



Poquoson Baptist Church

Vision for the Next Generation

Vision Statement:

We exist to help parents shepherd their children from lost to leader for the glory of Jesus Christ by being worshippers of Jesus, disciples of Jesus, family members of Jesus, servants of Jesus, and missionaries for Jesus.

The Glory of Jesus Christ:

*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
(Phil. 2:9-11)*

By God's Grace we aim to teach the pure Word of God to the next generation; to shepherd the next generation to think biblically, to engage from a Christian worldview, and to respond to situations in ways that bring glory to Jesus; to lead the next generation to understand godliness and grow in Christian discipleship and obedience; and to display the glory of Christ in our words, actions, thoughts, and families as we disciple next generation through the power of His Spirit.

We pray that:

- Jesus Christ would be first and foremost in our thoughts, lessons, and actions.
- the Word of God would be savored, valued, and treasured as the infallible, inerrant, and perfect Word that it is.
- leaders would exercise God-given authority to encourage the weak, speak the truth in love, and apply the Word to specific situations in the lives of children.
- parents would seek to faithfully demonstrate the love of Christ at home, in public, and in Church life.
- Jesus Christ would be the all-sufficient and all-satisfying treasure in the lives of every volunteer, teacher, parent, and student.

Worshippers of Jesus Christ:

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"
(Rev. 7:9-10)

By God's Grace we aim to see the next generation worship the Lamb, who is Jesus Christ, now and in eternity future through our faithful Christ exulting gathering together, teaching, prayer, actions, and leadership. We believe that salvation's ultimate end is the glory of Christ through the *worshipping* of His chosen people (Ex. 3:12, 18; 5:1, 3, 8; 7:16; 8:1, 20, 25-29; 9:1, 13; 10:3, 7-11, 24-27).

We pray that:

- the next generation will value and cherish the assembly of God's chosen people embodied in the local Church.
- the next generation will seek to devote their lives to the service of Jesus Christ and His Church.
- leadership will model faithfulness in their worshipping, both public and private. and in their public gathering with the local Church.
- parents will model faithfulness in their worshipping, both public and private, and in their public gatherings with the local Church.
- through the worshipping of Jesus the next generation will see, savor, and treasure Christ as their all sufficient and all satisfying savior.

Disciples of Jesus Christ:

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.
(Luke 6:40)

By God's Grace we aim to teach the next generation the entire counsel of God's Word so that they may grow into the image of Christ. We believe that only the Word of God is capable, true, and powerful to transform sinners into righteous disciples of Jesus (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Additionally, we believe that the world will never be sufficient to teach righteousness because it knows not its maker and rejects the truth in

unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18-32; John 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:4), therefore, we have a deep and abiding responsibility to disciple the next generation into truth and godliness which is found only in God's Word.

We pray that:

- the next generation will see the truth that is God's Word.
- the next generation will treasure, rely on, and trust in God's Word as it communicates truth to us about the living and true God who is the only standard of truth.
- the next generation will be renewed in mind, spirit, and heart by the Word of God.
- the teachers, leaders, and parents, will strive with much patience to teach the Word of God to all students in their care.
- the teachers, leaders, and parents will model faithful obedience to the Word of God.
- teachers, leaders, and parents will devote themselves to the task of discipleship of the next generation; knowing that if they abdicate this responsibility the world will happily do it for them.

Family of Jesus Christ:

*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
(John 1:12-13)*

By God's Grace we aim to see the next generation committed to the bond of family that is the local Church and that through their regeneration they will be added to that family. We believe that God has given the local Church to represent Him on earth and that local Churches have authority on earth to recognize true faith, exercise the ordinances (baptism and the Lord's Supper), and execute Church discipline. All of these are essential to the life of a Christian. The Church is the means by which Christians receive assurance of salvation and God has commanded that we be united to the local Church (1 Cor. 12:21-26; Acts 20:28; Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:17).

We pray that:

- the next generation will see their need of the local Church as the only God ordained institution where Christians are to gather regularly as they await the second coming (Heb. 10:24-25).

- the next generation will be integrated into the life of the local Church here at PBC and that they will understand what it means to be a part of the family of God.
- the next generation will be united to the local Church via baptism upon their profession of faith in Jesus and the repentance of their sins.
- the parents, teachers, and leaders of the next generation will model faithful Church membership, knowing that students will only ever be as faithful as their parents, teachers, and leaders.
- the Church will encourage the parents to continue in faithful discipleship of the next generation.
- the Church will participate in the discipleship of the next generation by committing to pray for, mentor, teach, and build relationships with the next generation (Titus 2:1-9).

Servants of Jesus Christ:

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.
(Col. 3:23-24)*

By God's Grace we aim the next generation committed to being servants of Jesus Christ. We believe that Christian maturity includes giving of time, talents, and treasure for kingdom purposes so that others will be blessed, equipped, and encouraged to persevere in the work of the ministry. We aim to show the youth that service to Jesus and His Church is a far greater calling than anything the world may offer.

We pray that:

- the next generation will be involved in serving Jesus and His Church here at PBC
- the next generation of disciples will be able to continue the legacy of service modeled at PBC by preceding generations
- parents, teachers, and leaders of the next generation will model faithful service to PBC and to Jesus by giving of themselves freely to the next generation
- the Church will come alongside families to serve them well and to model for the families what a compelling, servant hearted community looks like
- the next generation will give their whole lives to serve the kingdom of Jesus Christ, no matter the cost

Missionaries of Jesus Christ:

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.
(Matthew 28:19-20)

By God's grace we aim to see the next generation committed to the spread of the Gospel in their homes, schools, friendships, neighborhoods, communities, and abroad to the end of the earth. We believe that Christians have a responsibility to share the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ to the lost around them and that God will use the faithful proclamation of the Gospel to bring souls to repentance and faith.

We pray that:

- the next generation will see the Gospel as good news and that they will first repent and believe in Jesus Christ
- the next generation, having professed faith in Jesus, will desire to see others come to know Him as Lord and Savior
- the next generation will see the fallen state of mankind and that would fuel a desire for the lost to come to Jesus
- the next generation will grow in faithfulness, sharing the Gospel with more and more people everyday
- the Church will come alongside the next generation and equip them with the tools and resources to faithfully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- The Church will encourage families to raise up disciples of Jesus who are passionate about the lost