Southwest Virginia Churches Reach Beyond Their Four Walls

Virginia Baptists have always been pioneers. Because of our adventurous spirits and willingness to explore new territory, others outside the Commonwealth are often drawn to us and want to partner with us.

In southwest Virginia, churches are going outside their four walls to advance God’s kingdom. Two such examples are Northstar Church and Highlands Fellowship.

Pulaski County is one of the poorest counties in the Commonwealth. Its economic decline has made life challenging for its 37,000-40,000 residents. “They need Jesus just as much as I do,” explains David Farris, campus pastor of Northstar Church in Pulaski. Farris has led what began as a small Bible study group to start a vibrant ministry among the people in that area. Working with children in a section 8 apartment community and partnering with a local elementary school are just two ways in which the church is bringing the hope of Christ to residents. “Going to them and showing them Christ as opposed to saying, ‘Hey, come to this…’ is what we do. Where there are people, there’s a need for hope, and we believe we have all the hope that they need. If we won’t take it to them, who will?”
Highlands Fellowship in Abingdon is meeting people where they are by offering an interactive online campus. “We’ve adapted to where the people are,” says J.R. Linkous, campus pastor. During the online worship service, participants may choose to live chat with a staff member in order to request prayers or ask questions. There is constant online discussion during worship, which makes it personal and accessible. “Jesus said to go out to where the people are, where the needs are. We see the vast opportunity for people to hear the gospel through the Internet. Our hope is to lead people to Christ while we’re chatting with them.”

For more information about expanding the reach of your church, contact:
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