

# Old Providence News

Est. February 2001

Volume 22 Issue 5 May 2022



Old Providence ARP Church

Dear Old Providence Family,

It is my sincerest hope that this newsletter finds all of you refreshed after a wonderful Easter! As many of you know, Easter was quite different for the Malphrus family this year. I am writing this newsletter in the comfort of my study at the church, so thank you for your prayers! But if you don't know about the circumstances we faced, where do I even begin? I suppose the best place to start is that, as Moderator of the General Synod of the ARP Church, I was asked to visit several of our missionary families in France, Germany, and the UK last month. We were blessed to be able to go as a family. The visits were wonderful and, I believe, mutually beneficial. I was enlightened concerning our denomination's missionary efforts and believe that we were an encouragement to all we visited. I was also blessed with the opportunity to preach at one of our church plants in England. Everything went great until Isabella and I started to experience some flu-like symptoms. It turns out that we were positive for COVID-19. As a result, Isabella and I ended up not being able to return to the United States until the Thursday after Easter.

As I said, Easter was quite different for the Malphrus family this year. Lots of things ran through my mind on Easter morning. We were separated as a family. Amanda returned to the US but Isabella and I were stuck in England, not knowing how or when we could return home, and we missed one another ... horribly. We were also separated as a church family. One of the missionary families we visited (who also tested positive for COVID) took us in while we were quarantined, but we were unable to attend worship services. It occurred to me that for the last 20 years I have been blessed to preach on Easter, but not this year. I missed you all. There was a profound sense of wrongness to our being separated from one another. On Easter morning I came to the conclusion that Easter just wasn't right this year.

But I was wrong. So very wrong. And the Holy Spirit convicted me of my wrongness. Please don't misunderstand me. I still maintain that the circumstances we faced were far less than ideal. It was one of the most stressful times of my life. Even so, Easter and the truth of our Lord's resurrection rise above the circumstances we face. Why? Because this life is a glimmer. I don't write this to be morbid, but the reality is that life is so very short. As James pondered in James 4:14, "What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." And after this life vanishes, eternity awaits. Eternity that will either be spent with our Savior in paradise, or separated from God's love in Hell. There would be no hope, were it not for our Lord's resurrection that first Easter. But because of our Lord's resurrection and the fact that He defeated death once and for all, we have every hope in Him. In Jesus Christ alone we have the promises of eternal life, fellowship, and the resurrection of our bodies. This is why Easter and the truth of our Lord's resurrection rise above the circumstances we face. No matter what. It is my prayer that you will remember the Lord and His sacrifice as you face the challenges of life. If you know Him, rest in Him. If you don't know Him, turn to Him today.

Your Pastor,

Patrick



## May 2022 Announcements

As of publication of this Newsletter, we have one Sunday Morning Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. and Sabbath School at 11:10 a.m. Children's Church are available during the Worship Service. Nursery is available during the Worship 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 broadcast his sermons on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. through [Facebook.com/ OldProvidence ARPChurchSpottswoodVa](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARPChurchSpottswoodVa) and will post the audio version of those sermons on [sermonaudio.com /oldprovidence](https://www.sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). If you need help accessing online sermons, contact Patrick. You may access our Facebook page, [sermonaudio.com](https://www.sermonaudio.com), our church calendar, edited newsletters, announcements, and more by visiting our website at [www.oldprovidencechurch.org](http://www.oldprovidencechurch.org). To request a copy of a Sunday sermon on CD, call the office.

Daily Devotionals typically 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](https://www.sermonaudio.com) or the [sermonaudio](https://www.sermonaudio.com) app. Please see Pastor Malphrus if you need help accessing our Daily Devotionals.

Sunday Evening Worship is held Sundays at 6:30 p.m. led by Frank Heinsohn. Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Services are on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. led by our Pastoral Intern, James MacDougall.

### Monday Mid-Day Program

Monday Mid-Day Programs take place at 11:00 a.m. The presentations are followed by a light lunch. Join us in May for the last two programs of the Spring Session: May 2 - Hospice – Overview: Lori Showalter; and May 16 - Sowing, Growing & Sharing: Valerie & Jane Vaughn.

### Bus Trip



The Spiritual Care Committee is sponsoring a bus trip to Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA on Saturday, July 2, 2022, to see the production of "42<sup>nd</sup> Street". "This long-time musical comedy classic has been an audience favorite for decades. It tells the American Dream story of a country girl dreaming of making it on the Broadway stage. The starry-eyed young dancer Peggy leaves her home and goes to New York to audition for a new musical. Will she get an audition? Will she leave the Big Apple defeated or will she rescue the show?" The bus will leave Old Providence at 9:30 a.m. and return around 6:30 p.m. **Ticket price which includes transportation, 1 show ticket, and lunch at the Golden Coral is \$70.00 for members and regular attendees, and \$80.00 for guests.** Money is due by May 15<sup>th</sup>. See Martha Brooks or Linda Phillips regarding availability and to get your name on the list.

## Vacation Bible School

**Save the date:** Bible School will be held June 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>. Watch for details and updates in bulletins and announcements at church.

## Women's Ministries Window

Women's Ministries will meet on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. with Bible Study following at 7:30 p.m. Our Bible Study is based on the book, "Faith in the Face of Apostasy: The Gospel According of Elijah & Elisha", by Raymond B. Dillard. We will cover Chapter 5 in May. All women are welcome to the meeting and/or the Bible Study.

Women's Ministries is sponsoring a project to help Kingsway families by collecting canned fruit (peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, applesauce, etc.) in small or large cans. The collection will run through May 15<sup>th</sup>. Collection boxes are in Providence Hall. For questions contact Gail.

Bonclarken is the conference center of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian (ARP) Church and is in Flat Rock, N.C. Bonclarken's mission is "to provide and promote a Christian environment for inspiration and renewal, worship, education, fellowship, and recreation by the power of the Holy Spirit." A variety of camps and conferences for children, teens, adults, and families are offered throughout the year. For more information, please visit [www.bonclarken.org](http://www.bonclarken.org).

Each year the gift shop at Bonclarken requests donated items to sell and the proceeds go toward the operational expenses of Bonclarken. Items that sell well are craft items, especially ones that have "Bonclarken" or "ARP" on them. Other ideas include handmade gift cards, hanging kitchen towels, wooden items, Christian books, sealed lip balm, playing cards, individual packages of Kleenex, costume jewelry, and baby items. Children's items suggested are grab bags with fun items, coloring books, crayons, small trucks and cars, and inexpensive items that children can purchase for Mom and Dad. Used clothing or toys are not recommended. **Women's Ministries is now collecting items for the Bonclarken Gift Shop until Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.** Collection boxes are in Providence Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Gail.

## Little Lambs



Little Lambs will meet on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. All children ages 3 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend. You may contact Amanda with questions.

## Preschool Update



Preschool registration for 2022/2023 is now in process and is starting to fill up. Forms and information are available at the church office, Providence Hall, and [www.oldprovidencechurch.org](http://www.oldprovidencechurch.org). You may contact Robyn regarding questions.

## **Weekday Religious Education**

Riverheads WRE is sponsoring a Praise Night!! It will be held on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. at Raphine Christian Church. If you would like to participate, see Dana the night of the event. This is our first fund-raiser in two years, we can't wait to see everyone again!

Riverheads WRE Council

## **Thank You Note**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Comfort Care Baby Bottle Campaign. The total raised for Staunton/Augusta and Rockbridge/Bath was \$134,007.25 and Old Providence raised \$950.64.

## May 2022 Calendar of Events

### Sunday, May 1

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Amanda and Isabella

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie and Lois

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

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

6:30 p.m. - Sunday Evening Worship

### Monday, May 2

11:00 a.m. - Monday Mid-Day

### Wednesday, May 4

6:45 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

### Thursday, May 5

6:30 p.m. - Session Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Women's Ministries

7:30 p.m. - Women's Bible Study



### Sunday, May 8 – Mother's Day

Spring Special Offering for Foreign Missions

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Kevin and Tonya

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

6:30 p.m. - Sunday Evening Worship

### Wednesday, May 11

6:45 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

**Sunday, May 15**

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Stacy and Karleen

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Patcie and Sue

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

4:00 p.m. - Session & Diaconate Joint Meeting

5:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting

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

**Monday, May 16**

11:00 a.m. - Monday Mid-Day

**Wednesday, May 18**

6:45 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

**Sunday, May 22**

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Cindy and Vicki

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church leaders: Dabney and Tina

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

6:30 p.m. - Sunday Evening Worship

**Sunday, May 29**

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Shirley Fix

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church leaders: Laurin and Kristi

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

6:30 p.m. - Sunday Evening Worship

**Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day**

Church Office Closed

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



## June 2022

- |       |                                    |       |                                  |
|-------|------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| 2     | Women's Ministries & Bible Study   | 19-23 | Bible School                     |
| 5     | Communion                          | 19    | Father's Day                     |
| 7-9   | Gen. Syn. Meeting at Bonclarcken   |       | Special Offering for Camp Joy    |
| 12    | Diaconate Meeting 5:00 p.m.        | 20-25 | High School Conf. at Bonclarcken |
| 13-18 | Middle School Conf. at Bonclarcken | 26    | Youth Group 5:30 p.m.            |