



PARISH PROFILE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Mission

**We are called to be:
a dynamic, inclusive, diverse
community
rooted in the life-giving, life-
affirming,
life-changing love of God
reaching beyond ourselves
caring for creation
making a difference with others**

Our Vision

St. Christopher's is a progressive, forward-thinking community, continuously redefining its status quo while honouring its historical traditions.

We want to continue growing in our faith on a spiritual level while enhancing our commitment to outreach and social justice, and expanding our mission of inclusivity.

We recognize that young people are the future of our faith and we are committed to engaging them in meaningful ways

Our worship is centered on a liturgy that feeds the soul by consistently challenging us with thought-provoking, open-minded, progressive and relevant prayers and sermons.

We believe that God takes pleasure in our laughter and so we enjoy the opportunity for self-reflection through the use of humorous stories that connect us to our joy.

Ministry Development

At St. Christopher's we strive to ensure a warm and welcome open door for all who enter.

We host several social groups that bring people together for friendship and fun. Some include, The Seniors Group, Ginger Group - a retired men's group, Book Club, Men's Cooking Group, Youth Groups, Open Enders and Fit for Service.

Christmas Market is much more than our biggest fund-raiser for the year. Hundreds of parishioners generously give their time and talent to welcome and connect with the wider community which makes for a great family occasion.

Ministry Development is an ongoing challenge and opportunity to strengthen and enhance the vitality of our community life.

Liturgy and Worship

On Sunday mornings we host three very different services.

8:00 am is a quiet, reflective service for early risers, with hymns and organ music.

9:30 service is widely attended by families as our church school programs and nursery are held at this time. Worship is complemented by choir, organ, piano and guitar music and may include performances by our liturgical dancers, the church school, and "Shine", a dramatic arts program for young people.

11:30 service has a relaxed atmosphere, with a simpler liturgy, discussion groups and unscripted prayers. The music is accompanied by a contemporary band that makes for a lively service!

Discernment Day, is a time when all parishioners are invited to share their concerns and insights regarding the movement of the spirit in people's lives and in the community. Themes are identified through the discussion and matched to the seasons in the upcoming liturgical year; then smaller groups gather each season to create relevant, innovative and meaningful liturgies.

We have a long history of presenting dramatic musicals in preparation for Christmas and during Easter Vigil. The choir also sings at funerals, attends evening services at Holy Week and Christmas and presents the occasional cabaret.

Particular seasons are marked by special services, such as those for All Souls' Day, Ash Wednesday, and a Quiet Christmas - for people experiencing loss or grief.

Holy Week is the setting for some of the most profound and beautiful services of the year.

Pastoral Ministry

Several volunteers faithfully visit parishioners who are in hospital and we hold services at a number of Long Term Care and Retirement homes in Burlington.

For a comprehensive view of St. Christopher's Parish Profile 2016, please go to

<https://youtu.be/UgUhclw4owQ>

200 parishioners responded to our survey, 150 attended open-space Town Hall meetings. The results were used in the development of this parish profile.



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Trained practitioners, who are members of the congregation, offer Therapeutic Touch Sunday mornings.

Parishioners find opportunities to engage through service on Hospitality Teams, which play a vital role in creating a warm and supportive atmosphere.

Bereavement care and service are another major component of our ministry.

Our prayer shawl ministry helps maintain social and spiritual connections. Prayer shawls, pocket angels and crosses are blessed during Sunday services and given to parishioners to mark important occasions or offer comfort.

Young People and Family Ministry



We offer many ways for children, youth and young people to explore their faith.

Programs are creatively designed by our Director of *Children's, Youth, Young Adults and Family Ministry* and volunteers, to engage and share in the learning about God's work and their spirituality.

Outreach and Social Justice

We believe that God gathers people of all ages from a variety of backgrounds and experiences into

one community to express God's loving purpose for a broken world.

What started as a way of supporting the community, through a free clothing store and resource center, is now a Community Hub where many programs, partnering organizations and events work *together* to implement *fifteen volunteer-driven* outreach programs across three areas – Child, Youth and Parenting, Community Food, and Community Resources.

Open Doors at St. Christopher's is truly a sign of God's presence in Burlington, a safe place to gather, learn and grow – a place to give and receive, to serve and be served, to love and be loved, to know, feel and share the all-encompassing love of God.

Challenges for Growth and Change

Aging parishioners make up a larger portion of our parish membership, while growth in new membership has been slowing.

Ways to sustain long-term growth and adequately meet new needs that arise in both volunteer coordination and in financial resources continue to need attention.

Our stewardship challenge is to find a more permanent solution that ensures a more steady and

reliable base for our normal operating expenses.

Who will join us on our Journey?

We seek a rector with a passionate vision for a progressive ministry that is inclusive, diverse, dynamic and life-giving.

We seek a rector with a passion for liturgy and preaching that is creative, thoughtful, and relevant to the lives of this diverse community.

We are committed to progress on our mission and vision, and we need a rector who will assist us in continuing this journey.

We need a leader who can encourage and support the many programs, community partnerships and volunteers of this lively and busy church family.

This role requires excellent financial and operational skills.

St. Christopher Facts

Number of Members:	1,234
Number of Family units:	579
Number of Donors:	564
Attendees 50+:	545
Attendee's between 20-50:	341

Service times: 8:00; 9:30; 11:30 year round

Communication: weekly mail blast, monthly Messenger, web site and Facebook

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