

# Invitation to Ministry



**Christ Church Charlotte**

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# You Are Invited to Grow

*And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.'* MARK 1:17

## Dear Friends,

Please consider this book your personal invitation to deepen your connection with God and with us here at Christ Church. On the following pages you will find a rich variety of ministry opportunities through which you can worship, learn, serve, and participate in building up the body of Christ as a part of this community.

Whether you are new to Christ Church or have been here your whole life – whatever your age or stage in your faith journey – we invite you to consider how you might cultivate a Christ-centered life.

We all have God-given gifts to offer, and we want to be a place that nurtures yours. Perhaps you would like to read scripture or offer your musical talent during worship, or serve a meal at the Men's Shelter. Maybe you will join a Bible study group, or travel with a mission team. Whatever you choose will surely enrich your own life as you bless our spiritual home and the world with your gifts.

We are grateful for your presence among us, and eagerly anticipate all that we can do together to be Christ's Church in the world.

Love and blessings,



The Reverend Chip Edens  
Rector, Christ Episcopal Church



**Christ Church Charlotte**  
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### OUR MISSION

To engage, equip and empower people to love God, care for each other and serve the world in the name of Christ.

### OUR VISION

We aspire to be Christ's Church in the world.



# Worship

*O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!* - PSALM 95:6

We strive to create beautiful, meaningful worship experiences so that all can fulfill their call to center their lives in God who created them.



**WORSHIP** On Sundays we offer many opportunities for you to connect with God through different styles of worship in the Church and All Saints' Hall. Weekday Eucharists are offered Tuesday at 6:00 PM, Wednesday at Noon (with healing prayers), and Thursday at 7:00 AM in the Chapel.

**USHERS** Extend hospitality, welcome the congregation, hand out bulletins, take up the collection, and guide parishioners for communion.

**LECTORS** Read Holy Scripture during worship services.

**ACOLYTES** Young people assist the clergy in worship services as crucifer, torch bearer, and altar servers.

**ALTAR GUILD** Prepare all things necessary for worship services, including Sunday and weekday Holy Eucharists, weddings, and funerals.

**CHALICE BEARERS** Confirmed members may lead the Prayers of the People and administer the chalice during communion.

**YOUNG MINISTERS** Children take an active role in our Discovery Eucharist by carrying the cross and flags, helping priests with their stoles, lighting candles, and assisting as the bread and wine are blessed.



*With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God...And do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. COLOSSIANS 3:16b-17*



Through our music ministry we seek to equip and empower the hearts and minds of our community through the gift of music.



## Music-Making Opportunities

**CHRIST CHURCH CHOIR** This adult choral ensemble of professionals and volunteers provides music for Sunday morning services in the Church, and special services.

**PARISH CHOIR** Inter-generational volunteers lead music for the children and families of the Discovery Eucharist. Rehearses monthly and sings in rotating small groups for weekly services.

**CONTEMPORARY BAND** Adult and youth volunteers of all musical backgrounds and ability levels lead worship through music at the Contemporary Eucharist.

**MUSIC CLUB** Pre-K (4's) and kindergarteners learn the basics of music-making and healthy singing, and sing in Church quarterly.

**ST. NICOLAS CHOIR** First- through third-graders prepare music for two worship services a month while learning basics of music theory using the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) curriculum.

### CHRIST CHURCH CHORISTERS

Fourth- through eighth-graders prepare music for two worship services a month while learning music theory and musicianship using the RSCM curriculum.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL SONGLEADERS

Volunteers offer music to our youngest parishioners during the Sunday School hour. Music and guidance is provided.

### 5:00 PM SERVICE PIANISTS

Volunteer pianists play for the 5:00 PM contemplative Eucharist, and are joined by a cantor from the Christ Church Choir.

## Ministry Support

**CHORAL LIBRARIANS** Help maintain the choral library by filing, organizing, distributing, and collecting music.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR HELPER** Support the children's choirs in areas such as recruiting, chaperoning, marketing, and sign-in/sign-out.

**AUDIO-VISUAL SUPPORT** Provide audio-visual and technical support for worship services in All Saints' Hall and the Church.



# Outreach & Mission

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* MICAH 6:8

Motivated and inspired by our Church's mission statement, we strive to serve the world through acts of love and service in our community and the world beyond.

## Housing/ Homelessness

**CHARLOTTE FAMILY HOUSING** Shelters working, homeless families and helps them forge a path back to stability. At Elizabeth House we help with meals, child care, weekend activities and overnight hosting. Christ Church Duplexes offer on-campus transitional housing for four families.

**HOPE TEAMS** Provide non-financial support to Charlotte Family Housing families.

**MEN'S SHELTER OF CHARLOTTE** Serve meals to men who are experiencing homelessness.

**ROOM IN THE INN (RITI)** Assist with set-up, meals, or overnight hospitality in our Church for 14 homeless neighbors weekly, December through March.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** Bring individuals and communities together to build decent affordable housing. Volunteers age 16 and older construct the house alongside the homeowner on Saturdays, February through May.

**YWCA: FAMILIES TOGETHER AND WOMEN IN TRANSITION PROGRAMS** Help collect home goods or assist with classes for families working toward self-sufficiency.



## Poverty Prevention

**URBAN MINISTRY CENTER** An interfaith agency serving as an entry point for chronically homeless people. Volunteers counsel, attend the desk, serve lunch, or make sandwiches.

**MATTHEW 25** Prepare and deliver casseroles to the Salvation Army Center of Hope Women's Shelter, Men's Shelter, Charlotte Rescue Mission and Urban Ministry Center.

**FRIENDSHIP TRAYS** Deliver meals to elderly, handicapped, or convalescing people who are home-bound.

**LOAVES AND FISHES** Collect and deliver food to pantries where people in crisis receive groceries. Volunteers stock shelves, sort food, or assist at pantry sites.

**CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY** Serves those facing financial emergencies and struggling to meet basic needs. Volunteers sort donations for the free store or serve refreshments to people waiting in line.





## Children and Education

### **RAMA ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Our partner school, where 85% of the student body qualifies for free or reduced lunch. Help with the book fair, classroom needs, Girl Scouts, the Thanksgiving turkey drive, tutoring, or being a lunch buddy.

**FREEDOM SCHOOL** Provides quality summer programs for kindergarteners through eighth-grade students. Volunteers can chaperone field trips, serve as Harambee readers, and lead afternoon activities.

### **THE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE (TLC)**

A comprehensive preschool program helping children be ready and excited to learn. Volunteers can collect clothing for children and supplies to support the program.

**A CHILD'S PLACE** Provides educational stability and support to homeless students. Provide snacks, assist in the office, or serve as a lunch buddy.

**THOMPSON CHILD AND FAMILY FOCUS** Provides comprehensive education, treatment, and care for children with a range of challenges. Help at the front desk, garden, or with pet therapy.

### **CHARLOTTE BILINGUAL PRESCHOOL**

Provides dual language (English and Spanish) education that helps children transition confidently and successfully into kindergarten. Read to children, provide childcare, tutor a parent, assist in classrooms, the garden, or office.

## Mission

**COSTA RICA** Mission trips in summer and winter offer opportunities to build churches, homes, schools and relationships with our Companion Diocese.

**BOTSWANA** Trips and pilgrimages are offered by the Diocese of NC to our other Companion Diocese.

**GLORY RIDGE** Short-term mission experience for rising 7th- through 12th-graders and adults each summer in Madison County, NC. Groups serve the local community by doing repairs on homes and being present with the people who live there.

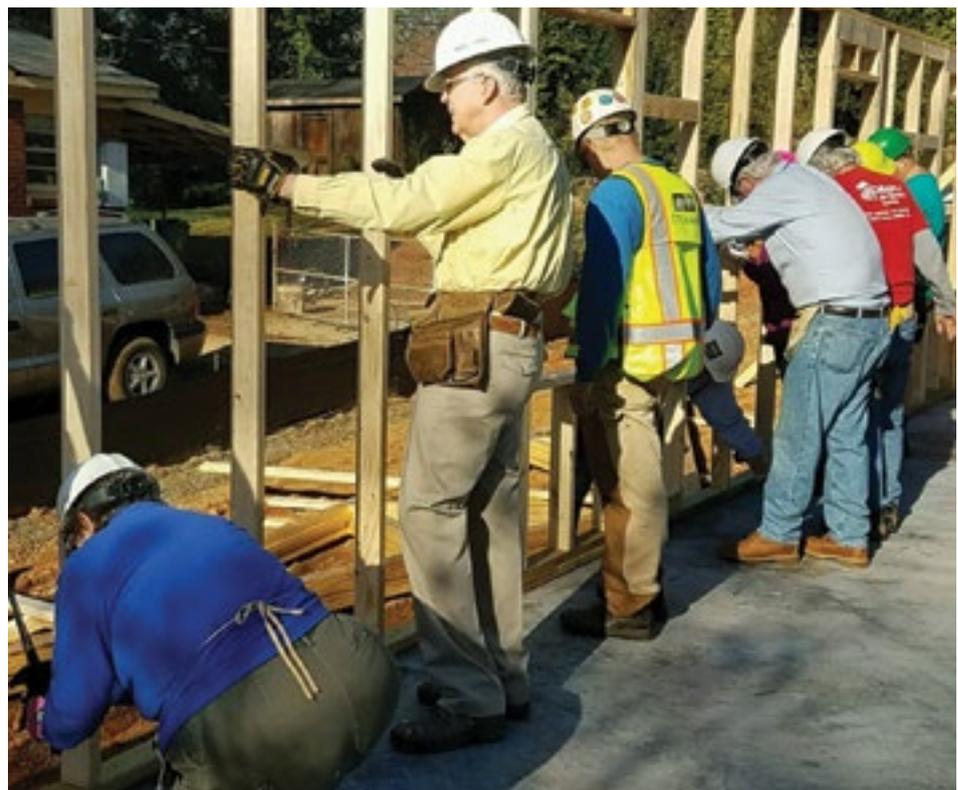
### **EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT**

Supports the national Episcopal Church in providing relief from unforeseen disasters throughout the world as well as economic and social development in impoverished countries. For more information or to make a financial contribution, go to [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org).

**THISTLE FARMS** Heals, empowers, and employs women survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. Purchase products and find out more at [www.thistlefarms.org](http://www.thistlefarms.org).

## Justice and Reconciliation

Faith Forum speakers, classes, and pilgrimages offer opportunities to deepen our understanding and frame our work as we pursue new initiatives.



# Adult Formation

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.* ACTS 2:42

Christ Church provides ministries and experiences that invite and encourage adults to grow in their relationships with God, others, the world, and self.



## Bible Studies

**FEASTING ON THE WORD** Join clergy and lay leaders on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM for a Bible study on the Sunday scripture passages.

**THE GOOD BOOK** Seasonal and year-round opportunities to embed scripture in your life and learn more about the Bible through daily reading either on your own or with a group. Open to the wider community.

**THE DAILY** Sign up to receive an inspirational Bible passage from the Old or New Testament every day.

**CHRIST CHURCH WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY (CCWBS)** Women of all ages gather weekly on Thursday mornings, September through March, to study, learn, and grow together.

**WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY (WEBS)** Women meet twice a month on Monday evenings to study scripture and literature, enjoy fellowship, and worship together.



**THURSDAY MORNING WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY** All are invited to worship every Thursday at 7:00 AM followed by breakfast and Bible study led by clergy.

**YOUNG ADULT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** Young women (ages 21 - 35) meet most Wednesday afternoons or evenings.

**YOUNG ADULT FAITH & FELLOWSHIP** Young adults (ages 21 - 35) meet on Sundays at 10:00 AM for conversation, learning, and fellowship.

**CHRISTIAN ESSENTIALS** Explore, grow, and deepen your faith and life with God. Learn about living a Christ-centered life in a six- or sixteen-week session.

**BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST (BODYBUILDERS)** By connecting our faith to everyday living through articles, world events, poetry, essays, book excerpts, and scripture we build up the body of Christ among us. No homework. Come when you can.

**CENTERING PRAYER** An ancient prayer discipline that quiets the mind in order to cultivate interior silence. We open ourselves to the presence and healing activity of God.

**READING BETWEEN THE LINES** Add to your understanding of scripture by reflecting on topics that arise from cultural and literary inspirations. A group study with various meeting times.





## EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM)

This Bible study and theological reflection group meets weekly, September through May, and connects the study of scripture with our real lives.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONS** Clergy, staff, and parishioners share written reflections on selected Bible passages during the season of Lent. These writings are available in a book or via daily email.

## Faith Forum

**FAITH FORUM** Nationally recognized speaker series with leading thinkers, bestselling authors, philosophers, and theologians who share their insights on the Christian life. Join us to be inspired, challenged, and transformed by new ideas and deeper reflection on important topics. Visit our online video archive to view past speakers and classes.

## Retreats and Pilgrimages

**WOMEN'S RETREAT** Women of all ages enjoy an annual spring retreat to deepen their relationships with God and one another.

**MEN'S RETREAT** Men of all ages spend a weekend away each winter for reflection, recreation, and relaxation.

**PILGRIMAGES** Embark on an experience of a lifetime to important destinations around the world that are foundational to our faith, traditions, and lives as Christians.

## Classes

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** Explore the basics of Christianity: God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Sacraments, the Bible, and the history of the Church. Offered each spring, this class prepares participants for Confirmation or Reception in The Episcopal Church.

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND THE

**ENNEAGRAM** Learn more about yourself and discover a deeper relationship with God through study of the Enneagram.

## COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS TRAINING

**(CST)** Develop skills to improve relationships with friends, family, spouses, and co-workers through this three-day workshop.

## CST REBOOTS

Monthly classes and half-day workshops help graduates go deeper into living their CST skills. Regardless of when you took the class, these sessions remind us of the power of this work.

## THE DARING WAY / RISING STRONG

Based on the work of Brené Brown, these classes explore vulnerability, courage, shame, guilt, and worthiness. Classes and intensive seminars are offered throughout the year.

## CLERGY CLASSES

We offer occasional large-audience Sunday morning classes on a variety of themes taught by our clergy.

## ADVENT

Intergenerational classes are offered on Sunday mornings during the 10:00 AM education hour.

## LENT SERIES

Prepare for Easter with one of our Wednesday evening classes during the season of Lent.



# Congregational Care

*Bear one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.* GALATIANS 6:2

Sooner or later we all face a challenge too difficult to manage by ourselves. Clergy, staff, support groups and other Church members are here for you. We invite you to join us in caring for each other.

## Care for Each Other

**CARE TEAMS** A group of five to six volunteers who offer support and tangible care for an individual or family in our parish facing challenging circumstances.

**BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY TEAM** Meets monthly to pray for parishioners who grieve the death of a loved one, and writes them letters each month for a year, also providing information about the nature of grief and loss.



**SUNSHINE FLOWER GUILD** Members arrange flowers from Sunday's altar and deliver to parishioners on Monday.

**LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS** Trained volunteers take communion to homebound parishioners.

**CARING GUILD** Members provide food for and serve at funeral receptions. No regularly scheduled meetings. Year-round ministry opportunity. Volunteers called as needed.

**CARD MINISTRY** Members meet once a month to write birthday cards to parishioners over the age of 80.

**RETIREMENT COMMUNITY INFORMATION** A helpful comparison of information about the local continuing care retirement community is available on the Church website.

**KNIT ONE, PRAY TOO PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** Members knit prayer shawls that are blessed and given to parishioners as a sign of love and support.

**ALL SAINTS' EUCHARIST** We celebrate All Saints' Day (November 1) with a service of remembrance, during which the names of parishioners and loved ones of parishioners who have died in the previous year are included in the prayers. Parishioners grieving the loss of a family member are invited to a luncheon following the Eucharist.



## Wellness and Support

**LIVING WITH GRIEF AND HOPE SERIES** Twice a year this four-week series is offered to provide support and resources for those who are dealing with loss.

**BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR GROUP** Meets twice a year for those recently diagnosed and those celebrating decades of good health.

**EXPECTANT MOTHERS** Be included in our Sunday bulletin and prayer intercessions. We also mail a packet of helpful information for new parents.

**DIVORCE, SEPARATION AND RECOVERY** Led by non-members, this group provides an excellent opportunity for support and encouragement during a difficult life transition.

**WIDOWER'S GROUP** Meeting quarterly for lunch, this group is for men who have lost their spouse.

**DEMENTIA CAREGIVER GATHERINGS** An opportunity for those living with someone with dementia to encourage one another, share ideas and learn about resources.

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away.* - DEUTERONOMY 6:5-7a

## Nursery

**NURSERY** Childcare is available for infants through four-year-olds during most worship services and many classes in our Nursery Suite located on the lower level under the GoodNews Shop.

## Children

### Birth - 5th Grade

#### **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

As each new school year begins, all students, preschoolers through adults, are invited to bring their backpacks or lunch boxes for a special blessing.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Every Sunday, 10:00 - 11:00 AM, September through May, two-year-olds through 5th graders are led by dedicated volunteers to learn about loving God, caring for each other, and serving the world.

**YOUNG MINISTERS** Children take an active role in our Discovery Eucharist by carrying the cross and flags, helping priests with their stoles, lighting candles, and assisting with the bread and wine.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIRS** Music programs are offered for children ages four and up. See page 3 for details.



**CHILDREN'S CHAPEL** An interactive worship experience during a Sunday worship service for children in 5th grade and below to explore God's word through story, movement, dialogue, and the arts.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** All children in 4-year-old through 3rd grade Sunday School classes are invited to participate in telling the story of Jesus' birth and his humble beginnings.

**BIBLE PRESENTATION** Our 4th grade students are encouraged to learn the Books of the Bible. Once completed, they receive a Bible to celebrate their accomplishment.

#### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)**

Children (and adults) soak up God's word and enthusiastically engage in an array of activities for four days every summer.

**NURSERY COMMITTEE** This group of volunteers works to ensure our younger parishioners are cared for in a safe, nurturing environment while their parents participate in worship or education.

We nurture children and their families through a supportive, inclusive community of adults who are excited to share their faith and help children grow into the full stature of Jesus.



# Children, Youth & Families

## Youth

*6th - 12th Grade*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Middle and high school students gather on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM during the school year for community-building, core lessons, Bible Study, and to grow their faith.

### **EYC (EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY)**

Middle school youth meet during the school year for Bible study, games, outreach, and community-building.

**LIFE GROUPS** High school students meet in small groups at members' homes on various nights. Youth and their adult leaders share meaningful conversations about how faith and life intersect.

**ACOLYTES** Assist the clergy in worship services as crucifer, torch bearers, and altar servers.

**YOUTH CHOIRS AND BAND** Opportunities to lead worship through music are offered for all youth. See page 3 for details.

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH COUNCIL** High school youth are empowered to take leadership roles in the Church and the community. They create programs, events, and ministries that engage their peers in study and fellowship together.



**RITE 13 AND CONFIRMATION** These are two important rites of passage. 7th graders participate in R13, celebrating the gift of manhood and womanhood, while 8th graders participate in confirming their baptismal vows.

**OUTREACH & MISSION** Regular opportunities to serve are available at The Men's Shelter, Room in the Inn, and Charlotte Family Housing. During the summer youth can participate in Freedom School or travel to Costa Rica or Glory Ridge. See pages 4-5 for more information.



### **URBAN & WILDERNESS ADVENTURES**

During their 9th grade year, students embark on a local adventure in Charlotte in the fall and a three-day wilderness adventure in the spring. Through these adventures, students learn to navigate a large city and travel outside their comfort zones while incorporating their faith journeys.

**PILGRIMAGE** Graduating 10th graders are invited to participate in an experience of a lifetime as they journey to places around the globe for an unforgettable week of spiritual growth.



## Families

**FAMILY FAITH TALKS** Families gather around dinner tables to talk about faith-based topics, engage in activities, hear guest speakers, and pray together. Occurs monthly on Wednesday evenings during the school year.

**PARENTING CLASSES** Parents are equipped and empowered to be Christian role models and leaders of their families through periodic classes on a variety of topics.

**DISCOVERY EUCHARIST** Designed for families with young children, this worship service provides a welcoming environment where it's okay to have "the wiggles." With all the traditional elements of Episcopal worship, it offers homilies, creeds, songs and prayers written specifically for young minds.

**ADVENT FESTIVAL** We begin the season of Advent together as we share fellowship and make Advent wreaths and Jesse tree ornaments to begin preparing our hearts.

### COMMUNION EDUCATION CLASS

This experience is a time for parents and children to explore the mystery surrounding Holy Communion and grow together in their faith.

**THESE ARE OUR BODIES** This program is designed especially for 5th graders and their parents, to place the gift of sexuality into the context of our Christian faith.

**LOW COUNTRY BOIL** This annual event, co-sponsored by CCK, raises funds to support all children's ministries of Christ Church. In addition, a tithe is given to an organization which supports children in the Charlotte area.

**EPEC** Exceptional Parents of Exceptional Children is a support group for parents of children with special needs, disabilities, learning differences, or developmental delays.



## Christ Church Preschool & Kindergarten (CCK)

*See what great love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. – 1 JOHN 3:1*



**OPEN HOUSES** Prospective CCK and rising Kindergarten families are invited to tour our school Wednesdays at 9:30 AM from October until May.

### LIFE AFTER PRESCHOOL CLASSES

These classes educate parents about our Kindergarten curriculum and the process of transitioning to elementary school.

**FAMILY EVENTS** We invite CCK families to gather for food, fellowship and fun throughout the year, including a Fall Parent Party, Dinner and a Family Dance, and an End-of-Year Picnic. Students present special programs for parents and others throughout the year.

Christ Church Kindergarten and Preschool provides an enriching half-day preschool program for Toddlers through Kindergarteners. CCK seeks to inspire children to become life-long learners in a faith-based environment.

**SERVICE PROJECTS** We teach a love of serving in our community by partnering with Charlotte organizations whose mission is to support children and families.

# GoodNews Shop

*And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.'* MARK 16:15

The GoodNews Shop is a mission of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW). We invite you to shop with us for great gifts, books, and accessories, proceeds from which support mission and outreach.

**VOLUNTEER IN THE SHOP** Join our team! Working in the shop (two-hour shifts, once a month) is a fun way to be involved, meet new friends, and have a little time for retail therapy.

**GOODNEWS TO GO** Homemade casseroles, soups, and desserts from the GoodNews freezer are bestsellers in our shop. Each Tuesday and Wednesday volunteers meet in the Church kitchen to prepare these delicious offerings that stock our freezer. If you enjoy prepping, cooking, and packaging in the kitchen, consider volunteering with us once a month for two hours, or as often as you like.

**CHRIST CHURCH GALLERY** Local artists exhibit their works on the upper level of All Saints' Hall. These works are available for purchase in the GoodNews Shop.



## Meals & Food Service

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.* HEBREWS 13:2

Our kitchen ministry provides delicious, quality food for parishioners, friends, and guests in a welcoming, happy, and helpful environment.

**WEDNESDAY DINNER BUFFET** Offered September through April, with multiple food stations in the Blue Room, including soup, salad bar, hot entrees, desserts, and beverages.

**SUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET** From September through April, gather with family and friends after worship to enjoy a wide variety of brunch selections. Volunteers are needed for hospitality.

**PARISH DAY PICNICS** Enjoy these special events or assist with serving and cleaning up at one of our many large gatherings.

**BANQUETS** We can host breakfast, lunch or dinner for 20 - 600, whether for Church-sponsored events or outside groups and organizations.

**KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS** Use your culinary gifts as a volunteer in the kitchen during buffets or special events.



*For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.* - MATTHEW 18:20

## Parish Life

**IGROUPS** These open-invitation fellowship events at various times throughout the year are suited to a variety of interests and ages, making it easy and fun to deepen your relationships with old and new friends.

**FALL PARISH DAY** We kick off the fall with a Festival Eucharist and a parish-wide celebration in early September that includes lunch, entertainment, and games for all.

**TRUNK OR TREAT** All ages are encouraged to enjoy a hot dog supper, crafts and a costume parade, with children trick-or-treating in the parking lot to car trunks decorated by parishioners.

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER** On the day before Ash Wednesday, this Mardi Gras-themed event includes a fabulous pancake supper, entertainment, and crafts for children.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** On Easter Sunday for children up to 8 years old. All are invited to donate candy-filled eggs or to help with the egg hunt.

**SPRING PARISH DAY** Similar to Fall Parish Day, this parish-wide celebration in May is a way to conclude the program year with food, fellowship and fun on the lawn.

**HOT DOG SUNDAYS/LEMONADE ON THE LAWN** During the summer months, stay after the 10:30 AM worship services for a hot dog lunch or lemonade and fellowship.

**BRIDGE** Groups of varying skill levels gather to play bridge and enjoy time together on a regular basis.

## Hospitality

**GREETERS** Greeters assist once a month by welcoming members and visitors before and after the service of their choice. This is a wonderful opportunity to be a part of the welcome ministry.

## Newcomers

**CONNECT CLASS** Offered twice a year, this class is a wonderful opportunity to connect on a deeper level with others who are new to Christ Church, as well as with our clergy and staff.

**NEWCOMER DINNERS** Monthly dinners are held on the first Wednesday of the month, October through April, and feature a speaker who shares what's going on at Christ Church.

**VESPERS IN THE GARDEN** An annual event for newcomers, held in the beautiful garden of a parishioner, with a wonderful supper and a candlelight Vespers service.

Christ Church extends hospitality to all who come to our spiritual home, offering a warm welcome to newcomers and deepening connections among all who share in our fellowship. We hope to make everyone who enters our doors feel like family.



# Men's Ministry

*The gifts he gave were ... to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.*

EPHESIANS 4:11-12

Our goal is to assist all men to find comfortable ways to deepen friendships, enhance their support, and connect more closely with God.



**MEN'S DINNERS** These large group gatherings are held twice per year in All Saints' Hall, with dynamic keynote speakers and time for fellowship.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** This monthly breakfast features speakers on timely topics with plenty of coffee, good food, and great fellowship.

**LIVING BIG** This two-man team project is designed to help guide each other through the key "buckets" of our lives.

**BOOK READING** Suggested group readings are read alone then discussed in small and large groups three times per year.

**BIBLE STUDY** Meet with other men, led by lay and clergy, to read scripture and delve into the meaning and purpose in our lives.

## OUTDOORS & HIKING MINISTRY

Organized hikes and camping trips that are half-day to several days in length. A great way to stay in shape, see nature, and make new friends.

**MEN'S RETREAT** Men of all ages spend a weekend away each winter for reflection, recreation, and relaxation.

**SILVER BULLET** Men gather on Saturday mornings at 7:00 AM in the Church parking lot for a quick boot camp style workout. Men of all ages welcome. Enjoy an easy workout and fellowship in the name of Christ.

**MEN'S SOCIAL GATHERINGS** Quarterly gatherings to bring men together for fellowship at events like football games, skeet shooting, and bowling.

# Young Adults Ages 21 - 35

*Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.* 1 TIMOTHY 4:12

Our energetic and growing group of young adults (ages 21 - 35) enjoy learning, socializing and serving together.

**FAITH & FELLOWSHIP AT SUNDAY SCHOOL** Weekly class that explores the Bible and provides tools to live a life of faith. We look at the Sunday readings and discuss how they apply to our lives. Join us on Sundays at 10:00 AM, September through May.

**YOUNG ADULT BIBLE AND BOOK STUDIES** Young adults (groups for women and men) meet weekly for faith-based discussion and fellowship. Check website for times.

**SOCIAL EVENTS** Periodic gatherings throughout the year for meals, fun activities and fellowship in the name of Christ.

**SERVICE PROJECTS** Serve our community through Habitat for Humanity, the Men's Shelter, and other causes.



# ECW (Episcopal Church Women)

*Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.* LUKE 24:8-10

**MISSION FUNDING** Through a grant process, ECW provides funding to local and international agencies whose focus is women and children.

**FRIENDSHIP FEAST** Annual dinner for women of all generations that celebrates friendship, fellowship, and faith. The event usually includes a guest speaker.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT** This three-day out-of-town retreat offers learning, fellowship, and relaxation and is open to all women of the Church.

**FEAST AND FLORA POP-UP SHOP** ECW's largest fundraiser is held on the first Saturday of December. Greenery and a variety of local foods are sold. Revenues are designated for mission funding and other ECW initiatives.

**ADVENT LUNCHEON** We celebrate the Advent season with a luncheon and a special guest speaker.



ECW invites women of all generations to gather together for fellowship and to grow in their faith.

**STAFF APPRECIATION** ECW hosts a yearly luncheon to honor the Christ Church staff for their dedication.

**PAST PRESIDENTS LUNCH** Every other year ECW past presidents gather for fellowship.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** We host special events throughout the year such as the Sages Tea and a Young Adult Women's event.

## Sages Ages 65 and Up

*Grey hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.* PROVERBS 16:31



**SAGES BOOK STUDY** Meet other sages for a lively discussion of a selected book and enjoy fellowship. Gatherings occur periodically throughout the year.

**SAGES COFFEE AND CONVERSATION** Sages are invited to gather monthly for coffee and casual conversation with each other. Come meet the staff and some of our clergy.

The Sages offer social, educational and outreach opportunities for the young at heart (age 65 and up). We seek to expand and deepen our relationships with God and one another by continuing to be engaged in our spiritual home.

# Stewardship

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* MATTHEW 6:21

We were created to give. Honoring this truth is the purpose of stewardship at Christ Church. This holy, loving place runs on God's grace, with your financial gifts.

## **ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

The annual opportunity to join in a season of financial generosity. Pledged gifts support over 95% of our annual operating budget.

**CELEBRATION SUNDAY** A designated Sunday each fall when parishioners are invited to pledge an annual gift to be fulfilled in the coming year.

**GIFTS OF THANKSGIVING** Gifts given in thanks to celebrate blessings in life, separate from pledged gifts.

## **CHRIST CHURCH FOUNDATION (CCF)**

A permanent endowment, CCF allocates resources to specific purposes including property, plant and equipment, outreach, habitat, scholarships, and clergy housing.

## **MEMORIALS AND HONORARIA**

Gifts in honor or memory of loved ones are used to improve and maintain the entire Church campus.

## **OAK CIRCLE (PLANNED GIVING)**

Honoring legacy giving, Oak Circle ensures that the mission of Christ Church continues for generations to come.

## **SUNDAY OFFERINGS TELLER**

Volunteer to sort and count Sunday offerings for an hour, one Monday morning a month.





**Christ Church Charlotte**

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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