



**Beyond  
these Walls**

LIFTING MISSIONS  
BY LOWERING DEBT

September 20, 2020

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## **PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE**

David Orr

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## THE GREAT COMMISSION

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, 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 28:19-20

## THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

—Matthew 22:37-39

We believe that a GREAT COMMITMENT to the GREAT COMMISSION and the GREAT COMMANDMENT will grow a GREAT CHURCH.

## OUR PRIORITY AND GOAL

Conduct the “Beyond these Walls” Capital Campaign October 18—November 15, 2020.

*This will allow us to:*

- Pay down a large amount of existing debt on the Worship Center/Atrium. Every dollar that comes in between now and September 2022 will go to pay down principal.
- Money saved by not paying interest and through lower monthly payments will be applied to local missions efforts here in the Annapolis/Anne Arundel County area.

## THIS ALL STARTED IN DECEMBER 2007

December, 2007, the Weems Creek family launched into a gigantic, bold, God-sized faith journey. The vision was for a new worship center and educational wing that would provide space for an expanded ministry. We dedicated ourselves to “make room for more.” We pledged to go forward in faith, trusting God to provide for what He willed to accomplish. Now 12 ½ years into this journey, by the power and grace of God, we are in awe of all that God has done:

- More than \$3.3 million received in contributions for the construction. At the same time, Annual Budget Receipts have grown 128%.
- The parking lot was expanded and all storm water management done without borrowing.
- The beautiful new Worship Center & Atrium was dedicated in January 2014.
- The beautiful new educational wing was completed & dedicated in December 2017.
- Costs associated with these projects totaled just over \$6 million. We presently owe \$2.062 million.
- God has enabled us to add two full-time pastoral staff plus one part-time Pastor.
- God has expanded our missions participation both at home and internationally. This year we will invest more than \$170,000 in local, national, and international missions Beyond these Walls. And we can do more! Yes, we can lift missions right here in Annapolis by lowering our debt!



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## A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

The greater Annapolis area is a strategically significant mission field. Annapolis is the state capitol and a vital part of the Washington, D.C./Baltimore region.

- We live in one of the most unreached regions of the country in terms of church attendance, Bible reading, spiritual interest, and evangelical presence.
- We also live in one of the most influential regions in the world.

Weems Creek has been steadily growing for the last 26 years. We are healthy, unified, and eager to do our part in reaching men and women, boys and girls for Christ. God has called us to **Bring them in, Build them up, & Send them out!**

*We are a seeking church.* In the parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:15-24), Jesus challenges us to go and bring them in “that my house will be full” (v. 23). Jesus said, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10). Luke 15 records the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. God takes the initiative and seeks after us. We love Him because he first loved us (1 John 4:9-10, 19).

Like Jesus, we are committed to making the first move. We will make every effort to go out into the community, serve people, tell them about Jesus, and seek to bring them into the family of God.

*We are intentionally a multi-generational church family.* We value every age and appreciate the unique contributions of every generation. We are a family, and each person has opportunity to establish relationships with, and learn from, people of mature faith. We value, and we are effective, in connecting “people with God and each other.” Such relationships enable the church body to “build itself up in love” (Ephesians 4:16).

*We are a sending church.* We seek to “Bring them in, Build them up, & Send them out.” See Appendix B to get an update on those God has impacted through the Weems Creek family and then called out to help lead Great Commission ministry.

- There will be more to come. God is calling out people from our church family to help fulfill the Great Commission.
- In addition, many families come to this area for short-term stays of only 2-4 years due to employment. God has brought many of them into our church, and many have left with a new joy/commitment to serve Christ and His mission. God often gives us the opportunity to bless many who will not be with us for long. He brings them in, builds them up, and sends them out to new places of service.



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## A HOLY DISCONTENT

We are grieved

- That so many in the Annapolis area and beyond have no relationship with Christ
- That so many do not see the church as a relevant partner in serving community needs
- That so many do not honor the biblical principle: “to whom much is given, from him much will be required” (Luke 12:48 NKJV)

We are burdened

- To minister the Gospel to more people in our local community
- To have a redemptive impact in our community and on our culture
- To be faithful stewards of Weems Creek’s blessings
- That so many do not see the church as a relevant partner in serving community needs
- That so many do not honor the biblical principle: “to whom much is given, from him much will be required” (Luke 12:48 NKJV)

## THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...WHAT’S NEXT?

**We believe God is calling us to rededicate ourselves to be “salt” and “light” here in Annapolis.** The salt and light metaphors indicate a Christian’s influence for good in the world. A basic truth lies behind these metaphors: There is a fundamental difference between Christians and non-Christians, between the church and the world. Some professing Christians seem to live like non-Christians and deny their Christian identity by their behavior. Yet according to Jesus the difference is real. “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world.”

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.”  
—Matthew 5:13

The primary function of salt is to prevent decay. We live in a fallen world given to decay, but the church can serve as a preservative against the decay. Government and the home are two God-ordained institutions designed to exert a wholesome influence in society. Christians are to be a strong influence for good.

However, the effectiveness of salt is conditional. It must retain its saltiness. Strictly speaking, salt can never lose its saltiness. It is a very stable chemical compound. Nevertheless, it can become contaminated by mixture with impurities, and then it becomes useless.

Christian saltiness is Christlike character exemplified in both word and life. To be effective, the Christian must continue to grow in and retain his Christ-likeness, just as salt must retain its saltiness. When Christians live like non-Christians, contaminated by the impurities of the world, they lose their influence for Christ. The influence of Christians in and on society depends on our being different, not identical. If we Christians are indistinguishable from non-Christians, we are useless.



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“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

—Matthew 5:14-16

The church is in the world with a double role. We are to serve as a preservative, hindering the process of social and moral decay. However, we are also to dispel the darkness. The challenge is to shine for Jesus in this sin-darkened world. We must not withdraw. We must not hide. The purpose of light is to illuminate.

We are called to be witnesses to Jesus who is the “light of the world” (John 8:12). The light in us is derived from his presence in us. Light is a common biblical symbol for truth and our personal testimony is an important “good deed” by which we let our “light shine before men.”

However, witness includes not just words but deeds. As someone said, “The good word without the good walk is of no avail.” It is not only what we say but how we live. The primary meaning of “good deeds” is practical, visible works of compassion and goodness that reflect the love of God we are called to share. Such acts honor God and give credibility to our witness. Our motive is that others may also come to know, love and glorify God.

**This is God’s challenge to us today.** We are to live a life of service and sacrifice for the glory of God...a life that reflects Christ’s love and makes God’s love visible to a lost and unbelieving world. Just as Jesus was willing to leave heaven, live among us and give of himself completely for our salvation...God calls us to be willing to go the extra mile in serving others so as to influence them to know and love Christ. Appendix A shows what we are doing now and lists many of the things we have done in the past. Now we commit to even greater works to come!



# APPENDIX A: LOCAL MISSIONS

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## CURRENT MISSIONS

### Sowing Seeds of Kindness & Goodness

- West Annapolis Pop-Up Pantry—Volunteers support and School Supplies Drive
- Annual Christmas gifts for 50-70 children through Germantown Elementary School and Monarch Academy
- Monthly Lighthouse Meals for the homeless

### Sowing Seeds of Kindness & the Seed of the Gospel

- Thanksgiving Day Meal for the Homeless (Partnership with Tonier Cain Muldrow)
- Trunk or Treat
- Free Clothing Fair
- Safe Families Ministry
- Mops
- Ladies Tea
- Hymn Sings in Assisted Living centers

### Sowing the Seed of the Gospel & Reaping the Harvest

- Jail Ministry—support Chase Wood
- BCM @ USNA
- Support for Church Plants
- Arundel Baptist Network
- Personal Evangelism Training
- Backyard Bible Clubs
- Vacation Bible School

## PREVIOUS MISSIONS

- Church Plants
- Diprimas In NC
- The Bridge On Kent Island
- Browns In Oregon
- Elevate Church (Steve Poole)
- Free Community Car Wash
- Ministry To Hispanic Children
- Mission Annapolis
- Weems Creek Booth At County Fair
- Parent's Night Out
- 5k Events For Backpack Buddies
- Dodgeball Tournaments
- Friday Night 5th Quarter Fellowship
- Christmas Light Show
- Commercial In Theater
- Generosity Feeds
- Hosted International Students From Clemson
- Harvest Fest
- Me, A Friend
- Eastport Event
- Football And Basketball Camps
- The Vine Summer Internship Ministry
- Deliver "Goody Bags" To Police
- Hope House
- Pack Boxes For Operation Christmas
- Running Club At Rolling Knolls Elem.
- Germantown Elem.
- Sara's House
- Hymn Singing At Nursing Homes And Assisted Living Centers
- Socks For Seaman
- Backyard Bible Clubs
- Mass Mailings
- Chess Club Outreach
- Aerobics Class
- Q Commons Event Downtown
- Tyler Heights Elementary Reading Program
- Easter Eggstravaganza
- Family Easter Celebration



# APPENDIX B: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

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## **THOSE IMPACTED BY WEEMS CREEK AND NOW SERVING IN GREAT COMMISSION MINISTRIES**

**Jenna Wayment DiPrima** came to Christ in middle school. For years we have watched her grow. She graduated from Clemson University and then began an internship on staff at her church there with our support. She has since completed her degree from SEBTS. Jenna serves alongside her husband who serves as Pastor of a new church that has done well. It was Weems Creek's joy to help support them financially in the first two years of planting the church.

**Casey Orr Goebel** graduated from SEBTS believing that God called her there to be equipped for a life of ministry in God's Kingdom. She continues in the Ed.D. Study program. Her husband (Kevin) is the College & Young Adult Pastor at Lynwood Baptist Church in Cape Girardeau, MO.

**Justin Orr** has completed his Masters of Divinity at SEBTS and a second Master in Jewish Studies & Modern Hebrew from the University of Maryland. He served here at Weems Creek as Student Pastor for six years, served at McLean Bible Church in northern VA for 4 ½ years, and is now beginning a new ministry as Senior Pastor of West Side Community Church in Traverse City, MI.

**Mike and Roycelyn Bowman** retired to do missionary work in the Caribbean six years ago, in the Fall of 2014. They have an exciting ministry with Medical School students, and have helped several local churches get an Awana ministry started in order to reach the many children.

**Andrew Spencer** spent four years in our church while at the USNA. He received his Master of Divinity and completed his PhD studies in Christian Ethics at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS). He lives in Monroe, MI and serves as a Senior Research Fellow for The Institute of Faith, Work, and Economics.

**Sherry Esfahani Wood** are originally from Iran. Sherry came to faith in Christ through the ministry of Weems Creek. She married a man from the Assembly of God denomination, and they have been serving for a number of years in Africa.

**We pray and believe that God will call many more from church to serve  
in Great Commission ministries around the world!**