

## 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.

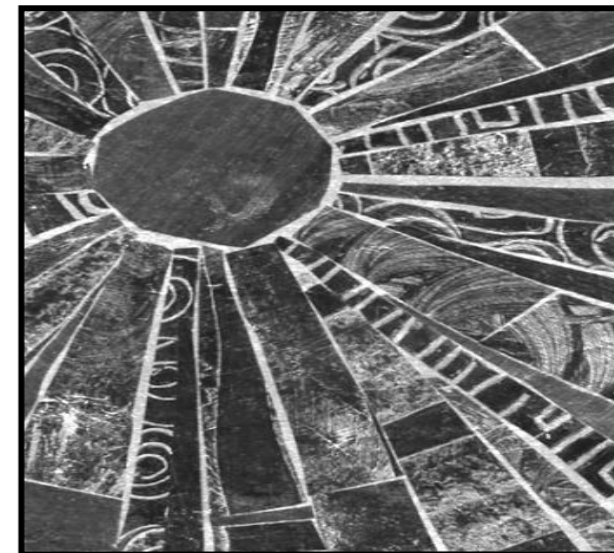
## Who is West Side Christian Church?

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.



## "Mary's Song"



"Magnificat" © Jan L. Richardson

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**  
 December 20, 2009



**THE COMMUNITY GATHERS TO SERVE GOD**

**\*\*SHARING THE NEWS OF WEST SIDE.....**Rev. Brown

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**PRELUDE.....** J. S. Bach  
*"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"*

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP.....**Fred Fritts

Elder: Before the majesty of God, we gather to worship;  
 in quiet expectation, we come to hear God's  
 promises.

**PEOPLE:** This is where we belong; here we are warmly  
 greeted. Surely God will feed our deepest hunger.

Elder: Before God's strength and power, we bow down;  
 in hesitant anticipation, we listen for God's  
 judgment.

**PEOPLE:** This is our home, where our lives are redirected.  
 Surely God will show us new ways to live.

Elder: Before the mercy of God, we lift our hearts;  
 in humble imagination, we welcome a new  
 visitation.

**PEOPLE:** This day God is present with us; we feel it.  
 Surely God is preparing for us a time of joy.

**\*WORSHIP HYMN.....**CH, 148  
*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

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

**ALL:** Let your face shine on us, mighty God. Break  
 through the obstacles that keep us from seeing your way.  
 Melt down the barriers that keep us from knowing the  
 embrace of your love. Remove from us the low self-esteem  
 that keeps us from valuing the overwhelming gift of life  
 that you entrust to us. Speak to us here in life-changing  
 accents. 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

**THE COMMUNITY PROCLAIMS**  
**THE WORD OF GOD**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE .....**Chris Larson Family

**OLD TESTAMENT READING.....**Micah 5:2-5a

**SILENT MEDITATION**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING .....**Luke 1:39-55

**SERMON.....***"Mary's Song"*.....Rev. Brown

**INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

**HYMN OF INVITATION.....** CH, 155 (vs. 1, 2)  
*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

*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.*

**ANTHEMS.....***"Do Not Find Me Sleeping"*.....Martin-Page  
*"Living Light"* Frombach-Lantz  
*"In the Bleak Midwinter"* Holst-Moore

**THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER**  
**AT THE LORD'S TABLE**

**MOMENT FOR MISSION.....**Mary Peris

**OFFERTORY.....**arr. Bay  
*"Carol Medley"*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**ALL:** Thank you God, for your mercy and protection,  
 for feeding us physically and spiritually, for caring for  
 us like a shepherd. We present our offerings as an act  
 of gratitude. What we can never repay we pause to  
 appreciate. In the name of generosity we cannot  
 match, we seek to be generous toward others. May  
 these offerings do far more than support our church.  
 We dedicate ourselves and these gifts to honor Christ  
 through ministry in the world. Amen.

**\*THE DOXOLOGY .....**CH, 46

**COMMUNION MEDITATION.....**Rev. Brown

**COMMUNION HYMN.....**CH, 161 (vs. 1, 4)  
*"I Wonder as I Wander"*

*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.....**Fred Fritts

**PRAYER FOR THE CUP.....**Sharon Jenson

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH**  
**TO SERVE GOD IN MISSION**

**\*BENEDICTION.....***"Keep Silent"*.....arr. Bay

**DIACONATE SERVING TODAY**

Chris Larson, Karen Hartzog, Brendon McNelis, Wendy McNelis

\* 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 13, 2009**

**Weekly Budget Expenses: \$4,718.00**

Received for Budget:	\$ 2,879.26
Building Fund:	440.00
Christmas Offering:	320.00
Poinsettias:	420.00
Angel Food:	20.00
Other: (Coffee/Donuts, FC Rental, Flowers)	136.74
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$ 4,216.00</b>

## ~December 13, 2009 ~

- If you have not yet turned in a pledge card for 2010, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards can be found on the table leading to the Fellowship Center. While you are there remember to pick up your 2010 Stewardship envelope box.
- We will be collecting our special Christmas offering again today.
- Please join us on Thursday evening for our Christmas Eve service at 7 PM.
- Rev. Brown will be away visiting family from Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a Worship & Wonder Training session at Slash Christian Church in Ashland, VA, January 8-10. If you are interested in attending please see Kitty Baker.

### IN NEED OF PRAYER

Price Family, Lauren Forbes, Peris Family, Glen Emery, Jean Benson, Barclay Family, Pauline Moseberth, Linda Powers, Martha Whitlow, Brenda Lewis, Anne Preslar, Kristen Muhlenbeck, Danny Black, Lesa Myles, Kyle Baker, John Milam, Norman Dickens, Emily Gray Metz, Maud Hemby, Nathan Brown Family, Quimby Family, Kitty Buchanan, Sue Gatling, Barbara Barnhart, Murray Brown, Eloise Lowman, Jeannie Ross, Christie Bradley, Masil Jones, Lorraine Shea, Jordan Lahy, Mary Wyatt, Janice Deweese

### SHUT INS

Dottie Redmon, Rev. Glenn Weaver, Ruth Blackman, Sandy Cotton, Dennis Davenport, Roland Thornton, Al Hemby, Esther Daniel

### THIS WEEK AT WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN

- Today, Dec. 20th:** 9:00 a.m. – Coffee Fellowship  
9:45 a.m. – Church School  
11:00 a.m. – Worship Service
- Mon., Dec. 21st:** 5:00 p.m. – Angel Food Orders
- Tues., Dec. 22nd:** No scheduled Church Activities
- Wed., Dec. 23rd:** 9:00 a.m. – Prayer Group  
2:00 p.m. – Angel Food Orders  
7:15 p.m. – Choir
- Thurs., Dec. 24th:** Office Closed  
7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service
- Fri., Dec. 25th:** Office Closed – Merry Christmas
- Sat., Dec. 26th:** No Scheduled Church Activities
- Sun., Dec. 27th:** 9:00 a.m. – Coffee Fellowship  
9:45 a.m. – Church School  
11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

**A  
N  
N  
O  
U  
N  
C  
E  
M  
E  
N  
T  
S**