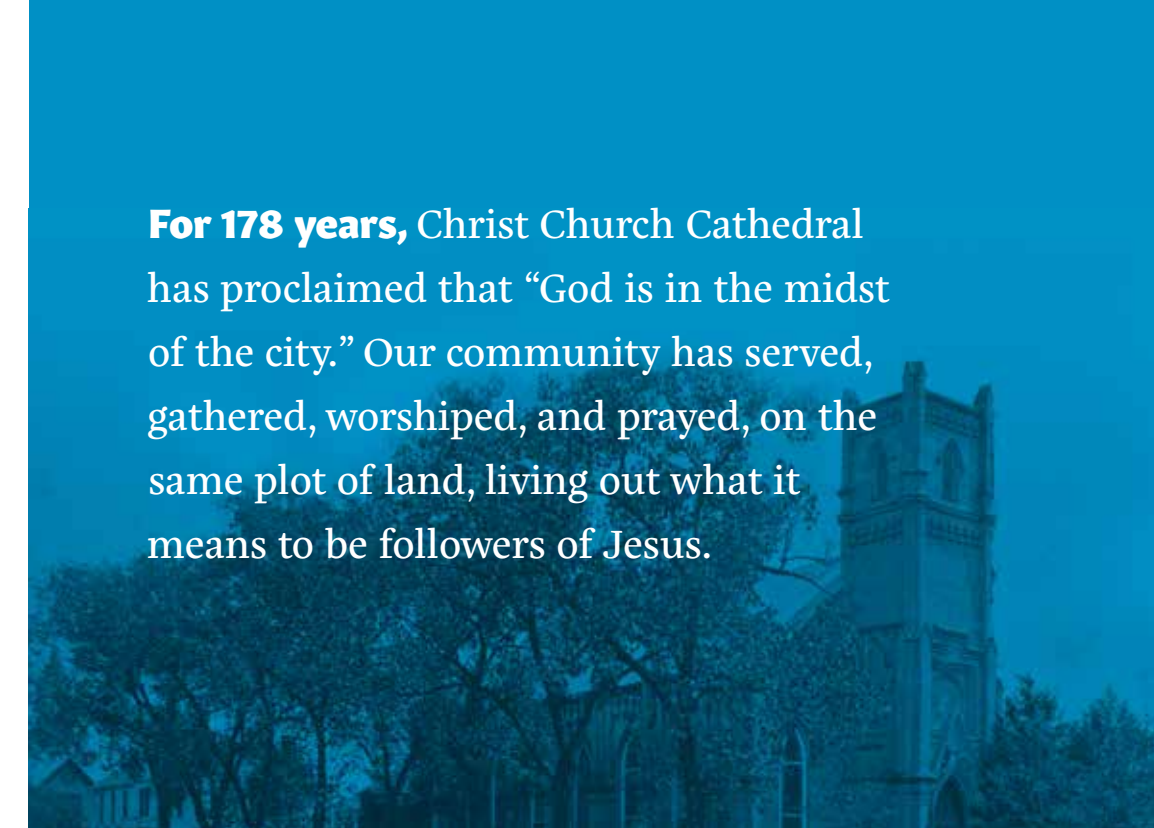


*Every Member Canvass 2018*

LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU

COLOSSIANS 3:16



**For 178 years,** Christ Church Cathedral has proclaimed that “God is in the midst of the city.” Our community has served, gathered, worshiped, and prayed, on the same plot of land, living out what it means to be followers of Jesus.

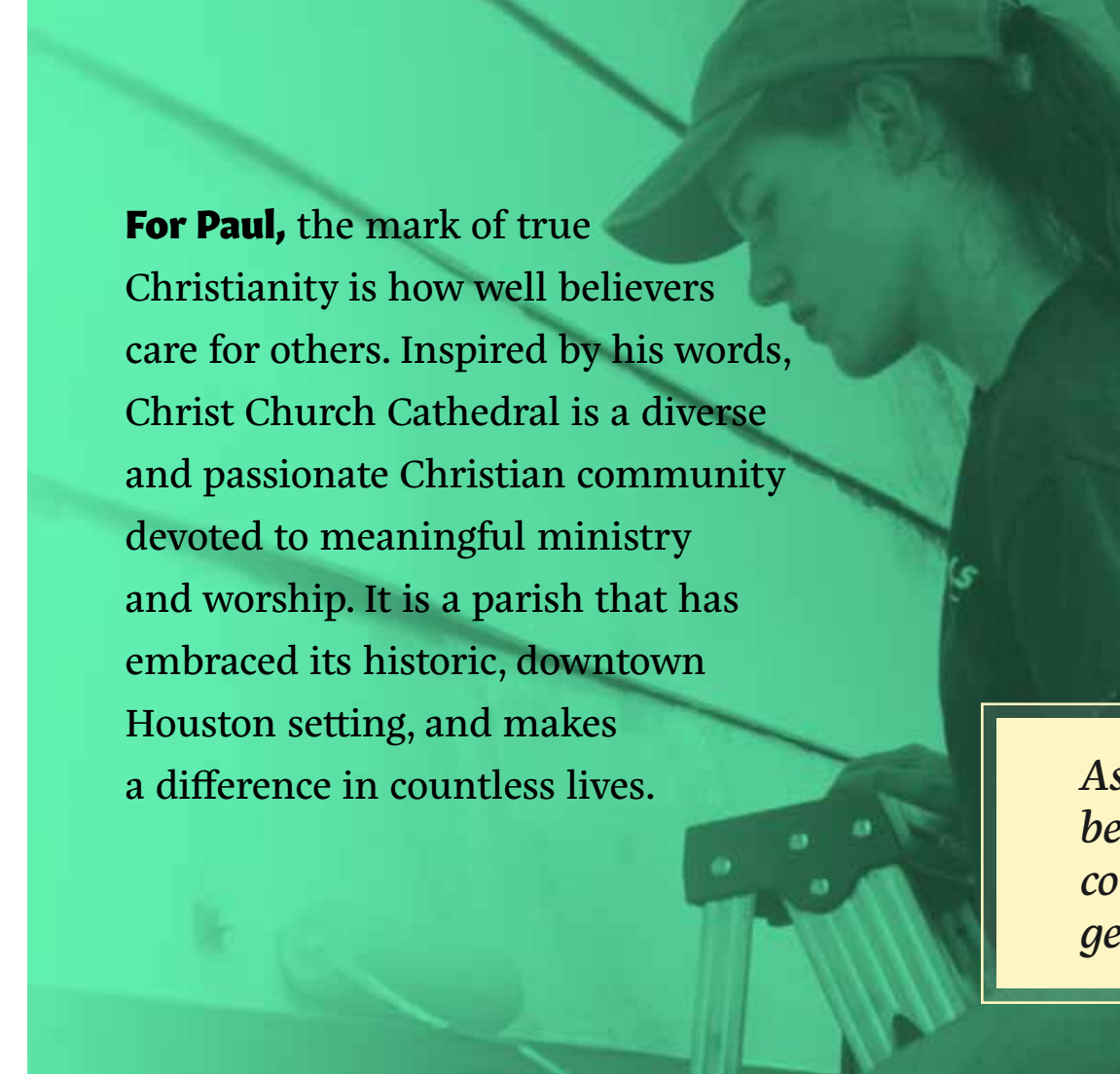
Recently, we have worked hard to complete the Vision Action Plan, “A Future Filled with Hope”, comprised of six initiatives, with the intention of better serving the congregation, the Diocese, and the Houston community. Within the past year, the sixth and final initiative was realized with the introduction of The Well, a contemplative Eucharist inspired by Celtic traditions. With the success and completion of such a vibrant vision, sights have turned toward the future and the next chapter for our thriving cathedral.

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you ...*

In his epistle to the Colossians, Paul offered guidance to a community looking to the future. He prescribed that they need look no further than Jesus for salvation, direction, and a way of life: *“And whatever you do, in word and deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,”* emphasizing that faith in Jesus Christ should mold the relationships we have in every area of our lives — in our homes, our churches, and our world. Paul challenged the people of Colossae to follow the call from God and be transformed. For when we sit at the feet of Jesus and listen, we are formed by a love that allows us to encounter grace and find our lives in God.



The text of Colossians envisions a community of faith in action, just like at Christ Church. We, too, can learn from Paul’s guidance, by turning inward and listening to the words that God places on the hearts of a congregation. What comes next at Christ Church will be determined by the needs of our historic campus, our vibrant community, and the call from God. *“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called into one body.”*



**For Paul**, the mark of true Christianity is how well believers care for others. Inspired by his words, Christ Church Cathedral is a diverse and passionate Christian community devoted to meaningful ministry and worship. It is a parish that has embraced its historic, downtown Houston setting, and makes a difference in countless lives.

The Cathedral is not simply a place of worship, but a space for hospitality and renewal, the seat of the Bishop of Texas, and a center of learning and formation where all are welcome. Additionally, Christ Church is the parent of almost a dozen outreach organizations that continue to meet the needs of many in the community. The people of Christ Church have indeed clothed themselves in love, and created a life that embodies St. Paul's recommended virtues.

*As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.*



### **COMPASSION: OUTREACH**

The variety of ways in which Christ Church serves beyond the campus walls is as diverse as the people who sit in the pews. The Beacon leads the way in restoring hope to our homeless brothers and sisters, providing both essential and next step services to hundreds of clients, five days a week. By strengthening its relationship with organizations that support the underserved and vulnerable in the city of Houston, the Mission & Outreach Council continues to explore ways to serve. Through blood drives, yard sales, preparing meals, Christmas at the Cathedral, the Alternative Giving Market, and programs such as At Risk Youth and Kids' Hope, there are endless opportunities to participate in this life-giving work.

### **KINDNESS: COMMUNITY**

The Cathedral's community life is increasingly focused on ways that parishioners can engage with one another and deepen their faith. In addition to programs such as the Neighborhood Gatherings and Foyers Fellowship Groups, the Community Life Council's annual events create ways for members to break bread and make friends. On Sundays, dedicated Welcome Team members greet and guide those who are new to the Cathedral, while the council for Welcome & Evangelism creatively reaches out to many who live and work downtown. The Latino congregation continues to build bridges between English and Spanish speakers, with the celebratory Fiestas Patrias and Las Posadas hosted each year. As more and more people are choosing the Cathedral as their spiritual home, community and hospitality efforts have never been more important.

### **HUMILITY: WORSHIP & MUSIC**

Worship and music are natural responses that arise when a congregation is filled with experiencing God in its midst. Parishioners worship, sing, serve, and celebrate the Eucharist five times each Sunday. Sunday mornings reflect the breadth and depth of the Episcopal tradition, offering three different ways to connect to God and the liturgy at 8, 9, and 11 o'clock. Our Spanish speaking community is growing, as attendance numbers at the one o'clock service continue to rise. And the addition of The Well on Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. offers for many a contemplative, peaceful, and nourishing way to begin the week. Worshipers can also be found in the Golding Chapel throughout the week, during the three services offered each day. The Cathedral also serves as a cultural arts hub, by presenting its own series of recitals, concerts, and performances, and supplying glorious music courtesy of the Treble, Parish, and Cathedral choirs. And the Cloister Art Gallery, displayed in Reynolds Hall, hosts a new art exhibit each month, representing a wide variety of artists and techniques, creating a rich and sophisticated addition to our campus.

**Every day,** at the corner of Texas and Fannin, the truth of the Gospel becomes clear as the work that is done creates fruits in the lives of all who are touched by this place. Fashioned within a culture that lives in Christ, the work of the Lord is unmistakable in this community of love.

*Above all*

**PATIENCE: CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

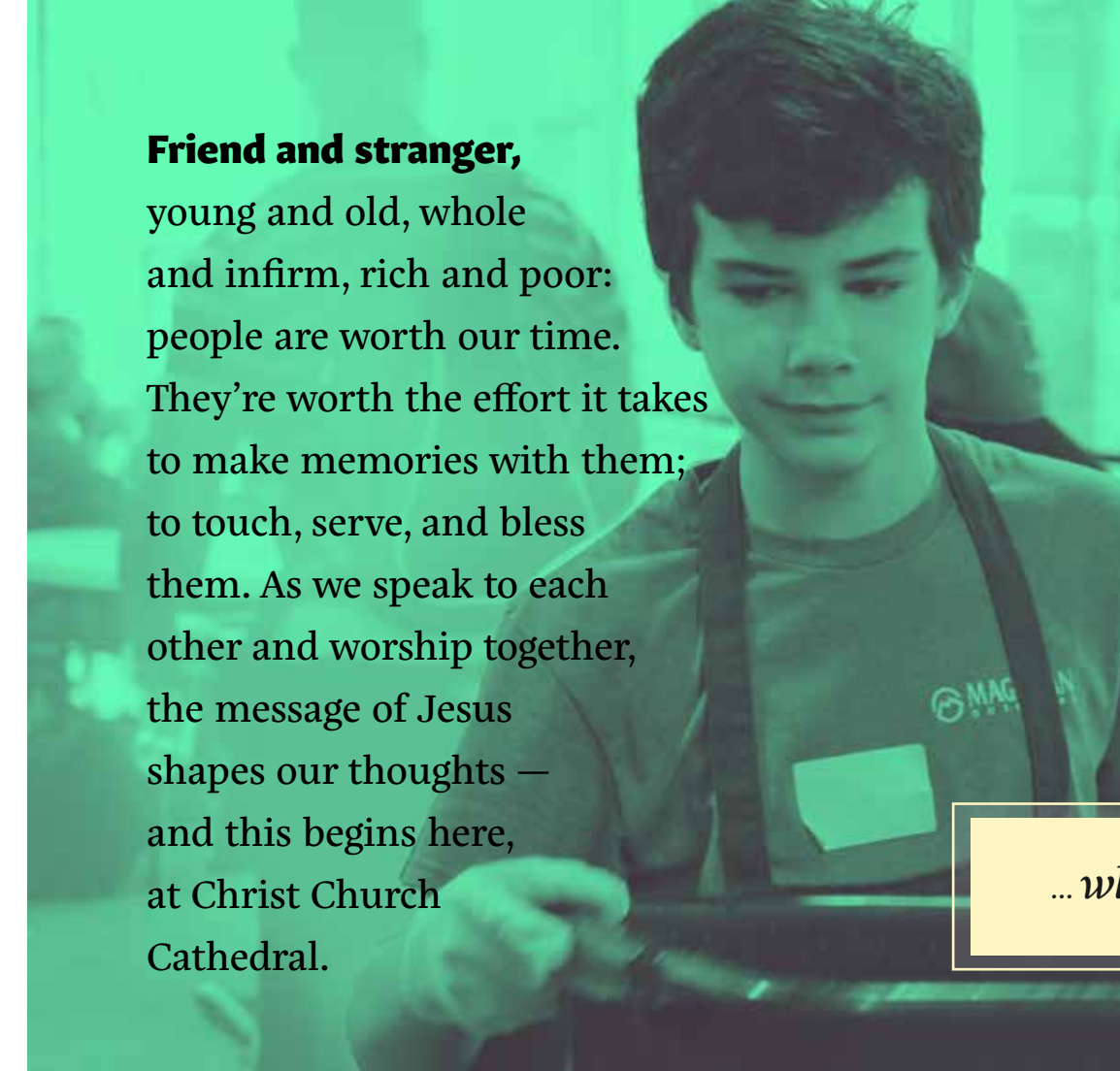
Formation in Christ doesn't begin or end with a season, a year, or time in our lives. At Christ Church, it has been a year of change and growth in our programs and our people. Bible study has gone "on the road" to provide opportunities for theological conversation where people live. Confirmation class for eighth graders now spans the entire school year, to encourage deeper exploration of God and their faith. The Children's ministry has given new life to the nightly prayer of Compline to bring many, big and small, together for fellowship and service. And the Bishop John E. Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer is a resource that strives to create spiritual harmony in both body and mind through a variety of weekly offerings.



**GENTLENESS: PASTORAL CARE**

God walks with us always, wherever we are, to provide a sense of security and stability. The creation of the "Cathedral Shepherds", with training in the Community of Hope program, offers a deeper level of care for those who seek pastoral support. The Cathedral has also increased its engagement in the mission of Amazing Place, as a commitment to provide avenues of care for all stages of life to those who suffer from dementia and Alzheimer's and their families.

*, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

A young man with dark hair, wearing a grey t-shirt and a black apron, is looking down at a tray he is holding. The image has a teal overlay. The t-shirt has a logo that says "MAG" and "CATHEDRAL".

**Friend and stranger,**  
young and old, whole  
and infirm, rich and poor:  
people are worth our time.  
They're worth the effort it takes  
to make memories with them;  
to touch, serve, and bless  
them. As we speak to each  
other and worship together,  
the message of Jesus  
shapes our thoughts —  
and this begins here,  
at Christ Church  
Cathedral.

While we strive to be good stewards of all of God's gifts to us, we believe that the way we use our money reflects the state of our spiritual lives. For the past few years, we have been blessed to increase the annual budgets of vital Cathedral ministries — putting our funds directly to work in service, where it should be. Christ Church is growing, in every way possible, and the only way to ensure it continues to flourish is with a pledged financial commitment from parishioners, just like you. Your gift will help continue to transform lives in Christ in our own community and beyond.

*... whatever you do, in word or deed,*



## Two of the key indicators

of parish health and vibrancy are growth in average Sunday attendance and Sunday school attendance. We have been blessed by incredible generosity from a growing congregation.

Imagine what else we could accomplish with increased financial resources.

### AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE



### SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS



### NUMBER OF PLEDGES



*do everything in the name of the Lord...*

**When we express** our gratitude to God, many times words are not enough to show our thankfulness. As we clothe ourselves in Christ we are transformed by God's own love at work, and we are led to acts of generosity. St. Paul reminds us that when we become more generous, we become more the people God created us to be.

As an expression of this gratitude, we must renew our annual commitment of resources to the missions and ministries of the church. The costs of financing Cathedral ministries, even at the level they currently exist, increase every year. Additionally, as we imagine and develop God's plans for our continued ministry to the parish, to downtown Houston, and across the diocese, we will require more financial support.

Last year, 612 parishioners pledged to the Cathedral for a total of \$3.28 million — and **we are thankful!** In 2017, we surpassed the EMC pledge goal of \$3.25 million, truly a monumental feat, which only emphasizes our community as one that is brimming over with the presence of God.

Looking ahead, the Vestry anticipates that we need \$3.35

million in pledges in order to fund the 2018 budget fully and responsibly. This requires an increase of about 3% over last year, which is a reachable goal. We are asking each parishioner to prayerfully consider increasing his or her pledge in 2018.

St. Paul instructs that by letting the **word of Christ dwell in us**, all that matters is that we hold fast to the faith and love of Jesus, and share it in all our words and actions. As we clothe ourselves in love, for one another, for this community, and for those who are most in need, imagine what we can do with a financial increase to continue to preserve, further, and enhance the future of God in the midst of the city!

Faithfully,  
The 2017 Stewardship Council

## The 2017 Stewardship Council

MS. FREDRICKA  
BRECHT

MR. BILL CURTIS

MR. DAVID DUPRE

MR. A. JOHN KNAPP

MRS. KAREN  
KRAYCIRIK

MRS. MIMI  
PRIOLEAU

MS. SUSAN REEVES

MR. TIM RUCH

MR. WALKER TAYLOR

THE VERY REV. BARKLEY  
S. THOMPSON

**Each Cathedral** parishioner is asked to pray over, complete, and return the enclosed pledge card during the month of October and no later than Loyalty Sunday, November 5, so the Finance Committee of the Vestry can prepare the 2018 budget.

*... and be thankful.*

RANGE OF PLEDGES	PLEDGES RECEIVED	
	2017 ACTUAL	2018 GOAL
25,000 and above	22	23
15,000 to 24,999	26	27
10,000 to 14,999	23	24
5,000 to 9,999	119	120
2,000 to 4,999	180	185
1,000 to 1,999	137	142
\$999 and less	105	109
	<b>612</b>	<b>630</b>

Out of an estimated 800 families in the congregation, 188 did not pledge in 2017. If more families pledge and do so generously, we will be able to expand our mission.



CHRIST  
CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL

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[christchurchcathedral.org](http://christchurchcathedral.org)