

A scenic landscape featuring a paved road with a white center line that recedes into the distance towards a bright sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and the landscape. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. In the foreground, there is a grassy field with a fence line. In the middle ground, there is a wide valley with a winding river or stream. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

Christ Church Episcopal 10 YEAR RALLY CRY & VISION

*“Love the Lord your God.”
“Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Matthew 22:37 & 39*

A prayerful discernment process

Earlier this year, the Vestry created a **Strategic Planning Group** to craft **three high-level goals** that can be used to guide priorities for the next 24 months. This group:

- Focused on **the Book of Acts to learn lessons from the First Church**
- **Explored** church ministry studies, results our Big Listen and Focus on the Future, demographic research, and information about the future of Short Pump
- Interviewed key program **staff**

CONTEXT

**The world around us is
changing...**

**and this includes
notions of **religious
institutions** and the
role they play.**

“People are lonelier,
more distracted and
more tethered to their screens,
and searching for
meaningful lives.”

-Barna Research



The idea of **serving others** as a means of establishing an **authentic connection with Jesus** is taking precedence over mere attendance at church.

The concept of serving others is not a new one; it dates to the first Christians. The early church was not a building or an institution, but **a small community that lived their faith every day.**

They **engaged** with the world and **served**.

The church existed as the launching pad that provided fuel and resources, but served mainly to **send its members into the world to act as agents of change -- to act as Jesus would have us act.**

Emerging Church Trends...

“Irrelevance happens when change inside the church is slower than change outside the church walls”

“If you value attendance over engagement, you will see declining attendance”

“Engaged Christians who used to attend church but didn’t serve, give, or invite others are increasingly disappearing in favor of online options or dropping out entirely”

“Simplified ministries will complement people’s lives, not compete with people’s lives”

Centuries ago, Teresa of Avila proclaimed:

Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which to look out Christ's compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless the world now.

It's incumbent on each of us, to go out into the world and act on Jesus's behalf.

It's the modern role of the church; it's the eternal role of the church.

We have a solid foundation in place to bring our vision to life.

- Heart for Service
- Strong Relationships
- Great Music
- Strong Bones
- and more

Our Vision & Strategic Priorities

10 year goal/rallying cry:



10 year goal/rallying cry:

“Don’t just go to church...BE the church”

Live and love more like Jesus every day.

Our **priorities** over the next 24 months that direct our ministries and lay the foundation for our future:

**Be the
heart and
hands of
Jesus**

**GO OUT and
serve and
provide simple
ways for
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**Implement an
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(worship +
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**Provide
radical
hospitality**

Reimagine how we
build **community**,
extending grace and
generosity to each
other and to guests,
forming **deep
connections** through
our ministries.

OUR PRIORITIES IN MORE DETAIL

BE THE HEART AND HANDS OF JESUS

GO OUT and serve and provide simple ways for everyone to participate.

- Nurture a culture of service and generosity that provides opportunities for everyone.
- Use our music and worship strengths as a launching pad for opportunities to serve.
- Team up in our community. Identify organizations and faith communities to partner with. Look for opportunities where our passions and strengths align with community needs.

OUR PRIORITIES IN MORE DETAIL

NURTURE SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Implement an approach to spiritual growth (worship + education + prayer + service for everyone) that changes the way we think and act.

- Hire a leader for faith formation, with particular emphasis on diving deeper with adults and connecting adult, youth, and children's ministries.
- Broaden the purpose of small groups to encompass prayer, fellowship, and study. Foster connections and share ideas/results between groups.
- Care deeply for others – practicing the compassion of Jesus wherever we find ourselves, through pastoral care and satisfying basic survival needs.
- Rethink and redesign volunteer opportunities for the sake of greater engagement, effectiveness, and leadership development.

OUR PRIORITIES IN MORE DETAIL

PROVIDE RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Reimagine how we build community, extending grace and generosity to each other and to guests, forming deep connections through our ministries.

- Welcoming and hospitality become everyone's role.
- Each ministry needs newcomer practices that invite, welcome, and connect guests into our community via easy entry points.
- Reimagine our internal and external communications to be proactive and strategic.
- Design and pilot outreach strategies for millennials, all of our neighbors, and senior citizens.



Don't just go to church

BE THE CHURCH

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