

## 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 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.



535 Cherokee Road  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23701  
(757) 488-0514  
[www.westsidccdoc.org](http://www.westsidccdoc.org)



**DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**

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

**WELCOME**  
**WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**August 23, 2009**



**\*\*GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**PRELUDE** "Andante Religioso" Mandelssohn

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** Elder, Mary Redmon

Elder: With profound happiness, we welcome one another.  
 How good it is to approach the courts of our God.

**ALL:** Happy are those who live in God's house!  
 Singing our praise to God fills us with joy.

Elder: Here we welcome both friend and stranger.  
 All peoples of the earth are God's children.

**ALL:** We greet one another by name in Jesus' name.  
 Together we extol the name of our God.

Elder: Open your hearts to receive new strength.  
 Open your lives to renewed understanding.

**ALL:** Surely God will equip us to face our world.  
 We will be ambassadors for God wherever we go.

**\*WORSHIP HYMN** "How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely" CH, 285

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

**ALL:** We come together in this house of prayer, trusting you, O God, to give us everything we need. As you provide for the birds of the air, you supply life's necessities for your children to share. We choose to respond to your promises by identifying ourselves as your servant people who seek to be guided by your word. We gather to remember and reclaim your covenant with us. Fleeing from tents of wickedness, we gather to do the tasks you entrust to us here, praying for strength to do our daily work as a ministry in your name. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ 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** Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

**MORNING PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

**OFFERTORY** "When Morning Gilds the Skies" Barnby

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**ALL:** May our giving add strength to the witness of your church as we humbly seek your truth and lovingly share it. Ready us to proclaim the gospel of peace in our homes, in our places of work and leisure, throughout our community and the world. Keep before your people the awesome mystery of faith. May its power overcome the cynicism of our skeptical, self-serving age, uniting us in disciplines that are freeing and discipleship that is amazingly fulfilling. Amen.

**\*THE DOXOLOGY** CH, 46

**COMMUNION MEDITATION** Rev. Brown

**COMMUNION HYMN** "I Am Thine, O Lord" CH, 601  
 (stz. 1, 2, 3)

*The Lord's Table is open for all people. 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, Mary Redmon

**PRAYER FOR THE CUP** Elder, Larry Hackler

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SOLO** "Spirit" (Manly) Frances Wells, Soprano

**SERMON TEXT** John 6:56-69

**SERMON** "Getting to **Know** Jesus" Rev. Brown

**HYMN OF INVITATION** "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult" CH, 337

*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

**POSTLUDE** "Pastorale" Burney

**DIACONATE SERVING TODAY**  
 Jennifer Larson, Bubba Jenson, Karen Hartzog, Cecil Dillon

\* 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 August 16, 2009**

<b>WEEKLY BUDGET EXPENSES: \$4,718.00</b>	
Received for Budget:	\$ 1,653.00
Other: (Coffee/Donuts)	13.91
<b>TOTAL for August 16, 2009 .....</b>	<b>\$ 1,666.91</b>

