
A Holistic Approach to Christian Formation

We approach Christian Formation (or Christian Education) in a holistic, collaborative manner at St. Paul's. This means we seek to minister to the entire person – physical, mental, social and emotional as well as spiritual.

We believe that everything we do together as the Body of Christ has the potential to form people, and so we seek a collaborative approach with the other disciplines – outreach, worship, fellowship, stewardship.

We also believe that the journey towards spiritual wholeness is a life-long journey. We are never “done” as Christians, and so we offer classes and groups for all ages and expect that adults as well as children and teenagers will engage in some form of spiritual nurture and challenge.

We believe in the “authority of all generations” – that each age group needs to be fully present and involved in our life together as the body of Christ. Each age offers its own perspective, each of which is needed and valued.

We believe that we are called into community together, even when we don't see eye to eye on various political or theological issues. And we are called to reach out to those who seem different from us – in terms of race, economic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious background, the neighborhood or country where they live, or their viewpoints – because it is through these encounters that we learn more about ourselves, God, and the world around us.

We strive to share our stories and our faith together – knowing that in the telling and in the hearing, all might be enriched. And we understand that one size does not fit all – different people have different needs and interests at various stages of their spiritual journey. We also know that we need each other in order to be whole, and that nothing matters more than how we treat each other, for each interaction is an opportunity to see Christ in the other person.