

REFLECTIONS ON: A VISION STATEMENT FOR ST. PHILIP ANGLICAN CHURCH

2. We desire to enable all people to live and grow in life-transforming communion with God through the person of Jesus who is the Christ and by the gracious work of God's Holy Spirit.

Living in communion with God is the meaning of human existence. We were created to live as image-bearers of God. (Genesis 1:27). Paul says, "we have this treasure in clay jars." (II Corinthians 4:7a). There is a hidden invisible dimension to our being that is expressed through our bodies and our actions. The more we live in relationship to this inner reality, the more fully we will fulfill God's purpose.

Jesus is this invisible reality present in our lives and in the world today. He is the power and force of love at work transforming lives, enabling us to live today as he lived when he was physically present in history. Paul says in II Corinthians that we bear the Spirit of God in order "that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us." (II Corinthians 4:7b)

The church exists to encourage us to live in relationship with God through Christ. In living in this relationship our lives are transformed. We discover new values and new ways of being in the world. By living in this new way of Christ we become agents of transformation.

This is not a program. The only way we can fulfill our god-given purpose is by staying deeply in touch with the Spirit of God and acting in accordance with the direction and guidance God brings in our hearts. The church exists to encourage each of us to stay conscious and responsive to God's presence and work in our lives.

How can I nurture my awareness of the hidden invisible dimension of life?

In what ways is my life being transformed by my consciousness of God's presence?