

## CHURCH OF THE SERVANT PROFILE

**As part of the process to call a new rector in 2006-2008, all members of the parish were invited to participate in a series of focus groups and to respond to a questionnaire. Nearly 100 people contributed to these exercises, which represented 2/3 of the average Sunday attendance.**

**Thus the results reflect the demographics and views of those who are most engaged in the parish.**

### **Our People:**

- Well educated (94% of adults have a college degree; 57% have a post-graduate degree)
- Cultured
- Strong involvement in outreach – more than two-thirds of the congregation have been involved in outreach in the past year, many in multiple programs
- Significant interest and involvement in issues of social justice and the environment
- Progressive and liberal in theology and philosophy
- Searchers, both spiritually and intellectually
- Open to (and eager for) growth and exposure to new ideas and thinking
- Insistent on accepting all peoples and groups – welcome diversity
- Mature – the majority are over 45, and 67% of adults are over 55; only 36% of adults are working full time; only 24% have children at home
- 36% of the families send their children to Christian Ed regularly, but about 54% say their children attend occasionally
- Female – adult women outnumber men 2:1
- 70% are married, while 10% are widowed and 10% divorced
- Welcoming and caring
- About a quarter have helped in offering pastoral care services
- Have a strong sense of community and family in the church; only 14% of the parish have been at COS less than four years; dinners and other parish activities form an important part of the social life of a substantial portion of the congregation
- State that the liturgy is a principal reason for attendance. They showed strong support for creative and fresh liturgies that use the multiple resources available. Essentially what they want is formal worship in an informal setting. “Vibrant worship that is not museum worship” – National Cross Current, April 2007
- Celebrate strong female leadership

- More than 56% were Episcopalians before coming to COS; 10% came from an RC background, and the majority of the rest from other Protestant Churches
- 81% have attended COS for more than 10 years
- 86% of the respondents pledge
- Understand and believe that evangelism at COS is effective and believe that it comes about through our sharing and welcoming approach to the community, as well by letting others see Christ's influence in our own lives
- Also believe that people are attracted to COS because of our searching and accepting approach in our understanding of the gospel
- Believe we have an effective ministry to UNCW
- Are joyful
- Have no dissent within our parish

### **Church of the Servant**

- Seen as a place for spiritual growth and nourishment, and learning
- The Christian Ed program is seen as a strength of the church although only 20.7% of adults attend regularly, and 60.9% occasionally
- Particularly important to the CE program are: variety of topics, including Bible study, esthetics and contemporary social and ethical issues; people in the church who can lead these varied topics
- Seen as a place for celebration
- Source and center for caring, growing and serving
- For several, COS is a last ditch before becoming unchurched and alienated
- Has a tradition of being significantly involved in the diocese at every level, including youth
- Has strong support from the Bishop
- Has many active and capable leaders
- Our buildings and grounds, e.g. the labyrinth, multi-use sanctuary and gardens, are important to our spiritual experiences