

## Old Providence ARP Church

# Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

Well it's hard to believe but Christmas is upon us. If you have a television you've already seen the commercials. If you have walked into almost any store you've probably seen the decorations. Yet despite the visible signs of celebration and happiness, the Christmas season does not always lead to joyfulness. Sometimes Christmas can evoke sadness and even despair. In this time of the year when everyone is supposed to be downright chipper, some are very sad. There can be several reasons why Christmas just isn't a happy time for you. Perhaps you've lost a loved one. Maybe your health is in decline. It could be that your financial situation isn't what you want it to be or maybe things aren't too jolly when it comes to your family relationships. No matter how you feel about Christmas, allow me to suggest a mindset as we make our way through the Christmas season together.

In the 8<sup>th</sup> Psalm King David asked God "What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?" In other words, King David is pondering how God, in all His majesty and glory, could possibly care so much for us, His children. Have you ever considered King David's question? The idea that the God of the Universe has a deep desire for a relationship with you and me is incomprehensible! Yet even more mind boggling is what God had to do to secure His relationship with us. This is where Christmas comes in.

Instead of viewing Christmas through the lens of Hallmark movies and Norman Rockwell paintings, view Christmas as what it really is. Christmas marks the humiliation of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It was at that first Christmas that he took on flesh in such a lowly fashion. Instead of being greeted by kings and ambassadors, He was instead greeted by shepherds. Instead of being dressed in royal garments, He was wrapped in rags. And yet He faced all of these humiliations willingly in order to continue God's amazing plan of redemption, ultimately culminating in His own death on the cross. This is what Christmas is all about. Because of this, no matter what circumstances you face, you can be filled with joy. Why? Because God loves you. Because he sent his one and only Son to bridge the gap between Himself and His people, thus providing you with a Savior. And it is with these things in mind that I happily say,

Merry Christmas!

Your Pastor



## **December 2019 Announcements**

### **Women's Ministry Window**

All women of the church are invited to attend Women's Ministries at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. Hope you can join us.

### **Little Lambs and Youth Group**



Little Lambs and Youth Group will meet on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. beginning with a light supper. Join us for study and fellowship!

### **Open House**

The whole church is invited to the manse for an Open House on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Please drop in anytime from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



### **Bus Trip**

The bus trip to Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre in Wytheville, VA on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, to see "Christmas In The Park" is full. However, you may add your name on the wait list, see Martha or Linda.

### **Young Adults Christmas Party**

Young Adults/Couples/Non-Retired Folk, Youth Group, and Little Lambs: Join us at the manse on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. for a Christmas party. Bring your favorite holiday snack to share and a gift for our white elephant gift exchange. Also, there will be an ugly sweater contest. Keep the cost for the gift below \$10 and remember, it's just for fun so have fun with the gift. If you have questions, ask Patrick or Amanda.

### **Christmas Program and Cantata**



The Christmas Program and Cantata called "Come and Adore Him" arranged and orchestrated by Steve W. Mauldin, and created by Dave Clark; and a Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. Little Lambs will be singing a couple of songs as well. A Christmas reception sponsored by Old Providence Women's Ministries will follow in Providence Hall.

### **Christmas Breakfast**

On Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. the Women's Ministries and Spiritual Care Committee Christmas Breakfast is scheduled at the Hometown Grill & Buffet in Staunton. The buffet cost is \$7.50. This does not include drink, tax or tip. This is Dutch treat. If you would like to donate a gift to be used in our door prize drawing, please bring it with you. Everyone is invited to join us for this time of fellowship.

### **Christmas Dinner**



The annual congregational Christmas Dinner will be on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited for this covered dish meal and a time of singing carols.

### **Officer Election Update**

The Elders who were elected on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, are Matt, Glenn, and Randy. We thank those who were willing to serve the Church and allowed their names to go on the ballot.

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, for the purpose of electing four Deacons and approving the annual budget.



### **Community News**

The Raphine Volunteer Fire Company will host Santa at the Raphine Christmas tree on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.

The Staunton Choral Society Christmas Concert will be held at 4:00 p.m. on both December 7<sup>th</sup> at Calvary United Methodist Church, and on December 8<sup>th</sup> at Christ Lutheran Church.

## End of the Year Matters

Treasurers of all church organizations are reminded to submit your yearly reports as early as possible in January so the annual report to Synod and Presbytery can be prepared. Please leave them in the Clerk of Session mailbox.

If anyone who **does not currently have** offering envelopes but would like to have them for 2020, please contact Terri.

Committee Chairman, if you have not already done so, please provide event dates for the 2020 Church Calendar to Stephanie.

## December 2019 Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 1

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Laurin and Adam

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Carrie, Connie, and Lois

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

Wednesday, December 4

6:45 p.m. – Prayer Meeting

Thursday, December 5

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

7:30 p.m. – Women's Bible Study



Sunday, December 8

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Marvella and Karleen

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Karen, Holly, and Justine

12:00 p.m. – Diaconate Meeting

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Open House at Manse

5:30 p.m. – Youth Group

Wednesday, December 11

Bus Trip to Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre

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Saturday, December 14

5:00 p.m. - Christmas Party at Manse for Young Adults/Couples/Non-Retired  
Folk, Youth Group, and Little Lambs

Sunday, December 15

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

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

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Stacy, Dana, and Kristin

6:00 p.m. - Christmas Program/Cantata

Monday, December 16

9:00 a.m. – Christmas Breakfast at Hometown Grill and Buffet

Wednesday, December 18

6:30 p.m. – Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 22

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Connie and Scott

11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Karleen, Tina, and Dabney

Tuesday, December 24 - **Christmas Eve**

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 25 – **Christmas Day**

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 29

9:00 a.m. – Breakfast for Young Life

10:00 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Nursery Helpers: Carrie and Joy

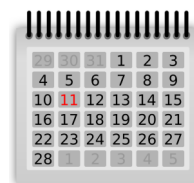
11:00 a.m. – Worship

Children's Church Leaders: Kristi and Laurin

Tuesday, December 31 – **New Year's Eve**

Church Office Closed

## January 2020



1 New Year's Day

Church Office Closed

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

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

5 Little Lambs/Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

Session Meeting

12 Diaconate Meeting

Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

19 WRE Special Offering

Little Lambs/Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

26 Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

30 Women's Ministries visits Beulah Land