

STORY POINT

**V**ision

## Our Mission

We exist to live, tell, and teach God's life changing story to people and to lead people into a vibrant ever growing love relationship with Jesus Christ so that they can go and do likewise.

## Our Philosophy

We believe that all Christians should be missionaries that are continuously sharing God's love with the world around us. We are convinced that we are modeling Jesus and showing God's love in practical ways when we meet physical needs in our community. In fact, by using discernment and removing physical needs we are often given opportunities to share the solution to everyone's greatest need, forgiveness from sin, and fullness in Christ.

# Our Purpose

## **The Great Commandment**

*"The most important commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."*

*Mark 12:29-31*

*(NLT)*  
...and...

## **The Great Commission**

*"I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:18-20*

*(NLT)*

## Building Blocks of Purpose:

**Worship:** Our story is about attaching ultimate value upon God.

*"...you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."*  
Mark 12:29

**Discipleship:** Our story will is about learning to follow and obey Jesus Christ

*"... Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you."*

Matthew 28:20

**Evangelism:** Our story is about reaching those who God longs for.

*"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit"*

Matthew 28:18

**Fellowship:** Our story is about living in community with other believers.

*"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

John 13:34-35

**Service:** Our story is about using our God given gifts in ministry to others.

*'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

Mark 12:30

# Our Beliefs

We believe in one God! He's the Creator of all things and reveals Himself as Father, Son, and Spirit. (Genesis 1:1; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

We believe in who Jesus Christ is and was and that He became like us, yet sinless, to bring about our salvation. (Matthew 1:20, 16:15; John 1:1-18)

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is active in our world, bringing us to salvation. (John 14:15-18, 16:7-15; Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:1-17)

We believe that the Bible is the fully inspired Word of God. It gives us all we need to know about how to be saved and how we should live. (2 Timothy 3:15; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

We believe that we are all sinners by both our nature and our acts and we need God's forgiveness and cleansing. (Genesis 3; Romans 3:23, 5:14, 6:15-23, 7:15-18)

We believe that Jesus Christ died on the Cross and that we must believe in Him, His death and His resurrection to be restored to a right relationship with God. (Isaiah 53:6-7; John 3:14-17)

We believe God helps us turn to Him from our sin. He doesn't force us but gives us that choice to accept Him. (Genesis 2:16-17; John 1:12; Galatians 6:7-8)

We believe each person must confess their sin, turn away from their sin, and trust Christ to accept them. (Isaiah 55:6-7; Acts 17:30; 1 John 1:8-9)

We believe that after we are adopted into God's family, we need to commit our entire life to Him, He purifies our hearts and cleanses our spirit. He fills us with His perfect love and gives us strength and power to live our lives for Him daily. (Ezekiel 36:25-27; John 17:16-19; 1 Thessalonians 5:22-23)

We believe that the church is the active body of Christ in the world today. The church is made up of people, called together by the Holy Spirit, to fulfill God's plan and purpose for the world until Jesus returns. (1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Ephesians 5:25-27)

We believe that Christians should be baptized. (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:37-41)

We believe in communion; participating in the Lord's Supper. (Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32)

We believe God can heal. We pray for healing. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10; James 5:13-16)

We believe that Jesus is coming again. (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

We believe everyone is accountable to God and will face His judgment and receive His rewards and punishments. (Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:11-15)

# Our Values

## **Encouragement**

We value telling others about the positive things we see in their lives.

## **Whole Heartedness**

We value obedience to Christ and we believe that when we give ourselves to Him completely, He empowers us to live our lives fully devoted to Him.

## **Creativity**

We value telling God's message in relevant and unique ways that remain true to God's unchanging message.

## **Authenticity**

We value living transparent, sincere, and real lives.

## **Passion**

We value living out our faith with an exciting intensity that reflects Jesus.

## **Open Acceptance**

We value people for who they are and not what they've done or where they've been.

## **Life Change**

We value Christ driven transformation in the lives of people.

## **Empowerment**

We value the gifts and abilities of all Christ followers. We encourage Christians to use their talents to fuel the vision of Story Point and to reach into the world.

## **GO**

We value loving others, all others, and in order to encounter those who are not like us we will encourage and expect a "grow to go" attitude at Story Point.

# Our Dreams

We dream of a community where the wounded, the discouraged, the unfulfilled and the broken can find acceptance, encouragement and an authentic hope for a new and meaningful life.

We dream of a community where innovation, new ideas, and initiative are honored and encouraged.

We dream of a community where people are regularly sharing Christ with their friends and feel comfortable inviting all people with them to experience the presence of God.

We dream of a community where people are growing in their relationship with Christ and are open to learning from one another.

We dream of a community where people pray faithfully and expectantly.

We dream of a community where the Bible is taught in an exciting and culturally relevant way while remaining biblically pure.

We dream of a community that is always reaching beyond its boundaries, a group that supports the poor, the homeless, and those in need, including prisoners and world wide missionaries.

We dream of a community where loving relationships and spiritual values are more important than programs, buildings or budgets. These last three are only tools for ministry.

We dream of a community where all Christ followers are growing together in spiritual maturity through Bible study and prayer in small groups.

We dream of a community where people far from God will experience God in worship, and will be transformed by His power, His love, and His holiness.

We dream of a community that reproduces local churches as well as Christ-followers.

# Our Target

The options as we see them:

	Believer	Unbeliever
Churches	A	B
Un-churched	C	D

**A** > The Churches Believer

We will welcome everyone in keeping with our value of open acceptance but we will not target these Christians, we look forward to spending eternity with them and we are pleased that they are connected in local churches.

**B** > The Churches Un-Believer

We understand that many attend church who are without a real relationship with Jesus Christ. It's our sincere hope that these people learn that church attendance has never been a way to guarantee a relationship with God. These individuals will not be targeted by our local church.

**C** > The Un-Churched Believer

There are sincere believers who due to several reasons are not connected at a local church and while they will not be the target of Story Point they will be welcome here if they find this church to be a fit.

**D** > The Un-Churched Unbeliever

This is our target audience. We will evaluate everything that goes into the primary services through the eyes of the people in this group. During the primary services this group will not only be valued, they will be prioritized.

# Our Strategy

## Sunday Stories

This service is designed to appeal to the target group of people that we are trying to reach. We use our skills and resources primarily to engage the unbelieving un-churched individual. This includes high energy worship music, the arts (including video and drama elements) and creative preaching. We challenge visitors within this relevant atmosphere. Our hope is to provide everyone with a safe place where they can hear and learn that the dangerous message of Jesus Christ applies directly to their lives.

## The Reflection Service (Soon to be 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)

This time serves as our believers' service at SPCC. It will primarily be times of equipping the saints and fostering discipleship but there will also be special services and evangelism/compassionate ministry services as well. In short it is our service where believers will either reflect or learn to reflect the love of Jesus.

## Weekday Stories

Various "felt need" small groups are launched as leaders are trained; these may include specific ministry groups such as Men's and Woman's groups or general Bible Study groups. We may also have groups related to various tasks such as servant evangelism groups and more.

## Willie's (Coming Soon)

We will always have a presence in the midst of the hurting and the poor. This will give our believers opportunities to live and look like Jesus. Currently this is being done thru the Asphalt Ministry and Compassionate room but expansion is being planned. Our hope is to rent an apartment in a depressed area of town where we will reflect Jesus everyday.

## The Journey

The Journey is an exploration of life at Story Point. It allows people to simultaneously grow spiritually and investigate the church. The class sizes are intentionally kept small (6-8 per class) to foster discussion and intimacy.

## **Chart the Course**

This class (or classes) is intended for folks who have just started attending our primary services. It is designed to tell folks about the plans, vision and direction of Story Point. We want people to come away from this course knowing whether or not SPCC will be a fit for them.

### **Understand the Map**

This course focuses on teaching people to read study and apply the Word of God. It includes detailed Bible study skills, a section on prayer and tips on having a quiet time with God. It may take a few weeks to complete, but we believe that the purpose of discipleship is to equip the believers to reach the world and time in this course will be well spent.

### **Set the Budget**

This course teaches the participants about God's plan for finances. We'll discuss tithing, sacrificial giving and stewardship. There is plenty of time set aside for questions and answers.

### **Pack Your Tools**

These courses focus on spiritual gifts. They'll include a gifts assessment portion allowing the participants to discern the various gifts that God has given them. The course(s) include a discussion of the various ministry opportunities at Story Point, but we encourage the participants to use their gifts in the world and on the streets and not simply in our local church.

### **Make it a Road Trip**

These courses focus on personal evangelism. They will guide participants as they learn to tell their own story. We want folks to be able to express the way that Jesus has changed their lives. This will transition into a discussion of ways that folks can share their faith in various ways that match their personal evangelistic styles. They are taught to present the gospel in very clear and simple ways, and they will be given an opportunity to practice what they've learned.

### **Know Your Resources**

This is a membership class (or series of classes.) It includes a time of teaching the history and doctrine of the Church in general and more specifically of the Church of the Nazarene. Also, the facilitator will teach the participants what it would mean to be a member (volunteer staff) at SPCC. They learn the value of membership and what is expected of members, including the next steps that they might take. This course also presents the participants with a clear presentation of the gospel as a relationship with Christ is the primary requirement for membership.

### **Lead an Expedition**

For those that decide that Story Point is their home, there is one more step. Each person that completes The Journey is asked to get someone else started. For some, this may be as simple as extending an invitation. For others, it may mean taking The Journey again with the person. Depending on how many class members chose to become members, this course may be taught one on one.

# Our Structure...the way we lead

## **The Leadership Team**

This team consists of core leaders, the pastoral staff, various ministry team leaders and department heads. Everyone serves together in an accountable atmosphere. Members of the leadership team are asked to sign the "Leadership Promise" and to interact on a personal mission field. They will be responsible for the direction, vision and day to day action at SPCC. The lead pastor will serve as point person on this team.

## **The Board**

This group consists of 6 to 12 members of the congregation. This team holds the lead pastor accountable. They make major financial decisions, set budgets for ministry team leaders and speak as the voice of the congregation. Staff members are not be eligible to be board members with the exception of the lead pastor who serves as the chairman of the board but is not eligible to vote. Board members see their primary role as accountability partners. Board meetings are open to everyone.

## **The Congregation**

The congregation votes for board members and various building, land, and structure issues. All in attendance will vote but only church members' votes are counted.

# Our Heritage

## **Portage First Church \***

In the late nineteen nineties God was on the move at First Church of the Nazarene in Portage Indiana (and He continues to move there today!) In their quest to connect seekers and believers to real life in Jesus Christ the leadership at First Church decided to plant a new work. Pastor Richard Schmidt and his wife Stacey began to draw together a team of people to move forward with them into this new work located in the neighboring town of Valparaiso Indiana. A group of faithful Christ followers answered God's call to partner with the Schmidts and a new expansion of God's kingdom was underway.

## **Living Hope Community Church**

Living Hope Community Church in Valparaiso quickly became a place dedicated to connecting people to God, to each other, and to a world in need of God's love. People who "would never step foot in another church" came and were made new. Lives were changed, people were transformed and the kingdom continues to expand because of the faithful work being done at Living Hope. As Living Hope entered its fifth year a core group shaped by all they had learned at Living Hope became convinced that God was calling them to continue that expansion in Washington State. Living Hope is continuing to reach out to the world both locally in Valparaiso and through their sacrificial support and guidance of this new work; Story Point Community Church.

## **Story Point Community Church**

The story of SPCC has just begun, much of this tale remains to be told and as the story moves forward the leaders at Story Point Community Church will continue to be thankful for the heritage that has shaped them and helped to lead them to where they are today. They look forward to continuing in the footsteps of their parent church, grandparent church, the Church of the Nazarene, and the followers of the Way of Christ throughout history.

## **Regal Cinema**

**222 W Kennewick**

**220 W Kennewick**

\* Since the planting of Living Hope, Portage First Church of the Nazarene has changed their name to Real Life Community Church – a Church of the Nazarene.

# Our Pastoral Team

## **Dan Martin – Lead Pastor**

Dan helped launch and served as associate pastor for four years at Living Hope Community Church in Valparaiso. He began his service there as director of community events and minister to children and families. His dynamic leadership and infectious enthusiasm drew rave reviews from kindergartners everywhere. At the time that God called Dan to plant Story Point, he was part of the regular preaching team, leading small groups and pursuing ordination through the course of study. His mix of classroom training and real world experience make him the perfect leader of this new work that God is creating in the Tri-Cities.

## **Scott Thompson – Associate Pastor**

Scott would be a professional student if only he could find someone to pay him a salary for it. His love of studying and learning make him an ideal addition to the preaching team. Scott is working with Dan to develop the curriculum for the Journey discipleship courses. He is also serving as the media/technology guy while he builds a freelance network for his true gift and passion, writing.

## **Sheri Martin – Children’s Minister/Asphalt Leader**

Sheri has a faith the size of...a mountain, a planet, an elephant! (Eh, you get it she gots piles of faith...folks!) Of course God knew she would need it because she not only keeps PD in line, serves as a partner in ministry, and heads up our street level ministry, but she also gave up a lucrative Daycare business to serve the children that God continually puts in her life.

## **Patty Armstrong – Youth Pastor**

A famous preacher once said that if you want people to listen to you simply “cover yourself in kerosene, light a match and wait, because people will come from miles to watch you burn.” Patty is like that – except that she burns with the Spirit of God. She’s our newest locally licensed minister but her enthusiasm for Jesus is surpassed by none!