



THE VISION

January 2026

***“Rooted in Christ, we equip disciples and leaders
For tomorrow’s challenges with grace and truth.”***

Disciple or Church Member

The terms *“disciple of Jesus”* and *“church member”* are often used interchangeably. However, they represent two distinct concepts with different implications for faith, commitment, and lifestyle. Understanding these differences is crucial for anyone seeking a Biblical relationship with Jesus Christ.

Disciple of Jesus: A disciple is someone who actively follows Jesus, striving to learn from His teachings and to apply them to everyday life. Discipleship is rooted in personal transformation, surrender, and growth. Jesus called His disciples to *“deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him”* (Matthew 16:24). This implies a life of devotion, sacrifice, and obedience. Being a disciple involves daily commitment to spiritual disciplines such as prayer, reading scripture, serving others, and sharing the gospel.

Church Member: A church member is someone who formally belongs to a local church congregation. Members typically attend services, participate in church activities, and may have voting rights in church affairs. Church membership provides a sense of belonging, fellowship, and support, but does not automatically equate to being a disciple. While some church members are committed disciples, others may attend for social, cultural, or familial reasons without engaging deeply in the teachings of Jesus.

While the service of church members is important for the functioning of the local church, being a church member does not necessarily indicate a personal, transformative relationship with Jesus. The Bible never explicitly mentions being a church member, but it does talk about being part of the body of Christ. The church is described as a single body with many parts (members), each with a role, emphasizing interdependence (1 Cor 12:12-27). Because we are interdependent, being part of the body of Christ means each of us are accountable to Him. In fact, Jesus taught about church discipline (Matthew 18), which requires members to be accountable to each other to address sin within the body.

(con’t on pg. 3)

***IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT
804-642-2555 OR office@gpbc.church***

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GLOUCESTER POINT BAPTIST CHURCH
7741 TERRAPIN COVE RD, PO BOX 305
GLOUCESTER POINT, VA 23062

JANUARY



Deacon's Devotional

Some Prayer Guidelines

Prayer is communication with God. Talking with Almighty God is the greatest privilege that we have.

God desires a growing relationship with you. Communication is essential for a relationship to develop. Involve God in every part of your life: every decision and every action. In that sense you should pray without ceasing -- always being in communication with God.

However, we need special prayer times focused completely on the Lord. He is worthy of our time and attention -- and we require this time with Him to develop spiritually.

Remember the instruction given in Psalm 100:4, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name." If you seem to run out of words to praise God, use some of the examples found in the book of Psalms.

Many use the model prayer, we call it the Lord's Prayer, that our Lord gave us in Matthew 6:9-13 as a guideline for their special daily prayer time. Some of the principles taught are:

First, you are praying to your Father. Second, worship and honor God. Third, pray that God's will be done before praying about your own or others' needs. Fourth, ask for God's forgiveness and help. And last, finish by praising God.

During times of prayer many find it helpful as a memory aid to have a prayer list of people and things to pray for. Also, keeping a journal of your prayer requests and answers is beneficial and will bless you tremendously as the years go by. God has answered so many of my prayer requests, I've lost count.

Always base your prayer on Scripture. Scripture is God's answer. Receiving from God in prayer involves taking His answer (His Word) to Him and receiving your request by faith.

Does God answer every prayer request? Yes, I feel he does. We never get everything we pray for because He, in his infinite wisdom, knows what is good for us and what is not. And also, we as mere mortals cannot comprehend or fathom God's master plan for us.

Kent Smith

CHURCH WORKER'S

Deacon of the Week

1.4—Keith Belvin
1.11—Bill Breeden
1.18—David Crummett
1.25—Barry Milligan

January Ushers

TBD



January Tellers

Lynn Walton
Judy Cahoon

Nursery Workers & Sun. Sch. Nursery

1.4—TBD
1.11—TBD
1.18—TBD
1.25—Madison McNeil

Younger Children's Church

1.4—Nancy Dyson
1.11—Donna Phillips
1.18—Madison McNeil
1.25—TBD

Older Children's Church

1.4—TBD
1.11—Mallory Wagner
1.18—Denise Gandee
1.25—TBD



Wednesday
28 January @ 6p



ATTENTION!

-All Children!
Join us for
"Kids in Action"
Wednesdays
6:30p—7:30p



WMU—MISSIONS MOMENT

Please pray for missionaries, their families and the communities they serve as they spread the gospel of Jesus to different people groups.

Josh & Danielle Payne—Chaplain—Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

"Pray for an open door to gospel conversations as we love the men and women of Wright-Patterson AFB."

Leo and Miosha Robinson—Church Planter—Flint, Michigan

"Pray for us to seek God in every decision and live generously in our community. Pray for teachable leaders to be raised up and sent to Good Church. Pray we find a healthy rhythm of rest for our marriage and family."

Won and Diane Kwak—Church Planter—Paramus, New Jersey

"Pray for our corporate witness as the city of God within the city of man. We desire to be a church that is faithful to the Great Commission as it lives out the Great Commandment."

Joshua and Grace Choi—Church Planter—Lawrenceville, Georgia

"Pray that we always walk deeply with our Lord Jesus Christ and fulfill the mission that God has given us."

Calvin and Christina Park—Chaplain, US Army Chaplaincy—Forney, Texas

"Pray for my son, Josh, who recently underwent major heart surgery due to heart failure and is waiting for a heart transplant. Pray that the Lord would protect his health and strengthen our family and my ministry as a chaplain."

(con't from Page 1)

Serving the local church with our gifts is important, but we must never substitute service for being a disciple of Jesus; a follower and student of His teachings, actively seeking to imitate His life and values. Recognizing the difference between discipleship and church membership challenges believers to evaluate their spiritual lives. Churches thrive when their members become disciples; passionate about growth, service, caring for one another, and sharing the gospel.

Discipleship is the very heart of being an authentic Christian. Jesus called His followers to be disciples, make disciples, and to teach them (Matthew 28). The invitation to each of us is to move beyond membership and into a life-changing journey with Christ. Which will you choose?

Keith Belvin, Servant

A Prayer for the New Year

Lord,
Whether I leave behind
a year of joy or of trials and difficulties,
I pause to *give thanks*.
Thank you for being with me
every day of every year.
Thank you for making all things **new**
and for giving me the grace of
fresh starts
and *new beginnings*.
Remind me of your presence in the days to
come,
even when I feel pushed and rushed by
busyness.
Be glorified in my life this year.

Amen

heathercking.org



Sunday Schedule

Sunday School (All Ages)—9:45a
Worship Service—11a
C.A.R.E. Ministry—2p



January 2026

Wednesday Schedule

6p—Children’s Choir
6:30p—Children & Youth Bible Study
6:30p—Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
7:30p—Choir Practice

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1 OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year	2 6:30p Men’s Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp	3
4 11a COMMUNION 2p C.A.R.E.	5	6 1p Deacons’ Mtg. 6:30p B&G	7 10a GWBS Regular Activities	8	9 6:30p Men’s Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp	10
11 Sunday Breakfast 9:15a Breakfast Children/Youth 2p C.A.R.E.	12	13 9:30a Community Morning Out	14 10a GWBS Regular Activities	15 10a Acree Circle	16 Vision Articles Due 6:30p Men’s Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp	17
18 2p C.A.R.E.	19	20 6:30p Armstrong Circle	21 10a GWBS Regular Activities	22	23 6:30p Men’s Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp	24
25 2p C.A.R.E.	26	27	28 10a GWBS 6p Family Night Supper 7p Qtly Business Mtg (No Adult Activities)	29	30 6:30p Men’s Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp	31

Birthdays:

Alice Smith	1.1
Chris Hutson	1.3
Betty Jane Duncan	1.5
Tim Owens	1.5
Ronnie Lewis	1.6
Chase Mitchell	1.12
Joan West	1.20
Jac Worth	1.20
Mike Crawford	1.24
Jeannie Fitzgerald	1.25
Alice Oldfield	1.25
John Oldfield	1.26
Ashton Walls	1.27
Charles West	1.29
David Worth	1.30



Anniversaries:

Brendan & Gabrielle Greggs	1.3
Chris & Heidi Gibbons	1.6
Doug & Chris Blaylock	1.15
Ronnie & Judy Lewis	1.20
David & Jac Worth	1.25