

BIBLE WAY CHURCH  
OF ATLAS ROAD

*To know God, to love and to serve*

# *New Members'* **Orientation Booklet**

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BIBLE WAY CHURCH OF ATLAS ROAD

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COLUMBIA, SC 29209

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# 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 Andrew C. 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 February 8 2018, membership at Bible Way was more than 14,874.

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](http://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.



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## **NEW MEMBERS' 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, bringing disharmony, or making 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. 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 tithe 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: \_\_\_\_\_



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## NEW MEMBERS' INFORMATION SHEET

The purpose of the New Member's ministry is to insure that all new members are informed about Bible Way Church, integrated into the Bible Way Church family and monitored (via calls from New Members' Ministry staff members) during their *first year of membership. Members will be considered new members for one year after they have read and agreed with the guidelines in the New Members' Orientation Packet, and have notified the New Members' Director in person, via email, or by phone.*

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

- Attend the New Members' Ministry events and fellowships (Dates, times and locations TBA).
- Attend New Members' Sunday School Class.

Sunday School classes for New Members are held at 10am in the Laura Jefferson Room of the C. R. Neal Dream Center, across the street from the church. You must attend the New Members' class for 16 weeks; after class has been completed there will be a special Sunday School graduation for all who completed their 16 weeks. After Sunday School graduation, new members may choose to attend any of the other adult classes that are available. (See our New Members' Handbook for a listing of available classes.) Children under the age of 18 are encouraged to attend classes appropriate for their age range.

**Attend at least one or more of the regularly scheduled services listed below as often as possible:**

Tuesday	7pm - Bible Study (Worship Center) and Youth Bible Study (C. R. Neal Dream Center)
Thursday	6pm - Women's Prayer (Memorial Chapel/Administration Building) 7pm - Women's Bible Studies (Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary and A. C. Jackson Boardroom) 7pm - Men's Bible Study (Memorial Chapel)
Saturday	7am - Men's Prayer (Memorial Chapel/Administration Building)

### **1st Sunday**

9:30am & 1:30pm - **Holy Communion** (Worship Center); *all ladies are asked to wear white attire, if possible, at every Communion Service.*

10am - **Baptism** (Worship Center); *In order to be baptized, one must attend a Baptism Class. Dates are in the New Members' Handbook.)*

**Mon. - Fri. 12pm - Noon Day Prayer** - (Memorial Chapel/Administration Building)

**Bible Way Church is a full service, 7-days-a-week church that provides services in the following facilities:** A. C. Jackson Wellness Center, JRJ Women's Center, C. R. Neal Dream Center and the Youth Development Center.

For a schedule of events and services, please go to [www.bwcar.org](http://www.bwcar.org) and click on Calendar.

**Communication:** *Please remember to keep open lines of communication with your care group leader or a church official about the following things:*

- Crisis situations, problems or concerns of which you would like our assistance.
- Change of address or phone number (by calling the New Members' Director or by writing your current and former address or phone number on an 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. There may be others who share your same name.

### **Transportation Needs**

If you live within 10 miles from Bible Way Church, and call before 6pm on Saturdays, transportation will be available.

Call the church at 803.776.1238 (during work hours); add ext. 3072 if you are calling after work hours.

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.

**Counseling is available through the following people:** Pastor Darrell Jackson, Assistant Pastor Mack Jackson as well as any of our associate pastors. Their phone numbers are listed in the New Members' Handbook.

### **Care Group Assignment**

Assignments to care groups will be made via email after a new member reads and confirms membership.

The purpose of the care groups is to develop among Bible Way Church of Atlas Road members, a sense of closeness and friendship that leads toward 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 to inform their care group leaders if they are unable to be active.

If a new member prefers to be in a specific care group, that new member will need to provide the New Members' Director with the care group number or the name of an individual that is a part of that care group. This must be done in person, via email, or by phone during the time that you confirm your membership. If preference is not given, a care group will be chosen.

Once you have been placed in a care group, you will be a part of it throughout your membership and will be informed via a phone call, email or written announcement of care group events when they occur.

### **Participation in a Ministry**

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

If you were already a deacon or member of the clergy before joining Bible Way, or you feel that you have been called to the ministry, please contact Pastor Mack Jackson at 803.776.7524 or Associate Pastor Willie Mae Jackson at 803.647.5153, to arrange an appointment to discuss further direction.

To join a ministry, please email your phone number and the name of the ministry that you would like to be a part of to the New Members' Director in person, via email, or by phone during the time that you confirm your membership.

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

- Faithfully attend church services, New Members' Sunday School class, and care group events
- Faithfully serve in at least one ministry
- Faithfully give tithe and offerings



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