



Regional Home Missionary (PMA) Newsletter

Special Edition: Spotlight on Berryville, Virginia- Summer 2025



Our Lord Jesus has brought great joy to us as we have enjoyed service and fellowship together this summer at the Berryville Bible Study! This July, we celebrated our one-year anniversary of the bible study's launch! In April,

Pastor Ben Franks, a friend, brother, and member of the Home Missions Committee of the Presbytery of the Mid Atlantic, and I met together for discussion and prayer about our exploratory bible study in Berryville. We were thankful for the steady attendance at the study and for the participation of faithful families. However, we discussed how we might more effectively reach the community. Just a few days later, our good and kind Lord

Jesus took home to himself Ben's six-year-old daughter, Emma Jane. This brought a time of deep mourning and reflection.



Since Emma Jane's death, we have prayed that our God would bring life to many out of her death. And we have seen growth in Berryville, Virginia! We have made several new connections and are developing friendships with several new families. We are discipling some who are new to the faith and sharing the gospel with those who do not know Christ. Our gracious Lord has provided a summer intern in Elder Jeremy Colon who has served faithfully for several years at Sterling OPC, and is completing his seminary training at Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Greenville, SC. Jeremy has had experience exhorting and teaching God's people, he has a passion for outreach and evangelism, and he desires to see faithful gospel churches planted for the glory of Christ! We are thankful that he is joining us this summer. We are thankful for his wife, Jacqueline, and their children, Seth, Jonah, Savannah, and Jasmine. Here is what Elder Jeremy has recently written:

"Pastor Charles Biggs, our presbytery's Regional Home Missionary, and I are profoundly grateful for your steadfast support and intercession. Together, we're eagerly discerning the Lord's unfolding plan, trusting that He who began this good work will carry it to completion (Phil. 1:6). In July, [the Sterling OPC] entrusted me with the opportunity to serve alongside Pastor Biggs at the study, sharpening my skills in pastoral ministry while exercising the gifts God has given to me and my family. In light of this, Pastor Biggs established a Sunday Worship



type of liturgy to mirror that context and encourage growth. We began studying the letter to the Philippians in July and plan to finish it by the end of the summer. We open each study with prayer, sing hymns, go over the Westminster Shorter Catechism, and then dive into Philippians, finishing with corporate prayer and a benediction.



The study has been lively, and the discussion illuminates the text in fresh ways that build up the body together. We are also integrating many of the principles that tends to promote joyful fellowship that is foundational for the Church's culture such as sharing meals together when we gather. Everyone brings food, which helps build the relationships that are essential for a healthy church. We often fire up the charcoal grill as well and cook hotdogs for everyone to enjoy! We are halfway through Philippians, and so far, it has been a joyful blessing. The Lord seems to be uplifting the saints there, and the warmth of a gospel-focused study is helping to nurture growth.




We have four families participating in the study, along with a few Ruling Elders and a deacon from Kettoctin OPC. All of whom have many kids. The Chet Hobert Park in Berryville as our setting couldn't be more ideal—wide open spaces where kids can roam freely, infusing our gatherings with youthful vitality. As we worship, curious onlookers stroll by, pausing to catch glimpses of our songs and prayers. Just last week, our voices rose in vigorous praise and fervent intercession. Who knows? In time, these passersbyers might be drawn in to savor the true Bread of Heaven through the gospel's sweet proclamation.

On the outreach front, we're stepping out boldly. I've been crafting short, engaging videos for the Bible Study's Facebook page, strategically targeting folks in Berryville. The response has been promising—several messages of interest have trickled in, sparking conversations that could soon lead to new faces among us. We're also regularly inviting folks who we meet at the park, and gearing up for an exciting evangelism push on August 14th at the local fair, where we'll have a booth to distribute gospel tracts and edifying books, inviting all to encounter the hope we hold dear. If you'd like to follow along and pray specifically for these efforts, here's the link to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557841477332>

Pastor Biggs and I are encouraged by these early fruits, and we hope that this seed will sink deep roots and bear lasting fruit. Of course, growth often requires a season in the wilderness—a time to refine hearts, testing our satisfaction in the gospel and its application to the ordinary life amid many distractions. If the Lord confirms this hunger in our midst, we're confident He'll entrust us with more sheep to shepherd. So, we labor on with joyful anticipation, committing it all to prayer.

Thank you again for standing with us in this adventure. May the God of all comfort continue to bless and unite us as one body in Christ. Pray for the families who are attending, and pray that new families would join us. Pray for much fruit in our outreach at the **Berryville County Fair on August 14th.**



Come and Join Us!

Berryville Bible Study

Every 2nd & 4th Thursday of the Month / 6:30 - 8 pm

Clark County Recreation Center (October-May)

Kiwanis Outdoor Pavilion (June-September)

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

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