WHO IS GOOD NEWS CHURCH (PCA)?

Good News Church is an evangelical, conservative, Bible-believing church located in northern Delaware and is a member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA, Heritage Presbytery). We joyfully and unashamedly preach and teach the entire content of the Holy Bible, which we believe is the inerrant, inspired Word of the Living God.

MISSION

The mission of Good New Church is to connect people to the Good News about Jesus. We seek to carry out our mission through what we call the “Gracious Cycle” of the good news, which represents the never-ending cycle of the Christian life. The Gracious Cycle is a model of ministry for leading people at all stages of the Christian life (from seekers to new believers to mature saints) to:

- Explore the Good News through hearing the preaching of the Word and personal and group Bible study.
- Enjoy the good news through corporate and personal worship.
- Express the Good News through evangelism, service and personal growth in holiness and grace.
HISTORY

From the start, Good News Church has been a fellowship of believers on a mission for Christ. The church was built on the foundation of the Bible, the importance of fellowship, and a strong commitment to nurturing God’s children in His Word. Good News Church had its humble beginnings back in the early 1950s in northern Delaware when a group of faithful women with a heart for the lost started a home evangelism program for children. This blossomed into a spiritual fellowship that prompted the adults to begin meeting in their homes to study the Word of God and to share in the blessings of that fellowship. After meeting in a local fire hall, by 1956 the church was located on a tract of land on Kirkwood Highway, incorporated as “Berea Bible Presbyterian Church” as part of the Delmarva Presbytery, and was known by the community for its front “bright red doors.” In 1971 continued growth in membership led the body to purchase the property in Hockessin, Delaware where our current church building is located. In the spirit of serving the Lord, members worked shoulder to shoulder with one another to complete the church building in 1973. Our current Fellowship Hall, library, kitchen, and classrooms were added in 1993, and a gym, new kitchen room, additional restrooms, and storage were added in 2010.

In 2018, the Session became convicted that the church had become like the church in Ephesus (Rev 2:1-7), having become too internally focused, and had abandoned its first love of outreach and evangelism. The Session then led the church in a season of repentance and embarked on a journey of recovery and renewal. Major steps along this journey taken in 2018 and 2019 included the following:

- Renamed our church to bring focus and attention to our new mission: changed name from Berea Presbyterian Church to Good News Church (PCA).
- Refreshed and enhanced many elements of our church facility and outward-facing promotions, including displaying a new road sign, upgrading the website, renovating the welcome center, upgrading the A/V system in the sanctuary, implementing digital giving, and expanding our social media presence.
- Added a full-time “Director of Outreach & Administration” staff position.
- Hired an Assistant Pastor to renew our praise, youth and family ministries.
- Conducted the “Good News Explored” course (patterned after “Christianity Explored”) in 2018 and 2019 as a community outreach.
- Conducted a home-grown evangelism training program titled “Mission Possible,” with broad participation from the congregation.
CONGREGATION

We are blessed at Good News Church to have a congregation that is committed to the faithful preaching and teaching of the whole counsel of God, and desires to grow in love for, and obedience to, our Lord and King Jesus Christ.

We currently have 176 communicant members who live mainly in northern Delaware and southern Pennsylvania.

Historically we have had a very transient congregation with many people each year routinely rotating in and out due to corporate relocations and retirements, however this dynamic has decreased significantly over the past 10 years and we have experienced more stability in our membership. We were blessed to add 31 new members in 2019 because of our renewed outreach and revitalization.

With the increased stability of our congregation, like many churches we are experiencing an aging congregation and have fewer young families. Currently almost 50% of our congregation is over the age of 60. We have about 50 children and youth – many of these are in high school and college.

LEADERSHIP

After 23 years of faithful service to our church, our beloved senior pastor JR Reap resigned in August 2020 due to chronic health issues; ruling elder Eric Youngdale is serving as interim Session moderator in JR’s absence.

Assistant Pastor John O came on staff in August 2018 and is responsible for the praise and youth ministries. John is handling the majority of the preaching in JR’s absence, and is also a chaplain in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Eric Youngdale, a ruling elder, joined the staff in April 2018 as Director of Outreach and Administration.

Leslie Peel serves as Church Administrator.

Good News Church currently has 4 active ruling elders and 1 elder-in-training, and 6 active deacons and 2 deacons-in-training.
MINISTRIES

Our church has traditionally offered a variety of ministries in support of our mission including:

- Sunday morning teaching (aka “Sunday School”) for all ages
- Men’s and women’s Bible studies throughout the week
- Fellowship Groups that meet during the week either at church or in member’s homes
- Youth programs for all ages
- Various mercy service projects led by our deacons
- Community-based ministries such as DivorceCare/DC4K and homeless ministry
- Missions ministries such as short-term missions trips and a Missions Ministry Team that supports the missionaries and agencies financially supported by our church

The COVID pandemic has caused us to pause and rethink how to manage many of these ministries, and we are slowly but surely finding ways to safely continue.

While we sought to bring more focus to our local community outreach as part of our 2018 revitalization activities, we believe that there is much more work to be done and local community outreach needs to be a priority moving forward for our church.

CORPORATE WORSHIP

We have one corporate worship service on Sunday at 10 am and our average attendance pre-COVID was 134 in 2019. We averaged about 50 attenders immediately after resuming in-person worship services in June 2020 and have been steadily increasing since then.

We strive to follow the regulative principle of corporate worship on the Lord’s Day, focusing on singing, praying, reading and preaching the Word of God, and communion (2x / month).

Our active praise and worship team strives to strike a balance between traditional hymns and Christ-centered contemporary praise songs.
LOCAL COMMUNITY

Hockessin, Delaware is an unincorporated ten-square-mile area in the northwest corner of New Castle County just below the Pennsylvania line consisting of about 16,000 residents. Wilmington, Delaware’s largest city, is located 7.5 miles to the east.

The homes in Hockessin value at approximately $430,000 and the residential household income is about $113,000. Most residents are college graduates.

There are several elementary and secondary schools (both public and private) and a few colleges / universities within easy driving distance of the church.

The climate is temperate (high 30’s to low 40’s being the winter average and the upper 80’s being the summer average) with about 5-6 inches of annual snowfall on average.

The area has one major road, Route 41 (Lancaster Pike) traversing it as well as a variety of easily accessible shops, restaurants, and parks.

For recreational purposes, skiing, big cities, and beaches are all within a two-hour drive.

Overall, Hockessin is a very vibrant and desirable suburban community accommodating to both family and ministerial goals. For more information visit www.visitwilmingtonde.com.

FINANCES

God has blessed Good News Church with a solid financial position, a faithful diaconate committed to responsible stewardship, and a congregation of faithful givers.

The mortgage on the church property was paid off in 2019, and we have been able to handle several recent needed infrastructure investments without incurring additional debt.

The budget for calendar year 2020 is $450,000, with approximately 50% covering personnel expenses and 15% designated to local, national and international missions. The remainder of the budget is for general operating expenses and local church ministries.

Additional non-budgeted annual diaconal support varies each year depending on the level of need and was $19,000 in 2019.

In 2010 the church completed a $1.1 million building expansion which added a gym, classroom/kitchen, and connector hall.

FUTURE & SENIOR PASTOR POSITION

While our Lord has blessed Good News Church immensely over its history, we recognize that we face many challenges as we seek to be faithful to our mission and have a gospel impact in our local communities in the future. We are blessed with faithful leaders and a congregation that loves our church and desires to see it thrive and advance of the Kingdom of Christ.

The church’s current priority is to diversify our membership by reaching out to the local community. We are seeking a new senior pastor with the passion, energy, and gifts to lead us in this journey. A job description is provided on the following pages.
SENIOR PASTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Senior Pastor is a full-time, ordained pastoral staff member who leads the congregation of Good News Church to carry out its mission of connecting people to the good news about Jesus. He faithfully preaches and teaches the whole counsel of God as contained in the Holy Bible, shepherds and disciplines his flock with humility and lovingkindness, and seeks the lost earnestly.

Together with the other elders, the Senior Pastor provides the vision, spiritual oversight, and leadership necessary for Good News Church to advance the Kingdom of Christ in Hockessin and the surrounding communities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Oversee corporate worship and fulfill the primary preaching role
- Provide vision, leadership and guidance for the staff and ministry lay leaders
- Oversee discipleship and teaching ministries
- Foster a spirit and culture of intentional outreach and evangelism within the congregation
- Cultivate a culture of congregational fellowship and unity within the body
- Represent Good News Church in the community and model Jesus in his relationships
- Develop a vision and plan for revitalization of Good News Church

KEY QUALIFICATIONS

- Ordained in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) or other reformed denomination that assents to the Scriptural doctrines set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Larger and Shorter Catechism
- Minimum five (5) years of experience in pastoral ministry
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Passion and demonstrated competency to faithfully and skillfully preach and teach the whole counsel of God in a way that adheres to the doctrines of the reformed faith while making the truths of Scripture accessible and applicable to people of all levels of spiritual maturity
- A shepherd's / servant's heart for helping the body of believers at Good News Church grow in their love for, and obedience to, Jesus Christ
- Necessary passion, skills, and commitment to lead Good News Church in a season of revitalization and meaningful gospel impact in the local communities
- A heart for the lost that models and inspires a culture of outreach and evangelism within the congregation