



DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF BELIEF

OUR PURPOSE

Outreach

To communicate Christ's message through evangelism.

Fellowship

To incorporate Christ's family into the fellowship of the local church membership.

Worship

To celebrate Christ's presence as we magnify His name through genuine worship.

Discipleship

To educate Christ's followers to Christ-like maturity through Bible teaching and training for ministry.

Service

To demonstrate Christ's love through a caring ministry to all people.

OUR FAITH

We believe in the triune God, maker of all creation, who is the all-knowing, all powerful, ever-present eternal Father, the source of all goodness, truth, and love.

We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ as the son of God, who died on the cross in our place as the supreme sacrifice for sin, was buried in a tomb, but rose again on the third day and is now exalted as King of kings and the Lord of lords and will soon return to earth with all power and Glory.

We believe in the divine inspiration of the scriptures and that the Word of God is the sufficient rule of faith and practice, and the final authority for truth and salvation.

We believe in water baptism by immersion.

We believe in the in filling of the Holy Spirit which will lead and guide believers as they pursue Godly living. (I Peter 1:16)

We believe in the Church, established by the Lord as a spiritual community for worship, stewardship, and service to God and men.

We believe in the Judgment Day, when all men will stand before God to account for their lives, where the unconverted will be punished, and the true Christians will receive their just rewards.

We believe in tithing and offerings as the method of supporting the work of the Lord, as ordained in Malachi 3:8-10.

OUR MISSION

Bible Way Church of Atlas Road seeks to follow the blueprint of the Holy Bible. Our major emphasis is "Soul Winning." We maintain Bible-based standards which we trust will be worked out in the life of the believer who is scripturally informed and Spirit led.

Bible Way Church of Atlas Road is a self-governing church which chooses to cooperate and fellowship with the redeemed and of the Lord regardless of denominational association. We are committed to spreading the Gospel to all mankind. Bible Way Church of Atlas Road, through its many ministries, seeks to reach the lost and then establish them in faith.

OUR WORSHIP

We pray together because the Bible reads, "they lifted up their voices to God with one accord..." Acts 4:24

We lift our hands in praise because in the Bible we read, "Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord." Psalm 132:2

We sing with all our hearts because in the Bible we read, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a loud noise and rejoice, and sing praise." Psalm 98:4

From Humble Beginnings...

The Bible Way Church of Atlas Road was originally established as the Bible Way Church of Arthurtown, with a membership consisting of 13 adults and their children. Services were held in a small church building affectionately known as "The Little Red Church."



On January 22, 1966, the "Little Red Church" was completely destroyed by fire. Though devastated, the faith of this congregation never wavered, and they prayed for a new location. Doors were opened making it possible for them to hold Sunday morning services in the auditorium of the Atlas Road Elementary School (now the C.R. Neal Dream Center). The church members purchased property directly across the street from the elementary school in March 1967.

On October 8, 1967, they marched into their first new sanctuary. On November 5, 1967, the church was dedicated, consecrated and thereafter called the Bible Way Church of Atlas Road. From these humble beginnings grew a ministry which reaches thousands of people weekly.

The Legacy Began...

Bishop Jackson envisioned the church as a force for good that extended past the Sunday worship hour. Under his leadership, the church established programs to minister to young people, senior citizens, those in poverty, and those who simply needed a helping hand.

Through his sermons Bishop Jackson applied biblical lessons to everyday life. In the early 1970's, Bible Way Church of Atlas Road was one of the first churches to broadcast its services on local radio.

Upon his death in September 2006, Bishop Jackson was remembered as one who "was always working, always leading, having a vision for the community, having a heart for the people".



The Legacy Continues...



Darrell Jackson, Sr. served as co-pastor under Bishop Jackson for several years, and upon his retirement in 1996 assumed the role as Senior Pastor of the Bible Way Church of Atlas Road. Since that time, God has continued to manifest Himself in a most anointed way, touching thousands of lives weekly.

As of August 1, 2007, membership at Bible Way is 10,600.

Every week, Bible Way reaches thousands of people through its worship services which are broadcast throughout South Carolina on WFMV (95.3 FM) and WWDM (101.3 FM) radio, and through streaming webcasts found at www.bwcar.org. Bible Way also provides new members and student classes, and has outreach and community services through many of the ministries offered through the church, as well as through the Midlands Community Development Corporation, which the church established in 1998.

In October 2006, Bible Way Church of Atlas Road purchased 106+ acres in Southeast Columbia (South Carolina). This mixed use development project, Congaree Pointe, highlights a tremendous economic endeavor for faith based institutions. It is solely a project between the church and private industry. While not the first project of this nature, it is certainly one of the few and most comprehensive!

Also in 2006, Dr. John Vaughn, founder of the [Church Growth Today at the Center for the Study of Growing Churches](#), named Bible Way Church of Atlas Road as one of the 50 most influential churches in the United States! Bible Way was recognized for its consistently high number of congregants and its relationship with the community. This honor is a true testament to our commitment to continue striving to win souls for Christ!

Bible Way Church of Atlas Road is proud of its tremendous spiritual and economic impact upon its membership, communities throughout South Carolina and individual lives around the world.



NEW MEMBER'S COVENANT

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized in His Name (or will be), and in agreement with the mission of the Bible Way Church of Atlas Road, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to join the Bible Way Church family. In so doing, I **commit** myself to God and to the members of the Bible Way Church to do the following:

1. Endeavor to Keep the Spirit of Unity in my Church

- ... by acting in love toward the other members
- ... by refusing to gossip, bring disharmony, and make untrue statements about the church leadership and its members
- ... by wholeheartedly following the leadership and believing that they are called of God for the ministry

2. Share in the Responsibility of my Church

- ... by praying for its growth
- ... by witnessing to the lost, and inviting others to attend church
- ... by becoming an ambassador and warmly welcoming those who visit

3. Participate in the Ministry by Serving my Church

- ... by diligently seeking to discover my gifts and talents with guidance from my pastor and other church leaders

4. I will Support the Testimony of my Church

- ... by faithfully attending services
- ... by living a godly life
- ... by participating in my assigned care group
- ... by faithfully giving my tithes and offerings

I have read and understood the New Member's Covenant and attest to following these principles by signing below.

Member's Name: _____ Date: _____



NEW MEMBER'S INFORMATION SHEET

1. The purpose of the New Member's Organization

- a. To insure that all new members are **informed** about Bible Way, **integrated** into the Bible Way church family and **monitored** (via calls from New Member's Ministry staff members) during their *first year* of membership. (*Members will be labeled as a new member for one year after they have confirmed their membership to the New Member's Director via email.*)

2. Things we ask that each new member do after they have confirmed their commitment to become a member.

- a. **Attend the New Member's Ministry events: "Chat With The Pastor" & "Fellowships"**
(Dates, times and locations TBA)
- b. **Attend New Member's I & II Sunday School Classes or a regular Adult Class** (if they are not a babe in Christ.)
 1. Classes are held at 10:00am in the Memorial Chapel/Admin. Bldg and Dream Center, Rm. #5. (*consecutively*)
 2. Must attend the New Member's I class for 6 months and then the New Member's II (Discipleship) for 6 months after the New Member's I class has been completed. After both classes have been completed, the new member may choose to attend any of the other Adult Classes that are available. (See New Member's Handbook for listing of available classes.)
 3. Children under the age of 18 are encouraged to attend the classes that are for their age range.
- c. **Attend at least one or more of the regularly scheduled services listed below as often as possible:**

Tuesday	7:00pm - Bible Study (Worship Center) & Youth Bible Study (Dream Center)
Thursday	6:00pm - Women's Prayer (Sanctuary)
"	7:00pm - Women's Bible Study (Dining Hall, Dream Center & Women's Center)
"	7:00pm - Men's Bible Study (Dream Center)
Saturday	7:00am - Men's Prayer (Memorial Chapel/Administration Bldg.)
1st Sunday	
9:30am & 1:30pm	- Holy Communion (Worship Center); <i>All Ladies are asked to wear white attire (if possible) at every Communion Service.</i>
10:00am	- Baptism (Worship Center); <i>In order to be baptized, one must attend a Baptism Class. Dates are in the New Member's Handbook.</i>
Mon. - Fri.	12:00pm - Noon Day Prayer - (Memorial Chapel/Administration Bldg.)

3. **Bible Way is a full service 7 day a week church that provides services through the following facilities:** A.C. Jackson Wellness Center, JRJ Women's Center, C.R. Neal Dream Center & the Youth Development Center.

(To find out what services are provided, please call those facilities through the numbers listed in the New Member's Handbook.)

4. Communication: Keep the lines of communication with a care group leader or a church official about the following things:

- a. Crisis situations, problems or concerns (if you would like our assistance.)
- b. Change of address or phone number (by calling the New Member's Director or indicating current and former address or phone number on the offering envelope.) **Important Note:** Always be sure to put your name on your envelope the way it is listed on your birth certificate and always include your address and phone number whether or not there is a change in information.

5. Transportation Needs

- a. If you live within 10 miles from the church and call before 6:00pm on a Saturday, transportation will be available.
- b. Call the church at 776-1238 (during work hours) and add ext. 3072 if you are calling after work hours.
- c. If you live more than 10 miles from the church, please contact your care group leader to see if they have someone in your care group that lives near you who is willing to pick you up.

6. Counseling is available through the following people: Pastor or Lady Jackson as well as our Associate Pastors. Their phone numbers are listed in the New Member's Handbook.

7. Care Group Assignment

- a. Assignments to care groups will be made after a new member reads and confirms membership via email.
- b. The purpose of the Care Groups is to develop among BWC of Atlas Road members, a sense of closeness and friendship that leads towards spiritual maturity in Jesus Christ through fellowship as well as ministering to your various needs. (We encourage all new members to be active in their group or inform them if they are unable to be very active as they would like to be.)
- c. If a new member prefers to be in a group with a friend, their name or care group # would need to be emailed to the New Member's Director during the time they confirm their membership via email. If there is no preference, a care group will be chosen for them.
- d. Once a new member has been assigned to a care group, new members should give their care group leaders at least a month to make contact with them. (Contact will be via letter, call or Sunday Bulletin.) All who do not hear from their leader within a month are asked to contact the New Member's Director, Sis. Bobbie Wharton.

8. Participation in a Ministry

- a. You may join any ministry (excluding the Deacon & Clergy Board) immediately after confirming your membership.

- b. If you were already a Deacon or member of the clergy before joining Bible Way or feel that you have been called to the ministry, you will need to contact Pastor Alvah Lawson at 803.647.5164 and arrange an appointment to talk with him for further instructions.
- c. To join a ministry, please email your phone number and the name of the ministry that you would like to be a part of back to the New Member's Director during the time you confirm your membership via email.

9. New Member of the Year Award (Recipients of this award must meet the criteria below.)

- a. Faithfully attend church services, New Member's I & II Sunday School Classes or an Adult Class & care group events
- b. Faithfully serve on at least one ministry.
- c. Faithfully give tithe and offerings.