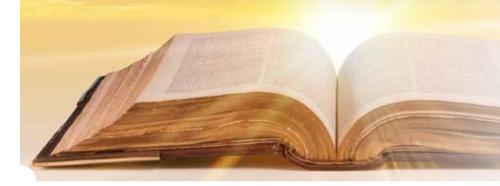


Vision STATEMENT:

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR:

Greetings Family,

I am so excited about what God is doing and going to do in the life of the Westside Church. My expectations for 2016 are off the charts. I'm expecting God to do the impossible, change the unchangeable, and provide the unthinkable through the awesome work of His Holy Spirit and the time, talent and treasure of the WBC membership. Proverbs 29:18 (a) says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish:" (KJV).

As I have spent time in prayer with God concerning WBC, God has given me the beginnings of what will inevitably identify us as "The Greater Works Church."

You will find in this vision pamphlet various ministries I would like to implement as well as the new church slogan, vision statement, and the new names for Sunday morning and Wednesday Bible studies. It is my prayerful desire that we as a body would embrace with gladness the name changes and work with diligence toward implementing and sustaining these new ministries.



In His Service

Thomas N. Bessix

church of "Greater Works!"

Greater Works

After School Tutorial

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

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

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

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

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:

Housing Developments

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

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

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

Athletic Facility

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.





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



Fellowship

Christian Fellowship - Christian Companionship
Christian fellowship occurs when two or more Christians are
in one another's company. The dictionary defines fellowship
as "friendly association with others; companionship."
Christian fellowship, then, involves friendly association with

other Christians. It means you choose Christians to be your companions.

FELLOWSHIP SCRIPTURES:

Acts 2:42-47; 2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 John 1:7; Hebrews 13:16; Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 4:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12; 1 John 1:3

Weekly Study Reminders

BIBLE STUDY: Refuel Wednesday SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Kingdom Connection Hour



Outreach

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 25:35-40



Leadership

There is no finer example for Christian leadership than our Lord Jesus Christ. He declared, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). It is within this verse that we see

the perfect description of a Christian leader. He is one who acts as a shepherd to those "sheep" in his care.

When Jesus referred to us as "sheep," He was not speaking in affectionate terms. In truth, sheep rank among the dumbest animals in creation. A stray sheep, still within earshot of the herd, becomes disoriented, confused, frightened, and incapable of finding its way back to the flock. Unable to ward off hungry predators, the stray is perhaps the most helpless of all creatures. Entire herds of sheep are known to have drowned during times of flash flooding even in sight of easily accessible higher ground. Like it or not, when Jesus called us His sheep, He was saying that without a shepherd, we are helpless.

The shepherd is one who has several roles in regard to his sheep. He leads, feeds, nurtures, comforts, corrects and protects. The shepherd of the Lord's flock leads by modeling godliness and righteousness in his own life and encouraging others to follow his example. Of course, our ultimate example—and the One we should follow—is Christ Himself. The Apostle Paul understood this: "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). The Christian leader is one who follows Christ and inspires others to follow Him as well.

The Christian leader is also a feeder and a nourisher of the sheep, and the ultimate "sheep food" is the Word of God. Just as the shepherd leads his flock to the most lush pasture so they will grow and flourish, so the Christian leader nourishes his flock with the only food which will produce strong, vibrant Christians. The Bible—not psychology or the world's wisdom—is the only diet that can produce healthy Christians. "Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD" (Deuteronomy 8:3).

LEADERSHIP SCRIPTURES:

Deuteronomy 1:13-18; John 13:12-15; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Galatians 5:16



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.

FAITH SCRIPTURES:

Hebrews 11:1; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 10:17; Galatians 2:16, 20; Matthew 8: 24-27



Worship

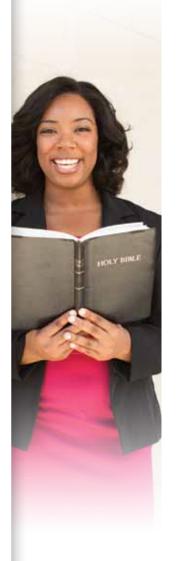
The meaning of the New Testament Greek word most often translated

"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 worshiping the Lord. Even in a congregation, participants need to be aware that they are worshiping 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





Evangelism

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 remedy for sin—the gospel (Acts 8:29-35, Romans 3:21-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21). And it 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).

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

"Where people do Greater Works for the Kingdom of God"



Mission

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 Io, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

This Great Commission applies to Christians today. Rather than a burden, obeying His call brings joy and reward in heaven. 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).

God could convert everyone using a blinding light and the voice of Christ as He did with the apostle Paul. Instead, He gives Christians the mission of reconciliation (Acts 1:8-9). He works through us, calling sinners to turn to Christ in repentance and faith.

MISSION SCRIPTURES:

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

"The Greater Works Church"

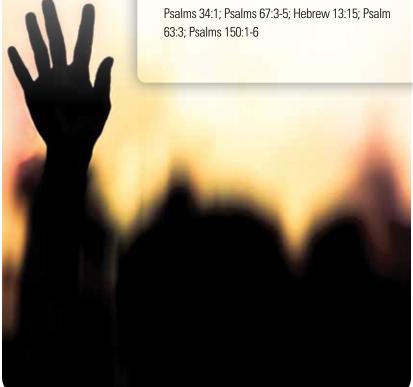


Praise

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:





Thankfulness

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



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:

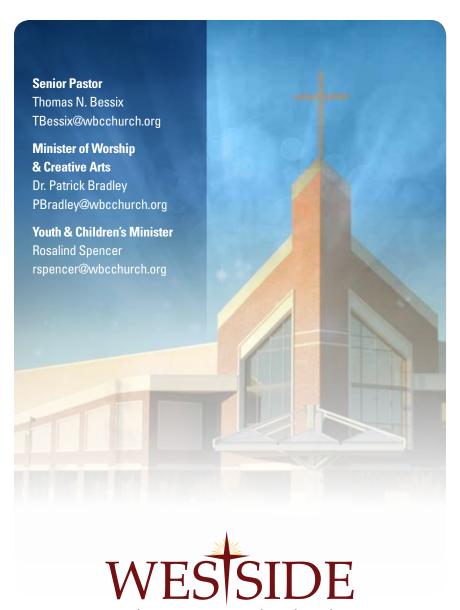
Matthew 1:20-21; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:26-33; Luke 1:35

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





The Greater Works Church

"Where people do Greater Works for the Kingdom of God"

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Church Office Hours: M-F 8am - 5pm