

Regional Home Missionary Prayer and Praise Newsletter- February/March 2025

"[Because of the glorious and victorious resurrection of Jesus]...My beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Cor. 15:58).

Regional Home Missionary Ministry/Travel Schedule

- **Shepherding/Teaching/Organizing 2 Exploratory Bible Studies at Culpeper, VA (1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings) and Berryville, VA (2nd and 4th Thursday evenings).**
- **Ministry at West Creek OPC, Richmond, VA: Once monthly/Serving on congregation's session**
- **January 2025 Ministry Opportunities:** Installation service of Will Sloan, Providence OPC (Charlottesville, VA) / Acacia Reformed (Manassas, VA)
- **February 2025 Ministry Opportunities:** Knox OPC (Silver Spring, MD) / Acacia Reformed (Manassas, VA) / Question and Answer, Fellowship with Emmaus Presbyterian Church / Word of Life (Columbia, MD)
- **March 2025 Ministry Opportunities: Biblical Theology Youth Weekend Event** Hosted by New Covenant OPC (Abingdon, MD, see group pic on right) / Meeting with Emmaus Presbyterian Church / Grace Church (Vienna, VA) / Ketocin Covenant (Purcellville, VA) / Greenville Pastor's Conference (learning and connections)
- **Upcoming Opportunities:** Ordination/Installation service for Devin Gaye (Richmond, VA) / Various evangelistic training and outreaches planned / Teaching Ministry Seminar at All Saints OPC (PSE) in June / Speaker at Machen Single's Retreat /



Regional Home Missionary Prayers

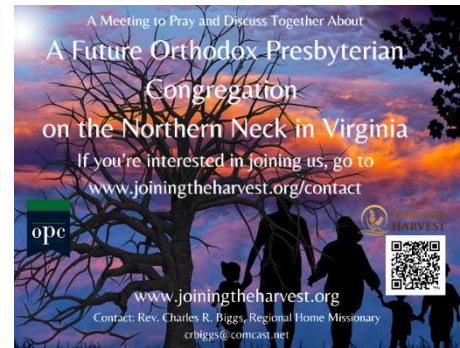
- Please pray for **five new families** to join our mission works and our exploratory bible studies.
- Acacia Reformed OPC: Please pray for our elder and deacon candidates training for office. We are hopeful for particularization in late Spring or early Summer 2025. Praise the LORD!
- Word of Life OPC: Please pray for spiritual fruit, unity, and joy in new bible studies, fellowship times, prayer meetings, and pastoral counseling. Joyful response to God's grace through our whole-hearted obedience.
- West Creek OPC: Please pray for continued growth in grace and numbers. Pray for our church planter Devin Gaye and family (Megan, Sophie, James, and Emma); for Devin as he prepares for ordination exams in April, and for family as they transition to Richmond, VA, area.

- Culpeper and Berryville, VA, Bible Studies: Pray for our 2 Exploratory Bible Studies in Virginia: Culpeper and Berryville. Pray for our outreach plans for 2025 in these two areas.
- Emmaus Presbyterian Church: Pray for our working together with Emmaus Presbyterian pastors, elders, and congregation on coming into the OPC. We had a great Q&A and fellowship together. Pray as Emmaus formally petitions PMA to be a congregation in the OPC at our May PMA meeting (pic on right).
- Pray for my regular visiting of organized congregations in the PMA for regional home mission's ministry.
- Pray for my regular visiting of mission works in the PMA for regional home mission's ministry.
- Pray for my regular Gospel ministry opportunities in discipleship and evangelism at Loudoun Classical and Cottage Schools.
- Pray for my maximal fruitfulness and maximal joy as a husband, father, minister, and RHM.
- Pray for opportunities for Gospel witness and new friendships for church planting and discipleship.
- Pray for ongoing wisdom in church planting, mentoring, shepherding, and counseling as an RHM. Pray for wisdom and grace in my serving on West Creek and Word of Life Sessions.



Regional Home Missionary – New Contacts

- New contact and interest in beginning an exploratory bible study and mission work on Northern Neck, Virginia. More to come on this! (pic on right).
- New contact from a brother in Strausburg, VA, who lives off I-81, an ideal area for having a future congregation of the OPC. For now, our brother will attend our Berryville Bible Study



The Shepherd's Voice Podcast- A significant, bittersweet season

comes to an end: Pastor Ben Franks, podcast produce Daniel Weitz, and I have concluded our podcast (for now!!!). We have enjoyed doing this podcast together for over four years; there are about 150 episodes to enjoy online [here](#) (Spotify)/ shepherdsvoicepodcast@gmail.com



Here is a story that was written by a Patrick Henry College Journalism Student who heard of our Berryville Exploratory Bible Study in the PMA. I thought this would be greatly encouraging to you!
-Pastor B

“No Failure in Faithfulness”

Church planting in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church

Chase Hope

02/26/25

A fledgling church plant in Berryville progressed in February by doubling its previously once-a-month meetings.

Around fifteen people, including several PHC students, have congregated regularly for this exploratory bible study since last July. Pastor Charles Biggs leads the Thursday night gatherings.

Bible studies like this one are only the first part of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church’s measured, lengthy process for building a self-sufficient church.

“[Church-planting] is a lot about prayer and patience,” said Biggs, the OPC’s Regional Home Missionary. He is the denomination’s main church-planter and evangelist in the area.

One of an RHM’s main responsibilities is to find an area where people desire an OPC church. Once there are enough in one place – usually five to ten family units, Biggs says – an exploratory bible study like Berryville’s can be started. To avoid interference with normal Sunday worship, meetings are generally held on weeknights.

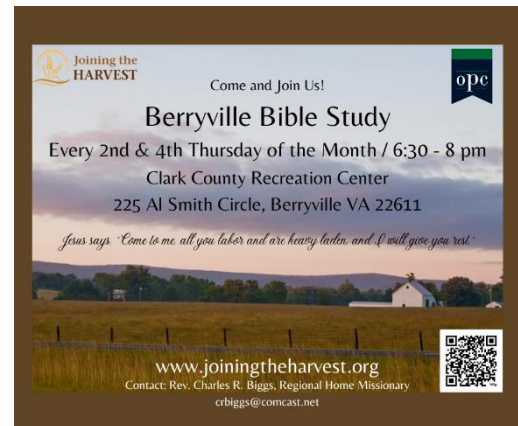
In Berryville, the structure of the study resembles a Sunday worship service. The people sing, read a catechism question or two, discuss a Scripture passage, and pray. But “it’s very informal,” PHC junior Jackson Tolbert said. The meetings are a circle of chairs in a recreation center. An elder and a deacon from nearby OPC congregations attend to help things along.

There are three stages in moving interested families towards status as a self-sustaining congregation in the OPC. The process can take years, as it did with the now-established OPC church in Purcellville.

“There were a lot of bumps in the road as [Ketocin Covenant Presbyterian Church] grew from church plant to a particularized congregation, and then a young congregation to where we are today,” KCPC elder Bob Trombadore said.

If a study grows and the involved families are invested in continuing, they can become what the OPC labels a “mission work.” They could then hold their own Sunday worship services. The RHM (in the case of Berryville, Biggs) would still teach at the gatherings for a time.

Eventually, another denomination-sent leader, what Biggs calls a “church-planter” or “organizing pastor,” would become the regular preacher and free up the RHM for duties in other locations.



West Creek OPC in the Richmond area, another prospective church, is entering this part of the process right now. Roughly three years after their initial exploratory study, they meet twice on Sundays for worship. Should Berryville get this far, the RHM and organizing pastor would steer the almost-church towards independence by training men from within the mission work as officers.

The final stage involves the congregation coming before the presbytery to seek “particularization” and status as a full-fledged church. Ordinarily, though not always, the church-planter who was called in after the RHM is the congregation’s choice for permanent pastor.

Purcellville’s KCPC particularized in 2006. Biggs was at that time the church-planter, not the RHM, and Ketocin called him as their first pastor.

The process is meant to imitate New Testament church planting. Biggs noted that the book of Acts describes Paul as starting his work in a city by going to a place where people the population already showed interest in religion – a synagogue, for example. The position of RHM is designed to be Pauline in nature. The organizing pastors who follow the RHM in the mission work stage are supposed to echo Paul’s assistants Timothy and Titus.

Even if the fledgling congregation in Berryville does not mature into anything more, its leaders remain confident that it will not be wasted time.

“I think the endeavor is always promising when you are in a community and teaching and preaching the Word of God, even if it doesn’t result in the planting of a new church at this time,” KCPC’s Trombadore said. He is the elder who regularly helps in Berryville.

When Biggs sees or feels discouragement or impatience, he repeats this phrase: “There’s no failure in faithfulness.”

END OF STORY

