

Christ Church Cathedral

Annual Parish Report 2020



JANUARY 24, 2021



We Are Christ Church Cathedral

Christ Church Cathedral is the cathedral of the Diocese of Texas. Inspired by our traditions, we are a diverse, passionate, inclusive Christian community devoted to meaningful worship and ministry in a beautiful historical setting in downtown Houston. In accordance with the gospel message of love and justice, we continue our long legacy of reaching out in faith to serve the needs of others while supporting each other with joy in every aspect of our lives. Since 1839, Christ Church has proclaimed in word and deed the good news of Jesus Christ. Years before the founding generation could afford a church building, services were conducted in the basement of the Republic of Texas building on the site of the Rice Hotel. In those days, Houston was a rough-and-tumble swamp town with cattle drives roaming down Texas Avenue. Christ Church Cathedral today occupies two blocks in the fourth largest city in the country and

remains a beacon of faith and charity in the midst of a thriving metropolitan center. In our 180-year history, we have survived fires, floods, and raging storms, not to mention shifting demographics in our neighborhood and our city. Through sound leadership and a commitment of love and service to all, we have persevered and flourished. This year, we celebrate the 72nd year of our designation as Cathedral for the Diocese of Texas. As a cathedral and a parish, we are more than a place for Episcopalians throughout the diocese to worship. We are a space for hospitality and renewal. We are the seat of the Bishop of Texas and a center of learning and formation where all are welcome. We are the parent for more than 12 outreach organizations that meet the needs of many in our community. We are all this and more. We are Christ Church Cathedral. All the information in this report may be read online at christchurchcathedral.org.

A Letter from the Dean

Dear Cathedral Family,

In autumn 2019, the Cathedral vestry and I commissioned a task force to create a new vision plan for Christ Church. That task force worked diligently with the Cathedral councils for six months to discern, develop, and hone the plan, which was then presented to the vestry at our annual retreat at Camp Allen on February 15, 2020. The vestry adopted the new vision plan, “Rooted in Christ/ Built on Christ” with gusto, and we all felt sure that the remainder of 2020 would include a celebratory launch and an enthusiastic enactment of the plan in a new and exciting chapter of the Cathedral’s life and ministry.

Two weeks later, on February 29, the United States recorded its first COVID-19 death. On March 11, the Houston Rodeo and Livestock Show was abruptly canceled. On March 15, at the request of Bishop Doyle, the Cathedral joined all other Episcopal churches in the Diocese of Texas and suspended in-person worship. The world shifted seismically for us as a community of faith. In those first few days I received voluminous messages ranging from encouragement to regret to woundedness. All were genuine and heartfelt. People — including me — could scarcely believe that we were not able to gather for prayer and the sacrament, and no one had any idea how long conditions would last.

I will admit that I spent a few furtive days in near-panic. What was the right course of action? What was the faithful thing to do? And then, in more ways than I can count and through the work of innumerable parishioners as well as our staff, we *acted*. I have taken to calling it “the Great Pivot.” In a manner that inspired and challenged in equal parts, we figured out how to continue to be the Cathedral for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas in a virtual world.

The Great Pivot began with a virtual Easter — we recorded Easter services on a single stationary camera and an iPad! — followed by an Acts in Easter multi-week small group virtual bible study that captured the imagination, not only of Cathedral parishioners, but of Episcopalians across the country. It continued with our May Fete promenade, during which dozens of parishioners drove around the Cathedral campus in festively-decorated cars. During the summer, the Cathedral community gathered on Zoom for the second-annual Cathedral Reads program, in which we collectively read and discussed the theologically-rich *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. At the same time, in collaboration with St. Martin’s and St. John the Divine, we created an online Vacation Bible School that was used by Episcopalians globally (yes, globally!). The Cathedral Choirs produced four virtual performances that enabled choir members to join their voices in song from

a distance and provided soaring inspiration to parishioners. At the beginning of the fall, we distributed the incredible workbook *Making Our Home for Faith*, to provide resources for encountering God in our homes. As fall began, we hosted four safe outdoor Fall Gatherings that allowed us to see one another in the flesh. And, we figured out how to worship in person again while also livestreaming to hundreds of parishioners in their homes, being faithful to important safety precautions that express our Christian love for one another.

All the while, our outreach to those beyond our community continued unabated. The Beacon expanded its services exponentially when most feeding ministries in the city suspended operations altogether. The Mission Outreach Council hosted the Alternative Giving Market and Christmas at the Cathedral on virtual platforms. Our At-Risk Youth Program assisted an unprecedented number of families in crisis, providing a lifeline to those in dire need due to either pandemic or its associated economic fallout. The Cathedral Urban Service Experience (CUSE) created online outreach for youth and college groups, reminding us that service continues even in a pandemic.

After Hurricane Harvey in 2017, I didn’t think it possible for me to be more in awe of the Cathedral and our people’s faith. I guess I should know by now that God always surprises! The Great Pivot has demonstrated that St. Paul’s words spoken to the Christians in Rome 2,000 years ago are still true:

“In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:37–39)

In their song “A Long December,” the Counting Crows muse, “Maybe this year will be better than the last.” With vaccines being administered daily, I have every hope this will be so! We will eventually gather again unimpeded and finally be able to begin living into the wonderful new vision plan, “Rooted in Christ/Built on Christ.” But I will always reflect on 2020 with gratitude for all the ways the Cathedral made the Great Pivot. As I begin my ninth year of service at Christ Church, I remain blessed to serve as your dean, and I give thanks to God for you.

Grace and peace,



The Very Reverend Barkley S. Thompson,
Dean

Senior Warden's Report

In the Cathedral Bulletin this past April, Dean Thompson wrote to us, as the pandemic took hold of our lives, about the turmoil that Elijah felt when his life was in danger and he found himself isolated from those he trusted and loved. Elijah openly wondered where God was to be found in the midst of his troubles and anxiety. Dean Thompson reminded us that God is not in the tumult or stress of events of the day. God instead is revealed in the still, “small voice” that has been with us since before the coronavirus arrived and will be with us still when the coronavirus is gone. He encouraged us to see our current circumstances not as isolation but as the blessed opportunity to hear God's still, “small voice.”

I have to say that March, April, and May were extremely stressful for me professionally and personally, and like everyone, I had a lot on my mind and a lot to figure out on the run as the pandemic changed our lives. Looking back, I now see that part of my dealing with this time was the search for this same “small voice” inside me. As I wrote in the September Bulletin, another way to say this is to look for the light amidst all the cracks in everything (that is a Leonard Cohen line, not mine). These moments often arrive without fanfare and come from new places — like being Senior Warden during a pandemic! One of the most rewarding and meaningful things I have experienced during this year is the unbelievable job that the clergy and staff have done in making our Cathedral work and connect with us in new ways, and provide the “light” and share the “small voice” moments we all need so much right now. We are truly blessed to have them guiding our spiritual home — they have been creative, quick thinking, adaptable, and most importantly, they have “held fast” in the face of many challenges. I also want to say that I have learned a lot about the generosity and commitment of the parishioners at the Cathedral who serve in the various ministries, which continued to carry out their missions, perhaps in different ways and using different mediums, but without fail.

I would like to remind all of us of some of these moments, events, and accomplishments during this year — many of which reflect changes in the way the Cathedral works (or rays of light shining through all the cracks) that will remain with us after the pandemic. Lists are dangerous and I apologize if I have left something off that is at the top of your list — be sure to tell me what those are!

Visioning Plan Adopted — our new Visioning Plan was adopted in February at the vestry retreat, but the pandemic delayed its announcement until September. The Plan took a tremendous amount of work, and I am looking forward to seeing it implemented over the coming years.

New staff — Kathy Pfister joined as our new Canon Vicar, Bethany Podgorny joined as our new Minister for Community Life, and Brant Mills joined as our new Minister for Communications. What a time to start a new job! Each of them has added so much to our Cathedral family.

Webcasts, streaming, blogs and Zoom calls used in services, Councils, book clubs, Bible study, etc. — all of us have experienced the impact of Zoom and other technologies, and the Cathedral used these tools effectively to keep these programs going. Weekly Bible study attendance grew by 40 percent; upwards of 80 parishioners participated in small groups through Acts in Easter and Cathedral Reads; and volunteers made 1,000 masks for the Masks for All initiative even though tutorials and mask-making parties were all online. While Zoom fatigue is here, these tools have had a very positive impact and changed some of the ways we work and communicate.

The Beacon, including Brigid's Hope, reached new heights in service — there is no way to express my admiration for The Beacon's work during this year. When other groups shut down their meals programs for the homeless, The Beacon stepped up and increased its daily meal production to over 550 per day, 7 days a week, a 300 percent increase over 2019. These meals were distributed offsite and made a big difference until other groups could resume their work, and Mayor Turner noted that The Beacon made a huge difference in helping the homeless during this time. And nine women graduated from Brigid's Hope despite all the work done being done virtually.

May Fete, Rally Day, Alternative Giving Market, Christmas at the Cathedral, and the EMC kickoff events — the Mission Outreach Council, the Community Life Council and the Stewardship Council, and of course our great staff, did a tremendous job in organizing all these events in a virtual format, and in the case of May Fete and Christmas at the Cathedral, added a drive by component.

In-person worship launched — first in June and then restarted in September. Sunday services began again and were very successful in terms of attendance, both in-person and via the webcasts.. Interestingly, attendance for Sunday services via the webcasts exceeded 1,000 several times, breaking attendance records. I expect this trend to continue as we focus on technology to reach more and more people. Canon Vicar Pfister also launched the very creative Making Our Home for Faith program, with a beautiful booklet made available to parishioners — inviting them to find ways to create space and time within their own homes to engage in worship, reflection, and spiritual growth.

Neighborhood Gatherings — Bethany Podgorny and others

did a great job in finding outdoor venues for these events that were fun and a relief from the “Stay at Home” world we live in.

Financial Stability — despite the loss of “other revenue” from Treebeards, the parking garage, and other sources, and impact of the pandemic on the economy, the Cathedral remains in solid shape financially. That is not to say we do not have challenges, and the EMC pledge campaign for 2021 has fallen somewhat short of our goal, which I hope we will attain in 2021 as the economy recovers.

While this has been a very tough and challenging year for so many, what we have accomplished together brings me to the

coming year with hope and with a focus on continuing the work, mission, and vision of the Cathedral in the Midst of the City. Once again, I want to say that it has been an honor and a gift (and a learning experience!) for me to be the Senior Warden this year.



Rob Reedy
Senior Warden

2020 Vestry

The vestry is the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property. The presiding officer of the vestry is the rector. The responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed; to ensure effective organization and planning; and to manage resources and finances. *Source: An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church; Church Publishing, New York, 2000*

Rob Reedy, *Senior Warden*

Kristy Greenwood, *Junior Warden*

Erin McMillin, *Secretary*

Lyman Paden, *Chancellor*

Michael Bullington, *Treasurer*

Patrick Saccomanno, *Assistant Treasurer*

Meredith Canada

John Flanagan

Laura Galvin

Guy Hagstette

George Hawkins

Maria Hernandez

Bilinda Matusek

Evelyn Nolen

Rick Ogle

Flo Ray

Walker Taylor

Matt Wareing

2020 Endowment Trustees

Wayne Clawater, *President*

Linnet Deily, *Vice President*

Brent Bechtol

Fredricka Brecht

Mike Bullington, *ex officio*

Cece Fowler

Charlotte Jones

John Knapp

Michael McCord

Catherine Randall

The Very Rev. Barkley Thompson,
ex officio

Vital Statistics

Average Sunday attendance in 2020¹ : 730

In 2019: 736

Online Average Weekly Attendance in 2020: 1,514

In-person and online combined Average Weekly Attendance in 2020: 1,421

Easter attendance in 2020: 3,337 (Virtual Worship)

In 2019: 2,024

Total active baptized members at the end of 2020: 4,018

At the end of 2019: 3,970

Number of pledging households in 2020: 603

In 2019: 618

Total amount pledged in 2020: \$3,389,278

In 2019: \$3,468,675

Total church school students enrolled in 2020: 473

In 2019: 569

Baptisms in 2020: 15

In 2019: 39

Confirmations in 2020: 20

In 2019: 21

Received in 2020: 2

In 2019: 10

¹ As reported to EDOT Parochial Report – January 1 thru March 1

Junior Warden's Report

Dear Cathedral Family,

What can be said about 2020 that hasn't already been said? It was a challenging year; it started out as any other, with grand plans. Then it all changed. With the input and help of so many, we made the most of it. We started the lockdown by taking the time while the Cathedral was closed to public gathering to address many of the things that would have proven difficult or time consuming otherwise. We then got settled in for the long haul, and substantially completed the Cathedral Restoration Project with little fanfare but a great sense of pride and service. And almost every month, as you might notice, we fought a different battle with the Bishop's Courtyard fountain. Our excellent

Building and Grounds Committee, including Andre Jackson (past Junior Warden), Erin McMillin, Rick Ogle, Flo Ray, Laura Galvin, Guy Hagstette, and the indomitable Karen Kraycirik, provided great input to project solutions, and I thank them for their service. My thanks also go to Frank Guevara and all the sextons for their hard work each day to keep our campus successfully operating.

As Andre so eloquently stated last year, it has been an honor and a privilege to have served as the Junior Warden. My thanks go to all of you as well, for entrusting me and this team with the continued care of our beautiful downtown worship space.

January

- Commissioned Cathedral HVAC system and fine-tuned all heat exchangers, pumps, and flows
- West Transept plaster cracks repaired, with additional work scope under review
- Began scoping work for livestream capability in Cathedral
- Assessed Bishop's Courtyard fountain motor for repair
- Replaced an exit sign in the Golding Chapel

February

- Replaced broken storm pane on St. Paul's window, and evaluated the status of all other stained glass storm panes
- Began planning work on how to access fire sprinklers in columbarium and Huffington playground for required updates
- Hearing loop recalibrated
- Parking garage iron gate repaired

March

- Completed repair of one pew in the Cathedral, with several others scheduled for repair

- Power washed columbarium
- Began work on hardware and software updates to facilitate online and streaming services
- West Transept repair work scope final review and vetting

April

- Repaired motor and timer of Bishop's Courtyard fountain
- Repaired East Transept doors and doorstops installed
- Repaired tile and grout in all five Beacon shower stalls
- Trimmed trees and repaired bare sod spot in courtyard
- Purchased new audio and video equipment necessary for livestreaming

May

- Replaced sprinkler heads in Jones Building exterior walkways
- Completed West Transept wall bracing and interior plaster work; attic work underway and exterior wall bracing plans and hardware under review by Texas Historical Commission (THC)

- Scheduled remaining pew repairs
- Installed livestream cameras and made server/firewall updates to facilitate livestreaming

June

- Livestreaming Sunday services began
- Completed final fire sprinkler updates and plasterwork repairs
- Pinhole leak found and repaired in Cathedral sprinkler system; led to re-review of entire system for potential weak points
- Began work on the AHU that serves the Jones Building Basement, with remaining work scheduled for September
- Continued review of Bishop's Courtyard fountain sporadic operation
- Laminate flooring installed in parking garage elevators
- Completed installation of heavy-duty louvers along San Jacinto
- Reviewing cosmetic wall cracking in Latham Building for signs of any structural issues

July

- Cracked pipes in Jones Building above Chapel of the Christ Child repaired
- Exterior plates for attic purlins still under THC review
- Repaired fire exit door in McGehee Building
- Began planning to equip Reynolds Hall with livestreaming capability and motorized window shades
- Bishop's Courtyard fountain repaired and returned to operation
- Air Conditioning repairs made at rectories
- Repaired Latham Building security camera and replaced monitoring/recording system

August

- Removed dead palm tree from the McGehee garden with replacement plans pending
- Repairs to Reynolds Hall Cloister Gallery lighting made
- Reviewed remedies for Cathedral sprinkler system weak points
- Tax Credit Proposal amendment for West Transept work approved by THC
- Preparation for, and successful weathering through, Hurricane Laura

September

- Attic purlin work completed
- Repaired Bookstore door and men's bathroom door in Latham Building

- Fiber cabling work in Reynolds Hall begun in preparation for advanced A/V equipment
- IP migrated to formally increase campus internet bandwidth
- Exterior West Transept wall bracing complete
- Walter P Moore reviewed the structural integrity of the Latham Building
- Made further small hardware updates to facilitate livestreaming
- Replacement of all air filters on campus to MERV-10, with MERV-13 filters on order
- Charles Umlauf sculpture, "Striding Christ," cleaned

October

- Backflow valve in Huffington playground repaired
- Approval granted for in-depth review of Latham Building shifting/cracking
- Improvements to Cathedral sprinkler system completed
- Proposal for stonework repair of Bishop's Courtyard fountain sought
- Reviewed scope of work and estimates to repair Dunn Center HVAC
- Scoping additional sound capabilities for Cathedral livestreaming
- Alarm inspections completed
- City plan approval granted for Prairie Street sidewalk hatch access to Jones Basement

November

- All air filters on campus updated to MERV-13
- Fire sprinkler inspections completed
- Replaced key livestreaming data component, upgraded microphones for organ music capture, and reviewed overall livestream system integrity
- Installation of Reynolds Hall livestream hardware paused
- Repaired Bishop's Courtyard fountain detached stonework piece

December

- Repaired lights and updated wiring in Texas Ave lampposts
- Completed Jones Basement AHU work
- Completed installation of two additional handheld microphones in the Cathedral
- Latham Building in-depth analysis completed, revealing a sound structural integrity
- Prairie Street waterproof sidewalk hatch installed
- Fire sprinkler inspection report received, with no red tags noted
- Awaiting proposal to clean and seal Bishop's Courtyard fountain
- Dunn Center HVAC work pushed to January 2021



Kristy Greenwood
Junior Warden

Treasurer's Report

2020 Parish Operating Accounts

For 2020, the Vestry approved a budget with normal revenues \$407 less than normal expenses in a virtual breakeven financial plan. The budget anticipated that normal expenses would increase by \$139,000; reduced program needs and savings in maintenance, utilities and other areas were expected to partially offset an increase in salaries and benefits that reflected full-year staffing. The budget did include a \$50,000 addition to the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund.

Preliminary results indicate that Normal Revenues will lag Normal Expenses in 2020 by \$17,000. Normal Revenues of \$5,456,000 were \$462,000 lower than in 2019 and \$222,000 lower than the budget primarily due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Facility Use revenue. Normal Expenses of \$5,473,000 were \$435,000 lower than in 2019 and \$206,000 lower than the budget due to significantly lower operational activity during the COVID-19 pandemic resulting from "in-person" service restrictions imposed by the Diocese of Texas.

The unbudgeted Legacy Expenditures of \$41,000 were fully reimbursed from the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund. The Legacy Fund ended 2020 with a balance of \$496,000, and the distribution to the Parish was offset by the \$50,000 budget addition from the Parish Fund.

During 2020, the Cathedral received a loan of \$536,400 under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act. The PPP amount is carried on the balance sheet as a loan at the end of 2020. The Vestry expects the loan to be converted to a grant and recognized as revenue in 2021.

2021 Parish Budget

The Vestry budgets revenues by using actual EMC pledges when the budget is adopted and distributions from the Endowment. Normal Expenses are controlled to match Normal Revenues. Major Legacy maintenance needs are not budgeted since they are difficult to forecast. The Vestry expects those expenses to be paid for

either with actual revenues being higher than budgeted or by withdrawing from the Tom Barrow and Stuart Hellman Legacy Fund for Cathedral Preservation. The Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund was established in 2013 to "pre-pay" for major maintenance needs and the Vestry funds the Legacy Fund by a) budgeting and adding at least \$50,000 annually from the Parish Fund and b) directing that 20% of undesignated gifts to the Endowment over \$1,000 are added to this Fund.

The budget for 2021 will be adopted by the Vestry at their January meeting. In the current draft version, Normal Revenues are exactly equal to Normal Expenses. Normal Revenues of \$5,288,000 will be \$168,000 lower than in 2020 due to lower EMC pledges and anticipated Facility Use revenue. Normal Expenses of \$5,288,000 will be \$185,000 lower than in 2020 due to lower ministry expense and anticipated maintenance and utility expenses. The budget also provides for a \$100,000 addition to the Legacy Fund.

Endowment Fund — 2020

The Endowment Fund net assets increased \$2,915,000 in 2020 to \$30,734,000. Market value increases totaled \$1,991,000. This was supplemented with \$2,220,000 in bequests, gifts, and oil and gas revenues. In addition to the distribution from the Barrow/Hellman Legacy Fund, support of the Cathedral totaled \$1,078,000 and support for the start-up costs of the Hines Center totaled \$41,000.

Sowing The Seed Campaign — 2020

Parish support for the Sowing The Seed Campaign was evident in strong pledging. Final Pledges and Unpledged Revenue total \$13,150,000, and over 65% of the pledges have already been paid. In 2020, \$281,000 was spent on construction and related fees for engineers, architects, and permits.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Bullington,
Treasurer

Financial Summary (Dollars in thousands)

Cathedral Operating Funds	2018 Audited	2019 Audited	2020 Unaudited	Change from 2019	2021 Proposed	Change from 2020
Every Member Canvass	3,439	3,416	3,343	(73)	3,229	(114)
Endowment Contribution	899	909	1,007	98	1,076	69
Facility Use & Other Revenue	1,295	1,593	1,106	(487)	983	(123)
Normal Revenue	5,633	5,918	5,456	(462)	5,288	(168)
Salaries & Benefits	3,242	3,504	3,170	(334)	3,174	4
Beacon Grant & Dunn Center	301	297	244	(53)	232	(12)
Other Outreach	76	66	53	(13)	54	1
Liturgy & Ministry	703	770	772	2	689	(83)
Hines Spirituality Center Grant	170	128	69	(59)	0	(69)
Diocesan Activities	375	391	414	23	415	1
Facilities — Addition to the Legacy Fund	75	50	50	0	100	50
Facilities — Normal	634	702	701	(1)	624	(77)
Normal Expenses	5,576	5,908	5,473	(435)	5,288	(185)
Normal Net Revenue less Expenses	57	10	(17)	(27)	0	17
Facilities — Legacy Expenditures	198	190	41	(149)		
Use of the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	141	173	41	(132)		
Change in Net Assets	0	(7)	(17)	(10)		

Endowment Fund	2018 Audited	2019 Audited	2020 Unaudited	Change from 2019
Bequests & Memorial Gifts	89	6,983	2,028	(4,955)
From Capital Campaigns	185	340	21	(319)
Parish Add to the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	75	50	50	0
Sale of Asset — New Fund Established		196		(196)
Investment Return	(1,641)	2,899	1,991	(908)
Oil & Gas Royalties	153	139	121	(18)
Total Revenue	(1,139)	10,607	4,211	(6,396)
Support of the Cathedral	935	1,097	1,078	(19)
Parish Use of the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	141	173	41	(132)
Support of the Hines Center	77	100	41	(59)
Other Expenses	104	212	136	(76)
Total Expenses	1,257	1,582	1,296	(286)
Net Revenue less Expenses	(2,396)	9,025	2,915	(6,110)
Memo: Net Assets	18,924	27,906	30,734	2,828

Sowing The Seed	2018 Audited	2019 Audited	2020 Unaudited	Cumulative All years since 2017
Pledges Made	6,602	1	0	12,455
Unpledged Revenue	470	116	44	695
Total Revenue	7,072	117	44	13,150
Gifts to the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	116	295	0	410
Gifts to the Taylor Fund	64	46	21	231
Construction	5,069	2,558	281	8,423
Other Expenses	143	260	140	333
Total Expenses	5,392	3,159	442	9,397
Net Revenue less Expenses	1,680	(3,042)	(398)	3,753
Memo: Net Assets	7,196	3,718	3,342	
Memo: Pledges Paid	2,066	2,933	1,872	8,546
Memo: Cash on Hand	404	731	1,208	1,208
Memo: Frost Line of Credit	670	2,174	1,774	1,774

2020: The Year in Review

January

- The Cathedral Choir begins the year with a festive Epiphany Evensong. Unbeknownst to all, it will be the only Evensong of the year.
- The Cathedral Bookstore opens on January 5 for its 38th year of operation.
- More than 150 adults, youth, and children attend the parish retreat in the piney woods of Camp Allen.
- Women's Evening Bible Study begins class on the theme of "Wilderness" in Hebrew Scriptures. Wednesday Men's Bible study launches by reading the Acts of the Apostles.
- Karen Kraycirik is promoted to Chief Administrative Officer of the Cathedral.
- At the Annual Parish Meeting, the Dean's Cross is awarded to Jack Hurt, for a lifetime of faithful service to Christ Church and the Diocese of Texas. New vestry members Guy Hagstette, George Hawkins, Laura Galvin, Bilinda Matusek, and Flo Ray are elected.

February

- The 2020 Robert C. Stuart Lenten series "Heaven Can't Wait!" brings together regional and national speakers, but comes to a standstill in March as COVID-19 shutdowns begin.
- Following the example of Bishop Curry's mission, the children of the Cathedral take on a new initiative in the creation of a podcast series, "The Way of Love Podcast for Kids."
- The Cathedral vestry gathers at Camp Allen for its annual retreat and enthusiastically adopts a new Vision Action Plan for Christ Church, "Rooted in Christ/Built on Christ."
- The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper officially marks the start of the Lenten season. Parishioners enjoy the live music of a Zydeco band, and John Flanagan marshals the Mardi Gras mini-float parades, as a team of over 40 volunteers serve pancakes and make the event possible.

- 42 parishioners participate in the Justice & Peace Council's Civil Rights bus pilgrimage, visiting important sites in Houston's history of race. Professor Angela Holder of Houston Community College facilitates a group discussion after the tour.
- As part of Fotofest Houston, the Cathedral Cloister Gallery launches "Faces of the Other" a street-art exhibit featuring Joe Aker's portraits of Cathedral members and those who live or work downtown.

March

- The Children's Ministry Council partners with Trinity Midtown and St. Andrew's in the Heights for our fourth annual Touch-A-Truck — a no food, no fees, no fuss event for children to see vehicles like a dump truck, ambulance, motorcycle, boat, and METRO bus up close and personal.
- Johnny's Walkers participate in the AIDS Walk Houston, raising \$12,000 with 24 walkers.
- Two fun-filled Spring Neighborhood Gatherings take place before COVID-19 enters our reality. The third and fourth spring gatherings are necessarily cancelled.
- COVID-19 shuts down Houston. March 15 is the first Sunday of virtual-only worship at Christ Church.
- The Cathedral begins what Dean Thompson calls "The Great Pivot," offering Sunday school classes, youth group, bible studies, and community gatherings online.
- The Bookstore closes its doors and begins operating remotely. The bookstore stocks up on items like Cathedral hand sanitizer and masks.
- Online, weekday Noonday Prayer begins on Facebook Live.
- The Beacon faithfully responds to the COVID-19 pandemic by increasing service to seven days per week. Average daily census skyrockets to 550 from 300, as other feeding programs across the city suspend operations.

April

- The Pastoral Care Council launches the Cathedral Good Neighbor program in response to COVID-19, with 130 callers reaching out to 1,800 Cathedral households weekly.

- For the first time in living memory, in-person Easter services are not held. Even so, Easter is celebrated virtually. Our annual Easter tradition of the flowering of the Cross is reimagined. Children's Ministry folks collect flower pictures, transfer them to a nine-foot wooden frame, and share a video of the completed flowered cross on Cathedral social media platforms. Parishioners of all ages also provide photos of themselves in Easter hats.
- The Cathedral launches the "Acts in Easter" online small group program, developed by Canon Becky Zartman. More than 100 parishioners participate. "Acts in Easter" is also offered to the wider church and is used by dozens of faith communities across the country.
- The Cathedral Urban Service Experience (CUSE) Steering Committee decides not to hold in-person mission experiences for the Summer. Virtual Experiences begins with recording interviews with non-profit partners.
- Bethany Podgorny joins the Cathedral staff as Minister for Community Life.

May

- The Cathedral bids farewell and Godspeed to Canon Vicar Art Callahan, as Art assumes a new role as chaplain at Episcopal High School.
- This year's May Fete features a promenade around the Cathedral with more than 50 fantastic car decorations, costumes, and a lot of smiling and waving. The Cathedral also shares a video with a look back at years prior, including interviews with former kings and queens. Not a typical May Fete, but still a celebration!
- The "Savvy Caregiver" class is offered by Amazing Place via Zoom for eight Cathedral caregivers of loved ones with dementia/Alzheimer's Disease.
- The Cathedral Choirs produce the first of four virtual choir projects, joining dozens of voices in harmony. The virtual choir productions become, by far, the most viewed Cathedral offerings of 2020.
- As a reminder that Jesus is still with us during pandemic, Cathedral children all receive a bendable toy Jesus in the mail.
- The Mission and Outreach Council partners with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to conduct a blood drive in Reynolds Hall. 34 people, most of them Cathedral parishioners, respond to the call to donate blood to save lives.
- The Cathedral welcomes Brant Mills as our new Minister for Communications.
- CUSE welcomes Fisher Galvin as our intern to be an asset to creating the Virtual CUSE Experiences.

June

- The Cathedral "New Reality Task Force" prepares guidelines for a safe return to church. The task force produces a fun and informative instruction video. Ushers and "Ambassadors of Grace" are trained to help parishioners navigate church with new safety protocols.
- The Cathedral resumes in-person worship for two weeks, before necessarily suspending worship a second time.
- The Cathedral begins livestreaming Sunday worship with new camera and sound equipment that is installed as part of our Sowing the Seed campus renovation project.
- The Second Annual Cathedral Reads program, *What Does Brave Look Like?*, featuring John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany* for adults and R.J. Palacio's *Wonder* for children and youth, kicks off for the summer. Hundreds of Cathedral parishioners participate through online small groups and a monthly book study.
- The Cathedral welcomes the Reverend Kathy Rock Pfister as our new Canon Vicar.
- The Dean's Hour continues throughout the summer as the "Dean's Hour Summer Matinee," featuring Dean Thompson's "greatest hits" lecture series followed by a Zoom discussion.
- Members of the Cathedral community, vestry, and staff participate in "This is My Story, This is My Song;" a Sunday morning opportunity to share music, stories, and prayers with the children of the Cathedral.
- The Youth and Children's Ministries combine to offer a three-part series called the "Wonder Book Club"—a study and discussion of R.J. Palacio's novel *Wonder*
- CUSE welcomes Cathedral youth and St. James Austin youth for a three-day Virtual Experience.

July

- The Mission and Outreach Council leads a facemask project with the support of members of the congregation. 1,000 masks are collected, 400 of them hand-made by Cathedral parishioners.
- The Pastoral Care Council's Flower Ministry begins delivering flowers used in Sunday morning virtual worship to St. Luke's Hospital, Holly Hall, and Omega House.
- The Cathedral, St. John the Divine, and St. Martin's join forces to offer a virtual Vacation Bible School. More than 33 parishes participate globally and content receives over 5,000 views.

- The Latino Ministry Council hosts a virtual Facebook Live revival concert featuring Mendeliz Musica para Cristo. The audience includes people from Houston, different parts of the United States, and oversea countries such as Venezuela, El Salvador, Peru and Dominican Republic. The concert reaches over 8,000 people.
- Five Cathedral Youth participate with Minister for Youth Marcia Quintanilla in a five-week focus group using an award-winning book *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibrahim X. Kendi.
- The Children’s Ministry Council launches “Making Our Home for Faith, the Podcast” with Compline (night prayers) said by different families from the Cathedral.
- “The Body and the New Testament” begins with Canon Vicar Pfister and Canon Zartman teaching a joint curriculum. Wednesday Men’s Bible study kicks-off with a study of 1st Corinthians.
- Zoom Sunday School resumes on September 13th with a focus on The Beatitudes.
- The Every Member Canvass launches with the First Song of Isaiah, “Surely it is God Who Saves Me,” as its theme. Though the EMC does not achieve the prior year’s total, it nevertheless receives 529 pledges for a total of \$3.23 million pledged, a remarkable expression of our parishioners’ fidelity to the ministry of Christ Church.

August

- Community of Hope International Training begins for those inquiring about lay chaplaincy at the Cathedral. 13 participants from four churches attend, including five Cathedral parishioners.
- Christ Church welcomes JJ Mitchell as our new Cathedral Organ Scholar.
- The Cathedral hosts a virtual Quiet Day as Spiritual Director Kathleen Phillips invites us to “Come to Our Senses.”
- Rally Day is another whizzbang celebration with virtual events all day! The day’s events include yoga and prayer, morning worship services, a service component hosted by CUSE, the 1 p.m. service followed by a hymn sing in Spanish, an English hymn sing, The Well, and a Cathedral Variety Show. Additionally, Canons Bautista and Pfister bless backpacks and supplies for kids returning (either virtually or in-person) to school.
- The Youth Ministry Council is reconstituted and gathers for a socially-distanced retreat at Camp Allen. The new Youth Ministry Council includes five Cathedral youth and five adults.

September

- The Cathedral returns to in-person Sunday worship, limiting attendance to approximately 60 registrants per service with safety protocols in place. There was much rejoicing!
- A Cathedral “Threads of Comfort and Joy” knitting and crocheting group kicks off monthly gatherings via Zoom with nine attendees.
- Community of Hope International hosts its first Circle of Care, a monthly gathering of COHI alumni.
- The young women of the Cathedral Treble Choir begin meeting online each Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
- Making Our Home for Faith booklets arrive in Cathedral parishioner mailboxes, providing a wealth of resources to help parishioners encounter God in their daily lives at home. The response by recipients is uniformly positive.

October

- In collaboration with the national Episcopal Booksellers Association, the Cathedral presents a Zoom conversation between Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and Dean Thompson. Their conversation about the Bishop’s new book, *Love Is the Way*, engages over 500 viewers across the country.
- Volunteers return to the Bookstore and sort over 100 cartons of books generously donated over the summer. Donations create grab bags to raise funds for the Cathedral and provide books for New Hope Housing and Book in Hand, which shares books with the Harris County Sheriff’s Re-entry Program at the jail.
- Tara Royer Steele of Royer’s Pie Haven in Round Top teaches us to make pie dough and her Sweet and Salty pie in a Saturday morning class via Zoom.
- The Justice & Peace Council hosts “Coming Out in Church: Marriage,” on Zoom, in which three married couples share their experiences of grace and challenges as LGBTQ couples in the church. More than 50 people participate.
- Four Fall Neighborhood Gatherings are hosted in outdoor spaces at parks and other venues throughout Houston. This is the first time parishioners are invited to socialize in person since March.
- More than 50 dogs, cats, and hamsters gather with their people in Nancy’s Garden — socially distanced, of course — for the annual St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals.
- Cathedral youth and youth leaders gather for a socially-distanced and incredibly fun retreat at the Seabrook Sailing Club in Seabrook, Texas.

November

- The Cathedral observes All Souls Day by opening the Cathedral for private reflection for the those who have lost a loved one.
- Canon Becky Zartman and Minister for Children and Families KariAnn Lessner launch a new program of baptism for the families of baptismal candidates, with a special emphasis on the beauty and honor in the role of godparenting.
- Parishioners are invited to come to the parking garage to pick up their DIY (Do it Yourself) Advent Wreath Making Kit. Kits include recipes for coffee cake and spiced cider as well as all of the trimmings needed to make a beautiful Advent wreath.
- Cathedral parishioners receive in the mail a “Cathedral 2020” Christmas tree ornament, as an outward and visible reminder that even in a pandemic we are one faith community.
- Worship music shifts from soloists to vocal quartet — safely distanced and masked — restoring beautiful harmonies to Cathedral worship services.
- The Welcome and Evangelism Council hosts an outdoor Fall Newcomer Gathering in the Bishop’s Courtyard. More than 35 people attend this fun and socially-distanced fellowship event.
- The Youth Ministry Council hosts Youth Sunday, with Cathedral youth leading worship at the 9 a.m., and 11 a.m. services on November 15. Sam Randall preaches, while Sarah Grace Nettles and Eliza Thompson provide music.
- At the beginning of Advent, the Bookstore launches a Pop-Up Shop in the cloister. Featuring Advent Newsletter books, Dieter Ufer’s handmade wooden Christmas trees, and the new Resurrection Angel stained-glass piece, it operates for the four Sundays of Advent.
- Sixty-five members of Christ Church Cathedral donate \$28,407 dollars at the annual Alternative Giving Market in a virtual event organized by the Mission and Outreach Council. Collected funds support non-profit organizations serving underserved people of the city of Houston.
- After over 38 years of faithful service to the Bookstore, founder and former manager Cynthia Pyle announces her retirement from regular volunteer work. Well done, good and faithful servant!

December

- Elaine Lynn, Catherine Whitney, Mike McKann, Cliff Rudisill, Gary Smith and Jim Murdaugh receive the Barnard Cross in recognition of 25 years of service in the Cathedral Choirs.
- The Cathedral holds the beloved annual Advent Lessons and Carols, sung by a quartet from the Cathedral Choir. In-person registration is full and hundreds watch via livestream.
- In place of our traditional Christmas Eve pageant, the Cathedral hosts a “Picture Perfect Christmas Pageant.” Families submit pictures of their children dressed up as one of the cast members from the story of Jesus’ birth. A video compilation of those photos, along with music and the reading of the Christmas story, completes the offering.
- The Community Life Council hosts a field trip to the Zoo for the annual Zoo Lights display! Parishioners of all ages meet for a fun time walking around the Zoo and catching some holiday spirit.
- CUSE launches Virtual Experiences on Giving Tuesday and adds the twelve days of Christmas promotion.
- The Adult Formation Council and the Welcome and Evangelism Council prepare for a staff transition as Canon Zartman becomes the Canon for Evangelism and Formation and Canon Vicar Pfister takes over the welcome process at the Cathedral, set to begin January 2021. The two councils will collaborate closely in 2021.
- Twelve adults and 10 youth are Confirmed, Received, and Reaffirmed during Bishop Hector Monterroso’s visitation to the Cathedral.
- The Mission and Outreach Council hosts Christmas at the Cathedral in support of 48 children, 23 from Rusk Elementary school and 25 from Small Steps Nurturing Center. Each child receives a box packed with a meal for a dinner and a \$50 card to use for Christmas shopping for loved ones.
- Latino Ministry celebrates Las Posadas via Zoom and Facebook Live for eight consecutive nights. The program averages 1,000 views per night.
- Three thousand parishioners celebrate the Feast of the Nativity by participating in Cathedral worship — either virtually or in person — on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Merry Christmas!

Ministry Reports

Formation and Worship

Report by the Rev. Kathy Pfister

This was a year of challenge, creativity, and collaboration. The challenge began even before the arrival of the coronavirus, as members of the Adult Formation Council endeavored to live out the mission set forth in the Vision Action Plan. Guided by a desire to offer “formation that transforms,” the Lenten Program was adapted to include a conversational small group component. But, no sooner had the program started, ministry plans came to an abrupt halt.

Undeterred, Adult Formation quickly pivoted to virtual small group offerings, including the Acts in Easter program, crafted by Canon Zartman and attended by 111 parishioners. Even in those early weeks and months, creativity, adaptability, and collaboration became hallmarks for how the Cathedral would rise to meet the moment.

In May, the Cathedral bid farewell to their much-beloved Canon Vicar, Art Callahan, as Art departed to join the chaplain team at Episcopal High School. I arrived in June of this year, with some mighty big shoes to fill. By necessity, my interactions have been largely virtual, by phone or by Zoom. I worried that in this distant and mediated format, my connection to parishioners might suffer. And yet despite this limitation, we have found ways to bridge the gap. You welcomed me into your church family, started showing me the ropes, and, together, we have continued to pursue the ministry to which God has called us.

As summer arrived, it became clear that Adult Formation would need to reimagine its ministry for the foreseeable future. The Dean’s Hour Matinee program was developed to allow parishioners a robust educational component even apart from in-person programming. But the Council quickly realized that simply translating adult formation programs to a virtual format would not be enough. We began to wonder if hidden in this moment of disruption, there was an opportunity to try something new. For years, churches have struggled to help parishioners connect the faith they experience on Sunday mornings to the faith they live-out in their daily lives. Perhaps our inability to gather as usual was an invitation to deepen our spiritual practices right where we live. Thus was born the Making Our Home for Faith initiative.

Members of the Children and Family Ministry Council, the Adult Formation Council and members of the Cathedral’s ministry staff collaborated to create a spiritual resource for use in the home. An eclectic mix of prayers, spiritual practices, simple “at-home” liturgies, Spotify playlists, and a weekly podcast, the Making Our Home for Faith booklet invited parishioners to strengthen their connection to God, their neighbor, and their innermost selves by practicing their faith in the rhythms of daily life. As parishioners engaged their faith life with more intention, many reported a renewed sense of grace and gratitude. As we all struggle to make transformative meaning of this moment in history, our spiritual practices ground us in God’s loving presence and empower us to bring hope to the world.

Next year, Canon Zartman and I will swap areas of ministry focus, I will begin shepherding the Welcome and Newcomer Ministry of the Cathedral, and she will take up the challenge of Adult Formation. Across all areas of ministry, we have discovered the power of creativity, adaptability, and collaboration. Your councils and your ministry staff are committed to the on-going challenge of welcoming, nurturing community, and formation that transforms. As this new year dawns, we invite you to draw near to God and one another, and to deepen your connection to the Cathedral community. For in the Body of Christ, we are strengthened, sanctified, and sent forth in love.

Christian Community

Report by Bethany Podgorny

In a year fragmented by a global pandemic, the importance and vitality of our Cathedral community became quite clear. We love to worship together and we love to learn together, but we also really need to be with each other and support one another through all things.

Getting through the first part of the year without any idea of what was to come, we enjoyed normalcy in the Parish Retreat and a few Spring Neighborhood Gatherings. Once March arrived, ministry pivoted to being completely virtual. It is true what Plato said so many years ago: “Necessity is the mother of invention.” Small groups learned how to use Zoom to meet weekly for Cathedral Reads, Bridge Night went virtual, driving around the Cathedral for May Fete became a dance of its own, Virtual

Coffee Hour became our way of just chatting, and outdoor social gatherings quickly turned into very meaningful and satisfying ways of connecting. Our community experienced some growing pains with all things new thrown our way, but we have certainly learned the value of this precious thing we have built — our togetherness.

Stewardship

Report by Karen Kraycirik

In 2020, the theme selected for the 2021 Every Member Canvass was The First Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 12:2–6): “Sing the praises of the Lord for He has done great things and this is known in all the world.” The First Song of Isaiah is scripture that tells a story of keeping faith through hardship, trusting in God when hope is hard to find, and moves from a solo lament into a chorus of voices singing praise. In addition to offering a message of comfort and hope, the verse selection also provided something familiar in a world full of change, as the words are set to music by Jack Noble White in a well-known hymn and appear on page 86 of the Book of Common Prayer.

On Sunday, September 27, the Every Member Canvass kickoff looked very different from years past. At 2 p.m., the EMC campaign kickoff video launched — with a poignant message from Dean Thompson, heartfelt stories from many Cathedral parishioners, and knockout showtune performances of songs from “My Fair Lady” by talented clergy, staff, and choral singers.

A significant effort was made this fall to include more of the congregation in the EMC campaign than ever before. The co-chairs included: Alice and Risher Randall Jr., Criselda and Isaac Tristan, and Winnie and Ben Powell VI. This group of EMC co-chairs represented a variety of engagement within the life of the Cathedral.

Loyalty Sunday was November 8, a day when we blessed and celebrated the pledges that were received. The generosity of our members is truly awe-inspiring, as we watched the EMC numbers continue to grow throughout the remaining weeks in the year.

We recognize that 2020 has been a difficult year — emotionally, mentally, and financially- and what 2021 holds exactly is still a bit unknown. At year’s end, we had received 529 pledges totaling \$3.23 million. Of these pledges, 63 of them are new meaning that we did not receive them last year. We are truly blessed here at the corner of Texas and Fannin by the generosity of our members in their time, talent, and treasure. Simple words cannot express all our gratitude for your continued support and increasing generosity. Thank you!

Youth

Report by Marcia Quintanilla

As a native Houstonian, my trips downtown have always been for a particular reason. Downtown was a bit foreign. That all changed when I began my journey as the Minister for Youth at the Cathedral. I live on the southwest side of Houston, and my drive includes a brief view of the Houston skyline with a bonus view of the famous “Be Someone” graffiti art. The Houston scenery prepares me for the stunning architecture of my destination, the Cathedral.

I love arriving and seeing the Cathedral from across the street of the parking garage on San Jacinto. Waiting to cross the street always forces me to pause and gaze in complete admiration for everything that this place stands for. I lost track of the many times I teared up looking across the street. Until the day, I could no longer look across the street.

In March, a global pandemic hit us like an unforeseen windstorm. Confusion, frustration, anxiety, hopelessness, fear, anger, and disappointment all blurred my vision of seeing the magic I had once seen across the street. It wasn’t straightforward to find a purpose behind the windstorm. Blurred vision dominated much of the time spent in the early months of the pandemic. Until, in the middle of blurred vision, a light came to show. No, not the light that makes you squint so hard you must cover your eyes, but a light so dim that slowly gives you hope. Almost like a small candle that could illuminate a dark room. This light manifested itself in laughter from youth gathered on a Zoom call after discussing Acts in Easter, or the smiles generated after a severe night of cookie-making with our new Vicar, or through an insightful discussion about racial reconciliation and the realities faced this summer. I recall a night of watching the movie “Hamilton” proved to be one of the many ways we were invited to “Look around, look around at how lucky we are to be alive right now.” As time went by, this light continued to manifest itself, sometimes through the voices behind the black Zoom screens and, most recently, in the beautiful way our youth team led worship for Youth Sunday. This light showed up in the form of the courage and bravery that it took to design, read, and preach the word of God.

This year, the Treehouse offered virtual Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and Seed and Root Bible study groups.

In the summer, we were challenged to find unique ways to serve those in need, and we were able to do so by partnering up with CUSE for a one-of-a-kind virtual mission

experience. Our summer offering of Summer Shade also went virtual, and we were able to gather together to paint, bake cookies, enjoy bingo and trivia, and watch “Hamilton.”

Throughout the summer, we were hard at work putting together a Youth Ministry Council. We are excited to now have a group of adults and youth to lead this council. Our council chair is Alli Elbert.

The Treehouse community is doing good work, we’ve connected with over 130 individual youth during the past school year, and we look forward to seeing our students grow throughout this year.

Having worked out much adversity with light, I am repeatedly reminded of the beautiful light that lives inside of our hearts. A light so dim that we sometimes fail to acknowledge this light in a world consumed by the dark. The light that pushes us to persevere and remember that Jesus, our Light, our Savior, is with us through every dark hour, through all the blurred visions. May you see light and love in this continued season of uncertainty. May the light of our Savior guide you and protect you, forever and always.

Young Adults

Report by Christy Orman

The year began with our vision of 2020, full of possibilities. Even though the year did not turn out exactly as we planned, we continued to have fellowship, formation, and service as a community.

The Young Adult Council welcomed new members and said goodbye to Tim and Chloe Vale. Wednesday Evening program was lucky to have some fantastic curricula including The Way of Love, Signs of Life, and Acts in Easter.

First Friday Fellowship and Second Sunday Social creates space for fellowship off-campus each month. As we pivoted to meeting online, we continued First Friday Fellowship and even met new members of our community. Before moving online, we joined the Bridge and Rummikub group for a game night and had a blast. The young adults also worked with Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack for a Valentine’s Day service project. Our final in-person gathering was a Sharing Faith Dinner.

Over the Summer, young adults from all over the Diocese were welcomed to join for Summer Hangout on the first and fourth Fridays from April until September.

The Fall included speakers from our own community including Dean Thompson and Karen Kraycirik. We were excited to have Rev. Nan Doerr teach us about Anglican

prayer beads and share her book. Rev. Rhonda Rogers led a discussion at our Coffee and Culture evening. Our Council and community are committed to holding a safe space for difficult conversations. We completed the year by learning about an urban monastery and holding our annual Christmas party.

The young adults invite your prayers for this coming year as we continue to vision together, welcome those who have found a place with the young adults and invite those still searching for a place to belong. Our core continues to be fellowship, formation, and service.

Children and Families

Report by KariAnn Lessner

During our visioning in the fall of 2019, the Children’s Ministry Council refined our objectives and hopes for families here at Christ Church Cathedral:

The mission of the Children’s Ministry Council is to make space for children and families to safely build Christian formation into their daily lives so that it becomes the foundation of their identity.

We had no idea in 2019 that we were going to be working toward “making space” with new tools, on new platforms, with the dearest and most dedicated volunteers for the children and families. Early in 2020, they brightened the Children’s Ministry classrooms, and they quickly adjusted to fill Zoom rooms, Facebook Live comments, and Instagram posts.

Around May we decided to send each child in the Cathedral a bendable Jesus (think Gumby) as a reminder that we all would need to become flexible during the upcoming months. Our ideas of what “should” or “could” be happening, weren’t possible in the same ways we had celebrated in the past. Our willingness to be pliable in the face of difficult decisions and cold hard truths bore fruit in our resilience, the joy we continued to share, and our collective expressions of love.

We taught the children to use their hands to form the “I love you” sign in American Sign Language during Children’s chapel and Sunday School this year. At first it felt awkward to some of us to profess love to a Zoom room full of faces, some new and others familiar. But as the days rolled into weeks that turned to months, that simple gesture of kindness, compassion, and love became a touchstone for us — and a lifeline for some.

The work of making space in their daily lives for Christian formation may have fallen to the parents of the Cathedral kiddos more this year than ever before, but the Children's Ministry Council and volunteers did our level best to make every inroad a space of joy, love, and wonder.

What a year. What a ride. What a wonder. We are not alone. We have each other. Thanks be to God.

Welcome and Evangelism

Report by the Rev. Becky Zartman

This year was a year of extraordinary welcome for Christ Church Cathedral. Our expanded online presence, work which began in earnest with the hiring of Hannah Roberts in 2019, grew even more amidst the pandemic. When we could no longer meet in person safely, the Cathedral clergy began offering daily online Noonday Prayer live on Facebook, and thus began a new chapter in welcoming. No longer just for the people of Houston, or even the Diocese of Texas, we have reached far beyond any traditional geographical boundary, and welcomed in people from all over the United States, and even the world. People who live nowhere near us have become part of our community by participating in online Bible studies or classes, watching Dean's Hours, and interacting with us in online worship, to name just a few.

The Cathedral pivoted to meet the needs of an online community, creating an online welcome card and revamping the welcoming and integration process to meet the specific limitations (and gifts) of this year. While there was still a traditional Fall Newcomer Gathering, most of the work meeting and integrating newcomers has happened over Zoom and other online platforms. Ways to gather information and follow up with those who interact with the Cathedral on social media were developed and implemented.

The year began with excited hopes for implementing the Vision Action Plan in the Council, especially around the integration of formation and evangelism, and while this year didn't turn out the way we planned, the Council adapted the Vision Action Plan to the shifting situation. Late in the year, it was announced that Canon Zartman would become the Canon for Evangelism and Formation and Canon Pfister would take over the Welcome and Newcomer Council. This will lead to a close collaboration between the two councils in the future, and all are excited about the possibilities the future holds for welcome and evangelism at the Cathedral.

Latino Ministry

Report by the Rev. Simón Bautista Betances

The Latino Ministry of the Cathedral is as resilient as anyone can be! Despite all the challenges of year 2020, our council and the 1 p.m. congregation engaged in mission mostly virtually through our regular Sunday services and programs, such as children's Sunday School, Buscando La Luz, Evening Prayer, Noche Familiar, and Conferencia Te. The Latino Ministry serves a people that are at best when getting together in person. This is true whether it is for worship at the Cathedral or in their neighborhoods, or for a reception in Reynolds Hall, Bible studies in people's homes, or to celebrate the tradition of Las Posadas.

- Sunday Virtual Services: Thanks to the technology in place inside the Cathedral, our virtual Sunday attendance has grown significantly within Houston and outside Houston — including international worshipers who are Venezuelan, Dominican, Peruvian, Salvadorian, and Ecuadorian. There have been Sundays when our virtual services have reached as many as 2,300 people. A good number of people keep coming back to connect with us every Sunday which gives us the opportunity not only to proclaim the word, but also to make the Cathedral known to many Latinos.
- Noche Familiar: Latino Ministry hosted three Noche Familiar (Family night) in 2020: one in person in the month of January; and two virtual, one in the month of August and one in the month of November. These events bring families together to receive formation and to have fun together. These are wonderful opportunities for families to get together with other families, outside the regular Sunday receptions, to get to know each other better. A special program is offered to children at each of these occasions. The two virtual Noche Familiar events were very meaningful to participants because they had the opportunity to see each other and to share about their lives during this time of pandemic.
- Revival Concert: On Friday, July 31, the Latino Ministry Council partnered with Mendeliz Music Group to bring a virtual Revival Concert to the community. The concert was a success and reached around 9,000 people on Facebook, thanks to many sharing who found it to be helpful and refreshing for their souls during the pandemic. Mendeliz is the group that provides the music for our 1 p.m. service.

- Summer Bible School: Since 2016, the Latino Ministry has been conducting Summer Bible School in the neighborhoods where our families live. Each Summer offers us an opportunity to learn more about our members and their neighbors and gives us the opportunity to bring the message of Jesus and introduce the ministries of the Cathedral to people that otherwise wouldn't have heard of us. In 2020 we were not able to be present in these neighborhoods, but our Sunday School teachers organized a virtual Sunday School that was offered for five days between July 5 and August 3. Our Sunday School team packed boxes with the materials the children needed for each day, and drove to each participant's house to deliver the boxes. Participant children and parents are very appreciative for the work of our Sunday School teachers during the summer. Our Sunday School team is looking forward to returning to the neighborhoods in 2021.
- Conferencia Te: On October 24, our formation committee hosted an international conference with participants from around seven countries. We had a great speaker from the Dominican Republic who led participants through a very enriching conversation. Conferencia Te is a program intended for Latino women focusing on self care, self-esteem, and empowerment.
- Masks for Local Charity: "For it is in giving that we receive" — Saint Francis of Assisi. From mid-May to mid-June, the Mission and Outreach Council partnered with the City of Houston in the project "Houston Responds: Masks for All." The project engaged churches from all over Houston with a common goal: to make 1,000,000 masks to donate to charity organizations. The MOC is proud to have represented the Cathedral in such a life-giving project. The goodwill and hard labor of our Cathedral participant members allowed us to contribute 1,000 masks to this initiative. 450 of these masks were handmade by our own Cathedral members.
- Blood Drive: "Freely you have received; freely give." Matthew 10:18. On Sunday, May 31, the MOC partnered with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to conduct a blood drive in Reynolds Hall. Thirty-four people, most of them members of our congregation, responded to the call to donate blood to save lives. The generosity of everyone involved, from our sextons, to donors, and our organizing team, says marvelous things of how our Cathedral body carries Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves. Doing this in such an unprecedented time speaks volumes of Christ Church Cathedral's faithfulness to God's mission and to the Gospel imperative to serve others.

Mission Outreach Council

Report by the Rev. Simón Bautista Betances

The Mission and Outreach Council (MOC) continues to live up to its mission by identifying ways to best serve the mission of the Cathedral. The Council is strengthening relationships with our partner organizations and continually look for opportunities to meet new prospective organizations that are also serving the underserved, the marginalized, and most vulnerable residents of the city of Houston. The Council is blessed with the presence of a solid, strong, enthusiastic, and committed group of people that represent our various congregations.

Challenged by a pandemic that has affected almost everything we do, our Mission and Outreach Council hasn't backed down. Instead, the MOC rose to the occasion with creative thinking and organized almost all the activities that the Council would carry on in any regular year.

- The Alternative Giving Market: "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous in every occasion." 2 Corinthians 9:11. The Alternative Giving Market (AGM) went virtual in 2020. Thanks to the colossal work of our AGM organizing team, the MOC was able to challenge the odds and pull off an extraordinary program offered virtually on Sunday, November 15. The AGM is essential to the work of the Mission and Outreach Council because this is how we get the funds to support sister organizations serving the underserved members of our city and beyond. This year, thanks to the never-ceasing generosity of our Cathedral members, we will support 15 sister charity organizations doing what we cannot do in places we cannot be. The Mission and Outreach Council is thankful for the generosity of our donors and for the work of the volunteers who committed to help us to prepare the event.

- Christmas at the Cathedral: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40. Christmas at the Cathedral is all about generous giving and joyful receiving and about the spirit of Christmas! On Saturday, December 13, the Mission and Outreach’s Christmas at the Cathedral committee championed two extraordinary events: one with Rusk Elementary School and the other with Small Steps Nurturing Center. Because of the social-distancing practices we must observe, our committee creatively worked with these two entities to provide joy to 48 low-income families with children attending Rusk and Small Steps. Forty-eight beautifully wrapped Christmas boxes packed with a dinner meal, a Christmas card, and a \$50 gift card were handed to each participating family on behalf of the Cathedral. The MOC is very thankful to all those who helped with this event — especially Kids Hope and our Youth Ministry.

Pastoral Care

Report by Jody Gillit

What a year it has been! In early 2019 when Barkley and I spoke of the possibility of my taking the position of Minister for Pastoral Care, I told him I was worried about becoming bored. He laughed, but I didn’t really believe him. I can now laugh with him about how naive that concern was.

I started 2020 nervous. We had just finished the visioning process, and the Pastoral Care Council and I wondered, “Now what?” Yes, “go and do,” but do what? We knew what our traditional role had been, but now it felt as if we had just left the dock to explore the wide expansive ocean. What direction should we go first?

We redesigned the Pastoral Care Council to represent each ministry area within Pastoral Care area, and we had big plans for all the new initiatives we wanted to undertake. Then Covid.

In March, before the stay-at-home order went into effect, the lay chaplains jumped into action reaching out to parishioners 75 and older to check in and see if they needed anything. By Easter I realized this project was too large for the lay chaplains to handle alone, and the Cathedral Good Neighbor program was born. We had 130 folks reaching out to 1,800 households, with the goal of making contact with every household once a week. By mid-summer we realized we could reduce the frequency of calls to once a month.

At the same time, the Rapid Response team worked to meet technology needs so everyone could connect electronically, make groceries deliveries, and handle other needs that arose.

The Alzheimer’s & Dementia support group transitioned to conference call then to Zoom. We met weekly until July to support caregivers as we navigated their new situations: the inability to visit loved ones or the other extreme of the 24/7 reality of being the only person in a loved one’s life.

The Flower Ministry was put on hold, but once we returned to in-person worship, we started sharing our Sunday flowers again. Because Amazing Place was not offering in-person services, we needed to identify a new recipient for the flowers. For now, St. Luke’s Hospital is the primary recipient. As the team’s outreach has grown, they have started delivering the overflow flowers to Holly Hall and Omega House.

Though we returned to in-person worship, not everyone could take the risk of attending. We opened the Cathedral for All Souls Day with reserved times for individuals to be in the church. We had such a good response we are planning more reservation times for future dates.

In no way would I ever have wished for the pandemic; but, as in all things, there can be good that comes out of it. Though it was originally daunting and even scary for some members of our community, the expanded use of technology has allowed many more people — those who are homebound, who have moved away, or who are unable to do as much as they might like — to participate in more events. We have heard stories about how people who have been unable to come to church for years are now attending weekly via our online services. Others who don’t drive at night can now participate, no matter what time a service or event is held.

During this time, we also began new activities: “Threads of Comfort and Joy” — a group of knitters and crocheters — and Community of Hope Circle of Care are both meeting monthly. Community of Hope held a training with 13 participants, five of whom were from the Cathedral.

I am humbled and grateful to have the opportunity to serve with each of you. Serving this community — a community that I have been part of for seven years now, a community that accepts all, loves all, and shows up — has been one of the best gifts of my life! I strive to continue to build compassion so that I can be compassion for each of you, and for the world.

Justice & Peace

Danielle Santori, Justice & Peace Council Chair

Mission Statement: The Justice and Peace Council exists because we are called to illuminate and fulfill God's justice in the world. Focused in four main areas: Immigration, Active Inclusiveness, Environmental, and Health Justice.

The Justice & Peace Council has worked very hard on developing program content that is current and relevant for the parish and the surrounding community. The first program for the council was the Houston Civil Rights Tour. This event was a bus tour of historical civil rights sites throughout the city and a discussion led by Dr. James L. Conyers, Director UofH African American Studies program, and Prof. Angela Holder, Professor of History at Houston Community College. The tour concluded at the Cathedral with an enlightening Q&A facilitated by Dean Thompson.

The second successful event was Coming Out in Church, a virtual event amongst three same-sex couples in an online discussion held by Dean Thompson on Marriage in the Church. The Coming Out in Church program was designed to create a safe space for conversation about the experiences and struggles of LGBTQ people and their families and friends. It coincided with National Coming Out Day, an awareness day observed to support LGBTQ people.

While some of the programs were ultimately cancelled or postponed, there continues to be a lot of work behind the scenes to create virtual, meaningful events. The Council has been planning and preparing for a weekend program focusing on the history of slavery nationally, locally, and in our own church community. The Racial Reconciliation Conference will take place in February of 2021 and will have three events: a discussion with Caleb McDaniel, History Professor at Rice, Pulitzer prize winning author; a panel discussion moderated by Kathy Culmer, Director of Religious Education at St. James, with panelist Sandra Thompson, the Newell H. Blakely Professor in Law and Director of the Criminal Justice Institute at the UofH Law, Andrew Torget, historian at the University of North Texas; and a presentation by Catherine Meeks, Executive Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing.

Additionally, the Council has been designing a program around the Education to Combat anti-semitism, an engaging series to provide education and enlightenment on Anti-Semitism. The program is still being developed, but under review is a museum tour and education visit to the Houston Holocaust Museum, with a Holocaust survivor and Special FBI agent to discuss the anti-Semitism on the rise in Houston, TX.

- Justice & Peace Council Members: Chair: Danielle Santori, Clergy: Barkley Thompson; Vestry Representative: Meredith Canada; Vision Task Force Liaison: Elizabeth Goza, Mary Hoffman, Kristin Johnson, Carlotta Ramirez, Chloe Vale, Linda Hinds, Madeleine Hussey, Michael Jacobs, Charlotte Jones, Chris Matthews, and Fred Lazare

Music Department

Report by Robert Simpson

It is hard to recall given all that has gone on since 2020 started, with the anticipation of an active year of services and special projects. The first of these, the Main Street Choir Festival, did occur on Sunday, February 9 and brought together the choirs of South Main Baptist Church, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and the Cathedral for a festival in which we sang individually to share our musical traditions and joined together to form a 150-voice massed choir for other anthems.

Scarcely a month later, Harris county reported its first COVID cases and by March 19, Governor Abbott had issued a public health disaster declaration. In-person worship and all singing, whether by a choir or a congregation, were suspended by order of the Bishop.

Almost immediately it was determined that choirs were super-spreaders because of the stronger exhalation required of singers to project their sound. For several months we were frozen in place waiting for studies to give us some notion of how we might once again make music together. Efforts to overcome the time lag experienced by individuals attempting to sing together from their home computers proved ineffective and so we did the next best thing: We produced virtual choir performances.

To date, the Cathedral Choir has produced four virtual choir projects, "Praise the Spirit in Creation" by Richard Dirksen for Pentecost, Hubert Parry's "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" in late summer, "Surely it is God Who Saves Me" composed by Jack Noble White used for this year's EMC campaign, and a recording of "What Child is This" by Paul Lohman. All four were made available to the Parish in December as a Christmas present from the Cathedral Choirs.

The Cathedral Choirs have also remained active and connected through their weekly Zoom gatherings. Each Thursday at about rehearsal time, the Cathedral and Parish Choirs visit for 30 minutes. Even Zoom fatigue has not robbed us of the joy of being together.

Marianna Parnas-Simpson gathers the Treble Choir together for an hour each Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday to share experiences and hone music skills. In the past several weeks they have undertaken a group composition project guided by a Rice University composition graduate.

The annual wreath sale was a success thanks to excellent organization and the continued generous support of the Cathedral Parish. I want to give special credit to the Choir Officers: President Charlotte Jones; Vice President Floyd Robinson; Treasurer Howard Rhoades; Secretary Claudia Watson; and Social Chairs Frank Hood and Penny Morris for their leadership of this important annual fundraiser.

In June we returned to in-person worship. While the congregation could not participate, hymns and solos were provided by individual staff singers. Finally, on Advent I, November 29, we re-established choral singing with a vocal quartet at both the 9 and 11 a.m. services. Throughout the uncertain months from March to November, music at the Cathedral remained strong thanks to the determined efforts of Cathedral Organist Daryl Robinson and our corps of staff singers: Blair Doerge-Albert, Katya Gruzgolina, Michaela Wagner, Emily Premont, Hannah Shea, Joshua Chavira, Justin Shen, Sean Stultz, Fredy Bonilla, John Gallagher, and Joel Goodloe. I am grateful for the dedication and talent of these remarkable individuals.

In June we reluctantly said farewell to Tom Marvil who completed his two-year appointment as Cathedral Organ Scholar. Happily, he did not go far. He now serves as Organist at St. Anne Catholic Church in Houston. In August John Joseph Mitchell (aka JJ) assumed this position. A doctoral candidate in organ at the University of Houston studying with Daryl Robinson, JJ has degrees from Westminster Choir College and Notre Dame University. He spent last year studying in Toulouse, France. He is a gifted musician with a warm and open personality. He has already become a key member of the Music Staff.

During the annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 6, I was honored to help present the Barnard Cross. This cross is given in recognition of 25 years of service in the Cathedral Choirs. Recipients were Elaine Lynn, Catherine Whitney, Michael McKann, Jim Murdaugh, Cliff Rudisill, and Gary Smith. The Barnard Cross is named for William Barnard, distinguished Cathedral Organist-Choirmaster from 1958 to 1985 who received a similar cross from the Parish on his 25th anniversary.

I am enormously grateful for the opportunity to work with Dean Thompson, the entire Cathedral staff, Daryl Robinson, JJ Mitchell, Marianna Parnas-Simpson and

more than 120 extraordinary people who participate each week in the Cathedral, Parish and Treble Choirs. Their friendship and support enrich my life. On behalf of the entire Music Ministry I thank you for the support and appreciation you show us throughout the year.

CUSE

Report by Christy Orman

The Cathedral Urban Service Experience began 2020 with a fantastic Steering Committee and new options for summer experiences. When we came to the decision to not hold our Summer in-person, CUSE pivoted to an online Virtual Experience.

The Summer included Fisher Galvin as our essential intern. A three-day virtual CUSE featuring live interviews and service projects included Cathedral and St. James Austin youth. Each day a different non-profit partner of CUSE was showcased and interviewed.

Rally Day looked different this year. It was a day that still contained a beautiful community as well as a service component. Our Steering Committee and two interns, Fisher and intern alumni Alli lead break-out groups to help lead a service project and chat more about CUSE.

On Giving Tuesday, December 1, the Virtual Experience options launched with an interview by the You Brew You Podcast to galvanize attention. The CUSE Steering Committee is working hard to continue to be inventive for 2021 and to continue to serve the underserved in Houston.

The Beacon

Report by Becky Landes

The Beacon experienced unprecedented challenges in 2020. Despite those challenges and with the support of the Christ Church Cathedral family, the organization furthered its mission to provide essential and next-step services to restore hope and help end homelessness in Houston.

In January, the Ardell Ray Day Center was once again the hub for multiple organizations and volunteers who coordinated the annual Point in Time (PIT) count. Beacon team members joined the outreach efforts on the streets of Houston to interview and count folks experiencing homelessness. The three-day activity measures progress toward the community-wide effort of reducing the number of individuals living on the streets and in shelters.

Starting March 13, The Beacon shifted its meal service operations outside of the facility with the onset of community spread of COVID-19. At that same time, the agency expanded its operating week from five to seven days

while also providing two meals per individual each day. This was done in coordination with the City of Houston to fill a void in services for this vulnerable population. Total number of meals served between March and September 2020 was 129,450 compared to 38,450 during the same time period in 2019. As such, meal distribution increased more than 300 percent over the previous year.

Also in March, all Beacon programs began to operate with varying modifications. The Beacon Law team of attorneys and paralegals shifted to work remotely, following up with clients via phone and email and submitting documents and filings to the courts electronically. By April, the legal aid team had opened a web-based referral system to the general public and continues to take online referrals. Beacon staff members are available to assist walk-up clients to complete the web-based intake as needed, and in-person intake in the Day Center is expected to return early 2021.

Beacon law staff and pro bono attorneys participated in two Make it Right events in 2020 in partnership with the Harris County District Attorney's office. In February, the in-person event resulted in nearly 750 applicants screened for legal services and 377 applicants eligible for expunction and/or nondisclosures. The event scheduled in September was the first-ever virtual Make it Right effort, hosted over a five-day period. More than 2,000 individuals were screened for eligibility for expunction and/or nondisclosures. The legal work to support eligible individuals continues with the help of 50 pro bono attorneys working alongside the staff legal team to complete this important work.

The Brigid's Hope program achieved its goal of increasing the number of women served annually (at any given time) to 20. This was accomplished by adding housing units to the program inventory. Moreover, this program continued to provide services to the women enrolled, some in person and some were shifted to be delivered remotely. These services include, but are not limited to, individual check-ins every Monday, one-on-one remote therapy sessions as needed, and case management check-ins weekly with every participant to ensure that they have the resources they need as well as any program or housing updates.

Since the start of the pandemic, five women have been enrolled in the Brigid's Hope program and six of the total participants have found full-time employment, a major milestone in their journey. On the evening of September 14, a socially-distanced graduation ceremony was held for nine women who completed the program successfully. Family members, mentors, and program partners had the opportunity to witness the festivities and graduation speeches via Zoom.

One year since joining forces with The Beacon, the COMPASS program continues to offer mailbox services to over 500 men and women experiencing homelessness. Access to the Harris Health Gold Card (health insurance) is facilitated via a partnership onsite in the COMPASS suite at the John S. Dunn Outreach Center. In addition, help with information and referrals, transportation, and short-term case management is more critical than ever as clients living on the streets sometimes struggle to engage in services during the pandemic.

The housing navigation services, originally offered by COMPASS, have expanded to assist more clients to move into safe, stable homes. The Beacon has been selected to participate in the Bridge to Permanent Supportive Houston intervention as part of a large-scale community-wide plan to house and provide navigation services to individuals currently living unsheltered on the streets and in emergency shelters. The project, funded through CARES Act federal funds and managed by the City of Houston and Harris County, will help to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 amongst this highly susceptible population.

Four new Housing Navigators were added to The Beacon staff roster this fall with a goal of providing services to 145 households within a 12-month period. These specially trained navigators are "leasing up" families or individuals experiencing chronic homelessness or who qualify for permanent support housing. It's an aggressive effort and one of several interventions designed to house 5,000 households/individuals in a two-year timeframe.

The Beacon team is grateful for the support of its generous volunteers and donors, including the Christ Church Cathedral members who faithfully contributed their time and resources in 2020. The financial support is especially important this year as the annual Come to the Table fundraiser was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new date is set for Thursday, September 23, 2021. Fortunately, 2020 event chairs Vivie and Chris O'Sullivan are stepping up to lead next year's Come to the Table event.

Hines Center

In February the board of trustees of the Bishop John E. Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer launched a new operating model that amplified the Hines Center's mission to "nurture spirituality through spiritual practices, prayer, and opportunities for Christian, interfaith, and secular dialogue and community" by taking Hines Center programming into the workplace of downtown businesses and corporations.

With the March arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, new challenges and a new context changed those plans. The center was able to continue faithfully operating for six months by offering a variety of virtual programming.

The board decided in September to suspend all Hines Center operations indefinitely following six months of faithful and diligent effort by Executive Director Danielle Fanfair and the Hines Center board to keep the Hines Center operating.

Over the years, the Hines Center provided programming including labyrinth walks, centering prayer sessions, yoga classes, icon writing workshops, and mindfulness training, among other offerings. Some of its most successful programs were a summer concert series entitled “Song + Story,” which was sponsored in part by Saint Arnold Brewery, Cameron Management, and The Esperson Building, and featured Houston musicians of all genres and different cultural backgrounds who sang, played, and shared stories of the spiritual inspiration for their music. For the first time in their careers, these artists engaged in contemplative practices with their audiences, and have since added those practices to their shows.

In an expression of gratitude, Executive Director Danielle Fanfair wrote to Hines Center patrons, “You joined us, and we laughed, cried, and we breathed, together. We talked through our anxieties with professionals, learned to meditate our way through quarantine, and journaled our way to peace. We are so thankful to you, joining us from every part of Houston and beyond. You made our center come alive. I am especially proud of how your presence made it so that every kind of person, representing every culture, generation, ability, and faith tradition felt at home in our center.”

Hines Center board president Katie Barnes added, “Everyone’s spiritual journey is unique, and I am proud of the Hines Center’s role in providing a spiritual resource and home to those who are seeking for greater meaning. I am grateful for the leadership of Dean Thompson, Danielle Fanfair, Ted Dom, our donors, and my Hines Center board members for their commitment to supporting this unique spiritual space.”

For five years, the Hines Center enabled people — including those who otherwise had no spiritual community — to encounter the divine in the urban downtown. That is a legacy to be celebrated.

Cathedral Bookstore

Report by Lucy Chambers

On Sunday, January 5, 2020, the Cathedral Bookstore opened for its 38th year. The late winter days saw the normal bustle of activity: weekday sales to Cathedral visitors and the Treebeards’ crowd, waves of parishioners after services on Sundays, cookies in the basket, puzzles on the table, and Tea & Toast after The Well. On Friday, January 31, when the bookstore family gathered for a celebration dinner and wine-tasting, we looked forward to a good year.

In February we began the Voracious Readers program, which highlighted the favorite and current books of avid readers in our Cathedral community with a Bulletin article and a special table in the bookstore. Shannon Hayes shared her favorites with us, and we were just getting ready to set up George Hawkins’ choices in March when we closed due to the pandemic.

In our suddenly circumscribed lives, books became important avenues of both connection and escape. We began hand-delivering and mailing phone and email orders for the Dean’s Book Club and other program-related books, as well as BCPs and a variety of spiritual books. We also stocked up on items like Cathedral hand sanitizer and masks and began expanding our web and social media presence.

On May 5, the Episcopal Booksellers Association (EBA) began weekly brainstorming and support Zoom meetings which provided introductions to new vendors, creative ways to serve customers, and fellowship. These meetings led to the development of a national authors’ series hosted by all member stores.

The second Cathedral Reads program, *What Does Brave Look Like?* began in June. It featured John Irving’s *A Prayer for Owen Meany* for adults and R.J. Palacio’s *Wonder* for children and youth. The bookstore provided books and social media support for the engaging all-summer small groups and larger Zoom discussions organized by Community Life. Cathedral Reads provided a meaningful way to stay in touch with friends and deepen new connections over the long summer of isolation and unrest.

On October 8, through EBA, the Cathedral presented a Zoom conversation between Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and Dean Thompson. Their conversation about the Bishop’s new book, *Love Is the Way*, engaged over 500 viewers across the country and provided real hope after the political and social turmoil of the previous months. In October, volunteers were able to return to the Bookstore, and we spent the month sorting over 100 boxes of used

books that had been generously donated over the summer. We restocked our used book section and created Grab Bags, themed gift bags that share the love of reading while supporting the Cathedral. We also designated appropriate titles for donation to New Hope Housing and the Book in Hand program, which continues to provide books for the Harris County Sheriff's Re-entry Program at the jail.

On November 11, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry discussed *Love Is the Way* with Bishop Andy Doyle on Zoom as part of a partnership with Brazos Bookstore and The Episcopal Diocese of Texas in cooperation with the Cathedral. Then, on November 12, the Cathedral hosted another successful EBA author event. The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead, dean of St. John's Cathedral in Jacksonville, Florida, discussed her book *Angels of the Bible: Finding Grace, Beauty, and Meaning* with Richelle Thompson, Managing Editor of Forward Movement over Zoom. On Advent I, we launched the Bookstore's first pop-up shop in the cloister. Featuring books from our traditional Advent Newsletter, the hand-crafted wooden Christmas trees of Dieter Ufer, and a new Resurrection Angel stained-glass piece commissioned by the Bookstore, the shop popped up each Sunday in Advent. We were delighted to have the opportunity to see friends in person and help them find gifts for their loved ones.

It's been quite a year. We moved from a traditional browsing experience to a more targeted virtual experience and then to an in-person, socially-distanced pop-up. Our website views increased over tenfold from the previous year, we began using Facebook, and expanded our presence on Instagram. We began collaborating with stores across the country and utilizing new electronic invoicing and payment systems. Through it all, we have tried to preserve what is most important about the Cathedral Bookstore experience —

creating connection through the shared love of books. We are so grateful for the customers who have continued to support the Bookstore on this journey.

We are grateful as well for our dedicated volunteers. Cynthia Pyle, Earle Martin, Erica Callahan, Jan Fitzhugh, Martha French, Mary Finn, Michele Hale, Pat Hallmark, Roxanne Dolen, Wendy Bentlif, and former manager Kathy Jackson all generously shared their gifts with the Bookstore during the course of the year. We are particularly thankful to Cynthia Pyle, bookstore founder and former manager, for her 38 years of faithful service. Cynthia has decided that 2020 will be her last year to volunteer regularly in the bookstore. Her knowledge and love of books, as well as her dedication and hard work, have been instrumental in the Bookstore's continued success for almost four decades. We look forward to celebrating her remarkable contributions properly when we can all gather again safely.

The constant cheerful help of sextons Shadrick Griffin, Rigo Perez, and Hilario Barrera and housekeepers Carolina Espinoza and Blanca Ortiz (until her retirement this spring) kept the Bookstore running smoothly. We are so thankful for their work. And, we are more appreciative than ever of Cathedral receptionist Lisa Cantu who fielded calls and packages and connected readers with their books when we were working from home or making deliveries.

This pandemic year slowed us down briefly, but it taught us new practices and created new relationships that should make the in-person Bookstore experience even more rewarding when we are able to gather again. Books unite our community across time and distance, and we are deeply thankful for everyone who has helped the connections remain strong during this challenging year.

Clergy *as of December 31, 2020*

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, *Bishop of Texas*

The Rt. Rev. Kathryn M. Ryan, *Bishop Suffragan*

The Rt. Rev. Jeff W. Fisher, *Bishop Suffragan*

The Rt. Rev. Hector Monterroso, *Assisting Bishop*

The Very Rev. Barkley S. Thompson, *Dean*

The Rev. Kathy Pfister, *Canon Vicar*

The Rev. Simón Bautista Betances, *Canon Missioner
for Latino Ministries and Outreach*

The Rev. Becky Zartman, *Canon for Welcome and Evangelism*

The Rev. John A. Logan Jr., *Canon Emeritus*

The Rev. Edward L. Stein, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev. Jim Morgan, *Pastoral Care Assisting Priest*

Cathedral Staff *as of December 31, 2020*

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Jody Gillit, *Minister for Pastoral Care*

Karen Kraycirik, *Chief Administrative
Officer and Minister for Stewardship*

KariAnn Lessner, *Minister for Children
and Families*

Brant Mills, *Minister for Communications*

Christy Orman, *Minister for Young Adults
and CUSE Director*

Bethany Podgorny, *Minister for
Community Life*

Marcia Quintanilla, *Minister for Youth*

Daryl Robinson, *Cathedral Organist*

Patrick Saccomanno, *Chief
Financial Officer*

Robert Simpson, *Canon for Music*

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Mark Bohenic, *Publications Editor*

Lisa Cantu, *Receptionist*

Elizabeth Cuevas, *Program Coordinator*

Marie Easy, *Revenue and Accounts
Payable Coordinator*

Sylvia Garcia, *Assistant for Latino Ministry*

Louise Langford, *Executive
Assistant to the Dean*

Hannah Roberts, *Administrative Assistant
and Digital Media Specialist*

Ramona Sikes, *Manager of Human
Resources and Parish Records*

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Shadrick Griffin, *Senior Sexton*

Hilario Barrera, *Sexton*

Rigoberto Perez, *Sexton*

Carolina Espinoza, *Housekeeper*

Maria Lara, *Housekeeper*

Scarlet Monegas, *Housekeeper*

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Barbara Hamilton, *Archivist*

Will Hamilton, *Archivist*

John Mitchell, *Organ Scholar*

Lisa Viktorin, *Wedding Liaison and
Flower Dedications Coordinator*

Cathedral Bookstore

Lucy Chambers, *Manager*

Cathedral House Episcopal School

Teri Jackson, *Director*

Cathedral Treble Choir

Marianna Parnas-Simpson, *Director*

Cloister Gallery

Robin Bullington/Nan Morris, *Directors*

Kids Hope USA

Jennifer Lin Sickman, *Director*

Bishop Richardson Society

The Cathedral is deeply grateful to all those who have named the Cathedral Endowment Fund in their estate.

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Keith McFarland	J. Milton Richardson †	Dr. Joy Stapp	I. M. Wilford †
Helen Gould McIntyre †	Nell Aycock Richardson	Bette Ann Stead	Bertha Williamson †
Anne McKann	Robert Charles Richter Jr.	Janie Stevens †	Ray Wilson
Mike McKann	Lewis Donald Riggsbee †	Jim Stevens	Sr. Mary Winfred, C.A.
Robert H. Milsted †	Floyd W. Robinson Jr.	Josephine Shuck Stewart †	Barbara Wallace Winston
Judith D. Mood	C. Henry Roth	Pamela Dee Stockton	Christine Theriot Woodfin
Robert G. Mood	Jeanne Arthur Roth	Doreen Noel Stoller	Anne R. Woods †
Jack Moore †	Victoria Nalle Rowland	Barbara Summy †	William F. Woods, III †
Nancy Powell Moore	Robert A. Rowland III	Mary Swift	Mary Barden Attwell Worrell †
Neville Moore	Ed Ruckstuhl	Stanley Hill Swift III	Joyce E. Nogle Young †
Muffie Moroney	H. Clifford Rudisill II	Mary Taylor	Nancy Younger-Kruka
Susan Morrison	Lucile M. Rutledge †	Susan Taylor	† deceased as of November 1, 2020
Jim Murdaugh	Freddy Joe Sanches	Walker Taylor	* new member as of November 1, 2020
Eugenia Richardson Nash	Charles B. Sanders Jr. †	Walter Hamilton Taylor †	



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

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