm NA Group 6:00pm Youth Group	6 4:30pm AOM 6:45pm Softball Game 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Committee Chairs 7:30pm Committee Night	7 4:00pm AOM 5:00pm Project Light 7:30pm Bells of Providence	8 9:45am Mary & Martha Circle 4:30pm AOM 6:00pm Kirk Night 6:30pm Kirkmusik 7:30pm Chancel Choir	9 Ascension of the Lord 5:00pm Project Light 5:00pm AOM	10 7:00pm Miriam Circle 8:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	11 8:00am ODU Craft Bazaar 2:00pm AOM
12 Mother's Day 9:00am Merry Bells 3:00pm NA Group 6:00pm Youth Group 	13 4:30pm AOM 6:00pm Session Confirmation Class Received 7:00pm Boy Scouts	14 10:00am Dorcas Circle 4:00pm AOM 5:00pm Project Light 7:00pm Avalon Hills Civic League 7:30pm Bells of Providence	15 Newsletter Deadline 4:30pm AOM 6:30pm Kirkmusik 7:30pm Chancel Choir	16 12:30pm PW Mission Work Day 5:00pm AOM 5:00pm Project Light 7:00pm Care Team Leaders	17 8:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	18 8:00am Providence Work Day 9:00am Courtyard Graces 2:00pm AOM 3:00pm Private Recital
19 Pentecost Sunday Confirmation Class Received Pentecost Offering Received 9:00am Merry Bells 12:15pm Strawberry Fest 3:00pm NA Group 6:00pm Youth Group 	20 4:30pm AOM 7:00pm Boy Scouts 8:45pm Softball Game	21 4:00pm AOM 5:00pm Project Light 7:30pm Bells of Providence	22 4:30pm AOM 6:30pm Kirkmusik 7:30pm Chancel Choir	23 5:00pm Project Light 5:00pm AOM	24 8:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	25 2:00pm AOM
26 Trinity Sunday 9:00am Merry Bells 3:00pm NA Group Youth Pool Party 	27 Memorial Day Church Office Closed VB Schools Closed 	28 Meals on Wheels Delivery Week 7:00pm A Gathering @ the Well 7:30pm Bells of Providence	29 4:30pm AOM 6:30pm Kirkmusik 7:30pm Chancel Choir	30 5:00pm AOM	31 8:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	

Providence Presbyterian Church

5497 Providence Road, Virginia Beach VA 23464
Phone: (757) 420-6159 Fax: (757) 420-7553

Church Staff

Pastor.....Rev. Jeffrey Bell
Parish Associate.....Rev. Tom Chadwick
Director of Christian Education.....Donna Rae Barrow
Director of Music.....Valette Fellenbaum
OrganistJohn Dixon
Administrative Assistant.....Karen Cagni
Sexton.....Melvin Jones
Kitchen Coordinator.....Terrie Wichrowski
Nursery Supervisor.....Michelle Wofford

THE SESSION

Moderator: Jeffrey Bell Clerk of Session: Jonathan Hyslop

Administration Committee:

***Ashley Schroeder**, Gary Parson

Christian Education Committee:

***George Fitzgerald**, Robin Birdwell

Congregational Care Committee:

***Anita Matteson**

Fellowship Committee:

***Rich Lindgren**, Rose Farr

Mission/Outreach/Evangelism Committee:

***Sandra Rushton**, Carol Hickman, Don Reid

Property Committee:

***Kevin Daley**, Bill Bishop

Worship Committee:

***Tom Barrow**, Brent Nielson

***committee chair**

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Newsletter articles, joys, and
announcements should be submitted no
later than the 15th of each month
for the following month's edition.

Please e-mail Newsletter submissions to:
newsletter@provpres.org

Upcoming Events

Check out event details inside

Kirk Night Wednesdays, May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 6:00 p.m.

National Day of Prayer: May 2, 2013

Presbyterian Men's Dinner: Thursday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Providence Moves Into the Community: Saturday, May 4
starting with breakfast and worship at 8:00 a.m.

Women's Sunday: Sunday, May 5

Men's Softball Games: Monday, May 6, 20 (see article on
page 6 for times and locations)

PW Mission Work Day: Thursday, May 16 at 12:30 p.m.

Courtyard Graces: Saturday, May 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Pentecost Sunday: Confirmation Class Received
Sunday, May 19 during worship

Strawberry Festival: Sunday, May 19 following worship

A Gathering @ the Well: Tuesday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Save the Date

Graduates Recognized: Sunday, June 2 during worship

Vacation Bible School: July 8-12