

STATEMENT OF CALLING

West Side Christian Church

is a faithful and caring church family

committed to making Disciples of Jesus Christ in our

Church, our Community,

and our **World.**

Church: *Equip* our church family through spiritual growth and leadership development.

Community: *Share* the love of Christ through service.

World: *Witness* through support of Disciples' missions.

A VISION FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

OUR VISION

To be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. (Micah 6:8)

OUR MISSION

To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

2020 VISION

- 1000 new congregations
- 1000 transformed congregations
- The leadership development necessary to realize these new and renewed congregations
- All within a context of being an anti-racist/pro-reconciling church.

Who is the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) originated on the American Frontier during the early 19th Century. Its first leaders were Barton Stone and Alexander Campbell, Presbyterians who reacted against sectarian frontier religion and urged a union of all Christians founded upon the restoration of New Testament Christianity. They advocated adult baptism by immersion, weekly observance of The Lord's Supper, and autonomy of the local congregation.

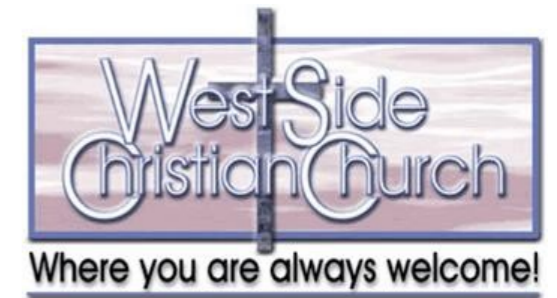
Congregations accept new members through a confession of faith and baptism or by transfer of membership from other denominations. Worship styles vary from congregation to congregation, but all observe communion each Sunday. The communion table is open to all. It is a place where we come to experience the power of God's love and the grace of Jesus Christ in the breaking of bread and the drinking of the cup. Our gathering at the communion table is the central focus of our worship service.

Disciples advocate freedom and embrace diversity. We are a non-creedal tradition which means that creeds and doctrines do not dictate how we are to live out our faith. Each person is challenged to study the scriptures and discern God's will for their own life. The Christian Church has always served as a "bridge church" or a common ground for people with diverse denominational backgrounds. We believe in welcoming *all* people into relationship with Jesus Christ.

Who is West Side Christian Church?

The West Side Christian Church had its beginning on July 1, 1956 when 105 members of the Park View Christian Church, located on Hatton Street in downtown Portsmouth, were commissioned to organize a new Christian Church in the West End. The newly formed congregation held its first worship service on July 8, 1956 in the Grove Park Seventh Day Adventist Church on Winchester Drive. Attendance was 131. Those temporary facilities were utilized until the first unit of the present plant was constructed. In August of 1956, both the Christian Women's Fellowship and the Christian Men's Fellowship groups were chartered.

West Side Christian Church recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and has recommitted itself to doing ministry in the city of Portsmouth. We see ourselves as a loving and caring congregation open to where God is calling us. In many ways, we are like a giant family committed to one another and to Jesus Christ. With nearly 400 members, we are continuing to grow and hope you will consider making West Side your church home.



535 Cherokee Road
Portsmouth, Virginia 23701
(757) 488-0514
www.westsidccdoc.org



DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Rev. Nathan Brown, Minister
Becky Barclay, Music Director

Welcome To West Side Christian Church

May 25, 2008



**GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Let All Things Now Living" arr. Ham

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP Elder, David McCrickard

Elder: We gather in the name of our one Master.

ALL: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Elder: Focusing, not on tomorrow's troubles, but on praising God and serving our neighbor today.

ALL: The Spirit calms and quiets our souls.

Elder: Thanks be to God, our dependable, nursing mother.

*WORSHIP HYMN "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" CH, 85

*UNISON INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: Spirit of Pentecost-growth, Christ offers us wealth that outshines even Solomon, even the lilies of the field. Help us to worship, not this-world wealth, but God, ever striving first for God's kingdom and righteousness. Help not to worry about tomorrow, so that we can be better focused on doing your work today. We ask these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray saying, *"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

*GLORIA PATRI CH, 35

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 49:8-18

MORNING PRAYER Rev. Brown

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY "Melodie Celeste" Koschat

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: Lord, we serve, not wealth, but you alone, so we give you these offerings for your exaltation and for the care of the needy. May all the gifts that we give be used in service to the world and glorify your name. Amen.

*THE DOXOLOGY CH, 46

COMMUNION HYMN "Beneath the Forms of Outward Rite" CH, 406

The Lord's Table is open for all who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Christ has set the table before us. It is by His invitation we are fed. You may eat of the bread as it is passed and drink of the cup at the conclusion of the Words of Institution.

PRAYER FOR THE BREAD Elder, David McCrickard

PRAYER FOR THE CUP Elder, Kitty Baker

WORDS OF INSTITUTION Rev. Brown

ANTHEM "Sing to the Lord a Joyful Song" Hopson

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 6:24-34

SERMON "Something's Got to Give" Rev. Brown

HYMN OF INVITATION "The Voice of God Is Calling" CH, 666

During the singing of the hymn of Invitation, we invite anyone wishing to become a Christian or wishing to unite with this congregation, please come forward.

*BENEDICTION Rev. Brown

CHORAL BENEDICTION "Let Us Now Depart in Thy Peace" CH, 444

POSTLUDE "Allegro Jubilante" Lemmans

Diaconate Serving Today

Cindy Wallace, Curtis Nelson, Melinda Powers

* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

** At the conclusion of the announcements, children ages 3-8 are dismissed to attend "Worship and Wonder", following a prayer with Rev. Brown

Offering for May 18 2008

WEEKLY BUDGET EXPENSES: \$3,418.00

Received for Budget: \$ 2,180.00

General Building Fund: 175.00

Pentecost: 354.00

Other: (Coffee/Donuts, Flowers, CMF) 44.50

TOTAL for May 18, 2008 \$ 2,753.50

