

Old Providence News

Est. February 2001

Volume 22 Issue 1 January 2022



Old Providence ARP Church

Dear Old Providence Family,

Happy New Year! As we reflect on this past 2021, it's clear that Old Providence has been tremendously blessed. Not only have we navigated COVID's uncertainties well, but in the face of its unpredictable nature we have actually grown and prospered in significant ways! No doubt due to our sovereign Lord, but also thanks to your generosity, labors, and prayers, Old Providence membership has increased at an enviable rate. Our financial position has markedly improved through your selfless giving and the stewardship of our Deaconate and Session. And perhaps most remarkable is that, despite COVID's limitations and challenges imposed on our community, the ministries of Old Providence have flourished. *Monday Midday* has continued to provide a venue for fellowship and community outreach. *Wednesday evening's Bible Study and Prayer Meeting* not only lifted up the specific needs of our congregants each week and gave God praise for answering our prayers, but we also pored through the Old and New Testaments to study God's gracious plan and faithful execution of redemption. We also began a couple of brand new ministries in the fall: Old Providence hosted a home-school pod that serves elementary children in a broad curriculum of godly education. And a new ministry was recently seeded – *College & Career Fellowship*, which has already proven to be popular for those transitioning into the workforce.

It may surprise you to learn that Old Providence is now more popular beyond the borders of Augusta and Rockbridge counties. In 2021 we increased our digital footprint by delivering the Word of God online. Patrick's *Daily Devotionals* and our Sunday Worship messages were consumed by over 40,000 people - - throughout 49 countries! - - all of which has been archived and maintained on Facebook and SermonAudio.com for expanded access. And as you know, Old Providence added the Pastoral Intern position in May, which I am humbled and honored to fill on behalf of the kingdom of God and to your service.

In addition to June's Newsletter that introduced Elizabeth and me, I have had the honor of spending the last eight months leading our Sunday Worship Services. The responsibility of preparing calls to worship and offering prayers on behalf of God's people is beyond weighty. Indeed, it is a labor of love, but one that bears a tremendous burden of pastoral care to handle the Word rightly. I thank you for entrusting me with that rich and rewarding responsibility.

In 2021 I was also provided opportunities to preach in July, October, and December. As you can imagine, communicating well from the pulpit takes time, and I appreciate your patience and encouragement as I hone that skill and become more comfortable. In addition to pulpit duties, I have regularly participated in visitation to those in need. Some of that has been with Patrick, but much has been conducted solo, visiting

our congregants who are infirm and knocking on community doors to share the ministries of Old Providence and invite new-comers to worship with us. I have also had the joy of filling in for Patrick to open Monday Midday as well as leading weekly chapel for the home-school pod. And while my 58-years might not point to this, I have very much enjoyed leading studies for our Old Providence Youth Group (and hope to improve my skills of kickball as they teach me not to aim it towards Kristi or Carrie, who catch it every time).

An important part of the pastoral ministry is not just teaching, preaching, and leading various fellowships, but also working with those who are on the cusp of departing this world. To this end, I have met with families who have lost loved ones and much of my growth as a pastoral intern has come from attending funerals and solemnly assisting Patrick to conduct graveside services. Perhaps equally so, I have further benefited from those who have approached me for biblical guidance and pastoral advice. Counseling goes both ways, and it is often those who need help who end up being a blessing.

All of this has been a labor of love and I trust that your 2021 brought you closer to trusting Jesus and a deeper fellowship with His Old Providence family. As for me personally, getting to know each of you has been a blessing and has caused me to seek His constant help to imitate Christ as expressed in Philippians 2:3, "In humility, count others more significant than yourselves." That verse is the cornerstone of every pastor's call to service and I am grateful to each of you for your ongoing friendship and love. As I wind up seminary this season (degree will be conferred in May), I look forward to the trials of ordination imposed by Patrick and the Virginia Presbytery. But I more so look forward to engaging with, and for you.

As we transition together into 2022, please know that the Lord has special plans for you and for Old Providence. We are all under His gracious and tender care, and whatever He has in store for us, we will persevere together in the blessings and challenges that He sees fit to lay before us. Whatever circumstances 2022 presents, our Creator and Savior sovereignly oversees all of it and ensures that we, His sheep, are fed, growing in grace, and able to live contently and in peace as people unified in Christ - - all to His glory. May you experience a most blessed New Year.

In Him,

James



January 2022 Announcements

As of publication of this Newsletter, there are two Worship Services each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sabbath School classes for all ages meet at 10:10 a.m. Children's Church is available during the 9:00 a.m. service only. Nursery is available during the 9:00 a.m. service and during Sabbath School. Youth Group meets on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. and Little Lambs meets the first and third Sundays at 5:30 p.m. Pastor Malphrus will continue broadcasting his sermons on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. through Facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa, and will post the audio version of those sermons on sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence. If you need help accessing online sermons, contact Patrick. You may access our Facebook page, sermonaudio.com, our church calendar, edited newsletters, announcements, and more by visiting our website at www.oldprovidencechurch.org. If you would like a copy of a Sunday sermon on CD, please call the church office.

Daily Devotionals take place Monday through Friday with our pastor. They are available live at 7:00 a.m. through our church's Facebook page, or after through sermonaudio.com or the sermonaudio app. Please see Pastor Malphrus if you need help accessing our Daily Devotionals.

Bible Study and Prayer Service are on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. with our Pastoral Intern, James, leading our time of study.

Pat and Susie are hosting a study of the book of Hebrews in their home on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. It's not too late to join. Contact Pat with questions.

Beginning of the Year Matters

All organizational Treasurers are reminded to submit your yearly reports by Sunday, January 16th, so the annual report to the General Synod and Presbytery can be prepared by February 1st. Please leave them in the Clerk of Session or the Administrative Assistant mailbox.

January is the month in which we take orders for Our Daily Bread. This devotional can be ordered through the Women's Ministries on a donation basis. Available in regular and large print, this monthly publication includes a daily scripture and devotional reading, as well as a plan for reading through the Bible in a year. Please see Libby or Shirley to renew or start your subscription.

Officers and Committee members please start thinking about updates for the bulletin backs and any 2022 Calendar dates you may have. Once you have them please provide them to the church office.

Offering envelopes for 2022 are available in the sanctuary near the breezeway.

Please remember to turn off flood lights, if you are the last one to leave the church at night.

Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet on Thursday, January 6th, at 7:00 p.m. with Bible Study following at 7:30 p.m. Our new Bible Study will be based on the book, "Faith in the Face of Apostasy: The Gospel According to Elijah & Elisha", by Raymond B. Dillard. We will cover Chapter 1 in January. Books are available in the Church Office and the cost is \$9.25.

Little Lambs



Little Lambs will meet on Sunday, January 16th, at 5:30 p.m. All children ages 3 to 5th grade are invited to attend. Contact Amanda with questions.

Cemetery Cleaning

The Cemetery Trustees will be cleaning the cemetery on Saturday, February 26, 2022. All flowers/ decorations that you wish to save need to be removed prior to this date. Any flowers/decorations remaining in the cemetery on Saturday the 26th will be discarded.

“Shout Out”

Happy New Year to all of our “Old Providence News” readers! We are pleased that we have many friends from near and far who receive our newsletter. May God's blessings abound in 2022 for each and every one of you.

Directory Update



We have had several changes to the directory so an updated directory supplement that can be used along with your pictorial directory will be available at the end of January. Please provide any new or corrected addresses, phone numbers, and emails to the church office no later than Sunday, January 16, 2022.

Bad Weather Closings

We make our decisions on cancellation of service based on safety concerns. We evaluate conditions at the church and in the immediate area around the church as well as on the weather forecasts available to us. When we cancel Sunday morning services or other major events, we will announce these closings by:

One Call System (phone, text and email)

Web Page: oldprovidencechurch.org

TV: Channel 3 (Sunday Service or major events only)

To add or update your information for notifications received through the One Call System, please contact the church office, or place a note in the offering plate.

Thank You Notes

Thank you all so very much for your hard work and participation in the Youth Group Drive-Thru Dinner. So many of you dedicated your time and energy to making this event a success. Thank you for your food donations and volunteer work. Thank you also for those who picked up plates and donated. Due to your, and the surrounding community's generosity, we served about 400 plates and received \$6,850 in donations which has already been used to purchase Christmas gifts for children and food for families in the community, and will be used in other community projects throughout the year. A special "thank you" should be extended to Karen for coordinating all cooking, and to Kristi and Carrie for their diligence in planning the event. What a wonderful God we serve!

Thank you for your generous support of Operation Christmas Child. We collected 66 shoeboxes to be delivered to children around the world this holiday season.

January 2022 Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 1

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 2

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Kevin and Tonya

9:00 a.m. - Worship

10:10 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Lois

Thursday, January 6

7:00 p.m. – Women's Ministries

7:30 p.m. – Women's Bible Study

Sunday, January 9

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Laurin and Shirley

9:00 a.m. – Worship – Officer Installations

Children's Church leaders: Amanda and Vicki

10:10 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

6:30 p.m. – Diaconate Meeting

Sunday, January 16 – Special Offering WRE

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Lois and Cindy

9:00 a.m. – Worship

Children’s Church leaders: Patcie and Sue

10:10 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

5:30 p.m. – Little Lambs and Youth Group

Tuesday, January 18

6:30 p.m. - Session Meeting

Sunday, January 23

8:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Terri and Stacy

9:00 a.m. – Worship

Children’s Church leaders: Dabney and Tina

10:10 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Sunday, January 30

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

9:00 a.m. – Worship

Children’s Church leaders: Laurin and Kristi

10:10 a.m. – Sabbath School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Youth Group meets each Sunday at 5:30 p.m. except January 2nd. Home Bible Study meets each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Bible Study and Prayer Meeting meet each Wednesday at 6:45 p.m.

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

February 2022



3 Women’s Ministries & Bible Study
6 Youth Group & Little Lambs

13 Diaconate Meeting
Special Offering

20 Little Lambs & Youth Group
27 Communion