

Old Providence News

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Old Providence ARP Church

Dear Old Providence Family,

I hope that this newsletter finds all of you doing very well and enjoying what remains of the summer. Recently, a friend posted an image on social media that really got my attention. It was a split image, with one half portraying a sickly-looking man dressed in tatters, leaning against a pile of rubble, and the other portraying a king in a palace, surrounded by beauty and opulence, dressed in the finest of kingly garments.

At first glance, the stark contrast between these two men was shown in their individual circumstances. One man seemingly had all that anyone could or would ever want. The other, clearly, was destitute. And yet, upon further inspection, what separated these two men more than their circumstances was the look on their faces. One man looked sullen and depressed, with a face full of scowl. The other man, however, wore a face full of joyful contentment. One man gazed into the shadows. The other looked up in hope. As you try to imagine this picture I've described, which of the two men do you think appeared happy and blessed? The answer may surprise you. The man who seemingly had everything was the one whose visage was only darkness. The man who seemed to be destitute was the one who seemed to be full of hope.

What a riddle of an image! How can it be explained? The answer to this riddle is revealed in each man's identity. The man who appeared to be king was Solomon, and the man who appeared to have nothing was Job. If you're still puzzled at the difference, consider what is revealed in God's Word. In Ecclesiastes chapter 2, starting in verse 9, Solomon wrote: *⁹ So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; my wisdom also remained with me. ¹⁰ All that my eyes desired, I did not deny them. I did not refuse myself any pleasure, for I took pleasure in all my struggles. This was my reward for all my struggles. ¹¹ When I considered all that I had accomplished and what I had labored to achieve, I found everything to be futile and a pursuit of the wind. There was nothing to be gained under the sun.*

In other words, Solomon gained all the world has to offer, but found all of it to be meaningless, like chasing after the wind. But what about Job? After losing everything, Job responded by saying in Job 1:21 *"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will leave this life. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."* While these verses reveal many profound truths, allow me to point out just one. Job shows us that the one who trusts and looks to God can lose everything and still worship the Lord, and be filled with hope. And, in the same way, Solomon shows us that looking to anything and anyone but God for fulfillment leads to depression, darkness, and the ultimate conclusion that the things of this world are futile.

As you consider your own life and the circumstances you face, let me encourage you to turn to God again and again. Make sure that you are trusting in Jesus Christ and His righteousness alone for your salvation. Remember the promises revealed in God's Word of His continued presence by His Holy Spirit. Do not lose heart. God is constantly at work in ways that we cannot see. And remember to bless the Name of the Lord.

Your Pastor, Patrick

August 2024 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 Sabbath School. Typically, during the school year Youth Group meets every Sunday at 5:30 p.m., and Little Lambs meets two Sundays a month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Pastor Malphrus will post Sunday morning sermons on **Facebook.com/OldProvidenceARPChurchSpottswoodVa** and the audio version of those sermons on **sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence**. To access our Facebook page, church calendar, edited newsletters, sermonaudio.com, announcements, and more, visit our website: **oldprovidencechurch.org**. For a copy of a Sunday sermon on CD, or to add or update your contact information for notifications received via the One Call System, call the office.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study will resume on September 11th and Daily Devotionals will resume on September 9th. You may access recordings on **facebook.com/OldProvidenceARP ChurchSpottswoodVa** and audio versions on **sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence**. For a copy of a devotional on CD, contact Patrick.

Rally Day and Sunday School Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 25th. More details to come.

Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet on **Thursday, August 8th (NOT August 1st)** at 10:00 a.m. for a meeting, followed by Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. We will be studying Chapter 11 in the book entitled, *The Next-To-Last Word* by Michael P.V. Barrett, and Chapter 1:7-17 in Zechariah. All women are invited to join the meeting and/or the Bible Study.

Bus Trip

The bus trip to the **Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum** sponsored by the Spiritual Care Committee is on! It will take place from Thursday, 19th - Saturday, 21st of September 2024. There is still room for more people to sign up. See Linda or Gary for questions, to sign up and to pay. Price is **per person** as follows: \$677 (1 in room); \$509 ea. (2 in room); \$455 ea. (3 in room); and \$427 ea. (4 in room). The price includes transportation, 2 nights at Hampton Inn (breakfast buffet), Ark Encounter admission (lunch voucher), Creation Museum admission, baggage handling, taxes and gratuities. Money is due by August 25th. Make checks payable to Old Providence Church.

Pictorial Directory

The Women's Ministries is currently working on a **New Pictorial Directory**. This directory will be more comprehensive and easier for us to update than ever before. The women are asking for your participation in providing information such as: family profiles and church activity photos from 2024. If you do not have a **Directory Profile form** yet, please pick one up from Providence Hall and return the completed form to the designated box no later than Sunday, **September 1, 2024**. Plans regarding photos are still in the research phase. If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia.

Homecoming and Special Services

Homecoming will be held on Sunday, September 15th, and Special Services will be held nightly from Sunday, September 15th to Wednesday, September 18th. Rev. Sam Cotten will lead our services. He is an ordained minister in the ARP denomination, and he has 12 years of pastoral experience in the U.S., with a B.S. from Erskine College, a Masters-Old Testament from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and a M.Th. from Union School of Theology in Wales. Sam and his wife, Marth-Margaret, are members of World Witness and the SEED (Serving by Educating, Equipping, and Discipling church leaders) Ministry team. They teach in the SEED sites of Rwanda and Pakistan with Sam as the team leader of SEED-Rwanda.

Sunday, September 15th, we will have Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.; Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.; a Sanctuary Rededication Service, with special guests invited, following Morning Worship; and a covered dish meal after the Rededication Service. Special Services will be held at 7:00 p.m. each night with an Ice Cream Social provided by the congregation after the Wednesday night service. A Children's Program will be offered during each night of Special Services. A Congregational photo will be taken on Homecoming. More details coming soon.

Monday Mid-Day Program

Our Monday Mid-Day Fall Program will begin on September 9th and will continue on September 23rd, October 7th and 21st, and November 4th. The program starts at 11:00 a.m. with a light lunch and fellowship following. The cost of lunch is \$4.00 and there is a sign-up sheet to help with meals by the kitchen door. Speaker and topic details coming soon.

Operation Christmas Child Year-Round Shoebox Shopping

Don't forget to continue looking for shoebox items and to pray for this mission. August's suggestion from the year-round guide to maximize your impact for the Gospel: School Supplies.

Community Fundraiser

The next Raphine Volunteer Fire Company BBQ Chicken Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, August 10th, starting at 11:00 a.m. at the firehouse.

August 2024 Calendar of Events

Sunday, August 4

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Ashlie and Terri

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Lois

Thursday, August 8

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

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



Sunday, August 11

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Cindy and Gratia

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki

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

Sunday, August 18

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Vicki and Sally

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Patcie and Sue

4:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

Sunday, August 25 – Communion

Rally Day and Sunday School Picnic

Special Offering for WRE

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney and Tina

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



Thursday, August 29

7:00 p.m. - Women's Ministries Visits Beulah Land

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

September 2024



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| 2 Labor Day – Church Office Closed | 15-18 Special Services 7:00 p.m. |
| 5 Women's Ministries 10:00 a.m. | 22 Diaconate Meeting 4:00 p.m. |
| Women's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. | Youth Group resumes 5:30 p.m. |
| 9 Monday Mid-Day Program resumes 11:00 a.m. | Little Lambs resumes 5:30 p.m. |
| 15 Homecoming Worship Service 10:00 a.m. | 23 Monday Mid-Day Program 11:00 a.m. |
| Sanctuary Rededication Service | 29 Breakfast for Local Missions 8:00 a.m. |
| Covered Dish Meal | Youth Group 5:30 p.m. |