

Who We Are

River's Edge Church is a non-denominational fellowship of Christian believers. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the center of our lives. It is around a deep and meaningful relationship to Him and His teachings that our vision, values, priorities, and practices revolve. Our passion is to encounter Jesus firsthand, to embrace him and to be embraced by him.

Our Mission is Simple: *“To demonstrate the will of God on earth as it is in heaven.”*

Our Purpose is to:

- **BRING GLORY TO GOD** in all we do in word and deed and signs and wonders.
- **BRING THE LOST** to Jesus through a “born-again” experience.
- **BUILD AN UNCONDITIONAL** loving community of believers.
- **MATURE OUR CHURCH FAMILY** through sound Biblical teaching, Prayer, and practicing the Gifts.
- **LIVING OUT** the message & life of Christ before the world we influence.
- **SENDING OUT** laborers, missionaries and new churches into the world's harvest.

Our Slogan: *“Where the river flows there is life.” Ezekiel 47:9*

In a vision, the prophet Ezekiel saw a *river* flowing out of the Temple of God (Ezekiel 47:1). Everywhere this river flowed, it produced life and refreshment. In the same way we desire to refresh and bring life to the hearts of the saints, which can only be done through the life and power of the Holy Spirit flowing in our services and out of our lives to touch everyone we meet. Our prayer is to become like Philemon to whom Paul wrote: *“Your love has given me great encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.”*

Why “River's Edge?”

“River's Edge” is derived from the picture in Ezekiel 47:12:

*“Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both **banks of the river**. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”*

The symbolism in this verse represents our goals as a church. The first things we see are the fruit trees. Trees, in the Bible, are symbolic of “fruit-bearing” Christians. Those who delight in God's Word are compared to trees planted by the streams of water (Psalm 1:3).

Jesus, also, likened his disciples to branches who would bear much fruit (John 15:1-8). The fruit grows from the rich supply of the waters of the river.

Both the water and the fruit are symbolic of the active presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling in the lives of God's people (John 7:37-39; Galatians 5:22-23).

The fruit trees on the **river's edge** were of *all* kinds. This symbolizes people of all kinds and of all races. These trees are not your normal “seasonal” producing trees; they bear fruit perpetually—month-after-month—to serve as food for the hungry. Their leaves never wither or die. They are green year-round to bring healing to the nations.

These trees draw nutrients from the rich soil on the banks (the Word of God) and drink deep from the river (the Holy Spirit) which flows out of God's sanctuary. The balance of the Word and the Spirit are what

makes these trees healthy, strong, and productive. It is the balance of God's Word and the Holy Spirit we desire to see in our church.

There are other images evoked by this picture. Thirsty people are drawn to the water at the **river's edge**. Those who hunger are drawn to the fruit at the river's edge. Families settle at the **river's edge**. Cities and ports are built around the river's edge. The river attracts life (Ezekiel 47:9).

The wonderful symbolism pictured in Ezekiel 47 can be summed up in the image of a healthy church family. A church family where:

- Christians of all kinds of backgrounds, race, and culture gather together in unity
- Christians mature through drawing life from the Word & the Spirit (John. 4:23-24)
- Christians bear fruit that attracts the hungry & thirsty soul
- Christians bring healing to the wounded and broken-hearted
- Christians build loving, caring small group communities at the river's edge
- Christians reproduce themselves (bear fruit) in other new converts
- Christians take the River, the Word of God, and the Fruit of the Spirit in their lives to the world around them.

This is the picture of what we desire to become at River's Edge Church.