

Christ Church Christiana Hundred Strategic Plan Vestry Update to the Parish – Year End 2024

Organization:

With the Renovation Team officially dissolved at the conclusion of Year One of the Strategic Plan, the Vestry took on the responsibility to ensure that momentum toward our goals is not lost and that progress continues to be made toward Year Two benchmarks. Based on their subject matter skills and ministry affinities, Vestry members were divided into three teams to track and support goal-related work being done by various committees, ministry and program leaders, and staff. The teams are:

Goal 1 (Grow Community) – Chuck Arensberg, Ran Barton, Audrey Bruce, Barb King, Bart Reese

Goal 2 (Grow Relationships) – Cindi Cozza, Alexander Maynard, Jamie Poston, Jaq Whalen, Alexia Wolf

Goal 3 (Steward Resources) – Ted Ledden, Thorpe Moeckel, Scott Nickle, Eliza Phillips

Goal teams worked in break-out sessions during Vestry meetings in the summer and fall and at the retreat in October, and they have been gathering independently between monthly meetings. Starting in November, one goal team each month has taken a turn presenting to their Vestry colleagues an update on accomplishments, ongoing activity, and future plans related to that goal's benchmarks.

Progress Update for the Second Half of 2024:

Goal 1: We will grow our Episcopal faith community with God's help.

- The IWC (Invite – Welcome – Connect) Team worked to deepen connections between the parish and preschool by including Christ Church Episcopal Preschool (CCEP) representatives in their meetings. Students now receive a weekly flyer listing upcoming parish activities, and Vestry members now receive CCEP's weekly newsletter.
- The quarterly Belong class for newcomers was revised to focus on connecting with the parish community, and the Adult Confirmation class will now be targeted to those who are new to the Episcopal faith.
- Between families participating in the Belong class and those newly baptized, the parish added approximately 80 new members in 2024.

Goal 2: We will grow deeper relationships with God and with each other, following Jesus Christ.

- As a result of the Rev. Michael Kurth's article in the CCEP newsletter about the sacrament of baptism, multiple CCEP students and even a faculty member will be baptized in January 2025.
- A Bible study for high school students was added to the Sunday morning formation offerings, and attendance increased in most age levels of children's classes.
- The Minister for Children & Youth now provides quarterly updates to the Vestry on the status and needs of programs he oversees.
- Adult Formation opportunities are being assessed to determine future needs and interests.
- A parish engagement survey, including worship feedback, is being developed.
- The Ministry Match Discovery Tool for volunteers is being optimized, with training for ministry leaders to be offered.

Goal 3: As stewards of the gifts that God entrusts to us, we will faithfully manage our property, financial resources, and the time and talents of our members to support our ministries in and beyond Christ Church and will increase the use of our buildings and grounds to connect with our community.

- The parish completed a very successful annual pledge campaign for the year 2024 and started planning for future stewardship needs.
- Currently, the highest priority for stewardship of our property is the development of a comprehensive plan for resolving water leakage into the new wing of the Parish Center and areas around the chimney and elevator. The plan will be implemented in 2025.
- The team is considering options for the development of a plan for our campus and buildings that will better inform our stewardship and facility usage in the future.