



Goshen Messenger

Politics, Christian Witness, and Virginia's Constitution

I love the United States of America. I am thankful and proud to be an American. I believe America is the greatest country in the history of the world. Our Declaration of Independence states very clearly the ideal on which our nation was founded: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." That was a revolutionary claim in 1776. We haven't always lived up to that ideal, but we continue to pursue together a more perfect union.

As citizens of the United States of America, I believe we all have a responsibility to seek the good of our nation. We do that each time we cast our ballot in an election. We do that through public service. We also do it through engaging the political process in many other ways.

As Christians, we do not check our Christianity at the door when we step into the voting booth, run for public office, or engage the political process. In fact, we can't. We are followers of Jesus. He has saved us. He has radically transformed our lives. And there is no area of our lives that remains untouched by the Lordship of Jesus.

The Apostle Paul reminded the Colossian church, "For by [Jesus] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him" (Col. 1:16). He then exhorted them a little later in the letter, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col. 3:17).

This is regular Christian living. Because Jesus is Lord of all, followers of Jesus reject any argument that says Christians should not be involved in the public square or that we have to check our beliefs at the door if we are going to engage. We do everything, including voting, in the name of the Lord Jesus.

However, we don't do partisan politics at Goshen. We pray for our leaders. We encourage you to vote. But we don't try to tell you for whom to vote. The primary reason is that our church is focused on building a kingdom that is not of this world. We want to be good citizens here and seek the welfare of our community, but we also recognize that followers of Jesus are sojourners and exiles in this present world. "Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20).

Jesus gave the church its marching orders in Matthew 28 when He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:18-20). This Great Commission from the Lord Jesus should guide everything we do together as a church.

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Part of making disciples and “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” is teaching God’s people how to apply the Bible to all of life, including politics. But the Great Commission is not about getting out the vote, winning elections, or taking America back for God. It is about Jesus and His eternal kingdom which has come and will come and will never fail. Christ will build His church, and the gates of hell will never prevail against it.

All of that brings me to the primary point of this article.

This November you will have the opportunity to vote on two amendments to the Virginia Constitution. There are actually three amendments being proposed, but two of them are of special concern for Christians. One addresses the definition of marriage in the Virginia Constitution. The other deals with the issue of abortion. I believe it is my responsibility as your pastor to speak very clearly to you about these two moral issues.

I want to be clear because God is clear. Marriage, as designed by God in Creation, is the one-flesh union of one man and one woman for life (Gen. 2:24). Even nature testifies to God’s design in Creation. Procreation requires one male and one female. Mankind has devised a myriad of ways to suppress this truth, but the truth remains. God is the Creator of marriage, which means that He gets to define the terms. You and I do not get to determine what marriage is and what it is not. Neither does the state get to determine what marriage is and what it is not. Only God defines what is true marriage.

Regarding abortion, the Bible is clear that the baby in the womb is a human being created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27). David declared in Psalm 139, “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Ps. 139:13-14). When Elizabeth was visited by her relative Mary, the mother of Jesus, the Bible says that the “baby leaped in her womb” (Lk. 1:41). The sixth commandment, “You shall not murder,” reminds us that God values human life, and we should too (Ex. 20:13). If you’ve ever seen an ultrasound, you know that the baby in the womb is a human being worthy of full dignity and protection. Christians should be people who defend the full dignity of all human life from the womb to the tomb.

It is impossible for us as Christians to separate the clear teaching of the Bible concerning marriage and the sanctity of human life from what we know is good and right for all mankind. We do not oppose homosexual marriage and abortion because we want to oppress people or stomp on their rights. We oppose homosexual marriage and abortion because we know that what is best for human flourishing is life according to God’s design. Good laws promote human flourishing. Bad laws undermine human flourishing.

You can find links to both proposed amendments at www.sbcv.org/lifeandmarriage/.

The marriage amendment strikes from the Virginia Constitution language limiting marriage to one man and one woman. It also adds language preventing the state from denying a marriage license to any two adult persons. This amendment doesn’t change current practice because of the Obergefell SCOTUS decision in 2015. However, Christians should oppose the amendment because the current language in the Virginia Constitution regarding marriage as the union of one man and one woman is a testimony to the truth about marriage. One of the purposes of the law is to serve as a teacher of what is right.

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The abortion amendment uses the language of reproductive freedom to create what is essentially a universal right to abortion for any reason in the Virginia Constitution. While the amendment does permit state law to regulate third trimester abortions, it gives physicians broad discretion to approve third trimester abortions for any reason determined to impact the mental health of the mother. There are also legitimate questions about how the amendment will be applied when it comes to parental notification for minors seeking an abortion.

Because the Bible is clear regarding both marriage and the sanctity of human life, I encourage you to vote "NO" on both of these amendments. Election day is November 3. The polls will open for early voting on September 18.

While I am the one writing this article, I am doing so after discussion with the other elders about these issues. We are united in our approach to these matters dealing with politics, Christian witness, and the proposed amendments. We take seriously our responsibility to shepherd God's church. We want to make disciples faithfully by teaching God's people to observe all that He has commanded. If you have any questions about how we are thinking through these issues, please do not hesitate to speak with us. We would love to talk about it with you.

For the Lord Jesus and His Eternal Kingdom,

Pastor Adam

SBCV Missions Offering...We are collecting our Vision Virginia State Missions Offering in the month of September. This offering supports important ministries of our state convention like church planting, disaster relief, seminary scholarships, church strengthening, and many other important projects. Our church goal is \$5,000. More info about this offering is available at sbcv.org/visionvirginia.

Youth Conference...We will be having our annual youth conference on Saturday, September 12 from 9:45am-3pm. This event is open to students grades 6-12. Come join us for a powerful worship, Biblical teaching, thought-provoking break outs, and community and connection with one another. Registration can be found on our website under the ministries dropdown. Please contact Sarah Martin at goshen.sarah.m@gmail.com for questions or more information.

Goshen at FredNats...You are invited to join our Goshen family at the FredNats game on Friday, September 4. The game is at 6:35pm and will include fireworks after the game. Our ticket block will be in section 23 on the FredNats side of the field. Tickets are \$10 each. You can sign up in the church app or on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Payment can be made in the app when you sign up or by placing your money in the offering plate and labeling it for FredNats tickets. We have a limited number of tickets reserved, so sign up ASAP. Contact Pastor Adam with any questions.

Youth First Friday...There will be no First Friday on September 4th.

Spotsylvania Elementary Fall Festival...Spotsylvania Elementary School will be having a fall festival on Saturday, September 26 from 11- 2. Goshen will be supplying pumpkins for this event. We would also like to have some members volunteer to be there to interact and engage with students and their families, as well as help with set-up and tear down. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Winnie Boyce or the church office.

Acevedo Family at Goshen...We are excited to host Christian and Valeria Acevedo and their family on Sunday, September 13. They are our church planting partners in Puerto Rico with Iglesia Bautista Castillo Fuerte. Christian will be speaking during our youth conference on September 12. Christian will also preach during our worship service on September 13. We will have a pizza fellowship lunch that day following the worship service. Please bring a dessert to share.

Community Outreach...We will be delivering a pizza dinner to the teachers and staff of 80 at Spotsylvania Elementary on Thursday, September 17 at 4pm. We are looking for a few volunteers to help deliver and set up. We would also like to provide dessert. If you would like to provide a dessert you can sign up on the bulletin board. Desserts can be brought to the fellowship hall no later than Thursday, September 17 at noon. Please contact Winnie Boyce with any questions.

Homecoming...Mark your calendar for Goshen's Homecoming 2026 on Sunday, October 4! We will be celebrating Pastor Adam's 10-year anniversary as Goshen's pastor.

Children's Church...Children ages 4-7 are invited to participate on September 6th, 20th, and 27th when they are dismissed right before the sermon. We are in need of more volunteers so that we are able to offer it more often. If you have any questions or are interested, please contact Laura Bonner at laurabonner511@gmail.com.

Ladies Bible Study...The ladies Bible study will begin on Tuesday, September 15 at 9:30am at the home of Mary Vakos. They will be studying *The Names of God* by Kristi McLelland, Carolina Saunders, Blair Linne, Jennifer Rothchild, Kelly Minter, and Elizabeth Woodson. This is an 8-week study. Please contact Mary Vakos at 540-226-2078 for questions.

Systematic Theology III...Pastor Adam will be teaching Systematic Theology III on Sunday evenings beginning September 6. The course will cover the doctrine of the church and the doctrine of last things. This is the third course in a series of three systematic theology courses, but you do not have to have taken the first two courses to participate in this one. Our textbook for the course will be Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology. You will experience the most benefit from the course if you have a copy of the book and read the chapters being taught that week prior to class. However, reading the chapters is not a requirement for the course. Registration for the course is open in the church app. When registering, you will have the option of purchasing a copy of Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem. You can also register for the course without purchasing the book. The charge for the book is \$30. It is the same book used for all three Systematic Theology courses. There is no charge for the course if you do not want a copy of the book. You can also purchase the book on your own.

Men's Bible Study...Some of our Goshen men will be leading a video-driven men's Bible study called *Footsteps of Paul: Bold Brotherhood, Gospel Mission* beginning Saturday, September 19. The study is by Tony Merida who pastors Imago Dei Church in Raleigh, NC. The group will meet each Saturday at 8am for 8 weeks at the church either in the fellowship hall or the large room in the basement depending on availability. The cost of the book for the study is \$15. This includes access to the study videos on your own in case you miss a week or two of the study. You can sign up for the study either in the Goshen app or on the bulletin board in the main hallway. If you sign up in the app, you will need to pay for your book at that time. If you sign up on the bulletin board, you can pay by turning your money into the church office or placing it in the offering plate with a note that it is for your book for the men's Bible study. Please sign up as soon as possible so we can make sure we have enough books prior to the start of the study. Contact Pastor Adam with any questions.

Goshen Guild...Goshen Guild will start back up on Sunday, September 27. More information can be found on our website. Please contact Sarah Martin with questions.

AWANA Donations...Throughout the AWANA year children are invited to shop at the "AWANA Store". This 'store' has small trinkets, games, fidgets, small toys, and other items for kids of all ages. We are looking for some help in stocking these items. You can find a QR code to our Amazon wish list on the bulletin board. All items can be dropped off in the fellowship hall. Thank you for helping support this ministry!

Wednesday Prayer Meeting...Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting has resumed. The group will meet from 6:30pm-7:30pm in the senior Sunday School classroom each week that AWANA and youth group are in session.

Church Bonfire...We will be having our church family bonfire on Friday, October 16 at 6pm. More information and details to come soon!

Christmas Cantata...We're excited to invite you to be a part of a special combined Christmas Cantata with Goshen Baptist Church and Piney Branch Baptist Church on Saturday, December 12. If you enjoy singing and would like to join this meaningful celebration, we would love you to participate. Our next rehearsal will be Sunday, September 13 at 2pm. If you're interested, please contact Travis Earley at tsearley91@gmail.com or 434-420-8536.

CPR Training...Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 1 at 1pm. We are excited to let you know that Gwyneth's Gift Foundation will be coming to Goshen to host a training for our church family. Gwyneth's Gift Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness of CPR and AEDs. This training will not certify anyone but will give us the knowledge we need in case of an emergency. If you are interested in joining us for this training, please reach out to Laura Bonner at laurabonner511@gmail.com.

Upcoming Church Trips...We're excited to announce two upcoming trips! This year we will be returning to Christmas Town at Busch Gardens for another festive outing! Then, in March or April, we're planning a trip to Sight and Sound Theater to see Jonah! Official dates, times, and prices for both trips will be announced soon. Church bus space is limited, so if you're interested in joining us, please contact Travis Earley.

Red Cross Blood Drive...We will be hosting a blood drive here in the fellowship hall on Thursday, October 15 from 10am-3pm. There are still plenty of spots available to schedule an appointment or to donate. You may schedule online at redcrossblood.org.

Red Cross Volunteers...Goshen will be hosting a blood drive on Thursday, October 15 from 10am-3pm and we are looking for volunteers to be at the check-in table to handle the registration of those coming in to give blood. There are 2 shifts. 9:45am-12:30pm or 12:30pm-3pm, or you can volunteer for the entire time. If you are interested, please reach out to the church office at 540-786-7500 or goshenchurch@goshenbaptistchurch.net.

Emails From Goshen...Are you on our church email list? If you have not been getting our emails, please let us know so we can add you to the list.

Sermon & Bible Notes...You can take sermon and Bible notes in our church event using the YouVersion Bible app. It will save your notes for access at any time. When you are in the app, select More>Events and search for Goshen Baptist.

Goshen Merch Shop...We now have an online Goshen Merch Shop which you can find at <https://thechurch.shop/shop/goshenbaptist/>. The shop has various clothing items in multiple colors with our Goshen logo and new items have been added. You will pay for your items directly at the link and they will ship directly to you. If there is something you would like to see in the shop, please let the office know, and we may be able to make it happen based on availability.

Goshen Baptist Church Mobile App...Have you downloaded our church app (available from the app store) on your device? Search for Goshen Baptist Church in the app store. Make sure to enable push notifications through the app. You can also listen to or watch past sermons, share prayer requests, connect with a group, and access online giving. Contact the church office with questions.

Online Giving...We offer convenient online giving through our website at goshenbaptistchurch.net and in the Goshen Baptist Church app.

Prayer Requests...One of the groups we offer in our new Goshen app is our Prayer Community. We encourage you to join this group and use this tool for your prayer requests. This is an easy and great way to get requests out immediately without having to go through the church office. If you have any questions about the app or how to join one of the groups, please contact the office.

New to Goshen?...Are you new to Goshen? If you have not had an opportunity to have a visit with Pastor Adam, he would love the opportunity to sit down with you, get to know you, and answer any questions you may have about our church. Would you send him an email at pastoradamblosser@gmail.com? Please include your name, the names of other family members, and the best way to get in touch with you.

Groups at Goshen...Have you gotten connected to one of our Bible study and fellowship groups at Goshen? Growth in our understanding of God's Word often happens in the context of a small group Bible study. We all also need fellowship with other Christians. At Goshen, we have lots of options for getting connected. See the following list and contact the church office with any questions.

Small Group Options...

- **Sonshine Class (Mary Vakos, Connie Laskowski, Mark Jones)**
What: Master Work Bible Study
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **The Seekers (Josh & Haley Grimes)**
What: Study of the Epistles
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **The Seniors (Robert Daniel)**
What: The Gospel Project
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **Bible 101 (Wade Haney & Bob Kelly)**
What: Basic Bible Study
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **Elementary – Grades K-2 (Kaitlin Laskowski & Serenity Hague, Laura Bonner & JoBeth Neuberger)**
What: The Gospel Project
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **Elementary – Grades 3-5 (Dale Trigg, Laura Dye, & Mary Eure)**
What: The Gospel Project
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **Youth – Grades 6-12 (Sarah & Michael Martin)**
What: The Book of Matthew
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **Evening Ladies Bible Study (Linda Shrum)**
What: Study of the Book of Acts
When: Thursdays at 6:30pm (offsite)
- **Ladies Bible Study (Mary Vakos)**
What: *The Names of God* by multiple authors
When: Tuesdays at 9:30am (offsite)
- **Mens Bibe Study (Josh Grimes, Bob Kelly, Rick Moore, Robert Daniel)**
What: *Footsteps of Paul: Bold Brotherhood, Gospel Mission*
When: Saturdays at 8am
- **Systematic Theology III (Adam Blosser)**
What: Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology
When: Sundays at 5pm
- **Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Meeting (Lee Brothers & Adam Blosser)**
What: Study of Exodus
When: Wednesdays at 6:30pm



Please visit or call and make their day special too!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Aurie McGee
540.582.2892
P.O. Box 539
Spotsylvania, VA 22551 | 5. Donnie & Carolyn Wheeler
540.786.0606
10027 Piney Branch Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553 |
| 2. Carol Walker
540.848.1942
9208 Mill Pond Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22551 | 6. Margaret Stanchik
540.898.6069
10111 Hillside Lane
Fredericksburg, VA 22408 |
| 3. Rose Rudd
540.786.6520
6355 Autumn Leaf Circle
Fredericksburg, VA 22407 | 7. Virginia Ashley
11116 Catharpin Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553 |
| 4. Ed & Edna Carter
2700 Cowan Blvd Apt. 101
Fredericksburg, VA 22401 | |



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

02 Leah Dye
03 Josh Grimes, Chris Czubowicz
05 Nicole Neuberger
08 Desiree Warlick, Rick Moore
09 Sharon Houston, Mitchell Brothers
15 Alicia Moore
17 Jacob Mallory
18 Abigail Dye
19 Wade Fournier
21 Lee Brothers, Hannah Bonner, Meredith Alty
27 Joanne Goodin
29 Mary D. Vakos, Abigail Bonner

TELLERS...

Terry & Vickie Falls, Ted & Susan Schubel

Deacon/Elder of the Week...

9/6 – Warren Payne

9/13 – Al Bonner

9/20 – Connie Laskowski

9/27 – Bob Kelly

Greeters...

9/6 – Terry & Vickie Falls

9/13 – Winnie Boyce & Linda Kerr

9/20 – Wade Haney & Lona Butcher

9/27 – Al & Eve Bonner

Nursery...

9/6 – 9:30am – Ashley Blosser, Karen Jones

10:30am – Karen Jones, Mary Fournier

9/13 – 9:30am – Ashley Blosser, Laura Bonner

10:30am – Serenity Hague, Linda Kerr

9/20 – 9:30am – Ashley Blosser, Laura Bonner

10:30am – Eve Bonner, Karen Jones

9/27 – 9:30am – Ashley Blosser, Laura Bonner

10:30am – Cookie Sodergren, Sabrina Perry

Children's Church...

9/6 – Nathan Brothers & Jordan Brokaw

9/13 – *no children's church*

9/20 – Laura Bonner, Sabrina Perry, Shane Perry

9/27 – Mike & Sarah Martin