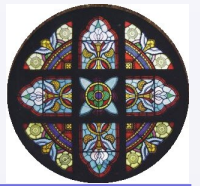


# PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, August 28, 2022 Issue No. 120



## August 28, 2022 – Twelfth Sunday In Pentecost

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.”

~ Genesis 32:10 ~



### *The Power Of The Future*

*Morgen — Fargo, North Dakota — February 24, 2014*



I believe in the power of the future. It's what drives us to go to school or work every day. It allows us to dream. Without a future we have no purpose, no reason to be creative and motivated. The future makes life bearable. Knowing that

your life, as it is now, isn't permanent lets your imagination run wild. So many things could happen in one, two, even ten years and the best part about this is that you have no clue what it will look like.

When I was younger I was always asked what I was going to be when I grow up. My answers included a fashion designer, an actress, a singer, or a scientist. Of course, there is no way to actually know the correct answer. So, why do we ask such silly questions to five year olds? Does it matter what we're going to be years from now? I'm a college freshman and I still have no clue what I am going to be doing five years from now. I guess we ask this question because it's nice to imagine what the future will look like. It's nice to know you have the chance to be whatever you want.

The future is fascinating because it has no limit. It goes beyond infinity with no end in sight. It defies the thing we call time. What is time anyway? Who decided how long a second is, a minute, a year? And why do we govern our lives around it?

Whenever I'm driving home, through the busy traffic of Minneapolis Minnesota, my parents frequently call to see how far away I am. I would tell them the mile marker, but that isn't what they meant. They want to know how far away in minutes. So, I tell them and they are satisfied, but I still wonder why it's so important because they know that I will get there eventually.

I still remember a quote I came across on a day I had nothing to do. It was by John F. Kennedy and said, "For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future." I have lived my life according to this thought because thinking in the future is the only way to create a future. Sure, studying past events is interesting and fills us with knowledge, but we need to be able to imagine new solutions to problems. We can't keep following the leaders of the past.

I don't know what the future will hold and I never want to know. The powerful thing about the future is that it's always changing. Every decision each person makes each day propels us closer to the unknown. Without a future we would be stuck, never moving forward.







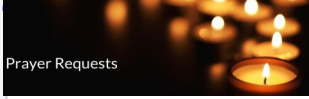
# Providence Presbyterian Church

*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord*



## Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, August 28, 2022



Prayer Requests will be added each week by your requests, and will run for two weeks unless a request to continue is received.



### God's healing presence:

- For Janet Newell, Eleanor Hathaway & Carol Shore's brother Dean Eckert
- For Fritz & Jean Wainwright, Jean Miller, and Fran Kraft
- For Dave Hammell & Joe Celkupa
- For Ginny Heal's cousin Isabell & her nephew David
- For Ginny Heal and Michelle Vitale
- For Maritza Chambers' sister Elba and her brother Angel
- For Aiden Witte, Brittany Zier & Marleigh
- For Polly Grobelny, her son in law, Donald & her daughter Ava
- For Heidi Bonwell's father Robert
- For Joe & Edna Lauter
- For Jack Harkins

### God's comfort:

- For Alyson Keegan & her family caring for her father
- For the people of Ukraine
- For the Wyatt family

### For God's guidance and assistance:

- For Heidi Bonwell
- For Dylan serving in the Navy in Japan

### In Thanks and Praise to God:

- For good shepherds in our pulpit

For continued prayers for the PNC as they carry on their mission.





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## The Past, Present and Future of our Historical Country Church “The Providence Presbyterian Church of Bustleton”

Part 3 **The Future** Randy York  
~ Providence Presbyterian Church of Bustleton

### The Unbroken Circle

“And mister, that’s what makes it our land.  
Bein born on it,  
livin and workin on it,  
and dyin on it”

- Muley Graves  
“The Grapes of Wrath”



That quote is from one of my favorite movie scenes. The black and white image of Muley Graves, squatted down, talking to himself, as a handful of soil from his farm slips through his fingers, is heart rending. And so you look to me and say, “But Randy, just what does that have to do with the future of our church?” Well, everything actually.

The future of this church is rooted in its past. As Barbara Hammell has recounted in recent newsletters, and as Jack Harkins reminded us a few Sundays back, this church was conceived in farming. The sowers and cultivators of the past had a need to express thanksgiving and gratitude to a God who blessed them and provided a bounty for their labor. A God who guided and sustained them in times of plenty and in times of want. So they planned and built. They gathered and worshipped and raised their voices. We work the land they plowed and cleared. We walk the same straight and clear road they travelled on. The road where they found grace and mercy. The path of the sure and certain hope found in Jesus Christ. The faithful promises of God sustained them. Their ceiling became our floor. We drive past the legacy of their land, but we share their need and desire to gather and praise God.

Whether we’re smart enough to realize it or not, it is the struggles and commitment of the saints of the past that allow us to witness today. And it will be the faith, action, and service exhibited by our congregation that will make it possible for those yet to come to experience the glory and grace of God.

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*Providence Presbyterian Church*

*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord*



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## **The Past, Present and Future of our Historical Country Church “The Providence Presbyterian Church of Bustleton”**

Look around. We are surrounded by the reminders of the past. They form the rich soil for our future. Walk into the church and glance to your right. There on the wall hang pictures of two congregations. The clothes have changed, but together their eyes look forward. The black and white memory of long-gone farmers gives way to the colored photo below it of those who joined the journey more recently. Even that picture tells a tale of folks who have moved or passed on, leaving stories and memories for those of us still travelling the road. Stories to find comfort in and build upon.

The oak trees that surround the property stand as sentinels over a place that has witnessed births, both physical and spiritual. That has seen years of praying, working and fellowship. That has watched burdens and grief shared and laid down. That has looked on as souls enter and depart. And in all things God was glorified in the service of people of simple means.

The rose window situated above the pulpit is placed so that it catches the sun rising in the eastern sky, as if a reminder that faith begins when the day begins. The church structure itself testifies to a commitment made and passed on. The wood, stone, and mortar were not used to memorialize a religion. They were incorporated to signify a relationship. A continuing signpost to passersby of folks standing their ground because of whose they were and what they believed.

Well that's a lot of evocative agricultural prose. What then lies on the road ahead? First, our future rests in God's provision and we move forward only by remembering and thanking him. In Deuteronomy 6, the Israelites are told that God will bless them with wells they did not dig, with fields they did not plant, and with houses they did not build. God blessed those farmers of the past with a church. We have inherited that blessing and must never take for granted the need to thank God in all things. From that point my friends the future of our church lies in that special spiritual equation of  $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$ . That holy mathematical truth that God, plus me, plus you, can and will change the world. Wait, change the world? The whole world? That's a pretty tall order there Randy. Granted, but ours is a story of possibility. It's not fixing the whole big mess. It's about healing the part that touches you. And it's not just you, it's us. In God's eyes, the church is not a building, it's a people. His people. Us. Knowing that we need fixing, coming in as sinners and reaching out for God's grace. Then listening and learning together. Actively moving together.

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## Providence Presbyterian Church

*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord*



Joining together in worship, being filled with His spirit, and then living sacrificially right here. Faithful farmers working and tilling the hardened soil, so the rain of God's love will permeate into the lives of those in need. It's an ongoing story of restoration. We are renewed in God's grace and then we live to restore our world, one heart at a time.

Further on in *The Grapes of Wrath*, the preacher Jim Casey says, "Maybe a fellow ain't got a soul of his own, just a little piece of a big soul, the one big soul that belongs to everybody." Not quite church doctrine, but a fine picture of a Christian community. We all have experiences that we bring to God's assembly table. Times of loneliness, desperation, disappointment, grief, suffering, and loss that we've gone through. Our mission as a church is to make of them something that can nourish others. We are surely blessed, and we are called to be a blessing, to become the beating heart of Jesus to folks standing in need.

We serve a God who can be spoken to and respond. We live in his presence within a world he made holy and sacred. The undeniable truth understood by the faithful of the past and those who continue on today is that at the intersection of Old York and Bustleton roads, God is present. Present in the grace filled sermons of Ivo Meilands, as well as Jim Kraft. Present in the compassionate smile of Leo Forsberg, as well as Carol Shore. Present in the quiet service of Bill Walker, as well as Wendy Varga.

Over a century and a half back, a group of folks united to celebrate their beliefs and built a structure to God's glory amid their lives, and as a focus of their shared faith. They knew firsthand of God's goodness and they knew he wanted that goodness shared. You can feel those souls with us, surrounding us, each time we worship in this sacred space. The future of our church lies in the simple truth that as we hear their song of praise raised long ago, the song of faith, the song of grace, the song of compassion and mercy, and the song of love, that we continue that unbroken circle, and rise up and sing along.



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## Providence Presbyterian Church

*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord*



This final chapter, The Future, concludes the writing on the Past, Present and Future of the Providence Presbyterian Church of Bustleton. I hope that you enjoyed reading it as much as I was enthused in going through archives, talking to people, and organizing each time period of our church. We have a beautiful, historical, gothic style church which if it were not for good people and caring people it would not be the church it is today. Bless each and every one of you with God's love.

I would personally like to thank Randy York for writing the last chapter "The Future" on our church. It was said from the heart and written nicely. Thank you Randy! Like he had mentioned, we go back a long way at the Providence Presbyterian Church of Bustleton and have been so blessed with dedicated people and ministers who have made the church what it is. The world around us is ever changing but the one thing that will always remain the same is the **LOVE the LORD has for HIS PEOPLE.**



Thank you & Prayers to you all,  
Barbara Hammell



I'd like to tell you about a non-profit community I work with called Bordentown City Cats.

It's a volunteer network of people committed to rescuing and socializing stray and abandoned cats.

If anyone knows someone who would love to adopt or foster a cat, let me know or you can visit their website at:

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

If adoption or fostering is not an option and you would still like to help, there is a donation button on their website, **OR** if you have the available time and interest, there other ways you can help. They have committees addressing the following programs and **NEED** Volunteers :

Trap / Neuter / Release - Transportation - Feral Feeding - Friendly Cat Care  
Fundraising - Event Planning

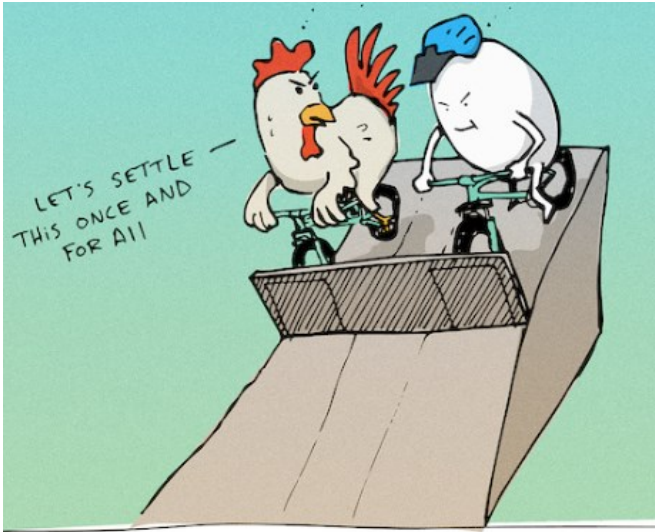
If you have any questions, please contact me at [yorkie0401@gmail.com](mailto:yorkie0401@gmail.com). If I do not have the answers readily available, I can point you in the right direction!

I will be posting updates on outreach events as they arise!

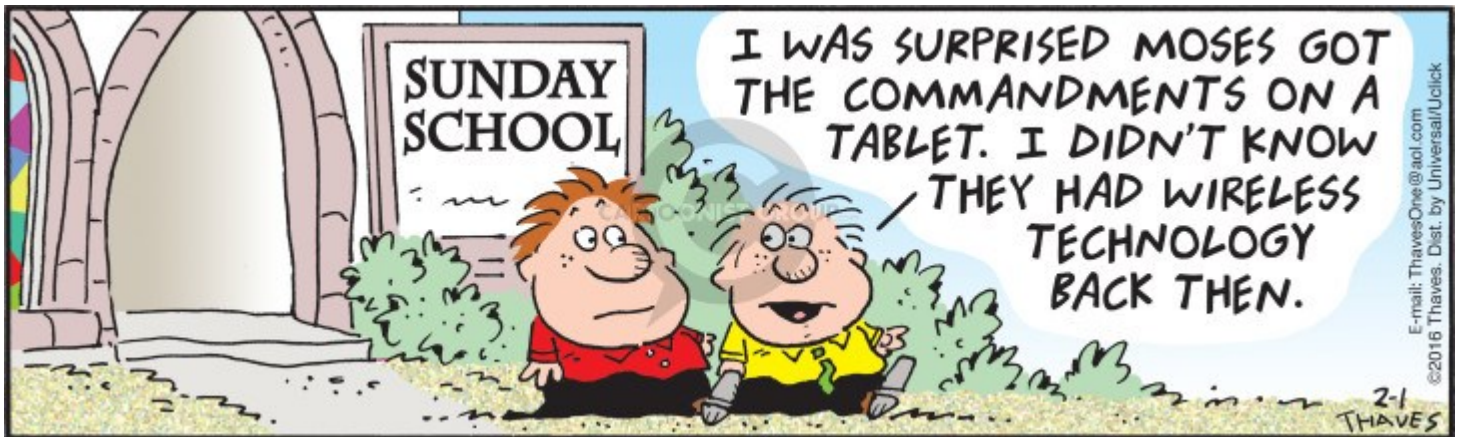
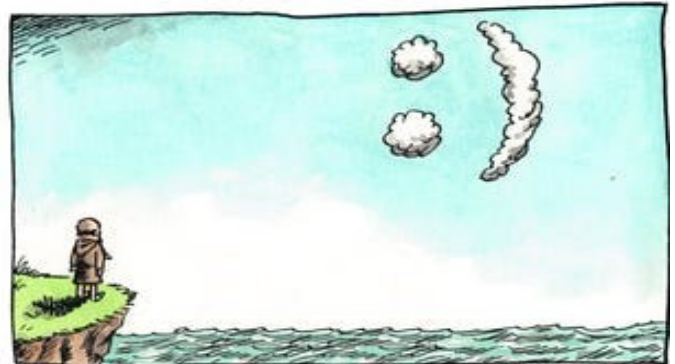
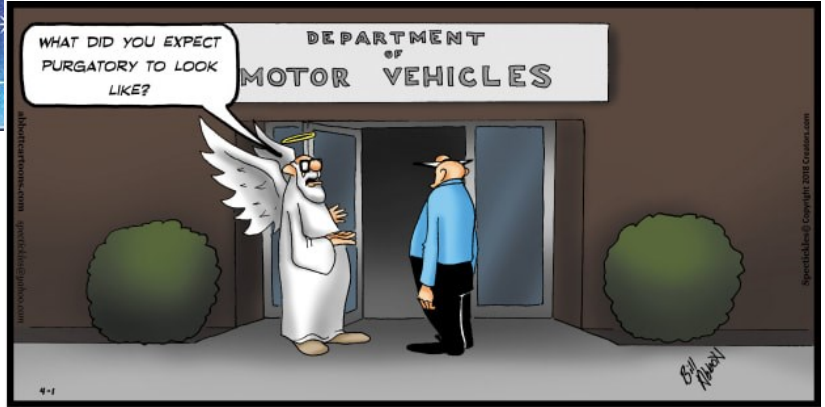




# SUNDAY COMICS



WHICH CAME FIRST?



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