

## 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 West Side Christian Church?

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 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?

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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.



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**DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**

**Rev. Nathan Brown, Minister**  
**Becky Barclay, Music Director**

**WELCOME**  
**West Side Christian Church**  
**December 28, 2008**



**\*\*GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** "Canon de Noel" Martin

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** Elder, Bob Nutting

Elder: Rejoice in God, who is our life and salvation.  
 Christ has come to make us heirs of God's promise.

**ALL: God commanded, and we were created.  
 We are children of the Most High.**

Elder: Praise God from the heights of heaven.  
 Praise God, all people of the earth.

**ALL: God opens our eyes to see the light.  
 We will be called by a new name.**

Elder: Men and women, youth and aged.  
 Sing of God's glory; shout your praise.

**ALL: God has made us heirs of promise.  
 We will praise God's holy name.**

**\*WORSHIP HYMN** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" CH, 164

**\*UNISON INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL:** Faithful God, by whose Spirit all people and places become holy, lead us by that Spirit today. We have come to celebrate a birth that offers us rebirth. We have gathered that you might claim us as heirs, with Christ, of eternal life. Unite our hearts and minds in a chorus of praise, that the life of this church might be quickened, renewed, and refocused. May your faithful people become a crown of beauty in your hands. 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 63:7-14

**MORNING PRAYER** Dr. Woodie Rea

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

**OFFERTORY** "What Child Is This?" arr. Wells

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**ALL:** With joyous praise, we return to you a portion of all you have given to us. May our giving exceed the demands of the law. You have invited us to sacrifices befitting our blessings. You have asked us to care for those less privileged. What we offer in these moments is a beginning. We will ponder again your amazing grace in granting us life, in offering the child Jesus to bring us back to you, and in giving us the name "Christian." Praise be to you, O God. Amen.

**\*THE DOXOLOGY** CH, 46

**COMMUNION HYMN** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" CH, 160

*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, Bob Nutting

**PRAYER FOR THE CUP** Elder, Lois Pyles

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS** Congregational Sing

**SERMON TEXT** Matthew 2:1-15

**SERMON** "The Other Side of Christmas" Dr. Woodie Rea

**HYMN OF INVITATION** "How Great Our Joy!" CH, 170  
*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** Dr. Woodie Rea

**POSTLUDE** "Partita on 'Noel Nouvelet'" arr. Lasky

**Diaconate Serving Today**  
 Brendon McNelis, Wendy McNelis, Erin Ripley, Brooke Lowman

\* 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 December 21, 2008**

WEEKLY BUDGET EXPENSES: \$3,418.00

Received for Budget:	\$ 2,109.61
Building Fund:	90.00
Christmas Offering:	694.00
Minister's Assistance Fund:	520.00
Poinsettias:	30.00
Preschool Taxes:	1,089.53
Other: (Coffee/Donuts, Copier)	17.39
<b>TOTAL for December 21, 2008</b> .....	<b><u>\$ 4,550.53</u></b>

## THIS WEEK AT WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Today, Dec. 28th	9:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 9:45 a.m. Church School 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service 7:00 p.m. Youth Lock In
Mon. Dec. 29th	7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Group
Tues, Dec. 30th	No Church Activities
Wed., Dec. 31st	9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Group
Thurs. Jan. 1st	No Church Activities
Fri., Jan. 2nd	No Church Activities
Sat, Jan. 3rd	No Church Activities
Sun., Jan. 4th	9:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 9:45 a.m. Church School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

### IN NEED OF PRAYER

Joy White, Kellie M. Masil Jones, Dudley DeStefano, Debbie Keith, Eloise Low, Jeannie Ross, Brian Balasco, Cecil Dillon, Davenport Family, Nancy & Bob Hale, Mary Wyatt, Jordan Lahy, Melissa & Ed Davidson, Dottie Redman, Robin Thomas, Patrick Petty, John J. Milam, Deweese, Doug Tatum, Lorrain Marleen Whitehurst, Betty McCrickard, Brenda Lohse, Carolyn Phillips

### SHUTINS

Rev. Glenn Weaver, Ruth Blackman, Sylvia Sadykova, Cotton, Dennis Davenport, Roland Thornton, Esther Daniel

Please call the church office at 555-5800 to add or remove a name from the list. Names will remain on the list for one month unless requested to remain.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 28, 2008

- Bringing today's sermon is Rev. Dr. Woodie Rea, Chaplain & Director of Pastoral Care for Riverside Rehabilitation Institute, Newport News, VA. Rev. R. member of Hilton Church.
- Youth grades 6th are invited to attend at the church for beginning at 7:00 PM. We will have activities and food for pillows and sleeping bags. We will be going home at 8:00 AM. Friends are welcome. Call Kelly Terry at 555-5800 for questions or transportation.
- Rev. Brown will be out of the office this week. Please contact your Elder.
- If you purchased a Christmas poinsettia and have not yet taken it home, please bring it to church today.