

Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Church

Hampton, Virginia



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Welcome to Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Church (CRPC)! We are affiliated with the [Presbyterian Church in America](#). In a day when many denominations and churches have departed from or compromised the Scriptures, we unashamedly confess God's Word to be true and relevant for our day.

Our pastoral search committee of seven individuals (5 men including two ruling elders and 2 women) is excited about our task to prayerfully consider applicants and then recommend to the congregation the man we deem to be best suited as their next Senior Pastor. We love the church of Christ, and are committed to see the local church grow and increase its biblical influence near and far.

We've created this document to provide prospective applicants more detailed information about our church, its members, ministries and staff as well as our vision and goals for the future.

CRPC Pastoral Search Committee
Dave Mericle, Chair
Mike Cochrane, Vice Chair

Why Our Search for a New Senior Pastor?

The Pulpit Search Committee at CRPC has produced this document to provide prospective candidates an introduction to our church and a single source of information about the congregation, its leadership, ministries, and facilities.

We believe it is important to emphasize that this pastoral search is not to fill a current pulpit vacancy, but to add to our pastoral staff. Because this is an unusual situation, we're providing some background:

In the spring of 2010 at its annual planning meeting, the Session of CRPC appointed a staffing committee consisting of the senior pastor and two ruling elders. Their charge was to study the future staffing needs of the church and make recommendations. That same year, the Session designated a line item to the budget for a "future staff position" and earmarked initial funding. Originally, the committee endorsed a prior Sessional decision to pursue hiring of a youth pastor but, upon reflection and further study, began consideration of what positions would better balance current staff gifts and abilities. The committee ended up taking the view that if pastoral staff were added, the successful candidate should possess gifts in the particular areas of church growth, evangelism, and member assimilation. At the same time, Pastor Hurst pointed out that funding for this position would be more readily available if he took a part-time associate pastor position and a new full-time senior pastor be called. The committee made this recommendation to Session, and after prayerful consideration during the summer of 2011, the Session proposed the plan to the congregation: Pastor Hurst would become a part-time associate pastor and a new senior pastor would be called with gifts complementary to those of the current pastoral staff. This proposal was approved by the church membership at an August 2011 congregational meeting, and a pastoral search committee was elected the following September. We are excited that under this plan Pastor Hurst will remain on staff. Both he and Associate Pastor Snapp are eager to welcome and work beside the new senior pastor.

We are undertaking this search in faith that God will call a senior pastor who will faithfully shepherd this flock, preach the Gospel, teach sound doctrine, and use his Holy Spirit gift of evangelism to reach the unchurched in our community.

Letter from current Senior Pastor

Dear Prospective Candidate,

For a new man coming in to be Senior Pastor, it may seem a little unsettling for the former Senior Pastor to remain on the church staff, and that is the reason for this letter.

My name is Pete Hurst. I have just completed my 27th year at Calvary Church. It seems more like about 5 years. As in all churches, there have been challenges for us as a congregation to address; however, the Lord has been very good to us. These are precious people and it has been my privilege to be their pastor.

A couple of years ago, it occurred to me that it might be time for a new man to come in who would immediately, or at some future date, take my position. Although the Session leads, still the new man would play an important role in where the church would move into the future. I was not ready to give up working, and thought I could still contribute some good to the Lord's church here. I suggested reduced pay and hours for me, so a new Senior Pastor could be found. The Session and congregation approved the idea.

Talking among minister friends about this staffing arrangement, it has been evident that some very qualified prospective candidates might reject at the outset even considering the Senior Pastor position with the former Senior Pastor still on staff. The more I considered this, the more embarrassing it seemed for the Church today, and resigning Senior Pastors in particular. I knew of business leaders who took lower level positions and stayed within their corporations, and everyone worked well together and respected each other in their new roles. I had to wonder why corporate America had more grace than Christ's Church.

I want to assure whoever becomes Senior Pastor that I have no control that I want to maintain, no agenda that I want to advance. I'm anxious to be a helper to whoever the Lord brings to Calvary. It's about Christ and His Church, not me.

This local church and my work here has not been my life or where I have found my identity. I am a man with many interests. For instance, with fewer hours and responsibilities required of me, I hope to work and write in the area of a Christian worldview of business. CRPC and my work have been a part of my world, but it hasn't been my world. God's Kingdom and my interests are much broader.

So, brother, look at the opportunity to serve Christ and His people, evaluate your gifts, and investigate further if you think this might be where the Lord would use you. Try to see me simply as a brother to serve with you, and as one who, before God, is committed to giving you wholehearted support in your leadership role.

Sincerely in Christ,

K. W. "Pete" Hurst

About CRPC

In November, 2011, the CRPC Session unanimously approved the following mission statement for the church:

“Our mission is to glorify and enjoy God by exalting Him in worship, expanding His kingdom, equipping His disciples, and engaging our culture with a Christian worldview”

In pursuit of this vision, CRPC actively seeks opportunities to minister both to its members and the surrounding community. To better equip and nourish its families, the church has in place an active small group ministry with approximately 70% member participation, youth activities, and a strong Women in the Church (WIC) program. The church also established a private school, Calvary Classical

School, in 1995 which currently enrolls a student body of 93 in grades K3 through sixth. CRPC has a commitment to reaching our college-age youth and is the primary supporter for Reformed University Fellowship at the campus of Christopher Newport University. Money has been reserved in our current budget for future establishment of a similar work at Hampton University. CRPC endeavors to reach our community with the gospel of Christ through aggressive expansion of its current, local ministries (such as English as a Second Language) and, in God’s providence, pursuit of new, need-based, community outreaches identified as those for which we have the necessary resources and for which we can have significant impact on the Peninsula, its surrounding communities, and the world at large.

History of CRPC

Early in 1955, some individuals in the PCUSA felt they could no longer stay with that denomination due to liberal trends in the church’s theology. Letters of interest in establishing a Reformed work in Hampton were sent to the Reformed Presbyterian Church, then called the Bible Presbyterian Church. With that denomination’s guidance and support, the first meetings of what became CRPC were held on March 11 and 13 at a local civic hall with approximately 20 in attendance. On July 11, 1955, Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Church was officially particularized as a church with 12 in attendance and the pulpit supplied by ministerial students from Faith Seminary in Philadelphia. In November 1955, Reverend William Smith was called as the first pastor of the new group of believers, and a poorly constructed house with 3.4 acres of land was bought on Whealton Road in Hampton. Services were held in the existing building until September 1957, when it was decided to build a permanent sanctuary on the site. The new sanctuary was dedicated on June 7, 1959, with a record attendance of 156.



The next month, Reverend Smith was dismissed by the congregation for embarrassing conduct. He was replaced by Reverend Charles Gosling from St. Louis, Missouri, who served until July 1963 when he

resigned to pursue a teaching ministry. The following October, Reverend Ken Wolf was extended a call to the pastorate which he accepted, and he served as pastor until 1973.

In that year, Reverend David Kiewiet replaced Reverend Wolf and served as senior pastor until he felt a call to pursue missionary work in Australia. In January 1985, he was replaced by the current senior pastor, Kerry W. (“Pete”) Hurst who had previously served as senior pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church, a PCA church in Birmingham, Alabama. In April 1994, the church expanded its staff to include Reverend Byron Snapp as associate pastor. Pastor Snapp had been an assistant pastor and Christian school principal at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Cedar Bluff, Virginia, until the school closed its doors. One of his initial duties at CRPC included serving as principal to the newly established Calvary Classical School. The church continued to enjoy growth over the years and membership has increased from its modest roots to 273 current members.

Worship Services

Calvary has a weekly Sunday morning worship service at 9:30 AM followed by the Sunday School hour. The service is centered around Biblical teaching with the worship style best described as traditionally Reformed. Music includes Trinity hymns (accompanied by organ and piano) as well as more contemporary selections, tastefully accompanied by singers, keyboard, guitar, flute, and percussion. A sample order of service appears below:



(*denotes congregation standing)

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Ministry

Introduction to Worship

**Call to Worship*

**Confession of Sin*

**Assurance of Pardon*

**Hymn of Praise*

Old Testament Responsive Reading

New Testament Responsive Reading

Doxology

Pastoral Prayer

Receiving of God's Tithes and our

Offerings

Special Music

Hymn of Preparation

Reading of God's Word

Preaching of God's Word

**Hymn of Response*

**Gloria Patri*

**Benediction*

Psalm 96

God Be Merciful To Me

I John 1:5-10

My Song Forever Shall Record

Psalm 118

I Peter 1:17-2:12

Eagle's Wings Medley

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

John 18:12-27

I'm Not Ashamed to Own My Lord

Trinity 734

Pew Bible 434

Supplement 42

Trinity 99

Pew Bible 444

Pew Bible 180

Trinity 731

Adult Choir

Supplement 30

Pew Bible 87

Trinity 505

Christian Education/Sunday School

Adult Sunday School is offered following Sunday morning worship and a short time of fellowship. Recent class offerings are as follows: a church history study entitled “The Divergence of Christianity in America,” a book study on Paul David Tripp’s *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*, and a study of the book of Romans.

Previous adult classes have included a study of classical apologetics using R.C. Sproul’s video series on *Defending Your Faith*, as well as classes on rearing children, Bible prophecy, the prayers of Paul, and many studies on books of the Bible.

Classes for children from ages two to eighteen are also provided during the Sunday School hour.

Other opportunities and avenues for Christian education include small groups, women’s mid-week Bible Study, youth group, and an annual Reformation Conference.

Who We Are: Membership, Ministries, and Staff

The congregation of CRPC is made up of a diverse group of people ranging in age from newborn to several members in their eighties. We have approximately 70 children under the age of twelve, including eight covenant children born in 2011. We have approximately 36 teenagers. Our membership of young couples (20s to mid30s) is about 20 and we have roughly 12 singles. We also have 20 young people attending college. Some of these categories overlap.

Our Session has made it clear: education is an area of liberty for each family or individual. We have covenant children in all types of educational programs including home schooling, public, private, and Christian schools. This is also true for college students. We currently have students in public, private, and Christian colleges and universities.

Our area of greatest growth and loss is through military transfers. It is quite common to have new members who have found CRPC through friends in the military or former CRPC families returning to the area because of military orders. Our membership lives principally on the peninsula (Hampton, Newport News, Yorktown) with some families traveling from surrounding cities such as Smithfield and Norfolk.

Membership

The tables below contain information taken from our recently completed Church Profile Form, Part I:

Name of Church	Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Church
Address	403 Whealton Road, Hampton, VA 23666
Telephone	757-826-5942
Presbytery	James River
Pulpit Search Committee Contact	Dave Mericle, djmericle@gmail.com , 757-930-1058
Type of Community	Urban (Residential)
Type of Church	Church with Multiple Staff
Size Church	251 to 500 members
Type of Position Vacant	Senior Pastor

Table 1. Basic Church Information

	Currently Resident	Out of the Area
Members over 65	20	1
Members under 65	147	30
Teens	36	6
Children	70	6
Totals	273	43

Table 2. Membership Makeup

Financials

The figures below graphically portray our major expense categories for the last four years:

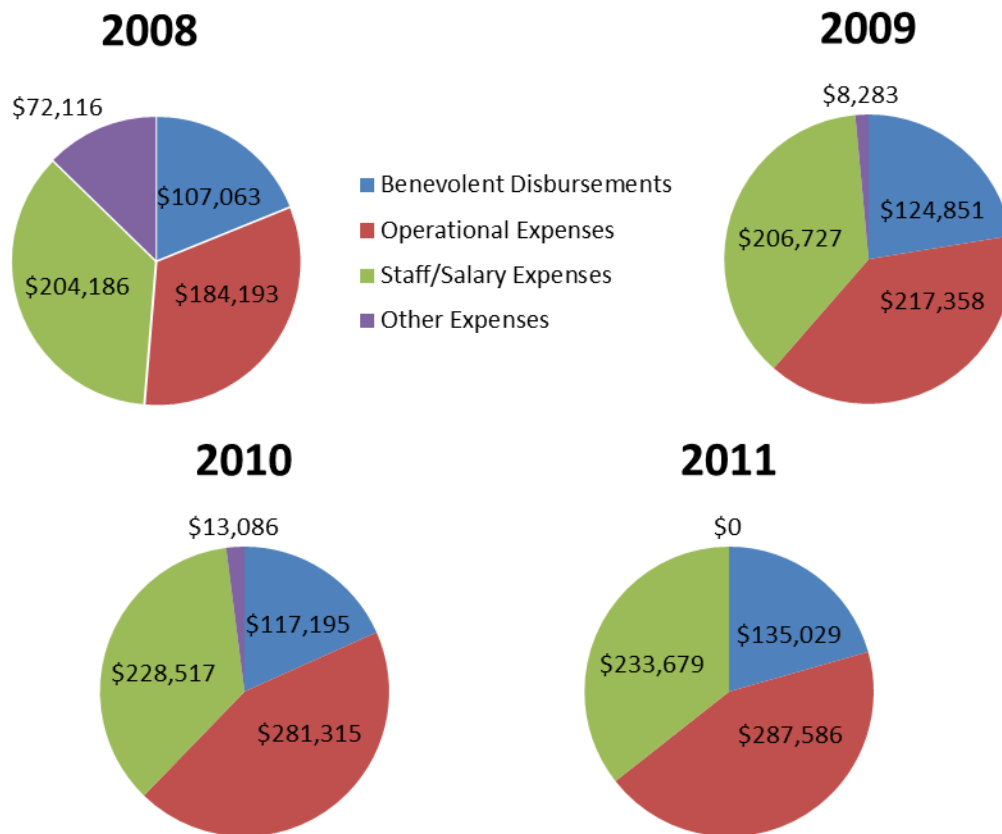


Figure 1. Major expense categories for previous four years

Leadership

Calvary is blessed by the faithful ministry of elders and deacons. Each family in the church is assigned to one elder who is committed to conducting annual shepherding visits in addition to ministering to spiritual needs. The Diaconate at CRPC is responsible for the physical and material welfare of members and the church facility.

Teaching Elders

Pete Hurst was born in Grundy, Virginia, and received his undergraduate degree from King College in 1968 and his M.Div. from Reformed Theological Seminary in 1972. He has served as senior pastor of the church after serving in several churches in Virginia, Tennessee, and Alabama between 1972 and 1985. He began a real estate service in 2005 and looks forward to spending more time as a Christian businessman. Pete is the father of four married children, grandfather of 14, and resides in Hampton with his wife, Brenda.

Byron Snapp has served as Associate Pastor at CRPC since 1994. He was born in Marion, Virginia, and graduated from King College (B.A. in history) in 1970 and Reformed Theological Seminary in 1973. He has served on the Court Duties Committee of James River Presbytery since 1994 and has been its chairman since 1998. He has pastored churches in Mississippi, South Carolina, and Virginia. He met his wife, Janey, at King College. They have three married children and 18 grandchildren. Byron enjoys reading and gardening in his spare time.

Ruling Elders

Dave Mericle, a southern California native, became a member of Calvary in 1983 and a ruling elder in 1984. His post high school education included the Naval Academy and National War College. Due to active duty assignments with the submarine force, he and his family left Hampton Roads three times, returning to the area each time, considering Virginia and CRPC “home.” Retiring as a Navy Captain from active duty in 2000, he continues to work for the Navy as a civil servant. Dave grew up in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and has thankfully not known a day apart from the Savior. He has particular interest in music (playing keyboards and singing) and worship and serves on the James River and Blue Ridge Presbytery Joint Committee for Reformed University Fellowship. Dave is 60 years old, married to Julie for 37 years, and they are blessed with three married sons, their wives, and nine grandchildren.

Dan Phillips was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, but grew up in California and Maine. He joined the Navy in 1988 where he continues to serve as the senior enlisted advisor for the Reactor Department aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. His life in Christ began in 1980 in the Southern Baptist Church, and in 1993 he and his wife, Karen, became members of CRPC where he was elected deacon in 1999. Following a three year tour of duty move to New York, he returned to CRPC in 2004 and in 2010 was elected elder. Dan and Karen have been married for 21 years and have eight children.

Stuart Pope joined CRPC in 1994 and has been a ruling elder since 2007. He is a native of Newport News, received an undergraduate degree in mathematics/physics, and holds an MS in fluid mechanics/thermal sciences from George Washington University. He has been employed at NASA Langley Research Center since 1979 as a senior aeroacoustics engineer, is 54 years old, and has been married for 30 years to his wife, Cathi. They have two grown children and live in Newport News.

Joe Sawanowich joined CRPC in 1987, served as a deacon from 1989-1997, and as a ruling elder since 1997. He came to Christ as a teenager; he was raised in a non-Christian, non-church attending home. Joe is originally from New Jersey, received an undergraduate degree in psychology from Liberty University

and a graduate degree in counseling from the College of William and Mary. He has been employed as a social worker in the city of Newport News since 1987 and enjoys teaching adult and youth Sunday School classes. He also serves on the board of Calvary Classical School. Joe is 55 years old, lives in Hampton, and has been married for 25 years to Linda. They have no children. Joe has a great passion for reading, Chesterton being a favorite.

Deacons

Charles “Dave” Bailey has been a member at CRPC since 1976, a deacon from 1980-1988, and again from 2004-present. As a deacon, his primary focus has been infrastructure. In the 1970s, the church’s total square footage was 4,000. Today it is 21,000. Dave has been tireless in seeing this building come to fruition. Future planning may add another 9,000 to 18,000 for church and school needs. At age 63, he has been married to his wife Irene for 42 years. They have two adult children.

Gary Grant has been a member of CRPC since 1990. He is married to Jane, has three teen-aged daughters, and works as a local pharmacist.

Jake Hughes, the current chairman of the Board of Deacons, has been a member of CRPC since 1996. In 1999, he received his undergraduate degree in computer science from Virginia Military Institute. He is married to Rebekah, and they have three sons aged 11, 9, and 7. He is a broker and part-owner of a local real estate firm.

James King has served as a deacon for five years at CRPC and is an industrial engineer in the US Air Force with 22 years of active duty and civilian military service for both the US Army and Air Force. He received his undergraduate degree in industrial and systems engineering (FIU-1990) and his MS degree in environmental and engineering management (AFIT-1995). He is married to Cheryl, and they have nine children.

Ron Moore has served as a deacon at CRPC for eight years and has been a member of the church for 30 years. He has been the ushering coordinator for more than 20 years and occasionally assists with both the Riverside Convalescent worship service ministry and the Nehemiah's Nook ministry for the homeless. He served four years in U.S. Air Force, retired from Newport News Shipbuilding with 38 years’ service, and is 73 years old. He and his wife, Norma, have lived across the street from CRPC for 39 years. His hobbies are woodworking and model railroading.

Ministries and Other Programs

CRPC provides many and varied means for members to use their gifts and talents in service to the church and in reaching out to the community with the gospel.

Committees and Ministries

Each committee is overseen by a deacon or elder and is ultimately responsible to and overseen by the Session. Each committee’s responsibilities are described in detail in the church handbook. Women at CRPC may take a very active role in ministry. Women can be leaders of committees. They may assist in worship by leading or singing in the choir, providing special music, and playing instruments. They are not ordained office holders.

- Administration – assists with filling committee vacancies and maintaining handbook
- Adoption – provides assistance to families in process of adoption
- Audio/Visual
- Budget – advisory committee for yearly budget planning

- Building
- Christian Education – includes sub-committees on Sunday School, library, bulletin boards, booktable, Reformation Conference, Spring Conference
- Convalescent Center – oversees monthly worship service at local nursing home
- English as a Second Language
- Fellowship – oversees church meals and social gatherings including conversational dinners
- Flowers & Decorations
- Grounds
- Hospitality – provides meals and special help to families in need
- Kitchen – maintains order of kitchen, equipment, supplies, and coffee service
- Missions – includes sub-committees for mission trips, and special missions programs
- Music – includes adult and youth choirs and arrangement for special music
- Nehemiah’s Nook – arranges monthly participation in inter-church ministry to homeless
- Nursery
- Prayer Chain
- Retreat – organizes the activities for our annual church Labor Day retreat
- Showers
- Small Groups - Provide weekly Bible study, worship, mutual prayer and fellowship opportunities
- Ushering
- Women in the Church
- Worship – oversees materials pertinent to worship, sacraments, pulpit supply, special services
- Youth – oversees our junior/senior high program of activities

Programs

The following groups are ultimately responsible to the Session.

- **Boy Scout Troop #18**, Heritage District, Colonial Virginia Council, Boy Scouts of America, was chartered in April 2001. Troop size has varied from 8-16 participants, and seven young men have attained the level of Eagle Scout.
- **Small Groups:** CRPC currently has 10 small groups that meet throughout the week at the Church and in homes in the local area. These groups consist of 6-12 individuals and are established to offer mutual encouragement, fellowship and accountability as well as opportunities for Bible and related Christian topical studies, worship, prayer and service for growth in Christ.
- **Women in the Church (WIC):** CRPC has an active WIC program. WIC officers serve for two years (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer). Money is included in the yearly WIC budget so that officers may attend the annual WIC conference. WIC holds a monthly evening gathering which includes Bible or book study and a time of fellowship. WIC also provides a weekly morning Bible study during the school year. WIC schedules a number of special fellowship activities throughout the year (craft nights and retreats) which are usually well attended. WIC sponsors a special project each year. For the last couple of years, WIC has organized the church’s participation in the Angel Tree ministry.
- **Calvary Classical School** is a ministry of CRPC and was established in 1995. The school currently enrolls 93 students and offers grades K3-6th. It is overseen by a board of 11 members and employs a staff of 20 (full-time and part-time). The mission of the school is to assist parents

in fulfilling their covenantal duty to educate their children by offering a Christian, classical, and Biblically-integrated curriculum, resulting in students who think and learn independently for the glory of God. The school is housed in three buildings on the church property (a new brick building with two classrooms and office space, and two modular buildings containing classrooms and the library). The school also offers before and after-school childcare.

- We also have a group of homeschooling families who meet together for advice, planning, field trips, and presentations. This is a loose-knit group and is not under the oversight of the Session as a whole.



Students and Teachers at Calvary Classical School

Staff

Senior Pastor – K.W. “Pete” Hurst has been senior pastor at CRPC since 1985. His main responsibility is to preach and teach (which has included morning worship, special services, Sunday School and Sunday evening classes, and small groups). Other responsibilities include many administrative tasks related to the Session, shepherding, counseling, moderating the Session, overseeing various committees (currently Christian Education and Small Groups), visitation, writing/editing church publications, and taking an active role in Presbytery.

Associate Pastor – Byron Snapp has served as the associate pastor since 1994. His major responsibilities include pulpit supply in the senior pastor’s absence, maintaining contact with visitors and moving them into membership, hospital and home visitation, counseling, leading Bible studies (currently women’s Bible study and a small group), many administrative tasks related to the work of the Session and church office, teaching adult Sunday School, committee membership (currently chairing Missions committee, previously member of Christian Education), authoring book reviews and articles for the church newsletter and other publications, and chairing Court Duties Committee of Presbytery. When Pastor Snapp first came to CRPC, he was the principal of Calvary Classical School for four years and administrated the Christian Worldview Student Conference for 14 years.

Secretary – Kathy Lipsy has been the part-time secretary for five years (15-20 hours/week). It is her responsibility to maintain the office (phone, files, computer work), type the bulletin, and assist the pastors with clerical work.

Treasurer – Joelle Nalls has been the part-time treasurer for one year (15-20 hours/week). Prior to her service, a volunteer filled the role of church treasurer. Additional duties were added which warranted a

paid employee. Joelle handles the payroll for CRPC and CCS employees, disburses monies, and maintains records for the church budget.

Maintenance – Ray Paradez has served as grounds and maintenance man for the church and school for seven years. He works under the supervision of our pastors and the chairmen of the grounds and building committees and is responsible for the upkeep of the church grounds (routine mowing, weeding, leaf removal, trash, recycling), equipment (fire/safety checks), and furnishings (upkeep, repair). He does many minor repairs around the facility and also assists with remodeling projects.

Financial Officer (volunteer) – Tim Tonkovic oversees the church treasurer and the advisory budget committee. He is authorized to sign checks and provides accountability for our management of monies.

Our Local Community

Hampton, a robust waterfront city in southeastern Virginia, has a population of approximately 146,400 and encompasses 55 square miles on the Virginia Peninsula. It is a part of the Hampton Roads region which has an estimated population exceeding 1.6 million and is the second largest metro area between Washington D.C. and Atlanta.

Hampton, with its mild climate, enjoys an abundance of things to see and do. Residents and visitors have access to outstanding recreational and cultural options including beaches, museums, opera, parks, festivals, and much more. President Obama recently signed the order to make historical Fort Monroe a national park, and we are located just 20 miles from the historic triangle of Yorktown, Jamestown, and Williamsburg.

For the eighth year in a row, Hampton was named one of the most technology-advanced cities in the nation by the Center for Digital Government (2009 Digital Cities Survey) and one of the top 20 hot spots for young professionals to live and work as ranked by Next Generation Consulting, 2009. Hampton is also a safe and vibrant city with one of the lowest crime rates, well below the national average for a city of comparable size.

Hampton is home to Langley Air Force Base, NASA Langley Research Center, and the National Institute of Aerospace. Our city offers an array of educational opportunities including magnet and charter public schools, a well-developed community college system (Thomas Nelson Community College), and Hampton University. The region is also home to the College of William and Mary, Old Dominion University, Christopher Newport University, and Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Please browse our city websites at www.hampton.gov and www.hamptonva.biz to discover the numerous reasons Hampton is a great place to live!

Neighboring communities of Newport News (www.newport-news.org and www.nngov.com) and Yorktown (www.yorkcounty.gov) are also home to many of the members of CRPC.