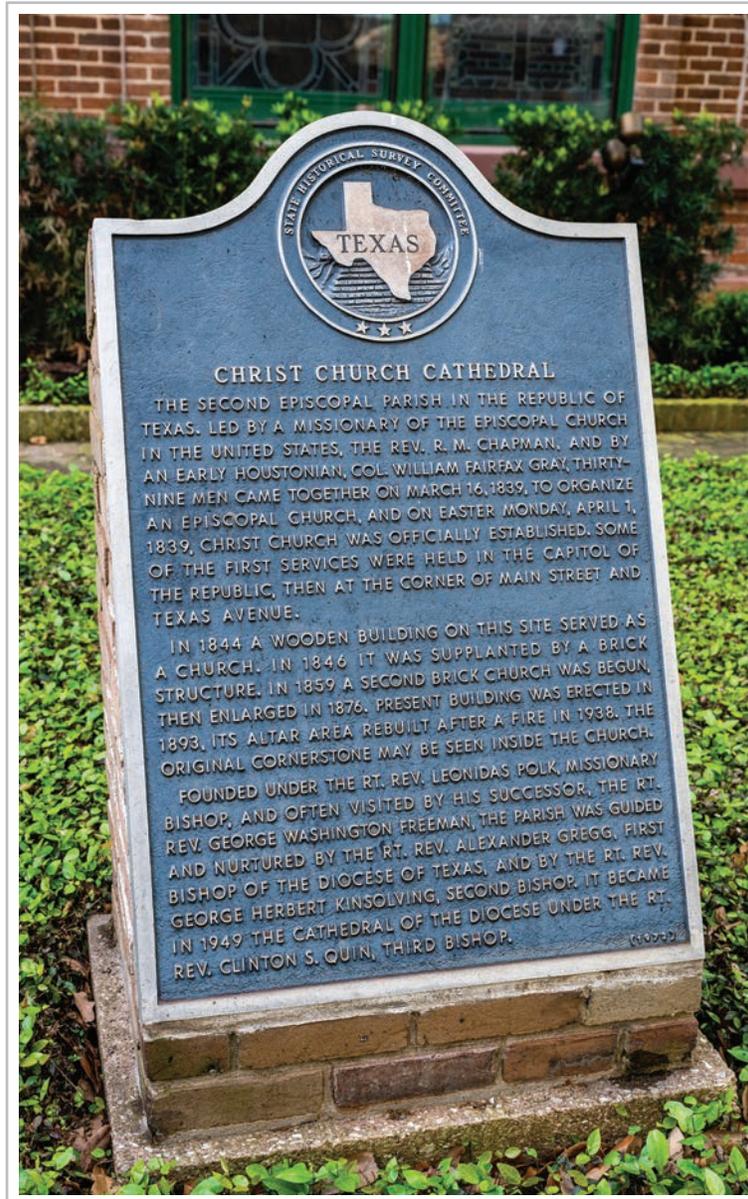


Christ Church Cathedral

Annual Parish Report 2021



JANUARY 23, 2022



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 and Friends,

Universally across religions, there is the notion of the cosmic struggle between light and darkness. The ancient Near Eastern *Enuma Elish* epic depicts Gilgamesh battling Tiamat, Eastern thought includes the yin and the yang, and in Christianity we have St. George and the dragon, among other stories. In each of these, there are moments when we worry that darkness will snuff the light. In the second year of the global pandemic, with variant waves and the distressing politization of the pandemic, we encountered such moments, as if our present world was the cosmic battleground. Throughout 2021, I am proud to say that Christ Church Cathedral consistently served as a bright light in the midst of the city.

The first couple of months of 2021 offered glimmers of light, as the rollout of COVID vaccines began. By late spring, many Cathedral parishioners had been vaccinated, COVID rates in Houston were plummeting (though they would continue to cycle throughout the year), and the shadows began to dispel for the first time since the onset of the pandemic.

At the end of May, we did away with pre-registration and attendance limits for worship. We also resumed Communion at the altar rail. While making these changes, we continued to encourage mask-wearing and designate seating for those who needed to mask and preferred social-distancing. Additionally, all members of the choir and those serving in the chancel wore masks. As of the date of this letter, we have encountered no COVID cases sourced to Cathedral worship services.

By late in the year, a trend had developed with regard to worship attendance. From the beginning of June through early December, our in-person Average Sunday Attendance was 445, which is exactly 60% of our pre-pandemic average. Additionally, however, our online average weekly worship viewership was 1,064 people. Together that means, on average, 1,509 people now engage with Cathedral worship each week, more than double the number of people we were reaching prior to the pandemic! Of course, we hope that more and more people will return to in-person worship, and we continue to grapple with translating the extent to which online engagement equates to spiritual nurture. Even so, it is gratifying to know that Cathedral worship continues to resonate with so many people.

Beyond worship, Cathedral ministry continued apace in 2021, shining light and scattering darkness. Our Sunday school, youth groups, Bible studies, small-groups, and fellowship gatherings each adapted to formats that worked best for them, with some remaining exclusively online, others meeting in-person, and yet others experimenting with hybrid forms of gathering. As one creative example, our Children and Family Ministry offered “Eucharist in the Yard,” which served dozens of Cathedral families throughout the city by hosting backyard worship services, where families could gather safely.

Our vitally important outreach and justice work continued as well. The Beacon provided food, showers, laundry, and housing access for thousands. The Mission Outreach Council hosted the Alternative Giving Market and Christmas at the Cathedral and initiated the process for the Cathedral to sponsor an Afghan refugee family. The Justice & Peace Council hosted a remarkable and honest

racial reconciliation conference that sparked our Sacred Ground small-group program. And together, these councils sponsored a pilgrimage to the US-Mexico border.

We extended pastoral care to those with material or spiritual need, which included in-home Eucharist, the Mourner's Path program for those encountering grief, the Alzheimer's caregiver support group, and one-on-one care extended by our lay chaplains. In support, our Threads of Comfort and Joy prayer shawl ministry and our flower ministry provided visible and tangible reminders to homebound parishioners of their connection to the Cathedral community. The Vestry augmented all of the above with its annual Comfort Call-a-thon, canvassing the parish roll with check-in phone calls and responding to needs shared during those calls.

Early in 2021, the Vestry commissioned the Caring for God's Good Earth Task Force, to study and further the initiative of that same name from our Cathedral vision action plan, "Rooted in Christ/Built on Christ." Chaired by Vestry member Guy Hagstette, the task force worked diligently for eight months, ultimately providing a set of recommendations to the Vestry. In November, the Vestry adopted many of those recommendations, and in 2022 it will begin identifying meaningful ways that the Cathedral can minimize its carbon footprint, educate and form our congregation on creation care, and plan for a meaningful parish-wide community project that will serve as a symbol of our stewardship of the earth.

As particular lights in the darkness, I commend all those who serve in our lay ministries. Choir members, altar guild, ushers, lectors and worship leaders, lay Eucharistic ministers, lay Eucharistic visitors, and welcome team members all persevered and worked overtime, especially during the darkest months of the pandemic. Each and all served sacrificially so that the Cathedral's light would continually shine in the midst of the city. Their never-flagging dedication and enthusiasm inspire me.

The eternal struggle between light and darkness continues, but the ministry of Christ Church Cathedral serves as an outward and visible reminder of the promise that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it" (John 1:5). At the end of this month, I will complete my ninth year as dean of the Cathedral. Nine years ago, I could not have fathomed the light nor the darkness we would experience together. That includes my own health challenge last spring, when the Cathedral community cared for me with compassion and grace during my bout with prostate cancer. There is no one with whom I would rather light the torch and travel the journey. I am grateful to and for you.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barkley Thompson", with a small asterisk or star symbol to the right of the signature.

The Very Reverend Barkley Thompson
Dean

Senior Warden's Report

While I would never try to walk a mile in his shoes, I think we are all starting to get some idea of how Job must have felt. The light at the end of the tunnel in early 2021 proved not to be the end; thankfully it was not an oncoming train, but instead a glimmer of what is yet to come — a light in the darkness that inspires us to keep on going knowing the end of our journey remains ahead of us. While we have thankfully avoided fire, flood and pestilence have been a part of our shared experience, and the emotional and physical toll and pain caused by our individual and communal losses will be felt for a while. We have yet to fully reconcile what COVID has done to our families and our community, but we press on. That said, as I reflect on what the events of 2021 have meant to the Cathedral, I am constantly reminded of and inspired by the response of our community — clergy, staff, and congregation — to the challenges and trials we have faced together. As is always the case, we have much to be thankful for.

Some of the milestones we passed during this year are:

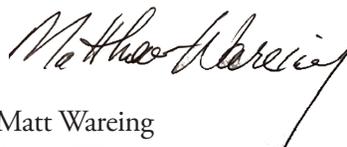
- Continuing to maintain and grow the ministry of Christ Church Cathedral despite COVID, including the resumption of in-person worship. The efforts of clergy, staff, Altar Guild, ushers, lay servers, acolytes and choir have been herculean.
- Continuing our commitment to outreach through our Council programs, service ministries, and our support of The Beacon.
- Increasing our contact with more vulnerable members of the Cathedral family through the great work of the Pastoral Care Council.
- Making significant investment in improving our live-streaming capabilities to support our online worship options to maintain connection to our members who worship remotely. With this enhanced capability we are also making new connections to people across the country and beyond who are attracted to our worship and teaching offerings.
- Completing the campus renovations and improvements that began with the Sowing the Seed Campaign. Also, thanks to the efforts of

Karen Kraycirik, Junior Warden Erin McMillin, our dedicated sextons, and the Building and Grounds committee, we are revamping and streamlining our mechanical systems, technology and communications resources, and maintenance programs. Our sanctuary, buildings, and grounds are in excellent condition, and we remain committed to the stewardship of that part of our legacy.

- Adding new staff, including Canon Missioner for Community Life and Young Adult Ministry Bradley Varnell, Organ Scholar Matthew Dion, and Operations Manager Gerardo Sandoval.
- Beginning the important work of the Caring for God's Earth Task Force and implementing their recommendations in order to help the Cathedral better care for God's Good Earth.
- In a challenging fiscal environment, maintaining a focus on good financial stewardship through expense reduction, the generosity of our pledging members, and the bequests of members of the Bishop Richardson Society.
- Grieving many losses and the particular loss of our beloved friend and shepherd, Canon John Logan.
- Perhaps above all, bearing witness for and supporting our brother and leader Dean Barkley Thompson as he and his family faced the trials of illness and treatment, and rejoicing at his ongoing recovery.

In summary, due to the grace of God, we have been here, together, facing the profound and the mundane challenges of life in 2021. We are blessed with resources, leadership, vision, our legacy, and each other. Christ Church Cathedral stands at the corner of Texas and Fannin in the heart of this great city. With God's help, we remain prepared, able, and committed to "proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ through word and deed to the parish, the diocese, and the downtown community."

Thanks be to God for that.



Matt Wareing
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

Dear Cathedral Family,

Between addressing immediate repair needs and managing longer term maintenance projects, 2021 was another busy year in the life of the Cathedral campus. With the Sowing the Seed Renovation Project checklist almost complete, our attention shifted to audio/visual needs for both the Cathedral and Reynolds Hall to support our growing online presence, as well as to dealing with a flood in the Jones Building basement. Given the ever-growing needs of such a large campus, the position of Operations Manager was created to add support to the facilities staff, and Gerardo Sandoval was brought on board. In addition, the Vestry approved a committee to evaluate the Cathedral's major vendors as we look to get ahead of long-term maintenance and repairs.

I had the great pleasure of working with an amazing and thoughtful Building & Grounds committee, including Kristy Greenwood (past Junior Warden), Guy Hagstette, Patrick Hayes, Ben Powell, Flo Ray, and the tireless Karen Kraycirik. Many thanks to Frank Guevara and the mighty team of sextons for their hard work. They keep things running smoothly behind the scenes on a daily basis!

Serving as Junior Warden and playing a small part in maintaining the beauty of the Cathedral campus truly has been an honor and a privilege.

Sincerely,



Erin McMillin
Junior Warden

January

- Prairie Street waterproof hatch installed
- In-depth structural analysis of Latham building by Walter P. Moore
- Red tag repairs from annual fire inspection completed
- Cathedral House Episcopal School fire permit issued
- Installed new floodlight in the Bishop's Courtyard

February

- New A/V system processor installed in Cathedral
- Cathedral campus weathered the winter storm without incident
- Repairs to The Beacon's HVAC system began

March

- Repairs to The Beacon's HVAC system completed
- Repair of the modesty screen in the west transept of Cathedral completed
- Clergy suite office ceilings repainted
- Plumbing repairs at Olympia and Sunset rectories completed
- Revised proposals requested regarding livestream capability and blackout shades in Reynolds Hall

April

- Kneelers, hymnals, and prayer books returned to Cathedral
- Repair of the west transept exterior door of Cathedral completed
- Plumbing repairs to Sunset and Hazard rectories completed

- Yellow tag repairs from annual fire inspection completed
- Proposals requested for HVAC work in Jones Building

May

- Exterior of main campus buildings professionally cleaned
- Cosmetic plaster repairs made to Latham building lobby and stairwell
- Repairs to Mellinger Room sheetrock put on hold
- Deferred maintenance repairs at Sunset rectory

June

- Painting of Treehouse/Ballard Youth Center completed
- Blackout shades ordered for Reynolds Hall
- Contract signed for livestream capability project in Reynolds Hall
- Committee to review Cathedral vendors approved by Vestry

July

- Sprinkler heads in Jones building classroom restrooms relocated
- Deferred maintenance at Sunset rectory completed
- Vendor Evaluation Agreement finalized and signed
- Jones Building basement flooded; proposals requested for sheetrock repair, painting, and staining of concrete floor

August

- Hybrid conference room set-up completed in Jeffers and McGehee conference rooms
- Livestream equipment installed in Reynolds Hall

- Equipment from Hines Center removed

September

- Cathedral A/V booth reconfigured
- Refrigerator in Sacristy repaired
- Cathedral campus weathered Hurricane Nicholas
- Staining of concrete flooring and sheetrock repair completed in Jones Building basement

October

- Part C of the historic tax credit application approved
- Microwaves at Edith and Hazard rectories replaced
- Blackout shades in Reynolds Hall installed
- Charles Umlauf sculpture "Striding Christ" cleaned
- Painting in Jones building basement completed

November

- Electrical issues on Cathedral campus investigated
- Final tweaks made to blackout shades in Reynolds Hall
- All major repairs to Jones building basement completed
- Annual inspections of alarm and sprinkler systems completed

December

- Report on phase monitor regarding electrical issues awaited
- Carpet replaced in stairwells leading to Jones building basement
- Boiler repairs approved
- Vendor Evaluation Committee inaugural meeting held

Treasurer's Report

For 2021, the Vestry approved a budget that produced a breakeven financial plan. The budget anticipated that normal expenses would decrease by \$185,000; reduced program needs and savings in maintenance, utilities and other areas were expected to partially offset an increase in salaries and benefits. The plan reflected full-year staffing with the first half of the year budgeted for reduced operations under COVID and the second half for normal operations. The budget also included a \$100,000 addition to the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund.

Preliminary results indicate that Normal Revenues will exceed Normal Expenses in 2021 by \$394,000. Normal Revenues of \$6,018,000 were \$562,000 higher than in 2020 primarily due to the conversion of the PPP loan to a grant. Normal Expenses of \$5,624,000 were \$151,000 higher than in 2020 and \$336,000 higher than the budget due to a \$178,000 expense for repairing the Jones basement. A significant insurance reimbursement offset the cost of the Jones Basement repairs.

The unbudgeted Legacy Expenditures of \$96,000 were fully reimbursed from the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund. The Legacy Fund ended 2021 with a balance of \$500,000, and the distribution to the Parish was offset by the \$100,000 addition from the Parish Fund budget.

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 was carried on the balance sheet as a loan at the end of 2020. This loan was converted to a grant by the federal administrator, which ended the debt obligation, and the full amount was recognized as income during 2021.

2022 Parish Budget

The Vestry budgets revenues by using actual EMC pledges at the time that the budget is adopted and authorized 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 the Legacy Fund.

The budget for 2022 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 \$5,679,000 include higher EMC pledges of \$202,000 and a higher Endowment contribution of \$97,000. Normal Expenses of \$5,679,000 include higher anticipated maintenance and utility expenses and a significant COLA salary increase of \$255,000. The budget also provides for a \$50,000 addition to the Legacy Fund.

Endowment Fund – 2021

The Endowment Fund net assets increased \$3,761,000 in 2021 to \$34,495,000. Market value increases totaled \$3,616,000. This was supplemented with \$842,000 in bequests, gifts, and oil & gas revenues. In addition to the distribution from the Barrow/Hellman Legacy Fund, support of the Cathedral totaled \$1,100,000.

Sowing The Seed Campaign – 2021

The final Pledge and Unpledged Revenue total is \$13,214,000, with over 76% of the pledge payments received. In 2021, \$83,000 was spent on construction and related fees for engineers, architects, and permits. The State of Texas Comptroller's office has certified \$1,823,402 in tax credits, which the Cathedral is in final stages of selling for \$0.92 per dollar of tax credit. This would result in \$1,677,530 net proceeds paid to the Cathedral upon completion of the sale, which is anticipated during the first quarter of 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Bullington,
Treasurer

Financial Summary (Dollars in thousands)

Cathedral Operating Funds	2019 Audited	2020 Audited	2021 Unaudited	Change from 2020	2022 Proposed	Change from 2021
Every Member Canvass	3,416	3,343	3,332	(11)	3,534	202
Endowment Contribution	909	1,007	1,054	47	1,151	97
Facility Use & Other Revenue	1,593	1,106	1,632	526	994	(638)
Normal Revenue	5,918	5,456	6,018	562	5,679	(339)
Salaries & Benefits	3,504	3,170	3,129	(41)	3,384	255
Beacon Grant & Dunn Center	297	244	119	(125)	94	(25)
Other Outreach	66	53	54	1	66	12
Liturgy & Ministry	770	772	758	(14)	824	66
Hines Spirituality Center Grant	128	69	0	(69)	0	0
Diocesan Activities	391	414	417	3	432	15
Facilities — Addition to the Legacy Fund	50	50	100	50	50	(50)
Facilities — Normal	702	701	1,047	346	829	(218)
Normal Expenses	5,908	5,473	5,624	151	5,679	55
Normal Net Revenue less Expenses	10	(17)	394	411	0	(394)
Facilities - Legacy Expenditures	190	41	96	55		
Use of the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	173	41	96	55		
Change in Net Assets	(7)	(17)	394	411		

Endowment Fund	2019 Audited	2020 Audited	2021 Unaudited	Change from 2020
Bequests & Memorial Gifts	6,983	2,028	550	(1,478)
From Capital Campaigns	340	21	11	(10)
Parish Add to the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	50	50	100	50
Sale of Asset — New Fund Established	196			0
Investment Return	2,899	1,991	3,616	1,625
Oil & Gas Royalties	139	121	181	60
Total Revenue	10,607	4,211	4,458	247
Support of the Cathedral	1,097	1,078	1,100	22
Parish Use of the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	173	41		(41)
Support of the Hines Center	100	41		(41)
Other Expenses	212	136	225	89
Total Expenses	1,582	1,296	1,325	29
Net Revenue less Expenses	9,025	2,915	3,133	218
Memo: Net Assets	27,906	30,734	34,495	3,761

Sowing The Seed	2019 Audited	2020 Audited	2021 Unaudited	Cumulative
Pledges Made	1	0	50	12,507
Unpledged Revenue	116	44	14	707
Total Revenue	117	44	64	13,214
Gifts to the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	295	0	0	410
Gifts to the Taylor Fund	46	21	11	220
Construction	2,558	281	83	7,846
Other Expenses	260	140	82	1,076
Total Expenses	3,159	442	176	9,552
Net Revenue less Expenses	(3,042)	(398)	(112)	3,662
Memo: Net Assets	3,718	3,342	3,707	
Memo: Pledges Paid	2,933	1,872	1,494	10,090
Memo: Cash on Hand	731	1,208	1,596	1,596
Memo: Frost Line of Credit	2,174	1,774	774	774

Ministry Reports

Adult Formation

Report by Matthew Matusek

As community members of Christ Church Cathedral, and of the Adult Formation council, we strive to be faithful to the call of Jesus Christ as we take part in our opportunities for ministry. Although we have been presented with another year of challenges, we are grateful and blessed by the abilities of our council members and Cathedral staff in providing continued collaboration and opportunities for the Cathedral community to grow closer together. The Adult Formation council has continued throughout this past year to find creative ways for our endeavors to provide our parish with formation that truly transforms.

This year the Adult Formation council continued our virtual-format Lenten series and small-group conversation component. In support of the Lenten series, we were blessed with a number thought-provoking speakers that sparked excitement and engagement around key conversation areas. Small-group discussion leaders were then prompted to facilitate follow-up conversations with groups that created an opportunity for meaningful and in-depth conversations.

Despite the challenges of this calendar year, the Adult Formation Council was thrilled to be back in person for our Dean's Hour series on Sunday mornings. Once again, the joy and community togetherness filled Reynolds Hall with conversation, laughter, and speaker engagement. It continues to be a joyous time in our week as we celebrate formation that transforms through the captivating presentations of Dean Thompson and our exuberant guest speakers.

In addition to larger-forum formats, the Adult Formation Council was pleased to offer a variety of small-group formation opportunities that enabled readily accessible opportunities for our Cathedral Community to gather in discussions covering a myriad of faith and growth topics. The pinnacle of these efforts included both the Holy Curiosity program and our expansion of the devoted small-group leader team through our Facilitating Firm Foundations curriculum.

Independent reflection was further supported this year by the renewal of our Cathedral Quiet Days. Through this endeavor, we afforded various immersive experiences led by devoted members of our council who worked closely with our incredible guest speakers. These events offered educational opportunities in a group setting that led participants on a journey of education and worship. We also highly encourage you to be on the lookout for our Summer Cathedral Reads program. Last summer we shared in reading portions of *The Cloister* together each week, followed by our discussion groups. It was a great time of fellowship, learning, and fun, and we cannot wait to have you be a part the summer 2022 program as well!

As the Cathedral was able to work its way back to in-person gatherings, the Adult Formation council was given a great opportunity to focus on bringing our Cathedral members back together, not only in physical presence, but also in the continued opportunity to grow together in faith and formation. The creative brainstorming and adaptation skills that the members of the Adult Formation council have exhibited throughout this year have truly made it a joy and my personal honor to share in such a great experience.

Religion and Arts

Report by Ashly Evans Vining

Mission Statement: The Religion and Arts council exists to assist the adults of our community to explore, integrate, and deepen their faith through experiences with the arts.

The Religion and Arts council has worked very hard on developing programming and content this year that will help support our community's spiritual connections.

After almost a year and a half when many of our arts facilities in the city shut down or operated at limited capacity due to the global pandemic, the Religion and Arts council (R&A) was chomping at the bit to get back to work to provide meaningful programming for the 2021-2022 season. Being mindful of the comfort level of some parishioners regarding participation in group events, we were looking for large outdoor spaces to visit.

The first event that we sponsored was a visit to the Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern. This space offered an immersive, other-worldly experience of film and sound within a vast, subterranean reservoir on the edge of downtown Houston. The soundscape was a new arrangement of Olivier Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time, written while the French composer was incarcerated in a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany during the Second World War. This arrangement, composed in collaboration with André Vida and Olivier Goinard, also references another remarkable musical event: in 1986 Ronald McNair, one of the world's first Black astronauts to reach space, had planned to play and record a saxophone solo on board the Space Shuttle Challenger. This would have been the first original piece of music recorded in space had not that journey been suddenly and tragically curtailed. Canon Zartman offered thoughtful words for contemplation before entering the cistern, and we had a great spiritual talk after the tour, as members shared the feelings they experienced during the show.

We also partnered with the Adult Formation council in a program featuring visual artist Mary McCleary and her offering of "Things Seen and Things Not Seen," exploring how the sacred intersects with the creative arts through liturgical fashion, architecture, and fine art. Mary spoke about her spiritual experiences in life and through creating art. She focused on the verse "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen but what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18. Council member Roni McMurtry was instrumental in making Mary's visit possible.

The council is eager for the arts to be back in full swing in Houston and throughout our world. We hope to provide more programming as the arts continue to revive after this prolonged hibernation.

Community Life

Report by Anne Eisner

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Christ Church Cathedral parishioners continued to engage one another in the safest possible ways, helping to nurture community even in the midst of a challenging time.

The Annual Parish Retreat at Camp Allen was cancelled for 2021 due to COVID, but as the year progressed and vaccines became widely available, many of our regular events were able to return in some form. Decreased case numbers made it possible for the annual May Fete to return in-person, chaired by Susan Dugat. The Fete was a wildly successful event, with three simultaneous church

services, a bluegrass band, and many cakes for the cake walk. Many members of our community, young and old had a wonderful time in person and virtually (a feat made possible thanks to Becky Zartman and the Adult Formation council).

Our annual gatherings continued, giving parishioners a chance to eat, drink, and hear from Dean Thompson. Spring Gatherings took place outdoors in a variety of settings around Houston, giving folks an opportunity to connect with fellow Cathedral-goers in smaller, more intimate settings. Thankfully, by the time our Fall Gatherings kicked off in September we were able to return to at-home gatherings. We are especially grateful to the women and men who welcomed their parish into their homes.

Game nights were kicked off again with a Cathedral-wide game night in August, including bingo, bridge, and Rummikub. A special thanks is owed to Sonia Velazquez for bringing folks from the 1 p.m. service, as well as to Rick Newlin who rallied and got the bridge folks to attend. The night was filled with fun, laughter, and snacks! With the August Game night, monthly Bridge/Rummikub returned to the Cathedral on the first Friday of the Month. We look forward to returning to potluck dinners with our game night in January.

As we leave 2021 behind, we are thrilled to know so many of our beloved Cathedral traditions will return to a normal (or more normal) form in 2022. Our spring is full of wonderful opportunities to gather with the Cathedral family: The annual Parish Retreat in January, our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper in March, and May Fete in May, in addition to our Spring Gatherings, which kick off in February.

Stewardship

Report by Gay Gullede

In the early summer of 2021, the Stewardship council gathered to prayerfully discern the theme for the upcoming Every Member Canvass (EMC) campaign. Several verse options were presented, but in short order the council unanimously selected the passage Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: Who should I send? Who will go for Us? I said: Here I am. Send me." The conversation around the table was one of hope on the horizon, excitement for a closer return to pre-pandemic normal, and a deep gratitude for the Cathedral community. "Here I am. Send me," perfectly echoed the feelings of the council in five simple words.

On a Saturday in August, the council gathered for a retreat to discuss not only the plans for the upcoming EMC, but to also dream about ways to better live into the Vision Action Plan “Rooted in Christ, Built on Christ.” The Stewardship Council, in response to the Generous Living/Generous Giving pillar of the Vision Action Plan, is working to provide additional resources and highlight the many ways the congregation can live generously. We are pursuing new ideas for the upcoming year, including engaging a higher percentage of the younger members of the congregation and other parishioners who traditionally do not pledge and encouraging planned giving and membership in the Bishop Richardson Society.

On the evening of Sunday, September 26, 150 people gathered in Reynolds Hall to kick off the 2022 EMC in style – with festive decorations, an amazing menu provided by Claire Smith and her team from Alice Blue, and the island sounds of The Gary Michael Dahl Band. Parishioners were invited to throw on their Hawaiian shirts and flip flops to “sail away” through song, comedy, and fellowship with a “Passport to Paradise!” It felt good to gather together in celebration as we launched the campaign.

Throughout the Every Member Canvass, we heard words of inspiration from our co-chair families: the Bechtols and the Godowns. The council offers its sincere gratitude to George Hawkins, Andy Vickery, Susan Hoffius, Lisa Viktorin, Bruce Atkins, Meredith Canada and Michelle Hale, and Jennifer and Tom Stansbury, for sharing their heartfelt reflections on what they love about Christ Church Cathedral and why supporting it financially is important.

Loyalty Sunday was November 14, a day when we bless and celebrate the pledges that were received. The following evening, November 15, council members conducted the EMC Phone-a-thon both from the Cathedral and their homes; reaching out to those who had pledged previously, but not yet this year, to encourage their continued support. The generosity of our members is truly awe-inspiring, and we watched the EMC numbers continue to grow throughout the remaining weeks of the year.

At year’s end, we had received 530 pledges totaling \$3.6 million. Of these pledges, 66 of them are new pledges—meaning that they were received from someone who did not pledge 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 of our gratitude for your continued support and increasing generosity. Thank you!

Youth Ministry

Report by Alli Elbert

In 2021 the Treehouse continued to succeed virtually with Seed Group, Sunday School, and Confirmation Class. Seed Group spent the Spring learning about women and their stories in the Bible. Similarly, during Epiphany, Sunday School looked at “Lineage of Light,” highlighting the women in Jesus’ lineage. During Lent, Sunday School focused on reconciliation, which allowed the youth to explore reconciliation through STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and highlight parishioners who work in different STEM fields. Also, during Lent, members of the Youth Ministry council (YMC) were featured on the “Making Our Home for Faith” podcast. The featured YMC members read prayers and meditations written by Archbishop Oscar Romero and Howard Thurman. In April, Children’s Ministry said farewell to their 5th-grade students, and Minister for Youth Marcia Quintanilla welcomed them into the Treehouse with a new Bible to begin their next chapter of youth ministry. The Treehouse ended the spring semester with 13 youth confirmed by Bishop Monterroso. Finally, our high school seniors were recognized on Senior Sunday and received a blessing as they set off into the next chapter of their lives.

During the summer, the Treehouse began to transition to in-person events while still allowing opportunities for virtual gatherings. Our Houston Mission, CUSE, was held in June, and Encuentro: Costa Rica y Texas in July; both took place virtually to allow all to experience mission moments from home. Summer Shade also took place, giving students in-person and virtual events ranging from garden night to watching movies at the Treehouse.

In the fall, the Treehouse moved back entirely to in-person events. As August approached, the YMC welcomed new youth members and held an in-person retreat at the Treehouse. During this time, the YMC began planning for fall 2021 events such as Youth Sunday and Fall Retreat. Sunday School and Confirmation class began gathering in-person again in September at the Treehouse, and Seed Group resumed in the community. In September, the Confirmation class enjoyed a retreat at Camp Allen, allowing fellowship and learning away from home. Youth Sunday took place for the second time in October at the Cathedral. The Confirmation class wrote the collect, while other youth members participated in the readings, photography, ushering, greeting, and preaching during the 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1 p.m. services. In November, the youth had their annual Fall Retreat in Galveston over a weekend. Youth members enjoyed quality time

disconnecting from the chaos of the city and engaged in fellowship and learning with their peers during the retreat. The end of the fall semester concluded with the Youth Posada held at the Nettles' home. The gathering brought together English and Spanish-speaking congregations to share food, music, and fellowship.

The pandemic brought many changes to the Treehouse, but what remained the same was our deep desire to stay connected to one another. We look forward to 2022 with high hopes for what God has in store for the Treehouse!

Young Adults

Report by James Lee

2021 has been a year of many new experiences for the Cathedral's Young Adults council. This year brought us new council leadership, a new council chair, and a new Canon. Throughout the year, young adults at the Cathedral assumed a flexible approach to programming and fellowship, meeting the needs of our community through a hybrid model of digital and in-person activities.

At the start of the year, the council continued to offer digital programming focused on Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's new book *Love is the Way*. Over the course of Lent and Easter, Wednesday evening programming featured scripture analysis and discussion. As we entered into the summer months, the Young Adults council resumed in-person fellowship at a number of parks across Houston, with a final Summer Hangout at Karbach Brewing Company.

As fall began, the council welcomed The Rev. Bradley Varnell as the new Canon Missioner for Community Life and Young Adult Ministry and began hybrid programming. At this same time, Wednesday programming was split into in-person and digital gatherings and focused on curriculum pertaining to new Episcopalians, Racial Justice and the Church, and the mental health needs of young adults. With the support of Canon Varnell, the council continued to host annual traditions such as Fajita Fiesta, Friendsgiving, and the 20s & 30s Christmas Party.

Though there were many challenges in this past year, the Young Adults council adapted and grew closer as a community. We look forward to the year ahead and ask for your prayers and support that we might continue to grow and prosper despite the continued pandemic and any unforeseen challenges in the year ahead.

Children's Ministry

Report by Molly Lopez

Despite the continued challenges we are all facing from the Coronavirus Pandemic that first rocked our world nearly two years ago, the Children's Ministry council continued in its mission during 2021, slightly refining its objectives and hopes for children and their families at Christ Church Cathedral as follows: The mission of the Children's Ministry council is to make safe spaces for children and families to build Christian formation into their daily lives so that it becomes the foundation for their identity.

Thanks to the versatility, flexibility, and tireless dedication of the amazing volunteers and staff that work with the children and families at Christ Church Cathedral, the Children's Ministry council was able to carry on with its mission in a fluid environment over the last year. In effort to make the spaces for children and families safe, the first part of 2021, through nearly May, was accomplished mainly using Zoom, Facebook Live, and Instagram platforms. The continued message of God's love remained a touchstone for us all, and the Children's Ministry council remained ever present at the Cathedral, with families finding their best way to connect.

In preparation for Lent 2021, the Children's Ministry council prepared and distributed Resurrection Garden Kits, a pre-filled kit filled with goodies to make an actual garden that bloomed in the spring and allowed families to share in the story of Jesus' love for us that led him to the cross and the mystery of God's great rescue plan that left the tomb empty. The kits were well-received, and a similar distribution plan was used in December for Advent Wreaths in order to reach as many families as possible.

Starting in May, as adult vaccinations rolled out, the Children's Ministry council instituted plans for a summer program for the children and families of Christ Church Cathedral to meet in small, outdoor settings to share devotional and fellowship through a program aptly named "Donuts & Devos in the Driveway." The 2021 Summer offering, accomplished through an online sign-up platform in order to limit group size to 3-4 families, met weekly outside in the driveways of select Cathedral families for fellowship and devotionals with Minister for Children and Families KariAnn Lessner, her guitar, and delicious donuts. The program was successful not only because of its content, but also because of its flexibility (pivoting at a moment's notice) and the ability to limit group size.

In the fall of 2021, the Children's Ministry council was pleased to be able to implement a return to in-person Sunday School through a hybrid program of Zoom and in-person attendance. In September, in furtherance of its mission, the council also re-implemented a version of its outdoor fellowship offering, called "Eucharist in the Yard," a program designed to encourage small, safe gatherings of 5-6 families, outside, for a Bring Your Own Picnic (BYOP) and blanket and a family style Eucharist in the Yard of a Cathedral family. This program was a wonderful way for families to stay connected and create a safe space for children and families to build Christian formation.

Through the season of Advent, we remained patient and adaptable while we waited not only for the coming of Christ but also as we attempted to find balance with the normal of yesterday and tomorrow and to accomplish what we could to continue to create safe spaces for the children and families of the Cathedral.

While we recognize that the work of making safe spaces for children in their daily lives for Christian formation continues to fall with the parents of the Cathedral kids more than in years prior to the pandemic, the Children's Ministry council and volunteers' ability and continuing willingness to remain flexible during these challenging times has allowed for moments of joy and wonder, discovery of new means and modes of operation, and expressions of love for God and for one another; and for that, we are grateful. Thanks be to God.

Welcome and Newcomers

Report by Sherri Allen

The Welcome Evangelism council shifted focus this past year. Originally called the Welcome and Evangelism council, we transitioned to become the Welcome and Newcomer council. With this new name came a new vision and a laser focus on welcoming newcomers and our parishioners back to in-person worship. Our council took the opportunity to review what we really wanted to do and had deep discussion on what it means to be a friendly church, not just a church of friends. Our goals were to offer programming that would help incorporate someone into the body of Christ and into the life of Cathedral while at the same time doing the basic work of manning the welcome tables!

What did this look like?

- **Surveying Newcomers:** We talked to newcomers about the experiences they had had at the Cathedral and gathered feedback about what would support them and help them feel like they belonged. Some constants were that they loved the beauty of the church, the music, and the remarkable teaching/sermons. Some things they felt that were lacking was the opportunity to have more intimate connections with people and a place to ask questions about "why we do it like that."
- **Equipping parishioners to be welcoming:** We hosted a Dean's Hour with the theme, "Entertaining Angels." During this time Canon Vicar Kathy Pfister talked to parishioners about what it really means to welcome the stranger in our midst and the important role we all play in welcoming newcomers into the life of the church and into our own lives.
- **Cathedral 101:** Based on learning more about the needs of newcomers, we created Cathedral 101. This "mini-course" is a place to orient newcomers to the life of the church and answer questions about how we worship, how they can serve here, and how to get connected to people and ministries.

While we were excited to launch new ministries, we were equally excited to resume some of our basic activities like manning the Welcome Tables and offering Cathedral Tours. Tour Coordinator Valerie Meisel was thrilled to resume historical tours of the Cathedral and rebuild the tour guide volunteer group. Additionally, our faithful Welcome Team members showed back up to in-person worship ready to welcome newcomers and members back to this amazing place.

Latino Ministry

Report by The Rev. Simón Bautista Betances

The Latino Ministry of the Cathedral continues meeting the challenges these last two years have placed before us. Our council and the members of the 1 o'clock congregation are responding to the sacramental and spiritual needs of the people we are called to serve. We do this through our regular Sunday services and programs such as children's Sunday School, Buscando La Luz, Noon Prayer, Noche Familiar, Conferencia Te, and El Mes de la Herencia Latina.

- Sunday Services: Thanks to the technology in place inside the Cathedral, we now can offer our services to people attending in person and to those following via Facebook. Among the people joining virtually, we have Dominicans, Peruvians, Venezuelans, Salvadorans, and Ecuadorians joining us from their countries. Our in-person attendance is picking up little by little.
- Noche Familiar: Latino Ministry hosted Noche Familiar (Family Night) twice in 2021: once virtually in February and once in-person in August. These events brought families together to receive formation and to have fun together. These are tremendous opportunities for families to get together with other families outside the regular Sunday receptions and get to know each other better. The program offers educational opportunities for children on each of these occasions. These two Noche Familiar events were significant for participants because they had a chance to see each other and share about their lives during this difficult time.
- Summer Bible School: Since 2016, the Latino Ministry has conducted summer Bible School in our family's neighborhoods. Each summer offers us an opportunity to learn more about our members and their neighbors and allows us to bring the message of Jesus and introduce the ministries of the Cathedral to people who otherwise wouldn't have heard of us. In 2021 we could not hold our Summer Bible School in its full length, but our Sunday School teachers organized a fun day for children and parents. Fifty-five people, children, and adults joined us for this adventure.
- Conferencia Te: On August 14 and November 20, our formation committee hosted two Conferencias Te. We offer these conferences to empower Latina women and help them explore their opportunities. Their reality tells the majority of them they can't; we tell them they can.
- Latino Ministry Reception: Community life is essential for the 1 o'clock congregation; therefore, returning to holding our receptions after services is a significant mark for the Spanish language congregation. The reception is helping us greatly in regaining our numbers together.
- El Mes de la Herencia/Latino-Hispanic Heritage Month: On October 3 and 10, we celebrated Latino heritage month with live music, children performing dances, and an exhibition of typical Latino food. That is a valuable tradition of the Latino Ministry of the Cathedral. We are glad we were able to honor this tradition this year.
- Las Posadas: Las Posadas in the neighborhoods returned in December. Around twenty-five families worked to resume the strong tradition of visiting the communities where our members come to the Cathedral. In 2020 the Covid reality forbade us from going out to live the Posadas experience, and we had to accommodate virtual Posadas. In 2021 we were able to gather at our neighbor's houses to bring this tradition alive again.

Mission Outreach

Report by Susan Reedy

The Mission Outreach council (MOC) exists to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ by identifying and developing opportunities that empower the Christ Church Cathedral family and the Downtown Community to help and serve those in need. The MOC plans and executes two major Cathedral outreach events in the fall of each year: the Alternative Giving Market in November and Christmas at the Cathedral in December. The council also coordinates a semi-annual blood drive and a year-round volunteer cohort for Lord of the Streets. Throughout the year, we look for opportunities to serve the community when and where needs arise, including partnering with other Cathedral councils to enhance the impact of our work. Highlights of 2021 include:

Blood Drives: The MOC continued its partnership with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to host two successful blood drives on Sunday, April 11 and Sunday, November 21. In total, 53 donors responded to the call to help save the lives of some 170 people.

Meal Deliveries: Throughout the school year, the MOC coordinated the weekly delivery of meals for families in need at Small Steps Nurturing Center and Kids Hope, two organizations supported by the Cathedral. The meals were generously donated by Cathedral member Patti Ramsey and prepared at her own Epicurean Group kitchen.

Border Mission Trip: In early November, members of the MOC joined members of the Justice and Peace Council and others on a pilgrimage to our southern border with Mexico. Our mission was to learn more about the needs of those directly involved with the crisis at the border, to assess ways we can help serve there, and to develop a plan to engage others in that work. Through visits with asylum seekers, humanitarian workers in McAllen and Brownsville, US Border Patrol agents and others, we gained many insights into the issues at the border and continue to reflect on how we, as a Christian community, can live into our calling to love our neighbor and welcome the alien and stranger.

Alternative Giving Market: The Council was pleased to be able to resume an in-person Alternative Giving Market (AGM) on Sunday, November 21. The AGM provides Cathedral members with opportunities for meaningful gift giving while funding a number of organizations serving the underserved members of our city and beyond. This year, thanks to the generosity of Cathedral members, the AGM supported 16 organizations doing amazing work in communities from as close by as across the street to as far away as Haiti.

Christmas at the Cathedral: This annual event shares the joys of Christmas with 50 families at Kid's Hope and Small Steps Nurturing Center. To keep children safe during the pandemic, festivities were held as "drive-by" events on December 11 and 12, with each family receiving Christmas greetings from volunteers and a giant gift box filled with a prepared holiday meal, \$50 gift card, Christmas lights and a card from the Cathedral clergy.

Pastoral Care

Report by Jane Herring

As we slowly and cautiously emerged into 2021, The Pastoral Care Council has stayed focused, working towards our mission to proclaim the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by addressing the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the Cathedral family and wider community.

As the year began, news of the Covid-19 vaccine brought hope and anxiety for all those who wished to receive it. For those of our members who are not tech savvy, volunteers spent hours helping to find and secure appointments for them to receive the life saving vaccine. The relief heard in the voices of those who received the vaccine with our assistance was priceless.

February brought Winter Storm Uri, with deadly cold and destruction across the state. Once power was restored, our Lay Chaplains jumped into action checking on our most vulnerable members, and the Rapid Response team was ready to support those who needed assistance.

Walking the Mourners Path adapted and learned the benefits of taking the program virtual. Participants were able to join when they would otherwise have been unable to, due to busy schedules and commutes. A final in-person luncheon brought the group together.

Threads of Comfort and Joy has continued to grow and has taken on projects to support the wider Community. This summer they began meeting in person monthly at the Cathedral.

Lay Eucharist Visitors have been back in action, delivering the sacrament weekly to those who are unable to attend in-person worship. The demand has grown, and with that, new recruits are joining, extending the ability to receive the sacrament to those who are homebound.

Pastoral Care Council is unique in that most council members represent a specific ministry area. Each ministry area is made up of a team of people doing the work of that area. Without each person supporting each area the work of this council would be impossible.

Justice & Peace

Report by Danielle Santori

The Justice and Peace Council members have built programs focusing in four main areas: Immigration, Active Inclusiveness, Environmental, and Health Justice. In May, the council successfully delivered the Racial Reconciliation and the Baptismal Covenant conference. This was a full encompassing program that discussed racial constructs and included historical events and modern-day impacts of slavery, in addition to the work and challenges of reconciliation. The event included a discussion with Caleb McDaniel, History Professor at Rice, a Pulitzer prize-winning author. There was also a panel discussion moderated by Keith McCall with panelists discussing topics around the criminal justice system in Harris County, the business of slavery, and stories from African American perspectives on faith. The final presentation for the conference was offered by Catherine Meeks, Executive Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing.

In September, the council offered a program on Combatting Anti-Semitism. This powerful series included a tour and discussion at the Houston Holocaust Museum, a guest speaker by a Holocaust Survivor, discussion and a presentation by the Houston Anti-Defamation League, and a lecture by Dr. Dan Joslyn-Siemiatowski on the role of combatting Anti-Semitism in the church. This program was powerful and was the council's first in-person event.

Members of the council partnered with the Mission Outreach Council to make a pilgrimage to Rio Grande Valley to learn more of the complications surrounding the US border with Mexico. They were briefed by the ACLU and served at the Humanitarian Respite Center that is a nonprofit helping people legally seek asylum.

Currently there are still some ideas being developed for an LGBTQ legal aid event, medical debt and providing cathedral members a chance to make a US pilgrimage to the border, and to Montgomery, AL.

Music Department

Report by Robert Simpson, Canon for Music

For the Cathedral Music Department, 2021 marked the gradual return to more normal activities. After months of weekly Zoom choir meetings and virtual anthem productions, the Cathedral Choirs returned to in-person rehearsals on September 30. The occasion was especially poignant — our first order of business was preparing music for the funeral of beloved Canon John Logan. In quick succession there followed our first full Evensong on All Saints Sunday and a joyful return of Advent Lessons and Carols with a gratifyingly large congregation.

During this same time the Treble Choir of Houston at Christ Church Cathedral, directed by Marianna Parnas-Simpson, began rehearsing and almost immediately appeared as the featured artists at The Women's Fund Annual Luncheon at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. This was a significant event and one more example of how the Treble Choir serves our community while extending the reach of the Cathedral's ministry.

In August we welcomed Matthew Dion as our new Organ Scholar. His duties include accompanying the Treble Choir, playing many funerals and weddings, and generally assisting Cathedral Organist Daryl Robinson with service-playing responsibilities. A graduate of Oberlin College-Conservatory, Matt is now a student of Daryl's at the Moores School of Music pursuing a Master of Music in Organ Performance. He has already won the affection and admiration of all who work with him.

Daryl Robinson continues to win praise as Cathedral Organist and as an international recitalist. The growing crowd of parishioners who gather at the console at the conclusion of each service to watch him play is a clear indication of the congregation's appreciation. His most recent CD, *A Love so Fierce*, the complete organ works of noted Houston composer David Ashley White, is receiving high marks from critics and organ aficionados alike.

A new downtown chamber music series has been established by the Cathedral and the University of Houston's Moores School of Music. The series launched on September 25 with a recital by pianist Timothy Hester. A

second program followed on November 13, performed by Eunghee Cho, cello and Brian Suits, piano. Two more are scheduled before May.

On October 29, the Cathedral presented organist Alan Morrison, Chairman of Organ Studies at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music. The event was part of a three-recital series celebrating the tenth anniversary of the work completed in 2012 to restore the Cathedral's magnificent 1938 Aeolian-Skinner organ.

The Cathedral Choir's annual Christmas wreath sale was once again a success thanks to the continued generous support of the congregation and the excellent leadership of Choir President Charlotte Jones. In fact, each of the Choir officers have provided exceptional leadership throughout the year. In addition to Charlotte, my deep thanks goes to Vice President Floyd Robinson, Treasurer Howard Rhoades, Secretary Claudia Watson, and Social Chairs Frank Hood and Benny Morris.

Throughout the changes and uncertainties of the past year, the commitment and determination of each member of the Cathedral and Parish Choir have remained inspirational to me. I want to offer special appreciation to our Staff Singers for their leadership — Blair Doerge, Kirstie McCallum, Michelle Girardot, Laura Lisk, Emily Premont, Joshua Chavira, Sean Stultz, Justin Shen, Ben McGee, John Gallagher, Fredy Bonilla, and Joel Goodloe. I am fortunate that Fredy Bonilla has also become the Music Department's Administrator.

Everyone engaged in the Cathedral music ministry is blessed by the support and appreciation we receive from the congregation, and especially from Dean Barkley Thompson and the Cathedral clergy. On behalf of all involved in this ministry, I thank you.

Cathedral Urban Service Experience (CUSE)

Report by Christy Orman, CUSE program director

The Cathedral Urban Service Experience begins 2021 with a fantastic Steering Committee and new options for summer experiences. When we came to the decision to not hold our summer programming in-person, CUSE pivoted to an online virtual experience.

The summer included essential help from our non-profit partners. A three-day virtual CUSE with live interviews and service projects included Cathedral youth. Each day a different non-profit partner of CUSE was showcased and interviewed. Grace Presbyterian and Holy Comforter Episcopal utilized our do-it-yourself experience. They received videos and some great resources to engage their groups to serve Houston.

The committee was able to clarify that the message and purpose of CUSE is to deliver lasting urban service experiences by bringing together populations in need and those that can provide support. We connect faith and non-faith-based organizations to help them support the underserved in Houston. Effectively CUSE acts as a matchmaker, linking groups of volunteers with an appropriate urban service project. With CUSE as their guide, volunteer groups embark on a service experience without the hassle and stress of figuring out the many details behind a successful service project. In turn, local non-profit service organizations gain access to volunteers committed to their mission. Through these joint efforts of both our volunteer groups and our non-profit partners, people who are underserved in our inner-city communities receive the support they deserve.

This year, CUSE moved from a 100% in-person experience to 100% virtual and created four virtual service experience offerings. The options are DIY Experience, Service-Learning Experience, Serving Together Experience, and Choose Your Own Experience. Their prices range from \$95 - \$395.

Our Steering Committee had a meeting as we said goodbye to those rolling off and hello to new members. Paul Mandell, our chair, rolled off, and we were so grateful for his time and commitment. Whitney Ogle and Toby McMillin also rolled off, and we were able to send them off with a liturgy service to thank God for their passion. John Bramblett shifted to become our chair and we look forward to his leadership. Anne Eisner, John Burghduff, Fisher Galvin, and Walker Taylor have joined our wonderful team! Alex Forshey (Class of 2022), Tom Letchford (Class of 2023), KariAnn Lessner (Class of 2023).

Summer 2022 will prayerfully bring new possibilities and more exciting experiences.

The Beacon

Report by Becky Landes, Chief Executive Officer

The mission of The Beacon is to provide essential and next-step services to restore hope and help end homelessness in Houston. We are blessed to count on the parishioners at the Cathedral to join us in service of some Houston's most vulnerable community members. Our strongest partner, Christ Church Cathedral, provides support and advocates for those we serve.

In January, our Beacon Housing team participated in the annual Point in Time (PIT) count. Required by US Housing and Urban Development, the PIT Count provides our community with an opportunity to assess our efforts to reduce homelessness. With the modifications for COVID, staff from across the Houston region participated. Over a 13-day period, the agency teams conducted interviews with individuals living on the streets across a 3,700 square mile area and collected data from local shelters.

In February, The Beacon hosted its first ever virtual fundraising/stewardship event, Dinner and a Show. Beacon supporters engaged in a fun evening complete with a cooking demonstration, live from the Day Center kitchen, and pre-taped songs performed by our friends at The Music Box Theater.

The Brigid's Hope program celebrated nine graduates this year. This year-long program supports women transitioning from incarceration to self-sufficiency through housing, case management, and a variety of activities to enhance spiritual, physical, and emotional well-being. Graduates were recognized not only for completing the program, but for sustaining stable housing after exiting the program. The first graduation was hosted in March with a Mardi Gras theme in the Ardell Ray Day Center.

During Volunteer Appreciation Month, our Beacon team was pleased to acknowledge our wonderful, dedicated volunteers. Volunteers attended a brief program and enjoyed a variety of small plates and refreshments from Harold's Food Truck in Nancy's Garden on a sunny April afternoon.

Partnerships with other non-profit providers are important to enhance the service opportunities at The Beacon. Several new efforts were launched in 2021, including the provision of the Substance Abuse and Disorder Outreach

Program (SUDOP) for homeless clients living with substance abuse disorders. These services are provided in the John S. Dunn Outreach Center by the Local Mental Health Authority, the Harris Center. Another example of a new partnership involves the creation of workforce opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness. Career & Recovery Resources, Inc. hired and deployed several individuals who work part time helping with laundry, kitchen, and clean up tasks in the Day Center. This pilot project with Career & Recovery helps individuals break the barriers to employment and build a more secure future.

This year, our Beacon Law team launched a technology-driven tool designed to help individuals start a new chapter by clearing their past criminal record. Approximately 400,000 people in Harris County are eligible under law in the State of Texas to have one or more records removed and these individuals are sometimes unaware that they are eligible. The public-facing self-help website (clearyourrecordharriscounty.org) allows anyone who has a criminal record to check their eligibility and find pro se resources to file a Petition for Nondisclosure themselves. Record clearing can remove barriers to employment and housing for those individuals that qualify.

In the fall, The Beacon was honored to be named a Better Business Bureau (BBB) 2021 Winner of Distinction in the category of nonprofit organizations. Leadership from the Board of Directors and staff attended the BBB's Awards for Excellence luncheon on October 12, 2021, to receive the award.

An unforgettable culinary experience supporting the work of The Beacon, Come to the Table was held in early December. Lead by event chairs Vivie and Chris O'Sullivan, the evening started with a cocktail reception in the Bishop's Courtyard and was highlighted by a four-course dinner and live auction.

Cathedral Bookstore

Report by Lucy Chambers, manager

The New Year dawned with the Cathedral Bookstore operating through our expanded website and out of the Pop Up Shop in the Cloister on Sundays. To minimize contact, we invoiced electronically and packed up orders for pick up at the Pop Up or at reception during the week, or to be mailed. We had a Cathedral-blue measuring stick with cheery red hearts on either end to remind us what six feet of safe distance really looked like. Bundled up and

shouting at each other through our masks, we kept our spirits up and were able to stay — safely — in touch with the Cathedral family.

On January 14, we continued the Episcopal Booksellers Association (EBA) Authors Series, a national Zoom conversation, with Dr. Ilia Delio, author of *Re-Enchanting the Earth: why AI needs religion*, and Greg Hansell, Executive Director of the Center for Christogenesis. On February 11, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, renowned New Testament and Jewish Studies professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School presented her most recent book, *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven* through the EBA series.

March brought us vaccines, and more volunteers returned during the week. With the retirement of Wendy Bentlif, a founding volunteer who had served as our faithful embosser, Catherine Lippincott learned the nuances of gold leaf embossing and took over on the Howard Personalizer. We also worked with a master book-craftsman to have the large Cathedral bible rebound in beautiful red leather.

On April 8, Anne Lamott and Nadia Bolz-Weber spoke about Lamott's latest book, *Dusk, Night, Dawn: On Revival and Courage* through the EBA Series; and on May 13, The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism, Reconciliation, and Creation, discussed *The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for Beloved Community* with Nancy Bryan, Editorial VP of Church Publishing Inc. As the world began to open up more, the Pop Up Shop closed and we were able to welcome customers back into the Bookstore on Sundays.

Over the summer, we were busy arm-chair travelling. Cathedral Reads: The Logic of Love took us to medieval France and post-war New York with James Carroll's historical fiction, *The Cloister*; on an imaginative journey through the pages of a book with *Inkspell*; and on a voyage of the heart with *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. We curated a collection of pilgrimage books to encourage and inspire the walkers on Via Cathedral, and we continued meeting virtually with significant authors through EBA. On June 10, The Rev. Dr. Michael Battle, a Professor and the Director of the Desmond Tutu Center at General Theological Seminary in New York, shared insights from his book, *Desmond Tutu: A Spirituality Biography of South Africa's Confessor*; and, in August, Dr. Bob Lupton, founder of Focused Community Strategies, discussed *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse It)*. On July 16, Bookstore manager,

Lucy Chambers, was elected President of the EBA, and on August 30, the Bookstore was thrilled to reopen for business during the week.

The pace picked up all fall, as more and more old and new friends came to the Cathedral. Fr. James Martin, SJ, discussed his book, *Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone* through the EBA series on September 9; and when Tea and Toast returned on September 12, the Bookstore opened for Sunday evenings after The Well.

On October 12, the Dean held a beautiful Celebration Tea and presented resolutions to honor Wendy Bentlif and Cynthia Pyle, two of the bookstores founding volunteers who served the Cathedral faithfully for almost 40 years each. Dr. Marilynne Robinson discussed *Jack*, the fourth novel in the Gilead series on October 14 through EBA, and on October 24 Cameron Dezen Hammon read from her spiritual memoir, *This Is My Body: A Memoir of Religious and Romantic Obsession*, and held a spiritual writing workshop after The Well. The EBA series concluded on November 11 with a conversation with Kate Bowler, associate professor of the history of Christianity in North America at Duke Divinity School, about her new memoir, *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)*.

The Bookstore's traditional Advent Newsletter was published electronically on December 1, and, in addition to book selections, it featured the last batch of charming wooden Christmas trees Dieter Ufer says he will make, Cathedral aprons, and lemon cakes made by Inel Dyer Klein's Lemon Cake Café. As part of the Migratory God Advent series, on December 12 Houston theologian and author Dr. Phuc Luu offered reflection and discussion around his book, *Jesus of the East: Reclaiming the Gospel for the Wounded* after The Well; and on December 15, in partnership with Brazos Bookstore, internationally acclaimed author Mitch Albom presented his latest book, *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*, in a national Zoom meeting. The Migratory God series continued on December 19

with author and Education Across Borders founder John McLaughlin reading his bi-lingual parable, *The Good Stranger's Sancocho Surprise* as Cathedral friends from all congregations shared a traditional Dominican supper.

As people returned downtown during the week, business increased. Visitors continued to come to the website, however, increasing our views over 2020's to almost 10,000 views for the year. Our Facebook and Instagram presence grew, and we began a video series of Anne Flanagan sharing her family's book traditions. In-person and online, we continue to focus on the ways that books connect us to others and help us to better understand each other and our surprising world.

We are grateful for the customers who have continued to support the bookstore through all the changes of the past year. We are grateful as well for our dedicated volunteers. Catherine Lippincott, Jan Fitzhugh, Martha French, Mary Finn, Michele Hale, Pat Hallmark, Roxanne Dolen, Tina Shands, Wendy Bentlif, and former manager Kathy Jackson all generously shared their gifts with the bookstore during the course of the year, and Truitt Hallmark faithfully manned our puzzle table.

Amid a constant influx of boxes, sextons Shadrick Griffin, Rigo Perez, and Nick Gomez and housekeeper Maria Lara and her team kept the bookstore running smoothly. We are thankful for their work and good cheer, and we're particularly appreciative of Cathedral receptionist, Lisa Cantu, who helped us coordinate with customers through all the changes in process and schedule.

As part of the EBA, we are keenly aware that church bookstores are an endangered species. Thank you to everyone in this community who has supported us through this year of uncertainty and change: by purchasing books, by telling friends about us, and by coming by to share a good word with us—across our 6-foot pole in the Cloister, and now back in our beloved space. We would not be here without you.

2021 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*

Matt Wareing, *Senior Warden*

Katharine Barnes

Maria Hernandez

Erin McMillin, *Junior Warden*

John Flanagan

Mark Hull

Rick Ogle, *Secretary*

Laura Galvin

Bilinda Matusek

Lyman Paden, *Chancellor*

Guy Hagstette

Ben Powell

Michael Bullington, *Treasurer*

George Hawkins

Flo Ray

Patrick Saccomanno, *Asst. Treasurer*

Patrick Hayes

Frankie Sims

2021 Endowment Trustees

Linnet Deily, President

Mike Bullington, *ex officio*

Michael McCord

Fredricka Brecht, Vice-President

Wayne Clawater

Catherine Randall

The Very Rev. Barkley Thompson,
ex officio

Cece Fowler

Rob Reedy

Charlotte Jones

John Knapp

Vital Statistics

Average Sunday attendance in 2021

In-Person Worship Average Sunday Attendance: 363

*In-Person Worship Average Sunday Attendance
(June – December after limited seating was lifted): 446

Online Worship Average Sunday Attendance: 1040

Combined Average Sunday Attendance: 1403

In 2020¹: 730 Actual Breakdown for the entire year of 2020 (not an exact comparison because of the difference in number of both in-person and online services): In-Person Worship Average Sunday Attendance: 278 (this includes all of the in-person worship services including the services with limited seating); Online Worship Average Sunday Attendance: 1514; In-person and online combined Average Sunday Attendance: 1421

Easter attendance in 2021

In-person: 564

Online: 1598

Combined: 2162

Total active baptized members at the end of 2021: 4,039

At the end of 2020: 4,018

Number of pledging households in 2021: 572

In 2020: 603

Total amount pledged in 2021: \$3,343,008

In 2020: \$3,389,278

Total church school students enrolled in 2021: 358

In 2020: 473

Baptisms in 2021: 24

In 2020: 15

Confirmations in 2021: 20

In 2020: 20

Received in 2021: 4

In 2020: 2

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

2021: The Year in Review

The first line of Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* is: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." 2021 could certainly qualify! The second year of the COVID-19 pandemic presented its fair share of challenges, but at Christ Church we persevered in faith as we continued to proclaim God in the midst of the city (Psalm 46:5). Here are Cathedral highlights from the past year:

January

- Cathedral youth, in partnership with The Episcopal Diocese of Texas, gather for *Exploring Racial Reconciliation*, which includes a panel discussion with diocesan leaders Francene Young and Alyssa Stebbing and concludes with a pilgrimage to the Historic Third Ward.
- The Bookstore continues the Episcopal Booksellers Association (EBA) Authors Series, a national Zoom conversation, with Dr. Ilia Delio, author of *Re-Enchanting the Earth: why AI needs religion*, and Greg Hansell, Executive Director of the Center for Christogenesis. The series welcomes notable authors throughout the year, culminating in November with Dr. Kate Bowler, associate professor of the history of Christianity in North America at Duke Divinity School, speaking about her new memoir, *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)*.
- COVID's continuing presence forces the cancellation of the 2021 Camp Allen parish retreat.
- Wednesday night Young Adult Ministry gatherings resume a study of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's book *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*.
- The Children's Ministry Council teams up with the Youth Ministry Council to present "A Lineage of Light," a five-part series on the lineage of Christ through the women named in the Bible. Guest speakers include Cathedral folks Canon Kathy Pfister, Canon Becky Zartman, and Maria Teresa Bautista, as well as members of our diocese Kathy Culmer and the Rev. Luz Montes. The program features the artwork of Cathedral member Kate Mumey.
- The Children's Ministry offers continued online support to families during the pandemic through Facebook and Instagram Live, as well as via Zoom for both the Sunday School hour and weekly chapel time, supporting families at both the Cathedral and our Cathedral House Episcopal Montessori School.

- "Walking the Mourners Path," a program for those processing grief, is offered via Zoom with participants from three churches across the area participating.
- Cathedral volunteers assist parishioners who need help navigating COVID vaccine registration.
- The Vestry commissions the Caring for God's Good Earth task force to study the initiative of the same name in the Cathedral Vision Action Plan, "Rooted in Christ/ Built on Christ." The task force will report its findings in autumn.
- Throughout the school year, the Mission Outreach Council coordinates the weekly delivery of meals for families at Small Steps Nurturing Center and Kid's Hope, two organizations supported by the Cathedral. The meals are generously donated by Cathedral parishioners Patti and Ben Ramsey, proprietors of Epicurean Group.

February

- Youth Ministry Council member Yuna O'Brien represents Christ Church Cathedral and The Diocese of Texas at Rothko Chapel's 50th-anniversary celebration.
- Christ Church Cathedral launches a new, redesigned website, easing access to information about all things Christ Church.
- A COVID-friendly in-person Shrove Tuesday celebration is cancelled due to freak freezing conditions across Texas, ultimately named Winter Storm Uri.
- Lay Chaplains reach out to our most vulnerable members following Winter Storm Uri.
- The Robert C. Stuart Lecture Series New Creation! The Ministry of Reconciliation begins. Dr. Catherine Meeks starts this online lecture series, with following lectures by The Rev. Dr. Pittman McGehee, Dr. Karl Pillemer of Cornell University, theologian The Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Dr. Peter S. Carmichael of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College.
- The Children's Ministry Council teams up with the Youth Ministry Council to host "Reconciliation through STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)" to highlight how the world is constantly in a state of reconciling itself. We employ the help of parishioners John Flanagan, Jeff Lasater, and Jody Gillit, as well as Cathedral CFO Patrick Saccomanno. The program features artwork by parishioner Lia Rodi.

- Alan Jackson, The Rev. Betty Adam, and Canon Vicar Kathy Pfister explore ecological theology through the Theology Roundtable series.
- The Cathedral Urban Service Experience (CUSE) begins a year of virtual programming and connects with groups from across Houston and the surrounding region.

March

- Youth Ministry Council members lead the Making Our Home for Faith podcast. Each week a YMC member reads a meditation by Howard Thurman or Archbishop Oscar Romero for the podcast.
- Cathedral Organist Daryl Robinson records A Love so Fierce, the complete solo organ works of University of Houston composer David Ashley White. This is the first commercial recording made on the Cathedral's 1938, ninety-six rank Aeolian-Skinner organ.
- The Children's Ministry Council partners with Trinity Episcopal Church Midtown and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 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, an ambulance, a motorcycle, a boat, and a METRO bus up close and personal.
- To help families navigate Lent during the continued isolation, "Resurrection Garden" kits are available for pick up and we provide Zoom set up to help folks know how to assemble them.
- Latino Ministry begins five consecutive virtual Station of the Cross from March 5 through April 2. Many people join from Houston and outside of Houston —including overseas — via Facebook and Zoom.

April

- Spring Neighborhood Gatherings return, and parishioners joyously gather in the Bishop's Courtyard at the Cathedral and other outdoor venues to connect with fellow parishioners, clergy, and staff.
- As COVID conditions improve, the Cathedral Bookstore reopens for in-person shopping on Sundays.
- Seven families attend the 5th grade enlistment in-person meeting in Reynolds Hall with Minister for Youth, Marcia Quintanilla, and Minister for Children and Families, KariAnn Lessner.
- The Cathedral celebrates the Resurrection as 562 parishioners gather in-person for worship on Easter Sunday, with another 1,598 participating online. In the Bishop's Courtyard, we celebrate the return of the Lord with the return of the flowered cross.

- Parishioners travel the "Via Cathedral" during Eastertide, individually and in groups, to rack up thousands of miles, culminating in celebration in the Bishop's Courtyard.
- The Mission and Outreach Council partners with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to host a successful blood drive. Some 20 members of the Cathedral responded to the call to donate blood to save the lives of others.

May

- Twelve Cathedral youth are confirmed when The Rt. Reverend Hector Monterroso, Assisting Bishop of Texas, makes his spring visitation.
- Ten graduating high school seniors are blessed by Canon Vicar Kathy Pfister on Senior Sunday.
- Beginning Pentecost Sunday, pre-registration to attend worship services is no longer required, marking a milestone in the pandemic.
- The Cathedral hosts the first hybrid May Fete! Many generations gather to worship across the Cathedral campus and celebrate this 125-year tradition. The day includes the Maypole dance, crowning of the king and queen, bluegrass music, tamales, and a cakewalk.
- The Justice & Peace council hosts a two-day virtual conference entitled, "Racial Reconciliation and the Baptismal Covenant," including speakers of local prominence and national stature. As an outgrowth of the conference, the Cathedral launches "Sacred Ground," a small-group program that studies the legacy of racism in the United States and the call upon faithful people to be agents of redemption and change.

June

- Youth Ministry's Summer Shade introduces partially in-person programming with movie nights in the newly renovated Treehouse.
- Five Cathedral youth participate in a Houston-area service mission trip in partnership with the CUSE program.
- The Third Annual Cathedral Reads program, entitled "The Logic of Love" takes adult readers to medieval France and post-war New York with James Carroll's historical fiction, *The Cloister*, youth readers on an imaginative journey through the pages of a book with *Inkspell*, and kids on a voyage of the heart with *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*.

- Christ Church hosts the annual Ordination of Deacons for the Diocese of Texas. 8 ordinands are made deacons by the Rt. Reverend Kai Ryan, Suffragan Bishop of Texas.
- “Threads of Comfort and Joy,” the Pastoral Care Council’s prayer shawl ministry, meets in-person for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Fellowship and fun is shared by all as Cathedral councils take turns hosting Summer Place coffee hours throughout the summer.
- The Cathedral welcomes Matthew Dion as our new Organ Scholar. A graduate of Oberlin College, Matthew is pursuing his Masters in Organ Performance with Daryl Robinson at the University of Houston.
- Vestry and council leaders travel to Camp Allen for (delayed by COVID) weekend retreat focusing on ministry development and community building.
- Latino Ministry hosts Conferencia Te, in which 33 women get together to celebrate the International Day of Non-Violence against women.
- Noche Familiar resumes in-person at Reynolds Hall for a family formation night. Fifty-six people attend.

July

- Cathedral youth in partnership with the World Mission Board gather online for Encuentro Juvenil: Costa Rica y Texas (Youth Encounter: Costa Rica & Texas). Thirty-six youth attend, including members from St. Julian of Norwich, Austin; St. James’, Austin; San Pedro, Pasadena; the Cathedral, and Costa Rica.
- On July 16, Bookstore Manager Lucy Chambers, is elected president of the Episcopal Booksellers Association. Congratulations, Lucy!
- Children’s Ministry launches “Donuts & Devos in the Driveway,” a time of music, prayers, stories — and donuts! — in the driveways of Cathedral members. Nurturing connections in the pandemic, dozens of families participate throughout the summer.
- The Mission and Outreach Council partners with the Latino Ministry Council to conduct the Fourth Annual Cathedral Yard Sale. Profits provide financial support for high school graduates in need who are headed to college.

August

- The Cathedral further integrates into a pandemic world by outfitting both the Jeffers and McGehee conference rooms with hybrid technology to accommodate meetings and classes with attendees both online and in person.
- Cathedral women’s, men’s and co-ed Bible studies kick off the program year. In all, more than 150 parishioners participate in small-group Bible study through the Cathedral.
- The Community Life Council hosts a parish-wide game night featuring bingo, bridge, and much fun! Parishioners of all ages join together for a night of game play.
- The Rev. Bradley Varnell joins the Cathedral staff as Canon for Community Life and Young Adult Ministry. Welcome, Bradley!

September

- A socially-distanced Every Member Canvass Kickoff in Reynolds Hall draws 150 people to “Passport to Paradise!” an island-style dinner theater. Parishioners are invited to don Hawaiian shirts and flip flops for song, comedy, and fellowship.
- Monthly Bridge & Rummikub night resumes in-person.
- Five Cathedral families open their homes throughout the autumn for Fall Neighborhood Gatherings, providing food, fellowship, and a blessed return to normalcy as COVID numbers improve in the community.
- The 20s & 30s council kicks off the program year with the return of the annual Fajita Fiesta held in the Bishop’s Courtyard. Two dozen new and returning young adults join for food and fellowship.
- The Cathedral and the University of Houston’s Moores School of Music launch a new chamber music series with a recital in Sanders Hall by University of Houston pianist Timothy Hester.
- Cathedral Choirs return to in-person rehearsals, to much rejoicing!
- The Justice & Peace council hosts a four-part series, “Combatting Anti-Semitism,” which includes a tour of the Holocaust Museum, presentations by a Holocaust survivor and representative of the Anti-Defamation League, and a study of the scriptural origins of anti-Semitism led by Professor Dan Joslyn-Semiatowski from the Seminary of the Southwest.
- Over 25 parishioners partake in the first Cathedral Commons Learning Day. The theme is liturgical theology, and participants have a BCP show-and-tell, attend lectures about the formation of the BCP via Thomas Cranmer’s Great Litany and liturgical theology, as well as enjoy small-group conversations and lunch together.

- After the success of our Donuts & Devos in the Driveway during the summer, the Children’s Ministry council offers “Eucharist in the Yard,” a time for picnicking, fellowship and Holy Eucharist in the front lawns of Cathedral members.
- Pastoral Care Ministry offers the “Aging Solo” series, designed to empower those who are aging independently.
- Community of Hope International Training begins for those seeking to deepen their support skills by being a listening presence.
- Dean Thompson begins the annual Anglican Way series on Sunday evenings, as a refresher on Anglican identity and preparation for adult confirmation. More than 25 people attend.
- The Welcome Council launches a new initiative, “Cathedral 101,” a class that aims to orient newcomers to life at the Cathedral.
- Pastoral Care Ministry offers a funeral planning workshop, with presentations by Minister for Stewardship Karen Kraycirik on the Bishop Richardson Society, Dean Barkley Thompson on planning a Cathedral burial service, and representatives from A Sacred Choice about the ancillary planning for a funeral.
- Latino Ministry celebrates El Mes de la Herencia, Latina Hispana/Month of Latino Hispanic Heritage, with food, music, and festive costumes.
- The Dean’s Hour series “Things Seen and Things Not Seen” begins with Texan artist of the year and Episcopalian Mary McCleary, continues with a very fun conversation with the Altar Guild and The Rev. Ed Stein about sacred threads, and ends with a presentation by our knowledgeable tour guides.

October

- Cathedral youth lead Youth Sunday for the 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1 p.m. worship services. Sam Randall preaches, Yuna O’Brian writes the Prayers of the People, and Mac Bechtol and Grady McMillin share their musical talents.
- Dean Thompson hosts a beautiful Celebration Tea and presents resolutions to honor Wendy Bentlif and Cynthia Pyle, two of the bookstore’s founding volunteers who served the Cathedral faithfully for almost 40 years each.
- On October 24, Cameron Dezen Hammon reads from her spiritual memoir, *This Is My Body: A Memoir of Religious and Romantic Obsession* and holds a spiritual writing workshop after The Well.
- Parishioners return in droves to the Dean’s Hour on Sunday mornings, as Dean Thompson offers a four-part series on Celtic “Thin Places.”
- The CUSE steering committee goes on retreat to hone the CUSE mission and plan for a post-COVID world, connecting volunteer groups with non-profit social service providers for an immersive volunteer experience.
- The annual St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals returns to the Bishop’s Courtyard with gusto, including more than 50 dogs, cats, and hamsters. Police Horse “Royalty” makes his final appearance and is looking forward to retirement.
- On All Saints Sunday, the Cathedral Choir sings the first in-person Evensong since January 2020.
- The Cathedral observes All Souls Day and Día de los Muertos by opening the Cathedral for private reflection.
- Twenty-one Cathedral youth serve at The Beacon, preparing meals, and doing laundry for homeless clients.
- A dozen Cathedral youth and their adult leaders venture to Galveston for a weekend retreat with a focus on a “future filled with hope.”
- The Every Member Canvass culminates in Loyalty Sunday, when parishioners are encouraged to turn in their pledge cards for the upcoming year.
- Members of the Stewardship Council make more than 160 phone calls to encourage congregants to turn in their pledges for the EMC phone-a-thon.
- The 20s & 30s council hosts the second (but first in-person!) Friendsgiving for young adults in the Mellinger Room.
- Threads of Comfort and Joy presents prayer shawls and other knitted and crocheted items for blessing in a Sunday morning service.
- The Cathedral’s Dementia Caregivers’ Support Group marks two years of meeting to support those locally and nationally whose loved ones suffer from many forms of dementia.

- Community of Hope International welcomes over 40 people from Palmer Memorial, Christ the King Lutheran, and Christ Church Cathedral for commissioning and fellowship. Four members from the Cathedral are newly commissioned.
- The Vestry receives the Caring for God's Good Earth Task Force report, adopting initiatives to minimize the Cathedral's carbon footprint, investigate the possibility of a Cathedral community donation garden, and provide formation opportunities on creation care for the entire congregation.
- Members of the Mission and Outreach Council and the Justice and Peace Council travel on a fact-finding pilgrimage to our southern border with Mexico, learning about the needs of those directly involved with the crisis at the border and assessing ways we can help serve there.
- The annual Alternative Giving Market raises \$37,000 in support of 16 recipient charitable organizations throughout Houston and further afield.
- The Cathedral hosts two services on Thanksgiving Eve, one at the Cathedral and one in Spanish at the home of Canon Simón Bautista, as parishioners give thanks for the many blessings of God.
- The Mission and Outreach council hosts the second blood drive of the year, collecting thirty pints of blood.
- More than one hundred families participate the Cathedral's annual Advent wreath-making event. The smiles amid the smell of evergreens are both nostalgic and heartwarming.
- Christmas at the Cathedral shares Christmas joy with 50 families from Kid's Hope and Small Steps Nurturing Center. Due to COVID, the event is held as "drive-through" in the Cathedral garage on December 11 and 12, with each family receiving Christmas greetings from volunteers and a giant gift box filled with a prepared holiday meal, \$50 gift card, Christmas lights and a Christmas card from the Cathedral clergy.
- In partnership with Brazos Bookstore, the Cathedral hosts internationally acclaimed author Mitch Albom who presents his latest book, *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*, on a national Zoom webinar.
- The Community Life council and Children's Ministry council share popcorn, M&Ms, hot chocolate, and Christmas spirit along with a viewing of A Charlie Brown Christmas during the Sunday morning Dean's Hour.
- The year's 20s and 30s Wednesday night gatherings wrap up with Duke psychiatrist and theologian Dr. Warren Kinghorn joining Cathedral young adults via Zoom to discuss faith and mental health.
- The Cathedral Choir sings Service of Advent Lessons and Carols at the largest in-person worship service since March 2020.
- Longest Night services are offered as a contemplative experience of community and comfort. Services are offered via Zoom and in person.

December

- The Youth Ministry Council hosts a Youth Posada in partnership with the Latino/Hispanic Ministry at the Nettles' home.
- The Cathedral Bookstore's traditional Advent Newsletter is published electronically on December 1 and features the last batch of charming wooden Christmas trees Dieter Ufer claims he will make, Cathedral aprons, and lemon cakes made by Inel Dyer Klein's Lemon Cake Café.
- Fourteen adults are confirmed, received, or reaffirmed in their faith, as the Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge, Bishop of West Texas (Retired), makes an Episcopal visit to the Cathedral.
- As part of the Migratory God Advent series, on December 12, Houston theologian and author Dr. Phuc Luu offers reflection and discussion around his book, *Jesus of the East: Reclaiming the Gospel for the Wounded* after The Well.
- The Latino Ministry Council hosts Las Posadas in the neighborhoods. Dozens of parishioners gather for 8 nights of celebrations, including reenactments of the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem. Las Posadas culminate with the La Grand Posada, at which author and Education Across Borders founder John McLaughlin reads his bi-lingual parable, *The Good Stranger's Sancocho Surprise* and Cathedral friends from all congregations share a traditional Dominican supper and enjoy music from Mendeliz. More than 130 people attend.
- To celebrate the Feast of the Nativity on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, 802 people gather in-person, including 48 children who participate in the pageant. A stunning 3,877 additional people engage worship online!
- By year end, the 2022 Every Member Canvass receives 530 pledges for \$3.6 million in support of Cathedral ministry.

Bishop Richardson Society

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

Anonymous (11)	Dr Jane Mallory Campbell	Mary Murrell Faulkner	Antonia Day Helland
W. Andrew Achenbaum	Winifred Trimble Carter ☩	Quentin Faulkner	Richard S. Hellmann
Anthony B. Adams ☩	Scott Cawley ☩	Edith Valerie Finch ☩	Gail Hendryx
Claire Elaine Adams	Victoria Cawley	David Allen Fincher ☩	Mike Hendryx
Ben Monroe Anderson ☩	Grayson Reed Cecil	Helen Ann Fisher ☩	Bonnie Ely Hibbert
Mary Greenwood Anderson ☩	Patricia Jackson Chambers	Jan Fitzhugh	Sara Chapman Bagby Hill
Rick Ankrom	Thomas Leroy Chambers☩	Thomas Champe Fitzhugh III	Donna Hobdy☩
Hope Hammond Arnim ☩	Anne Chapin	John C. Flanagan II	Georgie Hockman
Bruce Atkins	Louis Edward Chapin	Robert P. Fleischer	Susan Hoffius
Diana Kay Austin	Allen Byron Clark Sr. ☩	Marian Wilkin Fleming ☩	Douglas C. Hoffman ☩
Herbert S. Autry ☩	Mary Ann Cobb*	Cece Fowler	Mary Hoffman
Lynette S. Autry ☩	Susan E. Collins	Deborah Wandel Francis	Elizabeth Green Holden
Robert Awe ☩	James R. Cox☩	Paul David Fromberg	Frank E. Hood Jr.
Catherine Barlow ☩	Mary Cullinan Cravens ☩	Don Gard ☩	Howard Spencer Hoover ☩
Katie Barnes	Barbara Crook	Phillippa Gard	Lillian England Hoover ☩
Mary Sue Wilson Barnum	Marc Cuenod	Charlie Gillman*	Barbara Goodhart Hornbeck
Jan Barrow	Martha Cuenod☩	Melbern G. Glasscock	Dorothy Knox Howe
Laura T. Barrow ☩	Jane Anderson Curtis	Susanne M. Glasscock	Houghton ☩
Thomas Davies Barrow ☩	William P. Curtis Jr.	Dolores Russell Goble☩	Thomas W. Houghton ☩
Virginia Monahan Bayles ☩	Keith Grey Davis	Robert McMillan Goble ☩	Edward M. House ☩
Audrey Jones Beck ☩	Manfred Dehmer	William J. Goldston ☩	Lee Huckstep
Wendy A. Bentlif	Linnet F. Deily	Bebe Lord Gow	Anne Fallon Hudson ☩
Philip S. Bentlif	Delores Delsing ☩	The Rev. James McKay Lykes	James Hughes
Ann Benzon	Frances Cluett Desel ☩	Grace	Jack Hurt
John Benzon ☩	Wayne Dockery	Mrs. James McKay Lykes Grace	Patty Hurt☩
Sylvia Bernicchi*	Roy S. Dodd ☩	I. R. Greene ☩	Alice Mahon Jenkins ☩
Mary Virginia Bille ☩	Donna K. Donelson	Eldridge (Gus) Greening	Josephine Doubleday John
Georgia L. Blair ☩	James Robert Doty	Kristy Anne Greenwood	Philip J. John
Jean Ramsey Border	Joan Richardson Doty	Kaki Grubbs	A. Clark Johnson ☩
Patrick Boruk ☩	Anne H. Dougherty	R. Kent Grubbs	Myra Wheeler Johnson ☩
Daniel Boudreaux	James L. Dougherty	Arturo Gutierrez	Ann Wier McNamara Jones☩
Mary Frances Newton Bowers ☩	Viola Duer ☩	Eric Stewart Hagstette	Charlotte Harrison Jones
Catherine Cage Masterson Bruns ☩	David Dupre	Guy Lefevre Hagstette	Chester Jones ☩
G. Sidney Buchanan	H. Clayton Edwards ☩	William Edward Hamilton	Norma Holland Jones ☩
Richard H. Buffett	Eduardo Esquivel*	Nancy Wren Harris ☩	Henry Powell Judah Jr. ☩
Mike Bullington	Carl Lewis Estes II☩	Thomas Kirkland Harrison ☩	Isaac C. Kerridge ☩
Robin Bullington	Gay Estes	George F. Hawkins III	Ruth S. Kerridge ☩
Patricia Hagy Bunch	James Thomas Evans ☩	Hester Thomas Hawkins	Anne Ainsworth Kirkland
Anne Bushman ☩	Alice Fairbanks	Patrick Hayes	J. David Kirkland Jr. ☩
Pete Bushman ☩	Ann Fairbanks	Shannon Hayes	Lois Cleveland Kirkland ☩
Lella Cain ☩	Bonnie Fairbanks	Elizabeth Drane Haynsworth ☩	William A. Kirkland ☩
	David Fairbanks	Stuart G. Haynsworth ☩	Frances S. Kittrell

David Hebard Knapp †	Susan Morrison	Freddy Joe Sanches	Walker Taylor
Letitia Knapp	Jim Murdaugh	Charles B. Sanders Jr. †	Walter Hamilton Taylor †
Evelyn Knolle	Eugenia Richardson Nash	Charles King Sanders †	Christopher Blake Thomas
Elaine W. Krause	Terrylin G. Neale	Rana B. Sanders	Lorna Hume Thomas †
Gary R. Krause	Hugo Neuhaus †	Karla J. Randle Schapansky	The Very Rev. Barkley S. Thompson
Priscilla F. Larson	Richard Alan Newlin	L. Allen Schapansky	Diane Tracy
Gary Lawrence	Roy L. Nolen	Doris Lee Schild †	Glen A. Tracy Jr.
Nancy Lawrence	Haylett O'Neill Jr. †	Ronald Craig Schindler	Bill Turney
U. Whitney Leavell, III	Kate Ross Patton O'Neill †	Don Schmuck	Patty Turney
Mary R. Lewis †	Lyman Rushton Paden	Martita Schmuck	Francita Stuart Ulmer
Polly Lewis	Mary Lynn Pannill †	Elma Schneider †	Chase Untermeyer
H. W. Linnstaedter †	Mrs. Gary Pearson	Rose Anne Scott	Diana Untermeyer
Rev. John A. Logan Jr. †	Lois Ann Peckham †	Pauline Schweppe †	Mary Vandenberg
Dr. Joan Lynch †	John A. Pendergrast	Henry Irving Schweppe Jr. †	Andy Vickery
Harrison J. Luhn †	Kay Heffler Pieringer	David Scoular †	Carol Vickery
Robert Lincoln Maby Jr. †	Stan Pieringer †	Anne Hughes Shepard	Lucy M. Wagner
Paul B. Mandell	Michael Pierson	Thomas Wharton Shepard III	Philip Wandel †
Barbara Manly	Daniel J. Piette	David Simpson	Priscilla Wandel †
Eugene Decker Manly †	Charles Horry Prioleau	Rhonda Simpson	Elizabeth Bledsoe Wareing
Lena Mann	Mimi Prioleau	Margaret Cooke Skidmore †	Matthew Wareing
Robert Mann †	Patricia Prioleau	Gary A. Smith	Hal Watson
Christian Manuel	Robert Means Prioleau	Jean Snyder	Shari Watson
William Sherman Manuel III	Jess R. Quave II	Ruth Sollett	Margaret Weaver †
Leland Glenn Marsters Jr. †	Mary Whaley Rahe †	Mary Louise Fitch Soule †	Adrienne Elizabeth Webb
Kristi Shipnes Cassin Martin †	Fairfax Randall	Cora Conner Spear †	Diane Savage Webb
Nancy Thompson Martin*	Risher Randall Sr.	Barbara Speir †	Phyllis Keese Webb †
Margaret D. Maxwell †	William J. Rapson Jr. †	Clifton Speir †	Harry Charles Webb Jr.
Mrs. John A. McClellan †	Emily Rawlings †	Jack W. Spivey	F. Carrington Weems
Frances McCraney †	Florence Hargrove Ray	Angie Spivey	Blake Weisser
Catherine McDonald	Mary Susanne Reeves	Janette P. Spotts †	Gordon H. Weisser †
Dr. Donald McDonald	Bill Renfro †	Peter H. Squire	Damon Wells
John Bruce McDonald	Phyllis Renfro	Jennifer Stansbury	Nance Foules Wier †
Keith McFarland	Eugenia Brooks Richardson †	Thomas O. Stansbury	I. M. Wilford †
Helen Gould McIntyre †	J. Milton Richardson †	Dr. Joy Stapp †	Bertha Williamson †
Anne McKann	Nell Aycock Richardson	Bette Ann Stead	Ray Wilson
Mike McKann	Robert Charles Richter Jr.	Janie Stevens †	Sr. Mary Winfred, C.A.
Robert H. Milsted †	Lewis Donald Riggsbee †	Jim Stevens	Barbara Wallace Winston
Judith D. Mood	Floyd W. Robinson Jr.	Josephine Shuck Stewart †	Christine Theriot Woodfin
Robert G. Mood	C. Henry Roth †	Pamela Dee Stockton	Anne R. Woods †
Hallie Moore*	Jeanne Arthur Roth	Doreen Noel Stoller	William F. Woods, III †
Jack Moore †	Victoria Nalle Rowland	Barbara Summy †	Mary Barden Attwell Worrell †
Nancy Powell Moore	Robert A. Rowland III	Mary Swift	Joyce E. Nogle Young †
Neville Moore	Ed Ruckstuhl	Stanley Hill Swift III	Nancy Younger-Kruka
Tyler Moore*	H. Clifford Rudisill II	Mary Taylor	
Muffie Moroney †	Lucile M. Rutledge †	Susan Taylor	

† deceased as of December 1, 2021
 * new member as of December 1, 2021

Clergy *as of December 31, 2021*

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 Missioner for Evangelism and Formation*

The Rev. Bradley Varnell, *Canon Missioner for Community Life
and Young Adult Ministry*

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

The Rev. Jim Morgan, *Chaplain for the Beacon*

Cathedral Staff *as of December 31, 2021*

MINISTRY STAFF

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

KariAnn Lessner, *Minister for Children
and Families*

Brant Mills, *Minister for Communication*

Marcia Quintanilla, *Minister for Youth*

Daryl Robinson, *Cathedral Organist*

Patrick Saccomanno, *Chief
Financial Officer*

Gerardo Sandoval, *Operations Manager*

Robert Simpson, *Canon for Music*

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Peggy Beltrami, *Financial Administrator*

Mark Bohenic, *Publications Editor*

Lisa Cantu, *Receptionist*

Sylvia Castellanos, *Assistant
for Latino Ministry*

Elizabeth Cuevas, *Program Coordinator*

Marie Easy, *Revenue and Accounts
Payable Coordinator*

Louise Langford, *Executive Assistant to
the Dean*

John Merullo, *Administrative Assistant to
the Canon Vicar*

FACILITIES STAFF

Frank Guevara, *Facilities Administrator*

Shadrick Griffin, *Senior Sexton*

Nick Gomez, *Sexton*

Rigoberto Perez, *Sexton*

Maria Lara, *Facilities Support*

AUXILIARY STAFF

Barbara Hamilton, *Archivist*

Will Hamilton, *Archivist*

Matthew Dion, *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*



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

ESTABLISHED MARCH 16, 1839

1117 Texas Avenue, Houston, Texas 77002

713-222-2593

christchurchcathedral.org