

NEW SONG

Mission Statement Refreshing hearts, renewing minds, revealing Christ

Vision Statement Gospel on the Go

Tagline All ages, all denominations, all serve, all together

The mission of The Harmony House is to encourage and nurture God-given creativity in the arts and the expression of those gifts in life-long worship and enjoyment of Him.

I. History

Not a 501c3; New Song is an outreach of The Harmony House – perhaps best described as missional, community-based, and interdenominational – with an emphasis on worship renewal. Worship services are based on the biblical theology of worship: Christocentric; Trinitarian; with reverence and awe; Spirit-led new song; space for silence and confession; Word-based; rooted in history; in Spirit and truth; with excellence; for the edification of the entire church...**all for the glory of God.** *Through scheduled community worship, students are given an opportunity to use their developing gifts for God's glory.* New Song Fellowship (NSF) began Feb 2017 as a practicum assigned by Heidi Truitt's professor at IWS (Institute for Worship Studies). The assigned thesis: the priesthood of believers. The worship service was originally called "chapel" as it was connected to a school and used the recital hall for gatherings. From Feb 2017 through Feb 2020 NSF met weekly on Sunday mornings and offered students the opportunity to use their musical talents, participate in dramatic Scripture readings, and join with us as we took the "Gospel on the Go." We hosted a dramatic Scripture re-enactment seminar. Mid-week rehearsals were held on Wednesday evenings. Spiritual gifts were activated; leaders appointed.

The Harmony House moved to a newer facility in 2019; NSF continued to use the recital hall of The Harmony House for services and rehearsals. We offered Sunday morning worship at Must Ministries in Marietta on rotation... And then there was COVID: March 2020, Must Ministries shut its doors to volunteers. The Harmony House narrowed to one location which no longer offered a hall. By April 2020 New Song transitioned to FB live services on Sunday mornings at Swift-Cantrell Park in Kennesaw. With limited ability to fellowship and gather indoors, by mid-October the focus shifted to internet-based services, shortening to "New Song" (NS). In Jan 2021 the body began to develop pre-recorded services for the internet. In March 2021 Darrell and Heidi Truitt opened their home to gather for weekly worship. Post-COVID, Night of Worship was launched on the third Saturday of February 2022.

In 2023 New Song organized to offer worship services in group homes throughout the community: Memory Care in Smyrna (1st Sunday/month); Dogwood Forest in Acworth (2nd Sun/month); Celebration Village in Acworth (3rd Sat night/month); and Must Ministries in Marietta (4th and 5th Sundays/month). Beyond ministering in group homes, in support of the mission statement, New Song has an established

worship ensemble, internet-based teaching series, and original sacred music ministry (new songs set to Scripture under the leadership of Kara Taylor). Heidi has authored a free and downloadable book, “The God of All Comfort.” She has participated in and/or led at least twelve mission trips. As the Holy Spirit leads, we go. As believers, we are all priests – set apart for His purposes. God no longer resides in a temple made of hands, but in those who have dedicated their lives to Him.

II. Model of Worship

Biblical Foundation: Model of the first century Christians (**Acts 2:42**):

- Missional: All carry the Gospel **Mt. 28:19-20**.
- Priesthood of believers **1 Peter 2:9**
- Spiritual Gifts: **Rom.12:6–8; 1 Cor. 12:4–11, 28** **Emphasis on gifts, not titles or offices**
- Simplicity: Low overhead; freedom - give out of a pure heart (no 501c3)
- Kingdom-minded, united in purpose **Jn. 17:20-21**.

From the earliest gathering of Christians recorded in Acts chapters 2 – 4 to the Woldensians in the 1100’s to Zwingli and Grebel in the early 1500’s, there has always been a remnant of believers who have been willing to be persecuted for biblical truth. Despite the cost, the pilgrims that crossed to ocean to our beloved land were also in pursuit of religious freedom to:

- Engage in personal study (and even own!) the Word of God
- Meet in private to worship – pray, sing, baptize, take communion...
- Enjoy a direct relationship with God through prayer and the gift of the Holy Spirit
- Receive salvation through faith in Christ – not through a clerical office
- Receive forgiveness for sins directly from God through Jesus’ atoning death
- Be a missional people – all carry the gospel
- Uphold the call for holiness and repentance
- Simplicity so that needs in the body of Christ can be met
- All use their gifts regardless of gender, age, race, or socioeconomic –concerned with spiritual gifts, not titles or offices

Periods of revival and spiritual renewal came out of the above teachings: small gatherings, Word-based, missional people, a call to holiness, and care for one another in Christian love. As a fellowship, we strive to uphold these teachings and practices.

Biblical theology of worship: Christocentric; Trinitarian; with reverence and awe; Spirit-led new song; space for silence and confession; Word-based; rooted in history; in Spirit and truth; with excellence; for the edification of the entire church...**all for the glory of God**.

III. Biblical Theology of Worship

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Practical:

- Word throughout the entirety of the service: greeting, prayers, sung, recited, read, preached, sacraments, and sending
- Word presented on the theme from each section of Scripture: Prophets, Wisdom, Gospels, and Epistle
- Wealth of church history and across time periods: Rich in doctrine
- Space for listening, confession, repentance, intercessory prayer
- Reverence and Awe: Rather than seeking human approval, is God pleased?
- Arrows (directed at congregants during Gathering and Benediction; upward focus during Word and Sacrament), minimizing distraction
- Christian calendar: Maintains focus on the Lord
- Eldership: Spiritual covering and guidance, gather first Sunday/month

IV. Contact/Web-site

www.newsongfellowship.godaddysites.com

www.theharmonyhouse.net

770-422-0022

heidi@theharmonyhouse.net; darrell@theharmonyhouse.net