

Your leap of faith  
begins here.

LISTEN. LEARN. **LEAP.** LIVE.



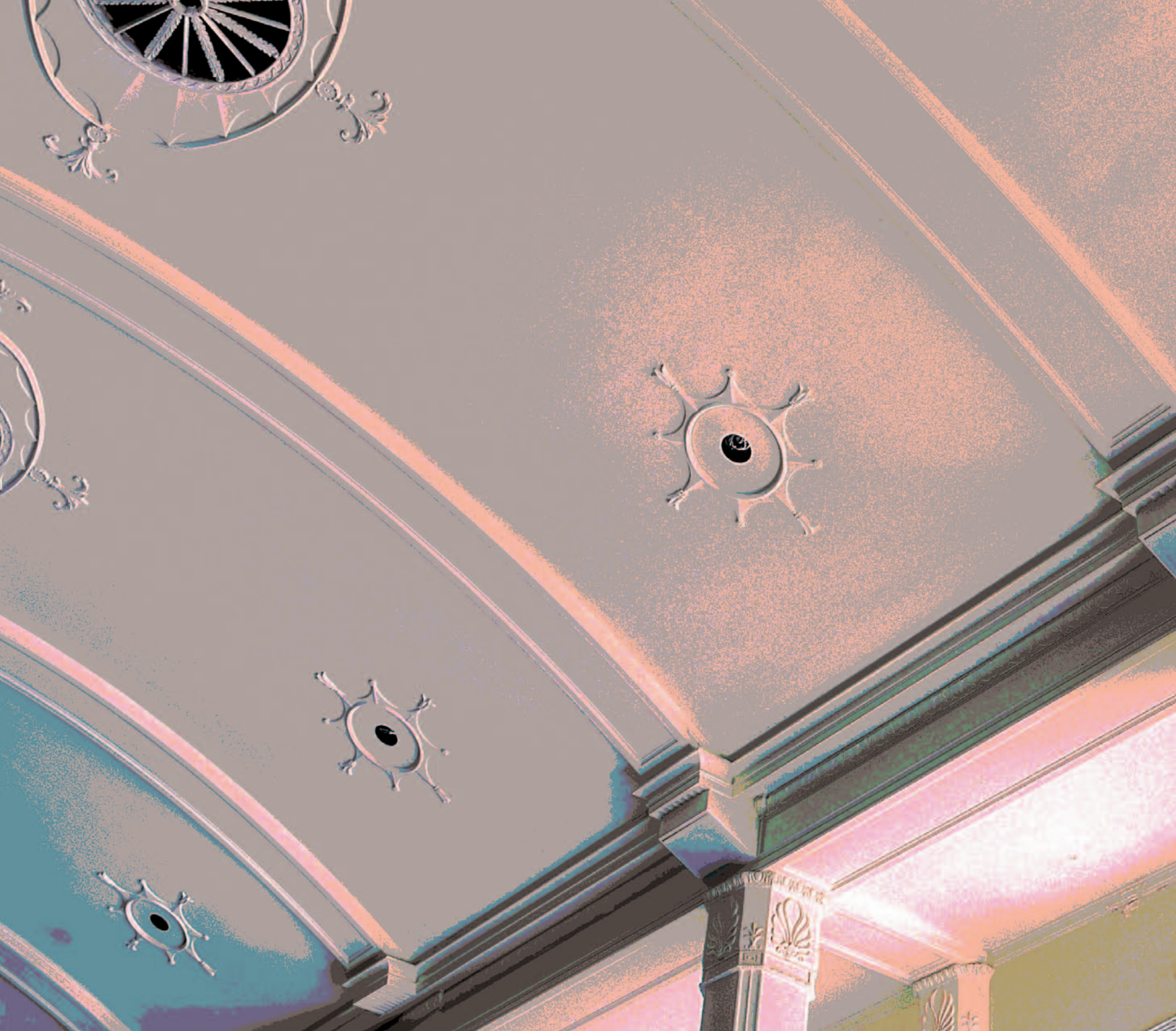


Embracing life in a Christ-like way  
is the ultimate leap of faith.

Empowering you to do so is the  
*soul* purpose of Christ Church.





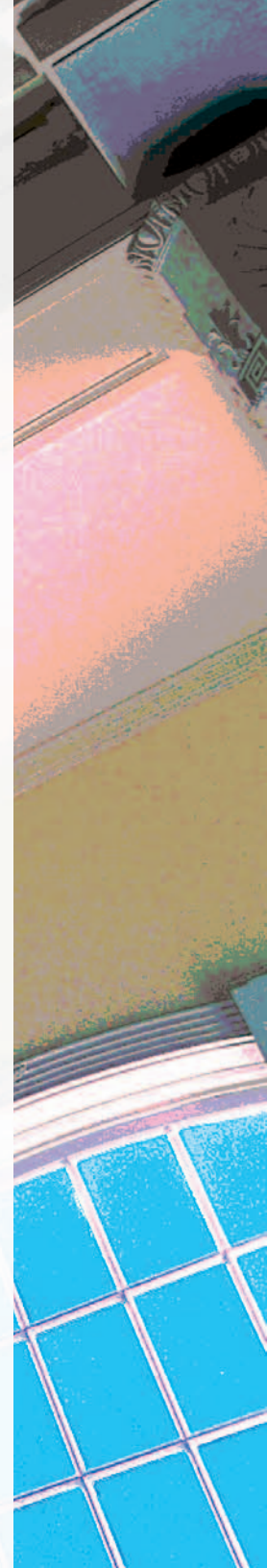


Last year was one of listening and learning at Christ Church. We delved into the hearts and minds of the people in our parish, and discovered a yearning for purpose, meaning and human connection. There is a deep desire to be aware of God's continual presence and sense the divine within ourselves. Instead of living lives of 'quiet desperation,' we desperately want to uncover and share our gifts, have radiant relationships, create joy and spread the peace that passes understanding. In essence, we long to be engaged in the world in a Christ-like way.

Here's the Good News: this is what God wants for us, too! Cultivating a Christ-like heart will radically change the way you think, work, play and love in the world. Christ Church will equip you with worship, Bible study, service, fellowship, special programs and resources, all centered around this *soul* purpose. Your leap of faith begins here.

With love and blessings,

The Reverend Chip Edens







## Three steps to a Christ-like life.

*Love* God. *Care* for each other. *Serve* the world. These familiar phrases form the mission statement of Christ Church. But unless they are infused with a glorious faith and internalized through God's grace, they are just empty words on a page. Bringing these core values to life is what gives us meaning, purpose and direction. We have revitalized the vision for Christ Church to be a springboard for your leap of faith.

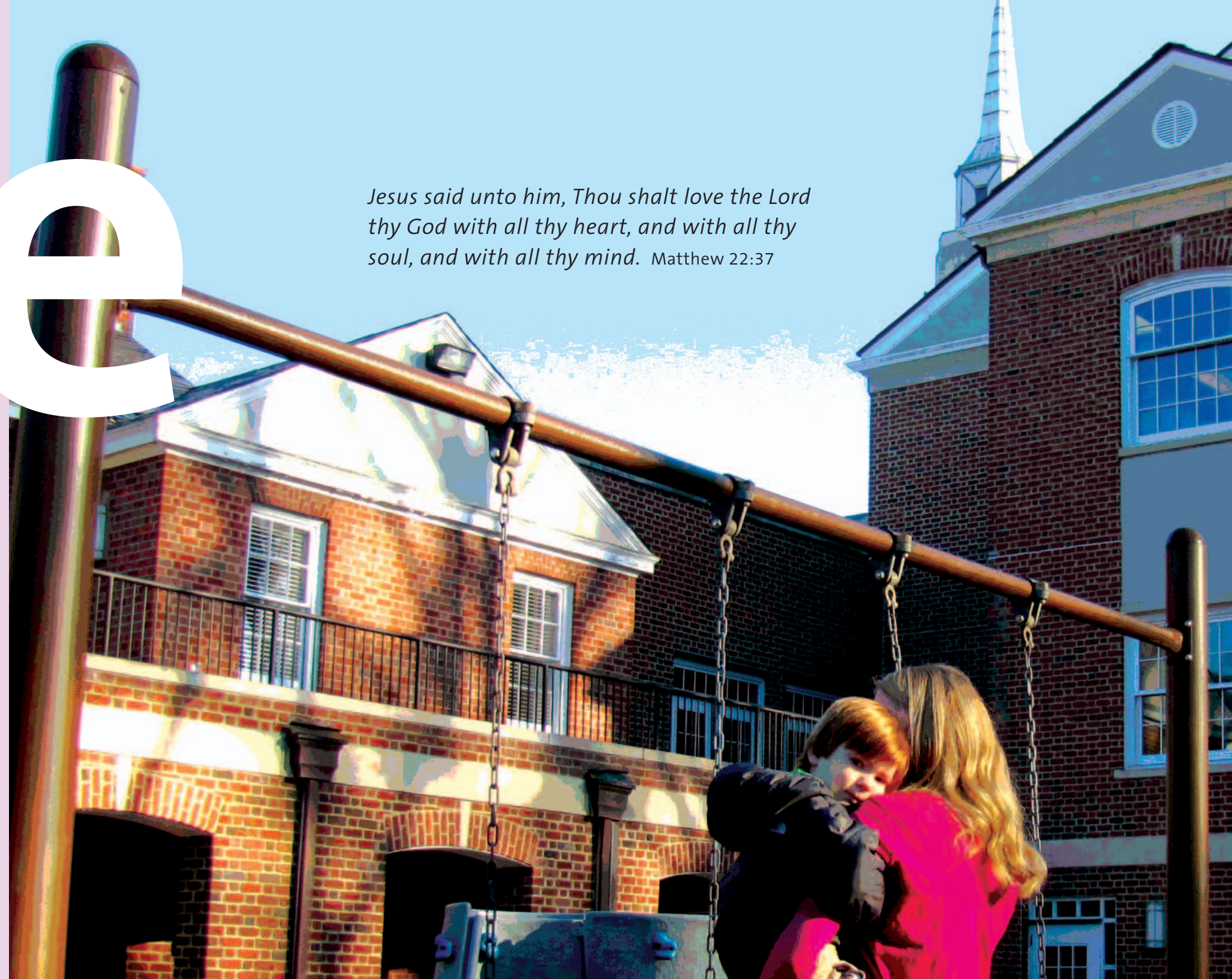


# Love

Christ is the embodiment of love. It is by immersing ourselves in the example of his life that we come to truly understand love and how to offer it in the world. This means becoming grounded in worship and engaged in scripture, taking the words, images and teachings into our hearts and then applying them to our everyday thoughts and actions. It requires a commitment to prayer and reflection.

We invite you to love God more deeply through newly developed spiritual practices at Christ Church. Through an enriched worship experience. Through an enhanced and joyous music program. Through an expanded Faith Forum. And by taking part in special offerings such as faith retreats and covenant groups. With Christ as the model, love will become who we are and manifest in all we do.

*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Matthew 22:37*





From the humblest gesture to the most dramatic miracle, Christ's life was a lesson in caring. He showed us how to listen and communicate. How to encourage and comfort. How to be a friend. How to work and when to rest. How to fight for justice and mercy. How to be a good steward. How to handle adversity and even how to let go. *How to leap. How to live.*

At Christ Church, we intend for you to feel cared for and enveloped by the love of God. We promote ministries for healing and wholeness, equip people for pastoral ministry, and help parishioners meet spiritual, emotional and physical needs during times of challenge, illness and transition.

Now we are taking our caring ministry to a deeper level by offering everyone the opportunity to discern their own spiritual gifts. A 'How To' educational series on important topics will have practical applications for everyday living. We also want to create new places for people to come together: a gathering space near the Rotunda, a courtyard with a big outdoor fireplace, and peaceful green space dedicated to nurturing mind, body, spirit.

*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.* Proverbs 4:23





Christ dedicated his life to serving others. To tending the sick, feeding the hungry, comforting the grieving, loving the unloved, even washing others' feet. What a wonderful template he's given us to make a difference with our lives.

Serving needn't be on a grand scale or in a distant place to be hugely significant. Feeding the hungry may mean preparing a nourishing family meal and connecting around the supper table. It could be writing a letter of encouragement or engaging in a heart-to-heart conversation. And sometimes serving means tending to our own needs so that we have the energy to tend others.

Christ Church continues to build on a tradition of service modeled on the teachings of Christ. In partnership with Charlotte Family Housing, we will bookend the Christ Church campus with homes for four families that are working toward self-sufficiency. We will support a new literacy program at Rama Road Elementary and hope to partner in creating a neighborhood Community Center near the school. We want to deepen efforts in Duff, Tennessee and Costa Rica. And there will be much more. At Christ Church, our heart for service has never beaten stronger.



*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,  
serve one another with whatever gift each of you  
has received. 1 Peter 4:10*





## Christ, Christ Church and you.

Christ came to transform a broken world. It is through our hands and feet and faith that his work continues two thousand years later. We dedicate ourselves to letting the message and example of Christ wrap itself around our hearts in an exhilarating new way, shaping our vision, values and actions, and filling our lives with joyous possibility.



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