



# WESTSIDE

“The Greater  
Works  
Church”

*“Where people do Greater Works for the Kingdom of God”*

Thomas N. Bessix – **Senior Pastor**

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# *Vision*

STATEMENT:

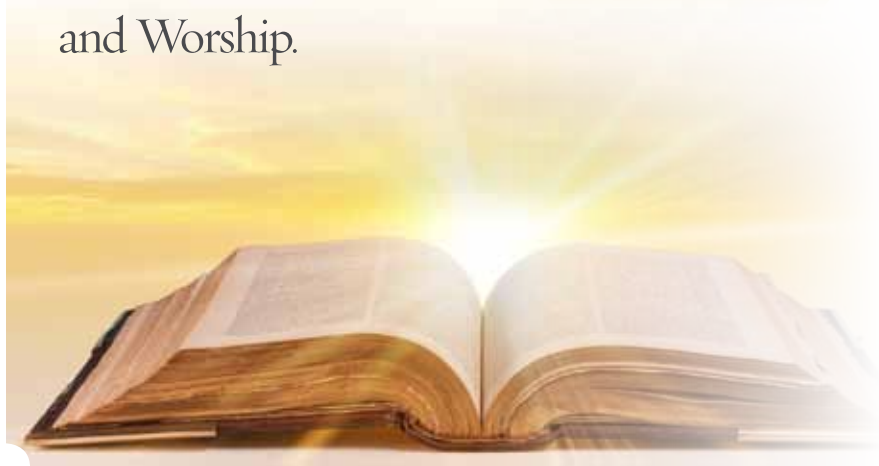
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To do Greater  
Works for the  
Kingdom of God  
through the power  
of Jesus Christ in the  
areas of Education,  
Evangelism,  
Fellowship, Ministry,  
Mission, Outreach  
and Worship.

SCRIPTURE:

John 14:12

Most assuredly,  
I say to you, he  
who believes in Me,  
the works that I do  
he will do also;  
and greater works  
than these he will do,  
because I go  
to My Father.  
NKJV



“The Greater Works Church”

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR:



### Greetings Family,

My heart and mind is filled with joy and gladness as I look back on all the amazing things God has done for us and through us as a church body in 2016. We have definitely began our journey in doing "Greater Works" for the Kingdom of God! Just to offer a glimpse of our stewardship for 2016:

- ▶ **Established a strategic planning team for vision implementation**
  - *Evaluated current ministries*
- ▶ **Established a Social Justice Ministry**
  - *Registered over 100 people to vote*
  - *Hosted a forum: "Responding to Law Enforcement"*
  - *Became an affiliate of "Faith in Texas"*
  - *Began conversations around Racial Reconciliation*
- ▶ **Created a partnership with Trietsch United Methodist Church of Flower Mound, TX**
- ▶ **Re-organized the Evangelism/Outreach Ministry**
  - *Expanded the Fall Festival*
  - *Partnered with North Texas Food Bank*
- ▶ **Adopted two Schools – Rockbrook Elementary and Durham Middle**
  - *Mid-year school supply drive for both schools*
- ▶ **Hired a Youth Pastor**
  - *Established a Drill Team – "The Christian Steppers"*
- ▶ **Hosted the "Greater Works Conference"**
- ▶ **Established the "Greater Works School of Biblical Studies"**
- ▶ **Community Engagement**
  - *Joined the Lewisville Chamber of Commerce and the Lewisville Rotary Club*
  - *Hosted the Chamber of Commerce Monthly meeting twice*
  - *Colaborated with area police officials and our youth to promote racial and law enforcement harmony*

This non-exhaustive list of Greater Works exemplifies for us what it looks like for the "Church to be the church." Acts 1:8 says "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." I am thanking and praising God for the togetherness and unity demonstrated by ministries partnering to accomplish goals and objectives for the Kingdom. It is my desire that we would continue to work together in partnership with one another. We will always accomplish more and have a greater impact in the community when ministries come together to accomplish Kingdom task.

Once again I have identified various topics of study for each month of the year. I am prayerfully requesting that all teachers would infuse these topics into their lessons during Kingdom Connection Hour as well as any ministry hosted bible studies.

In closing remember John 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

**In His Service**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Bessix", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas N. Bessix

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# Greater Works

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## After School Tutorial

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Develop an after school program that is second to none. Reinforcing skills based on the school system curriculum, STAR test prep, ACT/SAT prep, test taking skill training. Prayerfully this program will grow into a charter school (K-12).

## Re-entry Programs – Youth/Adult

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These programs will minister to youth and adults re-entering society from the penal system. Helping acclimate them to the community through possible job placement, soft skill training, parenting classes, anger management classes, etc.

## Senior Living Community/Ministry

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Build a senior living community; develop ministry that ministers to seniors who live independently as well as those who require assisted living, i.e.: Nursing Homes/Hospice/Bedridden.

## Mentoring Ministry – Young Leaders Academy

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This ministry will cultivate and develop young people (Middle and High School) for fruitful and productive living as well as continuing education.

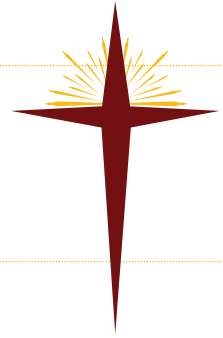
## Social Justice/Community Action Ministry

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This ministry will be community based. The ministry will raise a moral voice against injustices that impact our community. The ministry can take on issues such as: Mass Incarceration, Education, Childhood Obesity, Homelessness, the Pay day lending crisis, etc.

# GOALS:

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## Housing Developments

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Build affordable homes for low to median income families. Purchase and renovate foreclosed or blighted property for the purpose of encouraging home ownership.

## Foreign Mission Ministry

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Develop a consistent relationship with Westside Baptist Church of Sierra Leon. Church Plants for foreign soil, i.e.: Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Kenya, Haiti, Ghana, etc.

## Church Planting

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Church plants in the Greater Dallas area...40 miles or more away from WBC Lewisville "The Greater Works Church."

## Athletic Facility

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Build or buy an Athletic facility to host athletic events: football, basketball, baseball, soccer, track and field, volleyball and swimming. Also to include a medical facility for sports physicians and rehabilitation therapist.

"The Greater  
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# Monthly Preaching/Teaching Focus for 2016



## Stewardship

Stewardship defines man's relationship to God. It identifies God as owner and man as manager. God makes man His co-worker in the administering of all aspects of life. Biblical Stewardship can be defined as utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation.

Steward in the Greek: oi-ko-nó-mos

- ***the manager of household or of household affairs***
- ***to whom the head of the house or proprietor has entrusted the management of his affairs***
- ***the superintendent of the city's finances, the treasurer of a city***
- ***Another term used "epitrophos" – Means governor or procurator***

### STEWARDSHIP SCRIPTURES:

2 Corinthians 8:1-24; Psalms 24;  
Matthew 25: 14-30; 2 Corinthians  
9:6-15; Colossians 3:23-24; John 1:3;  
Genesis 2:18; Luke 12:42; Luke 6:38



## Prayer

Prayer is an act which seeks to activate a rapport with God through deliberate communication.

- ***Rapport = closeness or harmonious relationship***
- ***Deliberate communication = when one intentionally seeks Him***

Prayer is loving communication with God. Prayer is the expression of our inner spiritual needs. Through prayer we can find strength of spirit, guidance, wisdom, joy and inner peace. Prayer may be long or short, alone or in a group, silent or aloud, but it should be a true communication with God and not done for public recognition.

### PRAYER SCRIPTURES:

Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 6:9-13;  
1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; James 5:16;  
1 Thessalonians 5:17;  
Psalms 118:5-6; Psalms 138:3; Isaiah  
58:9-11; Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Peter 5:7



## Family

When looking at the family I see the acronym F. A. M. I. L. Y to mean that God is using family as the foundation around mankind in life and in years to come to show us his relationship to man. In the beginning we see God making man in his image (Genesis 1:27), male and female and the two becoming one (Genesis 2:24), and they are given the

task of populating the earth as a family (Genesis 1:28). God in scripture is called Abba meaning Father (Romans 8:15; Mark 14:36), and Jesus is referred to as his only begotten son (John 3:16), and we too are called sons and daughters (Galatians 4:6), laying the foundation of a spiritual family. The duties of the family is to live before one another and before God in a way that points to our creator God (Matthew 5:6). God expects the family from generations to generations to be able to populate the world with babies in the natural and babies in the spirit. 1 Corinthians tells us that the spiritual did not come first but the natural, but there after we should focus on the spiritual. In Families we learn and should honor all the one another commandments. Love one another (John 13:34), be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32), honor one another (Romans 12:10), pray for one another (James 5:16) and most of all forgive one another Colossians 3:13. Each if lived out in the family honors our God our Father which is in heaven and is a good model of how one can grow up and be more Christ-like.



## Faith

The Bible contains a clear definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Simply put, the biblical definition of faith is "trusting in something you cannot explicitly prove."

This definition of faith contains two aspects: intellectual assent and trust. Intellectual assent is believing something to be true. Trust is actually relying on the fact that the something is true. A chair is often used to help illustrate this. Intellectual assent is recognizing that a chair is a chair and agreeing that it is designed to support a person who sits on it. Trust is actually sitting in the chair.

Understanding these two aspects of faith is crucial. Many people believe certain facts about Jesus Christ. Many people will intellectually agree with the facts the Bible declares about Jesus. But knowing those facts to be true is not what the Bible means by "faith." The biblical definition of faith requires intellectual assent to the facts and trust in the facts.



# Evangelism, Missions, and Outreach

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Evangelism is the announcement, proclamation, and/or preaching of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4), the good news of and about Jesus Christ. Therefore, the gospel is a communicated message—communicated in verbal (Luke 7:22, Romans 10:14-17) and/or written (Luke 1:1-4) form. The English word, “evangelism,” comes from the Greek word “euaggelion”. Most literally translated in the noun form, euaggelion means: “gospel” or “good news.” In the verb form (euaggelizesthai), the meaning of the word changes slightly to “announce” or “bring good news.” The Greek word in its various forms appears fifty-five times in the New Testament. In addition to the before-mentioned translations, the Greek word is also translated as “preach.” Evangelism, the communication of the gospel message, includes a warning, an explanation, and a call. Evangelism includes warning people about sin and the consequences of sin (John 16:8, Acts 24:25, Revelation 20:11-15). It includes an explanation of God’s redemption for sin—the gospel (Acts 8:29-35, Romans 3:21-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21). If redemption truly is the heartbeat of the Bible, the church’s responsibility of sharing the message of salvation rests right at the center of her ministry. It also includes the clear call to repent (to turn from sin and to turn toward God) and believe the gospel by faith (Mark 1:15, Luke 13:1-5, Acts 17:29-31, Romans 1:17, Romans 10:9-13). God desires that people be saved (Luke 15:2; 2 Pet. 3:9).

## EVANGELISM SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; 1 Peter 3:15; Matthew 9:37-38; 1 Corinthians 15:37-38; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

Biblically we cannot speak of mission apart from the church, and we cannot speak of the church apart from mission. From the beginning of creation, we see the missionary heart of God, by the calling out to Adam in the Garden of Eden, saying “Adam, where are you?” God sought after Adam and Eve, as they attempted to hide from God, thus instituting the story of missions. God Himself entered human history in the person and work of Jesus Christ which makes missions relevant for all people. It is important to know that missions is God-based and not man-based; as the Father sends the Son, so the Son sends His church. We are simply joining and partnering with God in what He is already doing.

The church’s very identity is mission. As the church we are not the sender, but rather we are the sent one. In addition, the church does not participate in mission or do mission, but the church is simply a participant in God’s mission. True biblical missions must take into account the whole of human needs: spiritual, social, and personal.



At the heart and very center of missions, is the Kingdom of God. This is the rule of God in the midst of His people. Once persons are saved by the gospel, they become a part of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is not the church, but the church is a sign of it, which will ultimately come into its fullness at Christ's return; to some extent for us it is a mystery.

Christian missions is following Christ's call: sharing the Gospel with the lost world through God's wisdom and strength. Christian missions is obeying Christ. After Christ's death and resurrection, He commanded the disciples to share the Gospel, the message of His redemption. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). This Great Commission applies to Christians today. We should fulfill our mission not out of duty but love: "For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf....Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:14-21).

Our hope of missions is Christ's return to establish His kingdom.

#### MISSION SCRIPTURES:

Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 13:47; Mark 16:15; Matt. 24:14; Mark 13:10

Outreach is defined as "an act or instance of reaching out, length or extent of reach" or "the act of extending services, benefits, etc., to a wider section of the population, as in community work." Note this is a secular definition but remember the church's objective is to achieve outreach ministry. In other words, we perform acts of outreach in order to minister to them with the Gospel. Outreach has become a valuable conduit by which evangelism and the Gospel message is passed. We, the church, extend services, benefits, resources, time, prayer, etc. We choose to meet all these needs, with the goal of bringing people to Jesus Christ.

#### OUTREACH SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:4; Acts 1:8; Jeremiah 1:7; Mark 16:18; Romans 10:14; 2 Timothy 4:2; Matthew 25

# June

## Worship

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The meaning of the New Testament Greek word most often translated “worship” (*proskuneo*) is “to fall down before” or “bow down before.” Worship is a state (an attitude) of spirit. Since it’s an internal, individual action, it could/should be done most of the time (or all the time) in our lives, regardless of place or situation (John 4:21). Therefore, Christians worship all the time, seven days a week. When Christians formally gather together in worship, still the emphasis should be on individually worshipping the Lord. Even in a congregation, participants need to be aware that they are worshipping God fully on an individual basis.

The nature of Christian worship is from the inside out and has two equally important parts. We must worship “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24). Worshiping in the spirit has nothing to do with our physical posture. It has to do with our innermost being and requires several things. First, we must be born again. Without the Holy Spirit residing within us, we cannot respond to God in worship because we do not know Him. “No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God” (1 Corinthians 2:11b). The Holy Spirit within us is the one who energizes worship because He is in essence glorifying Himself, and all true worship glorifies God.

### WORSHIP SCRIPTURES:

John 4:23-24; Psalm 29:2; Psalm 95:6;  
Hebrews 10:24-25





# God's Promises

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## I. Introduction

Don't you hate it when you are misunderstood? You try to say what you mean as plainly as it can be said, but someone always seems to not get the idea. God also wants to be understood. Again and Again He has made covenants, contracts and they spell out the Promises of God. God's Word contains thousands of Bible promises. We can trust and believe that all of God's Promises are true. All of God's promises deal with all areas of our lives.

## II. Some Areas of Our Lives

### A. Addictions

Scripture: Psalm 50:15; 1Corinthians 10:13

### B. Depression

Scriptures: Psalms 9:9-10; Psalm 34:17

### C. Encouragement

Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:6

### D. Forgiveness

Scripture: 1 John 1:9

### E. Love

Scripture: John 3:16

### F. Joy

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:10

### G. Peace

Scripture: Isaiah 26:3

## A Few Reminders

1. God is always with you no matter what, even to the end of the world.  
Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20
2. All the promises of God in Him are yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.  
2 Corinthians 1:20

**NOTE:** The Hymn Writer R. Kelso Carter wrote: *"Standing on the promises of Christ my King Thro eternal ages Let His praises ring Glory in the Highest I will shout and sing Standing on the promises of God."*

## III. Scriptures - God's Promises

Philippians 4:19

Joshua 23:14

Jeremiah 30:17

Galatians 5:22-23

1 John 2:25

Luke 18:27

God's  
promises  
are  
something  
that He  
always  
keeps

- PSALM 89:34

# Aug u St

## Gifts

In Christianity, spiritual gifts (or charismata) are endowments which may be given by the Holy Spirit.

These are the supernatural

graces which individual Christians need (or needed in the days of the Apostles) to fulfil the mission of the church.

They are described in the New Testament, primarily in 1 Corinthians 12:4, Romans 12:5, and Ephesians 4:6, 1 Peter 4:7 also touches on the spiritual gifts. The gifts are related to both seemingly "natural" abilities and seemingly more

"miraculous" abilities, empowered by the Holy Spirit. The two major opposing theological positions on their nature is that they ceased long ago or that they continue (Cessationism versus Continuationism).

Spiritual gifts are distinguished from other graces of the Holy Spirit, such as the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, in that the charismata are to be used for the benefit of others while the fruit of the Spirit and other gifts result in personal sanctification.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit- word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, workings of miracles, gifts of healings, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues- are the manifestations of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are bestowed by God's grace and through the Holy Spirit, but also according to the will of God. Everyone who is born of the Spirit can manifest any of these gifts to some degree, but one must earnestly desire them and be surrendered to God in order to be used in them on a regular basis.



# Sep m te e<sup>r</sup>

## Praise

Our God requires the "Praise" of His people. We should always come with "Praises" and Thanksgiving, on our lips, unto our God! "Praise" should always be in our spirit and a part of our language. The command of "Praise" crosses all nations and all people. As believers we are to open our

mouths and give God our best "Praise!" This is our reasonable service unto a God that hears and answers our prayers! Not sometimes, but continually, we should give God the "Praise!" Open your mouths and give God the "Praise!"

**PRaise SCRIPTURES:**

Psalms 34:1; Psalms 67:3-5; Hebrew 13:15; Psalm 63:3; Psalms 150:1-6



## Forgiveness

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Life's challenges can scar us. You experience misunderstandings amongst family, friends and/or co-workers. You suffer unfair and unwarranted treatment on your job or socially. Maybe you've had a breakup or a failed marriage and are in a place where trusted people have disappointed or hurt you so badly that you've become angry and decided you will no longer be the victim building emotional walls of insensitivity and not caring.

Because of your experiences you may feel this mentality is justifiable but it is not. Forgiveness is crucial in the Christian faith because none of us are immune to the offenses of life. Jesus teaching to pray in Luke 11:4 taught that we receive forgiveness as we forgive as forgiveness is for both the offended and the offender (Matthew 6:14-14). Jesus further demonstrates forgiveness when on the cross He asked His Father to forgive those responsible for his crucifixion (Luke 23:34). Forgiveness frees the believer from dulled perceptions and understanding to receive from God and others. When unwilling to forgive, you allow the strongholds of anger, hate and bitterness to manifest in your heart (Matthew 18:23-35). Forgiveness is an attitude/a choice that does not remove the memory but it removes the pain of the offense.

We should daily ask God to purge our hearts of hatred, bitterness and the hurt that can build up in our spirit whether the deed was intentional or unintentional. Forgiveness is freedom.

“The Greater Works Church”

# N<sup>o</sup> vember

## Thankfulness

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Thankfulness is a key part of the Christian lifestyle and to becoming more Christ-like. It is a way to show our love to and for the Lord. Showing thankfulness day in and day out forces you to look at yourself, remember how far the Lord has brought you and be humble. These tasks are not that easy because we lose our focus and become distracted by our internal and external circumstances. We become angry and selfish, then, before you know it opportunities have passed you by to show somebody else how to be thankful. If we, in our carnal ways and thinking can remember not to complain about circumstances we will learn to be thankful.

Thankfulness also requires self-control and discipline. At first, we go to the Lord in prayer and thanksgiving making known your areas of need. We go on happy and thankful waiting in expectation. Then time passes, we start to get to get worried and our demeanor is not what it used to be. This is the time to exercise self-control and discipline. It is very easy to try to fix everything yourself instead of waiting upon the Lord. When you start doing that you start spending less and less time with the Lord and the more anxious and stressed out you get. Not becoming anxious is key to keeping this truth close because it will calm our spirit. It will give us what we need to keep going and it's a constant reminder to be thankful.

### THANKFULNESS SCRIPTURES:

1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 4:6

# December

## Advent

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming." Today, the term "Advent" has come to symbolize the season that focuses on

the expectation and anticipation of Christ's birth in the time leading up to Christmas. There are well over 400 prophecies, appearances or foreshadowings of Christ in the Old Testament; prophecies of His coming into the world to fulfill His unique role as Messiah.

### ADVENT SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:1-2; Genesis 49:10; Isaiah 11:1-10; Jeremiah 23:5; Isaiah 53:2

*The coming or birth of Jesus  
is also foretold in the Gospels.*

### BIRTH OF JESUS ADVENT SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 1:20-21; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:26-33; Luke 1:35

*The term "Advent" is also applied to the second coming of Christ, as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people.*

### THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST ADVENT SCRIPTURES:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 22:12-17



## Staff

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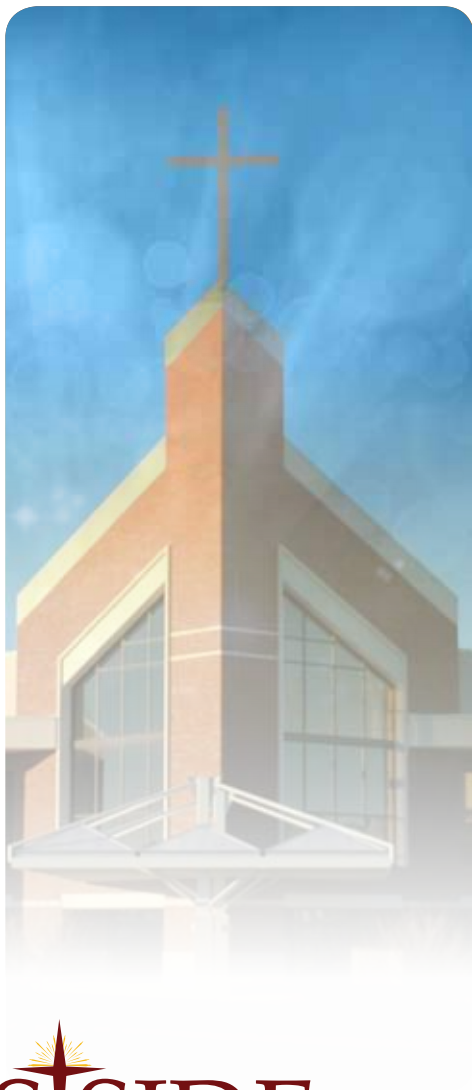
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**WESTSIDE**

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