

## **CULPEPER — GROWING UP IS HARD TO DO!**

Culpeper is a community undergoing tremendous change. Located 45 minutes northeast of Charlottesville and 90 minutes southwest of Washington, D.C., it is no longer a sleepy old Virginia town of interest only to its residents and Civil War buffs. This small town is being transformed from a quaint rural town into one of the fastest growing communities in Virginia in the past few years. This rapid growth has surprised Culpeper residents, as the north side of the city in particular has seen new residents from Washington D.C. trying to trade Capitol Hill living for small town warmth. But growth created problems. Culpeper residents are feeling the effects of a lagging economy and a difficult home market. They remain poised for tremendous growth but at the same time are adjusting to recent changes in their community.



Photo courtesy of the Culpeper Department of Tourism.

*Culpeper was the second fastest growing town in all of Virginia from July 2004 to July 2005 with a growth rate of 8.8%.*

## **THE NEED — CULPEPER NEEDS THE GOSPEL**

Culpeper is full of people who are struggling to come to terms with major issues. Some are Christians wondering what it looks like to serve a changing community. Some are Christians struggling to apply the gospel to their marriages, finances, and home life. Some are honest believers who have been laid off and are now forced to consider vocational change. Some aren't Christians at all and are desperately trying to pin their hopes for safety and significance on something that will last.

The gospel isn't an answer. It is *the answer*. God has made a way for residents of Culpeper to find forgiveness of sins and a renewed life dedicated to glorifying and enjoying God forever. Many are trying to answer the question, "What does Culpeper need in the coming years?" The answer is, "The gospel of Jesus Christ."

*"Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever."*

-Westminster Shorter Catechism

## **SOVEREIGN GRACE — CULPEPER NEEDS THE PCA**

Churches abound in Culpeper. A majority of its citizens consider themselves to be Christian and prefer traditional expressions of Christianity. Why does Culpeper need another church? Aside from the sheer need to keep up with the growth in Culpeper, the PCA provides a distinct approach to theology and worship needed in Culpeper—a town with multiple places of worship but few opportunities to engage an absolutely holy God on the terms of an absolutely unconditional gospel. In short, they are in need of a church filled with humble, redeemed sinners who worship a risen and sovereign Christ according to the means of grace, articulate a gospel of free redemption, and aggressively serve their community.

*"We were at a restaurant with friends and started talking to a woman who grew up Catholic... this woman initiated a relatively deep conversation about theology... I think there are a lot of folks out there just like her... searching for the truth and deeper biblical knowledge without even realizing that the PCA is the perfect setting for them."*

-Member of the Culpeper Core Group

## **THE CULPEPER PROJECT — ANSWERING CULPEPER'S NEED**

The Blue Ridge Presbytery recognizes the unique need in Culpeper. Culpeper is now at the top of their church plant priority list. The vision of the Culpeper Project is to plant a church in Culpeper that will serve as a beacon, a bulwark, and a staging area for the work of the gospel in this growing town. The Culpeper Project is our strategic plan for bringing the answer of the gospel to the need of Culpeper. But this plan involves more than planting a church. The plan is

to plant *a church planting church*. The Blue Ridge Presbytery is starting a church planting movement throughout the Western portion of Virginia. Our hope for Culpeper Mission Church is that it would be the vanguard of a host of church plants throughout Virginia, America, and the world.

*“And may the Lord raise up churches that are truly a witness to grace in this passing age, a display of the glory and power of God’s saving grace, outposts of heaven, suburbs of eternity. For the church is God’s strategy, and there is no plan B.”*

-Ligon Duncan

## THE GROUNDWORK — YEARS OF PRAYER

This work is not starting from scratch. In our Lord’s good providence he has already planted a group of believers in Culpeper who have been praying for this plant for years. Most recently they have been meeting for a Sunday afternoon Bible Study under the oversight of a temporary session from the Blue Ridge Presbytery. These saints in Culpeper are Kingdom scouts sent to prepare Culpeper for the work of the gospel. They are missionaries in that community utilizing the network of relationships that Jesus has given them for gospel ministry.

### The Demographics of Culpeper

- ◆ Median Age – 36
- ◆ 77% White, 19% Black, 4% Hispanic and others
- ◆ The Hispanic population is projected to increase by 45% over the next 4 years.
- ◆ 40% of the population has a college degree or higher, but is projected to grow to 75% over the next 4 years.
- ◆ The entire population is projected to increase by 13% over the next 4 years.

## THE PLANTER — JOE HOLLAND

In December, 2008 the temporary session of the Culpeper Mission Church called Rev Joe Holland to be the church planter to Culpeper. Joe, a native of Virginia, grew up in Virginia Beach and attended the University of Virginia—30 minutes away from Culpeper—where he met his wife Hallie. Hallie and Joe have been married for 8 years and have 4 sons—Joseph,

William, David, and Charlie. Joe attended Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC before going to Mississippi where he served as the Minister to Students and Families at First Presbyterian Church, Jackson and Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Kosciusko.



## THE PREPARATION — EXPERIENCE

The Lord has led Joe and Hallie through experiences that make them especially suited for Culpeper. They have served in ministry to a large church overseeing ministry to families with young children—a large segment of the demographic in Culpeper. They have also served in a small town with historic roots and rural character. Both Joe and Hallie graduated from UVA giving them experience in the exact portion of Virginia to which the Lord has now called them. Joe is currently finishing up his work in Kosciusko while making preparations to join the team already on the ground in Culpeper.

*"I thank my God for you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."*

- Philippians 1:3-5

## **MOVING FORWARD — YOUR HELP**

The Culpeper team is not complete. Joe and the saints in Culpeper cannot do this alone. They need your help. Our Lord has scattered support for Culpeper among his people all over the United States. Has the Lord given you resources for use in The Culpeper Project?

## **PRAYER SUPPORT — FAITHFUL PRAYER PARTNERS**

It is the Lord's pattern before he does a great work to raise up a group of praying people. The Culpeper Mission Church needs your prayers. We need you to pray for effective evangelism. We need you to pray for the gathering of our launch team. We need you to pray for the Lord to provide the necessary funds to support this work until the church is self-supporting. Joe and Hallie need your prayers as they prepare to head to the field.

Would you be willing to commit to praying for the Culpeper Mission Church? Included with this prospectus is a prayer card. We would love for you to use that card to remind you to pray for us. We need an army of prayer warriors interceding for our beach-head work in Culpeper.

*"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace."*

-Ephesians 1:7

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT — JOYFUL GIVERS**

We want to enter into strategic partnerships with donors who need to be a part of this work in Culpeper as much as we do. We believe that the Lord is bringing us into contact with churches and individuals whom he has prepared to joyfully commit to meeting the financial needs of The Culpeper Project.

We have a need of \$180,000 of outside support for our church plant over the next three years. We are praying for partnerships with churches and individuals to meet this need in donations given or pledged through May of 2012. We ask that you prayerfully consider into

which partnership level the Lord has called you.

## **STRATEGIC PARTNERING — LEVELS OF GIVING**

Donors Needed	Monthly Gift	Annual Gift	Total Gift
1	\$833	\$10,000	\$30,000
3	\$400	\$4,800	\$14,400
4	\$300	\$3,600	\$10,800
5	\$200	\$2,400	\$7,200
5	\$100	\$1,200	\$3,600
6	\$50	\$600	\$1,800
24 Donors		Total ~	\$180,000

## **A FINAL PLEA — THE TIME IS NOW**

The window for giving to this project is now open. The Lord has been preparing people for this work for years. This Sunday the core group will meet for Bible study and prayer. This week Joe and Hallie will be preparing to arrive in Culpeper. This week the unchurched in Culpeper will continue about their lives oblivious to the desperate case of their souls. It is our hope and prayer that in the coming months and years we will be able to give our Lord hearty thanks for what he is planning to do in Culpeper. We want you to join us as members of that thankful team. The Lord is moving in Culpeper and we want you to be a part of it.

## **Contact Joe for more information:**

[pastorjoe holland@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjoe holland@gmail.com)

662-633-2505

