

# Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church • 2008

Our PURPOSE

Our BELIEFS

Our VALUES

“In him the whole structure is joined together  
and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;  
in whom you also are built together spiritually  
into a dwelling place for God.”

Ephesians 2:21-22



# Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church · 2008

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## Our PURPOSE

“CHANGING LIVES AND GROWING IN GOD’S LOVE”

## Our BELIEFS

ALIVE IN US, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AT WORK REVEALING JESUS, WHO SHOWS US HOW TO LIVE, AND REVEALING GOD WHO WE WILL LOVE ABOVE ALL ELSE.

IN THE ESSENTIAL AND CENTRAL ACTIONS OF WORSHIP, EDUCATION, AND SERVICE WE ARE TRANSFORMED AND CALLED TO LIVE OUT THE RADICAL TRANSFORMING OF THE WORLD.

THE REALITY OF OUR FAITH AND THE SHAPE OF OUR PURPOSE ORIGINATE IN THE DYNAMIC INTERPLAY BETWEEN OUR COMPREHENSION OF THE TRIUNE GOD (“GROWING IN GOD’S LOVE”) AND OUR CALL TO ACTION IN THE WORLD (“CHANGING LIVES”).

## Our VALUES

OPENNESS

TRANSFORMATION

JOYFUL SERVICE

SPIRITUALITY

## A Trinity of Beliefs – Belief One

# Alive in us, the Holy Spirit is at work revealing Jesus, who shows us how to live, and revealing God who we will love above all else.

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Holding this belief we will:

- Make our seeking, knowing, and pursuit of God our first priority.
- Demonstrate compassion, willingly forgive, and with love move towards others even as God is always moving towards us.
- Be open and listening to the voice of scripture and to God speaking in our lives, guiding our way, inspiring our direction, and filling our lives with meaning.

Holding this belief we will not:

- Allow fear or despair to carry us away from the reality of God’s presence in us.
- Put our wants, desires, or wealth, above the wants, desires, or wealth God has for us.
- Attempt to live life without a living relationship with Jesus.

Biblical Image                  Deuteronomy 6:4-9

*Hear O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

In the essential and central actions of worship, education, and service we are transformed and called to live out the radical transforming of the world.

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Holding this belief we will:

- Worship God together, happily and whole-heartedly, with praise, joy, and joie de vivre.
- Study, learn, grow, preach, and teach as active participants and leaders who are shaping our world, this community, adults, and children.
- Make choices that change ourselves and our world into the baptismal reality of who and what God calls us to be.

Holding this belief we will not:

- Cocoon ourselves away from change rather than emerging as butterflies discovering new realities.
- Hide our light under a bushel – “*We’re gonna let it shine!*”
- Miss opportunities for encountering the Word, sharing the Supper, or being the Jesus someone needs to meet right now.

Biblical Image: Luke 4:14-19

*Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.*

*When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:*

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

The reality of our faith and the shape of our purpose originate in the dynamic interplay between our comprehension of the triune God (“*growing in God’s love*”) and our call to action in the world (“*changing lives*”).

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Holding this belief we will:

- Regard our comprehension of God and our call to action as the essence of being the Church.
- Be a living community—giving our all for the purpose of “changing lives and growing in God’s love.”
- Understand our ministry, leadership, and church in terms of sacrifice and service.

Holding this belief we will not:

- Ignore God’s call.
- Neglect the faith; else others will not “*know we are Christians by our love.*”
- Give precedence to anything over our love and service for God.

Biblical Image John 21:15-17

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”*

## We Value: Openness

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The open arms of Jesus demonstrate the posture God calls us to have for our neighborhood and world: openness, welcome, hospitality, inclusiveness.

Given the open arms of Jesus posture, we will:

- Turn towards people and needs
- Invite and model authentic, intentional, and purposeful community
- Welcome and embrace diversity as a mark of the Community in Christ

Given the open arms of Jesus posture, we will not:

- Turn towards a comfortable, “just like me” mentality
- Ignore people or children in poverty (be it physical, emotional, or spiritual)
- Embrace a cultural nicety over holiness as God’s own people

Biblical Image:

Matthew 19:13-15

*Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.*

## We Value: Transformation

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God’s loving act of reconciliation in Jesus the Christ transforms the world and signals that the new age is dawned and God is still at work in the world. As the Body of Christ, the Church is called to undertake the mission of transforming all of life with a new openness to the presence of God.

In transforming all of life we will:

- Seek the “mind of Christ,” reach out, let go, learn, be sincere, work, change
- Claim the call and title of “apostle”
- Be transformed by and be transformational with the message of Jesus—Luke 4:16-21

In transforming all of life we will not:

- Step back from, withdraw, or retreat from the wall
- Be immovable but will be shaped by the potter—Isaiah 64:8
- Fear change, judge harshly, or neglect to put the Love of God above all

Biblical Image:

Romans 12:1-2

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

## We Value: Joyful Service

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In poetic song the Prophet announces to the exiles a new exodus into an Eden-like land. He says, “You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace.” Going out in joy describes the momentum with which we serve God by serving God’s people.

In joyful service we will:

- Go out as laborers into the harvest, seeking ways to serve, teach, help, and give
- Live fully the baptismal reality that we have been joined together and set apart for service
- Energetically be “a provisional demonstration of what God intends for all humanity” - G.3.0200

In joyful service we will not:

- Limit our capacity to be God’s love embodied in a fragile world
- Fail to recognize Christ in the hungry, the sick, the naked, the oppressed, down-trodden
- Allow discouragement to tear down rather build up our commitment and call

Biblical Image:

Isaiah 55:12

*For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills  
before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall  
clap their hands.*

## We Value: Spirituality

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When Moses removed his shoes at the burning bush, it was a spiritual act conducted on holy ground. The spirituality we live is a holy ground of prayer, learning, worship, discernment, and intentional living.

On holy ground we will:

- Live and grow spiritually through scripture, constant prayer, and continual worship
- Devote ourselves to the “apostles’ teaching and fellowship” (Act 2:42)
- Break bread and offer prayers (Acts 2:42) to discern God’s call on our lives

On holy ground we will not:

- Rely on our own understanding or shrink from the reality that we pray in the Spirit
- Quench the Spirit, neglect worship, or pray only selectively
- Avoid piety, minimize call, or diminish the fruits of the Spirit

Biblical Image:

Exodus 3:1-6 *Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.”*