

North Hill Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



North Hill Lives 2023



Mission Statement: We at North Hill Christian Church are a people responding to God's call, building whole community, reflecting Christ through our actions, and living into the reign of God.

As we look forward to a new year, we want to take time to acknowledge that in the life of the church everyone has a different reason for participating in the ministry at North Hill. North Hill lives because people share their lives through the many gifts that they offer...helping with Sunday worship, creating gatherings, praying for those in need, and giving of financial resources.

When we celebrate the Lord's Supper each Sunday we are called by God to remember that to be faithful followers, we must give of our time, our talents and our financial gifts. God gave us these gifts so that we can share them with others, not keep them for ourselves.

Please thoughtfully read the following stories of a few members who help make North Hill live with the sharing of their lives. Take time to consider how you can share your life to help make North Hill live.

Why is North Hill still my Home Church? By Marilyn Smith

The short answer is “the people.”

However, I’m sure you’d like a more definitive explanation.

As a Christian, I believe God calls us to support the work of the church. Supporting the work comes in many forms - from participating in programs, serving in various positions, praying for others, and financially giving to the church. When we were living in the Spokane area, I was involved in all those ways. When we moved to Kettle Falls, I knew I could still support North Hill by praying and helping financially. Then I went church shopping and found a local church of believers with which to worship regularly. The same is true when we started going to Arizona every winter.

While attending North Hill for 35+ years, through good times and tough times, I came to treasure the friendships of the wonderful people.

Even though North Hill is too far away to attend regularly, I haven’t forgotten the people worshipping there and deeply care about them.

There are many Christian churches that proclaim God’s Word, ministers to its members, and reaches out to the community like North Hill. For me, it comes down to my long history with the people that attend North Hill and the friendships I have developed with them. I want to support the work they are continuing to do there.

Now I have three church families – North Hill Christian Church in Spokane, Community Bible Fellowship in Kettle Falls, and First Presbyterian Church in Casa Grande, Arizona – and I feel blessed by all three. Nevertheless, I still consider North Hill my home church.

Why North Hill? By Patt Hooker

Background:

When our family moved to Spokane, in 1956, Mom said, “I wonder if there is a Christian Church nearby?” I thought she was talking about a church that wasn’t Catholic. In the little town of Wishram, Washington there were only two Churches— “the Christian” and “the Catholic”, and we went to “the Christian”. However, she really was wondering about the DOC. As a High Schooler, Mom was invited by the neighbor kids to go to church with them. It was a DOC in Ellensburg. (It was a welcome haven for her, as her home had never included Church). She was Baptized there. Dad’s background was probably Presbyterian as he was born in Scotland. He did indicate that he was not sure if he had been baptized as an infant. His Mother was widowed, when he was 11, with four children (12, 11, 3 & 1). As I remember her, she always attended Church. The four children were always “church goers”, Dad and my Aunt, in DOC congregations’, older brother Nazarene and younger brother Methodist. Anyway, NHCC was close to our new home and it became our family’s Church.

Special Events:

Dad, my sister Myrna, and I were all baptized in June of 1962 by Rev. Jack Barker. I attended the Pullman Presbyterian church during college at WSU. Bob and I were married in 1969 at NHCC. Our children were Dedicated, and Baptized by Rev. Gail Davis.

Service:

It has been my pleasure and many times stressful, to serve our congregation as; Deaconess, Moderator, Chair of: Personnel, Pastor Relations, Pastoral Search, Departments (Education, Worship, Membership, Wedding Coordinator) committees'. I have enjoyed teaching Sunday School, VBS, and making special decorations to enhance our worship experience.

Affirmation:

I appreciate the beliefs DOC professes and have never felt the need to Church shop. I like that we participate in Communion each Sunday, agree to disagree, accept all, and are free to challenge and interpret scripture.

For Sixty-six years, NHCC has been my home!

Why did you choose North Hill? by Nathan Burford

I chose NHCC because I was looking for a church to call home. My former church was going in a direction I did not want to be a part of. All of my friends that used to go to my former church left or just quit going all together. Many of them ended up at NHCC, so I decided to follow suit. Joining NHCC back in May 2004 was the right thing to do at the time of transition to another church. The minister of NHCC at the time of joining was a fantastic minister! She was well liked by the congregation of NHCC. Meeting other new people at NHCC as well as seeing my original friends again felt great. My family of friends was whole again. NHCC had many activities going on at the time of joining, like Boy Scouts, active youth group, meals on wheels and other church activities.

How did you come to North Hill? By Sally Deranleau

I was born in August 1941 in Spokane to Walt and Janelle Liere. We lived briefly in Moses Lake in 1944 while Dad was a bookkeeper for Phillips 66. We moved back to Spokane and he was able to work full time for Phillips Petroleum as a bookkeeper in 1945. We lived in an apartment on the south side so I can attend a special school for the deaf and hearing impaired. We eventually joined Central Methodist Church and Dad sang in the choir there. Mom and Dad decided to have a house built on the North

side and in 1949 we moved to our new home. We decided to find a new church close to home.

Our neighbor, Flossie Collett came to see us and told us about North Hill Christian Church of which she was a member. The pastor there was Reverend Frank Van Doren and Flossie spoke very highly of him. Mom and Dad made an appointment for Reverend Van Doren and Tom Yates to come to our home so we can find more about the church. After several visits to the church, we became impressed with the congregation, the sermons, and dad was especially impressed with the choir. In 1951 we joined North Hill.

Dad and I were baptized Easter Sunday by Reverend Van Doren. Mother was baptized years ago before marrying my dad. I attended Sunday School. Lena Hayes was the superintendent. I had many wonderful teachers. Dad started the "Gang of four" consisting of Ez Bogue, Emery Jensen, Hank Van Wey, and Jim Whittaker. They volunteered their time on Monday mornings to help with sprucing up the grounds, and repairs, etc. Mom and I joined Women's Guild for many years.

I'm still active with the Diaconate and helping with Meals on Wheels. North Hill Christian Church will always be a big part of my life with so many friends. The church is close to my heart and my home away from home.

God's Call for North Hill

Why do you call North Hill your church home? How do you help North Hill live? We each have a story to share and an opportunity to share the gifts that God has given to each of us.

We are called to be Stewards of God's gifts:

How is God calling each of us to be stewards with our time, talents and financial offerings? When we come together around the Lord's Table and share in communion, we have new opportunities to hear God's call. Let us be open to God's message for us as we seek out new possibilities to be stewards of God's gifts in the ministry work at North Hill Christian Church!

On October 30th, we will bring our commitment cards as an act of worship and celebration of our abundance.

Please prayerfully consider how you want the gifts that God has given you to be used.