



SOUTH CITY CHURCH

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



# THE NEED

1.3

1.3 million residents live in metro Richmond.

52%

52% of households have little to no involvement with any form of Christianity.

23%

Less than 23% of households are evangelical Christian. Percentage of active followers of Jesus is drastically smaller.

12%

Richmond City has grown 12% since 2010; twice the rate of the Nation and State of Virginia.

#2

Time Magazine ranked Richmond the #2 city in America where Millennials, the least church-ed and most religiously unaffiliated generation, are moving.

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*Church planting is the most effective evangelistic methodology known under heaven.*

*-Peter C. Wagner, Missiologist*

# WHY PLANT CHURCHES?

## IT IS BIBLICAL

God is on mission to restore all things to himself through Jesus, our Savior and King (Eph. 1:10). To further the miracle, he has chosen to fulfill his mission through his people, the Church (Eph. 3:10)! The New Testament demonstrates that the universal Church, or “extended family” of God, embodies this mission in the context of local churches, or “nuclear families” of faith (Acts 14:23, Col. 4:15, Heb. 10:24-25). Jesus had the local church in mind when He taught us how to love one another, extend hospitality, submit to his authority, demonstrate the Gospel, and experience his grace through word and sacrament. The Apostles similarly taught and modeled how disciples are made in community and under the care and leadership of pastors (Eph. 4:11-13, Heb. 13:17). The early church of Acts reveals that when wherever the Gospel takes root, churches spring forth!

## IT IS EFFECTIVE

Practically speaking, planting churches is the best way to multiply disciples from conversion to maturity over the span of generations. Various service and outreach organizations are certainly valuable but nothing compares to the multi-generational, comprehensively gifted, missionally aligned, pastorally cared for local church. If our goal is to equip all of God’s people for all of God’s mission, we need more local churches. Tim Keller articulates it this way:

Studies have confirmed that the average new church gains 60-80% of its new members from the unchurched... The continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for 1. the numerical growth of the body of Christ in a city and 2. the continual corporate renewal and revival of existing churches in a city. Nothing else—not crusades, outreach programs, parachurch ministries, growing megachurches, congregational consulting, nor church renewal processes—will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting.

For these reasons, we at South City Church believe church planting to be the most biblical and effective means for faithfully treasuring The Gospel and missionally engaging our city.

# OUR STORY

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Towards the end of 2017, The Bowells and Paulettes discovered a need and followed God's call to Jonathan's home city of Richmond. Since then we have put down roots, built relational bridges in our community, grown our core group to 25 adults, and settled into our three rhythms of Sunday gathering, community groups, and discipleship huddles.

\* \* \*

We believe Richmond is a beautiful collection of neighborhoods where people of various backgrounds live, work, play, and discover meaning. It is a city marked by the very fingerprint of God. Yet Richmond is also a broken city struggling with division, moral confusion, dissatisfaction, and spiritual homesickness. Into this context we embody the mission of Jesus who gives us a home and makes us a family.

As a church, we envision, pray towards, and are slowly becoming a family who embody the Gospel in all of life. We are becoming a family who extend the hospitality of God and seek the good of our city. We are becoming a family who overcome barriers of difference for the sake of God's glory being reflected in the unity of his people. We are becoming a family who equip and empower each member to join God's story of restoration.

Jesus moved into the human neighborhood for us. He lived for us. He died for us. He rose again conquering Satan, sin, and death for us. Through him, we are "no longer strangers and outcasts, but fellow citizens with all the saints and members of the family of God" (Eph. 2:19). Our story is one of strangers made family in Christ.



The Southside is one of the most religiously, racially, economically, and culturally diverse places in metro Richmond. It also projects to be one of the most rapidly growing over the next 10 years; bringing in more people who are in need of the Gospel.





JONATHAN BOWELL

Jonathan met his wife Nikki at Radford University where they served as student leaders for CRU. They spent five years involved in local church ministry and pastoral apprenticeship before moving to Floyd, Va to help plant Sojourn Church. Jonathan served as an associate pastor with Sojourn for three years before they were sent to the the Manchester neighborhood of Richmond. They enjoy life with their young son, Shepherd. Jonathan received theological education from Reformed Theological Seminary and Southeastern Theological Seminary where he earned his M.Div.

## PLANTING PASTORS

Drew and Leah were highschool sweethearts in their hometown of Blacksburg, VA. After several years of youth ministry in the church, Drew and Leah spent some time in College ministry and served overseas among the unreached of North Africa. The Pauletts currently live in the Westover Hills area of Richmond with their two beautiful daughters; Sedona and Lyra. Drew received his theological education from Gordon-Conwell and Southeastern Seminary where he earned his M. Div .




DREW PAULETTE

# VISION

STRANGERS MADE  
FAMILY IN CHRIST.





# MISSION

EMBODY THE GOSPEL  
IN ALL OF LIFE FOR  
THE GOOD OF OUR  
NEIGHBORS AND THE  
GLORY OF GOD.





## CORE IDENTITIES

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*What we do flows from who we are. Before we do anything for Jesus, we are remade by Jesus and given a new identity in Him. These core identities give shape to what we prioritize and how we live as a church.*

*In Christ, we are...*



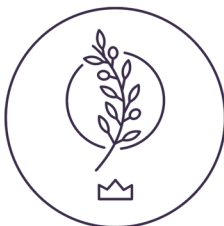
## FAMILY

God has adopted us into his family. We trust him as Father, belong to each other as brothers and sisters, and offer the hospitality of God in a homesick world.



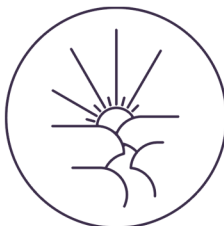
## WORSHIPPERS

God has given us new hearts to glorify and enjoy him forever. We pursue his glory in all of life, reorient our hearts towards Christ through our liturgy, and invite the world to discover him as supreme treasure.



## AMBASSADORS

God has transferred us into the Kingdom of his beloved Son. We submit to Jesus as our King, cultivate a kingdom-minded culture, and promote the common good of our city as an embassy of light.



## DISCIPLES

God has put us on the journey to life. We follow Jesus on the road of self-sacrifice, obedience, and love, encourage one-another to stay the course, and multiply followers through meaningful relationships.



## STORY TELLERS

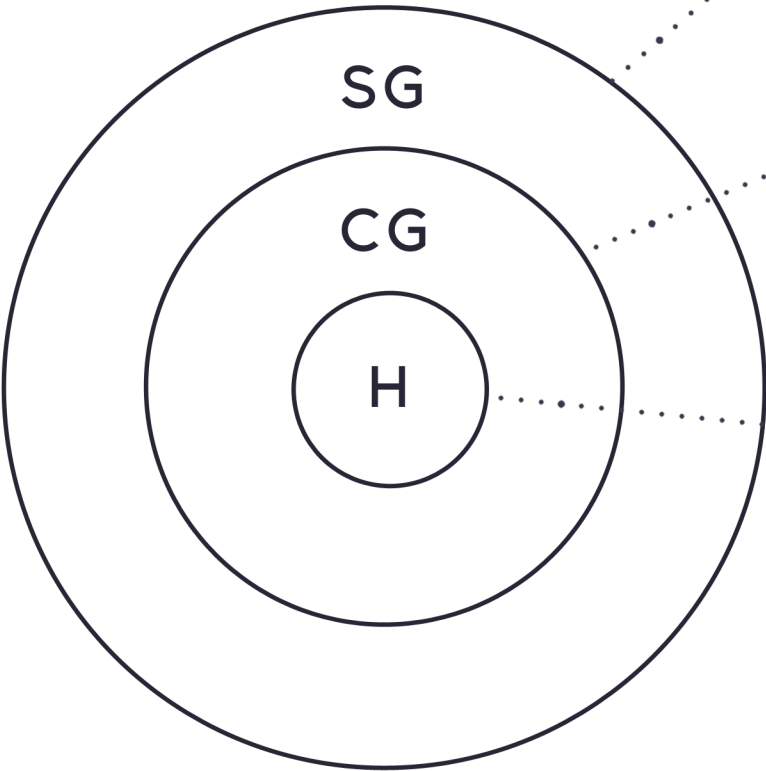
God is the author of all human history and our redemption. We remember his story and its relevance to all of life, we speak the truth in love to one another, and we creatively display and declare The Story to all.



# DISCIPLESHIP RHYTHMS

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Discipleship is the process whereby each member of God’s family grows up into Christ through shared lives of worship, mission and love. Our three discipleship rhythms correspond to our belief that all of life is lived in three orientations; “Up” (our worship of the Trinite God), “Out” (our mission to reach our neighbors and world), and “In” (our love for and commitment to one another).





## SUNDAY GATHERING (UP)

We gather weekly for worship under the Word and around the communion table. This time is a family reunion where we re-center ourselves on Christ. God uses our gathering to speak to us through his Word, re-orient our hearts towards the Kingdom, and deepen our intimacy with Him and oneanother. The form of our Sunday gathering is a blend of: “liturgical”, “modern”, and “relational”.



## COMMUNITY GROUPS (OUT)

Our Community Groups are the frontlines of mission for our church. They serve as the strategic intersection between church members, neighbors, and the broader community. We gather in homes and around tables each week to share life, serve, and extend the hospitality of God.



## HUDDLES (IN)

Our huddles are small men's and women's groups of 3-4 who grow in Christ together. Each group gathers on a regular basis around the following priorities: **Gospel friendship** (sharing struggles and encouraging eachother towards Christ), **Word** (studying and responding to Scripture), and **Prayer** (conversation with God for eachother).

# STATEMENTS OF FAITH

THE APOSTLE'S CREED & NICENE CREED  
[www.southcityrva.com/creeds](http://www.southcityrva.com/creeds)

THE GOSPEL COALITION CONFESSION OF FAITH  
[www.thegospelcoalition.org](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org)

THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE 2000  
[www.sbc.net/bfm200](http://www.sbc.net/bfm200)

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# SENDING CHURCHES



VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH  
[www.vbcradford.com](http://www.vbcradford.com)



SOJOURN CHURCH  
[www.sojournfloyd.com](http://www.sojournfloyd.com)

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# AFFILIATIONS



BONHOEFFER HAUS  
[www.bonhoefferhaus.com](http://www.bonhoefferhaus.com)



SBC of VIRGINIA  
[www.sbcv.com](http://www.sbcv.com)

# BOARD OF ADVISORS



JESSE FUREY

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Jesse is a Pastor of Valley Bible Church and Global Director of the Bonhoeffer Haus.



ALLEN JAMES

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Allen is the Pastor for Missions and Outreach at Cave Spring Baptist Church.



REID MONAHAGN

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Reid is the Acts 29 Midwest Assessment Coordinator and Director of Power of Change Ministries



# PHASE 1

# PHASE 2

FALL  
2017

SPRING  
2018

FALL  
2018



## RELOCATE

The Bowells and Paulettes relocate to South Richmond, begin to acclimate, find jobs, and build relationships in the community.

## LAUNCH TEAM

Launch team is formed of 18 adults who meet weekly for leadership development, strategic planning, prayer, and time in the Word.

## VISION TEAM

Vision team is formed of 9 adults who begin praying weekly and mapping out the mission, vision, and identity of South City Church while engaging neighbors.



# PHASE 3

SPRING  
2019

FALL  
2019

BEYOND  
2019

## PUBLIC LAUNCH

Church goes public on September 8th. Anyone and everyone is invited in, new members are assimilated in late October, and third community group is launched.

## CHURCH

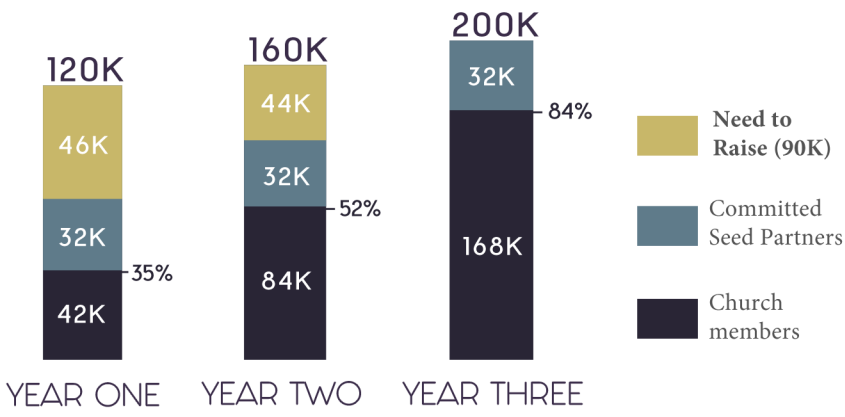
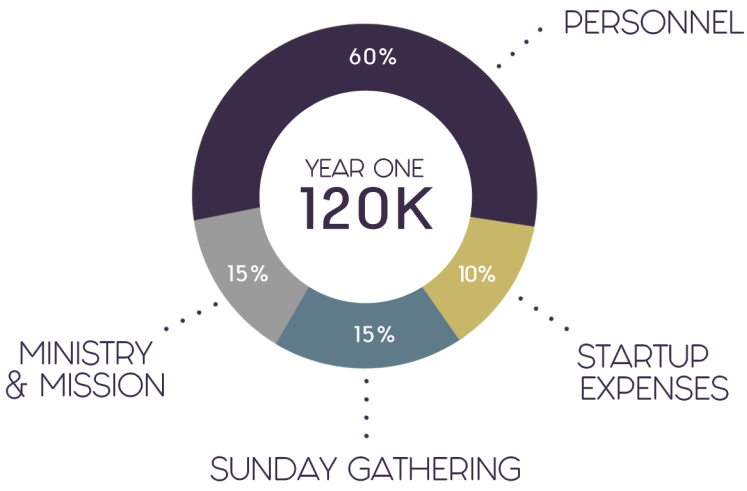
Church is made official! Two community groups and five discipleship huddles are launched along with a weekly Sunday gathering consisting of 25-30 adults meeting in the Aragon Coffee Building for worship.

## DIG IN & GROW

Church settles in for the long haul. Leadership cohorts are launched, Community Groups and Huddles are multiplied, SCC serves the community at greater capacity, disciples are made, and more churches are planted!

# FINANCIAL NEEDS

An inner-city church plant requires significant resources and high degree of dependence upon outside supporters in the early stages. Along with ministry expenses, we desire to have a full-time pastor who can be free to serve as lead pastor and missionary from the beginning; building relationships with the community, making disciples, developing leaders, preaching, and advancing the church towards her vision.



# PARTNER WITH US

## PRAY

Prayer is powerful. The true and living God hears, He cares, and He responds. Please join us in praying for:

1. The Spiritual health of our families.
2. Many people in Richmond to encounter the love of Jesus.
3. Provision for new team members and finances.

## JOIN

We are asking the Lord to provide us with a few seasoned believers who would count the cost to join our church and exercise their wisdom and gifts for the health and growth of South City. If you sense the Lord prompting you to consider or want hear more, please reach out so we can buy you coffee and hear your heart.

## GIVE

You have the opportunity to play an crucial role in this story. We need your help to raise an additional **90K** for our first two years. Would you consider joining the team and being an answer to our prayers?

To reach our goal we need:

- 2 Partners at \$500 /mo for two years.
- 2 Partners at 10K one time.
- 5 Partners at \$200 /mo for two years.
- 5 Partners at 5K one time.

If you want to join the support team, please let us know by emailing Jonathan. You can give in one of the following ways:

**Mail:**

South City Church  
PO Box 14092  
Richmond, Va 23224

**Online:**

[southcityva.com/give](https://southcityva.com/give)

**Contact:**

[jonathan@southcityva.com](mailto:jonathan@southcityva.com)  
(804) 357-8764





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