

# Old Providence ARP Church

## Old Providence News

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Dear Old Providence Family,

Isn't May a fine month? Recently I took a drive on a few of my favorite backroads around Spottswood and let me tell you, the sights were just spectacular. Trees were blooming everywhere. Grass that was brown has now grown into a vibrant green. The weather is warm, but not too warm. Everything seems so fresh and new. As I write these things it occurs to me that many of you might have grown so used to our beautiful area that the sights no longer inspire you! I really hope this isn't the case. There is a special beauty present this time of the year in the Valley, with signs of life that seem to be springing up everywhere. I hope you aren't missing it due to a sense of familiarity, or worse, a sense of regret or despair.

Spring is a fascinating time. For some, the change of seasons is a reminder of time's movement. This makes sense to me. After all, the older I get, the more time seems to speed up. It's hard to even believe that Spring is here. Yet for others, the change of seasons represents the reality of the world around us and the fact that things are constantly changing. It's for this reason that some view the change of seasons as something to be celebrated, while others greet the change with far less enthusiasm.

No matter how you view the change of seasons, or change in general, let me encourage you to focus on Jesus and His promises. While Jesus has promised many wonderful things in His Word, perhaps the most beautiful promise is that which is prophesied in Revelation 21:5 where Jesus, seated on His throne, proclaims "Behold, I make all things new." At that time, there will be a new heaven and a new earth because the old will have passed away. The world and all its groanings, the difficulty and the strife, the reasons that would lead us to despair over the nature of the reality we face, all of these things will pass away and be replaced with that which is new. While it is understandable that some are hesitant to embrace change, especially given the difficulties of life, as the followers of Christ we ought to celebrate the fact that Jesus will not leave the world to continue in its pattern of destruction. Instead, Jesus is coming back and brings newness with him.

While we wait, I encourage you to view the change of seasons in light of the fact that God never changes, but instead, will make all things new. Look on the beauty of Spring and revel in the fact that we enjoy life instead of death. I also encourage you to commit yourself to praying for the Lord's return. As I have often said, when Jesus comes back there's nothing wrong that He won't make right.

Your Pastor,  
Patrick

### **Women's Ministries**

The Old Providence Women's Ministries will begin their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. with Bible Study following at 7:30 p.m. All women are invited to come and share the Bible Study lesson with Shirley, instructor. We will be studying the book "Daniel" by Iain Duguid, Chapter 5 which covers scripture of Daniel 4:1-37. Please come and join us.

### **Photographs and History**

Congregational photographs have been framed and are hanging in the hallway of Providence Hall (across from the pre-school room). Special thanks go to Carlton, Becky, Stephanie , and Vicki .

Additional Old Providence items have been placed in the display cabinet located in the back of the sanctuary. Also, Old Providence History books are still available. If you have any questions, please contact Finley.



### **PreSchool Reminder**

Spread the news: Old Providence PreSchool plans to open their program in September for the 2021-2022 school year contingent upon the COVID-19 situation and guidelines. PreSchool registration is currently in process. Visit [www.oldprovidencechurch.org](http://www.oldprovidencechurch.org) for details and applications to print or call the church office.

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To my beloved family at Old Providence,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! It is hard to believe that two months have already gone by since the last update. During that time, the Sutton family has been absolutely blessed as we have all finally transitioned to our new home in Oklahoma. I am now in the preaching rotation at two of our chapels here on post. Additionally, my assistant and I have been able to incorporate a field service into the 10-week cycle for each of the five Batteries within our Battalion. What that means is that, for each new group coming in, my team goes out to the field where they are training and we hold a 20–25 minute religious service for those who are interested in joining us. Results have been better than we could have imagined... I have even been able to baptize two Trainees in the field. My team also provided an Easter worship service for a group that was still under quarantine and unable to attend chapel. Please believe me when I tell you that God is at work here at Fort Sill!

As for life at home, the entire Sutton family is busy, busy, busy! Holly is involved with the Chaplains' Wives group here on post. She is still adjusting to military life (and the sound of artillery fire at all hours of the day and night!), but has been such a source of strength and encouragement as we deal with some of the challenges of life in the Chaplaincy! Dylan is still working hard at his studies and he has also taken on a volunteer position with the Fort Sill Museum group. Once a month, he is able to take part in a group that does a live cannon-firing for the visitors and families of Fort Sill. His position comes complete with a standard issued, late-1800's Army uniform – all wool. He is also heavily involved at the golf course which is where he spends most of his free time! Harper Grace has recently begun taking riding lessons and she absolutely loves it. The pony she rides is named 'Biscuit' and they get along very well! Callie Mae seems to be changing each day and is growing like a garden weed. We have certainly enjoyed visiting some of the sights and attractions that this part of the country has to offer.

In closing, I wish I were there in person to share our stories with you. Thank you to all who continue to send cards and encouraging notes – they are an absolute treasure. You are all in my prayers daily. Please continue to pray for the men and women who serve this country and for those who train the next generation of Soldiers. I send my love to all. May God bless you all with health and safety and may He continue to bless the leadership and ministry of Old Providence Church.

Yours in Christ,

CH (CPT) Mitchell A. Sutton, United States Army



Trainee baptism at “The Anvil” field training exercise.



The Sutton family on a recent trip to Fort Worth.



Easter worship service for new Trainees unable to attend chapel services.  
(they are quarantined for 2 weeks)



## May 2021 Calendar of Events

As of publication of this Newsletter, Sunday Worship Services are being held in an abbreviated format at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sabbath School partially resumes on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with a few classes for adults meeting at 10:00 a.m. Our full Sabbath School program for all ages will not resume until August. Please see your Sabbath School teacher or an elder concerning availability. Nursery and Children's Church will resume on May 2<sup>nd</sup> for the 9:00 a.m. service only. The Session has decided that it is best if everyone who is able to wear masks do so while inside the church facilities. The next Session Meeting will be May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Malphrus will continue broadcasting his sermons on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. through our church's Facebook page, and will post the audio version of those sermons on [sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence](http://sermonaudio.com/oldprovidence). If you would like a copy of any Sunday sermons on CD, please call the church office to let us know.

Our pastor's Daily Devotionals will continue at 7:00 each morning, Monday through Friday, for live stream on our church's Facebook page. It will remain available on Facebook to view any time, and it will also be available on [sermonaudio.com](http://sermonaudio.com).

### May 2021

2 Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

5 Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

9 Mother's Day

Special Offering for Foreign Missions

Church Office Closed



16 COMMUNION

Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

23 Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

30 Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

31 Memorial Day

No Youth Group



### June 2021

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

Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

6 Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

8-10 General Synod Meeting at

Bonclarken

13 Diaconate Meeting 6:30 p.m.

14-19 Middle School Conference at

Bonclarken

20 Father's Day

Special Offering for Camp Joy

21-26 High School Conference at

Bonclarken

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