



transforming
H E A R T S
CHANGING LIVES

Our Vision for Faith, Connection, and Well-being.



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Vestry and strategic planning teams, we are excited to share our collective vision for the future of our spiritual home as we celebrate the 80th birthday of our parish.

Christ Church is a beacon of faith, hope, and love to its almost 6,000 members spanning six generations, and countless others in our city and beyond. Over the past two years we engaged in nearly a thousand heart-to-heart dialogues to better understand the needs of our community. The core question was, “What is on your heart?” As we considered what our future church might need, we listened deeply to our members’ hopes, fears, needs, and dreams.

The responses painted a compelling picture. There was a clear yearning to deepen personal faith, a desire for genuine connections amidst growing social isolation, and a call for robust support in matters of well-being, all of which pointed to a need for new and renovated spaces to house these vital ministries. Additionally, the community expressed a heartfelt call to extend our influence and serve others in the city of Charlotte.

Inspired by these insights, we embarked on a year-long strategic direction planning process. Several groups of church leaders were commissioned to mold this collective dream into tangible, actionable plans. In January 2023 our Vestry unanimously endorsed our vision and our largest-ever capital campaign.

Since then, Vestry members have made personal pledges to the campaign totaling \$4.2 million toward our goal of \$25 million, symbolizing not just financial backing but a steadfast faith in our mission to touch hearts, transform lives, and build an enduring legacy.

Near the back of this book you will find an overview of the campaign budget and a request for two pledges: one for annual stewardship, and one for the Transforming Hearts, Changing Lives campaign, as well as pledge cards, Frequently Asked Questions, and other materials. We hope you will share our excitement about this endeavor.

As you leaf through these pages, we believe the passion and purpose behind them will resonate deeply. Let’s join together to make our shared dreams a reality.

With hope and heartfelt gratitude,
Bill Lorenz, Senior Warden
Fletcher Gregory, Junior Warden
Chris Ullrich, Capital Campaign Chair

The Vestry

CLASS OF 2022

Louise Bonner
Jane Coulter
Geoff Peters
Ken Thompson
Chris Ullrich

CLASS OF 2023

Laura Copps
Cindy Costa
Fletcher Gregory, Jr. Warden
Alison Gugenheim
Bill Lorenz, Sr. Warden

CLASS OF 2024

Virginia Anderson
Marks Arnold
Kathleen Dean
Sarah Kain
Wellford Tabor

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Ginny Cobb
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Allison Popp
Carl Showalter
John Wickham

Dick Parkhurst, Treasurer



A MESSAGE FROM THE REVEREND CHIP EDENS

What does it take to transform a heart and change a life?

This question lies at the very core of our spiritual journey. Throughout our lives, each of us encounters moments of profound challenge, times when our hearts cry out for God's intervention and guidance.

Transformation often begins as a whisper, a gentle nudge that stirs the soul. It might be sparked by a memory, an event, or even a brief interaction with another person. Over time, these seemingly small moments can burgeon into a strong desire to seek a deeper connection to something greater than ourselves.

While it is God who ultimately orchestrates the miraculous transformations we seek, the church plays an indispensable role. In an ever-changing, challenging world, the church must ask: **What are the critical, timely things we must do to meet the needs of our congregation and our city?**

On the following pages you will find our blueprint for the future. It offers insight into the priorities and steps required for spiritual growth to happen: faith, connection, well-being, and service to Charlotte and beyond. It also envisions our physical growth—spaces

we plan to build, renovate, and expand. It is noteworthy that while our congregation's size has grown significantly, our church's physical space hasn't grown in almost two decades.

What do we hope will be the outcome of this collective effort? For you to cultivate deeper faith, gain unparalleled resources for well-being, form lasting bonds across generations, and find a platform to significantly impact others, alleviating pain and hardship.

This is our time to be bold, as those who came before us have done. I pray that you will embrace this vision and wholeheartedly support our campaign. Together, we will create opportunities for hearts to be transformed and lives to be changed in this generation and in generations to come.

With hope and excitement for all that is ahead,

Your friend and Rector,
Chip

*On a personal note, in thanksgiving for the grace Christ Church has been in our lives and in the lives of others, my family and I have made a commitment to increase our annual pledge for the next five years. We have also made our most substantial one-time contribution ever to this capital campaign. We are all in. I pray you will be too.





Our Priorities

The vision which emerged from our listening process is focused on four key areas we believe are crucial to meeting the spiritual and practical needs of our community:

- **Cultivate faith in an uncertain world**

We recognize the importance of equipping our members of all ages with new approaches to spiritual growth. By providing enhanced worship and music and innovative education resources and experiences, we aim to help individuals deepen their relationship with God and navigate the challenges they face in their lives.

- **Create new and improved spaces for connection**

In this time of increased isolation and loneliness, fostering connections within our church family is of utmost importance. We plan to build a new state-of-the-art building and renovate existing spaces to encourage fellowship, interaction, and a sense of belonging, enabling us to support and care for one another more effectively. This will include a dedicated youth center that is welcoming and designed with their needs in mind.

- **Establish a new center for well-being**

We understand the profound pastoral needs of our congregation and the importance of addressing them effectively. Our vision includes renovating existing spaces that will serve as a dedicated center for well-being education, short-term counseling, support groups, and other resources to promote spiritual, emotional, and mental well-being within our community.

- **Strengthen our outreach efforts**

As the world experiences growing inequality, we feel called to expand our outreach efforts to the wider community. By amplifying our impact, we can extend a helping hand to those in need, advocate for opportunity, and be a beacon of hope in challenging times.

Throughout this book you will find scripture and questions for reflection. We hope this spiritual grounding will deepen your experience reading about the Transforming Hearts, Changing Lives campaign.

Cultivating FAITH *in an Uncertain World*

We recognize the importance of equipping our members of all ages with new approaches to spiritual growth.

In these times of profound uncertainty and change, people are seeking a deep relationship with God. Faith is an essential anchor during life's most difficult storms.

Our overarching mission, one that we passionately pursue for all age groups, is to answer that need. We seek to introduce people to the unchanging love and teachings of God as profoundly embodied by Jesus Christ.

To that end, we offer uplifting worship services with inspired music. Our bible studies delve deep into the scriptures to find guidance for daily living. Classes, workshops, retreats, and pilgrimages nurture the seeds of faith for all ages. We hear the hunger for more and

varied opportunities to nurture ongoing spiritual growth throughout a lifetime.

While our physical campus remains an epicenter for these activities, the rapid digitalization of the world has pressed upon us the importance of virtual outreach. It is imperative for us to offer spiritually enriching experiences in the digital realm so that our members, and indeed anyone in search of spiritual guidance, can access resources wherever in the world they may be.

Our goal is profound yet simple: **to nurture a faith so strong and unshakable that individuals cannot only lean on it themselves but also share it with others.**

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

H E B R E W S 11 : 1



Did you know...

Livestream views

September 2022 - August 2023

17,000 unique livestream views
of worship, Faith Forums, weddings, and funerals



Devotional Prompt

Spend a moment to reflect on your faith and how it may have grown or changed over the past few years.

How do you seek to cultivate and maintain a faith that remains steadfast in its hope and confident in the unseen?

How might the challenges of the modern world serve to refine and strengthen our faith?

Nurturing CONNECTION *for Spiritual Well-being*

In this time of increased isolation and loneliness, fostering connections within our church family is of utmost importance.

As Christians we are called to live in community. Relationships are a key part of our well-being, and the means to discovering and growing in faith. With a parish family of six generations, the church is one of the few places where people of all ages can come together for intergenerational learning and support that deeply enriches their lives.

Loneliness, often called the silent killer, has emerged as one of the paramount health concerns of our era, linked to a wide range of health complications. The Surgeon General has labeled loneliness as one of the greatest epidemics of our day. While people are gradually returning to their normal routines after the pandemic, the lingering shadow of loneliness continues to grow.

As a spiritual home for all people, grounded in teachings of love, compassion, and togetherness, we have a unique opportunity to address this crisis. We want to provide beautiful welcoming spaces where different age groups can gather, both with peers and intergenerationally, to forge relationships, offer mutual support, and learn and serve together. These connections become the bedrock for emotional and spiritual well-being.

Our mission is clear: **to foster a loving and mutually supportive community of faith which offers a respite from isolation and loneliness and ensures that every member of our church feels seen, heard, and valued.**



“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to the one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help.”

ECCLESIASTES 4 : 9 - 10

Devotional Prompt

We have all had moments where we have felt alone. Have you had an experience of being drawn out of loneliness by a person or place?

Have you had the opportunity to connect or reconnect with someone who might feel alone? In an era where many feel isolated despite being digitally connected, how can we actively nurture genuine connections within our community?



Establishing a Center for WELL-BEING

We understand the profound pastoral needs of our congregation and the importance of addressing them effectively.

Where do you go when you're facing a complex personal or family problem? Today's children, teens, and adults are faced with unique and escalating pressures while access to affordable care and support is sorely lacking in our community.

Over the last several years, we've witnessed genuine heartbreak within our Christ Church community, which has caused us to ask: How can we provide better assistance to those confronting challenges, and how can we equip people of all ages with the necessary skills and knowledge to prevent crises?

Our wellness ministry offers Christ-centered, evidence-based, holistic solutions, and it is growing. Counseling

visits increased from 400 in 2021 to 700 in 2022, and we are anticipating a similar demand in 2023. This uptrend underscores the tangible impacts we've made and strengthens our belief in the importance of this ministry.

With guidance from national experts in well-being, we've developed a vision to expand this ministry, offering immediate crisis triage, short-term counseling, support groups, and an expansive well-being education platform to comprehensively address the seven pillars of well-being (see diagram). Our goal is **to serve as a beacon of hope and provide healing, empowerment, and spiritual growth to all who seek it.**

ASPECTS OF WELL-BEING



“When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”

J O H N 5 : 6

Devotional Prompt

Reflect on Jesus’ poignant question “Do you want to be made well?” Consider what actively seeking healing and wholeness in your life might look like. How might this scripture inspire you to take intentional steps toward your own well-being, both spiritually and mentally?



OUTREACH: *Deepening our Impact in Charlotte*

As the world experiences growing inequality, we feel called to expand our outreach efforts to the wider community.

Generosity is a keystone of the Transforming Hearts, Changing Lives campaign. We will break new ground in our historic commitment to serving the world with our largest-ever financial allocation to outreach. Over the next five years we will more than double the funds that Christ Church devotes to the well-being of our community each year.

Our legacy includes major projects that have made a significant difference in the areas of affordable housing, education, and workforce development, to name a few. In keeping with that legacy, we are committed to making

a measurable, meaningful, and relational impact in the city of Charlotte so that all who live here may thrive. And, a portion of our new resources will be devoted to the care and stewardship of God's fragile creation.

A team of experienced parishioners and clergy are already evaluating the exciting new ways we can serve as God's active hands in our community.

These initiatives will be far and away the most significant legacy of our generation.



“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

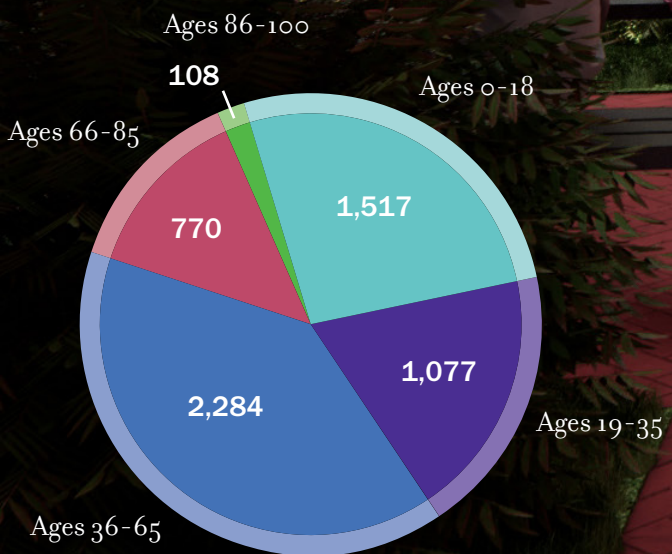
1 CORINTHIANS 12:26 - 27

Devotional Prompt

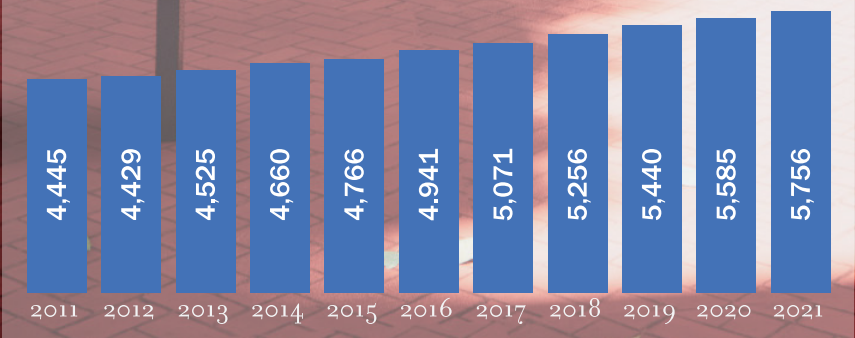
In times of growing inequality and disparity, why is it important that we as Christians answer the call to serve?

How might your individual actions, no matter how small, contribute to the collective well-being of the community, ensuring everyone feels valued and cared for?

Membership by Age



Membership Growth





SACRED SPACES: *A New Building and Renovations*

While many churches are in decline, our membership continues to grow across all ages. On Sunday morning and throughout the week, our current buildings are bursting at the seams. Specifically, we have identified these critical needs:

- A comfortable, inviting space designed especially for youth
- Classrooms for all ages
- Gathering space for fellowship before and after worship
- Wellness ministry expansion
- Staff office space
- Preschool classrooms
- Storage

To meet these needs, we will build a new building filled with irresistible spaces where people can find deeper connections with one another. Beautiful indoor and outdoor gathering spaces will invite people of all ages to participate in life-giving shared experiences and foster a sense of belonging and community.

We will also renovate existing spaces to house our expanded well-being ministry and increase office space for our growing staff.

Conceptual Renderings of New Building



New building viewed from parking lot



New building and courtyard entrance viewed from Circle



Gathering space in new building,
opening into courtyard



Gathering space in new building,
opening into parking lot

Bringing Our VISION to Life

We invite you to prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to invest in this important campaign. We estimate a cost of \$25 million to make these dreams a reality.

This is an opportunity for us to build on the sacrifices and faithful work of past generations, so that we can continue to pour Christ's love into the world and transform the hearts of those who are seeking a stronger faith, a community of belonging, and care for their deepest needs. We hope you will be a part of this life-giving legacy for our spiritual home today and for generations to come.

<p>In-Reach Ministries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Ministries • Spiritual formation for all ages • Center for Well-being (In-reach & Outreach) • Digital Ministries (In-reach & Outreach) 	<p>\$6M</p>
<p>Sacred Spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellowship Building, including dedicated space for children and youth, and parking • Renovations and enhancements to existing buildings • Ministry enhancements (e.g. expanded CCK, adult classrooms, establish a new center for well-being) • Outdoor spaces 	<p>\$16.5M</p>
<p>Outreach Ministries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting community ministries, including Episcopal partnerships • Public education and affordable housing • Galilee Center and East Charlotte initiative 	<p>\$2.5M</p>

GIVING *for the* *Present and Future*

We invite you to pledge your financial support in two ways: the essential Annual Campaign and the forward vision of our Capital Campaign.

ANNUAL GIVING: SUSTAINING OUR FOUNDATION

Our top priority is the annual stewardship campaign, which upholds our day-to-day operations, ongoing ministry programs, and community outreach. Your annual gift ensures the ongoing vitality of our church's mission.

Consistency

Seamlessly maintaining daily church functions.

Impact

Providing worship, outreach, and other ministries serving our parish and the community.

Provision

Meeting rising expenses to uphold our mission.

If you can only make one pledge, please prioritize the Annual Campaign.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Every decade brings a call to grow and strengthen our foundation. Now is such a time.

The Transforming Hearts, Changing Lives campaign is our opportunity to build on the sacrifices and faithful work of past generations. We hope you will be a part of this life-giving legacy.

Vision

A commitment to a hopeful, enduring future for our church.

Growth

Addressing present and future needs for a growing church

Intention

Your gift can be paced over five years, merging generosity with thoughtful planning.





A Prayer for our Campaign

Gracious God, as we embark on this journey of “Transforming Hearts, Changing Lives,” we seek your guidance. Bless our efforts to open not only hearts and minds, but also imaginations. Illuminate our path, connect our community, and inspire gospel-change in the world around us. May your transforming love shine through us, so that our parish, our city and our world may more fully reflect your eternal kingdom. In Jesus’ name, we pray.

Amen.



Christ Church Charlotte

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

christchurchcharlotte.org/hearts