

Generation 9: 1991-2001

...a continuing look at West Side Presbyterian's centennial journey of faith

The 1990's are a productive decade at West Side as many new programs are inaugurated and the staff grows to meet the ministry needs of the congregation.

West Side experiences growth that results in new staff positions: Rev. Ron Rice who later becomes our Parish Associate for Adult Education and Pastoral Care; Louis Platt, who goes on to become ordained and is called as our Associate Pastor; Carreen Smith as Director of Music; and Amy Weisz as the first Children's Ministry Director. The head custodian position is changed to Facilities Manager and filled by Shawn Packard.

In 1993, we buy a new Rodgers Electronic Organ for \$53,000 and hold a formal concert to dedicate the organ for worship. Sandra Dahl tells a story about playing it one evening before all the pews and carpeting were installed in the sanctuary and how it rang out with an incredible, unstifled sound.

Attention is paid to our buildings with a nursery remodel in 1998. And in 1999, the church raises funds to install seven stained glass windows along the east and west sides of the sanctuary, as well as etched glass windows along the back of the sanctuary. The stained glass windows (each representing a key piece of scripture) were designed by Tacoma architectural glass artist Mark Gulsrud. The Trinity Wall in the front of the sanctuary is completed. The molding represents the Holy Spirit; the cross represents Jesus Christ; and the Rose Window symbolizes God the Father.

Our Mount Fuji Cherry trees in the front of the church are declared the finest specimens of their kind, and the church hires a professional horticulturalist to manage and care for them.

The City of Seattle finds prominence with three emergent companies (Amazon, Microsoft and Starbucks) becoming household names, the heart of an alternative music scene, and the stage for world politics.

The decade ends with the Nisqually Earthquake at 10:54 am on February 28, 2001. It measures 6.8 on the Richter Scale and causes more than \$1 billion in damage throughout Western Washington. The quake damages the Alaskan Way Viaduct, the air traffic control tower at Sea-Tac Airport, and cracks the dome of the State Capitol in Olympia.

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- 1991 – VBS is held in August because of the teacher strike in the public schools this year
- 1991 – Richard Powers, new Minister of Music, is introduced with his family at a Special Congregational meeting
- 1991 – We hire Ron Rice on a part-time basis
- 1992 – Dianne Crawford sets up office for counseling
- 1992 – West Side elects first women elders - Lois Brasfield and Roberta Morey
- 1992 – Special year-end giving offering designated for missions
- 1993 – The first Agape Breakfast on Easter morning is attended by 200 people
- 1994 – Carreen Smith accepts the position of interim Choir Director (she is appointed as Music Director in 1995)
- 1996 – The Great Pretenders is organized and performs several plays, including *Innocent in Eden* in '97 and *Down from Above* in '98
- 1996 – Session approves the first garage sale to raise money for summer youth mission trip to Juarez, Mexico to build a 24x24 house for a family; 22 students go
- 1997 – Pastor Paul celebrates 25 years in ministry (and 15 years here)
- 1997 – West Side helps build house for a Cambodian Family in South Park through Habitat for Humanity
- 1998 – Blood pressure screenings mark the beginning of our Parish Nurse program
- 1999 – Betty Wallin is hired as Children's Ministry Director
- 2000 – Louis Platt, hired as Minister of Discipleship and Outreach in 1992, seeks ordination and is called as Associate Pastor
- 2000 – MDR (Memorial Day Retreat) has 101 kids
- 2000 – For the first time we hold two Christmas Eve services - a family-oriented one earlier and a traditional candle-light one later
- 2001 – West Side starts the year with 580 members



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How well do you remember the 90s?

1. What major economic and military event happened in Everett in 1994?
2. List two years that the Seattle Mariners win the American League West pennant.
3. The first proof of pre-historic man in the Columbia Basin is found near what city?
4. Who is elected Washington State Governor in 1996?
5. Boeing merges with what other company in 1997?
6. When does Benaroya Hall open?
7. The Department of the Interior puts nine species of what on the Endangered Species list in 1999?
8. What do the Makah tribe successfully hunt for the first time in 70 years? Bonus: name the species.
9. What is the name of the second largest philanthropic trust established in 1999?
10. Why was the world watching Seattle in November 1999?
11. What Seattle landmark is imploded in 2000? Why?
12. In 2000 *Miss Freei* breaks what record on Lake Washington?
13. What Northwest Indian tribe wins federal recognition on January 19, 2001, only to lose it again two days later?
14. A major event happens on February 28, 2001. What?
15. Estimate the population of Washington State from the 2000 census.

Answers	
9. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	1. The Everett Naval Station is dedicated April 8.
10. Demonstrations and street protests disrupt the World Trade Organization Conference and draw attention to an anti-globalization movement	2. 1995 & 1997
11. The Kingdom of Lesotho	3. Kennelwood
12. Hydroplane world speed record	4. Gary Locke
13. Duwamish	5. McDonnell Douglas
14. A magnitude 6.8 earthquake rattles Puget Sound area causing more than \$1 billion in damage	6. September 12, 1998
15. 5,894,121	7. Salmon
	8. Gray whale

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Wheelchairs for Nigeria

In September 1998, Rev. Ron Rice requests a leave of absence to pursue a missionary project with the International Institute for Christian Studies in Nigeria. Every student in Nigeria is required to take either Christian Religious Knowledge (CRK) or Islamic Studies in school, but CRK teachers have no resources beyond their Bible. Ron's project prepares comprehensive teachers' manuals and develops teacher training workshops. Six teachers' manuals are prepared for 7th to 12th grade, filled with background articles and creative educational helps and teaching ideas, which even now enhance Bible teaching for millions of Nigerian teenagers.

West Side establishes the title of Parish Associate for Adult Education and Pastoral Care for Rev. Ron so he has an official title from our church. Ron and Sharon leave in February 1999. Rev. Ron meets a young CRK teacher, Ayuba Gufwan, walking on his hands, crippled by polio. They build a 3-wheeled self-pedaled "wheelchair" for him. They discover there are tens of thousands of Nigerian people who spend their lives crawling on the ground, crippled by polio. That partnership is now the largest wheelchair ministry in Nigeria.



Ayuba Gufwan speaks to a gathering where wheelchairs are distributed.

Pastor Paul publishes four books during the 1990s:

- *Jesus, Meet Him Again...For the First Time*, 1994 – A sensitive and moving portrait of the Savior prompts readers to explore what it means to follow Him today and encourages us to encounter Jesus afresh, just as the disciples did 2000 years ago.
- *Close Encounters: Knowing the Savior*, 1995 – Meet those who met Jesus and were dramatically changed. This...is a stirring account of a life-changing relationship.
- *Foundations of the Faith: The Westminster Confession, Enjoying God Forever*, 1998 – What does it mean to glorify God? And how can a human being enjoy Him? Scripture, stories, and analysis amplify the topics addressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith (1649).
- *Foundations of the Faith: Romans 8:28: God's Plan for Our Good*, 2000 – Dr. Smith shows how the very worst things that occur in our lives will be instrumental in accomplishing the greatest and most delightful good things.