



BIBLE CENTER | CHURCH

Glorifying God by producing more maturing followers of Jesus.

Why Launch the Maker's Center?

#1 – It gives us greater presence in the city.

Jesus calls his people to be the salt of the earth, the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16). Our good works will often cause the unbelieving world to glorify our Father in heaven. Both images of salt and light convey *presence*.

The Maker's Center gives us another location to be salt and light in Charleston. God has given us partnerships with the teachers, students, and families of Mary C. Snow Elementary. Additionally, we have a cooperative relationship with nearby Recovery Point, Charleston Mountain Mission, and Orchard Manor, and an ongoing collaboration with Union Mission Ministries.

#2 – It's a billboard for gospel renewal.

The gospel is the center of all we say and do at Bible Center Church. If you pop the hood of our proverbial car, our engine is the gospel! We believe...

- God creates.
- Sin breaks.
- Jesus saves.
- Jesus transforms.
- God restores.

When Jesus wanted to show people what transformation and future restoration look like, he did miracles. When we want to show people what transformation and future restoration look like, we...



- Point them to a Maslow CNC wood cutting machine, Glowforge 3D laser printer, or zSpace augmented reality.
- Introduce them to the city's best woodcraftsmen, IT experts, and artists.



- Build relationships with them and share God’s gospel “renovation” in our own lives.
- Help them develop employable skills such as phone etiquette, shop safety, Microsoft Excel and Word, cake decorating, sewing, floral arranging, 3D printing, construction, woodworking, and drivers’ education.
- Help them develop other life skills such as parenting, overcoming childhood trauma, balancing a checkbook, preparing healthy meals, and changing a tire.

Our members are inspired by the true story of the respected priest and reformer, John Huss, who pastored the Bethlehem Chapel in Prague over 600 years ago. Before his martyrdom, his church became famous for digging a well to provide free clean water to the residents of Prague, when other clean water sources were difficult to find. Townspeople—Christians and non-Christians alike—were welcome to come into the sanctuary and draw water from the well whenever they needed it, as an illustration of Jesus, the water of life.

We see The Maker’s Center as our well!

#3 – It helps us obey Jesus’ second greatest commandment.

In Matthew 22 and Mark 12, Jesus is recorded as giving the greatest commandment (to love the Lord with all your heart) and the second greatest (to love your neighbor as yourself).

Sometimes we do good works to build gospel bridges. People won’t care how much we know until they know how much we care. However, good works were never intended to simply charm people into believing the gospel. Instead, the good works themselves bring glory to Jesus, whether bystanders become followers of Jesus or not.

We believe The Maker’s Center helps us love the entire community.

Anyone can become a member, either through a paid membership or by earning a monthly membership by taking specific classes.

We believe The Maker’s Center helps us love school aged children.

Author and university professor, John Spencer, writes, “We know that students learn at a deeper level and retain more when they’re engaged. So, *making* and *creating* allows for deeper learning. There was a time when you could follow the formula: Work hard at school, go to college, and climb a corporate ladder. But because of the complex global economy our students will be forced to navigate a maze. And because it’s a maze, what do they need in order to navigate that? They need to be able to engage in creative and critical thinking; they need to



know how to pivot, how to change, how to revise, how to persevere, and how to solve complex problems. All of those are involved in that *maker* mindset.”

Children should be inspired to dream, to imagine, to ask, “What do I want to be when I grow up?” The Maker’s Center seeks to reverse the stifling effect that poverty sometimes brings.

We believe The Maker’s Center helps us love our neighbors in recovery.

Certificate programs will provide adults with the training and knowledge to qualify for better paying jobs and thus helping their families move from poverty.



We won’t want to provide things for people that we think they need but want to provide things they actually need.

Is this political socialism? No. This has always been the heartbeat of Jesus and growing churches.

Such love was demonstrated by Pastor Charles (C. H.) Spurgeon and the Metropolitan Tabernacle Church over 150 years ago. The city of London faced some of the same challenges we’re facing here in Charleston, but for different reasons. Therefore, the church saw an opportunity to model Jesus’ 2nd commandment...

- They built orphanages and created care centers for the elderly and widows.
- They started programs to teach business to entrepreneurs.
- Thankfully, so many people began coming to the church that Spurgeon asked his members to skip one worship service a month so new people would have room.

#4 – It creates gospel conversations with people who may not drive here.

Many of our members live near The Maker’s Center. Some of our city’s most beautiful homes are located on Charleston’s west side.

However, there are also many who live in the area who don’t own cars. They may never attend one of our church services at our Southridge campus. The Maker’s Center allows us to bring friendship, camaraderie, love, and the gospel to them.



#5 – It’s a tangible expression of our values.

We value...

- Gospel
- City
- Family
- Generosity
- Learning
- Growth
- Innovation

The Maker’s Center embodies all seven. Our prayer is that people will come for the tools but stay for the relationships.

#6 – It fits our vision.

Our vision is to saturate the city with the gospel by means of:

1. Making disciples.
2. Meeting needs.
3. Multiplying influence.

Just like our passion for adoption and foster care, providing a healthy education alternative through Bible Center School, counseling and addiction ministries through Celebrate Recovery, ministering to families with special needs... The Maker’s Center helps us love and give back to the city that we love so much.

#7 – It fits our history.

From its inception, Bible Center Church has been all about the city. Our official name is still, “The City Bible Center,” though we do business as “Bible Center Church.”



Archived church bulletins from the first year of our existence (1943) show our commitment to invest in the city. Founding members served in hospital and prison ministries, helped run a soldier and sailor care center during WWII, fed the hungry, and served local police and firefighters in physical and spiritual ways.

God is writing a salvation story for the Kanawha Valley. Thankfully, we get to play a small part!