

Old Providence ARP Church

Old Providence News

Est. February 2001

Volume 16 Issue 12 December 1, 2016



Dear Old Providence Family,

It's hard to believe that 2016 is coming to a close. It has been a year of losses and gains. In preparation for Max's retirement we saw a need for an administrative assistant and hired Stephanie Rivers for that position. God provided the timing for Max to train Stephanie before his move. She has been a tremendous help in all areas of the church by looking at past activities and making sure we are still on task.

We celebrated with Max, Cindy and their family as he retired at the end of May. They had given us 29 years of dedicated and faithful service. This was both a time of loss and also a transition time for the future of our church.

Our Lord has blessed us with Mitchell Sutton. He has filled our pulpit on most Sundays, as well as lead our Wednesday night Bible study of The Story. It is also a blessing that our congregation has continued to fill the pews on Sundays and to support the Wednesday night Bible study. Mitchell's love of the Lord shows through his enthusiastic service to our congregation.

We have been blessed, as the Lord has worked through the members of our congregation, as they have willingly taken on leadership roles and duties in the Session, Diaconate, Pulpit Committee, Youth Group, Little Lambs and the Women of the Church. We thank those who were willing to serve and let their names go on the ballots in our election process.

Entering into this Christmas Season, we invite you to join us for Sunday morning Sabbath School and Worship Service, our Christmas Dinner on December 14th, and our Christmas Cantata on December 18th. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior with family, friends and neighbors, let us focus on the love, peace and joy that He has brought to our lives.

In Christ,
The Session



December Prayer Concerns

This section of our Newsletter is provided so that you may ask for prayers for concerns you have. Please submit your requests to Dana Sensabaugh. We appreciate your help in keeping the list of those with health concerns current. If you have someone to add to the list, please contact Dana Sensabaugh. Please notify us when names should be removed as well. Please keep in mind that the list is compiled before the 15th of the month and the list is finalized by the 18th so the list may not be fully up to date at the time you receive your newsletter at the end of the month.

1 Thess. 5: ¹⁶Be joyful always; ¹⁷pray continually; ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

In this month, as we celebrate Christ birth, give thanks to our God for His grace and mercy shown to us as a people who have heard the "Good News of Great Joy" that a Savior has been born. Join in giving praise and thanks to Him.

Please continue to pray for those with recent health concerns: Fonda Persinger, Ed Holden, Linda Orebaugh, Jordan Taylor, Kenny Earman, Mary Sours, Jarod Davis, Mary Beatty, Bernie Earhart, Matthew Koogler, Amy McKemy, Alice Holden, Melinda Campbell and Westin Mikel Byrd.

Please pray for these people who are in rehabilitation, nursing, and assisted living facilities: Helen Hanger and John Marsh.

Please pray for those men and women who are currently in Military Service: Sgt. Nathaniel H. Byrd - US Army at Ft. Drum, NY, Lt. Col. Brian Richie - US Army, John Isaac Bell - US Army Special Forces, Elijah Ward - US Army, 2LT Adam Marsh - US Army at Ft. Bragg, NC, PVT Jameson Kelly - US Army at Ft. Benning, GA, and Dusty Clymore - in Qatar.

Pray for the Session and the Diaconate as they make plans for the new year.

Pray for Outreach North America and for more church planters to come on the field.

Pray for missionary Elizabeth Johnson, and the students, faculty and staff at Lanka Bible College.

Pray for missionaries Jeff and Suzanne Allers, and their sons, Ben and Sam, and the continued growth of the Youth Ministry at the Church Plant in Germany.

Pray for missionary Rebekah Carson in Berlin, and for a pre-teen Bible study which started recently.



Pray for missionaries Mark and Natalie Witte, and their children, Vanessa and Alex, and the future of Spanish Reformed Church in Toledo, Spain.

Pray for Jeff, Shelia and Sarahi Osborne, specifically for Jeff's health issues, Sarahi's college courses, and Shelia's travel schedule.

Correction: Dale Conner was the brother-in-law of Bren Sutton.



Mike Jones' surgery was successful and he is doing well. He would like to thank everyone for their prayers over the last month.

The Rev. and Mrs. Doug Jones were at Old Providence from (1956 – 1960). They recently moved from Bonclarken, South Carolina to Tallahassee, Florida. They would love to hear from our Old Providence Church family. Their phone number is 828-778-0347.

Transition Announcements

If you need pastoral assistance, please contact any Elder.

*Please contact Hedley Coffey or Bob Day, if you know of any Pastor Care Needs (home or hospital visits, calls, etc.).

If you have matters to be considered by the Session, please contact Vice-Moderator John Arehart or Clerk Matt Benson.

The Rev. Bill Harris will serve as the Moderator of the Session during the period the church is without a Pastor.

The Church Office is typically open each morning, Monday through Friday. Stephanie Rivers will be available to provide information and assistance. See Calendar for holidays and office closings.

Please submit information for the church bulletin by Thursday a.m. each week to Stephanie (377-2911 or adminassist@oldprovidencechurch.org) or Martha (377-6307 or marthabrooks@earthlink.net).

*new addition

December 2016 Announcements



Officer Election Update

The Elders who were elected on October 30th are Doug Fravel, Mitchell Sutton and Jeff Gordon. The Deacons who were elected on November 13th are Clay Fravel, Bill Gibson, Jim Glaspey, Eric Sorrells and Woody Yowell. We thank those who were willing to serve the Church and allowed their names to go on the ballot.

Annual Congregational Meeting

At the annual Congregational Business Meeting of November 13th, the congregation elected Finley Lotts as Congregational Chairman, Glenn Hanger as Vice-Chairman, Randy Richie as Church Trustee, Laurin Hanger as Recording Secretary, Holly Sutton as Receiving Treasurer, Carrie Lotts as Disbursing Treasurer and Karen Gordon as PreSchool Secretary. The 2017 General Fund Budget of \$227,032.00 was approved.

End of the Year Matters

Treasurers of all church organizations are reminded to submit your yearly reports to Matt Benson as early as possible in January so that the annual report to Synod and Presbytery can be prepared.

Women's Ministry

Our Women's Ministries meets Thursday, December 1st, at the Church with the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. and the Bible study at 7:30 p.m. This will be the last chapter in the book "No Falling Words" on the study of Joshua, with a new study beginning in January.

The Virginia Women's Ministries is sponsoring a "Meet and Greet" on Saturday, December 10th. We will meet at Wood Grill in Harrisonburg at 11:00 a.m. and after lunch we will go to Green Valley Book fair in Mt. Crawford. We invite you to join us.

On Thursday, December 29th, the Women's Ministries will visit Beulah Land.

Scheduled Worship Leader

Mitchell Sutton – December 4th to December 25th

Christmas Dinner



The annual congregational Christmas Dinner will be on Wednesday, December 14th, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited for this covered dish meal and a time of singing carols.

Cantata

The Christmas Cantata will be on Sunday evening, December 18th, at 6:00 p.m. The Choir will present the musical, “*Emmanuel - Celebrating Heaven’s Child*” created by Joel Lindsey and arranged by Russell Mauldin. The service will conclude with the lighting of candles. A Christmas reception sponsored by Old Providence Women’s Ministries will follow in Providence hall.

Poinsettias

If you would like to order a poinsettia to be used in the Sanctuary during the Christmas Season, please see or call Dot Richie (377-2801). The cost is \$12.00 each and they will be placed in the Sanctuary on December 4th.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Salvation Army Bell Ringing!! Everyone is invited to join the youth in ringing the Salvation Army bell in December! We are scheduled to ring on Saturday, December 17th, at the Kroger on Lew Dewitt Blvd. in Waynesboro from 10:45 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. There will be one-hour time slots, but you are welcome to stay and ring for as long as you like. There is a total of 9 time slots. Please see/call Carol Mish (540-448-0571) to sign up or for more information. What a great way to spread Christmas cheer!!!

Community Event

The Staunton Choral Society invites you to the 2016 Christmas Concert as they present “*The Promise of Ages*” on Sunday, December 4th, at 7:00 p.m. The concert will be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Staunton. A free will offering will be received. Everyone is welcome.

December 2016 Calendar of Events



Thursday, December 1

- 7:00 p.m. – Women’s Ministries
- 7:30 p.m. – Women’s Bible Study

Sunday, December 4

- 10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School
- 10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Tina Staton and Emma Staton
- 11:00 a.m. – Worship
Children’s Church Leader: Carrie Lotts
- 12:00 p.m. – Christian Education Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. – Children’s Fellowship/Youth Group

Wednesday, December 7

- 6:45 p.m. - Bible Study

Saturday, December 10

- 11:00 a.m. – Virginia Women’s Ministries “Meet and Greet”

Sunday, December 11

- 10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School
- 10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Kay Buchanan and Marvella Rea
- 11:00 a.m. – Worship
Children’s Church Leader: Karen Gordon
- 12:00 p.m. – Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, December 14

- 6:30 p.m. - Congregational Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 18

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Lois Stogdale and Katie Stogdale

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children’s Church Leader: Dana Sensabaugh

6:00 p.m. - Christmas Cantata “Emmanuel - Celebrating Heaven’s Child”

Christmas Reception follows in Providence Hall

Wednesday, December 21

6:45 p.m. – Bible Study

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – No Nursery

11:00 a.m. – Worship

No Children’s Church



Monday, December 26 through Wednesday, December 28

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 28

6:45 p.m. – Bible Study

Thursday, December 29

Women’s Ministries Visits Beulah Land