

Old Providence News

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Old Providence ARP Church

My Dear Old Providence,

This writing is bittersweet for me. Two years ago, Elizabeth and I moved to Raphine and became members of Old Providence ARP Church. Not long thereafter I was asked to pulpit supply, and in early 2021 you hired me as your Pastoral Intern. I cannot thank you enough for the experiences and opportunities that you've provided to me since then. Foremost, you received me with love and patience. Knowing that I was still in seminary, you graciously allowed me to serve as your leader-in-training. And you kindly suffered with me through the nervous maturation that comes with the early days of preaching and teaching. I will always be extremely grateful to you for that.

As I look back on the last year and a half, I've undertaken the challenges of leading worship services, preaching, drafting and teaching weekly Bible studies, and facilitating prayer meetings. Under the tutelage of Patrick, I helped conduct funeral services, visited with infirmed members who were undergoing difficulties and discomforts, and provided counseling when appropriate. As an extension of Old Providence to our community, I frequently led weekly chapel services for the children and teachers of the Rockbridge & Augusta homeschool co-op that uses our facilities, and I've offered messages to our neighborhood's Kingsway Help Center when kicking off their food drives. Administratively, in addition to attending Presbytery and Synod meetings, I've been able to engage with, and watch your Session and Diaconate labor to perform the duties of their offices and committees. All of these experiences are invaluable to the training and nurturing of a pastor, and you have been key to the many blessings that have resulted from all of that.

Since having completed seminary in December, I have served as pulpit supply to other ARP churches in the Valley (Ebenezer, Wellspring, Fairlea, and Edgemont). Your willingness to loan me out to these sister ARP congregations was much appreciated, not only by those churches, but also by our Virginia Presbytery. Your generosity in this manner is an example to our denomination how a congregation should treat resources – not with a clenched fist – but with an open, flat hand, sharing amongst our spiritual family. And that, Old Providence, is what I consider you. Family.

And so it is with a sad heart that I will be leaving your membership and the role of serving you as Pastoral Intern. While Elizabeth and I are not relocating our residence, I have accepted a call from Edgemont ARP Church (Covington) to be their minister. And that is the sweet side of this bittersweet message. I approach that task with fear and trepidation, knowing fully the awesome responsibility of pastoring a congregation and the challenges that await. But my understanding and appreciation is largely because you have put me through the necessary paces, readying me for such a charge.

It is my desire to speak with each of you personally – to thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, your guidance, and your friendship. Unfortunately, time and distance and the busy-ness of life often prevail over the best of intentions. But I commit to at least remaining close to you as a congregation and I hope that Old Providence and Edgemont can be unified, not only by denomination or presbytery, but also by joining together in future events and activities. We have much in common, though nothing greater than what Apostle Paul declared in his letter to the Corinthians: “For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake” (2 Cor. 4:5).

In Him, James & Elizabeth

October 2022 Announcements



As of publication of this Newsletter, we have Sunday Morning Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. and Sabbath School at 11:10 a.m. Children’s Church is available during the Worship Service. Nursery is available during the Worship Service and during Sabbath School. Youth Group meets every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Little Lambs will meet the first and third Sunday monthly from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Pastor Malphrus will broadcast his sermons on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on [Facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa) 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, please contact Patrick. You may access our Facebook page, edited newsletters, [sermonaudio.com](https://www.sermonaudio.com), announcements, church calendar, and more by visiting our website at [oldprovidencechurch.org](https://www.oldprovidencechurch.org). For a copy of a Sunday sermon on CD, call the church office.

Live Daily Devotionals with our pastor are at 7:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday through our church’s Facebook page via [facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa](https://www.facebook.com/OldProvidenceARChurchSpottswoodVa) or our website: www.oldprovidencechurch.org by clicking on the Facebook icon. Recordings will be available afterwards through [sermonaudio.com](https://www.sermonaudio.com), which may also be accessed from our website, or the sermonaudio app. For a copy of a devotional please contact Patrick.

Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Services are on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. with Pastor Malphrus.

2022 Officer Election: October 16th - Session to submit nominees for Elder to the congregation; October 23rd - Congregational Meeting to select three Elders. Please pray for our Officer Elections.

The Diaconate will meet on October 9th at 5:00 p.m. for a Budget Meeting. Committees, please consider your budgetary needs for 2023 and refer them to the Diaconate. The Budget Request Forms are on the table in Providence Hall and the table in the breezeway. Please leave your completed form in the Diaconate Chairman’s mailbox before the meeting.

Women's Ministries Window

IMPORTANT TIME CHANGE: Women's Ministries will begin meeting at 10:00 a.m. on the first Thursday of October, November and December instead of in the evening, starting October 6th. Bible Study will follow at 10:30 a.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 10 in October. All women are welcome to the meeting and/or the Bible Study.

Little Lambs and Youth Group

Youth Group and Little Lambs will be having lunch together following Morning Worship and Sunday School on Sunday, October 2nd. Lunch will be provided. Then, both groups will go to "Back Home on the Farm" (*see information below). Carpooling will be available. All kids are invited, and parents are encouraged to attend with the Little Lambs group. For more information, please see Amanda, Kristi or Carrie. This gathering will take the place of Little Lambs and Youth Group that evening! *Back Home on the Farm, backhome-onthefarm.com, 2915 Willow Run Rd, Harrisonburg, VA 22802, (540) 442-6493.

(The date has changed to October 9th.)

Please join us for our annual Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 30th, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

PreSchool Update



Currently, PreSchool has one space left in each class. Forms and information are available at oldprovidencechurch.org and the church office.

Fellowship Fridays

Join us for Fellowship Fridays on October 7th and October 21st from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We ask for an RSVP by 9:00 p.m. the Tuesday before to, FellowshipFridays@oldprovidencechurch.org. Please let us know if you need childcare. Contact Joanie with questions.

Monday Mid-Day

Please join us for our Monday Mid-Day Program in October at 11:00 a.m. and stay for lunch. The October 10th speaker will be Rev. Patrick Malphrus on "Mission Trip" and the October 24th speaker will be Mr. John Ward on "Augusta Co. School System".

Old Providence family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I hope this letter finds you all well and that you are getting a break from the summertime heat. When we first moved to Oklahoma, it quickly became the coldest place we have ever lived, with the wind chill hitting -26 degrees last February. This year, we have had almost 50 days of temps over 100 degrees, so this is now the hottest place we have ever lived, as well. Though the context is certainly different, Fort Sill is definitely not that “lukewarm” place referred to in Revelation 3:16!

It is hard to believe, but our time here at Fort Sill is quickly coming to a close. I received orders to report to the Chaplain Captain’s Career Course (C4) in Fort Jackson, SC in January. This is only a 6-month course, but thankfully the family gets to move with me. We won’t know until about March where we will be headed after C4, but our desire is to stay in the Southeast...which probably means we will end up in Korea! Wherever we end up, we know that God will put us where we can have the greatest impact. Although I am not particularly excited to return to the schoolhouse, it will be a welcomed change of pace from the rigors of Basic Training ministry. It will also be nice to be back in the heart of ARP country and be able to visit some of our denomination’s churches.

As you know, our family welcomed our newest member into the world back in July – Mr. Harrison Sill Sutton. He is about 2-1/2 months old now and is doing great. Holly has been super busy keeping up with the demands of an even larger crew than before, but – as always – she has not missed a beat. She is also getting things in place for our exit out of Fort Sill because we plan to leave here around mid-December, which will be here before we know it. She is the glue that holds our crazy together!

Dylan is attending classes at Cameron University in Lawton, OK and preparing to move onto campus there. We were blessed by the fact that every Army ROTC student is provided a free room just for being enrolled in the program. He was also given a board waiver from the program, so he eats for free, too. He says he is enjoying his classes so far, but I’m not sure how excited he is about getting up for that early morning Army PT! Harper Grace is still taking riding lessons and is now taking tap dancing lessons, as well. She loves her baby brother and sister and makes quite the “second mom” when Holly needs her help. Callie Mae is our firecracker. She marches to the beat of her own drum and has earned the nickname of “Miss Independent” around our household. If she sees us do something once, in her mind, she’s got it. She no longer requires nor wants our help! Pray for us all...

Ministry opportunities continue to abound. As we wrap up our time here, we thank God for His protection and provision. We also thank Him for the opportunities He has given us to speak into the lives of others, whether it be brand new Army Trainees or permanent party Soldiers. It will be hard to say good-bye, but we look forward with anticipation to the next chapter that He will call us to.

We are so thankful for all of you and for your continued prayers and support. Please continue to be in prayer for our country and its leaders. Pray also for the men and women who step forward to defend and protect this country. In the words of the Apostle Paul, “I thank my God through Jesus Christ for

all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world” (Romans 1:8). Old Providence’s ministry reaches well beyond the boundaries of Spottswood, Virginia. 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

October 2022 Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 2 – Special Offering for Foreign Missions

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Ashlie, William and Blake

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children’s Church Leaders: Carrie and Lois

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

Noon - Little Lambs and Youth Group Lunch and Outing

Wednesday, October 5

6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.- Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Thursday, October 6

10:00 a.m. - Women’s Ministries

10:30 a.m. - Women’s Bible Study

Friday, October 7

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Fellowship Friday

Sunday, October 9

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

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children’s Church Leaders: Amanda and Vicki

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

5:00 p.m. - Diaconate Budget Meeting

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group (update: Little Lambs & Youth Group Lunch & Outing - noon)



Monday, October 10

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

Wednesday, October 12

6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Sunday, October 16 – Nominees for Elder will be submitted to congregation

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Terri and Laurin

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Patcie and Sue

11:10 a.m. - Sabbath School

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

Wednesday, October 19

6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Friday, October 21

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Fellowship Friday

Saturday, October 22

Virginia Presbytery at Fairlea ARP Church

Sunday, October 23 – Congregational Meeting to select Elders (update: COMMUNION)

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

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Dabney and Tina

4:00 p.m. - James MacDougall's Installation Service at Edgemont ARP Church

5:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Monday, October 24

11:00 p.m. - Monday Mid-Day Program

Wednesday, October 26

6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Sunday, October 30 - Reformation Sunday

9:00 a.m. - Breakfast for Young Life

9:45 a.m. - Nursery Helpers: Carol and Summer

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Laurin and Kristi

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Truck or Treat



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



November 2022

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| 3 Women's Ministries 10:00 a.m. | 20 Session & Diaconate Meeting 4:00 p.m. |
| 6 Daylight Savings Time ends | Diaconate Meeting 5:00 pm. |
| Session Meeting 4:00 p.m. | 23 Community Thanksgiving Supper TBD |
| 7 Monday Mid-Day Program 11:00 a.m. | 24 Thanksgiving - 24 & 25 Office Closed |
| 20 Fall Special Offering for Synod Causes | 27 Communion (changed to Oct 23) |