

Learn. Listen. Leap. Live.



“

Listen to your life.

See it for the fathomless mystery that it is.

In the boredom and pain of it no less than

in the excitement and gladness:

touch, taste, smell your way to the holy

and hidden heart of it

because in the last analysis

all moments are key moments,

and life itself is grace.

”

— FREDERICK BUECHNER

“

... Listening is much more than allowing another to talk while waiting for a chance to respond. Listening is paying full attention to others and welcoming them into our very beings. The beauty of listening is that those who are listened to start feeling accepted, start taking their words more seriously and discovering their true selves. Listening is a form of spiritual hospitality by which you invite strangers to become friends, to get to know their inner selves more fully, and even to dare to be silent with you.

”

— HENRI NOUWEN



[christchurchcharlotte.org](http://christchurchcharlotte.org)

**This leap year  
is going to be a time to  
jump for joy.**

God is calling us to new life in this new year. We've been on a mission since last fall at Christ Church to rediscover and claim God's personal, infinite and unconditional love for us and, from there, chart a way of being in the world that reflects our deepest yearnings, true gifts and authentic selves. *This leaping into faith will enable us to take the next step: leaps of faith to reshape our lives, our relationships, our work, our church, our community and, ultimately, our world.* We encourage you to jump in with both feet. And your whole heart.

Our journey began as Christ Church neared the end of a 5-year strategic plan. We have fulfilled goals that helped to establish this parish as our spiritual home; a community that loves God, cares for each other and serves the world. *Now, we turn to the core hopes, dreams and needs of our congregation and how our church can support each member in living the life of purpose, joy and meaning that God wants for us.*

## The next step

Beginning January 22nd and continuing through the Lenten season, each member of Christ Church will be invited to engage in a conversation, one that has the power to change individual lives and, collectively, help us determine where God is calling us to leap forward as a church. After Easter, the results of this discernment process will be prayerfully studied by the clergy and church leadership, helping us get to the heart of what matters most to all of us and model our church after that.

### Conversations will revolve around the following themes:

1. What brings you joy
2. God's presence in your life
3. Serving others
4. Your concerns for our community and the world

We have designed a number of ways for you to participate in a Leap of Faith conversation. We hope you will choose the one that is most inspiring for you:

- **Have a one-on-one conversation.** Parishioners will be available to have a guided, one-on-one conversation with interested individuals. A list of parishioners available for conversations will be posted on the Christ Church website.
- **Join a group conversation at Christ Church.** Gatherings have been scheduled for parishioners at the church for small group conversations:
  - › Wednesday, February 15, 2012 – 9:30 to 11:00 AM
  - › Thursday, February 23, 2012 – 6:30 to 8:30 PM (dinner will be served)
  - › Tuesday, February 28, 2012 – 6:30 to 8:30 PM (dinner will be served)
  - › Thursday, March 1, 2012 – 7:30 to 9:00 AM (breakfast will be served)

- **Host a small group conversation.** Invite a group of parishioners to your home to have a conversation. Conversation guides will be available to lead conversations.
- **Have the conversation with a group you belong to.** Are you a member of a Bible Study? A Book Club? A Guild? Schedule time at one of your existing meetings to have a Leap of Faith conversation. Conversation guides will be available to lead conversations.

- **An online version of the questions will be available** during Lent if you are unable to participate in any other way. A link will be posted by February 15th on the Christ Church website.

- **Train to become a conversation guide.**

Sessions have been scheduled to provide training for leading one-on-one conversations and guiding small group conversations. Join us at one of these sessions to learn more:

- › Sunday, January 29, 2012 – 10:00 to 11:00 AM
- › Thursday, February 2, 2012 – 7:30 to 9:00 AM (breakfast will be served)
- › Monday, February 6, 2012 – 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM (lunch will be served)
- › Wednesday, February 8, 2012 – 7:00 to 8:00 PM

For more information or to register for any of these opportunities, visit [www.christchurchcharlotte.org/leapoffaith](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org/leapoffaith) or contact the church at 704-333-0378 or [Leapoffaith@christchurchcharlotte.org](mailto:Leapoffaith@christchurchcharlotte.org).

## Let's talk

Please return this postcard to let us know how you would like to leap forward. It may be mailed in, dropped off at the Christ Church office or placed in the Sunday offering plate. Thank you for participating!

- Have a one-on-one conversation**
  
- Join a group conversation at Christ Church:**
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- Host a small group conversation**
  
- Have the conversation with a group you belong to**
  
- Train to become a conversation guide:**
  - Sunday, January 29 – 10:00 to 11:00 AM
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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