

Old Providence News

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Old Providence ARP Church

Dear Old Providence Family,

As I pondered what to write for this, the July newsletter, it seemed only fitting to focus on that one day that people tend to think of more than any other in the entire month...the 4th of July! Independence Day! That day when we remember our nation declaring independence from British rule, thus noting the formation of a new nation. That day when we remember the glory of freedom and the fact that freedom is anything but free. That day when we celebrate our nation and take pride in who we are as a country. That day when all Americans put aside their many differences and focus on just being Americans!

Alas...were it only that way. Please don't consider what I've written thus far as intentionally offensive. I wasn't being sarcastic. I wish the 4th of July was celebrated in the way that I described. And let me be clear, Independence Day ought to be celebrated. God has blessed our nation in so many ways. We would not exist apart from His providential care and sustaining Hand of mercy. Even the fact that our nation wasn't overwhelmed by British forces in the American Revolution shows God's faithfulness to us. Consider also America's meteoric rise as the most powerful nation on earth. And despite the problems we face, America is still seen as the land of the free and the home of the brave. God is always faithful.

There was a time when a large majority of Americans prayed "God Bless America". And they meant it. People understood how blessed we are and appreciated the freedoms we have. Sadly, it seems as though that time has passed. The question, then, is what do we do about it? How can our nation's problems and disunity be addressed? The answer to all of our problems really is Jesus Christ. There are no problems America faces that He can't transform.

Some would argue that America is too divided and too far gone. But this is not the case. Jesus Christ is the great unifier of humanity for it is only in Jesus that, according to Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." And remember, too, that we serve the God of the ages Who never changes. He has intervened throughout human history to form new nations and draw nations back to Himself. Again, God never changes but He changes the seemingly unchangeable.

Do you believe these things? If so, let me encourage you to remember God and our dependence on Him this Independence Day. Pray that He would intervene in the course of our nation's history, as He has in the past. Pray that others would come to know Jesus Christ and look for opportunities to testify to His greatness. And make sure you take the time to celebrate God's faithfulness this Independence Day, enjoying the freedoms God has provided, and praising Him for His love and mercy.

Your Pastor,

Patrick

July 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. During the school year Youth Group typically 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. 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/OldProvidenceARPChurchSpottswoodVa** and audio versions on **sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence**. For a copy of a devotional on CD, contact Patrick.

Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet on Thursday, July 11th, at 10:00 a.m. for a meeting, followed by Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. We will be studying Chapter 10 in the book entitled, *The Next-To-Last Word* by Michael P.V. Barrett, and Chapter 13 in Zechariah. All women are invited to join the meeting and/or the Bible Study.

Women's Ministries would like to thank everyone for your generous donations to the project to benefit Bonclarken Gift Shop. There were 230 items donated. We appreciate your support in making this project successful.

Thank You Note

We had a wonderful week at Vacation Bible School. Thank you to all who dedicated their time, energy and resources to help make it a great week! A special thank you to Ashlie for organizing all of the food, to Vicki for heading up the crafts, to Rob and Barbara and the Youth Group for heading up recreation, to Vicki and Terri for working in the nursery, and to Debbie for heading up registration. Thank you to Patcie, Gracia, Isabella and Carrie for teaching. The Lord used you in many ways. Also, we want to thank the countless kitchen workers, helpers in the classrooms, the Deacons and the Elders, as well as the various Sunday School classes who served the meals each night. The total raised for our VBS fundraiser was \$850.89, most of which came as loose coins, brought by the children. These funds will go to provide 3,404 meals for those in need. Praise the Lord!

Community Fundraisers

The Raphine Volunteer Fire Company Fireworks and Ice Cream Social will be held on July 6th at the Firehouse at dark (sponsored by City National Bank). Food and drinks will be for sale at 6:00 p.m. and the band will start at 7:00 p.m.

Update on Baja Misson Trip Fundraiser: Tickets are available for Tidal Wave Auto Spa - \$30 Graph-4X Car Wash - \$10 each – expires 5/30/25. See Dan for details.

Operation Christmas Child Year-Round Shoebox Shopping

Don't forget to continue looking for shoebox items. July's suggestion from the year-round guide to maximize your impact for the Gospel: Clothing including socks and shoes.

July 2024 Calendar of Events

Wednesday, July 3 & Thursday, July 4

Church Office Closed

Thursday, July 4

Independence Day



Sunday, July 7

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

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Lois

Thursday, July 11

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

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

Sunday, July 14

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

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

Sunday, July 21

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

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, July 28

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

4:00 p.m. - Frank's Ordination Service and Dinner

Sunday, July 28 – Tuesday, July 30

ARP Women's Ministries Annual Meeting at Bonclarken

Monday, July 29 – Thursday, August 1

Family Bible Conference at Bonclarken

August 2024



- 1 Women's Ministries 10:00 a.m.
Women's Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
- 18 Diaconate Meeting 4:00 p.m.
- 25 Communion
Special Offering for WRE
- 29 Women's Ministries visits Beulah Land 7:00 p.m.