

Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

Well, it's hard to believe, but 2025 is here. I don't know about you, but I find myself asking how it's possible that 2024 came and went so quickly. It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating things like Easter or the 4th of July, and now Christmas has come and gone and it's the New Year? Even so, this time of the year is special. The New Year is a time when folks almost inevitably look back on the previous year and forward to the next. There is nothing magical about flipping the calendar's page, but it is, nonetheless, sobering and thought provoking.

I wonder, as you think back on this time a year ago, what were your thoughts then? Were you filled with hope and excitement at the prospect of new opportunities? Perhaps you were on the other end of the spectrum and looked at the year ahead with less optimism. Or maybe you started 2024 with the simple notion of taking things one day at a time. No matter what your outlook was last year, the New Year always presents an opportunity to consider how you will move forward. So, let me encourage you to embrace the Biblical mindset of moving forward into the future. In James 4, God's people are warned against the arrogance of proceeding boldly into the future with no regard for God. James wrote that the correct way to proceed into the future is by seeking God's will. The question we all face, then, is one of discerning God's Will for our lives.

Thankfully, God does not leave us wondering about His will and how to discern it. In Romans 12 God's people are commanded to not be conformed to the pattern of the world around us, but instead, to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. The only way this renewal is achieved is through studying God's Word, spending time with God in prayer, participating in the life of the Church, yielding to the Holy Spirit's direction and calling, and continually evaluating your relationship with the Lord. If you will do these things, God's Will for your life will become apparent and His direction for 2025 will become abundantly clear.

Don't take my word for it, though! After offering the commands to be transformed, and not conformed to the world, God's Word then gives the promise that if you will do so, "Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." What a wonderful promise this is and what a wonderful God we serve! Let us proceed forward into 2025 with every hope for God's blessings. But let us also proceed forward into 2025 with the renewed commitment to seek God's Kingdom first.

Happy New Year!

Patrick



January 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](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa) and audio versions on [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](https://www.sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). To access our Facebook page, church calendar, edited newsletters, [sermonaudio.com](https://www.sermonaudio.com), announcements, and more, visit our website: [oldprovidencechurch.org](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa) and audio versions on [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](https://www.sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). For a copy of a devotional on CD, please contact Patrick.

Wednesday night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study as well as Children's Ministry will resume on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 6:45 p.m. Daily Devotionals will resume on January 6, 2025, at 6:00 a.m. See details above for information about accessing recordings.

The Tuesday evening home-based Bible Study is a study of the Westminster Shorter Catechism which meets at the Patterson's home at 7:00 p.m. each Tuesday and will resume on January 7th.

Year End & New Year: Treasurers of all church organizations are reminded to submit their yearly reports by January 15th so the annual report to Synod and Presbytery can be prepared. Please leave them in the Administrative Assistance's mailbox in the hall next to the office. Committee Chairman, please provide event dates for the 2025 Church Calendar to the church office as soon as they are available and any changes for bulletin backs no later than January 15th.

Officer Elections

The proposed 2025 Budget and the candidates for Congregational Offices were approved Sunday, December 8th. The Officers are Congregational Chairman - Finley; Vice Chairman - Glenn; Receiving Treasurer - Terri; Disbursing Treasurer - Carrie; and Secretary - Karen. Kay will continue as Memorial Treasurer. We thank them all for their willingness to serve Old Providence.

Our Daily Bread

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

Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet on Thursday, January 2nd, at 10:00 a.m. for our Business Meeting and 10:30 a.m. for Bible Study. We will be studying Chapters 1 and 2 of Lessons from the Upper Room, *The heart of the Savior*, by Sinclair B. Ferguson. All women are invited to attend.

Cemetery Cleaning

The Cemetery Trustees will be cleaning the cemetery on Saturday, March 1, 2025. 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, March 1st, will be discarded.

Thank You Notes

The Youth Group would like to thank the Congregation for their support of the Annual Holiday Dinner. Donations received totaled over \$10,000. These proceeds will go towards shopping for local families in need at Christmas, Summer camp at Bonclarken, and other various youth projects. A huge thank you to all who volunteered in any capacity, we could not host an event such as this without the help of many generous individuals!

Women's Ministries wants to thank everyone for your continued support of the project to help Kingsway provide dressing and gravy for Thanksgiving. As always, it was a great success again this year due to your generous giving of 170 boxes of dressing and 170 cans/jars of gravy.

What a wonderful feeling to have delivered 68 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Thank you all for participating! The next step is to start looking for those deals for next Christmas.

Thank you to all our Children's Church Leaders for your time and dedication. We would like to add more volunteers to our group in 2025 which would allow more flexibility. If you would like to help with Children's Church, please contact Elizabeth.

January 2025 Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 2

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

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

Sunday, January 5

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Elizabeth

3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Little Lambs

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Youth Group

Tuesday, January 7

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

Wednesday, January 8

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

Sunday, January 12

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki

3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Little Lambs

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

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Youth Group

Tuesday, January 14

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

Wednesday, January 15

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

Sunday, January 19 - Special Offering WRE

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Patcie Brevard and Sue Smiley

3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Little Lambs

4:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Youth Group

Tuesday, January 21

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

Wednesday, January 22

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

Sunday, January 26

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Terri Gordon and Laurin Hanger

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney Lunsford and Tina Staton

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

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

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Tuesday, January 28

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

Wednesday, January 29

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

Thursday, January 30

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

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

February 2025

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| 2 Youth Group & Little Lambs | 16 Diaconate Meeting 4:00 p.m. |
| 6 Women's Ministries 10:00 a.m. | Youth Group & Little Lambs |
| Women's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. | 23 Youth Group & Little Lambs |
| 9 Youth Group & Little Lambs | |