

## 2015 Annual Report of Christ Church Charlotte

### SPIRITUAL GROWTH

*Submitted by The Reverend Matt Holcombe and Tere Ey*

The Spiritual Growth Commission was formed in the spring of 2015 and grew out of the Leap of Faith Vision for Christ Church that states: “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.” As we began to wrestle with the implementation of the Leap of Faith vision, we realized a need to focus on this desire of the congregation to go deeper in their faith journey and to understand how Christ Church could be a catalyst to help make that happen for each of our parishioners, making spiritual growth a top priority.

We began our work in earnest when the Reverend Matt Holcombe came to Christ Church last fall as the clergy in charge of Adult Spiritual Formation. First, we defined spiritual growth as taking the steps needed to deepen our relationship with God, with neighbor, with the world and with ourselves through experiences and practices in order to grow into the life that God intends for each of us – a life of meaning and purpose. Next, we reframed and reaffirmed our Vision Statement (*What we aspire to be*) and our Mission Statement (*What we hope to achieve*):

- *The Vision of Christ Church is to be Christ’s Church in the World*
- *The Mission of Christ Church is to equip and empower people to Love God, Care for Each Other and Serve the World in the name of Christ.*

During the summer months of 2015 the Commission began a comprehensive spiritual growth inventory with each area of ministry at Christ Church. The Clergy, Staff and Lay Leaders of each Ministry shared the purpose and work that is happening in their particular area and elaborated on how they are fulfilling the Mission and Vision at Christ Church. The breadth and depth of the amazing work and ministry that is happening in each area confirms the fact that our Ministries are the pathways for spiritual growth at Christ Church.

Our next steps include communicating more broadly the work of each Ministry area, encouraging trainings to develop more lay leaders and mentors, and develop templates to include best practices for Spiritual Growth.

**Spiritual Growth Commission Members:** Alice deVries, Jenny Holofchak, Patty Lambert, Bill Lorenz, Julie Marr, Lois Ann Partridge, Winston Paschall, Bill Pierce, Celia Sinclair