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# God Bless America!





# THE VISION

# **July 2025**

"Rooted in Christ, we equip disciples and leaders for tomorrow's challenges with grace and truth."

# **Building Disciples, Bearing Fruit, Blessing Gloucester**

"...that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified." — Isaiah 61:3 (ESV)

There's a quiet majesty in an oak tree. Firmly rooted, it weathers storms, offers shade, and stands as a testament to growth over time. In Isaiah, God promises to raise up His people as "oaks of righteousness," planted for His glory.

This is the vision God has stirred within us for Gloucester Point Baptist Church. We long to be a church firmly rooted in Christ, growing strong, bearing fruit, and offering shelter and hope to our community. We believe that as we grow deeper in Him, our branches will reach farther, blessing Gloucester and beyond.

#### **Building Disciples. Bearing Fruit. Blessing Gloucester.**

These words are more than a tagline; they are a call to action. And one of the most crucial steps we're taking to live out this call is the creation of the role of Family Discipleship Pastor.

#### **Rooted for Generations to Come**

Our children and youth stand on the front lines of a culture in flux. Every day, they face challenges we could scarcely have imagined a generation ago. They need more than programs; they need people willing to walk alongside them, pointing them to Jesus, nurturing faith that will stand the test of time.

Our Family Discipleship Pastor will be vital in helping us fulfill our vision to:

- Equip parents and guardians to disciple their children faithfully in their homes.
- Guide children and youth in discovering and growing in their personal relationship with Christ.
- Build authentic community where families find encouragement, truth, and grace for the journey.
- Raise up future leaders who may one day service as pastors, missionaries, teachers, and Christ-followers in every field.
  - This role is not merely a staff position—it's an investment in our church's future and in the Kingdom of God. It proclaims that we are committed to building disciples who, like oaks of righteousness, will stand strong and bear fruit for generations.

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#### **Both the Tree and the Forest are Important**

Unless you missed it, which would indicate a need to be more engaged in the life of our church, you witnessed how successfully the efforts behind supporting the Youth Mission Trip unfolded. As this edition of *The Vision* is distributed, the team is packing their

bags in anticipation of making a real impact on the lives of hurricane victims in Southwest Virginia. I am eternally grateful for the way our church stepped up to go as well as those who couldn't go but made going possible for others.

I'm a detail-oriented person who plans ahead. That's probably not a shock to many but it can be frustrating for people who prefer to let things flow and unfold as they will. The old saying "you can't see the forest for the trees" comes to mind. For a person who focuses on the detailed steps in a process, the trees become the object of our focus. It could be suggested that fully supporting our Youth Mission Team should be demonstrated by the church funding the trip rather than holding fundraisers. But consider that doing so would rob the youth (whether going or not) of being part of the process of enabling others to go on this ministry adventure and it would have eliminated the creative ways the leaders brought the church and community together for this project. What an outstanding way to teach our youth the value of working towards something as a group and earning the resources to accomplish a goal! I saw a lot of busy little bees at the Spaghetti Dinner as the youth served meals, and I saw people partaking who have never been to our church. I sincerely hope they will come again. That engagement of church and community is the forest, the bigger picture.

Admittedly, the idiom of not seeing the forest for the trees isn't found in the Bible. But the concept of focusing on trivial details while missing the overarching message is. We can find it Paul's second letter to the Corinthians when he defends his authority and actions as coming from God. We also see it in the gospel of Mark when Jesus pointed out the disciples' failure to see the spiritual message after He performed the miracle of feeding the crowd with loaves and fishes from a young boy's lunch. Being a person who plans isn't a sin and, when it allows collaboration with those who look further out in their vision, working together is a blessing. God uses imperfect people to accomplish His perfect plan as we find balance in enjoying the details of the trees and the beauty of the forest together.

Debra Wood

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#### Church Volunteers



#### **CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We're quickly running out of 2025 and the Nominating Committee has started looking for volunteers for 2026.

If you are interested in working with 2026 Church Committees, teaching or just helping at GPBC, let the Nominating Committee know what you're interested in. You

are invited to sit in on church committee meetings (as a non-voting observer – some meetings may be restricted), ask church workers about their church positions or speak with Nominating Committee members, Pastor Dillon or Church Deacons.

For questions, contact: Paul Greggs 804.815.8279 OR

Mike Crawford 804.693.5459

## **WMU- Missionary Moment**

Please pray for missionaries and their special requests as they share the gospel of Jesus to the people and communities they serve.

#### D.G. and M.G- Chaplain- United States Army- Phenix City, Alabama

"Pray for God's favor to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the great men and women who serve our nation. Pray for our family — our kids Lydia, Trinity, Moriah, and Gabe — as we navigate military life together and seek to be obedient to whatever environment God places us in."

#### T.M. - Church Planter - La Crescenta, CA

"Pray for the development of godly leaders as we use circuit preaching teams to plant churches in the isolated areas of Wyoming. Pray for God to enable our church to remain healthy and thrive as a church planting hub in our state."

#### D.B. and T.B - Church Planter - Miami Gardens, Florida

"Pray for our core group and our city. Pray for God to be glorified and His name made known. Pray for our family to stay focused on the cross. Pray for wisdom to lead God's people to the foot of the cross."

#### G.M. and S.M. - Church Planter - Groveport, Ohio

"Pray that we will continue to seek the will of God and guide others to the Light that brings life. Pray that we continue to engage in the community and build relationships as we push forward to our launch."

#### A.D. and T.D. -Church Planter- Box Elder, South Dakota

"Pray for us as we reach Native Americans and Air Force members in our community. Pray God would raise up leaders as our church grows. Pray for release from the financial burden of our original building lease."

Calling

Children!



Wonderful Wednesday Nature Camp

Come join us and learn about God the Creator and His amazing creation.

You'll even plant your own garden to take home! We will meet on Wednesdays at 6:30pm-7:30pm



#### Bearing Fruit and Blessing Gloucester

The ministry of our Family Discipleship Pastor will extend beyond our church walls. As families grow stronger in Christ, they will carry His light into schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and homes. The fruit of this discipleship will spill over into Gloucester, blessing our community with the hope, love, and truth of the gospel. This is how we live out the vision God has given us:

"Rooted in Christ, we equip disciples and leaders for tomorrow's challenges with grace and truth."

Church family, let's pray earnestly for the one God is preparing to join us in this role. Let's ready our hearts to partner in this vital work. And let's trust that the God who plants oaks of righteousness will bring forth fruit beyond what we can imagine—for His glory.

If you know someone who might be called to serve as our Family Discipleship Pastor, please encourage them to learn more and apply at

gpbc.church/family-discipleship-pastor.

Together—rooted in Christ—we are building disciples, bearing fruit, and blessing Gloucester.

For His Glory,

Pastor Dillon Evans

# CHURCH WORKERS

### **Deacon of the Week**

7.6—Kent Smith

7.13—Sharon Warren

7.20—Martha West

7.27—Debra Wood

#### **July Ushers**

Leslie Belvin

Jimmy Diggs Amy Martin

Gus Saunders

#### **July Tellers**

Judy Cahoon Lynn Walton



#### **Nursery Workers**

7.6—Julia & Virginia Dawson / Christie Riedel

7.13—Jac Worth

7.20—Ashley Stotesberry-Henson

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7.27—Madison McNeil

#### Younger Children's Church

7.6—Nancy Dyson

7.13—Donna Phillips

7.20—Madison McNeil

7.27—Christie Riedel

#### Older Children's Church

7.6—Ashley Stotesberry-Henson

7.13—Mallory Wagner

7.20—Denise Gandee

7.27—Jayme Sanford

## **Sunday Schedule**

Sunday School (All Ages)—9:45a Worship Service—11:00a C.A.R.E. Ministry—2p



# **Wednesday Schedule**

6p—Children's Choir
6p—Youth in Action
6:30p—Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
7:30p—Adult Choir Practice

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1 1p Deacons' Mtg. 6p B&G Mtg. 6p B&G	2 Regular Activities	3	INDEPENDENCE DAY	5
6 COMMUNION 2p C.A.R.E.	7 1:30p Encourager's Bible Study	8	9 Regular Activities	10	6:30p Men's Bible Study 7:00p Serenity Grp	12
Sunday Breakfast 9:15a Breakfast (Thomas Curtis/Minnie Rowe) 2p C.A.R.E.	1:30p Encourager's Bible Study	7p Speak-Up Mtg.	VISION ARTICLES DUE  Regular Activities	17	6:30p Men's Bible Study 7:00p Serenity Grp.	19
20 2p C.A.R.E.	21 10a WMU Leader's Council Mtg. 1:30p Encourager's Bible Study	VBS Mon 6p	23 D—8:30p/Tue—Fr	i 6:30p-8:30p	25	26
27 2p C.A.R.E.	28 1:30p Encourager's Bible Study	29	30  Regular  Activities	31	7 6:30p Men's Bible Study 7:00p Serenity Grp.	2

# **July Birthdays:**



# **Anniversaries:**

Logan & Elizabeth Hutson	7.7
Tim & Lorraine Chapman	7.8
Jeff & Linda Breaks	7.10
John & Alice Oldfield	7.14
Charles & Betty Jane Dun-	7.20
Stewart & Debra Wood	7.28