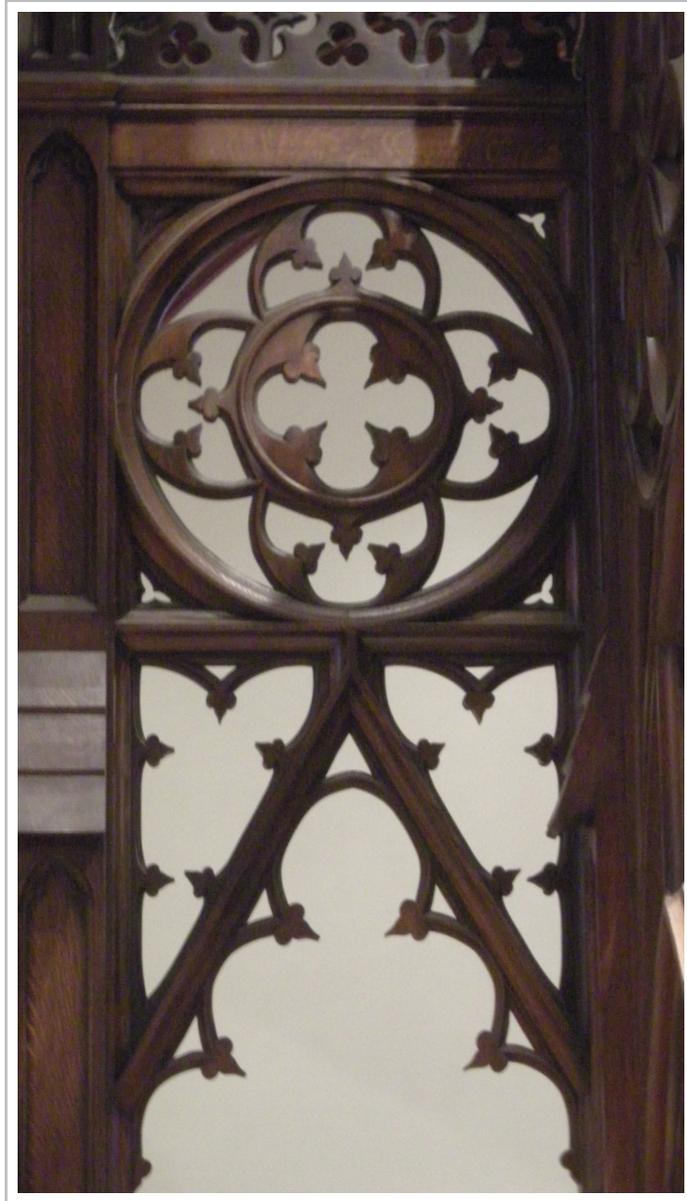


Christ Church Cathedral

Annual Parish Report 2017



JANUARY 21, 2018



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 fathers 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 177-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. This year we celebrate the 67th 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 of the information in this report may be read online at christchurchcathedral.org.

A Letter from the Dean

Dear Cathedral Family,

Last August, Hurricane Harvey literally washed away everything some of us had known. It made the world around us feel unfamiliar. It threatened despair. Threatened, but did not succeed, because not even the most vicious hurricane in U.S. history could disrupt the family of God who, as St. Paul says in his Letter to the Colossians, “bears with one another,” and “binds together in perfect harmony.”

Christ Church Cathedral came together to muck out dozens of parishioners’ homes as well as the homes of people we scarcely knew. We helped displaced parishioners find housing. We provided legal counsel to those who were vulnerable. We made phone calls to predatory landlords, using the full weight of the Gospel to pressure them to do the right thing. We called every parish household, just to make sure people were okay. One parishioner responded, “I thought I was all alone, but my church saved me.” And, we extended more than \$250,000 in direct financial assistance to individuals, parishes, and front-line social service agencies. As wind and water roiled about us, together we encountered the peace of Christ, and we shared it. Harkening again to St. Paul’s Letter to the Colossians, we “clothed one another in love.” It was our finest hour.

In graduate school, I studied a stuffy and esoteric philosopher named Josiah Royce. Much of what Royce wrote is opaque, but one thing he said that has stayed with me for twenty years is what Royce called communities of memory and communities of expectation. A community of memory looks backward to a cherished past, often with warm nostalgia. A community of expectation looks forward to the future’s horizon, ready in hope for what may come next.

Community of memory; community of expectation. That is what a downtown church is and should be. That is what Christ Church is and should be. As a community of memory, we bear the sacred story both of Jesus and of the Episcopal Church in Houston for 179 years. As a community

of expectation, our mission is always to embody in our words, actions, and ministries the vision of God’s kingdom. We are to proclaim God’s hopes for the world from the heart of downtown Houston. If that sounds heady and overblown, it should! There is no more important mission in all the world.

In 2018, we will preserve and further this community of memory and expectation through the “Sowing the Seed” capital campaign, which will restore our historic campus for the next generation. The campaign will also fully fund the Tom Barrow and Stuart Hellmann Legacy Fund for Cathedral Preservation, so that we are prepared in the future for capital needs as they arise. (The vestry created this fund in 2014 to cover unexpected major capital expenses.) And, the campaign will support the vital outreach ministries of the Cathedral, most especially The Beacon, through which we restore dignity to more than 250 men and women each day. Through the Sowing the Seed campaign, we will be faithful stewards of God’s vineyard.

As the campaign commences, I encourage you to pray our campaign prayer daily:

Gracious God, since 1839 Christ Church Cathedral has faithfully prepared the soil in downtown Houston and the Diocese of Texas for the work of your kingdom. It is now our turn to sow the seed of grace, by restoring your Cathedral and ensuring the work of our outreach ministry for the next generation. Grant us joy and goodwill in this work, and bestow your blessing upon us, that faith may grow and bloom in the midst of the city; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Finally, on February 1 I will complete my fifth year as your Dean. It continues to be the honor and privilege of my life to serve the Gospel among you. I am thankful.

Grace and peace,



The Very Rev. Barkley S. Thompson
Dean

Senior Warden's Report

Dear Cathedral Family,

As the vestry began its work in January 2017 at the vestry retreat at Camp Allen, we expected the key focus for the year would be reviewing the completion of the work done by the Historic Preservation and Renovation Task Force — with the likely outcome to be a capital campaign to complete that work. No one dreamed about the crisis of a storm like Harvey and its impact on our parish. Dean Thompson has eloquently described how our community responded to this disaster and, in addition, we learned that our historic campus was at even more risk than we realized due to the damage from the storm.

Through the summer, we began to prepare the outlines of a capital campaign to finance the completion of the major repair and refreshment needs of our historic campus (what would be included/how much would the repairs cost/how could we better safeguard future maintenance needs/what outreach efforts could be supported). We also recognized that we needed to augment the Tom Barrow and Stuart Hellmann Legacy Fund for Cathedral Preservation, so funds for these major maintenance expenses may be accrued for future needs. In addition, the Cathedral has traditionally included a significant outreach component when raising money in the past.

Then Harvey came. We spent September reviewing our work and trying to assess whether Harvey had derailed our efforts, but then we realized that Harvey had only underscored the need: we must complete these major repairs as soon as possible; we should set aside money for future major repairs and maintenance; and we should help organizations like The Beacon have financial security so they have the resources to respond to unexpected events.

As a vestry, we now look forward with excitement to beginning this capital campaign with you in early 2018.

The two largest arms of the Cathedral's ministries also had impactful years. Our newest addition to the Cathedral's ministry, The Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer, grew during this year, and their offerings reached even more participants. The Beacon has continued to be a centerpiece of Houston's work with the homeless, and we were able to respond positively when the city asked us to provide three meals a day, seven days a week, in the weeks immediately post-Harvey. That enormous increase in our outreach was accomplished by an outpouring of volunteer support. The annual "Come to the Table" benefit for The Beacon raised record levels of support from an energized and inspired crowd.

The Cathedral's "regular" activities remained exceptional, ranging from our excellent series of Lenten speakers to our numerous class offerings weekly (including many classes now offered in our neighborhoods) to our extraordinary music programs — the list goes on and on. I have felt privileged to serve as your senior warden this year, and I've come to appreciate even more the community of faith that IS the Cathedral and the remarkable men and women who serve as our clergy and ministry staff. In addition, all the vestry members and particularly our Junior Warden Bob Richter and our Mission and Ministry Chair Elizabeth Goza have contributed mightily to the remarkably efforts required in 2017. Our future remains "filled with hope."

Sincerely,



Linnet Deily
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

Dear Cathedral Family,

A number of projects were accomplished by the Buildings and Grounds (B&G) Committee during 2017. As Junior Warden and chair of this vestry committee, I am very grateful for the generosity of our Cathedral family members; without their financial support, many of these projects would not have been attempted or completed. The Tom Barrow and Stuart Hellmann Legacy Fund for Cathedral Preservation was invaluable to the Cathedral in meeting immediate repair needs throughout the year.

2017 was the year of water and lights:

February

- Identified and repaired a building leak in the school areas of Jones Hall

March

- Installed cross lighting on cross atop Bell Tower
- Installed new spotlights in Golding Chapel
- Repaired cracks in Sanders and Latham Halls caused by the 2014 draught
- Completed wall crack monitoring of Latham Hall
- Repaired Cathedral sprinkler system

April

- Received and selected placement of Charles Umlauf statue in Bishop's Garden

May

- Created Cathedral Art Acceptance Policy

June

- Completed new tract lighting system for art gallery displays in Reynolds Hall

July

- Removed scaffolding support from Jones vault
- Removed Africanized bee hive from west side of Cathedral property

August

- Hurricane Harvey
- Flooding of Jones basement during Hurricane Harvey

September

- Made repairs due to damage from Hurricane Harvey
- Completed Latham and Bell Tower structural survey reports (both properties in good shape)

October

- Replaced spot lighting above walkway from Cathedral to Reynolds Hall

- Completed landscaping survey with Cathedral parishioner Debby Francis
- Repaired collapsing plaster at entry to Cathedral from east transept

November

- Installed gates in front of Bell Tower on Texas Avenue (Diocesan and Cathedral Shields on order to be installed on gates)
- Installed new lights and switches in Golding Chapel
- Repaired leaks in parking garage elevator
- Repaired HVAC water pipe damage running from Reynolds Hall to service Jones Building and school
- Participated in Cathedral security issues post

December

- Initiated the repair of Jones basement, flooded by Hurricane Harvey
- Cleaned gardens surrounding Cathedral and replaced planting on temporary basis
- Completed repairs to east elevator in parking garage

We are hopeful that many of the problems we addressed in 2017 will be corrected through the Capital Campaign's Cathedral Preservation Project.

Serving as Junior Warden this past year has been an honor and a privilege. I was blessed with a wonderful team of B&G Committee members and thank them for their dedicated service during 2017: Charlie Prioleau (past Junior Warden), Frances Kittrell, Floyd Robinson, and Michelle Ruch. In addition, I would like to offer special thanks to the following: Cathedral staff members David Simpson and Frank Guevara, for their diligent efforts, support, and most especially, tolerance, throughout the year; Cathedral member volunteers Andre Jackson, for his superlative efforts in dealing with the engineering teams for the Jones Building vault issues, as well as liaison to the Building Preservation Committee Debby Francis, for the contribution of her landscaping team in cleaning the Bishop's and Logan gardens and replanting of garden areas; and Keith Davis, for his assistance in keeping the Bishop's garden maintained throughout 2017.

Sincerely,



Bob Richter
Junior Warden

Treasurer's Report

Vestry Budgeting

The vestry budget for revenue is based primarily upon actual Every Member Canvass (EMC) pledges and approved distributions from the Endowment. Normal expenses are budgeted to meet program needs and so the total equals normal revenues. However, major legacy maintenance needs are not budgeted because they are difficult to anticipate. The vestry expects those expenses to be paid for either with actual revenues being more than budgeted or by withdrawing from the Tom Barrow and Stuart Hellmann Legacy Fund for Cathedral Preservation. The Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund was established in 2014 to “pre-pay” for future, major maintenance needs, and the vestry is funding the Legacy Fund by a) budgeting and adding at least \$50,000 annually from the Parish Fund and b) directing that undesignated gifts to the Endowment over \$1,000 are split 20% to the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund and 80% to the General Fund. At the end of 2016, the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund value was \$337,000.

Parish Fund Operating Accounts — 2017

In 2016, normal revenues exceeded normal expenses by \$27,000. However, legacy expenses totaled \$184,000, so \$157,000 was withdrawn from the Legacy Fund in order for total revenues to equal total expenses.

For 2017, the vestry approved a budget with normal revenues equal to normal expenses. Normal revenues were anticipated to decrease from 2016 by \$34,000, even though EMC receipts were expected to increase by \$66,000. That increase was expected to be outweighed by lower oil and gas revenues and lower unpledged gifts, which had been exceptionally large in 2016. The approved budget anticipated that normal expenses would decrease by \$7,000 with savings in maintenance, utilities, and other areas expected to offset an increase in salaries and benefits that reflected full-year staffing. The budget included a \$100,000 addition to the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund.

Preliminary results are that normal revenues will exceed normal expenses in 2017 by \$29,000. Normal revenues of \$5,328,000 were \$119,000

higher than in 2016 and \$154,000 higher than the budget, primarily due to better-than-budgeted EMC revenue. Other gifts were also larger than budgeted. Normal expenses of \$5,299,000 were \$117,000 higher than in 2016 and \$124,000 higher than the budget due to higher facilities, staffing, computing, and insurance expenses.

However, unbudgeted legacy expenditures increased in 2017 largely due to damage to the Jones Building from Hurricane Harvey and totaled \$238,000. Thus, \$209,000 was withdrawn from the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund to bring total revenues equal to expenses. The Legacy Fund ended 2017 at \$283,000 with the distribution to the parish mostly offset by the \$100,000 addition and investment appreciation.

Parish Fund Operating Accounts — 2018 Budget

The budget for 2018 will be adopted by the vestry at the vestry retreat. In the current draft version, normal revenues are \$3,000 more than normal expenses. Normal revenues of \$5,368,000 will be \$40,000 more than in 2017 due to a strong EMC and an expected return to more “normal” levels of plate and unpledged gifts. Normal expenses of \$5,365,000 will be \$60,000 higher than in 2016 with higher salaries and benefits and higher support for the Hines Center. These will be partially offset by lower maintenance and utility expenses.

Endowment Fund — 2017

The Endowment Fund net assets increased \$1,818,000 in 2017 to \$21,247,000. Market value increases totaled \$2,908,000. This was supplemented with \$1,233,000 in bequests, gifts, and oil and gas revenues. In addition to the distribution from the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund, support of the Cathedral totaled \$906,000, and support for the start-up costs of the Hines Center totaled \$325,000.

Respectfully submitted,



Will Hamilton
Treasurer

Financial Summary (Dollars in thousands)

Cathedral Operating Funds	2015 Audited	2016 Audited	2017 Unaudited	Change from 2016	2018 Proposed	Change from 2017
Every Member Canvass	2,972	3,026	3,221	195	3,266	45
Other Gifts	296	424	424	0	381	(43)
Endowment Contribution	1,024	919	879	(40)	912	33
Normal Revenue	5,020	5,209	5,328	119	5,368	40
Salaries and Benefits	2,658	2,776	2,964	188	3,092	128
Beacon Grant and Dunn Center	367	300	294	(6)	267	(27)
Other Outreach	53	79	35	(44)	23	(12)
Liturgy and Ministry	699	711	771	60	701	(70)
Hines Spirituality Center Grant	100	100	100	0	170	70
Diocesan Activities	332	372	356	(16)	372	16
Facilities — Addition to the Legacy Fund	100	100	100	0	100	0
Facilities — Normal	706	744	679	(65)	640	(39)
Normal Expenses	5,015	5,182	5,299	117	5,365	66
Normal Net Revenue less Expenses	5	27	29	2	3	(26)
Facilities — Legacy Expenditures	4	184	238	54		(238)
Use of the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	0	157	209	52		(209)
Change in Net Assets	1	0	0	0	3	3
Endowment Fund	2015 Audited	2016 Audited	2017 Unaudited	Change from 2016		
Bequests and Memorial Gifts	137	999	68	(931)		
Building Our Legacy & Sowing the Seed	420	10	100	90		
Parish Add to the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	100	100	100	0		
Investment Return	(747)	1,390	2,908	1,518		
Oil and Gas Royalties	192	124	134	10		
Total Revenue	102	2,623	3,310	687		
Support of the Cathedral	1,024	923	906	(17)		
Parish Use of the Barrow/Hellmann Fund	0	157	209	52		
Support of the Hines Center	221	294	325	31		
Other Expenses	126	91	52	(39)		
Total Expenses	1,371	1,465	1,492	27		
Net Revenue less Expenses	(1,269)	1,158	1,818	660		
<i>Memo: Net Assets</i>	<i>18,271</i>	<i>19,429</i>	<i>21,247</i>	<i>1,818</i>		
<i>Memo: Invested Funds</i>	<i>19,410</i>	<i>18,383</i>	<i>20,412</i>	<i>2,029</i>		

2017: The Year in Review

January

- The Cathedral initiates a new year with the Annual Parish Meeting, at which Kay Pieringer receives the Dean's Cross.
- Cathedral youth serve at The Beacon in the first of nine service days offered throughout the year.
- The Cathedral's Annual Gingerbread Competition steam-rolls expectations, taking entries into a new dimension and challenging entrants to construct religion icons from edible items.
- The Cathedral hosts the citywide ecumenical service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, including representatives from the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Anglican, and Protestant traditions. The Cathedral Choir offers a spectacular choral Evensong prior to the ecumenical service.
- The Children's Ministry Council hosts its first annual Epiphany "Bad Gift Bingo" parish party, with soup, salad, treats, white elephant gifts, and 57 parishioners in attendance.
- The Beacon Day Center serves as one of ten staging areas across Houston and Harris County for the annual Point in Time Count. The purpose of the three-day count is to measure progress toward the community-wide effort of reducing the number of individuals living on the streets and in shelters.

February

- During Super Bowl weekend as Houston hosts the big game, 183 out-of-town guests tour our historic, holy space.
- The vestry gathers at Camp Allen for its annual retreat. Vestry members spend time getting to know one another, sharing what they love about the Cathedral, and planning for the preservation and restoration of the campus.
- The Mission and Outreach Council partners with the Justice and Peace Council, Latino Ministry, and other community organizations to offer information on the status of the immigration debate, locally and nationally, to immigrants of the Houston area. Immigration lawyers are present at the event to answer questions, as are representatives of several national consulates. More than 130 people attend. A follow-up event is offered in April, in which immigrant families can have a formal consultation with an immigration attorney.
- The Young Adults Council hosts the family-friendly pub trivia night, with 75 attending.

- The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper officially marks the start to the Lenten season. More than 220 Mardi Gras revelers and a volunteer krewe of more than 40 parishioners join in the celebration.
- Cathedral clergy take "Ashes to Go" on Ash Wednesday to street corners downtown, imposing ashes on more than 100 Houstonians.
- Christ Church Cathedral, in cooperation with both the Australian and New Zealand Consulates, hosts the inaugural ANZAC Day Service of Remembrance. Several hundred Houstonians join former Secretary of State James Baker, members of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets, and the Cathedral Choir in remembering the "mateship" of those lost in the Battle of Gallipoli.

March

- "Before I Die..." interactive art installation on Texas Avenue attracts hundreds of passersby who share their life's hopes throughout the season of Lent.
- In a joint effort between the Cathedral, St. Andrew's in the Heights, and Trinity Mid-town, car enthusiasts and kids alike are invited to Touch-a-Truck, held in the Trinity parking lot. A Metro bus, cement truck, police and fire vehicles, motorcycles, a boat, and lots of classic cars come for this "hands-on" event.
- The 2017 Robert C. Stuart Lenten Series brings together regional and national thinkers to explore concept of Reformation. Regionally and nationally recognized experts in Christianity, Islam, and Judaism gather to converse about the role change plays in the development of religious traditions.
- In cooperation with the American Institute for Archaeology: Houston Circle, the Religion and the Arts Council hosts a bus tour of the "painted churches" of central Texas.
- The Pastoral Care Ministry hosts the year's first "Meet your Shepherd Sunday," in which parishioners may meet their pastoral care shepherd.
- Over a series of four Spring Neighborhood Gatherings at various parishioner homes across the city, more than 200 people gather in fellowship with their Cathedral neighbors.

April

- The spring Newcomer Party at the Deanery welcomes 29 Cathedral newcomers and new members.

- Women of the Cathedral Choir join with the Treble Choir of Houston at Christ Church Cathedral to present “Stabat Mater” by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, accompanied by string orchestra, as the prelude to Palm Sunday Evensong.
- A neighborhood initiative information session draws 17 parishioners who go on to form fellowship and formation groups in the neighborhoods of EaDo/Downtown, West U/Montrose, and Spring.
- 2,082 parishioners joyously celebrate the Lord’s Resurrection on Easter.
- The Religion and the Arts Council sponsors the third annual Peeps Diorama Contest. This year’s contest examines miracle stories and includes several miraculous feats of architecture and artistry.
- 46 parishioners attend the annual Tulip Reception in recognition of members with longevity of service to the Cathedral. Tracy Brown, Executive Director of Amazing Place, keynotes the event.
- The annual Youth Giving Tree raises over \$17,000 in support of youth mission trips.

May

- May the Fourth Be With You: Popcorn Theology goes on the road as parishioners journey to the MATCH theater to catch a private viewing of the original Star Wars film, “A New Hope.”
- The May Fete tradition continues with another spring celebration, once again connecting past and future with liturgy from the 1892 BCP at a 10 a.m. service, and offering a Eucharist in Spanish at 2 p.m.
- Twenty middle school students attend the popular Destination Unknown Lock-in. One of the sites was the historic Glenwood Cemetery, where several founding members of the Cathedral are buried.
- Over 500 Episcopalians from across the Diocese of Texas attend the pregame cookout for Episcopal Night at the Astros in the Bishop’s Courtyard. Although the Astros lost the game that day, they pulled off an amazing season to win the World Series!
- The first full year of Vicar’s Roadshow comes to a close. Through partnerships with local restaurants and civic organizations, the Adult Formation Council brings Cathedral-quality classes to more than 50 cathedral members in four different Houston neighborhoods.
- A dozen prayer shawls are blessed at Holy Eucharist. Shawls are distributed by the Cathedral’s Pastoral Care Ministry to those in need throughout the year. The shawl blessing is repeated in September.

- The Hines Center board welcomes new Executive Director Monica Grinage-Prince, CMP, CMM.
- Bishop Andy Doyle makes his spring visitation, confirming 22 youth.

June

- The third Annual Costa Rica Mission trip includes 10 high school youth and 6 adults. The team works in the city of Limón, teaching Vacation Bible School and making improvements to the church. Additionally, ten Cathedral fifth graders participate in the Houston mission trip in partnership with the CUSE program.
- Forty-two Cathedral parishioners make pilgrimage to Germany in observance of the 500th anniversary of the Martin Luther’s Reformation.
- The Children’s Ministry Council hosts a four-day Vacation Bible School for children both of Cathedral House Episcopal School and parish members. The children take part in making eighty “Peace Packs” filled with household items for refugee families connected with Interfaith Ministries.
- The Hines Center launches a Spirituality of Food Series with a lecture from Dean Barkley Thompson on the spirituality of beer, in partnership with St. Arnold’s Brewery.
- The Beacon’s Brigid’s Hope program hosts the first of two graduations, with six women graduating this year. The 12-month program serves women transitioning from incarceration to self-sufficiency, providing housing, case management, and a variety of activities to enhance spiritual, physical, and emotional well being.

July

- Throughout the summer, 28 Cathedral children and youth attend Camp Allen as campers, along with several high school student volunteers as cabin counselors. Both Jeremy Bradley and KariAnn Lessner lead a weeklong camp session.
- The Children’s Ministry Council invites the entire Cathedral to participate in The Well + Dinner + Compline on several evenings in the summer. Folks gather for dinner and participate in outreach projects through Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack and Friends for Life, drawing Cathedral families together during the summer months.
- Latino Ministry hosts Vacation Bible School in the neighborhoods for four consecutive days. An average of 28 children participate daily, along with 22 volunteers.
- The Cathedral’s Bridge Ministry hosts four weeks of lessons to “learn to play bridge.” More than 30 people participate in the lessons taught by Rick Newlin.

- The Mission and Outreach Council partners with Latino Ministry to organize and lead a yard sale event in a Latino neighborhood. Proceeds are distributed as grants to seven low-income students headed to college.
- The Justice and Peace Council reprises its summer documentary series, viewing and discussing films on topics such as immigration, the white nationalist movement, and gender identity.
- Twenty-eight middle school youth from the Cathedral participate in the diocese's Missionpalooza, serving flood victims in Baton Rouge.
- Cathedral Organist Monica Czausz offers her farewell recital prior to moving to Philadelphia to pursue an artist's diploma at the Curtis Institute of Music.
- The fall Newcomer Party at the Deanery welcomes 26 Cathedral newcomers and new members.
- The Beacon's Come to the Table fundraiser in September exceeds expectations under the leadership of chairs Bess and Matt Wareing. The event raises over \$600,000 and is punctuated with a four-course meal prepared by many of Houston's most well-known chefs, a moving testimony from a former Beacon client, and an inspiring musical performance by Eliza Thompson.
- The congregation is given a "behind the scenes" look into the day to day of the Cathedral through "The Daily Office" at the Every Member Canvass kick-off dinner. More than 250 people attend in Reynolds Hall to be entertained by Cathedral clergy, staff, and volunteers.

August

- The Hines Center revamps its schedule to offer all levels of yoga, movement, and mindfulness classes with high-profile, elite instructors from the community. Immediately following, the center launches monthly special yoga events with a sold-out session of "Prince, Purple Reign Yoga Flow."
- Hurricane Harvey releases its fury on Houston, as fifty-five inches of rain fall on the city. Grace outpaces despair, however, as the Cathedral becomes command central for Episcopal hurricane relief, with CUSE Director Christy Orman as diocesan Hurricane Relief Administrator and parishioners Seth Hinkley and Gary Krause as Cathedral coordinators. Additionally, Canon Simón Bautista Betances and the Cathedral Latino Ministry office work diligently in the Latino community to ensure that needs are identified and met. Christ Church receives and distributes \$250,000 in relief assistance. Additionally, The Beacon is called upon by the City of Houston to assist in the disaster relief effort. The Day Center extends its hours to offer additional meals, showers, and laundry services. The Cathedral and community step up to provide volunteer support, supplies, and financial assistance to serve many displaced and homeless neighbors in need.
- Kids Hope launches a new partnership with Bruce Elementary. Kids Hope volunteers organize, sort, and distribute clothing, household goods, and food to needy families at Bruce.
- Kids Hope launches a new partnership with the United Way Reading Together Program. Volunteer reading buddies from the Cathedral bolster the program and make a connection and difference in the lives of six additional second grade students at Bruce Elementary.
- In a new partnership with Murder by the Book bookstore, the Adult Formation Council hosts an evening with internationally renowned author Louise Penny.
- The Adult Formation council launches the first in a three-part series of Quiet Days; opportunities for Cathedral members to gather on our historic campus for rest, relaxation and contemplation. This fall's topic: Departure.

October

- The Justice and Peace Council joins with the Hines Center, The Boniuk Institute at Rice University, and the Alliance for Compassion and Tolerance to host "Coming Out in Faith."
- Ninety-five furry, feathered, and scaled animals attend (along with their people) the St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals.
- Pastoral Care Ministry hosts the Mourner's Path, a multi-week program for those experiencing grief.
- Dean Thompson launches a fall Dean's Hour series on Dante's Divine Comedy, reminding parishioners that sometimes the way down is the way up.
- Neighborhood Gatherings in the fall are another success, with more than 180 attendees throughout four Cathedral member homes.
- Nationally recognized author James McBride reads from his newest book, a short story collection, in Sanders Hall. Frequent partnerships with local bookstores bring major names in the literary field to downtown Houston.

September

- Daryl Robinson, newly appointed head of the University of Houston Moores School Organ Department, becomes Cathedral Organist, and Mary Joy Silmaro, a masters candidate in organ at Rice University, is appointed Cathedral Organ Scholar for the 2017-18 academic year.

- In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, the Cathedral supports Houston arts organizations that flooded from their venues by hosting Da Camera, Houston, as well as auditions by Wolf Trap Opera, Fairfax, Virginia, and Arizona Operas.
- The 3rd annual Halloween Boo Bash draws members and downtown neighbors alike.

November

- Bishop Andy Doyle makes his fall visitation, confirming, receiving, and reaffirming 15 members.
- The Every Member Canvass culminates in Loyalty Sunday, when parishioners are encouraged to turn in their pledge cards for the upcoming year. As of the printing of the annual report, the EMC has set a new Cathedral record with 612 pledges for \$3,444,906.
- In cooperation with Houston Grand Opera's HGOco program, the Religion and the Arts Council presents the final concert in the Veterans' Songbook series. Veterans' Songbook premiered at Christ Church Cathedral on Veterans' Day in 2015.
- The Adult Formation Council's Fall Speaker Series concludes with the return of David Eagleman to campus presenting his new book, *The Runaway Species*.
- The Hines Center becomes a 501c3 nonprofit, able to receive direct donations and foundation support.
- The Mission and Outreach Council hosts the Alternative Giving Market, with 20 volunteers and 200 attendees, raising \$22,000 for worthy local charitable organizations who directly assist those in need.
- The Cathedral vestry approves the Sowing the Seed Capital Campaign to restore and prepare the Cathedral for the next generation. The campaign kicks off on January 28, 2018.

December

- The Cathedral community prepares for the Nativity with Advent Lessons and Carols.
- The Hines Center again partners with the Boniuk Institute at Rice to host Dr. Michael Skerker, Professor of Ethics at the United States Naval Academy, who lectures to a capacity crowd on radicalized religion and the origins of jihad.
- More than 100 adults, youth, and children attend the parish retreat in the piney woods of Camp Allen. Chris Mabon speaks about the five essential friendships in our lives, while Neil Giles serves as "pit boss" over the on-site BBQ pit.
- The Spanish language congregation Posadas attract more than 700 participants throughout nine nights of this important tradition. Thirty-six people, including four families from the morning and evening congregations, host the Posadas. A highlight of the 2017 Posadas is that a different Cathedral priest celebrates Eucharist in Spanish each evening. Bishop Hector Monterroso preaches and celebrates at the Grand Posada.
- Forty-eight parishioners attend the annual Longest Night Service, which provides holiday comfort to those who suffer grief or have experienced the loss of a loved one.
- 1,846 parishioners joyously celebrate the Lord's Nativity at Christmas Eve and Christmas services. More than 70 children participate in the pageant.
- Christmas at the Cathedral provides fun, food, and real snow for the children and families of Small Steps Nurturing Center, Rusk School, and Bruce Elementary. In all, 300 people are served.

Vital Statistics

Average Sunday attendance in 2017: **745**

In 2016: 715

Easter attendance in 2017: **2,082**

In 2016: 2,039

Total active baptized members at the end of 2017: **3,812**

At the end of 2016: 3,729

Number of pledging households in 2017: **612**

In 2016: 616

Total amount pledged in 2017: **\$3,280,297**

In 2016: \$3,126,398

Total church school students enrolled in 2017: **268**

In 2016: 353

Baptisms in 2017: **53**

In 2016: 33

Confirmations in 2017: **29**

In 2016: 31

Received in 2017: **3**

In 2016: 4

Ministry Reports

Formation and Worship

Report by the Rev. Art Callahan

“Reformation” was the watchword for much of the Christian world in 2017. As Lutherans, Catholics, and many other branches marked the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses, even those of us who hail from slightly different traditions couldn’t help but reflect on the ways our personal and corporate walks of faith bend and change under the influence of insight, revelation, and experience.

Though 2017 did not bring the structural reformations in worship and formation that 2016 did, it did demonstrate that those changes were, to borrow a line from St James, “both powerful and effective.” The Well, Christ Church’s Sunday evening Celtic Eucharist, continued to draw approximately one-hundred worshippers every week. The Vicar’s Road Show expanded to serve additional neighborhoods. The partnership model of hosting and drawing participants into the Cathedral now supports both Religion and the Arts and Worship communities in addition to Adult Formation. Moreover, the sense that Christ Church Cathedral is the center of theological and spiritual inquiry in the heart of Houston continues to grow.

2017 was not, though, totally devoid of innovation. In much the same way that Luther engaged ancient sources to fuel new insights, the Cathedral has looked deep into its own Anglican traditions to find inspiration for new programs. In the fall of 2017, the Adult Formation Council offered the first of a three-part series of “Quiet Days,” mini-retreats on the Cathedral campus, focusing on the spiritual journeying the faithful undertake during their walk with Christ. This event was attended by more than a dozen parishioners, and plans are already being made for additional opportunities in early 2018.

Sometimes, “reformation” simply means “change.” So, in closing, I want to note one of the aspects of our Formation and Worship lives that has simply changed as we move from 2017 to 2018. After several years of successfully leading our Cloister Gallery, Ellen Harrison is stepping away from that role. Simultaneously, Robin Bullington, Nan Morris, and Bill Moeller are stepping up to lead the gallery into its next season. My thanks to

each of these folks for good works past and present and for their willingness to offer their time and considerable talent to this unique ministry in the Church.

What we have learned from our study of Luther’s Reformation this year has been, I think, what we already sensed: the church is constantly and consistently being re-formed by the prayer and worship of its members. Thanks to each and every one of you for your continued participating in this work.

Music

Report by Robert Simpson

Like the Cathedral itself, the Music Department flourished in 2017. The choirs grew in size and excellence, and my colleagues who help lead the department were superb.

As expected, Monica Czausz, our much-loved Cathedral organist, moved from Houston to continue her education at The Curtis Institute of Music. As she was planning her departure, Daryl Robinson, a brilliant organist with whom I had worked before, was returning to Houston after three years teaching organ at Westminster Choir College. I was elated when he accepted the Dean’s offer to become Cathedral organist. He assumed this position in August. In addition to his Cathedral duties, Daryl heads up the Organ Department at the Moores School of Music. He is one of this country’s leading young organ recitalists, but he has a real calling to church music, which shows itself in his elegant service playing. His talents and graciousness have already endeared him to the choirs and to all of us lucky enough to know him. Please introduce yourself when you see him around the Cathedral.

Mary Joy Silmaro became our organ scholar in September. She, like Monica before her, is a graduate student at the Shepherd School, studying with Ken Cowan. The Cathedral is pleased to offer professional opportunities to outstanding students, and we, in turn, benefit greatly from Mary Joy’s presence on our staff.

The Treble Choir of Houston at Christ Church Cathedral, under the direction of founder Marianna Parnas-Simpson, has blossomed this year. Always sure to draw applause whenever they sing at Cathedral services, they received invitations to perform with the Houston Symphony, the Houston Masterworks Chorus, and

The Houston Chamber Choir this year, in addition to individual engagements around the city. Ann Miller is an invaluable aid to Marianna in every phase of the choir's operation.

Harpist Becky Baxter continues to oversee music for our 5 p.m. Celtic service, *The Well*. Her sensitive selection of music, often in her own arrangements, has helped make this service an inviting entry point into the Cathedral for those new to our community and a favorite of many current parishioners. She is joined each week by a flutist, cellist, and a staff singer serving as cantor.

Leading the Parish and Cathedral Choirs remains one of the great joys of my life. Our work as volunteer ensembles is greatly assisted by a core of 12 professional staff singers. Their eagerness to help and encourage the choirs to achieve their full potential is a remarkable gift. Together these choirs are called on to give their time and talents in generous amounts to support parish, diocesan, and citywide services, something they do without reservation. Events of note this year included the service marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January and the Anzac Day Commemorative Service in April, sponsored by the Australian Consulate.

With the closing of the Wortham Center following Hurricane Harvey, the Cathedral offered alternative performance and rehearsal space to local and national arts organizations including *Da Camera*, *Houston*, *Houston Grand Opera*, *Arizona Opera*, and *Wolf Trap Opera*. This is in addition to *Houston Early Music* and *HGOco*, whom we host annually.

I am grateful to Marilyn Dyess, department administrator, for her assistance with the daily tasks of running the department. I am also lucky to have the help of Charlotte Jones, volunteer choral librarian, who spends endless hours each week distributing, collecting, and repairing the music sung by the Cathedral Choirs.

It is a joy to work with Dean Thompson and the Cathedral's extraordinary staff. I thank each of them, and you, for the support and appreciation we receive. We are honored to play our part in offering praise and thanks to God through music at Christ Church Cathedral.

Christian Community

Report by Karen Kraycirik

There are many verses in the Bible that emphasize that faith in Jesus Christ should mold the relationships we have in all areas of our lives — in our homes, our churches, and our world. The ways our church

community connects to each other go beyond the walls of our cathedral campus. The relationships built in the spirit of Jesus are the ones we turn to in times of plenty and in times of crisis. Throughout 2017, parishioners of Christ Church Cathedral continued to gather together, to celebrate all the blessings of this life.

The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was another great success in fun and fellowship, with over 220 Mardi Gras revelers celebrating in Reynolds Hall. The “super-secret pancake bread pudding recipe” was back in full force in 2017, and rumors were that it was better than ever!

The efforts to take the Cathedral out into the “neighborhoods” continued to increase. Attendance numbers were up across the board at both the spring and fall Neighborhood Gatherings, with more than 500 parishioners participating between both seasonal offerings. In March, Canon Razim hosted a neighborhood initiative workshop to inspire members to create their own communities where they live and let them know what resources are available. Canon Callahan took education “on the road” with the Vicar's Roadshow, hosting an educational meet-up at different locations around Houston.

The month of May was definitely one of celebration as we hosted both *May Fete* and the *Episcopal Night* at the Astros pre-game cookout. Many thanks to the councils who came together and supported *May Fete*, our annual spring festival, through time, talent, and treasure. Parishioners once again enjoyed a 10 a.m. Eucharist service using the 1892 prayer book, harkening back to *May Fete* gone by, and a 2 p.m. Spanish Eucharist acknowledging the continued growth of Christ Church's Latino congregation. Only weeks later in the Bishop's Courtyard, more than 450 people from across the diocese congregated to enjoy hot dogs, popcorn, beverages, and fellowship before heading over to Minute Maid Park to watch the Houston Astros take on the Cleveland Indians. While the beloved Astros didn't bring home a win that night, they did end up bringing home a World Series trophy at the end of the season.

The Community Life Council wrapped up another great year with the annual Parish Retreat at Camp Allen. More than 100 parishioners made the trek out to the piney woods to enjoy the serenity and peace that can only be found at camp. Chris Mabon, our guest speaker, spoke about the five essential friendships that enrich our lives,

while Neil Giles, the Cathedral's own "pit boss," made lots of new friends by smoking brisket on-site at campsite 3.

While much more happened in 2017 than can be encompassed in a handful of sentences, rest assured we will continue to serve one another and be served, and give thanks for the opportunity that God has given us to form and bond through fellowship as a Christian community.

Stewardship

Report by Karen Kraycirik

In 2017, the theme for Every Member Canvass (EMC) was "Above all, clothe yourselves with love... and let the word of Christ dwell in you." In his epistle to the Colossians, St. Paul offered guidance to a community that was looking to the future. He prescribed that they need look no further than Jesus for salvation, direction, and a way of life. With the success and completion of the Vision Action Plan, "A Future Filled with Hope," just a year earlier, the Stewardship Council felt this particular verse would resonate with a congregation that has set its sights on what is to come.

On Sunday, September 24, the congregation was given a behind-the-scenes look at "The Daily Office" at the EMC Kickoff Dinner. Two hundred and fifty people gathered in Reynolds Hall to be entertained by clergy, cathedral staff, and some stellar vocal talent from our congregation. As always, it was great fun for everyone in attendance.

For the past few years, it has been a joy to report that the EMC continues to break records; and it would appear that 2017 was no different. A major milestone for the 2018 Every Member Canvass was achieved just over a week after Loyalty Sunday in November — receiving 506 pledges totaling just over \$3 million. The generosity of our members is truly awe-inspiring; the EMC numbers continued to grow throughout the remaining weeks in the year.

With a truly monumental end to 2017, the Stewardship Council was overjoyed that our 2018 EMC had surpassed its overall pledge dollar goal before year's end. When given a challenge of a 3% increase in pledged financial commitments, our community rose to the occasion.

By press time of this annual report, we have received 612 pledges totaling \$3.44 million. Of these pledges, 81 of them are new, meaning they are from first-time pledgers. We are truly blessed here at the corner of Texas and Fannin by the generosity of our members in their time, talent, and treasure.

Children and Families

Report by KariAnn Lessner

The Children's Ministry Council (CMC) exists to welcome children into the Cathedral family and help them feel safe and cared for, as a reflection of God's love, as they grow in their faith. Council members help plan parish events for children and families, support the Sunday School, child care, and Lighthouse programs, nurture relationships between families at the Cathedral, and partner with parents in their child's lifelong faith formation.

The CMC is evolving into a ministry that understands faith formation can occur at any age for every child in any location, and we have structured our offerings to encourage participation in several formats.

In the fall of 2016, we introduced Agnus the Lamb as the official "welcome" symbol. She is featured on signs that guide children and families to their Sunday School classrooms, and she encourages the smaller Cathedral members to utilize the new Worship Bags during services. She will also appear on name tags for CMC members to help families identify resources for information or directions to Sunday School, Lighthouse, and child care.

In addition to the previously held parish events, such as Instruction in Eucharist and Flowering of the Cross, CMC organized new events like Touch-A-Truck in partnership with Trinity and St. Andrew's Episcopal Churches. Touch-A-Truck was a community invitation that allowed children to get up close and interact with multiple types of vehicles. It was well attended and included an hour designed specifically for families with children with special needs.

We are currently using SPARKhouse (a product line from Augsburg Press) in our Rotation Sunday School classrooms, for 2nd – 5th grades. Rotation is a workshop-style classroom teaching method, sharing a lesson for multiple weeks covered in different learning styles and formats like LEGOs, cooking, science, arts, and games. The two-year-old class (called SPARK Twos) uses the lectionary-based format for SPARKhouse. Our three-year olds – 1st grade continue to use the Cathedral Godly Play, Montessori-based curriculum created here at Christ Church Cathedral more than 30 years ago by Dr. Jerome Berryman.

Our Childcare Center continues to be a place of respite and connection for families of young children.

This past year, the Lighthouse program was placed under CMC's guidance, and the students are flourishing with a new teacher and aides where they have begun to mainstream with our Rotation Sunday School classes. Several new members to the Cathedral have joined the volunteer base for the Lighthouse, each bringing with them their own gifts and graces to this amazing ministry. Additionally, we have begun a new initiative, Cathedral PALS, a program designed to build lasting faith friendships in the lives of our children with special needs and their peers as they journey toward Confirmation.

This spring, we commissioned the building of a bigger cross for the Cathedral's Easter Flowering of the Cross. With the help and support of the Altar Guild and several CMC members, our new cross was received well and flowered copiously.

For Epiphany, CMC offered a post-Christmas fellowship event, Bad Gift Bingo, where Cathedral members young and old were invited to bring a wrapped white elephant gift. A light meal, shared desserts, and lots of laughter ensued.

This summer, our Vacation Bible School outreach benefited refugee families with Interfaith Ministries. VBS kiddos loaded clear plastic backpacks (an HISD-mandated change for the fall of 2017) with household items (washcloth, wooden spoon, homemade flash cards, soap, toothbrushes, etc.). Cathedral members were invited to sponsor these "Peace Packs."

For the summer, Cathedral children received a dual passport, Art & Food, with the encouragement to try new foods and art experiences, and have an adult sign their passport noting their efforts. Our goal was for them to experience the arts through music, museums, theaters and their own creations.

Compline played a big part in our ministry with children and families. Encouraging folks to come to The Well service, stay for a community potluck, and end with Compline, offered yet another opportunity to form families and community.

Our response to Hurricane Harvey came in the form of revitalizing the CathedralKidsTX Facebook page and encouraging families to connect and create together as we processed our collective joys and sorrows.

2017 threw us a number of curveballs, and the Children's Ministry rose to meet those challenges.

Youth

Report by Jeremy Bradley

Giving back has been a passion for our students in 2017. With a variety of mission trips, service day opportunities, and Harvey relief, the youth at Christ Church Cathedral are certainly living out our missional call.

We returned to our friends in the diocese of Costa Rica for our third mission trip. This time we went to the Limón region of the country to further our mission by partnering with the Costa Rican Episcopal Church, sharing knowledge, compassion, and love with each other. We also worked with flood victims in the Baton Rouge area during Missionpalooza.

Thanks to the Cathedral community for their generous support, we were able to raise over \$17,000 for the Giving Tree. This is the most we have ever received for scholarship for our youth community, and we are grateful.

Lastly, we continue to volunteer with local nonprofits in the Houston area to help our neighbors in need. Community service is such an important work for our youth. We hosted nine different community service opportunities throughout the year not including the relief efforts from Harvey. Being a community that supports, encourages, and shares the love of Christ with each other is just a small part of that important work. A glimpse of hope can be seen in our students as they tear down the walls of race, economic status, and a variety of other differences to build up the community in the city of Houston.

Young Adults

Report by Jeremy Bradley

For 20s & 30s, we have focused on fellowship and formation. Fellowship is a key aspect to this ministry. Many young adults are new to the city of Houston or, if Houston is home, they may find their friend groups changing. Through fellowship, we foster community and allow for connections to be made and friendships to be formed. Some of our fellowship opportunities included an art class at Pinot's Palette, Roller Derby, and a Pontoon Boat Tour of Buffalo Bayou.

We've also focused on growing our leadership within the community by having individuals lead the Wednesday night group. It has been a fruitful year as our community continues to be the body of Christ.

Justice and Peace

Report by Elaine Krause

The ongoing mandate of the Justice and Peace Council is to raise awareness within the parish about unjust structures in our society. Dean Thompson serves as staff liaison and mentor to this Council.

Much of the Council's work in 2017 focused on immigration — co-sponsoring with Canon Bautista a series of programs on changes to immigration law at both the state and federal level. The series began with an evening Immigration Forum in February, featuring a panel of immigration and legal experts and was open to parishioners and the larger downtown community. A more detailed Legal Clinic was held in April, to provide one-on-one legal counsel and assistance filling out immigration documents.

In February, the Council did three activities to support Black History month. On Sunday, February 12, we teamed up with Cathedral Youth for a work day at Olivewood Cemetery, a historic resting place for many freed slaves and some of Houston's earliest black residents. The following week, we co-sponsored with the Diocesan Commission on Black Ministry the presentation of "Traces of the Trade," a film about a New England family heavily invested in slave trading, and we were joined by a descendant of one of the slave families. The following week, we participated in the annual Absalom Jones celebration, with a panel discussion and shared meal.

Over the summer, the Council presented another well-attended series of documentary films, including: "E-Team" on June 21, about the work of the U.N.'s Human Rights Watch to document unlawful attacks on civilians in Syria and Libya; "Welcome to Leith" on July 19, which chronicles the attempted takeover of a small town in North Dakota by a notorious white supremacist; and on August 9, Cathedral parents and teens presented a screening of "Gender Revolution," an exploration by Katie Couric on the rapidly evolving complexities of gender identity.

For the fourth annual "Coming Out in Church" program, Dean Thompson encouraged the Council to expand its audience and focus. On Saturday, October 21, "Coming Out in Faith" was presented at the Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer, jointly sponsored by Hines, the J&P Council, the Boniuk Institute at Rice University, and the Alliance for Compassion, Houston. The panel consisted of four individuals from four different faith traditions (Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim), each

discussing the challenges and rewards of coming out to his or her respective families and faith communities. The program drew a diverse and enthusiastic audience (despite competing with an MLB-AL playoff game at Minute Maid), and we hope to pursue more such collaborations in future.

Mission Outreach

Report by the Rev. Simón Bautista Betances

The Mission and Outreach Council (MOC) continues identifying ways to best serve the mission of the Cathedral, both by strengthening its relationships with the organizations the Council is in partnership with already, and by visiting with new prospective organizations who are also serving the underserved and vulnerable in the city of Houston. The Council is blessed with the presence of a solid, strong, and committed group of people that includes members of the congregation, a vestry liaison, and a staff liaison.

In 2017, the Mission and Outreach Council embraced a few more projects than it has done in the past. These projects included the traditional (Alternative Giving Market, volunteering at Lord of the Streets and The Beacon, Blood Drive, and Christmas at the Cathedral), and the new (Yard Sale in neighborhoods to support low income students in their way to college, and an informative forum on immigration).

The traditional

The Alternative Giving Market drew parish members from all services on Sunday, November 12, and collected approximately \$22,000, which was distributed among 14 organizations the Cathedral supports via this work of the MOC. Over 20 members attending our various services signed up to support this event.

At the 2017 Blood Drive, the MOC partnered with Saint Luke's Hospital to help save lives by donating blood and encouraging others to donate blood. On Sunday, October 1, a total of 16 members of the Cathedral congregation were among the donors who heard the calling of our Mission and Outreach Council to save lives.

As it has been for the past few years, the Mission and Outreach Council continues supporting the work of Lord of the Streets by recruiting members of Christ Church Cathedral to go and serve breakfast to the homeless at Trinity Church on various Sundays of the year.

For the second year in a row, Christmas at the Cathedral hosted low income families with children attending Small Steps Nurturing Center, the Rusk School, and the Kids Hope program at Bruce Elementary. Once again, we had snow blown in by a truck into the Bishop's Courtyard, where children played until the point of happy exhaustion. The event also included a photo booth, games, and a delicious dinner. Nearly 300 people were in attendance. This number includes volunteers from our congregation and people from organizations in relationship with the Cathedral via the MOC council members.

The new

The Mission and Outreach Council partnered with the Latino/Hispanic Ministry in one of the most gratifying community-building and gospel-telling activities these two bodies of the Cathedral could have imagined working together: a yard sale to support low-income students just graduated from high school and heading to college. Approximately \$2,700 was collected, thanks to the great number of items donated by the congregation of the Cathedral. The money collected was distributed among seven students, some of them members of the Cathedral, some of them not.

The Mission and Outreach Council will continue carrying on the mission of the Cathedral, serving and supporting those institutions who serve the underserved and who can be where we cannot.

Pastoral Care

Report by the Rev. Glenice Robinson-Como

The Pastoral Care Ministry team began the year by completing their membership call list and implementing the Meet Your Shepherd Sunday program (MYSS). The MYSS provides a face-to-face conversation between shepherds and parishioners in the cloister area. It also provides an opportunity for new members to learn more about our pastoral care ministries and the Shepherd program. Each new member receives a gift from his or her shepherd and is added to the shepherds' alpha listing. The Circle of Care training meets twice a year to provide support and training for the Shepherds. This training serves to assist the Shepherds as they encounter pastoral care issues from our community. The Pastoral Care Council continues to identify and recruit more Shepherds to support our growing congregation. We have added two additional shepherds to our program and have registered three additional facilitators for the Mourners

Path Program in the spring. The additional facilitators for the Mourners Path will allow a rotation of facilitators for our grief program.

This year, Canon Como's term as an Amazing Place board member ended, and we are in the process of making recommendations for a replacement from the Cathedral. The Cathedral continues to be a supporting church for Amazing Place. Don Vold will continue to serve as a member of the Council of Congregations, and Dean Thompson will continue to serve on the Advisory Council. The Cathedral is committed to providing avenues of care for those who suffer from dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

This year Canon Como was on sabbatical from July 1 through October 1. During this time, Hurricane Harvey affected many of the members of our Cathedral family. The pastoral care coordinator worked along with other staff on a Harvey phone-a-thon to check in with members and offer pastoral support. In addition, the Samaritan Center of Houston contributed to the care of our members by offering complimentary grief sessions in both English and Spanish.

This year the long-awaited pastoral care database is now operational. This system will allow our ministry to capture pastoral care visits and produce a weekly pastoral care report for clergy. The database also assists clergy in providing continuous care by tracking members' date of entry into a hospital or facility through their release date.

The Human Resource Database will be the next addition to pastoral care. It will capture professional services provided by our Cathedral members such as catering, counseling, or accounting.

In 2018, the Pastoral Care Council will continue to work toward achieving the most innovative system of care and support for our community. In concert with the clergy, the lay pastoral teams serve faithfully in their various ministries to ensure that "no one walks alone."

Welcome and Evangelism

Report by the Rev. Genevieve Razim

The Welcome & Evangelism Council and the Reaching Out to Downtown ministry celebrate another year of faithful ministry. The mission of the Council is to foster a culture of invitation and welcome within the Cathedral community, drawing and connecting unaffiliated persons into the life and worship of the Cathedral, resulting in spiritual and numerical growth.

The Council began the year with hospitality extended to downtown guests present for the Houston Marathon and Super Bowl. For the Super Bowl, the Cathedral doors were open for prayer all weekend, and members of the Tour Ministry led 183 people through our historic, holy space and shared our story.

The interactive art installation “Before I Die...,” by artist Candy Chang, on Texas Avenue invited parishioners and passersby to reflect on their dreams and priorities during the season of Lent. Council members also invited participants and spectators of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade to The Well.

Bible by the Glass at OKRA Charity Saloon continues to draw participants from beyond Cathedral membership, primarily through personal invitation and social media service Meetup. This gathering is described by several as their primary “faith community.”

In collaboration with other ministries, Welcome & Evangelism hosted Boo Bash in October, featuring Daryl Robinson’s playful seasonal organ recital. In partnership with Community Life, neighborhood groups were formed and neighborhood gatherings established in EaDo/ Downtown West U/Montrose, and Spring (Bible by the Glass — North) with plans to include other motivated neighborhoods in 2018.

The Council celebrates strong attendance at the 2017 Newcomer Welcome parties as a positive indicator of the effectiveness of the ministry, and we are thankful for the role parishioners play in this process. Even with all the diverse efforts of this Council, the most powerful form of welcome and evangelism is carried out by parishioners in their daily lives by sharing the love and grace of God and inviting others to experience it within the Cathedral community. Many thanks to all who invited, welcomed, and helped to connect newcomers this year. Keep up the good work!

Latino Ministry

Report by the Rev. Simón Bautista Betances

The Latino Ministry at Christ Church Cathedral continues expanding as the Spanish speaking language service sustains a steady growth. Year 2017 was a good year in terms of deepening our relationship with some of the areas from where our members come to the Cathedral. Meanwhile, the church community at the Cathedral is becoming even more robust and more engaged. We work under the motto, “Go and make disciples of all.” (Matthew 28:19)

Thanks to the great dedication of our teachers and the support of parents, our Sunday school continues growing and becoming more dynamic. For the second year in a row, our Sunday school program led, with great success, the neighborhood Vacation Bible School.

In addition to Sunday school classes and adult formation opportunities, we hosted several events to give people a chance to learn, congregate, and experience fellowship. Events such as Noche Familiar, Lenten Retreat, and La Conferencia TE offered great opportunities for people to invite friends and families to the Cathedral. Our Latino Ministry also brought thirty members to the annual Diocesan Latino Conference at Camp Allen in the month of June. We were also part of the Conferencia Nuevos Horizontes at Camp Allen; this is a conference of the Seminary of the Southwest intended for lay and clergy working with Latino Ministry in the Episcopal Church.

Latino Ministry also spearheaded several events intended to serve the wider immigrant community. Together with the Justice and Peace and Mission and Outreach Councils, we offered an Informative Immigration Forum, an Immigration Clinic, and an orientation session for people affected by Harvey with the participation of 28 FEMA officials. We also offered a DACA Session for Dreamers and parents of Dreamers.

Latino Ministry and Mission and Outreach conducted a yard sale event to support low-income students just graduated from high school in their preparation to go to college. Seven students in total benefited from the profit of this activity. All those events involved members of the overall Cathedral community. Also, members of the Spanish language service organized four events in the neighborhoods where people were more affected by hurricane Harvey. At those events, around 400 meals were served.

Las Posadas, from December 16–24, brought together over 700 people in total. There were three significant highlights in the 2017 Posadas season: we had Bishop Hector Monterroso preaching and celebrating at the Grand Posadas at the Cathedral; there were 36 families involved in hosting Posadas in the neighborhoods, including four families from the Anglo congregation; and, for the first time ever, each one the staff clergy of the Cathedral was the celebrant at one of the Posadas at people’s houses.

Our Latino Ministry continued Bible studies and Eucharistic services in the neighborhoods throughout 2017 and is looking forward to 2018 as a year to continue growing and strengthening.

The Beacon

Report by Becky Landes

The mission of The Beacon is to provide essential and next-step services to restore hope and help end homelessness in Houston. In 2017, this mission was furthered through a variety of events and programs.

Leading up to Super Bowl LI, The Beacon partnered with the Local Youth Advisory Board of the Souper Bowl of Caring to host a Tackle Hunger Banquet in our Day Center, which had nearly 100 students and guests in attendance. The purpose of the event was to illustrate the economic divisions in our community and to energize young people around the spirit of the big game to help those in need. The proceeds and food collected from the event benefited the Day Center.

Also in January, the Day Center was the hub for multiple organizations and volunteers who coordinated the annual Point in Time (PIT) count. The three-day activity measures progress toward the community-wide effort of reducing the number of individuals living on the streets and in shelters. The most recent data shows that the number of homeless individuals in Harris County has steadily decreased by more than 60% since 2011.

With the arrival of spring, The Beacon joined the City of Houston Mayor's goal to house 500 chronically homeless individuals before Thanksgiving. Despite some bumps in the road, this citywide objective was met in September and a total of 525 people moved from living on the streets to stable homes. Many of these individuals continue to receive services, including civil legal aid and access to health care benefits provided by The Beacon team.

The Brigid's Hope program celebrated six graduates this year. This year-long program supports women transitioning from incarceration to self-sufficiency through housing, case management, and a variety of activities to enhance spiritual, physical, and emotional well-being. Recidivism to incarceration remains below 5% for the life of the program, and each graduate this year increased her income or education level.

In June, The Beacon added a new service known as rapid re-housing, a short-term intervention for men and women who had recently fallen into homelessness. With the addition of one rapid re-housing case manager, 22

men and women were connected to affordable housing. The case manager continues to support these individuals by helping them establish and meet goals to ensure ongoing stability.

In August, Night Court presented a musical comedy performed by an all-lawyer acting group at the Hobby Center to raise money for local legal-aid charities. Our Beacon Law program was chosen as a recipient for the third year in a row, and strong attendance by our constituents helped to increase our share of the funds raised. Contributions such as this make the year-round work of our staff attorneys and paralegals possible. More than 3,200 legal cases were completed in 2017 for individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, a 20% increase from the previous year.

When Hurricane Harvey landed, The Beacon was called upon by the City of Houston to assist in the disaster relief effort. The Day Center extended its hours to provide additional meals, showers, and laundry services. The Cathedral and the community stepped up to provide volunteer support and supplies to serve our displaced neighbors in need. Through the generosity of individuals, corporations, and private foundations, The Beacon provided goods and direct financial support to hundreds of men and women that had lost housing, income, or personal items as a result of the hurricane.

This year's Come to the Table fundraiser in September exceeded expectations under the leadership of chairs Bess and Matt Wareing. The event raised over \$600,000 in support of our work and was punctuated with a four-course meal prepared by many of Houston's most well-known chefs, a moving testimony from one of our Brigid's Hope graduates, and an inspiring musical performance by Dean Thompson and his daughter, Eliza.

The Beacon Board of Directors had a very active year leading the organization. Every board member contributed to our fundraising efforts, and all were present for our Come to the Table event. Along with this dedicated group of 22 board members, The Beacon has a roster of Advisory Board members who also actively volunteer in programs, visit local partner agencies, initiate tours of our facilities, and participate in events throughout the year as advocates for our work and for the men and women we serve.

The Bishop John E. Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer

Monica Grinage-Prince

The Bishop John E. Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer celebrated one year of being open to the community, offering spiritual programming, movement classes, and venue rentals. Under the direction of the new executive director, Monica Grinage-Prince, CMP, CMM, the Hines Center launched a robust schedule with elite instructors, added new programming including a Spirituality of Food Series, and launched monthly special events combining Yoga Flow with popular musical artists. The Hines Center also hosted a four-day leadership conference for Episcopal Relief and Development, the largest venue rental to date. The Hines Center ended the programming year with a symposium on radicalized religion headlined by Dr. Michael Skerker, a professor of ethics at the U.S. Naval Academy. Dr. Skerker offered an enlightening lecture on the origins of jihad to a capacity crowd. The Hines Center has prepared an extensive spiritual programming calendar for 2018.

Cathedral Bookstore

Lucy Chambers

This past year in the Cathedral Bookstore was one of celebration, transition, and events with notable writers, including the Right Reverend Andy Doyle. In March, Dr. Leslie Williams, an English professor, author, and visiting scholar from Yale Divinity School, and the Very Reverend Cynthia Briggs Kittredge, Dean of the Seminary of the Southwest, signed their books and visited with parishioners in conjunction with the Robert. C. Stuart Lenten Series. April brought the return of the Very Reverend Pittman McGehee, who signed his new book of poetry, *Extraordinary in the Ordinary*. In June, the store closed until fall, with the exception of a Saturday opening for the deacon ordination.

In the spring, Kathy Jackson, who had served the bookstore for 24 years, first as a volunteer and then as manager, announced her retirement. Lucy Chambers, a book editor and former English teacher, was named as her successor and began in August. The store reopened for the season on August 20. We were very fortunate that no books were damaged during Hurricane Harvey, and once the power returned, we were finally able to begin a busy fall.

In September, the Dean held a tea to honor Kathy, welcome Lucy, and celebrate the volunteers who have so faithfully served the bookstore over the past 35 years. We were pleased to host receptions in the store for events arranged by the Canon Vicar with local bookstores Murder by the Book and Brazos Bookstore, featuring notable authors Louise Penny, Michael Chabon, James McBride, David Eagleman, and Anthony Brandt. In November, we hosted a reading for Bishop Doyle in the Mellinger Room, and he answered questions regarding his new book, *The Jesus Heist*. In December, we shared our annual Advent Newsletter and, in conjunction with Canon for Welcome and Evangelism Razim, created a program for Advent called “Christmas Cheer Starts Here” that encouraged parishioners and downtowners to spend lunch hour at the Cathedral and learn more about Christmas services.

We are grateful for our volunteers whose time, energy, and knowledge make the Cathedral Bookstore possible, and to all the staff and members of the Cathedral who choose to get their books from us, despite the lure of other vendors. We strive to make the Cathedral Bookstore a welcoming haven for book lovers in our community, and we look forward to sharing more good books, hosting more authors, and providing more gifts to commemorate life’s notable events in 2018.

Special — Harvey Relief Ministry

Report by Gary Krause and Seth Hinkley

Hurricane Harvey made landfall early in the morning on August 26, and stayed until August 29, 2017. Even before the rain had stopped, Christ Church Cathedral was responding to the needs of our church and our community. Dean Thompson decided to focus the Cathedral’s efforts in just a few areas: rental assistance, gift cards for lost property and income, temporary housing with Cathedral members, assistance with insurance and FEMA issues, help in mucking out flooded homes, and assistance with transportation. He also contacted other Episcopal churches in Houston to pool assets and use them to meet needs in all parts of the city. Cathedral CUSE Director Christy Orman began coordination with other large parishes, and this effort eventually expanded to become a Diocesan operation. From the first Sunday of the storm, Jeremy Bradley began leading teams to do the tough work of mucking out homes and helping people move belongings to dryer/safer locations.

On August 31, Dean Thompson appointed Gary Krause and Seth Hinkley to be the Hurricane Relief Co- Coordinators for the parish. They began by recruiting

volunteers to free up staff members to return to their normal ministry jobs. George Hawkins and Robert Flores valiantly stepped up to take over Jeremy Bradley's work as the cleanout crew leader. Elaine Krause and a volunteer from outside the parish, Rob Bartlett, helped set up a database and online worksheet form to help track the dozens of requests for help, the type of help requested, as well as the many volunteers who offered legal assistance, housing, or service on work crews. Additionally, the Rev. Art Callaham led the effort to call everyone in the parish to check on them and see what their needs were. The Cathedral also housed 30 FEMA Americorps volunteers in the Treehouse for approximately six weeks; they had been assigned to work in Houston specifically for hurricane relief.

Canon Simón Bautista Betances was liaison to the Spanish-speaking community and did a wonderful job identifying needs and helping to bridge the language barrier, all while

ministering to the community's mental and spiritual needs. He set up a presentation after the 1 p.m. service, where more than 20 FEMA officials were ready to take claims, and had an insurance presentation by Marcia Bradley, which was ably translated from English to Spanish by Paul Mandell. The finance staff, led by Patrick Saccomanno, who usually only does one check run a week, began doing daily check runs during our busiest times, which helped to keep numerous people from being evicted from their rental homes.

By the end of October, more than a quarter of a million dollars had been given to the Harvey Fund, and almost all of it had been distributed to folks in need, to Episcopal churches in Southeast Texas that had seen significant damage, and to one volunteer fire department. The generosity of the Cathedral community and of others from outside of our area allowed us to clean out more than 25 homes and financially assist more than 80 families.

2017 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

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

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† deceased as of November 1, 2017

* new member as of November 1, 2017

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as of December 31, 2017

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as of December 8, 2017

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