

# Old Providence News

Est. February 2001

Volume 25 Issue 2 February 2025



Dear Old Providence Family,

As I write these words, I look out my office window at the church and see snow covering the ground and piled up in our parking lot. It's hard to believe (at least for this boy from South Carolina) that there are parts of the church property that have been covered with snow for almost 3 weeks! Not only is the snow beautiful to look at, with it comes an invitation from God in His Word that I referenced just this past Lord's Day. Snow invites us to cease from our labors and consider God's power. Life moves so fast. We all have things that need to be taken care of, tasks that need to be completed, and even face the mundane reality of errands that need to be run. Even so, when the snow comes so much of life stops. In many ways, we are forced to slow down and wait.

Snow and winter weather in general are not missing from the Bible. Most are familiar with Job's Story. After losing everything, 3 friends came to Job and brought anything but comfort and wise counsel. Later a 4<sup>th</sup> man came into Job's life and offered a response to Job's suffering that proclaimed God's greatness and sovereignty, which was a much-needed message for Job in his time of hurt and sorrow.

Pointing to God's sovereignty, Elihu said in Job 37: 6-10 *"He (God) says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.' So that everyone he has made may know his work, he stops all people from their labor. The animals take cover; they remain in their dens. The tempest comes out from its chamber, the cold from the driving winds. The breath of God produces ice, and the broad waters become frozen."* Later, in chapter 38 God himself responds to Job's questions by rhetorically asking Job if he had ever *"entered the treasuries of the snow"*. What a marvelous thought! What a wonder to behold God's power. In Job's suffering, God pointed out the fact that He is in control.

All of these references, and so many more, point to the fact that God is sovereign over all things. In addition, they point to God's loving care for His people in that, from time to time, the Lord tells us to stop and behold His mighty strength. Let us be grateful, dear friends, that God is in control. As we see the wonder of the world unfolding around us, let us remember that God directs our paths and is active in every aspect of life, even the weather. Let us not forget that in His love and mercy, He cares for us more than we could ever imagine.

Your Pastor,

Patrick



## February 2025 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. **Youth Group** meets at 5:30 p.m. every Sunday and **Little Lambs** meets from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. every Sunday, unless otherwise announced. Pastor Malphrus will post Sunday morning sermons on Facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa and audio versions on sermonaudio.com/old providence. To access our Facebook page, church calendar, edited newsletters, sermonaudio.com, announcements, and more, visit our website: oldprovidencechurch.org. For a copy of a sermon on CD, or to add or update your contact information for notifications received via One Call, call the church office. Typically, Prayer Meeting and Bible Study meets at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesdays as well as Children's Ministry. Normally, Daily Devotionals are at 6:00 a.m. M-F. You may access recordings of Daily Devotionals on facebook .com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa and audio versions on sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence. For a copy of a devotional on CD, contact Patrick. On Tuesday evenings at 7:00 there is a home-based Bible Study of the Westminster Shorter Catechism which meets at the Patterson's home.

Reminder: The Cemetery Trustees will be cleaning the cemetery on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

### Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. for our Business Meeting and 10:30 a.m. for Bible Study. We will be studying Chapters 3 and 4 of *Lessons from the Upper Room, The heart of the Savior*, by Sinclair B. Ferguson. All women are invited.

We are still taking orders for *Our Daily Bread* devotional. Please see Libby or Shirley to renew or start your subscription.

### Comfort Care Baby Bottle Campaign



Women's Ministries is sponsoring the Comfort Care Women's Health Baby Bottle Campaign. Baby bottles are at the church in the breezeway. You may take them home and fill them with change, cash and checks. Please return filled bottles to the church by Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Letter from Mitchell Sutton



Old Providence family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I hope this letter finds you all well. It has been quite some time since I have written an update, and for that I apologize. We have been stationed in Hawaii at Schofield Barracks since July of 2023.

The unit I am serving in is the 225<sup>th</sup> Light Support Battalion (LSB). We have the logisticians, truck drivers, cooks, mechanics and medics in our formation...in my opinion, some of the most unsung heroes in the Army. These men and women do a lot of hard work with very little appreciation for their efforts. And while Hawaii is considered to be paradise by many, it can be especially tough on families. The cost of living here is insane, and the Cost-of-Living Allowance that the Army provides for people living in Hawaii was cut in half at the end of 2023. Many families - especially our junior enlisted - have to receive supplemental help to secure food. Hawaii is also a difficult assignment because of its isolation from the rest of the world. A lot of people feel a bit trapped here and it is very costly to fly back to the mainland, especially if you have a large family. Please be in prayer for our Soldiers and their families.

As part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, we stay “in the field” quite a bit as we are positioned to be first out the door in the event of a conflict in the Pacific. This puts a lot of strain on Soldiers and Families once again but has led to some memorable ministry moments. Most of my time during our field exercises is spent with our Role 2 Medical assets ministering to casualties (imagine the show “MASH,” but without the nice tents and soft beds). 25ID’s mission is to be as light and maneuver-able as possible, so we enjoy all the amenities that nature has to offer – if you know what I mean!

As for the Sutton family, we are doing well. In addition to unit ministry, I am also serving as the Senior Chaplain at Fort DeRussy Army Chapel in Waikiki. Holly is still busy being super mom/wife, though it gets harder and harder to keep up with the little ones as we get older! She is involved with the Chaplain’s Wives group out here and does so much to help out with my unit. I could not do it without her. Dylan has moved to Massachusetts and is working with a Graphic Design Company there. I think he now has a new appreciation for Winter! Harper Grace will turn 9 on January 19<sup>th</sup>. She has been taking singing/piano lessons from our Music Director at the chapel. She has sung for our worship service on several occasions, and she will be baptized on her birthday. Callie Mae turned 4 in December. She is our “class clown” and keeps us all laughing. She is known as “Miss Aloha” at the chapel and has become quite fond of singing with her big sister. Harrison is 2-1/2 now. He is into absolutely EVERYTHING and has no fear of ANYTHING. We are going to have to get him into some sort of contact sport soon!

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Mom and Dad have re-located to Murrell's Inlet in SC. They are actually heading our way as I write this and will spend about three weeks with us here. So happy to have them visit and the kids are beside themselves with anticipation of their arrival! They send their love to all.

We continue to thank God for your prayers and support. We wish we were able to visit and fellowship with you all, but that time will come. We have about another year and a half left in Hawaii before we see what direction God calls us in next. Wherever it is, we will grow where we're planted! Love to all, take care of one another, and may the Lord bless you with His peace and grace.

With love in Christ,

CH (CPT) Mitchell A. Sutton, United States Army

## February 2025 Calendar of Events

### Sunday, February 2

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Elizabeth

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Little Lambs & 5:30 p.m. - Youth Group



### Tuesday, February 4

7:00 p.m. - Home-Based Bible Study

### Wednesday, February 5

6:45 p.m. - Prayer Meeting and Bible Study/Children's Ministry Resumes

### Thursday, February 6

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

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

**Sunday, February 9**

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Carol and Laurin

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Little Lambs

Time TBD - Youth Group Super Bowl Party at Will and Elizabeth's house

5:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

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

**Tuesday, February 11**

7:00 p.m. - Home-Based Bible Study

**Wednesday, February 12**

6:45 p.m. - Prayer Meeting and Bible Study/Children's Ministry

**Thursday, February 13**

6:30 p.m. - Session Meeting

**Sunday, February 16**

Comfort Care Baby Bottles Due

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Patcie and Sue

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Little Lambs & 5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

**Tuesday, February 18**

7:00 p.m. - Home-Based Bible Study

**Wednesday, February 19**

6:45 p.m. - Prayer Meeting and Bible Study/Children's Ministry

**Sunday, February 23**

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney and Tina

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Little Lambs & 5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

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

**Tuesday, February 25**

7:00 p.m. - Home-Based Bible Study

**Wednesday, February 26**

6:45 p.m. - Prayer Meeting and Bible Study/Children's Ministry

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