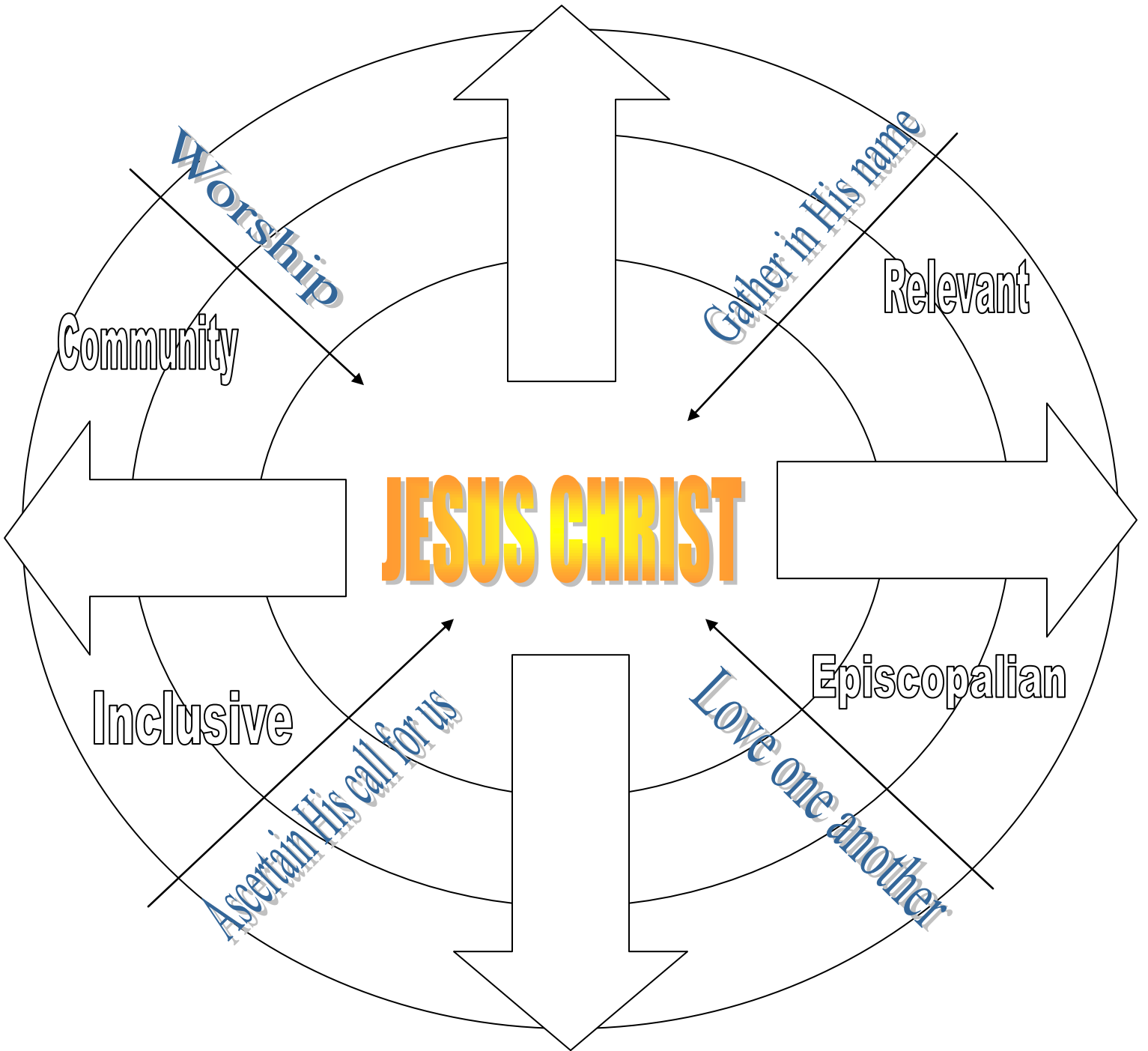


**Saint James Episcopal Church
Vision Committee
Our Core Values and Beliefs**



Our Core Values and Beliefs

We are a Christ centered community, gathering in His name. We see Jesus Christ as the center of our being and activities. In response to that we focus in by:

- Worship, both individually and as a community
- Gathering in His name, as a community in worship and as a community, both small and large, gathering to celebrate our Christianity in work, fun, sport and other activities.
- Ascertaining His call for us. In gathering in His name we ask what it is that He calls us to do, both as individuals and as a community.
- We support one another by loving each other as He has loved us.

Once strengthened, guided and focused we can reach out and give back to the communities in which we live. We believe that a key part of our calling is to reach out and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We believe that our four key values/beliefs are:

- Community
 - We want to be welcoming
 - We want to engender a sense of family, both by strengthening family and by creating a family atmosphere.
 - We want to create memories for our children which will sustain them and bring them back to church, should they ever wander.
 - We constantly seek to broaden our definition of community and find new ways to serve.
 - We will persevere and we see ourselves as a people with determination and endurance.
- Inclusive
 - We want to attract and support a diverse community. We see diversity in terms of age, culture, gender, ethnicity, place on the spiritual journey, etc.
 - We will engender a sense of tolerance, acceptance and understanding.
- Relevant
 - We want our church to be participative and each to feel welcome to be an active part of our community.
 - We want to provide diverse opportunities to participate.
 - We want a church where “one doesn’t have to leave their intellect at the door”. We set a big table and we invite all to join us.
- Episcopalian
 - We have a choice as to where and how we worship and we choose to do so according to the rites and traditions of the Episcopal Church.
 - We believe it to be important to be in communion with the American Episcopal Church.