



THE VISION

October 2023

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”

Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

Envisioning A Spiritual Hospital

The church is not a museum for saints, it is a hospital for sinners. ~ Augustine

After engaging in conversations with many of you, both members of the Vision 2000 team and others, I've sensed a genuine level of excitement but also a touch of frustration. The excitement arises from the knowledge that God is on the verge of leading us into a new season of ministry that will profoundly impact our community and the Kingdom for generations to come. On the other hand, some of the frustration is linked to the Community Profile Study conducted by the BGAV. Many have expressed feelings as though we were advised to solely focus on *(let me be careful with my words, my daughter is very, she reminds me often I am not getting old but gaining wisdom)* "adults with wisdom".

Understandably, this has caused some frustration. We are eager to have a diverse congregation encompassing individuals of all ages, vibrant with families, and our classrooms bustling on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

I want to emphasize that while the insights from this study are valuable, we must remember that God's plans are not confined by human-generated marketing studies. From my perspective, the emphasis on "adults with wisdom" acknowledges that they may be more readily accessible for us to reach out to. By examining the data, we can discern the existing demographic emphasis within our church and identify similar segments in our community. However, it's essential to recognize that our community is diverse. God's desire is to reach individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Let's not settle for what's convenient, but instead strive for what God envisions for us. This entails casting a wide net to share the gospel with the young and the wise. We'll need to actively engage with and embrace individuals of various age groups.

(con't on Page 3)

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GLoucester Point Baptist Church
7741 Terrapin Cove Rd, PO Box 305
Gloucester Point, VA 23062



Deacon's Devotional

Ahhhhh! Autumn!

Ahhh! Autumn! Such a beautiful time of year! The air is crisp, green leaves transform to vibrant orange, red and yellow, and animals prepare for cooler weather. As we notice changes in the seasons, we can't help but reflect upon changes in our own lives. The seasons help us to mark the passage of time, to take stock of our personal lives, the cycles of growth, harvest, and rebirth, just as we witness in nature. **Reflection** is an important part of preparing ourselves for spiritual growth!

Change can be good – and in some cases, absolutely necessary. In nature, leaves and plants no longer useful, easily fall away to prepare for new growth. When we face a new season in our spiritual growth, our undesirable behaviors and sins must fall away to make room for new growth, to be replenished and reinvigorated for the work God has for us. Undesirable behavior can easily inhibit our Christian growth if unchecked. Whatever is in our life that is inhibiting our growth, God's word encourages us to....

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:18,19 (NIV))

Change, in this case, is healthy and important for Christians as they grow in faith. As we mature in our Christian walk, we are called to be sowers of the Word of God as commanded by the Great Commission.

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

And by doing so, we reap the **harvest** that Jesus speaks about in the Bible, the salvation of mankind, a returning of the hearts of man to their Creator.

“He said to his disciples, The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9:37-38)

(con't on Page 3)




October

October's the Month
When the smallest breeze
Gives us a shower
of autumn leaves.

Bonfires and pumpkins,
Leaves sailing down -
October is red
And golden and brown.

October leaves are lovely
They rustle when I run
Sometimes I make a heap
And jump in them for fun.

Autumn leaves float quietly down
And form a carpet on the ground
But when those leaves are stepped upon,
Listen for the crackling sound.

Author Unknown 



WMU—Acree Circle Operation Christmas Child

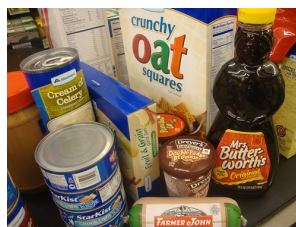


- ◆ We are collecting empty shoe boxes until October 18
- ◆ Drop-off is under counter at WMU bulletin board



HELP FOR THOSE WHO NEED FOOD

In our own area, there are those who suffer from food deprivation and the need for basic hygiene products. We are still collecting nonperishable food items and hygiene items, along with nonperishable baby food and baby hygiene items. Your donations can be brought to our church on Sunday mornings or during office hours, M-F 9am-12pm, and dropped in the box inside the Narthex entrance. Food distribution will take place on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday, prior to 11:00am at Bellamy United Methodist Church.



(Deacon Devotional con't)

Yes, autumn is a time of....*Reflection*....taking inventory of where we are in this season of life....*Change*....preparing ourselves for the new growth that God has in store, fully equipping ourselves to serve the Lord for the upcoming season and.... *Harvest*....., bringing others to know Him, so they may live life in abundance with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, thereby fulfilling the Great Commission!

As we plan for Vision 2000, there is much to do to prepare for the growth that God intends for GPBC. As a church, may we take stock of our past, clear away what is unnecessary, things that may inhibit growth, and join together, as workers in the field. Jesus needs workers for the harvest who will spread the gospel and bring light and hope to a lost world.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)

The Lord longs to empower us for the new season ahead and I look forward with anticipation to what God has in store for us as we seek His vision for GPBC!

Serving along with you,

Leslie Belvin, Deacon

For His Glory



Thank You



(Pastor's article con't)

The Vision Team is approaching the culmination of its purpose. By the end of this year, I firmly believe we'll be equipped to present to the church the vision God has graciously provided for our future. One aspect that has always resonated with me is the opportunity to mentor those aspiring to serve God in ministry roles. One significant concern has been the considerable cost associated with seminary education and the limited direct benefit it often offers to the sending church (as graduates usually do not return to serve in that specific church or community). At some point in the past, we shifted the training of future ministers, missionaries, and deacons predominantly to the academic sphere, neglecting the practical, day-to-day training that can be offered right here, locally, within our church and community.

Part of our vision will undoubtedly revolve around nurturing and equipping future leaders within our church and ultimately, for the Kingdom. I envision it akin to a hospital. Most of us only visit hospitals when we're sick, facing an emergency, or need surgery. However, a hospital is also a place where doctors and nurses undergo training to serve and aid those who are ill, where new life begins with the birth of children, and where many draw their final breath before entering eternity. This paints a beautiful picture of what I foresee our church becoming soon.

I encourage you all to maintain the excitement and avoid discouragement. We are only at the outset of this journey. God's plans far surpass any marketing strategies man may employ. Our best days lie ahead. There is a significant amount of work that God has set before us, leading up to that glorious and awe-inspiring day when we witness His arrival in the clouds.

For His Glory,
Pastor Dillon Evans



**Our
Family Night Supper—6p
&
Quarterly Business Meeting—7p
will take place on
Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

**More information on the Family Night Supper
will be forthcoming.**





Worship in Unity

The churches in Gloucester
will be having a
“**Worship in Unity**”
night at Gloucester Point Baptist Church.
Please join in worshipping God and
seeking Unity for Gloucester
Sunday, Oct 22 @ 6p

MISSIONS MOMENT

Missions Moment - Send Network Español

The growth of the Hispanic population in North America has accelerated tremendously in the past decade. Send Network Español helps churches identify, develop and send out called men who aspire to plant churches in North America by bringing all our best assessment resources, training, coaching and planter care to Spanish-speaking planters in their native language. Pray God will raise up planters who have a burning, God-given passion to reach Hispanics by starting new churches in North America, regardless of the obstacles they may face.

Missionaries to pray for:

- ◆ Johnathon and Lindsay Baggett - chaplain and church planter, Fayetteville, NC
- ◆ Angel and Vanesa Viveros - church planter - Lincoln, NE
- ◆ Juhyun and Mijung Park - church planter - Surrey, BC Canada
- ◆ Clay Myatt - church planter - Cleveland, OH

CHURCH WORKERS

Sun. Sch. Nursery

Howard Warren

Nursery Workers

- 10.1—H. Warren / T. Owens
- 10.8—L. Walton
- 10.15—TBD
- 10.22—TBD
- 10.29—B. West & C. West

Younger Children's Church

- 10.1—Nancy Dyson
- 10.8—Sonya Anthony
- 10.15—Joyce Marshall
- 10.22—R. Wells / M. Wagner
- 10.29—T. Greggs / Youth Helper

Older Children's Church

- 10.1—TBD
- 10.8—J. Sanford / B. Sanford
- 10.15—D. Gandee / M. McNeil
- 10.22—C. West / S. West
- 10.29—Connie Stewart

October Ushers

- Leslie Belvin
- Jimmy Diggs
- Amy Martin
- Gus Saunders

October Tellers

- Judy Cahoon
- Amy Martin



Deacon of the Week

- 10.1—Stewart Wood
- 10.8—Leslie Belvin
- 10.15—Bill Breeden
- 10.22—David Crummett
- 10.29—Barry Milligan



Sunday Schedule

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

October 2023

Wednesday Schedule

5:30p—CYM Supper
 6p—Children's Choir
 6:30p—Children's Bible Study
 6:30p—Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
 7:30p—Choir Practice

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11a COMMUNION 2p C.A.R.E. 3p Deacons' Mtg.	2 6:30p AHG	3 6:30p B&G Mtg. 6:30p Transport Mtg.	4 REGULAR ACTIVITIES	5	6 6:30p Men's Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp	7 10a Daniel Plan
8 Sunday Breakfast 9:15a Breakfast (Minnie Rowe) 2p C.A.R.E.	9 10a WMU Leader's Council Mtg 6:30p AHG-MT	10 9:30a Community Morning Out	11 REGULAR ACTIVITIES	12 5:30p AHG—CPR Class	13 6:30p Men's Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp	14 10a Daniel Plan
15 2p C.A.R.E.	16 VISION ARTICLES DUE 6:30p AHG	17 6:30p Armstrong Circle	18 6:30 CYM Hallelujah Party (OFH) (No Children's Choir) REGULAR ACTIVITIES	19 Acree Circle 10:00am	20 6:30p Men's Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp	21 9a Quilting Emma Crawford 10a Daniel Plan
22 2p C.A.R.E. 6p Worship in Unity	23	24	25 6p Family Night Supper 7p Qtly Business Mtg (No Adult Activities) REGULAR ACTIVITIES	26	27 6:30p Men's Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp	28 10a Daniel Plan
29 2p C.A.R.E.	30 6:30p AHG	31	1 REGULAR ACTIVITIES	2	3	4 10a Daniel Plan

October Birthdays:

Jeannie Barrera	10.2
Doug Blaylock	10.6
Merida Worth	10.9
Steven Moret	10.20
Irving Ordonia	10.21
David Strickland	10.21
Kendall Sentz (KC)	10.25
Gloria Breeden	10.27
Buddy Hogge	10.29



Anniversaries:

JC & Carrie West	10.10
Jamie & Lee Moore	10.12

