



The Rev. Charlie Holt

For almost 25 years, I have served the Episcopal Church in three unique missional contexts. In Charlotte, NC, I developed a true heart for evangelism and discipleship as hundreds of people came to a new relationship with the Lord through the Alpha Course. Out of the fruit of that ministry, we planted a new church in Charlotte.

At age 30, I became rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lake Mary, FL. Lake Mary was a fast-growing rural community transitioning to become a dynamic suburb of Orlando. St. Peter's became a hub for youth and children's ministry. We would see 1000 children and youth on our campus in any given year.

During my 16 years there, we developed what proved to be an innovative strategy to reach our community by connecting a small group ministry with our liturgical calendar and church year. Our goal was always to have over 110% of our average Sunday attendance in small groups. At St. Peter's, I developed a commitment to community engagement ranging from relief work to homeless ministry. As a leader in Sanford Pastor's Connecting, a group of racially diverse ministers, we developed a unified and prayerful community response following the shooting of Trayvon Martin.

My ministry since moving to Houston four years ago has focused on developing a world-class teaching center at St. John the Divine. We have equipped a deep bench of lay teachers who effectively communicate the gospel with Biblical and theological rigor. We have also developed young adults to teach and lead a vibrant young adult group that now reaches nearly 100 young adults each week. Most exciting to me is the English as a Second Language program. Over 150 students now come to our church from over 44 countries speaking 33 different languages. This program engages 50 lay volunteers in hospitality to immigrants and visitors in the Houston area. In the last three years, we have seen many adult baptisms of new members from places like China, Russia, Japan, and Turkey.

In every context, my core has been to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.