



OPC AND PMA PRAYER NEWSLETTER AND UPDATE OF THE REGIONAL HOME MISSIONARY

AUTUMN 2024

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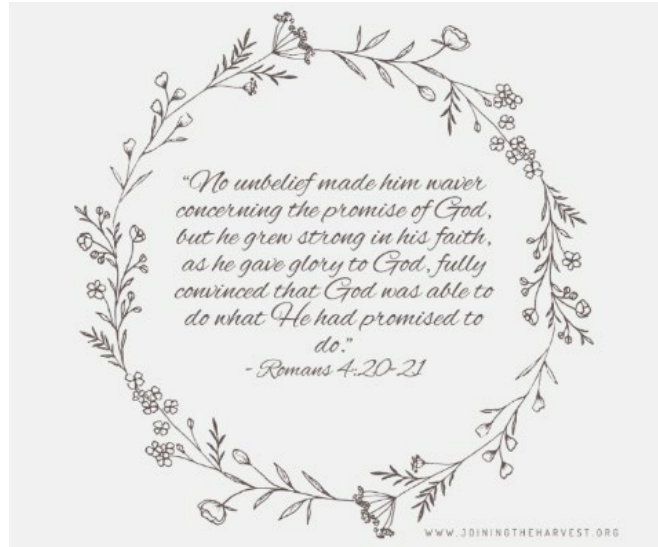
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RHM Devotion: Wisdom Learned/Learning from 25 Years of Ordained Ministry

- 1) God is good and kind. Never, ever doubt this truth.
- 2) My family's and presbytery's and congregation's greatest need is my personal holiness.
- 3) It is not where you are, so much as what you become where you are. Goal: Growing in faith and patience.
- 4) Seek the LORD first, and make sure your priorities are daily aligned according to Scripture: Piety (Personal Holiness), Family, Church, Neighbors, etc. aka: Discern the difference between the important and the urgent.
- 5) Ministry is about Christ, not you. It is CHRIST'S CHURCH, not yours.
- 6) We must die daily if we are to be useful to the master.
- 7) Don't seek greatness except in being a great servant. Being a great servant is the greatest joy of a leader.
- 8) Remember true ministerial success is asking how you can be useful and faithful to the Master wherever and whenever He calls and directs you. He calls us to faithfulness, not results. We can expect fruitfulness, but we seek to be faithful for His glory! There is no failure in faithfulness.
- 9) Mind your duties (privileges of service!) to Christ, not your circumstances.
- 10) You must decrease; Christ must increase.
- 11) Seek to make it your spiritual goal to make others more spiritually successful than yourself.
- 12) You don't always have to be right, just listen. You don't always have to speak, just listen. Know when to speak and when to be silent.
- 13) Fear God and keep His commandments in reliance upon His grace. This is the only true cure for the terrible, enslaving, God-forsaking spiritual disease called "fear of man".
- 14) Be always cultivating humility, killing sin and pride, walking in repentance, and praying in the Holy Spirit.
- 15) Always be suspicious of your own heart, especially in communication and conflict.



Learned, but still learning. Pray for me.

Highlights/Praise and Prayer Requests from Our Mission Works

PLEASE PRAY FOR 5 NEW FAMILIES TO JOIN OUR MISSION WORKS AND BIBLE STUDIES! Pray for our God to raise up faithful elders and deacons for our mission works. Pray for our church planters/organizing pastors and their families: **John Paul Holloway, John Jee, and Will Sloan**. Pray specifically for Holy Spirit granted *“endurance and patience with joy”* (Col. 1:11), for strong faith in God’s promises (Rom. 4:20-21), and contentment and joy in the Holy Spirit (Phil. 4:13, 19). Pray for wisdom for our Home Missions Committee and our **provisional sessions** over our mission works.



Acacia Family at Outreach Event

Praise the LORD that there have been several godly men at Acacia who have been nominated for serving as officers! Pray for this congregation as she continues to inch towards particularization. Praise God for Covenant child **Charlotte Mouring** (daughter of Elder Stephen Mouring) who professed her faith in Jesus as Savior and became a communicant member at **Acacia Reformed** (Manassas, VA).



Pastor Will and RHM at Good Shepherd Outreach- July 2024

Praise God for the baptism and reception of **Bruce Moore** into membership recently at **Word of Life!** Praise God for **new members**, Forrest and Joey.



Baptism of Bruce Moore, Word of Life

Good Shepherd OPC (Eastern Shore, VA) was able to participate in an outreach at Wachapreague Carnival in July. Join us in praying expectantly and confidently that those who we were able to pray for and discuss the gospel with would come to salvation and pray that the many tracts and invitations would bear much fruit for the glory of God and the growth of His church! (John 14:12-14; Eph. 3:20-21).

Praise God for His faithfulness to His Beloved church as we launched the **Berryville Bible Study** in July. Our God did above and beyond what we expected (Eph. 3:20-21)! Pray that our faithful God would continue to bring together committed, Christ-focused families. Pray for new converts through this study and outreach! We plan to meet every **4th Thursday evening of the month**. Pray for spiritual



Group for Our Berryville Bible Study Launch- July 2024

fruit in our invitation cards and outreach opportunities that we are planning for this Autumn.



Knox OPC Unanimously Votes to Call Devin Gaye to West Creek!

Pray for our **Culpeper, VA Bible Study** that the Lord would continue to bless it with good attendance and unity, and that our faithful God would use our outreach invitation cards to bring more visitors and new Christians. We meet on every 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesday evening. Join us!! Elder Stephen Mouring and I continue to gratefully teach the saints from the Book of Ephesians and the Westminster Confession of Faith.

Update on West Creek OPC

It has been such a blessing shepherding and serving with Lacy Andrews in the Presbytery of the Southeast at West Creek (West Richmond/ Short Pump, VA). Andrew Miller and your RHM first met with the seed/core group in Autumn 2021. We began an exploratory bible study in early 2022 and began worship services in Autumn of 2022. This has been a gospel partnership and alliance between the PMA and the PSE. By God's grace, we are preparing to call a church planter/organizing pastor soon. We are grateful for new members at **West Creek OPC!** We are grateful that **Knox OPC (PSE)**, the mother congregation of our **West Creek** mission work, unanimously voted to call Devin Gaye as our church



West Creek Congregation 2023



WHAT A JOY TO SEE GOD GROW HIS CHURCH BY THE ADDITION OF NEW MEMBERS



westcreekopc.org

planter/organizing pastor. Hallelujah, our God is faithful. At this time, in God's good providence, there will be an indefinite delay on Devin's taking his ordination exams and being installed. Please pray for Devin, Megan, Sophia, James and Baby Emma during this time. / Another wonderful opportunity I enjoyed with the Presbytery of the Southeast was participating as a speaking with Jeremiah Montgomery at their **Tidewater Evangelism Conference** in Spring 2024!



Tidewater Evangelism Conference-May 2024

Prayers for Your Regional Home Missionary

Please pray for (1) Joy and insights in my prayers, preparation, and preaching/teaching of God's Word; (2) Continued favor, safety, and blessing for my family "Biggs Team RHM" as we travel many miles together (especially with Esther's car sickness); (3) Pray for wisdom as we shepherd the conclusion of our Good Shepherd mission work in December 2024; pray for Pastor Will to have good transition to a pulpit ministry as shepherd-teacher; (4) Pray for Culpeper and Berryville Bible Studies to grow in numbers and grace; (5) More open doors for the gospel (Col. 4:2-6). (6) Wisdom as I serve on three sessions.



2025-26 Prayers for Planning and Goals of Your Regional Home Missionary for the Glory of God!



7 Prayer Goals thus far for 2025-26. Please pray for these! (Zech. 4:6).

Grateful for Spiritual Fathers and Mothers in Christ!

(1) As a husband, father, minister of the Gospel, to grow more in holiness, humility, and honesty by God's grace.

(2) To continue eagerly and joyfully to support, shepherd, and serve our church planters and mission works in the PMA.

(3) To continue diligently to shepherd-lead our exploratory Bible Studies in Culpeper and Berryville, Virginia. Increase meeting times for study in Berryville in 2025 as God allows.

(4) Seek to visit one of our organized PMA congregations every 6-8 weeks for RHM reports/updates and Ministry of God's Word.



A Blessing of Being RHM is Visiting and Fellowshiping with Our Faithful Pastors in PMA

(5) Plan and lead outreach opportunities with our PMA congregations, including our 2025-26 Church Planting and Evangelism Conference we are already planning.

(6) Consider possible locations for future church plants along I-81 from Staunton to Winchester, VA. If you know of folks who may be interested in towns like New Market, VA, Strausburg, VA, Woodstock, Va, Stephens City, VA, please send me their contact information.

(7) To seek with excellence and diligence to communicate prayer requests and updates regularly to our regional church and her congregations.



Preaching at West Creek OPC

Regional Home Missionary Ministry/Travel Schedule

Recent and upcoming visits planned through **December 2024**: of the Word/RHM and Evangelism Presentations (Goals: visit each mission work at least once quarterly; visit each established PMA congregation every 6-8 weeks):

Recent and Upcoming Visits for RHM Ministry

- Culpeper Bible Study, Culpeper, VA- 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays (Regular Scheduled Ministry)
- Berryville Bible Study, Berryville, VA- 4th Thursdays (Regular Scheduled Ministry)
- Tidewater Evangelism Conference- 5/4
- All Saints OPC, Suffolk, VA- 5/5
- VACATION- 5/11-5/27
- Banner of Truth Minister's Conference- 5/29
- Ketocin Covenant OPC- 6/1
- West Creek, Short Pump, VA- 6/9, 7/14, 8/11, 9/8, 10/13, 10/20, 11/10, 11/22, 12/15 (Regular Scheduled Ministry)
- Acacia Reformed- 6/16
- Word of Life- 6/30
- Good Shepherd OPC-7/4-7/7
- Bethel OPC, Leesburg, VA- 7/28
- Stanton OPC- 8/4
- Acacia Reformed-8/25
- Word of Life, Columbia, MD- 9/1
- Good Shepherd- 9/11-9/12
- Presbytery of the Mid Atlantic Meeting- 9/21
- New Hope OPC, Frederick, MD- 9/22
- Sterling OPC-9/29
- Ketocin Covenant OPC- 10/27
- PMA Church Evangelism Conference- 10/5
- Good Shepherd, Eastern Shore, VA- 12/7-12/9
- CHMCE- RECHEX Orlando, FL- Nov. 2024
- Study Leave/Vacation- December 16-January 6, 2025



Thankful to Have Traveling Musicians to Accompany Singing in Worship



New Members at Word of Life!



Thank You for

Your Prayers for Your RHM! Our Lord graciously promises us *'All things are possible for one who believes'* (Mark 9:23). Pray that our faithful God would continue to make me a Spirit-filled, humble servant, compassionate shepherd, and zealous, winsome evangelist for the glory of God and the extension of Christ's Kingdom. I'm so thankful that my family desires to travel and serve with me in my calling as Regional Home Missionary! Thankful for my daughter Elisabeth Grace who serves as our Home Missions photographer!

Two Exploratory Bible Studies in Virginia, Two Opportunities to Grow and Fellowship with the Saints

Join us for the Culpeper Bible Study!
1st, 3rd, & 5th Tuesdays of Each Month / 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Study on Ephesians
"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places..."



14222 Rixeyville Road,
Culpeper, Virginia 22701
www.joiningtheharvest.org

We are grateful to our Risen-Ascended-Enthroned Savior and Lord for our two exploratory Bible studies in the Presbytery of the Mid Atlantic. Please consider joining us or inviting those who may be interested who are in the



Culpeper and Berryville, Virginia, areas. Both groups are growing under the teaching of God's Word and in the joy of fellowship with one another. Our Culpeper Bible Study began meeting in January 2024, and presently we are regularly meeting on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesday evenings. Our Berryville Bible Study began in July 2024, and we are presently meeting on the 4th

Come and Join Us!
Berryville Reformed Bible Study
Every 4th Thursday of the Month / 6:30 - 8 pm
Clark County Recreation Center
225 Al Smith Circle, Berryville VA 22611

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."





www.joiningtheharvest.org
Contact: Rev. Charles R. Biggs, Regional Home Missionary
crbiggs@comcast.net



Thursday evenings with hopes to increase to two times monthly at the beginning of 2025. One special treat we had this summer was that a few saints from our West Creek OPC congregation visited and fellowshiped with us at our Culpeper study. It was such an encouragement to us all remembering that just under three



years ago, West Creek began as a bible study meeting in West Richmond and is now presently preparing to call an organizing pastor. Our God is faithful! **Please continue in your faithful and expectant prayers** for our two Bible studies in Culpeper and Berryville! We are prayerfully trusting our faithful God to continue to call together and form these groups through His Word and Spirit who are characterized by an eager desire to obey His word, walk in a manner worthy of their calling in Christ, and eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, as they grow in maturity

together in Christ (Eph. 4:1-16). We should remember that the calling, forming and transforming of a people from exploratory bible studies such as these, to mission works, to established congregations of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church is **God's work for God's glory!** *"The LORD will fight for you!"* These studies are both works of front-line spiritual warfare, and powerful works of sanctification as each believer seeks to daily die to self, so that faithful and fruitful congregations, embassies of Christ's Kingdom, outposts of the



Heavenly Zion will be established by God's grace and power (Zech. 4:6)! The establishing of mission works is another way Christ destroys Satan's kingdom and advances His own Kingdom for His glory and the good of His church and the world. So, let us pray expectantly and faithfully *"Thy Kingdom Come!"* (Col. 4:2-6; Eph. 3:20-21).

PLEASE PRAY: For our Resurrected-Ascended-Enthroned Christ to continue to storm

the gates of hell in the establishment of Orthodox Presbyterian Churches in Culpeper and Berryville Virginia! Pray for Jesus's blessing on the saints that they will be protected and continue to grow in grace as we do front-line spiritual warfare and are sanctified by God's word and Spirit together. Pray for Elder Stephen Mouring, your Regional Home Missionary, and your Home Missions Committee as we shepherd these studies in the gentleness and wisdom of our Lord Jesus! Pray for our God to increase our numbers and our zeal for the lost! Pray for new families and especially new converts to Christianity which is the desire of these groups. Pray for our invitations and outreach efforts that they will bear much



fruit for the glory of God (Isa. 55:9-11).



Remember: *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, 'as the LORD!"*



Gospel Outreach at Good Shepherd OPC, Eastern Shore, VA

“Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:6-7).

WACHAPREAGUE
70th Volunteer Firemen's ~2024
Carnival
JUNE 19
- JULY 6
OPEN 7 P.M.

CLOSED SUNDAYS, MONDAYS & TUESDAYS
For more information call: (757) 267-7816

1	Wed. June 19	Little Miss Carnival Queen, Little Mr. Carnival King, Miss Pre-Teen Carnival Queen, Miss Carnival Queen (Hosted by Bill LeCain)
2	Thu. 20	"Accomack Community Band"
	Fri. 21	"Corn Funk Revue"
3	Sat. 22	"Fil Rhythm Band" (with special guest Ala Noel from)
	Wed. 26	"Laybaxx Band"
	Thu. 27	"Vince Kornegay and Mandy"
	Fri. 28	"DJ Sleepy"
	Sat. 29	"Irie Tree Band"
	Wed. 3 rd	"Sherry Belote and Friends"
	Thu. 4 th	"WESR Throwback Thursday"
	Fri. 5 th	"Escandalo Norteño"
	Sat. 6 th	"H. M. Johnson Band"

It was a joy for Good Shepherd OPC (GSOPC) to participate in an outreach event at the 70th Annual Wachapreague Carnival on the Eastern Shore in Virginia. All the members of the congregation at GSOPC as well as “Biggs Team RHM” participated in the outreach.



There were close to 100 people spoken with either through invitation cards and tracts being given or



conversations had about the Gospel and GSOPC. We were so very encouraged by the opportunities that our Lord gave us together as His beloved church. We were greatly blessed by the gospel sharing and especially the unity, love, and zeal of the congregation reaching out together at this special event. We sought to remember our 10 Principles for Intentional Outreach: Being There, Being Prepared, Being Faithful, Being Ourselves, Being Filled with the Spirit, Being Confident, Being Christ, Not Being Christ, Being Patient, and Being Expectant! Our God is faithful!



One man named James came up to our table, and we were able to share with him the gospel and pray with him. He told us that he had turned from the Christian faith years ago, but

GOOD SHEPHERD
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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
SUNDAY 9:00AM AND 4:30PM
AND BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM

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ONLEY, VA 23418



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since the death of his faithful, believing father who taught him the Bible, he has been thinking very deeply about these truths because they were regularly coming to his mind. We told him of the truths of God's grace in Christ, and particularly the words of **Isaiah 55:6-11** that our God is forgiving and compassionate for all those who turn from their sins to seek Him in Christ by faith, and that His word will never return to Him void or empty but accomplish His purpose and desire.

Join us in praying expectantly and confidently that James and many others who we were able to pray for and discuss the gospel with and pray that the many tracts and invitations would bear much fruit for the glory of God and the growth of His church! (John 14:12-14; Eph. 3:20-21).

Come and join GSOPC for worship and fellowship:
<https://www.goodshepherdopcesva.com/home> / 25501 W Main Street, Onley, VA 23418 / Phone: 804-731-6008 / whsloan1206@gmail.com / www.joiningtheharvest.org



For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.
- 2 Cor. 5:21



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Focus on Good Shepherd OPC, Eastern Shore, VA

We are grateful for your prayers for [Good Shepherd OPC \(Onley, VA\)](#)! Christ's little flock on the Eastern Shore began 2024 with the ordination and installation of their beloved pastor. This dear congregation has grown in grace and joy through Christ's ministry and through trials. As we learn in Romans 5:3-5, Christ by His Spirit produces in us endurance, character, and hope through our trials. Let us be thankful that in our losses, we experience much gain in Christ (Phil. 3:8-11). **GSOPC has just begun morning worship services and has several evangelism and outreach events planned in the next few weeks.**

Pastor Will Sloan writes: "Our righteous Father continues to sanctify and build up GSOPC through study, Biblical worship, and evangelism. GSOPC has been encouraged and delighted by studying the Westminster Confession of Faith weekly, including its proof texts together. We are, through mercy alone, deepening our affections for the Lord Jesus and His steadfastly kind providence towards us. We are deeply grateful to be worshipping in the morning as well as the evening on the Lord's Day.

Through Christ's steadfast love alone, we are unified, delighting in Holy Scripture, and telling others about our Redeemer. Please pray that we would share the Gospel with and invite many to fellowship and worship with us. Through our Lord's mercy, we are being strengthened to trust His kind providence in all things. It is a delight to be catechizing our oldest daughter and to hear the brothers and sisters encouraging her for answering correctly. We continue to joyfully learn as a body to fully trust that our Lord's providence is kinder and more gracious than we can fully comprehend" (Eph. 3:20-21).



PRAYER REQUESTS (1)

Please pray that, if it would please our Lord, He would

utilize us as instruments for reaching the lost. (2) Please pray that we will diligently read, meditate on, and obey the inerrant written Word daily. (3) Please pray a Scripture of your choosing for GSOPC to the glory of Christ Jesus. (4) Please pray for 5 new families by the end of this summer! (5) Pray for our provisional session: Will Sloan, Francis Vandelden, Jerry Taylor, Dan Cooke, and Charles Biggs.

GOOD SHEPHERD
ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PASTOR WILL SLOAN
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WHSLOANI206@GMAIL.COM
www.goodshepherdopcesva.com 

Biblical
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Congregation

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep" (John 10:11).

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2024 Update on Good Shepherd OPC

Good Shepherd OPC began as an exploratory Bible study of the Presbytery of the Mid Atlantic in the summer of 2022. The group that our Risen-Ascended-Enthroned Lord brought together initially introduced us to Pastor Will Sloan who was at that time a pastor in the United Methodist Church. As the bible study showed much progress in grace and unity quickly, and we had a man who was willing and able to shepherd the congregation, who was already greatly loved by the congregation, the RHM and Home Missions Committee thought it good to move forward to worship services as a mission work.



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SUNDAY 9:00AM AND 4:30PM
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Good Shepherd OPC began worship services as a mission work in the late Autumn of 2022 with four families, along with two or three other families inquiring and interested in the work who were attending some of the studies and services. The original provisional session that was formed was made up of Regional Home Missionary Charles Biggs, Elder Dan Cooke (PSE), Home Missions Chairman Andrew Miller, and Pastor Gerry Taylor. After Andrew Miller received his call to be the RHM in the Presbytery of Central Pennsylvania, we were thankful to have Pastor Francis Vandelden join us. As we began worship services, Elder Dan and your RHM would come and conduct worship services as often as we could

travel. The group was growing and joyous in Christ.

Pastor Will Sloan began his working toward licensure and ordination in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in late 2022 and then throughout 2023. During this time, Elder Dan and I conducted officer training classes with two men who were interested in considering the ordained office and had already been demonstrating some spiritual gifts of shepherding and leadership for the congregation. Pastor Will successfully completed his licensure exams in Spring 2023 and was licensed to the gospel ministry by the PMA. He completed his ordination exams at the December 2023 meeting of the PMA and was unanimously received as an ordained minister of the OPC. Between the Spring 2023 and December 2023, Pastor Will faithfully served the PMA as Stated Supply. He gladly and joyfully accepted the call to be the organizing pastor/church planter at our PMA December



2023 meeting. His ordination and installation date was in late January 2024.



Pastor Will was ordained and installed in January 2024 and has faithfully and eagerly shepherded the congregation since. Pastor Will and his wife Lauren, and their two daughters Isabel and Mary, have been strong and trusting in Christ through very difficult trials. They have served faithfully and exuberantly with joy in the Holy Spirit in this small flock. As your RHM, I was privileged to regularly come alongside Pastor Will and family as a pastor-mentor, and I have been very thankful to see a brother who is a humble and learned man, who is passionate about Christ and

making Him known. Pastor Will and his family have gone joyfully through trials, committed to Christ and His Church, and during this time, I have witnessed the Lord’s working in Pastor Will. I have seen a young (er) man, new to the OPC, shepherd the flock faithfully that Christ has granted him. Though the flock of Jesus at Good Shepherd has been small, Pastor Will has demonstrated faithfulness to Jesus in the “small things” that are big things in our Lord’s eyes.

Pastor Will has demonstrated faithfulness in preaching God’s Word, administering the sacraments, praying with, and discipling the flock, and has engaged in eager and earnest outreach and invitations to his community on the Eastern Shore. We are grateful to our Sovereign and compassionate God who brought salvation to a brother under Pastor Will’s discipleship, and we rejoice he was baptized in the Triune Name in the Spring of 2023! We are grateful that the two families entrusted to us at Good Shepherd have grown in God’s grace, but we have not grown in numbers.



It is with heavy hearts that in our Lord’s good and wise, yet mysterious providence, the congregation has not grown, and in fact, just a week prior to Will’s ordination, two of the families decided to leave.¹ Our Lord is faithful, and though we serve for God’s glory and seek to be as fruitful as possible, only our God in Christ by His Spirit produces fruit and results. We are called to be faithful! We earnestly seek the “Well done, good and faithful servants” from our Risen-Ascended-Enthroned Savior, Bridegroom, Elder Brother, Head of, and Shepherd of His Church. Pastor Will and the provisional session along with the Home Missions Committee have sought to be faithful through Word, Worship and Witness. However, God has not at this time brought the increase.



Last Spring 2024, when there did not seem to be any growth, though there was faithfulness, and there was a earnest reaching out and inviting neighbors and community, the provisional session along with the Home Mission Committee sought more objectivity from the Lord as to whether we should continue this work into 2025.

In an effort to be good stewards of God’s resources, and especially for Pastor Will to be free to seek another call to pastoral ministry, we decided together that if there were not at least 5 new families by August 31, 2024, then we would consider concluding the work. We have concluded that what seems best to the Holy Spirit and to us, is that we should allow Pastor Will to seek a calling, to continue to shepherd the two beloved families at Good Shepherd, and to conclude this beloved mission work on December 31, 2024.

Please pray that as Pastor Will and family seeks God’s guidance and direction, that our faithful God will provide and lead them to a place where they can use their gifts and bless Christ’s Church! Please pray for the two families who love their pastor very much, that they will find a place where they may transfer their membership and to grow under another faithful shepherd of Christ’s flock. Pray for the seed that has been planted through Word, Worship and Witness on the Eastern Shore through this faithful ministry at Good Shepherd. **There is no failure in faithfulness. God’s Word will never return empty or void but will always accomplish His purposes and will succeed in the thing for which He sends it** (Isaiah 55:10-11).



With gratitude in Christ, we are thankful to have been a part of this mission work! We trust our Sovereign and loving God that He will be exalted and glorified in this, and that His Word will continue to work on the Eastern Shore by His power and grace. We are grateful for the many unseen tireless and joyful labors of Pastor Will Sloan, as well as his dear wife Lauren. We are thankful for the provisional session of this congregation and the wisdom and guidance of our PMA Home Missions Committee.

Our God is good and faithful! I am thankful to serve as your Regional Home Missionary/Autumn 2024

Charles

¹ We are grateful for the two families, though they left Good Shepherd. They are good families, who have transferred their memberships to another OPC and are being faithfully shepherded. The families disagreed with some things at Good Shepherd, but they were honest, generous, gracious, hospitable, and never divisive, and for that we are very thankful (Eph. 4:1-3). Glory be to God! These two families have been very instrumental in making the gospel known on the Eastern Shore, and introducing us to Pastor Will and his family, as well as the two families that are presently part of Good Shepherd.

Church Planting and Evangelism Seminar/Workshop on October 5th



Would you like to learn more about how to warmly welcome strangers and become true friends of sinners through evangelism and Christian witness? Would you like to learn to do this more confidently, deliberately, and intentionally by God's grace?

Then make plans to join us for our **2024 Church Planting and Evangelism Conference and Workshop** sponsored by the Regional Home Missionary and Home Missions Team of the Presbytery of the Mid Atlantic. This is for ALL who desire to learn the basics of evangelism, and to be stirred up to do daily evangelism more confidently, deliberately, and intentionally in reliance upon Christ's grace.

There will a catered meal at 1:15 pm after the conference. We will also plan to take up an offering for our mission works and bible studies in the Presbytery of the Mid Atlantic.

October 5, 2024 at [Bethel Presbyterian Church](#), Leesburg, Virginia, from 9 am - 1 pm.

Please [RSVP](#) or on [Facebook](#)

We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. Peter Lee and the Rev. Chris Byrd to our conference



Dr. Peter Lee is Professor of Old Testament and Dean of Students at Reformed Theological Seminary, Washington, D. C. He completed his MA and PhD at the Catholic University of America and his MDiv at Westminster Seminary in California. He is the author of *Joy Unspeakable, Aramaic Poetry in Qumran*, contributor for *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: Gospel Promised* (edited by Miles Van Pelt), and several other articles in academic and ministry journals. Peter is also an ordained minister in the

Orthodox Presbyterian Church and served as a church planter for Living Hope OPC in Clarksville, MD and Word of Life OPC in Columbia, MD. He has also served in the Home Missions committee for the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic for several years and participated as provisional session member for several mission works. He is married to Clara and the Lord has blessed them with six children: Caleb, Jeremiah, Kara, Micah, Tabitha, and Priscilla.

Rev. Christopher Byrd served as Evangelist at Grace Presbyterian Church in Westfield, NJ from 2020-2024, and is now preparing to serve in a new role as Regional Home Evangelist for the Presbytery of New Jersey. He also serves as the Director of Evangelism for the Boardwalk Chapel in Wildwood, NJ, a ministry that trains over 300 youth and adults every summer in evangelism and apologetics. Chris also serves on the board of the Africa Christian Training Institute, and has been leading Schools of Evangelism in Uganda since 2020. He received his M.Div from Westminster Theological Seminary in 2018. One of his greatest burdens is to see the church becoming truly "Great Commissional" and to see evangelism becoming part of the DNA of every Christian.



Please [RSVP](#) or on [Facebook](#)

Presbytery of the Mid Atlantic Launches New Exploratory Bible Study in Berryville Virginia!

Thank you for your faithful prayers! We are grateful to our faithful, Risen-Ascended-Enthroned Savior and Lord who continues to keep His promises of building His church! On **July 10th**, we were thankful to gather with more than 30 saints, including over 15 children, for the first meeting of our exploratory Bible study in Berryville, Virginia. The planning for this location in Berryville began as early as Summer 2023, and we have been praying with patience and expectation. Berryville, Virginia, is located 20 minutes west of Ketocin Covenant OPC in Purcellville, Virginia, and is an ideal location with much population growth as a place central to Charlestown, West Virginia, as well as Front Royal and Winchester, Virginia.

Come and Join Us!

Berryville Reformed Bible Study

Every 4th Thursday of the Month / 6:30 - 8 pm

Clark County Recreation Center
225 Al Smith Circle, Berryville VA 22611

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."






www.joiningtheharvest.org

Contact: Rev. Charles R. Biggs, Regional Home Missionary
crbiggs@comcast.net

We began our evening with a potluck supper together and fellowship. Then we enjoyed a devotion together



from Isaiah 55:1-11, being reminded from God's Word that our compassionate and forgiving God welcomes sinners to come to Him in Christ, and the importance of hearing from Him from God's Word and seeking Him while He may be found. An important reason for establishing an exploratory Bible study is an

opportunity of reaching out and welcoming sinners in Christ and learning together with all the saints the love of God in Christ, remembering that God's word does not return empty or void, but accomplishes His powerful and good purposes (Isa. 55:11). We discussed together the ideal spiritual characteristics of an OPC seed group, and how the gospel transforms us all through God's word and Spirit. We closed with a season of prayer together (John 14:12-14; Eph. 3:20-21).

As we explore this location to discover if this is where Jesus desires to establish another OPC congregation in the PMA, please pray that our God would call, gather, and transform this seed group as we grow together praying, studying the Book of Ephesians, and fellowshiping together. We plan to meet on **the 4th Thursday of each month for our study at the Berryville Park, Clarke County Recreation Center in their Multipurpose Room at 225 Al Smith Circle, Berryville VA 22611.** Please pray for your RHM, and our Home Missions and dedicated on-site ministry team as we serve this group of believers.

Please pray for us as we meet regularly together and as we invite our neighbors and friends, and plan outreaches in the community soon. We enjoyed fellowship with the saints until almost 9 pm! As we were leaving, we met a man named Nick, and we witnessed the gospel to him, prayed for him, and invited him to our study. May the LORD bring Nick, and many more folks like him to our bible study. May we see many new converts to Christ through this study and outreach!

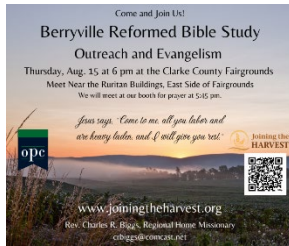


Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.
-Isaiah 55:6-7



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Berryville Bible Study Summer Outreach



Praise the LORD! Our faithful God answered our prayers and opened a door to make Christ known through His word (Col. 4:2-3) at the Clarke County Fair this week!

Our outreach last night in Berryville had a great turnout (about 15). Though we felt weak and inadequate, out of our comfort zones, and many of us tired from a busy week, we beheld the glory and strength of God in Christ as He blessed others through us (2 Cor. 4:1-6; 5:17-21; 12:9-10). Filled with Christ's Spirit, and focused on His goodness and power, we generously gave out many gospel tracts, invitations to our bible study, cold water, and shared the gospel and prayed with quite a number of folks.



Afterwards, we prayed with joy for the opportunity to join the harvest and to participate in our God's mission to overflow in love and share the love of His Son through the power of the Spirit.

It was a great joy to see Christ's bride overflowing together with the joy and delight of Jesus our Bridegroom. There was such a unity of servants proclaiming Jesus' goodness and grace together. We were able to put into practice our '10 Principles for Intentional and Deliberate Evangelism': 1. Being There; 2. Being Prepared; 3. Being Faithful; 4. Being Ourselves; 5. Being Filled with the Spirit; 6. Being Confident in God's Word; 7. Being Christ; 8. Not Being Christ; 9. Being Patient; 10. Being Expectant. Praise to our Risen-Ascended-Enthroned Savior!



Please pray that our Triune God would be greatly glorified. Please pray that our God would grant us much fruit from the sowing of His blessed word! (Isa. 55:9-11; Luke 8:15; John 15:16).



"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ...that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." – Colossians 4:2-6

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- I: Being There
- II: Being Ready/Prepared
- III: Being Faithful
- IV: Being Yourself
- V: Being Filled
- VI: Being Confident
- VII: Being Christ
- VIII: Not Being Christ
- IX: Being Patient
- X: Being Expectant

Contact: cbbiggs7777@gmail.com to learn more about Christ-centered, gospel proclaiming evangelism

Ketoctin Covenant Presbyterian Church's History and the Work of the Regional Home Missionary-Video

Watch a video of [KCPC's History and the Work of the RHM](https://youtu.be/7sVVIqfwDF0) and Home Missions in the PMA



<https://youtu.be/7sVVIqfwDF0>

In Christ, I am your brother and servant,

I am your brother and servant in Jesus, Charles Biggs, Regional Home Missionary of the PMA

Get on our direct email distribution list for announcements/newsletters:

<https://joiningtheharvest.org/contact/>



7 Three Word Sentences to Pray and Focus Our Hearts Daily!

Where God's Word is, there is God Himself, there God's Spirit is at work, there God establishes His covenant, there He plants His church.

- Herman Bavinck

Ministry Opportunities and Fellowship Pictures



Teaching at Berryville Bible Study



Sweet "Biggs Team RHM"



Old Friends and Partners in the Gospel!



Teaching at Culpeper Bible Study



Thankful to God for Dear Friends in the Ministry!



Teaching at Berryville Bible Study in Summertime



Ministry at West Creek with Friends in Jesus



"Biggs Team RHM" at the Berryville Fair Outreach



Culpeper Bible Study Fellowship



Important Ministry Time with My Bride!



33 Years of Blessed Marriage to Margaret!