

Old Providence News

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Old Providence ARP Church

Dear Old Providence Family,

Let me start by saying a big “THANK YOU” to all those who worked so hard at our Vacation Bible School! What a wonderful week it was with approximately 65 children as well as a great adult class. VBS week is a big investment. There’s no doubt that it requires much time and energy. However, that investment is worth our efforts. If you doubt that, consider the following story.

Each night, throughout the week of VBS, we began with an opening assembly that involved a short skit, singing, and of course, saying our pledges to the American Flag, the Christian Flag, and to the Bible. The Pledge to the Bible says “I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God’s Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path and I will hide its word in my heart that I might not sin against God.” During the pledge someone would hold up a copy of God’s Word. One night, after the pledge to the Bible was complete, one of the children said to one of our teachers “Do you have one of those at home?” Puzzled, the teacher responded with something like “Do you mean a Bible? Yes.” Then the child asked, “Do you read it?” to which the teacher also said, “Yes, of course.” The child then went on to express a desire to have a copy of the Bible.

Thankfully, a couple in our church made an incredibly generous donation of purchasing enough Bibles so that every child could take a copy home. Even so, this story points to a reality you may not have previously considered. There was a time when Vacation Bible School’s purpose was to *further* educate children about God’s Word, the key word there being “further”. These days the reality is that many of the children who attend our Vacation Bible School have little to no education about God’s Word to begin with. Many of them have never been exposed to the basic truths of Scripture, and certainly aren’t a regular part of church anywhere. As a result, we should keep in mind how important VBS really is. As Galatians 6:9 says, we must not grow weary in doing good. And to that end, we must remember to pray for the salvation of the children who attended, and for their parents, as well.

Again, thank you so much for all your hard work. Take comfort in the fact that God is sovereign over all things, including the children and adults who were able to attend VBS. Be encouraged that the Lord allowed, and continues to allow us, to be part of His grand redemptive plan.

Your Pastor,

Patrick

August 2023 Announcements



As of publication of this Newsletter, we have Sunday Morning Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. and Sabbath School at 9:00 a.m. Children's Church is available during the Worship Service. Nursery is available during the Worship Service and during Sabbath School. During the school year Youth Group meets every Sunday at 5:30 p.m., and Little Lambs meets the first and third Sunday monthly from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. In the summer Youth Group meets every other Sunday, and Little Lambs does not meet. Pastor Malphrus will post his Sunday morning sermons on [Facebook.com/ OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa) and will also post the audio version of those sermons on [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](https://www.sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). You may access our Facebook page, edited newsletters, church calendar, [sermonaudio.com](https://www.sermonaudio.com), announcements, and more by visiting our website at [oldprovidencechurch.org](https://www.oldprovidencechurch.org). For a copy of a Sunday sermon on CD, or to add or update your information for notifications received through the One Call System, please contact the church office.

Daily Devotionals with our pastor will start back in September after a summer break. Recordings are available through our church's Facebook page via [facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurch SpottswoodVa](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa) or our website (www.oldprovidencechurch.org) by clicking on the Facebook icon. They are also available through [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](https://www.sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence), which may also be accessed from our website, or the sermonaudio app. For a copy of a devotional on CD, please contact Patrick.

Wednesday night Bible Study and Prayer Meetings with Pastor Malphrus will start back in September after a summer break.

An updated Church Directory will be printed soon. If you have had any changes to your contact information or you would like to add your contact information to the directory, please contact the church office by emailing adminassist@oldprovidencechurch.org or calling 540-377-2911.

Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet on Thursday, August 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. for a meeting, followed by Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. We will be studying Chapter 7 in the book entitled, *Revelation for You*, by Tim Chester, which covers Revelation 15:1 - 16:21. All Women are welcome.

Men's Signing Group

The Men's Singing Group will be rehearsing the second and fourth Sunday each month at 5:15 p.m. Men! Come and join us!

Serving as Senders to Missionaries and Evangelists

This study exploring what it means to send people to serve in the field as missionaries and evangelists, and potentially spark an interest in our younger generation to go themselves, meets Sunday evenings at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall and will continue through the month of August. This study, led by Frank and sponsored by the Evangelism and Outreach Committee, will utilize the book *Serving as Senders Today* by Neal Pirolo. Although we will build on previous weeks, missing one or two classes should not stop you from attending. We may even have some guest speakers on some occasions. It is not necessary to read the book, but it is welcomed if you are so inclined. We will have light snacks available and plan on this being a **multigenerational** class. If you have any questions or plan to start attending, please text Frank so that proper quantities of snacks are available. However, do not hesitate to come at the last minute as we will always have plenty to share.

VBS Thank You

We had a wonderful week at Vacation Bible School! Thank you to all who helped make it a great week by organizing the food, heading up the crafts, heading up recreation, teaching classes, donating Bibles, working in the kitchen, helping in the classrooms, serving the meals and more. Thank you all! During Vacation Bible School donations were collected for the Children's Hunger Fund. The total raised was \$771.82 which will provide 3,087 meals to those in need.

Preschool Registration Update



There are still openings in the three-year-old class for this fall. Registration packets are in the church office and on the OP website. Please share this information with our community so this Ministry can be a blessing to others. The first day of class will be Tuesday, September 5th, for the 3-year-olds, and Wednesday, September 6th, for the 4-year-olds.

College Student Addresses

Please provide addresses to the church office for college students who would like to receive the Old Providence News while away at school.

Community Event

The Rapine Volunteer Fire Company will have a BBQ Chicken Fundraiser Saturday, August 12th, at the firehouse at 11:00 a.m.

Homecoming and Special Services

Make plans now to attend Homecoming on Sunday, September 17th, and Special Services nightly from Sunday, September 17th to Wednesday, September 20th. Rev. Joe Fleming, founder of Training2send international missions organization, will lead our services. Sunday we will have Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. Special Services will be at 7:00 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday.

August 2023 Calendar of Events

Thursday, August 3

- 10:00 a.m. - Women's Ministries
- 10:30 a.m. - Women's Bible Study



Sunday, August 6

- 8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Carol and Summer
 - 9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School
 - 10:00 a.m. - Worship
- Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Lois

Sunday, August 13

- 8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Cindy and Amanda
 - 9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School
 - 10:00 a.m. - Worship
- Children's Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki
- 5:15 p.m. - Men's Signing Group

Sunday, August 20

- 8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Terri and Stacy
 - 9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School
 - 10:00 a.m. - Worship
- Children's Church Leaders: Patcie and Sue
- 5:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

Sunday, August 27 - Communion

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Amanda and Isabella

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship – Special Offering for WRE

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney and Tina

5:15 p.m. - Men's Singing Group

September 2023

3 No Little Lambs & Youth Group

4 Labor Day – Church Office Closed

5 Preschool begins

7 Women's Ministries 10:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

10 Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

11 Monday Mid-Day Program resumes 11:00 a.m.

17 HOMECOMING service 10:00 a.m.

Covered Dish Meal

17-20 SPECIAL SERVICES 7:00 p.m.

24 Diaconate Meeting 5:00 p.m.

Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

25 Monday Mid-Day Program 11:00 a.m.

*Please keep in mind, calendar dates are tentative and could change or cancel after publication of the newsletter.