



## Settling Into Our New Location

Saturday morning, July 30, we officially moved into First United Methodist Church (Lansing, IL). Before we could move, preparations were being made to turn the education wing of First UMC into the new home of Providence Christian Academy. Volunteers spent many hours cleaning, constructing, organizing, painting, and setting up classrooms. God blessed the work of many hands so that on Thursday, August 18, the doors were opened for the beginning of a new school year.

Our administrator, Mrs. McKenzie, worked continuously to aid this transition. Since we moved from an Indiana location, there were adjustments to make and paperwork to be sifted through. A new facility brings some different practices and procedures for faculty and students. At First UMC this includes safety protocols like an exterior emergency fire escape that leaves an impression on those who must practice using it! Mrs. McKenzie continues to be a tremendous blessing in her efforts, serving as both principal and 5th-6th grade teacher.

We mainly use two areas of the church for educational purposes. Our primary space is the second floor education wing on the north end of the building. This is where five classrooms, the school library and a storage room are located. The second area is a lower level fellowship hall where we eat lunch, hold physical education classes and use a staged area for music classes. A separate classroom in this lower level is also utilized for a drama skills building course. With a growing student body there is adequate room for classes and storage.

In addition to the education spaces the church also allows us to use the "Parlor." It serves as a teachers' lounge, meeting room for the board and it is a place where prospective families can sit and talk with the administrator. Many of our grandparents enjoyed this space for fellowship and snacks on Grandparent's Day. Use of this room is an example of the warm hospitality we continue to experience at First UMC. They also make weekly efforts to connect with the students from TF South and we have been encouraged by their strong presence in the community. We enjoy getting to know their members and are thankful for a good relationship with the church.

While there have been changes, many aspects of the day remain the same. A very sweet time occurs every morning when all of the teachers and students gather for devotions in the chapel. Teacher-led meditations and prayer are followed by singing the hymn of the week and then two or three student selections from the Psalter Hymnal. Many parents and grandparents enjoy staying for this time.

We encourage you to experience not only devotions, but other aspects of our school. Please come to visit, take a tour and let us show you the blessings we have been given. Whether you are new to our school community or well-acquainted, we invite you to come spend time with us!



## 2016 Evening of Thanksgiving

*“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!” Psalm 118:1*

Psalm 118:1 set the tone for the “Evening of Thanksgiving” which took place in early November at Community United Reformed Church (Schererville, IN). This annual event is eagerly anticipated by students, faculty, parents and supporters alike and serves as a time of mutual encouragement by reflecting on God's faithfulness to our school community.

Many PCA parents came together and transformed the sanctuary of the church into a beautiful banquet hall, preparing for the largest gathering in our school's brief history. Board President, Pete Smith, began the evening by welcoming guests and presenting beautiful and heartfelt devotions including personal comments for the students which had been prepared by Rev. James Oord, who was absent due to illness. A catered dinner and buffet of homemade desserts were enjoyed by all. A short recitation program was then given by the student body.

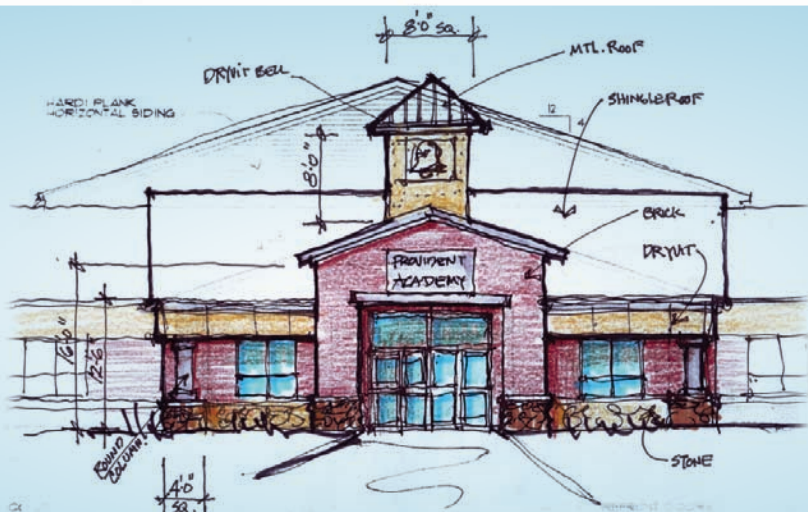
Singing and recitation of Scripture are usually highlights of the student program and this year was no exception. The fifth and sixth grades particularly impressed the group as they recited Philippians 2:1-16 and then immediately went into a recitation of the Decalogue, Deuteronomy 5:6-22a (Ten Commandments). The K-4 group sang Psalm 42 and a second arrangement of the Psalm was sung by the 5th-7th graders in gorgeous three part harmony.

At the conclusion of the program a new video was shown that answers frequently asked questions about Providence. It emphasizes the benefits of being distinctly reformed and gives a broad understanding of the classical model of instruction. This video can be seen at [www.providenceca.org](http://www.providenceca.org).

One of the blessings of such an event is to experience fellowship within the PCA community. For some this is the only time that they may see each other throughout the year. Students, parents, faculty, family and friends come together and give thanks to God for His leading and love toward this community. We also bear testimony to His hand of blessing with over \$130,000 being given toward building expenses for our future school building project and give thanks for this expression of generosity by our community. “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!”

IN  
everything  
GIVE  
THANKS

## Building Patience



*“But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience” ~Romans 8:25*

We Christians wait patiently for our Lord's return and the resurrection of the body, and we learn to “hope for” and trust in what we do not see. All throughout life God teaches us, molds us, and disciplines us to become more patient and to wait on Him. It appears that building a school building for Providence Christian Academy is definitely one of those lessons for the body of believers assembled for the purpose of training God's Covenant youth at PCA.

## First Grandparents' Day a Grand Success!

Providence Christian Academy hosted its first Grandparents' Day on November 4. This special day was held to honor grandparents, give them a peek into the school, and remind students of the guidance and wisdom that grandparents can offer. Grandparents certainly have an important role in each child's life and in the life of our school community.

To start the day, a crowd of grandparents and great-grandparents filled the chapel and joined the students in singing songs such as "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and "God Bless America." Rev. Nick Alons from Lynwood URC delivered a fitting message on Proverbs, reminding the students that wisdom comes from God and is cultivated when we learn from the wisdom of our parents and grandparents. He even tied in the Latin word for wisdom! After chapel, grandparents were recognized for such "grand accomplishments" as traveling the farthest to attend Grandparents' Day and having the most grandchildren enrolled at Providence. They also spent time in prayer for the school, teachers, and families.

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We are waiting patiently for word back from Illiana on the possibility of a sewer connection as well as the funds necessary to get under way. The board is very grateful for the tremendous support in raising funds for the building. To date we have approximately \$305,000 in our building fund and are confident that in due time the Lord will provide what is necessary to bring a

building to reality. In the meantime please pray for PCA, the faculty, the board, the students, and for patience as we wait on the Lord to make the way possible.

We are "building" patience.

Grandparents enjoyed light refreshments and time to visit with one another before making their way into the classrooms to spend time with their grandchildren. Together, students and grandparents talked about how classrooms have changed over the years, played educational games, and made bookmarks together. Many grandparents commented that they felt honored and blessed by the school and their grandchildren.

Thank you to all the grandparents, teachers, volunteers, and students who made Providence's first Grandparents' Day a grand success!



## Getting to know Mrs. Louise Wright *7th grade Latin Instructor*

**Q. For those who don't know you yet, would you tell us a little bit about yourself – where you are from, what your background is?**

**A.** I grew up with my parents and younger brother in the west of Scotland in a small village in the country. My parents are not believers, and we didn't attend church. I was converted when I began to go to church to hear the organ, at the age of 16. I started to attend a Bible study and grew in my faith, learning more about the reformed faith when I met my husband at a church in England. I studied Modern and Medieval Languages at Cambridge University, where I was very active in Christian leadership groups.

**Q. You and your husband are both from Scotland. What was it like growing up there? Are there things that you miss?**

**A.** My husband and I come from different coasts of Scotland: he is from Edinburgh, and I am from a village near Glasgow. I suppose in that the Lord prepared us for a lot more traveling in our lives! Scotland is a lot more secular by culture than the US, it is more unusual to meet someone with a strong faith, but those who do are used to standing up for what they believe. I miss my family who are all still back there, of course; since we have been married we have never lived close to them. I also miss the mountains where I used to spend my summers.

**Q. Your husband is currently serving as the Pastor of Covenant OPC (Orland Park, IL). How long has your family been there and how has God blessed you and your family in this role?**

**A.** We have lived in Orland Park for 17 years now where my husband is the pastor. Our family (four sons and a daughter) have spent their formative years here, and have been very blessed by a strong family-oriented church. The Lord has been very gracious to us in strengthening the fellowship and growing the ministry of Covenant in prison ministry, and in missions at home and abroad.

## 2017 Geography Bee



Q. PCA approached you last year to be an online Latin teacher. Can you tell me what you have loved about teaching at PCA?

A. I have loved getting to know the students, teachers and parents at PCA. I have found everyone very warm, welcoming and helpful...and very patient especially through the technical problems we still occasionally experience with an online class! I have found the students willing to work and to struggle with concepts even when they feel out of their depth. I have also found it a very caring classroom, where the students encourage each other, and accept success and struggles with grace and honesty.

Q. Since you are teaching Latin at PCA how do you feel this language impacts the students?

A. I feel that the study of Latin is a huge benefit to all the students in many different ways. There is obviously an important link between the study of the Latin language and the study of English grammar, and we always try to recognize those parallels. With the students studying the Omnibus program at PCA, there is a wonderful opportunity to link the study of ancient literature in Latin with the reading and historical context which they already have from Omnibus. Studying a foreign language, even an ancient one, always gives rise to questions about language and communication in general. I always try to encourage them to get a "feel" for the translation, knowing that there is not always only one correct way of translating a sentence, and a smooth English sentence structure is preferable to a wooden literal rendering. The study of Latin is so precise that it functions as a rigorously logical exercise. To figure it out is something that comes with practice, but it is a great skill from which everyone benefits, even those whose career path in the future does not include the study of languages.



Q. As you know we are a distinctively reformed school, how is that important to you?

A. I really appreciate the fact that PCA is distinctively reformed. I think it is very important for the students to have a solid grounding in the reformed faith and to learn how the reformed worldview impacts all of their studies, as well as their life in the church and the world. With our reformed faith we are not afraid to expose the students to subjects and ideas outside of our own experience, knowing that our Sovereign Lord has a glorious plan to redeem for Himself a people from all nations. In His name we are able to reach beyond our current scope, and the students will gain the skills to influence more than their own little corner of the world.

Q. What do you love to do with your free time?

A. In my free time, I love the chance to go hiking, and since I have always loved music, I am enjoying learning to play the cello.

On Friday, January 27, two students from each of the grades 4-7 participated in a Geography Bee. After several rounds of questions Ben Bruinsma (7th grade) was declared the all-school winner. Logan Darling (4th grade) was the runner up while Lucas VanderWoude (5th grade) finished in 3rd place. Congratulations to all of the participants who qualified to compete in the Bee!



**Providence Christian Academy**

P.O. Box 122

Schererville, Indiana 46375

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

--Proverbs 22:6 ESV

# Kindergarten

**PREVIEW DAY**

For the 2017-2018 School Year!

**WHEN:** Monday, March 6, 2017

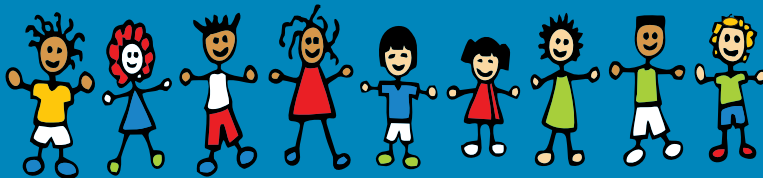
**TIME:** 9:00 - 11:00 AM

**LOCATION:** Providence Christian Academy

18420 Burnham Avenue | Lansing, IL

While prospective Kindergarten students "go to school" for the morning, parents will hear more about the Christian, classical education offered at Providence and how to prepare their child for Kindergarten.

Visit [PROVIDENCECA.ORG](http://PROVIDENCECA.ORG) for more information.



## Contact Us:

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(219) 588-9090

[info@providenceca.org](mailto:info@providenceca.org)  
[www.providenceca.org](http://www.providenceca.org)

## We are currently meeting at:

First United Methodist Church  
18420 Burnham Avenue  
Lansing, IL 60438

\*\*If you would like information about setting up a classroom visit, please contact us by phone or email.



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