

# Christ Episcopal Church, North Hills

## Parish Survey Summary Report

Based on responses from 134 parishioners

### Overview

Our parish survey provided a rich picture of who we are, what we value, and how we see the future of Christ Church, North Hills (CCNH). With 134 parishioners responding, the results reflect a congregation that is faithful, engaged, caring, and deeply committed to our Episcopal traditions and community life.

### Who We Are

CCNH represents a mature, highly educated congregation with strong and stable ties to the parish.

- **Age & Life Stage:** About 70% of respondents are 55 or older, with one-quarter over 75. Nearly half are retired.
- **Gender & Family:** Two-thirds of parishioners are female, and about 80% are married or partnered.
- **Education:** Our congregation is highly educated—over 85% hold at least a four-year degree, and half have graduate or doctoral degrees.
- **Connection to CCNH:** Members come from across the region, with close to 70% living within 20 minutes of the church. Nearly half have attended CCNH for more than 20 years, reflecting deep roots and commitment.
- **Faith Background:** Two-thirds joined the Episcopal Church from other Christian denominations, while the rest are lifelong Episcopalians.

### Our Worship Life

Worship remains central to our parish identity.

- **Attendance:** About two-thirds attend worship weekly or nearly weekly, while another one-fourth attend monthly.
- **Services:** Most parishioners attend the 10 a.m. service (Holy Eucharist, Rite II), while one-fifth attend the 8 a.m. Rite I service. About 15% regularly worship online.
- **What Matters Most:** The top elements of worship are sermons, communion, and the Episcopal liturgy.
- **Satisfaction:** Nearly 80% of respondents report being satisfied or very satisfied with CCNH, citing our welcoming, caring community, inspiring preaching, and meaningful worship.

### Our Strengths

Parishioners expressed deep appreciation for the qualities that define CCNH.

- **Strongest Aspects:** Sermons (88%), Sacraments/Communion (83%), Church Community (73%), and Parish Communications (73%) were all identified as key strengths.
- **What Makes Us Unique:** CCNH's sense of community and fellowship, traditional yet inclusive worship, strong clergy leadership, and non-political, respectful atmosphere all make our parish stand out.
- **Words That Describe Us:** Welcoming, Friendly, Caring, Inclusive, Traditional, Family, Spiritual, Comforting.

### Where We Can Grow

Parishioners also highlighted several opportunities for growth and renewal.

- Areas Needing Attention: Church growth (51%), young adult activities (34%), fellowship with others outside of CCNH (29%), and young family programs (27%).
- Ministries to Strengthen: The congregation hopes to see more focus on Christian education and formation (58%), fellowship (55%), and worship (44%).
- Attendance and Involvement: Most parishioners report consistent or increased participation, though some cited life transitions and evolving worship preferences as reasons for decreased attendance.

## **Our Gratitude and Hopes**

CCNH parishioners are deeply thankful for the people, leadership, and spiritual life of the church.

- Gratitude Highlights: Parishioners are most grateful for community and fellowship, clergy leadership and pastoral care, the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, meaningful worship, and opportunities for involvement and learning.
- Looking Forward: Our top goals for the next five years include: Growing membership—especially among younger families; securing strong clergy leadership; nurturing fellowship and parish life; fostering a welcoming, inclusive culture; balancing growth with our Episcopal tradition; strengthening financial stability, and expanding outreach and visibility in the community.

## **Our Next Rector**

As we enter a period of transition, parishioners shared thoughtful input on what qualities they hope to see in our next rector.

- Most Important Skills: Preaching with clarity and relevance (79%) and fostering inclusivity (54%) topped the list, followed by crisis ministry, church growth, administration, and theology.
- Personal Qualities: Parishioners value great preaching (95%), personability (92%), approachability (88%), sense of humor (85%), energy (72%), and compassion (70%).
- Preferred Leadership Style: A collaborative leader who works closely with parishioners and staff.
- Our Vision: We seek a rector who is visionary yet grounded in Scripture and Episcopal tradition—a strong preacher and teacher, compassionate pastor, inclusive and welcoming leader, and someone committed to our parish family.

## **Closing Reflection**

The survey results affirm that Christ Church North Hills is a community rooted in faith, fellowship, and tradition, while also ready to embrace new opportunities for growth. Our members are proud of who we are—welcoming, caring, and grounded in worship—and hopeful about where God will lead us next. Together, we give thanks for the blessings of our shared life and look forward to a bright and faithful future for CCNH.