

Christ Church Cathedral

Annual Parish Report 2023



JANUARY 21, 2024



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 75th 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 Beloved in Christ,

What a difference a year makes! Last January, neither Shelly nor I could have imagined that we would find a home at the start of our life together in Houston, Texas in the midst of such a generous, big-hearted, Christ-centered community. By the same token, I suspect that you would never have imagined that your next Dean would come from Paris, Texas, let alone France. The Spirit moves in mysterious ways, a wonder to behold. Shelly and I could not be more grateful for that, and we pray that the feeling is mutual.

It was a Spirit-led process that led to our arrival in Houston last fall. The Spirit's presence was palpable on that Tuesday evening in September when I stood before you as your Dean for the first time. That night I shared my philosophy that the church is called to live in tension between acting as an institution and a movement. According to that philosophy, my role as the Dean is to nourish and empower broader leadership within the church, building up disciples of Christ to follow his example and listen for the Spirit's guidance on how to grow and challenge ourselves.

The welcome Shelly and I received from the Cathedral community that first night was extraordinary, and it continued throughout the fall. I was pleased to attend Neighborhood Gatherings across Houston, allowing time and space to begin getting to know you all beyond Sunday mornings and beyond our campus footprint. It also allowed me an opportunity to reflect back to you what a generous, big-hearted, Christ-centered community you are.

On the first Friday in November, we gathered for a great feast that invited our wider community and diocesan family to celebrate the start of our new ministry together. That feast began with a bilingual Eucharist that reflected the abundance of our community's worship life. Bishop Doyle celebrated with grace and humor. The Rev. Dr. Bob Dannals preached an inspiring sermon which called for us to look for the "residue of grace" that is Christ's presence in one another. The Cathedral Choirs and Mendeliz offered music that moved our souls as well as our bodies. And once we were fed at God's altar, we strolled across the Bishop's Courtyard to Reynolds Hall to continue the feast and dance the night away! It was a great night for us as a Cathedral family and it provided us with a model to build on as we build up the body of Christ together in the years ahead.

One of the great joys of this opening season as Dean has been to see how our community has responded to the series on Secondhand Religion that has begun in the Dean's Hour. The premise of this series is that none of us make it to or through our lives of faith on our own. We stand on the shoulders of others who have led us to our faith — what we believe and how we live out our beliefs. I have thoroughly enjoyed my sessions as an opportunity to introduce myself to you by

introducing you to individuals who have shaped my life in faith. I have also been inspired by the presentations my clergy colleagues have shared. It is apparent to me that there is great potential for carrying this theme forward. And so we will extend the series throughout the rest of the program year and will likely return to it from time to time as a way to reinforce our appreciation for the great cloud of witnesses of which we are a part.

At the outset of 2024, I am mindful of the year that lies ahead for our community, our country, and our world. In my first sermon for the new year, I stated that I could not think of another year when there was so much conflict and division anticipated at the outset. I named that the best antidote available to us is the message that descends upon Jesus at his baptism, and to each one of us — that we are God's Beloved in whom God is well pleased. The challenge I issued to our Cathedral community that morning was to put Belovedness at the center of our life in the year ahead. If we can manage to nurture the truth of our Belovedness amidst our church community, then we will begin to carry it out into the wider world. As we grow in our ability to trust in our own belovedness, and recognize it in others, we will be able to understand how best to put it to use when confronted with efforts to divide us from one another.

I am looking forward to taking on this challenge together in the year ahead. And I look forward to seeing how the Spirit will move and inspire us to reach beyond our comfort zones in our efforts to live as God's beloved.

I wish to close my first report to you with words of gratitude. I could not be more grateful to the faithful, committed leaders who saw the Cathedral community through its season of transition. I am grateful to the Rev. Gary Jones for his wise pastoral ministry as Interim Dean. I am grateful to the clergy and staff who dug deep within themselves to offer the best of their talents during a time of extended uncertainty. And I am grateful to the lay leadership of the Cathedral whose devotion and vision signaled to the entire community that the Cathedral's ministry would not skip a beat. Last, but far from least, I am grateful to our outgoing wardens, Guy Hagstette and Flo Ray, who carried the mantle of leadership far beyond the call of duty. They have led with love, offering a powerful example for others to follow, including the Dean.

May the Spirit move in mysterious ways in this next year of ministry such that when we gather for our next annual meeting we may do so in a sense of awe and wonder once again.

Peace and blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathaniel Katz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

The Very Rev. Nathaniel Katz
Dean

Senior Warden's Report

We have all heard the saying, “God works in mysterious ways.” Over the past eighteen months, we have learned how profoundly true these words are. The news in the summer of 2022 was anything but good; but I have come to understand just how blessed we are as we experienced a truly remarkable year.

The year began with your vestry approving a grant to Casa Mateo, a bold new ministry that will help asylum seekers navigate a new and unfamiliar country. It will be located on property in the Northshore area made available by Bishop Doyle, and the Diocese of Texas also provided seed funding. Support from within and outside the Episcopal Church is growing, and renovations to the property are under way. Susan Reedy and Kristin Johnson are projecting Casa Mateo will be open in the spring. Words cannot describe Susan's and Kristin's unflinching determination and devotion to this extraordinary undertaking, continuing the Cathedral's long-standing legacy of ministry to those on the margins of society.

In late February, we were reminded yet again how blessed we are to have Robert L. Simpson as our Canon for Music when Mass of the Eternal Flame, a Mass setting by Latvian composer Ēriks Ešenvalds, was premiered by our choir. Commissioned to mark Canon Simpson's 25th anniversary at the Cathedral, it was a beautiful evening, with Ešenvalds present to hear his work for the first time.

The Rev. Jones invited exceptional speakers for the Robert C. Stuart Lenten Series, including visits by luminaries Carmen Acevedo Butcher, Tricia Lyons, Marcia Brennan, and poets Allison Seay and Jason Myers. Gary also introduced us to Contemplative Prayer in weekly sessions and with a day-long retreat focused on this ancient and powerful practice. The Easter season brought us Bishop Paul-Gordon Chandler, author of *In Search of a Prophet*, a biography of Kahlil Gibran, and then a double header in mid-May — Barbara Brown Taylor and John Philip Newell, two well-known authors with international followings. While the first half of the year focused on silence as a path to God, it was certainly not the “pause” in the Cathedral's activities that some were expecting the interim to be.

In the midst of this inspiring series of events, Linnet Deily and the Search Committee continued their great work, meeting every Monday to late May. Their dedication to the Cathedral paid off when the vestry's call to the Rev. Nathaniel Katz to be the ninth Dean of Christ Church Cathedral was made public on June 14. Last summer was a season of excitement and preparation for Dean Katz's arrival from the American Cathedral in Paris, but it also was a season of farewells. We celebrated the Rev. Becky Zartman's time with us in late June and organist Daryl Robinson's a few weeks later. His former student, Tom Marvil then ably stepped in. In late August a standing room crowd in Reynolds Hall celebrated Gary and Cherry Jones' year with us, and we marked the occasion with a gift in his honor to the Society of Saint John the Evangelist.

Dean Katz arrived one month later, with an introduction on September 19 and a whirlwind of activities that allowed many of us to get to know and love him, including our traditional fall Neighborhood Gatherings. His Dean's Hour series on "Secondhand Religion" was wildly popular, and the consensus is Nat is clearly the right Dean to lead us into a bold future built on two centuries of tradition as a foundation. This was abundantly clear during the Celebration of New Ministry on November 3 when Bishop Doyle and a full church formally "installed" him as our Dean and Rector. I could not have been prouder of our Bishop, Dean, Search Committee and congregation than I was during this moving service.

This was also the Rev. Kathy Pfister's last church service with us after she accepted a call to be Rector of St. Luke's on the Lake in Austin. We are very excited for her and wish her the very best. Brant Mills, our Minister of Communications, also departed to help support our Methodist brethren in Texas as they begin a new era. Becky, Daryl, Gary, Cherry, Brant and Kathy will be missed, and their departures remind us that we are still in a time of transition. Dean Katz is focused on our wonderful clergy and staff, and I have no doubt he will be sharing exciting news about new team members soon. I also want to thank the reverends Ed Stein and Liz Parker who have stepped in to help whenever needed.

In the midst of this extraordinary year, we also kept doing what we do best. The Beacon enjoyed real progress in its ministry to the homeless and partnered with the city, Coalition for the Homeless, and the downtown community on Houston's ongoing success story. Our councils continued their good work — the Alternative Giving Market, Christmas at the Cathedral, Episcopal Night at the Ballpark, our Welcome Table at the front of the church every Sunday, blood drives, community events and programs too numerous to mention here. And of course, the Kick-off Dinner for the Every Member Canvass was a huge success. The EMC is looking good, but there's still time to pledge as we walk in love and respond in faith so that we can continue to be a beacon of God's Kingdom in the midst of our city.

I want to thank everyone who remained committed to Christ Church Cathedral during the interim and our clergy and staff who led us through these exciting but challenging times. I have been honored to serve as your Senior Warden and am deeply grateful for Flo Ray's guidance and support for the past two years. I also want to thank Gary Smith, Ben Powell VI, Mike Bullington, Lyman Paden, and the entire vestry; Linnet Deily and the Search Committee; Gary and Cherry Jones; Nat and Shelly Katz; and the former senior wardens who have offered me guidance and support.



Guy Hagstette
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

Dear Cathedral Family,

For another year it has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your Jr. Warden and to be partner to Guy Hagstette, our incredible Sr. Warden. The good cheer and support of John Bramblett, Will Dugat, Gay Gullledge, Patrick Hayes and Ben Powell make Buildings & Grounds Committee meetings fast moving and productive. It is a delight to work with Karen Kraycirik, Gerardo, Dominic, and all the sextons. They make the job easy by doing all the hard work. I enjoy seeing the work in progress, admiring the way things turn out, and getting to know the ins and outs of our church.

This year began smoothly, closing out projects that had begun in the fall of 2022. In January a contracted inspection by Dobson Organ Builders gave us a good report on the job we have done so far and a suggested maintenance plan to keep it that way. Our Organ is a treasure that requires attention on a regular basis and we now know when to schedule particular adjustments to keep it in good form. Also in January the installation of the Arena server which had been purchased earlier in 2022 was successfully completed. The financial and membership records were safely transferred to the new equipment with Karen's careful planning.

The air handing unit (AHU) in the Sacristy had malfunctioned and required some investigation. The problem was identified and remedied, the hole in the ceiling repaired and painted and the project was complete in March. Repairs to The Beacon following their December 2022 freeze/flood incident were completed.

In April we celebrated the end of a long wait for parts and service and the completion of repairs to both of the elevators in the Parking Garage. While we were inspecting the elevators, we considered the security of the garage. Some of our unhoused neighbors had found ways to climb into the elevator vestibule to camp out in the upper floors. In May we commissioned the installation of additional metal bars to close this access point. Shadrick, our head sexton, tells me that the vestibule is much cleaner most mornings when he arrives at 5:00.

A dependable, flexible and energetic staff in the facilities department is an essential part of our success. Some time was invested in the spring and summer to fill vacancies and we were fortunate to promote Dominic Albert. Dom began work as a sexton in April 2022, and we were pleased by the way he adapted to working in a church. By June 2023 he had earned a spot as Assistant Facilities Manager. We were fortunate to find Rodney and Michael to join Shadrick to round out our team. It is a pleasure to work with this group of men that are willing to step in as necessary to keep things running smoothly.

Things heated up — literally — as the Houston heat grew over the summer. A/C units showed the need for repair to keep up with the temperatures over 100 degrees. Those in the Hazard St. rectory were replaced and repaired as necessary. We also scheduled major repairs to A/C equipment in the kitchen and attic of Reynolds Hall for the week after Christmas to minimize the disruption to Treebeards operation and Sunday Educational plans.

Due to prolonged freezing temperatures over the last couple of years, the jasmine around Nancy's Garden and the Parking Garage died. Our landscapers spent several days removing the dead foliage from the metal trellis along the street and the side of the

Parking Garage. The new plan for the Garden was approved by the Vestry and will be implemented in the Spring.

In August we purchased and had installed new Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) units around the campus. The old equipment had not been inspected or maintained on schedule and the number of units was not adequate to cover all of our spaces. AED stations are now set up in the Church, Latham, McGehee, the Jones Building (the school), The Beacon and the Diocese. They will have scheduled inspections and maintenance by professionals.

Of course, as the year wore on there were a number of small issues to deal with — garage cabling repairs, security cameras, the door to the loading dock on Prairie St., replacement of exterior doors at The Beacon and in the garage emergency stairwell, and the Treehouse showers which required repair and mold abatement. Everything was handled ably by Karen and the facilities team.

In addition to the downtown buildings, the Jr. Warden keeps an eye on the rectories and Deanery and this year was an active one for clergy housing. With the departure of Canon Zartman the house on Olympia Drive was made ready and sold in December. The Pfister family moved to Austin leaving the Hazard St. rectory empty; we will do some minor repairs and painting when the new occupant is identified. The Indiana St. Deanery saw the most action as our Interim Dean Gary Jones went home to Virginia in August and Nat and Shelly Katz arrived in September.

We thought we would make it through the year without a flood for the first time in two or three years, but we were wrong. On the Thursday before Christmas a large sewer pipe in the Jones Building basement developed a leak that caused flooding in the 1st floor and the basement. The water was not only significant in quantity, but it was “dirty water” which required particular disinfectant and decontaminant procedures. Cathedral House school moved students into unaffected rooms and alerted parents to pick their children up early if they could. The CHES personnel were cheerful and cooperative throughout. Raven, our plumber, and Blackmon Mooring were quick to respond to the emergency and worked until late at night to remediate the affected areas. The school dismissed early for the Christmas holiday. The walls were repaired and painted over the week between Christmas and the start of the New Year. The floors are not yet replaced, but it was overall a successful effort on the part of many people to get things in usable condition by January.

Our grand finale was the completion of all the projects planned to begin right after Christmas.

The A/C work in Reynolds Hall to replace the large air handler in the kitchen and refurbish two others in the attic began as scheduled on December 26. Finally, the long awaited repair of the lantern light in the Latham Building staircase was scheduled for December 28–29 when we could close down the stairway and install scaffolding. A satisfactory conclusion to a satisfying year.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Junior Warden. It's been a blast!



Flo Ray
Junior Warden

2023 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*

Guy Hagstette, *Senior Warden*

Florence Ray, *Junior Warden*

Ben Powell VI, *Secretary*

Lyman Paden, *Chancellor*

Michael Bullington, *Treasurer*

Patrick Saccomanno, *Asst. Treasurer*

Rick Ankrom

Katharine Barnes

John Bramblett

James Cowan

Will Dugat

Anne Eisner

Gay Gullede

Patrick Hayes

Mark Hull

Kristin Johnson

Mimi Prioleau

Nicolas Shumway

Gary Smith

Sonia Velazquez

2023 Endowment Trustees

Fredricka Brecht, *President*

Robert Reedy, *Vice-President*

The Very Rev. Nathaniel Katz, *ex officio*

Mike Bullington, *ex officio*

Lyman Paden, *Chancellor*

Linnet Deily

Cece Fowler

Michael McCord

James Murdaugh

Catherine Randall

Judy Tate

Matthew Wareing

Vital Statistics

Average Sunday Attendance

In-Person Worship Attendance in 2023: 523

In-Person Worship Attendance in 2022: 487

Online Worship Attendance in 2023: 681

Average Sunday Online Worship Attendance in 2022: 812

Combined Attendance in 2023: 1204

Average Sunday Combined Attendance in 2022: 1299

Easter Attendance

In-person Attendance in 2023: 1382

In-person Attendance in 2022: 1422

Online Attendance in 2023: 1283

Online Attendance in 2022: 1910

Combined Attendance in 2023: 2665

Combined Attendance in 2022: 3332

Total active baptized members at the end of 2023: 2,407

At the end of 2022: 4,045

Number of pledging households in 2023: 497

In 2022: 579

Total amount pledged in 2023: \$3,411,425

In 2022: \$3,760,000

Total church school students enrolled in 2023: 489

In 2022: 354

Baptisms in 2023: 48

In 2022: 22

Confirmations in 2023: 23

In 2022: 16

Received in 2023: 6

In 2022: 0

Treasurer's Report

2023 Parish Operating Accounts

For 2023, the Vestry approved a budget that produced a breakeven financial plan. The budget anticipated that normal expenses would increase by \$350,000 which included the Dean search, special projects and facility costs; return to more normal operations for Treebeards and the parking garage and significant increase in the EMC were expected to partially offset an increase in salaries and benefits. The plan reflected full-year staffing for normal operations. The budget also included a \$50,000 addition to the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund.

Preliminary results indicate that Normal Revenues will be less than Normal Expenses in 2023 by \$183,000. Normal Revenues of \$5,846,000 were \$60,000 lower than in 2022. Normal Expenses of \$6,029,000 were \$122,000 higher than in 2022 due primarily to increased facilities cost.

The unbudgeted Legacy Expenditures of \$100,000 were fully reimbursed from the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund. The Legacy Fund ended 2023 with a balance of \$904,788, and the distribution to the Parish was partially offset by the \$50,000 addition from the Parish Fund budget.

2024 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 2024 will be adopted by the Vestry at their January meeting. In the current draft version, Normal Revenues are not expected to equal Normal Expenses. Therefore, a higher Endowment Board contribution ask will be presented at the next Endowment Board meeting. Facilities revenue from Treebeards and the parking garage will be higher and closer to pre-COVID levels. Normal Expenses will be higher in 2024 due to a significant COLA salary increase for the staff to offset higher inflation.

Endowment Fund – 2023

The Endowment Fund net assets increased \$6,706,000 in 2023 to \$41,621,000. Market value increases totaled \$5,321,000. This was enhanced by \$3,244,000 in bequests, gifts, and oil & gas revenues. In addition to the distribution from the Barrow/Hellman Legacy Fund, support of the Cathedral totaled \$1,222,000. Finally, there was a \$500,000 gift to Casa Mateo to establish our new mission supporting immigrants entering the U.S. system.

Sowing The Seed Campaign – 2023

The final Total Revenue amount is \$14,938,000, with over 94% of the pledge payments received.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Bullington,
Treasurer

Financial Summary (Dollars in thousands)

Cathedral Operating Funds	2021	2022	2023	Change from 2022
Every Member Canvass	3,332	3,535	3,436	(99)
Endowment Contribution	1,054	1,112	1,285	173
Facility Use & Other Revenue	1,632	1,259	1,125	(134)
Normal Revenue	6,018	5,906	5,846	(60)
Salaries & Benefits	3,129	3,346	3,185	(161)
Beacon Grant & Dunn Center	119	122	159	37
Other Outreach	54	53	52	(1)
Liturgy & Ministry	758	845	900	55
Diocesan Activities	417	433	444	11
Facilities - Addition to the Legacy Fund	100	50	0	(50)
Facilities - Normal	1,047	1,058	1,289	231
Normal Expenses	5,624	5,907	6,029	122
Normal Net Revenue less Expenses	394	(1)	(183)	(182)
Facilities - Legacy Expenditures	96	78	100	22
Use of the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	96	78	100	22
Change in Net Assets	394	(1)	(183)	(182)

Endowment Fund	2021	2022	2023	Change from 2022
Bequests & Memorial Gifts	6,228	1,185	1,636	451
From Capital Campaigns	11	2,000	1,400	(600)
Parish Add to the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	100	50	50	0
Investment Return	3,640	(5,119)	5,321	10,440
Oil & Gas Royalties	181	228	208	(20)
Total Revenue	10,160	(1,656)	8,615	10,271
Support of the Cathedral	1,101	1,205	1,222	17
Support of Casa Mateo			500	500
Parish Use of the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	96			0
Other Expenses	248	173	187	14
Total Expenses	1,445	1,378	1,909	531
Net Revenue less Expenses	8,715	(3,034)	6,706	9,740
Memo: Net Assets	38,076	35,038	41,621	6,583

Ministry Reports

Mission and Ministry Committee

Gary Smith

The Mission and Ministry Committee serves as the umbrella of the council system of Christ Church Cathedral. Three-person leadership teams consisting of a vestry representative, a staff member, and a lay chairperson oversee the activities of each of the eleven councils. The committee also organizes the Summer Place schedule, Vestry retreat, Council Reports to the Vestry, and special tasks as assigned this year regarding the departures of two canons and an interim dean, and the arrival of our new dean. Over 143 volunteers participated in the work of the councils in 2023- without their support the Cathedral would be a much different place. The council reports are as follows.

Christian Formation and the Arts

Jim Murdaugh

The past year was a successful one albeit a year of transition in many ways for the Christian Formation and the Arts Council. It was the second year of the Council's existence as a combined effort of the previous Christian Formation and Religion and the Arts Councils. During the year our clergy liaison, Canon Becky Zartman, was replaced by Canon Bradley Varnell upon Becky's departure from the Cathedral staff, and Interim Dean Gary Jones was replaced by Dean Nat Katz. Happily, our clergy leadership has continued to remain excellent at all times.

In spring 2023, the Robert C. Stuart Lenten Series was stimulating, thought provoking, and well attended as we addressed Returning to Love and the importance of contemplative worship. The Council provided assistance for additional, superb guest speakers in April and May—Bishop Paul-Gordon Chandler, John Philip Newell and Barbara Brown Taylor.

The Council helped set up and operate booths for May Fete on May 7th, and then supported the Cathedral Reads program June 11—August 13, with the final session on Sunday, August 13th combined with the Council's hosting of that week's Summer Place. The Cathedral Reads book chosen for this summer was "The House of the Spirits" by Isabel Allende. Rally Day was August 27th, and the Council helped showcase some of the many opportunities for service at our Cathedral.

We agreed to forego programs this fall in order to allow for changes in staff and clergy. However, the Council assisted with events surrounding the Gran Posada (December 16—23) and is hard at work on a program for early 2024: Mornings at the Museum. The current plan is for docent guided tours on three Saturday mornings at the Museum of Fine Arts (followed by lunch) to galleries containing art and objects relating to the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths.

Council members have been hard-working and faithful, and the year ahead should be no exception. We are all grateful for the opportunity to serve our Cathedral and our Lord. Here is our Mission Statement: The Christian Formation and Arts Council promotes formation that transforms through vibrant and varied programming that opens our hearts and minds to the work of the Holy Spirit through the experience of the arts, God's creation, and spiritual practices.

Community Life

Lisa Viktorin

The Community Life Council is a vibrant ten-member team that spans all ages ranging from 20/30s and beyond. Our mission is to bring people together through service and celebration.

This year, we played a minor role in the Parish Retreat. Interested Community Life members assisted the Retreat Team during the weekend of January 13-15, 2023.

Shrove Tuesday's Pancake Supper was held in Reynolds Hall on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. With many volunteers from Community Life and interested parishioners, pancakes, bread pudding, bacon, sausage, fruit cups and gluten free alternatives were provided to an energetic crowd. Music and Mardi Gras decorations were provided, and children's activities were enjoyed. Shrove Tuesday was well attended by Cathedral members and an estimated 200 participants.

Spring and Fall Neighborhood Gatherings were hosted by Cathedral parishioners in various neighborhoods throughout Houston. Community Life's role in these gatherings shifted this year. Two council members attend the Neighborhood Gatherings with the goal of talking, listening, and connecting the guests to opportunities at the Cathedral.

May Fete, a longstanding Cathedral tradition, was held on May 7, 2023. Spirits and enthusiasm of the committee and its volunteers was not dampened by the spring rainstorm that began after 8 a.m. The group quickly removed and reorganized Saturday's set up with time to spare for Sunday's events. The congregation enjoyed the combined bilingual service at 10 a.m. followed by the parade of Sunday School children, a Maypole dance, and the crowning of May Fete King and Queen. An afternoon of activities for all ages in dryer campus areas was followed by a lunch in Reynolds Hall. The caricature artist was a big hit!

We hosted Summer Place on June 11, 2023, with an Astros Baseball theme to promote Episcopal Night at the Ballpark on July 28 and the diocese wide reception before the game. This year, baseball fans bought tickets using the MLB app. Many conversations and plans were made to ensure that everyone got a hotdog and flow of the event improved as all activity shifted from Nancy's Garden to the Cathedral campus. Once again, a summer rainstorm prompted the committee to hastily, but enthusiastically, reorganize the event and move it into Reynolds Hall in time for attendees to arrive. Over 600 guests were served and then journeyed to Minute Maid Park. Although the Astros lost, the rain cleared, the roof opened, and fireworks were enjoyable, ending our evening.

Community Life was ecstatic to host "An Evening with Dean Nathaniel Katz" on Tuesday, September 19, 2023. Following conversations in the Cathedral with Dean Katz, Meredith Canada, Sonia Mascorro-Velasquez, and Flo Ray, guests gathered in Reynolds Hall to enjoy sandwiches, vegetables and fruits, desserts, and beverages. Fellowship was enjoyed by over 200 guests who welcomed Dean Katz and his wife, Shelly, to Christ Church Cathedral.

Community Life had a busy and robust schedule. This year, we had a leadership transition from Bradley Varnell to Elizabeth Cuevas and we worked to refocus and redefine our committee activities while assisting Elizabeth with events and activities. The dedicated committee members work well together in all kinds of weather and events – planned and impromptu. We host many Sunday cloister tables to market events seeking volunteers and connecting them to opportunities that may guide them to a stronger connection with Christ Church Cathedral beyond Sunday services. We continually discuss the events we host and focus what went well and what can be

improved. We look forward to 2024 as we start our new year with the spiritual guidance from Dean Katz and our clergy, the fabulous staff, and all parishioners.

Stewardship

Charlie Gillman

The Stewardship Council calendar starts after the Every Member Canvass (EMC) for the prior year is completed, and affords the council a few months during which we can work on minor projects and initiatives to improve or enhance stewardship and planned giving for the Cathedral. This activity kicked off by the council participating in the Council of Councils where we received clear feedback that education on sources and uses of the budget is an area for improvement.

The council proceeded with a half day retreat to form as a group and review our annual calendar around the Every Member Canvass (EMC). Taking the Council of Councils feedback, we then brainstormed what the highest priorities were to improve stewardship and how we might go about doing so. The following meeting we met to review the results of the retreat and to vote on what the most important items were to focus on and what our next steps should be.

The council chose two main areas to work on. Firstly, to perform focus group sessions to gain broad feedback from the congregation on stewardship and on how the EMC is executed. Secondly, to look at ways of providing a meaningful narrative budget in our communications both during the year and especially around the EMC kickoff. The focus groups were held with great success and the feedback gathered gave us actionable insights both for the short term, which we incorporated into the 2023 EMC, and for the longer-term stewardship at CCC. The council would like to express its huge thanks to all who participated in the focus groups.

In May, the Stewardship Council gathered prayerfully to discern the theme for the upcoming EMC campaign. The Council brainstormed a number of possible themes inspired by the ongoing work and mission of the Cathedral both past and present. The council made the decision to choose the inspiring theme – "Walk in Love, Respond in Faith."

The evening of Sunday, October 1st, a sell-out crowd gathered in Reynolds Hall to kick off the EMC and enjoy the hilarious video skit "Mission Cathedral: With God There is No Mission Impossible." A delightful menu was

provided by Claire Smith and her team from Alice Blue, and the evening was accompanied by the sounds of The Alex Navarro Trio and several solo songs by a mix of Cathedral Choir staff singers, as well as our own Karen Kracyirik. Congratulations to Karen and the team also for last year's EMC skit, which won The Polly Bond Award – Award of Excellence (1st place) in the category of long form video.

Throughout the Every Member Canvass, we heard words of inspiration from our co-chairs: Meredith Canada & Michelle Hale and Beth & Adam Jackson as well as our testimonial speakers. The council offers its sincere gratitude to The Dugat Family, Ashly Vining, John Dennis, Erin McMillin, John Catalani, Clyde and Mandy Neal, John Burghduff and Charlie Gillman for sharing their heartfelt reflections on what they love about Christ Church Cathedral, and the ministries that supporting it financially enables.

Loyalty Sunday was November 12, a day when we bless and celebrate the pledges that were received. The following evening, November 13, council members conducted the EMC Phone-a-thon both from the Cathedral and their homes; reaching out to newcomers as well as those who had pledged previously, but not yet this year, to encourage their continued support.

At year's end, we had received 401 pledges totaling \$2.9 million. Of these pledges, 37 are new pledges. We continue to be blessed by the generosity of our members in their time, talent, and treasure. Thank you!

Children and Families

Danielle Hsu

The mission of the Children and Family Ministry Council at Christ Church Cathedral 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. Not long ago we changed our name to include 'family' to more accurately reflect what has always been a part of our mission statement, to love and support children and families.

At the heart of our ministry is a desire for children and families to know they are welcome and loved at Christ Church Cathedral. To that end, we have consistently included a children's sermon at the 9:00 a.m. service. We know that the adults are deeply touched by these weekly messages as well, and we are so grateful to KariAnn and the clergy for preparing this every week. Sunday school

takes place during the 10:00 o'clock hour during the school year and begins with all children gathering in Golding Chapel for worship and prayer before heading to the classrooms in the Jones Building. In Sunday school, the younger children learn about God's love through Godly Play, and the older children read then explore scripture with crafts and activities.

Outside of Sunday school, we had a fun filled year of activities for children and families, many of these in conjunction with other council events. These events included a craft table at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, a Holy Week event for children using the five senses, the flowering of the Cross, May Fete celebrations, Instruction in Eucharist, Blessing of the Backpacks, Boo Bash, participation in the Alternative Giving Market with our CFMC bake sale, Advent Wreath workshop, Christmas Camp, our Christmas movie event (Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer), and the Christmas pageant. New this year, we joined the Cathedral celebration of Mes de la Herencia with two special Sunday school sessions and a children's movie event. To help families and children continue to build community over the summer, we organized gatherings at neighborhood parks, and again hosted Art Space at Summer Place.

Children bring so much joy to our Cathedral community. We are blessed to provide space for their formation throughout the year, interwoven into the fabric of our Cathedral events and celebrations. We are thankful as we look back on all the wonderful things God has accomplished this year and excited for new opportunities to bless our families in the upcoming year.

Youth

Christy Ramos

In 2023, The Treehouse maintained its tradition of in-person meetings with the Seed Group, Sunday School, and Confirmation Class. The spring semester was filled with numerous occasions for fellowship and enjoyment. The Giving Tree, a fundraising initiative for summer mission trips, was set up in the cloister every Sunday during Lent. The unwavering support and affection from the Cathedral community never ceases to amaze us.

This year, we had a joint service day with the Justice and Peace Council at the Olivewood Cemetery, with a considerable number of youth participation. As spring gave way to a season of change, we welcomed fifth-grade students into The Treehouse during The Climb's blessing at our 9 a.m. service. Our high school seniors were

honored on Senior Sunday and received blessings as they embarked on their next life journey. The highlight was the confirmation of several students by Bishop Kai Ryan during the 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. services.

Summer 2023 was a time of activity and memorable moments. We embarked on a mission trip to Costa Rica, where we continued our work at the diocesan center in Limón. Our youth and youth minister also served in leadership roles at the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) in Maryland in July 2023. The Summer Shade event provided opportunities for service, games, and movies.

The YMC welcomed new youth members in the fall and started planning for the Fall Retreat. Sunday School and Confirmation class resumed in The Treehouse, and the Seed Group reconvened back in our home base, The Treehouse. The Confirmation class had a memorable retreat in Galveston in September, fostering fellowship and learning in a different environment.

The Treehouse remains a sanctuary for young people, a place where they are loved and feel a sense of belonging. Our powerful desire to stay connected makes The Treehouse a home away from home. As we look forward to 2024, we are filled with optimism for what God has planned for us!

20s & 30s

Bradley Varnell

In 2023, the Cathedral's 20s & 30s Ministry continued playing with new forms of ministry with much success. In the spring our nine-week Bible study on Exodus attracted six to ten regular attendees from January through March, many returning from the fall Bible study. After a summer break, we returned in the fall with a shorter, seven-week series on the book of Ephesians, with approximately four to nine attendees, almost all returning from the Exodus Bible study. In both Bible studies approximately half of those who participated did not regularly worship at the Cathedral. As we have committed to regular Tuesday evening offerings a growing sense of community has developed with a solid core of regular participants. It still seems that shorter Bible studies offer the best way to nurture the regular involvement of young adults in non-Sunday formation.

As should be expected during any season of experimentation, not all things tried took off. A planned Advent study had to be scrapped due to lack of enrollment. This was disappointing but helpful for future planning.

In terms of social activities, the spring and fall semesters ended with two favorites: our annual (and popular) crawfish boil hosted by the Pfisters in April and our White Elephant Christmas Party hosted by Allie Fouch in December. This year, the ministry also had its first Sunday brunch following the 11 a.m. service. This was a fun, informal gathering of sixteen folks that will be repeated more regularly in the new year.

As we move into 2024, we continue to focus on efforts to provide accessible formation for young adults and opportunities for members of the Cathedral to come together to know one another. We will experiment with bi-monthly Sunday brunches and new ways of gathering during the Lenten season while exploring ways to further minister to the Cathedral's young adult population.

Justice and Peace

Katie Barnes

The Justice & Peace Council began 2023 with a retreat in February to begin making plans for the coming year. Our new staff liaison, Marcia Quintanilla, helped the Council understand a new system to work within: a new calendaring system with interactive ability, new outlines for events, and development and tracking the way other Councils work within Cathedral media requirements. New visioning at our retreat resulted in new meeting times, fewer sub-committees, learning about our budget and reallocating our monies, adding Mes de la Herencia (Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month), sponsoring a Posada night with the Latino Ministry Council and planning for Black History Month in 2024.

After discussion among the council members, the following areas were agreed upon: Environmental intersections with social justice, racial reconciliation, and thoughtful integration of the Latino congregation into our projects.

The Council made progress in the following areas:

- Environmental Justice—Member Doreen Gallego invited prolific environmental justice advocate Ed Pettitt from The Robert D. Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice and Jaime Gonzalez from The Nature Conservancy's Houston Healthy Cities Program. Mr. Pettitt has done deep research and analysis of Houston's intersection of climate change and poverty with the role of faith in environmental activism and Mr. Gonzalez spoke about a "One Health and Wellbeing" framework.

- Civil Rights – Olivewood Cemetery: Cad Willeford worked with James and Jim Hudson to include J&P Council and the Cathedral congregation to help record the details of the headstones of some of Houston's early citizens and founders. 26 volunteers participated from the Cathedral including both youth and adults. While participating in this project, we were made aware that one of our original parishioners and Cathedral employee is buried there and his history and plot space have been lost in the records. Olivewood Cemetery was opened in 1877 for freed slaves and some of Houston's prominent black residents. The Descendants of Olivewood is a non-profit organization that has taken guardianship to care for and preserve the historical significance of Olivewood.
- Pride Parade: The J&P Council represented the Cathedral in the Pride Parade with several other Episcopal churches including St. Stephen's, St. Andrew's, Palmer, Trinity Midtown, and Holy Family. A Eucharist was held prior to the parade and then everyone walked in the nighttime parade through downtown Houston. The Cathedral purchased custom t-shirts for the parade participants.
- Mes de la Herencia: A three-day event titled, Fruits of Hospitality, highlighted the presence of the Latino community in our nation and church. The council hosted the event in partnership with the Latino Ministry Council. The weekend included a Documentary Night, Immigration Clinic, and the Rev. Nancy Frausto, Director of Latinx Studies preaching at all services on the last day of Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month. The Cathedral Bookstore under the leadership of Lucy Chambers created a bilingual adult and children's section to the bookstore.
- Posada: The Council hosted a Posada gathering in partnership with the Latino Ministry Council in December, bringing together English and Spanish-speaking congregations over food, music, and fellowship.

Latino Ministry

Criselda Tristan, Sonia Velasquez, and the Rev. Simón Bautista

The Latino Ministry of the Cathedral is experiencing some small but steady growth throughout this year of twenty twenty-three. Regular members are gradually returning to our Sunday services, and a flow of newcomers are giving us new life and new hope. Our council, staff, 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 regular Sunday services and programs such as children's Sunday School, adult formation, Bible

studies, Noche Familiar, Conferencia Te, El Mes de la Herencia, Las Posadas, and other services.

- Sunday Services: Our average Sunday attendance have grown in 2023. Thanks to the technology inside the Cathedral, we continue offering our Sunday services to people attending in-person and those following via Facebook. Among the people attending virtually, we have Dominicans, Peruvians, Venezuelans, Salvadorans, and Ecuadorians joining us from their countries.
- Noche Familiar: Latino Ministry hosted three Noches Familiar in January, April, and November in 2023. These events bring families, children, and adults to receive formation and to have fun together. These are tremendous opportunities for families to join 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.
- Summer Bible School: Latino Ministry began summer Bible School in our neighborhoods in 2016. Each summer offers us an opportunity to learn more about our members, their families, and their neighbors. It 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.
- Conferencia Te: During the months of September and October our Latino Ministries formation committee hosted two Conferencia Te sessions on neuroscience. Conferencia Te is a women-oriented program dedicated to empower our Latina women. We offer these events as opportunities to Latina women in search of their best selves. To many of them, their reality of abuse, lack of education and opportunities, and discrimination, tell them they can't. But in these conferences, we tell them they can. Their responses to what these conferences do for them are incredible.
- Latino Ministry Reception: Community life is essential for the 1 o'clock congregation. This year we partnered with Amazing Place to offer four workshops on how to take care, with love, of our older adults, those who are dealing with dementia. The workshops offered an interesting perspective, and the attendees were grateful for the opportunity.
- El Mes de la Herencia Latina-Hispana/The Month of Latino-Hispanic Heritage: On Sundays, October 8 and 15, we celebrated Latino heritage month with live music, children performing dances and an exhibition of typical home-made Latino food. That is a valuable tradition of the Latino Ministry of the Cathedral. We are happy that we can honor such an important tradition at the Cathedral.

Mission Outreach

Nancy Christian

The Mission Outreach Council (MOC) continued its partnership with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to host a successful blood drive on Sunday, July 23rd. In total, twenty donors responded to the call and donated 23 units of blood and plasma. Each donation will help three patients.

Throughout the Spring 2023, the MOC coordinated the weekly delivery of meals for families in need at Small Steps Nurturing Center, an organization supported by the Cathedral. The meals were generously donated by Cathedral member Patti Ramsey and prepared at her own Epicurean Group kitchen.

The Mission Outreach Council participated in the Rally Day Ministry Fair on August 27, 2023. We were able to show how Casa Mateo had its beginning in outreach from our council.

The Alternative Giving Market was held on November 19th. This year a table will was added for both Casa Mateo and for the Latino Scholarship Fund.

Christmas at the Cathedral, in partnership with Kids Hope, was hosted for the KH Mentors and the families of their mentees from Bruce Elementary on December 9th.

We have met with InterFaith Ministries and are exploring possible future projects with them.

Music Department

Robert Simpson

2023 was a creative period for the Music Department, heightened by the anticipation of the new Dean's arrival. Among the year's highlights were the performance and recording of a world premiere, the 9th trip abroad by the Cathedral Choir and the appointment of our new Cathedral Organist, Thomas Marvil. Throughout this time Interim Dean the Very Rev. Gary Jones provided guidance, support and encouragement. I am deeply grateful for his friendship and collegiality.

We were excited to play a part in the installation of the Very Rev. Nathaniel Katz as Dean of Christ Church Cathedral on November 3rd. Dean Katz has already shown his sensitivity to music and liturgy and the music program is eager to support his vision for the future of the Cathedral.

In 2020 the noted Latvian composer Ēriks Ešņvalds was commissioned by the Cathedral Choir to write a mass setting to mark my 25th anniversary as Canon for Music. In 2023 the completed mass was delivered, and Mass of the Eternal Flame received its premiere by the Cathedral Choir on February 26 with the composer present. The Treble Choir also performed works by Ešņvalds and Daryl Robinson played Diptych by the late Canadian composer Rachel Laurin, a work commissioned by Cathedral Choir member Charlotte Jones. These compositions have since been recorded and we anticipate the release of that CD early in the summer of 2024.

In July, the Cathedral Choir undertook its 9th European tour, traveling to Ireland and Scotland for the first time. We were privileged to sing services at Christ Church Cathedral and St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast and St. Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. At each stop we were warmly welcomed, but it was at St. Anne's, Belfast where we felt our visit would have the most lasting impact. We were touched to be greeted after the service by members of the congregation who felt our music would inspire the Cathedral to reestablish its choir which had recently been disbanded.

This trip would not have been possible without the generous support of the Parish and the fundraising efforts by each member of the choir. I'm especially grateful to Wick Rowland who chaired the choir cabaret, and Nick Germanotta who oversaw our annual wreath sale.

The Cathedral and the University of Houston Moores School of Music continued its successful downtown chamber music series drawing audiences from around the city to Sanders Hall for performances by Moores School faculty and students. We concluded our 10th anniversary celebration of the restoration of the Cathedral's Aeolian-Skinner organ, and its new console, with a recital by former Organ Scholar and Cathedral Organist, Monica Czausz Berney in March. She is one of today's leading recitalists, and the newly appointed Director of Music at St. Paul's Parish, K Street, Washington D. C. She is also the daughter-in-law of choir member Becky Stevens.

With the news that Daryl Robinson would be leaving his position as Cathedral Organist, we began a search that led us to another former organ scholar, Thomas Marvil. It was a great pleasure for me to welcome Tom back. Tom is a graduate of Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey, and The Moores School of Music. Since being Organ Scholar with us Tom has served as organist for two

prominent Catholic churches in Houston, St. Anne's and St. John Vianney. It is so good to have him back at the Cathedral!

The Treble Choir of Houston at Christ Church Cathedral, directed by Marianna Parnas-Simpson, is larger and more active than ever. Now topping 50 young women in grades 6-12, they are deeply appreciated by the Parish each time they sing a Cathedral service. They are equally well received when they perform throughout the city and beyond as Cathedral ambassadors.

We are fortunate to have harpist Becky Baxter leading the music for The Well. She, along with flutist Kimberly Clark and cellist, Sally Keller, have a profound impact on our worship life.

Throughout the year, the dedication and talent of each member of the Parish, Cathedral and Treble Choirs have been an inspiration to me. Their dedication and talent enrich our worship beyond measure.

Everyone engaged in the Cathedral Music Ministry is blessed by the support and appreciation we receive from the congregation and clergy. On behalf of all of us, I thank you.

Pastoral Care

Claire Soard

The 2023 Pastoral Care Council continued to discern how to proclaim the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by addressing the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the Cathedral family and wider community. The Council continued to work to build a culture of care in the larger congregation as well as maintaining the care for those who are sick, grieving, or experiencing hardship. Pastoral Care is an umbrella term that captures both a wide range of specific ministries that are officially organized through the Cathedral, as well as the larger understanding that all Christians are called to love each other and to follow Jesus into bearing each other's hardships in community.

The ongoing work of this council continued with faithful presence. Walking the Mourner's Path again met to walk with those who had lost a loved one. The 8-week workshop greatly impacted the participants as well as the Pastoral Care Volunteers who committed to pray for them. Participants from the Cathedral joined, along with 2 participants from Trinity Midtown Episcopal Church. The class ended with a Eucharist and closing ceremony as a mark of an important step on their grief journey.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors continued, week after week, to bring communion to those who cannot come to the Cathedral in-person. Returning Lay Eucharistic Visitors re-engaged after time away from the ministry. By the end of 2023, around 60 households were visited by an LEV Minister along with dozens of offers and contacts to people who couldn't be at church due to injury, illness, or mobility issues. Bob Richter continued to faithfully coordinate and visit people in this vital ministry.

The Alzheimer's Association Support Group, led by Cathedral members, continued to meet monthly to provide support to those locally and nationally whose loved ones suffer from many forms of dementia. The support group marked 4 years of meeting together in November.

The Threads of Comfort and Joy continued to meet, and prayerfully offer their gifts of blankets and prayer shawls to those who are sick or welcoming a baby. The Threads group also provided prayer shawls to all our high school graduates and is continuing to work to have blankets in Cathedral colors to present to our graduates in May of 2024.

Throughout the year, Lay Chaplains and Pastoral Care Volunteers also continued to gather and grow together as they seek to become holy listeners, offering the comfort and care of Christ to those in hard places. The Lay Chaplains made calls, visits, and prayed for people in the Cathedral community. Many people reported how they are seeing needs around them and pausing to be present to those around them, in their neighborhoods and in the Cathedral community, as they build the practice of caring for those around them organically.

The Flower ministry continues to bring flowers to be utilized at Amazing Place and Omega House.

New this year was a gathering for Caregivers. We met throughout the Fall and will continue into the Spring. This is a time for Caregivers of all kinds to come together for mutual support, resource sharing, and making connections.

The pastoral care council sponsored formational opportunities such as the "Dying in Christ" class to explore the theology, liturgy, and funeral planning for the end of life in the Anglican tradition, "Skills for Showing Up in Hard Places," and an on-going "Pastoral Care Circle" for pastoral care lay ministers. Pastoral Care

Lunch & Care events gave volunteers the chance to pray and reach out to those on the Cathedral's prayer list or volunteering in ministry with a card with a personal note.

Welcome and Newcomer

Rick Ogle

The mission of the Welcome Council is to welcome and incorporate people into the body of Christ, empowering them to be bearers of the good news at Christ Church Cathedral and beyond.

In 2023, we changed the structure and makeup of the council. Elizabeth Cuevas successfully assumed the duties of our Clergy/Staff member from the Rev. Kathy Pfister, and we re-organized the council into three committees with each of them focusing on one of our three primary ministry programs, namely Welcome Teams & Tours, Newcomer Parties and Lunch & Learn.

- Welcome Teams & Tours — The Welcome Team ministry expanded its role in 2023. In addition to continuing to welcome everyone to our Sunday morning services, they are now present at all parish-wide events. We hope this will make the Cathedral more approachable and hospitable for everyone attending these gatherings. Tours similarly expanded its offerings at the Cathedral this year. In the spring, we initiated the Wednesday at the Cathedral ministry which involves Tours team members keeping the doors of the Cathedral open to the public every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This is in addition to the tours of the Cathedral they give every week after the 11:00 a.m. service and on the third Sunday of each month following the 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. services. Tours increased the number of tour guides from six to ten this year and estimates that their ministry brings 1,500 visitors to the Cathedral annually.
- Newcomer Parties — The council hosts two parties every year for our newcomers. These fellowship events give the newcomers, clergy, staff and members of the Welcome Council a chance to build relationships to foster a greater sense of belonging.
- Lunch & Learn — The council also holds Lunch & Learn events twice a year with one in the spring and another in the fall. In addition to providing additional opportunities for fellowship with clergy, staff and members of the council, these events provide newcomers with a high-level orientation to help them better understand how we worship, serve and connect at the Cathedral.

In the coming year, the Welcome and Newcomer Council hopes to continue to make the Cathedral more hospitable and to help to integrate newcomers into the life of the community.

Cathedral Bookstore

Lucy Chambers, Bookstore Manager

On Sunday, January 8, 2023 The Cathedral Bookstore opened for the new year. We shared King Cakes in Reynolds Hall to celebrate Epiphany as parishioners enjoyed a reading of Barbara Brown Taylor's picture book *Home by Another Way* and quickly resumed our routine of providing good reads, seasonal gifts, and conversation to Cathedral visitors, Treebeards' customers, and parishioners. The puzzle table continued to entertain both regular and visiting puzzle-workers. Tea & Talk started up again on Sunday evenings after The Well when Canon Zartman began teaching the series "How to Bible."

In February, the Cathedral Book Club, currently led by the bookstore manager, met to discuss *Fox and I: An Uncommon Friendship*, by Catherine Raven. March's selection was *The Practice of the Presence: A Revolutionary Translation*, by Carmen Acevedo Butcher; and the April book was *Great Circle*, by Maggie Shipstead. The Book Club is very grateful to Louise Langford, Executive Assistant to the Office of the Dean, for all her work managing the logistics of the gatherings and keeping members informed.

In April, Vicki Cawley joined our volunteer team and began a reorganization of our storage room. She also worked with long-time volunteer Roxanne Dolen, who handles our used book section, to overhaul that area and create new systems. Their efforts have resulted in more efficient inventory management and have expanded and enhanced our display areas, which allow us to provide a wider array of books and gifts. They also created a book cart inside Treebeards, which has introduced us to new customers and provided steady sales.

During the spring, the Bookstore created pop-up shops and held book signings for several guest teachers. On Saturday, March 25, Carmen Acevedo Butcher presented "Unknowing into the Joy of Simplicity: Finding our Meaning and Purpose." Saturday, April 29, Bishop Paul-Gordon Chandler discussed his new book, *In Search of a Prophet: A Spiritual Journey with Kahlil Gibran*; Sunday, May 14, John Philip Newell focused on *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul*, and Monday, May 15, he and Barbara Brown

Taylor had “An Evening of Memorable Conversation.” We would not have been able to provide pop-ups on such a scale without the Formation and the Arts Council. We appreciated their assistance tremendously.

The Book Club read *Wind, Sand, and Stars*, by Antoine St. Exupery in May, *March*, by Geraldine Brooks in June, and chose *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus, for September when we reconvened.

The summer’s Cathedral Reads program focused on Isabel Allende’s novel *The House of the Spirits*. The program began on June 11 on Zoom with an introduction to Allende, the relevant history of Chile, and magical realism by Dr. Lois Parkinson Zamora, Moores Distinguished Scholar and professor of comparative literature at the University of Houston. Readers were invited to read on their own or join small discussion groups, and on July 18 and July 25 Dr. Zamora gave lectures which delved further into the novel’s characters and explored magical realism in the work of Spanish/Mexican painter Remedios Varo. We were delighted to be able to provide the lectures and Q&A in simultaneous English and Spanish, thanks to Steven Mines and his colleagues from Interpret Language Services, Minister for Communications Brant Mills, and the Zoom savvy of parishioner Jody Gillit. We wrapped up the program in-person at the Dean’s Hour on August 13 in Reynolds Hall with family-story telling, Latin-influenced treats, and a barista bar provided by Java Pura Coffee Roasters.

The Bookstore began summer hours on June 12. Our volunteers gathered on August 9 for our annual lunch that celebrates Jan Fitzhugh’s birthday and reunites us before the program year kicks off, and on August 20, we resumed regular hours. In September, with our whole Cathedral family, we joyfully welcomed the Very Rev. Nathaniel Katz to be our new dean and began settling into the next chapter of our history. On October 8, Tea & Talk resumed before the Anglican Way classes after The Well.

On October 16, the Bookstore turned 40 years old. We celebrated on October 22 with a giant cake in the Latham lobby, give-aways throughout the fall, and festive altar flowers, to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for this community that values books and the faithfulness of the volunteers who have kept it thriving for so many decades.

In October, the Book Club read *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, by James McBride. November’s selection was *The Fraud*, by Zadie Smith, and we were delighted

that the Rev. Ed Stein joined us to share his insights for our December conversation about *A People’s Church: A History of the Church of England*.

The third annual Sancocho Supper before the Gran Posada took place on December 17. The Bookstore, the Welcome, Formation and the Arts, Mission Outreach, Latino Ministry, and Community Life Councils hosted an all-cathedral supper with traditional Dominican food, music by Mendeliz and a piñata. The event focused on the Advent message of welcoming the stranger and included presentations by John McLaughlin, founder of Education Across Borders and author of *The Good Stranger’s Sancocho Supper*, the book that inspired the Cathedral’s Sancocho Supper tradition, and Kristin Johnson and Susan Reedy, founders of Casa Mateo. We were delighted that the Rev. Greg Seme, former Cathedral curate and current Vicar of St. Albans, and a group of his parishioners joined us for dinner and the posada.

The Bookstore closed on December 21 for Christmas. Reflecting on the year, it is exciting to see how the Bookstore, founded as part of the Very Rev. Pittman McGehee’s vision of the Cathedral as downtown center of intellectual curiosity, has continued to thrive and grow for 40 years. It is noteworthy that the store still has volunteers and customers who transformed that vision to reality and have supported it with such dedication. The Bookstore has seen five deans, and we are thankful that Dean Katz quickly began providing inspiration for new books on our shelves.

We are deeply appreciative of all those who frequent the bookstore and provide us with wonderful book ideas and good fellowship. We are especially grateful for our dear volunteers: Vicki Cawley, Roxanne Dolen, Mary Finn, Jan Fitzhugh, Martha French, Michelle Hale, Pat Hallmark, Kathryn Ketelsen, Catherine Lippincott, and former manager Kathy Jackson all generously shared their gifts with the bookstore during the course of the year.

The constant cheerful help of Assistant Facilities Manager Dominic Albert, sextons Shadrick Griffin, Rodney Orange and Michael Moffett, and housekeepers Sandra Alvarez and her team kept the bookstore running smoothly. The bookstore is also indebted in more ways than we can list to Lisa Cantu, Louise Langford, and Nelda Horton, for the variety of ways they help us. We would not be able to function without all these wonderful people.

Filled with love and gratitude for the extended bookstore family, we look forward to new books, new ideas, and new adventures in 2024!

The Beacon

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. This is accomplished due to our strong partnership with Christ Church Cathedral and the founding principles that were established by a group of Cathedral parishioners who shaped The Beacon's beginnings nearly 17 years ago.

In addition to our deep-seated affiliation with the Cathedral, The Beacon is a member of the community-wide homeless response system known as The Way Home. As part of this collaborative partnership with several other homeless service agencies, The Beacon has helped more than 16,600 people experiencing homelessness through the Community COVID Housing Program (CCHP) since 2020. In 2023, 12 of our Beacon staff conducted housing assessments and navigated individuals to permanent housing solutions, providing them with long-term support.

Our program with the longest history, Brigid's Hope, provides transitional housing, individual and group therapy, comprehensive case management, and life skills training to women who were previously incarcerated and formerly homeless. Our staff team served 35 women. Of those participants completing the year-long program in 2023, 100% exited the program to stable housing and 80% increased their income or education.

Our Beacon Law program champions equal justice for homeless, low-income individuals and helps to remedy the conditions that burden and marginalize them. Last year, our legal team completed over 1,900 legal cases and accrued \$893,000 in savings and benefits for the clients we served.

Our Essential Services team in the Day Center provided breakfast and lunch, access to laundry, a place to shower, along with information and referrals to more than 4,000 people during 2023 while our COMPASS team managed the mail service for approximately 600 people and provided crucial access to transportation, telephones, and computers with internet.

Since its inception, The Beacon has been able to leverage an enormous amount of manpower from community members who volunteer their time in support of our work. Last year, more than 1,500 volunteers served meals, washed, dried, and folded clothes, checked in clients, provided pro bono legal services, and mentored clients. In April, we acknowledged these amazing individuals and groups at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch in Nancy's Garden.

For two weeks in August, The Beacon temporarily redirected some of its essential services to partner organizations to facilitate much-needed building improvements. A lot of planning and coordination took place to ensure that the individuals who needed services during this time were able to access them. The updates included renovations of the five shower cabins in the Day Center as well as a reconfiguration of our office space and the flow of client access to services within our facility.

The Downtown Management District was able to complete some needed plumbing and drainage work on Prairie Street during this time. Our team also interfaced with the Downtown Management District and the Houston Police Department to plan and address concerns around public safety which resulted in a decrease of incidents around our blocks after the temporary diversion was completed.

In September, The Beacon held its annual Come to the Table fundraising dinner that started with a cocktail reception in Reynolds Hall followed by a four-course dinner in our Day Center with performances from our friends at The Music Box Theater and a live auction. The event was chaired by Beacon board member Bradley Dennison and his wife Kimberly. With generous contributions from Cathedral members and many more supporters in the community, we met our goal of raising \$700,000 to further our work.

Every donation and volunteer hour served is important to us. We are grateful to the hundreds of individuals who champion and support our work and for the leadership of our board of directors, each of whom personally made a financial contribution to The Beacon during the year. We are pleased to report that The Beacon met its overall revenue goal for 2023 and is poised to continue empowering individuals to move out of homelessness and towards safe, supportive housing.

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

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

† deceased as of January, 2024
 * new member as of January, 2024

Clergy *as of December 31, 2023*

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. Nathaniel Katz, *Dean*

The Rev. Simón Bautista Betances, *Canon Missioner*

The Rev. Bradley Varnell, *Canon Missioner*

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

The Rev. Elizabeth Parker, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev. Ray Wilson, *Assisting Priest*

Cathedral Staff *as of December 31, 2023*

MINISTRY STAFF

Lucy Chambers, *Cathedral Bookstore Manager*

Elizabeth Cuevas, *Minister for Community Life and Welcome*

Karen Kraycirik, *Chief Operating Officer*

KariAnn Lessner, *Minister for Children and Families*

Marcia Quintanilla, *Minister for Youth*

Thomas Marvil, *Cathedral Organist*

Patrick Saccomanno, *Chief Financial Officer*

Gerardo Sandoval, *Director of Operations*

Robert Simpson, *Canon for Music*

Claire Soard, *Minister for Pastoral Care*

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Wayne Ashley, *Communications Coordinator*

Peggy Beltrami, *Financial Administrator*

Mark Bohenic, *Publications Editor*

Lisa Cantu, *Receptionist*

Sylvia Castellanos, *Assistant for Latino Ministry*

Marie Easy, *Revenue and Accounts Payable Coordinator*

Louise Langford, *Executive Assistant to the Dean*

Indira Olmos, *Assistant to Children's Ministry and Childcare Supervisor*

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

FACILITIES STAFF

Dominic Albert, *Assistant Facilities Manager*

Shadrick Griffin, *Senior Sexton*

Rodney Orange, *Sexton*

Michael Moffett, *Sexton*

AUXILIARY STAFF

Barbara Hamilton, *Archivist*

Will Hamilton, *Archivist*

Lisa Viktorin, *Wedding Liaison, Flower Dedications Coordinator*

Cathedral House Episcopal School

Teri Jackson, *Director*

Cathedral Treble Choir

Marianna Parnas-Simpson, *Director*

Cloister Gallery

Bette Moser, *Director*

Kids Hope USA

Jennifer Lin Sickman, *Director*



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

ESTABLISHED MARCH 16, 1839

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