



**St. CHRISTOPHER**  
Episcopal Church



# **2020 Annual Report**

**2021 Annual Parish Meeting**

**January 24, 2021**



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## Rector Report

Dear St. Christopher Family,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

To say that 2020 was a challenging year would be like saying cotton candy is sweet. It would be very easy for me to reflect on all the challenges our congregation faced over the last 12 months. Yet, as I am sure you have probably heard someone say, “I could complain, but it wouldn’t do any good.”

Instead, I want to focus on all of the amazing blessings God has showered down upon our church family, for as we look through the fog of the pandemic, blessings are in abundance.

It is hard for me to start anywhere other than our newfound relationship with St. Augustine of Hippo in Galveston. Fr. Mike Brady is no stranger to our congregation, having served his final year of seminary at St. Christopher. That relationship only deepened during “covid-tide” as we partnered in worship with his congregation for more than six months. Though our Sunday morning partnership has come to an end, we continue to collaborate with St. Augustine for special services and offices and look forward to the day where both congregations can come together to celebrate what God has done and discern what God will continue to do as our relationships grow.

Despite our limited ability to gather in-person, small group participation and number have grown in 2020. Several new small groups began during the pandemic through evening growth groups and daily office worship. These new and growing groups have also raised up new leadership in the church, especially in the area of worship. Numerous parishioners have begun to lead others in worshipful prayer services on a daily and weekly basis. This has led to more members of the church interacting with each other outside Sunday mornings than ever before.

St. Christopher’s care and concern for others was obvious in several food and supply drives for those in need at Interfaith Caring Ministries and those affected by the hurricanes that ravaged Louisiana. These drives were coordinated and organized by one of our faithful growth groups.

Two episodes of flash flooding resulted in grants from the Diocese of Texas that allowed us to shore up vulnerable spots on our campus and redo flooring in the administration wing.

Thanks to many ministry leaders and the generous giving of several in the congregation, we were able to purchase audiovisual equipment for the sanctuary and parish hall. These purchases allow us to bring Sunday morning worship and special services and events to those who are unable to be present. This has changed our culture permanently, as we will continue broadcasting long after the cloud of the pandemic subsides.

The work of the columbarium committee came to its conclusion in 2020, as the memorial garden transformation was completed. Though there is some additional aesthetical work to be done, we have already begun to utilize this great gift of the church.

These were just some of the countless ways God blessed us in 2020. We cannot dismiss the challenges, heartaches, and painful losses experienced by everyone last year. Yet God remained faithful to His church and His children. As we move into 2021, we know that God walks with us, through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are not called to remain idle, nor just survive. We are called to thrive as we proclaim the Good News of Jesus in all we do, and that work done through St. Christopher this year will be for God's Glory and the welfare of His people and church!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian W. Cannaday", with a small plus sign at the end.

The Rev. Brian W. Cannaday  
Rector

## Treasurer's Report

In 2019, St. Christopher stepped out in faith paid down the remainder of the loan that was outstanding. I am happy to report that this has resulted in a move from “financial firefighting” to better financial planning for the church which is represented in the 2020 financial results. This and increased Diocesan financial support, lower spending during the year due to the shutdown for several months in response to the pandemic along with the continued faithful giving of members has resulted ending the year in a solid financial position.

The church had several significant financial challenges arise during the year with the replacement of the Buckner Hall AC units, significant repairs to the AC units in the nave, and acquisition of audio visual equipment. These costs were largely covered from the monies saved due to the elimination of loan payments and with some additional support from the congregation and diocese. The church also experienced very significant flood damage (twice) which was covered through a grant from the diocese.

The church also applied for and received a PPP Loan from the government early in the year. No funds have yet been used as they have not been needed. These funds are currently being held as a loan until forgiven (which will be applied for in early 2021). No funds have been spent from this loan to date.

The church has transitioned to “Fund Accounting” which is required for non-profit organizations. As part of this, all transfers from designated funds of the church used for the benefit of the church are reported as income (aka Fund Transfers). The description of these is reflected at the bottom of the financial report and they are reflected in the “Other – General” account. As previously mentioned the former loan payments were transitioned upon pay down of the loan in 2019 to a monthly contribution to the Building Fund. An unrestricted fund to be used for large building maintenance and repair costs and capital purchases. This fund helped the church weather the challenges mentioned above.

God continues to bless St. Christopher Episcopal Church members and clergy.

Thank you Lord for Your continued blessings, please guide us in the use of Your bounty for the work You have prepared in advance for us to do.

As submitted by,

Eric M. Zapp, Treasurer

## Abbreviated Profit and Loss Statement for 2020

### St. Christopher Episcopal Church

Abbreviated Income Statement - Comparison of Full Year Actual Results

(\$ Rounded)

	2020	2019	Chg	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>INCOME</b>							
<b>4000-00 · BUD. INCOME</b>							
4010-00 · PLEDGE	\$ 483,110	\$ 473,404	\$ 9,706	\$ 439,296	\$ 442,925	\$ 456,313	\$ 467,273
4020-00 · GIVERS	79,514	81,730	(2,216)	53,354	45,308	35,156	37,707
4030-00 · PLATE	3,106	14,070	(10,964)	11,724	13,171	12,146	13,057
4050-00 · FLOWERS	1,552	3,802	(2,250)	2,230	3,235	2,113	1,845
4065-00 · DIOCESAN GRANT	12,398	-	12,398	-	-	-	-
4075-00 · MOTHER'S DAY OUT	2,750	4,500	(1,750)	3,875	2,500	4,500	4,100
4080-00 · OTHER GEN'L							
Fund Transfers	39,185	-	39,185	-	-	-	-
Other	1,056	1,277	(221)	9,602	2,158	3,510	1,541
	40,241 <sup>1</sup>	1,277	38,964	9,602	2,158	5,310	1,541
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>622,671</b>	<b>578,783</b>	<b>43,888</b>	<b>520,081</b>	<b>509,297</b>	<b>515,538</b>	<b>525,523</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>							
<b>5000-00 · ADMIN</b>							
Total 5100-00 · CLERGY SAL/BEN	128,812	123,919	(4,893)	119,857	121,589	110,091	171,198
Total 5200-00 · LAY SAL/BEN	197,248	191,829	(5,419)	164,368	159,691	163,361	170,225
Total 5300-00 · OFFICE ADMIN.	14,809	17,612	2,803	13,229	14,025	15,738	16,327
<b>Total 5000-00 · ADMIN</b>	<b>340,869</b>	<b>333,360</b>	<b>(7,509)</b>	<b>297,454</b>	<b>295,305</b>	<b>289,190</b>	<b>357,750</b>
<b>6000-00 · FACILITIES</b>							
Total 6100-00 · OPERATION	50,526	55,539	5,013	54,537	50,408	48,360	49,556
Total 6200-00 · MAINT.-REPAIRS	52,856	48,392	(4,464)	53,607	64,558	69,246	18,568
Total 6300-00 · LOANS & INT	-	27,817	27,817	29,650	10,244	14,237	16,378
Total 6400-00 · CAPITAL EXPENSE	-	-	-	-	-	29,918	-
Total 6600-00 · DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT	45,005	45,097	92	44,654	52,927	53,955	55,910
<b>Total 6000-00 · FACILITIES</b>	<b>148,387</b>	<b>176,845</b>	<b>28,458</b>	<b>182,448</b>	<b>178,137</b>	<b>215,716</b>	<b>140,412</b>
<b>7000-00 · COUNCILS</b>							
Total 7200-00 · OUTREACH	228	1,029	801	1,098	1,175	807	2,337
Total 7300-00 · EVANGELISM/DISCIPLSHIP	1,344	6,168	4,824	3,992	5,560	6,730	3,641
Total 7400-00 · WORSHIP MIN.	10,689	14,345	3,656	9,716	9,480	8,856	6,207
Total 7500-00 · YOUTH & CHILDREN	3,519	9,363	5,844	9,028	8,760	11,149	7,823
Total 7600-00 · FELLOWSHIP	803	5,577	4,774	4,638	4,428	5,695	6,612
<b>Total 7000-00 · COUNCILS</b>	<b>16,583</b>	<b>36,482</b>	<b>19,899</b>	<b>28,472</b>	<b>29,403</b>	<b>33,237</b>	<b>26,620</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>505,839</b>	<b>546,687</b>	<b>40,848</b>	<b>508,374</b>	<b>502,845</b>	<b>538,143</b>	<b>524,782</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$ 116,832</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$ 32,096</b>	<b>\$ 84,736</b>	<b>\$ 11,707</b>	<b>\$ 6,452</b>	<b>\$ (22,605)</b>	<b>\$ 741</b>
Capital Purchases/Other	(53,743) <sup>3</sup>	(17,693)					
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 63,089</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>\$ 14,403</b>					

**FOOTNOTES:**

<sup>1</sup> Fund Transfers:

Transfer from designated funds:

Buckner Hall & Nave AC Repairs	\$ 31,266
Audio Visual Equipment	7,919
	<u>\$ 39,185</u>

<sup>2</sup> Net Ordinary Inc excludes capital spending & Other Non-Operating Inc/Exp

<sup>3</sup> Capital purchases Buckner AC \$36K, AV Equipment \$8K, Other - MDO timing \$9K

<sup>4</sup> Vestry approved the accrual of the remaining funds - \$45K to the Operating Reserve and \$18K to Building fund

# **Ministry Reports**

## **Altar Guild**

What a year! The Altar Guild members were very flexible with service to St. Christopher during this difficult time... I want to thank them all. The teams are very helpful to continue service to St. Christopher. The Altar Guild serves to prepare the church for all services. We care for all the linens, silver ware; actually, all items used. We have a lot of fun carrying out our duties. We welcome others who are interested.

Ministry Leader: Carol Wiggs

## **Children's Ministry**

Our sweet kiddos have been champions this year! Despite most of our annual events being cancelled, they have remained positive. Sunday school moved online, and continues still, with weekly videos posted to Facebook discussing the week's lesson. Over the summer, we hosted Story & Song Time via Zoom which was a cool opportunity to socialize. In October, we hosted the annual Trunk Or Treat event in our parking lot which had a HUGE turnout and offered a safe & fun environment for the wider community. And in December, we had a Christmas Party at Cinemark, renting out a private theater to watch the Polar Express. We are grateful for these opportunities to gather and look forward to 2021 hoping to keep adding back in events as it is safe to do so!

Ministry Leader: Meghan Hillis

## **Choir/Music**

For the interesting year that was 2020, I, unfortunately, do not have much to report. The choir and I got off to a great start, and then in mid-March, the choir went silent - at least, as a group together. I continued to play for services throughout the remainder of the year. For a few months, we alternated with St. Augustine in Galveston. For those services, its musicians helped lead the services. We also contracted with Tom Martin, our organ technician, to do some much-needed service during the first part of 2021. With God's help, we will be able to get our music program going again in the not too distant future.

Ministry Leader: Dennis Siltman

## **Columbarium**

In case you have been unable to be at church, the Columbarium has been in place for several months. It was installed late in the summer, the courtyard has its pavers, the landscaping is completed, the sprinkler system is working, the back fence is done, benches are in place and soon garden lighting will be installed as well. A few minor repairs to the base in the next month or so will bring the dream of many to its completeness. There are fifty niches which can hold the cremains of two in each. Although some of the faceplates are in process to be engraved, twenty-four niches have been purchased and one is reserved. Definitely, the Columbarium and Memorial Garden are meeting the needs of our parish. Two ceremonies of inurnment of cremains have occurred and are posted on the church website. More will follow as services are planned in coordination with family and Fr. Brian. Special thanks to the entire committee for their hard work in completing the project. Committee Members are Fr. Brian, Carl Schutz, Greg Decker, Jane Merdian, Jane and Pete Montgomery, Joni Desoto, Hyacinth Lynch, Will Hensel, and Roger DeRick. The Columbarium fund, comprised of donations and sales of the niches, will be held in total reserve for future needs in the courtyard.

All in His name!

Ministry Leader: Greg Decker, Columbarium Administrator

## **Contemporary Worship Band**

The Contemporary Worship Band has continued to serve and has had a highly successful year under the leadership of Austin Hoeltzel. At the beginning of 2021, Mr. Hoeltzel resigned, and a search committee is actively advertising and preparing to interview for a new Contemporary Worship Leader. Please pray for the search team and for God to bring us the right person that will enhance and grow the power and heart of worship. Please contact Greg Oliver if you are interested in joining the worship band or have suggestions for a more engaging worship experience.

Ministry Leader: Greg Oliver

## **CRC Ministries (Christ Restoration Center Ministries)**

St. Christopher continues to provide significant support to CRC Ministries. It offers one of the three Houston area prayer rooms and makes up 7 members of the ministry team. CRC Ministries is dedicated to bringing freedom, wholeness, transformation, and healing through Jesus Christ through prayer. All of us benefit from thorough renewal and cleansing of our soul from the wounds and trauma of life. This ministry offers Biblically based prayer with a trained team in a fully confidential setting. In addition, CRC offers classes throughout the year on spiritual growth and prayer approaches. Prayer appointments at St. Christopher can be scheduled by calling our ministry phone: 281 910-0668. In this pandemic period, the large majority of the appointments are offered virtually. All prayer appointments and training classes are offered free of charge. For more information about the ministry, interest in joining the prayer teams, or to schedule a prayer appointment, please contact Greg Oliver.

Ministry Leader: Greg Oliver

## **Facilities**

There wasn't really much activity in 2020, due to COVID-19, and the partial year shut down of the campus. The A/C systems in the Parish Hall were replaced prior to the shutdown. They were almost 35 years old. We also replaced some flood lights and photo sensors in the courtyard. The boiler that heats the Nave was raised and re-piped so that it is now 24" above the ground, and much less prone to damage from flooding. After the admin wing had flooding from May rains the admin wing floors were redone. An exterior door in the parish administrator's office which lead to the courtyard was also sealed up to prevent future flooding. Lastly, we made the Church ready for the annual Occupancy Permit from the Fire Marshal's office.

Ministry Leader: Dan Keener

## **Garden Guild**

In 2020 the entire campus landscaping has been upgraded. New plants along the kitchen, the main entry courtyard, the admin. wing, around the Nave, and around nursery wing to the gate. We also added 50 wax ligustrum trees along property line with the Sonic. It will take a couple of years for these plants to reach maturity. The ligustrum trees will take longer but will eventually provide a visual block of the Sonic. The Columbarium was completed along with landscaping, irrigation, and lighting. Hope all enjoy.

Ministry Leader: Pete Montgomery

## **Invite Welcome Connect**

The ministry of Invite Welcome Connect is one that many Episcopal churches are doing to intentionally plan and creatively develop ways to invite newcomers, welcome and connect them into the life of their congregations. Covid-19 had a significant impact on our ability to carry out this important ministry in 2020. Our plans to expand the ministry into three distinct teams have been put on hold for now. I want to thank Fr. Brian for his follow through and personal contacts with the handful of visitors who have decided to become members of St. Christopher in 2020. I appreciate that Julie Howell, a vestry member, will be working with me in 2021 to revive this ministry. I would also like to thank the greeters who served so faithfully to welcome our visitors in January and February at all services. These greeters include Kathy McBride, Billie Dale, Sue Davis, Mary Ferris, Rob Kingsbury, Wes and JoLynn Sallee, Tara and Jack Hyland, Bob MacGregor, Lisa Freeman, Kim Johnson, Carolina Batres, Lee Fabling, George Najarian and Lizetter Gaudin.

This ministry is open to new persons who enjoy greeting and are willing to serve about once a month at their preferred service. Just give me a call! We look forward to our new normal which surely will develop in 2021 when we can joyfully greet everyone to our worship services and serve in ways to assist newcomers into the life of St. Christopher.

Ministry Leader: Mary MacGregor

## **Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM)**

LEM reads the Lessons and the Prayers at each Service on Sunday. LEM reads the Lessons and Prayers at Funerals, as requested.

Other LEM duties include:

Serving as part of the Altar Party with the Priest and Acolyte as requested.

Vesting for Service as requested.

St Christopher Episcopal Church is blessed with having volunteers who perform LEM duties each week. If you are interested in being part of this Ministry, please contact our LEM Coordinator.

Ministry Leader: Anne Vrolyk

## **Lay Pastoral Assistant Ministry (LPA)**

The Lay Pastoral Assistant Ministry (LPA) is a confidential pastoral care ministry to individual adult members of the parish in support of, deployed and supervised by our Rector. In an ordinary year our team members, Lay Pastoral Assistants, receive intensive pastoral training before setting out to bring care to those in need. Active LPAs receive regular updates in their training. Activities of care that LPA team participate in include home and hospital/care facility visits, telephone calls, and handwritten cards. Each week a different team comes on duty and contacts those who are on the care list. Referrals for receiving pastoral care come through the Rector and the Director who update the list weekly.

Lay Pastoral Assistant Ministers go forth in response to Jesus' instruction to heal the sick, show mercy, bring reconciliation, and be the heart, hands, voice, and feet of Christ in their response to the sisters and brothers of our parish seeking care.

Due to the pandemic, LPAs have been unable to visit in person, but have continued contacts via calls and cards as requested.

Before the quarantine began, LPAs received one ongoing training session led by Sarah Flick. We have also had two Zoom meetings. From Jan 2020 to July, Tara Hyland led the LPA Ministry. Early in the year, Tara, John Lothrop, and Father Brian worked on a framework for a new curriculum. They were to move forward with plans for implementation and training when Covid 19 sidelined the project. At this time we continue responding to God's call to provide pastoral care to those in this parish in the

safest manner possible. We are trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide us through until the time we can safely open up this blessed ministry to in person contact.

Please contact Father Brian or Director of Lay Pastoral Ministry, Patricia LaChance for a referral to pastoral care or if you are interested in becoming an LPA.

Ministry Leader: Patricia LaChance

### **Living Water International Mission Trips**

In an act of service to our brothers and sisters in Central America, St Christopher has actively embarked on 10 mission trips through Living Water International (LWI) to Central America since 2013. Early in 2020, a small leadership team took a pathfinding trip to Honduras to assess the possibility of organizing repeat/annual mission trips to central Honduras at or near the Nightingale Nursing School in Siguatepeque. The goal was to identify a community/region that St. Christopher would grow in relationship with, regularly providing support, and assisting them in becoming more self-sufficient. The trip confirmed that there are many mission opportunities available to us from that immediate area, leveraging the connections from the Nursing School/Clinic, local churches, and the Diocese of Honduras. This relationship is now further enhanced with Daniel Hammond and Carolina Batres living in Honduras, which will expand the relationships and ways to support the beautiful people of the country. With these findings, we do not need to rely on Living Water for planning effective mission trips to this area. Please let, Greg Decker or Greg Oliver if you are interested in joining this international outreach of love and care to our brothers and sisters in Honduras. You will return with a totally new perspective on the abundance of God's many blessings!

Ministry Leaders: Greg Oliver  
Greg Decker

## **Mother's Day Out**

Due to Covid-19 concerns our MDO program suspended operations and ended our 2019/2020 school in March. Under the direction of licensing and the Galveston County Health District we have established new operating guidelines that allowed us to safely resume operations in October. As part of our safe re-opening plan, we have reduced the size of the program by half. We are currently serving 32 Children and their Families, and we have 7 permanent staff members.

Ministry Leader: Tami Martinez

## **Sound and Lighting Technicians**

St. Chris currently has a very experienced team of 12 skilled Sound Technicians providing sound reinforcement for all services. This past year has brought the added requirement and skills for live streaming services. The sound techs have willingly learned these new skills and additional training will be required as we begin utilizing a slightly different streaming configuration in Buckner Hall. Each of our services would greatly benefit from a couple more team members, with the goal recruiting enough so that each person is only assigned once per month. Training is available for operating the sound systems, operating the lighting in Buckner Hall, and live streaming in the Nave. Please consider joining the team. No Experience needed – All ages and genders welcome!

Help contribute to the impact & quality of the services in this unique way.

Ministry Leader: Greg Oliver

## **St. Christopher Thrift Shop**

Our 63<sup>rd</sup> year of providing a unique service to our community has been a tough one on one hand but despite Covid-19 we have profited by it also.

March 13, 2020 the Bishop advised Churches in our diocese be closed to the public. In our case this included St. Christopher Thrift Shop. During this closure time a very small group of industrious guys and gals got really busy cleaning, repairing, and repainting the Shop in anticipation the pandemic would end in a few short months. This work inspired a few very generous donors to finance new flooring to

replace a 25year-old carpet. When the Shop reopened August 19, 2020 we had a new, clean space to the delight of our new and returning customers and to our devoted staff of volunteers.

In December, 2020, we continued our Grant Program disbursements despite the prolonged closure. We continue to fulfill our pledge to St. Christopher Church and put aside a percentage of our income for Inreach at St. Christopher Church and Outreach supporting charity work both locally and abroad.

Unfortunately, the current rise in Covid-19 cases in ours and adjoining counties has forced the decision to again close the Thrift Shop. This we consider temporary until the major part of our volunteer staff can receive their two vaccine inoculations; thus, protecting the volunteers and the customers who need our Shop for some basic needs including clothing and household items at prices they can afford but still maintain their dignity without accepting charity.

We also serve a population who love to shop for bargains and unique merchandise who allow us to maintain an income to pay the bills, fulfill pledges to the Church, and pass on our bounty to other charitable agencies.

We cannot do this without the help of this generous congregation and the public. Please remember us when cleaning out those cabinets and closets and bring your donations to the Shop.

Remember too, volunteering is a rewarding occupation, even as little as three hours a month or 4 hours once a week.

Ministry Leaders: Co-Managed by Ruth Jarratt and Kasey Miller  
Volunteer Coordinator, Sue Davis

### **Staying Connected**

St. Christopher offers a variety of ways to stay connected with each other. Each has its own flavor, but all are evidence of our striving to live into our Baptismal Covenant. Daily Devotionals, Growth Groups, Bible Studies, Fellowship Groups – these are some of our communities within the community - the Body of Christ, the people of God of St. Christopher Episcopal Church.

St. Christopher began offering Wednesday morning, on campus, lay-led, Morning Prayer in September 2019. In March 2020, due to the pandemic, this service offering shifted to St. Christopher's Zoom platform. In April 2020, this ministry was expanded to offer Daily Devotional services, Monday through Friday. Service liturgies, drawn from our *Book of Common Prayer* and from *Enriching our Worship*, include scripture readings of the day from the Daily Office Lectionary, and intercessory and thanksgiving prayers. After the service it is not unusual for the Gathering to share what may have been revealed through the Word of the Lord, the hearing of "...what the Spirit is saying to his people." If you've ever thought, "Our liturgy is beautiful," perhaps it's time for you test the waters. You can prepare and lead a Daily Devotional. Training is available. A word to the wise though: You might be changed.

Our Growth Groups, Bible Study Groups, and Fellowship Groups also adapted, shifting from homes, from the church campus, or from off-campus sites to on-line meetings. The Women's Wednesday morning Bible Study has resumed meeting in Buckner Hall at St. Christopher, and the Devoted Duffers have begun again to humbly chase that white little ball around the cow pasture, chasing birdies and gleaning ample reason for repentance. All other groups continue to meet via Zoom. These connection opportunities include:

Monday morning Women's Fellowship (7:00 a.m.; open)  
Monday – Noonday Prayer (12:00 p.m.; open)  
Monday evening growth group (6:30 p.m.; open)  
Tuesday – Evening Prayer (6:00 p.m.; open)  
Tuesday evening growth group (7:00 p.m.; open)  
Wednesday – Morning Prayer (7:00 a.m.; open)  
Wednesday morning Men's Fellowship (9:00 a.m.; open)  
Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study (9:30 a.m.; open)  
Wednesday evening growth group (7:00 p.m. start time; open)  
Thursday – Evening Prayer (6 p.m.; open)  
Thursday evening Women's LIFE Bible Study (7:00 p.m.; open)  
Friday – Noonday Prayer (12:00 p.m.; open)  
Devoted Duffers Fellowship (no set time - organized on the fly; open)

[Contact information or Zoom links to these Daily Devotionals, Growth, Bible Studies, and Fellowship opportunities may be obtained by contacting [office@stchrischurch.org](mailto:office@stchrischurch.org)].

Ministry Leader: John Lothrop

### **Threads of Comfort**

Like so many others, Threads of Comfort was negatively impacted by all of the COVID shutdowns. We were unable to schedule any group sew-a-thons. Because there were no nursing home visits, that group of individuals were not the recipients of any of the prayer shawls and blankets. In spite of this, though, people continued to produce these items and they were given to other places, even if on a limited basis. For example, multiple blankets were donated to a local women's shelter. Toward the end of the year, a few shawls and blankets were available for pickup at St. Christopher and some of those were also taken and put to good use. These gifts are free to anyone who knows someone who might appreciate receiving a tangible reminder of God's love.

At Christmas we completed our second annual stocking project - and it expanded! We made and distributed 50 Christmas stockings to students of League City Elementary School as well as donated 15 Christmas stockings to St. Augustine in Galveston. We look forward to continuing all of the above efforts in 2021.

Ministry Leader: Melodie Keener

### **Ushers**

Presently there are 2 ushers who rotate serving at 8am and 3 ushers at the 10 am services. If anyone is interested in serving as an usher please contact Linda De Rick at [lady\\_linda@verizon.net](mailto:lady_linda@verizon.net)

Ministry Leader: Linda De Rick

## Youth Ministry

What a doozy of a year! 2020 started out strong for the Youth Group with a marvelous weekend retreat to Camp Allen, but then we returned home to find that the church was closing for physical activities due to the pandemic. So, we went virtual! Our weekly youth group meetings took place over Zoom, and we all mostly stayed in touch via text messaging or gathering in wide-stretched circles outdoors.

Over the month of July, the youth of St. Christopher participated in Episcopal Strong, a unique mission-in-place event in lieu of our usual mission trip travels. We met via Zoom with youth and leaders from 5 other churches in the Houston and Austin areas on Sundays and Wednesdays of each week to worship, read, learn, discuss, and serve. Our program theme for the month was 1 Corinthians 13:13 which says “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” We studied this verse in depth and used it to guide our actions of service. The projects we were able to complete included making supply bags for our homeless neighbors; writing letters of love & encouragement to patients, health care workers, and teachers; creating signs of hope for our neighbors; and making face masks to give to those who need one. While stuck in these novel circumstances of a global pandemic, this verse from Corinthians brought joy and light to our experiences as we were still able to meet and act in the faith, hope, and love of Christ Jesus.

In October, we were able to start meeting in-person again, following all safety rules of mask-wearing and physical distancing. Now we are able to meet in-person on Sundays and still meet via Zoom on Wednesdays. However, our travel & overnight adventures remain on pause until we can safely participate in those again. We look forward with hope to this new year, knowing that our precious community will continue to love & support each other come what may!

Ministry Leader: Meghan Hillis

**2020**  
**Annual Parish Meeting**  
**Minutes**

**ST. CHRISTOPHER EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 26, 2020**

**ATTENDEES:** Congregation

**OPENING PRAYER :** 9:20 am by Rev. Brian Cannaday

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 9:23 am

**MINUTES:**

Read/Review 2019 minutes. Ray McPhail made motion to accept minutes; Pete Montgomery 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Approved

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Eric Zapp reviewed Treasurer’s report noting 1) Paid off church loan saving thousands on interest 2) New chairs purchased and 3) A Finance Committee Established.  
Pete Montgomery motioned to approve Treasurer’s report and Ray McPhail 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved

**RECTOR’S REPORT**

Brian recognized, gifted and thanked members going off Vestry.

Requested 2020 Council Delegates for Feb 6 – 8 in Waco, TX. Eric Ellis, Donny & Julie Howell and open spot for 4<sup>th</sup> delegate.

Staff Changes: Beth Beam was presented with gift and well wishes. Alyssa Kelley was introduced and presented with prayer book. Office will be open full time with her working M – F. Introduced other staff members: Jim Nelson, Bill Bryant, John Lothrop, Alyssa Kelley, Austin & Julie Hoeltzel, Meghan Hillis, Tami Martinez, Dennis Siltman, Dan Keener and Kristen Boe.

**RECTOR’S ADDRESS:**

Giving Trends: Parochial Report (2018) shows that St. Christopher’s is above average in giving. 74% of Episcopal Churches have less than 100 pledges. St. Christopher’s pledges average 211 for 2019.

Vestry Retreat: LOVE was the focal word for 2020. Specific initiatives: Charity, Worship and Fellowship.

Scripture theme:

“Let us have divine feasts of goodwill and esteem. These things come from God and God prefers them.”

Implementing Strategic Plan

Charity: 1) Establish outreach committee 2) Set goals of connecting with community 3) Deepen relationship with League City Elementary School

Fellowship: Pete Montgomery will head up a Men's fellowship retreat.

Communications: Looking for someone to put out newsletter.

## **WHAT WILL YOU DO?**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

"The mission of St. Christopher Episcopal Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ."

### **OTHER:**

Pancake Supper – Bob MacGregor will need volunteers.

Honduras Mission – Dan Hammond gave update of mission trip. Announced that a mission group from Florida will match his donations.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Pete Montgomery made motion to close meeting. Dan Hammond 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 10:18 a.m.



**St. Christopher Episcopal Church**

**2508 St. Christopher Avenue**

**League City, TX 77573**

**281-332-5553**

**[www.stchrischurch.org](http://www.stchrischurch.org)**

## Parish Staff

Name	Position	Email
The Rev. Brian Cannaday	Rector	brian@stchrischurch.org
Alyssa Kelley	Parish Administrator	office@stchrischurch.org
Meghan Hillis	Director of Family Ministries	meghan@stchrischurch.org
John Lothrop	Lay Minister	office@stchrischurch.org
Dennis Siltman	Organist and Choirmaster	music@stchrischurch.org
Tami Martinez	MDO Director	tami@stchrischurch.org
Carla Homer	Bookkeeper	bookkeeper@stchrischurch.org
Daniel Keener	Facilities Manager	facilities@stchrischurch.org

## 2021 Vestry

Name	Position
Sam Owens	Senior Warden
David Crouch	Junior Warden
Cheryl Tolbert	Clerk
Eric Zapp	Treasurer
Kyle Farmer	Facilities & Grounds Warden
Katie Gardner	Christian Formation Warden
Will Hensel	Worship Warden
Susan Hill	Kitchen Warden
Julie Howell	Membership Warden
Melodie Keener	Finance Warden
Jane Montgomery	Membership Warden
Sonny Morrison	Facilities & Grounds Warden
Jim McCalla	Chancellor