



# PRAYER NEWSLETTER FOR REGIONAL HOME MISSIONARY PRESBYTERY OF MID ATLANTIC – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

*“Beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life!” -Jude 20-21*

**Gospel Devotion/Meditation-** Jude 20-21: What a privilege to be addressed as the **“beloved”** of God Almighty! Though we are



sinful, He is compassionate and merciful, and demonstrates holy wisdom in being just and the justifier of all who believe in Jesus Christ, His Beloved Son (Rom. 3:23-26; Rom. 5:6-8). Our God loves us, and addresses us as He addresses His own dear Son, as His **“Beloved”**. Meditate upon this prayerfully for a moment. In our union with Jesus Christ by His Spirit, our Heavenly Father sees us wrapped in Christ’s perfect righteousness, and He loves us just as he loves His Son; ‘tis true (John 17:20-26)! Whatever else may define us, let “Beloved” be central to how we think of ourselves as those loved by the Father in Christ, through the love of the Holy Spirit. In this address, and in this perfect right standing before Almighty God as those loved by God, let us then build ourselves up in our most holy faith. That is, let us constantly remember ourselves (“preach to ourselves”- ML-J) who God is and what He has done for us in Christ! This summarizes it: **“God demonstrates His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”; and, “God, who didn’t spare His own Son but freely gave Him up for us all, how will He not with Him graciously give us all things?!”** (Rom. 5:8; 8:32). Let us keep ourselves in this love, by praying

and meditating upon the depth, breadth, height, and width of God’s love for us in Christ that we may be filled with all the fullness of God (Eph. 3:17-19). Let us know that Christ is praying for us but has also filled us with His Holy Spirit to uphold us, to strengthen us, to motivate us, to lead and guide us to pray “in the Spirit” in union with Jesus. Let us wait upon the mercy of the Lord Jesus to be fully revealed when He returns! We are recipients now of much of God’s mercy in Christ, but we await our full adoption and full revealing as the **Beloved** of God in Christ (Rom. 8:23-31; 1 Cor. 2:9-10; Revelation 21:1-7). Until the day when our eternal life is fully realized, let us cry out with confidence: **“Come, Lord Jesus!”** As we live out this passage of scripture from Jude’s Gospel, let this further motivate us to sacrificial, faithful, diligent, joyful service to our king, as we enjoy being and becoming increasingly His **Beloved in Jesus Christ**.

**Brief Report/Summary for Prayer:** Praise God and **Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Ketocin Covenant Presbyterian Church!** 20 years



ago this summer I preached my first sermon as church planter-organizing pastor of KCPC! We are thankful our God continues abundantly to bless this congregation! Pray for our **2 newest church planters, Rev. John Jee and Will Sloan**, OPC licentiate, who have just taken to the field and are approved for denominational support (Word of Life and Good Shepherd). Please pray for wisdom as we seek a church planter for West Creek in Richmond beginning in the fall. Pray for wisdom for the

right building for Good Shepherd on Eastern Shore (we have 3 great options!). Please pray for growth in grace and numbers at our mission works as the LORD is pleased to work and to add. Pray for Culpeper and Berryville, Virginia, two locations we are presently praying about moving forward in church planting beginning in 2024-25. Please pray that my studies on evangelism for our PMA congregation would be fruitful and new converts and new members would result if God be pleased! Pray for traveling mercies and that Biggs Team RHM will continue to come to each congregation with the "fullness of the blessing of Christ" (Rom. 15:29-32).

**Regional Home Missionary:** [www.joiningtheharvest.org](http://www.joiningtheharvest.org) : Your regional home missionary (RHM) is thankful to be presently

serving on Word of Life, Good Shepherd, and West Creek provisional sessions. Your RHM has been visiting our mission works (Acacia Reformed, Word of Life, Good Shepherd, and West Creek) for ministry regularly and is continuing to visit our established congregations of PMA as he is able, about every 4-6 weeks or so (recently KCPC, Purcellville; Bethel, Leesburg; upcoming in Autumn: New Hope, Frederick; Knox, Silver Spring; Sterling, VA). Your RHM is privileged to minister God’s Word and to give regional home missions presentations, as well as doing evangelism training when requested. Additionally, your RHM has had the privilege of teaching gospel apologetics at Grace Youth Retreat/Camp in May, and to serve as a commissioner at OPC General Assembly in June. Your RHM is teaching on church planting and evangelism with John Paul Holloway on **Labor Day weekend at [Family Camp at Machen Retreat and Conference Center](#)**.



Your RHM is thankful to be celebrating KCPC's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration with the congregation on Lord's Day, August 20<sup>th</sup>! Praise God for His faithfulness to us all these years! Your RHM continues to be involved in daily and deliberate outreach and personal evangelism: please pray for **Greg and Marty** who I have met over the last couple of years and who I am now meeting with regularly for study of the truth of Holy Scripture. Your RHM has been privileged to write some articles on evangelism to stir up congregations to continue on mission in deliberate, enthusiastic, zealous, diligent, Spirit-filled outreach. Your RHM is planning our next [Evangelism and Church Planting Conference](#) at Bethel Church, Leesburg, VA on **October 5, 2024! Save the Date.** We are delighted to have the **Rev. Chris Bird**, gifted pastor and evangelist, as our keynote speaker. Your RHM continues to serve as theologian on the board at Loudoun Classical School, Purcellville, VA, and has been invited back to proclaim gospel monthly at Cottage Classical School for the 2023-24 school year! Your RHM has been interviewed by Home Missions Committee for a couple of articles to be published soon and featured on the '[Outward OPC Podcast](#)'. Please pray for wisdom as I shepherd and serve our mission works, and that I would consistently keep before the church planters and plants the importance of having biblical, realistic, yet patient and expectant, **faith-focused expectations** on how our God is pleased to work through sowing and watering. Please let your RHM know how he might be specifically praying for you, your congregation, and how he might serve you more deliberately and faithfully. **Feedback is always welcome!**

**Good Shepherd, Eastern Shore, VA:** <https://joiningtheharvest.org/missions/eastern-shore/> Praise God that Will Sloan was licensed to the Gospel Ministry at our May PMA meeting. Will is faithfully serving presently in shepherding, preaching, and



discipling as Stated Supply at Good Shepherd. Continue to pray for him as he ministers God's Word, counsels, serves, and seeks to be ordained as early as December 2023. Praise the LORD that at the beginning of July our denominational Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension **formally approved the generous funding for Good Shepherd for the next four years.** We are very grateful for the progress we are making in officer training with two godly and gifted men from the congregation. We are grateful for the **visitation of families** that has begun with Pastor Will and Elder Dan Cooke. We are currently studying Paul's Epistle to the Philippians on Wednesday evenings, and Pastor Will is preaching through James on

the Lord's Day. Praise the LORD that the brothers and sisters at Good Shepherd OPC continue to joyfully invite people in the community to fellowship and worship with us and they are extremely generous in their faithful service and financial gifts! Pastor Will writes: "If you would please pray for these subjects to the glory of Christ on our behalf, we would be deeply grateful: 1) That our Lord would provide a **public place for us to worship** that would please and honor Him. 2) That **new people** would worship, fellowship, and study the inerrant written Word with us in the joy of our Messiah. 3) That the Whole Counsel of God would transform and energize us for the glory of our Lord as we **speak to others about Good Shepherd OPC.**" Please continue to pray for our worship services, bible studies, devotional services, officer training, and spiritual success and growth in our vigorous outreach and evangelism (especially our '[Farmer Theologian](#)' radio spots). If you or someone you know plans to be on the Eastern Shore this summer, consider coming and worshipping and fellowshiping with our mission work. For more details, see our new website: <https://www.goodshepherdopcesva.com/home>. Please continue to pray for ongoing wisdom for our overseeing, provisional session: Elder Dan Cooke (PSE), Andrew Miller, Gerald Taylor, Francis Van Delden (joining us in September), and Charles Biggs (RHM).

**Acacia Reformed, Manassas, VA:** [www.arcopc.org](http://www.arcopc.org) : Thanks be to God that our Lord continues to give grace and growth in trusting Him at Acacia Reformed! We give thanks to our God for the good average attendance at worship of the Triune God (75+!!). The Lord is continuing to bless this church plant and bring people. We are grateful for the **faithful service and sacrificial generosity in giving at Acacia.** The congregation continues to seek to care for 2 widows in our church and devote time and visits to them in conjunction with deacons. The ladies have begun a summer study through the Psalms which has gone well! Praise God for new members: We have interviewed and publicly received the **Elias family, with 2 professions of faith; we have interviewed 4 covenant children for membership along with the session, and these have now professed faith in Christ publicly!** (2 in July after meeting with the session.) Praising the Lord for his mercy and grace! We continue our **elder training.** One man has now passed oral exam and been certified by the session. The other has asked to put a pause on pursuing elder at this time after over a year of pursuit in order to spend more time focusing on



care for his family and time organization. Pastor John Paul, the session of Sterling, and RHM Charles Biggs are presently considering how when to wisely move forward with **particularization of congregation**. Pastor John Paul continues to work hard at prayer and preaching of the Word and personal devotion to Christ in his personal and family life, as well as in church life. Praise God for a baby born to a family who struggled with infertility for 9 years. **Please continue to pray for unity in the gospel and Joy in the Lord, wisdom for pastor and session, and that congregation would continue to zealously reach out to Manassas community with the Gospel of God's grace in Christ!**



**Word of Life, Howard County, MD: [www.wordoflifemd.com](http://www.wordoflifemd.com)** : We are thankful that God has provided Word of Life a new **church planter-organizing pastor in the Rev. John Jee (PCA)**! Pastor John is presently in the process of transitioning into the OPC (September PMA meeting) and is inclined to receive our call as church planter at Word of Life. John was interviewed by our Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension in July and our mission work has been **approved for denominational funding for the next four years!** Pray for continued faithful endurance for Peter Lee, and for the summer sermon series on 'Praying the Psalms'. Pray for John as he prepares for this transition to our PMA congregation and into the OPC and pray for the congregation as it transitions to their new church planter-organizing pastor in September. We are thankful to be planning **Rev. Jee's installation service on Lord's Day, September 2023 in Columbia, Maryland**. Praise God that June and July have been encouraging at Word of Life. We have had several visitors who seem to be staying. The addition of John Jee has been a morale boost. **The majority of our visitors have come through his personal invitation.** This alone has been an great source of excitement for the group as a whole. Please pray and praise God with us: **Praise God for group unity has improved, but we are praying for growth in grace and numbers; praise God for a positive sense of morale in congregation; praise God for the increased visitors; pray for the nonbelievers in our community; praise God for the Rev. Dr. Peter Lee's sacrificial, faithful shepherding of this group. Pray for continued wisdom for overseeing, provisional session:** Peter Lee, Bob Trombadore (Ketocin Covenant), and Charles Biggs (RHM).



**West Creek Presbyterian Church, Short Pump, VA: [www.westcreekopc.org](http://www.westcreekopc.org)** : The little flock at West Creek Presbyterian Church (OPC) continues to be blessed of the Lord by the **rich preaching of the Word** on Sunday evenings. We currently have seven families regularly attending and several others who join us as they are able. The preaching has been from the Psalms on 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays and Hebrews on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please pray for us as we gather for **corporate worship and for prayer services to seek our king together**. Please pray as we look to the Lord for **wisdom in calling a church planting, organizing pastor and possibly adding morning worship in the near future**. Pray also that the saints at West Creek would **grow in godliness and love for one another and that we would tell others to "come and see" what God is doing among us**. Pray for Elder John Waddill and the overseeing session of this work, as well as Lacy Andrews (RHM, PSE), Charles Biggs (RHM, PMA), and Andrew Miller as we minister God's Word and Sacrament to this growing group of saints.



**PMA Home Missions Committee:** Continue to pray for enduring grace and healing for **Hikari Van Dam**. Please continue to pray for comfort for **Pastor Gerry and Paula Taylor**, and their adult children, Joshua, and Kaitlyn, in the loss of their oldest son Matthew. Our God is faithful. Pray that our God would continue to be glorified, souls will be converted, and new members added to PMA, that churches will be planted, and saints will be edified to **greater Gospel zeal in evangelism** (Rom. 12:11-12). Pray for **Andrew Miller** as he transitions to Presbytery of Central Pennsylvania to serve as their RHM and as Bethel Reformed searches for their new pastor.

**Thank you for your faithful praying for the Presbytery of the Mid Atlantic!**

***Our RHM Vision:** Prayerfully and passionately joining the harvest through a Christ-saturated, Spirit filled ministry of serving, declaring, orienting, and encouraging God's people to do, as well as to support church planting and evangelism in the PMA of the OPC for the glory of God and the extension of Christ's kingdom.*