We Are Christ Church Cathedral

Christ Church Cathedral is the cathedral of the Diocese of Texas. Inspired by our traditions, we are a diverse, passionate, inclusive Christian community devoted to meaningful worship and ministry in a beautiful historical setting in downtown Houston. In accordance with the gospel message of love and justice, we continue our long legacy of reaching out in faith to serve the needs of others while supporting each other with joy in every aspect of our lives. Since 1839, Christ Church has proclaimed in word and deed the good news of Jesus Christ. Years before the founding generation could afford a church building, services were conducted in the basement of the Republic of Texas building on the site of the Rice Hotel. In those days, Houston was a rough-and-tumble swamp town with cattle drives roaming down Texas Avenue. Christ Church Cathedral today occupies two blocks in the fourth largest city in the country and remains a beacon of faith and charity in the midst of a thriving metropolitan center. In our 180-year history, we have survived fires, floods, and raging storms, not to mention shifting demographics in our neighborhood and our city. Through sound leadership and a commitment of love and service to all, we have persevered and flourished. This year, we celebrate the 71st year of our designation as Cathedral for the Diocese of Texas. As a cathedral and a parish, we are more than a place for Episcopalians throughout the diocese to worship. We are a space for hospitality and renewal. We are the seat of the Bishop of Texas and a center of learning and formation where all are welcome. We are the parent for more than 12 outreach organizations that meet the needs of many in our community. We are all this and more. We are Christ Church Cathedral. All the information in this report may be read online at christchurchcathedral.org.
Dear Cathedral Family and Friends,

As I reflect upon 2019, I take joy in another year in which Cathedral ministry was faithfully pursued and fruitfully accomplished. Together, and inspired as always by Psalm 46:5, we proclaimed “God in the midst of the city.” Three snapshots from 2019 are sacramental reminders for me of our good work:

On May 19, we gathered in the Bishop's Courtyard to bless the restoration work made possible by the Sowing the Seed Capital Campaign. The restoration includes the Cathedral bricks and mortar, the sacristy, vesting rooms, underground vaults, and the Bishop's Courtyard itself. Added to the courtyard is the stunning Charles Umlauf sculpture “Striding Christ,” which is an exquisite piece of public art with outstretched arms of grace for those who seek sanctuary in our cloister. We also named The Beacon Day Center in memory of our friend and brother-in-Christ, sexton Ardell Ray. The Sowing the Seed restoration is our homage to the Cathedral's 180-year history in this place, as well as our commitment to the Gospel ministry of Christ Church for future generations.

On August 4, two hundred Cathedral parishioners gathered on a late summer Sunday morning for a huge, parish-wide book study of *To Kill a Mockingbird* as the culmination of our first ever “Cathedral Reads” program. The event was a testament to the Cathedral's long-standing commitment to both the formation of the heart and the exercise of the mind, as we discussed Harper Lee's classic text. The book's many spiritual themes were revealed to us, including a reminder of the Incarnation, when Atticus tells Scout, “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.”

On August 25, more than six hundred parishioners gathered after a special 10 a.m. Eucharist for a very different kind of Rally Day to “Rally Against Hunger.” Together we packed more than 100,000 meals in two and a half hours, providing sustenance and nutrition for impoverished families throughout greater Houston. Rally Against Hunger was an outward and visible sign of our Matthew 25 commitment to look beyond ourselves and care in solidarity for all of God's children. I've never been prouder of Christ Church than I was on Rally Day.

There is more in store for 2020. The Cathedral Councils and the Vision Task Force are hard at work formulating a vision action plan for the next chapter of the Cathedral's life. That plan will be announced during the Easter season this spring. As I end my seventh year as your dean, I thank God daily that I am blessed to be part of such an active, faithful congregation who are enlivened and motivated by God's grace. I look forward to sharing ministry with you in the coming year!

Grace and peace,

The Very Reverend Barkley S. Thompson
Dean
Dear Cathedral Family,

When we recite the 23rd Psalm, we acknowledge that the Lord restores our souls and leads us in the paths of righteousness. Interestingly, if you were to observe this institution through the lens of our local paper, you would see these two driving principles at play. The Houston Chronicle featured Christ Church Cathedral in both May and August. Our work restoring the Cathedral’s 126-year-old sacred spaces was featured in May and our path to righteously serve others was highlighted in August’s coverage of Rally against Hunger.

Houston was reminded about our compassionate nature when we packed and delivered 100,000 meals to the food deserts of our city. This is who we are. Dean Thompson explained to the Chronicle that we’re called to be a community of memory and of expectation, responding to what God is calling us to do.

This year the substantial restoration work was completed, funded by the Sowing the Seed campaign. Thank you all for your part in supporting this, through your contributions and the dedication of skilled volunteers who drove these efforts. We are blessed to have a seemingly tireless Junior Warden, Andre Jackson, and his Building and Grounds Committee that faced many challenges in keeping all facilities in working order, as well as blessed to have the Restoration Building Committee, chaired by Guy Hagstette and co-chaired by Bill Curtis. Collectively, you have restored the beauty of this place and preserved a home for the work that we do, the work of restoring souls in the communities we serve.

My three years on the vestry have taught me much about the generosity and commitment of the many parishioners who equip us to serve through the councils, committees, ministries, and various organizations that make up Christ Church Cathedral. Throughout the year in my quarterly reports to you, I’ve given you highlights of their many contributions. I am truly impressed by the depth of their service, supporting you, our parishioners, and reaching out to serve the communities outside these walls.

At our vestry retreat at the beginning of the year, Dean Thompson reviewed our progress in achieving goals launched in 2014 as our five-year plan. Now, the process to set a new vision going forward is upon us, initiated in fall 2019. We reaffirmed the Cathedral’s mission to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ through word and deed to the parish, the diocese, and the downtown community. Guiding principles were set for the visioning effort itself and the process was set in motion to define each council’s purpose and the opportunities that each one can serve over the next five years. Centering the next visioning process in large part by relying on the experience and perspectives from our many councils makes sense for an institution that relies on its volunteers to take on its many initiatives.

In its fourth year, the Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer grew its participation and progress to build community for a better world. To that end, the first phase of the Helping Souls Grow Campaign was launched to seek support from grant-making foundations. The goal is to expand (1) mental health services designed to relieve stress, anxiety, depression, and fear; (2) special programs designed to embrace spiritual development; (3) body movement classes to integrate mind, body, and soul; and (4) music, art, and interfaith programing to create a non-judgmental third place community. Be sure to visit the website to learn all the experiences offered there.

The Beacon expanded even further in helping end homelessness in Houston. We are an important part of the city’s progress on this front; at the same time deepening the services we provide, especially in the area of legal aid. The incorporation of COMPASS’s services with The Beacon’s has enhanced the work at the Ardell Ray Day Center, Brigid’s Hope, and a variety of case management efforts. The 2019 Homeless Count and Survey, conducted by Houston’s Coalition for the Homeless, reported a 5% decrease in the Houston homeless population and a 54% decrease over the past eight years. Thank you for your part in this contribution as well — both as volunteers and funders.

Staffing changes continued to bring in new talent to our Cathedral at the same time that we mark the departure of cherished contributors David Simpson and Jeremy Bradley this year. Jody Gillit joined us this summer as the Minister for Pastoral Care to lead the pastoral care ministry. We enjoyed a full year with the Rev. Becky Zartman on staff as Canon Missioner for Welcome and Evangelism. Marcia Quintanilla joined this spring as the new Minister for Youth, and Christy Orman is the new Minister for Young Adults. Karen Kreycirik’s runway seems unending and she is upping her game to the position of Chief Administrative Officer.

And, speaking of the Cathedral’s future, we asked that you secure your place in it by endowing your contributions through the Bishop Richardson Society. Our doors are open for more to join. You can inspire the future of what Christ Church Cathedral can do by simply including us in your estate plans. This fund was started in 1954 and throughout the years has met the needs of unforeseen events as well as provided seed money for new programs outside the normal budget. Its continued growth will ensure sustainability for the future.

Again, thank you!

Fredricka Brecht
Senior Warden
Junior Warden’s Report

Dear Cathedral Family,

2019 has been a busy and satisfying year as we witnessed the substantial completion of the Cathedral Restoration Project. The scaffolding was removed, the brickwork and painting were completed, and the landscaping took shape, so that we could once again see the beauty of this place of peace in the midst of the city. I am grateful for the input and involvement of so many companies, groups, and individuals in not only this major project but in all the areas that needed to be addressed for the successful operation of the facilities. We had an excellent team in the Buildings and Grounds Committee (B&G) as well as good support and input from those that have gone before us and continue to have a keen interest in the Cathedral. Our B&G Team included Floyd Robinson (past Junior Warden), Meredith Canada, Kristy Greenwood, Erin McMillin, Rick Ogle, and staff liaisons David Simpson and Karen Kraycirik. Frank Guevara and the sextons have earned a lot of thanks for their hard work as well as Guy Hagstette, Bill Curtis, and the Building Committee, who led us through the restoration project. I thank the congregation for identifying items and areas that need attention so that we can address them. Individuals including Dieter Ufer, George Hawkins, and others I may not know have been assisting with repairs.

It has been an honor and privilege to have served as the Junior Warden this year, and I am pleased to report the following items that have been addressed during 2019.

January
- Refinishing the stairs and lobby in front of Golding Chapel was underway
- The organ in Golding Chapel was undergoing restoration
- Major punch list items in the sacristy (Cathedral level) were completed, and work continued in the vesting area (upstairs level)
- Restoration of the exteriors of the buildings was ongoing; weather impacted the schedule
- Architectural/engineering work for the sidewalk vault, including problem identification and proposed solutions, evaluation of the water proofing and protection needs, etc. was underway
- Walter P. Moore issued a draft report with alternatives and estimated costs
- The Fire Marshall inspected the facilities and the restoration/renovation work and approval was given
- A Certificate of Compliance for the Cathedral was approved

February
- Page Southerland Page, Inc. (Page) completed a west campus-wide heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) study to identify the major energy users and HVAC needs. Included in the study was an evaluation of the chilled water heat exchanger with a recommendation for the required size. As a result, a second heat exchanger and a third pump will be added to increase system cooling capacity and overall efficiency.
- Johnny Steele Design’s landscaping contract was put in place
- Johnny Steele Design’s proposal for the ongoing maintenance of the landscaping was under review by the Buildings & Grounds Committee (B&G)
- The Golding Chapel punch list items were completed
- Based upon the architectural and engineering work and analysis provided by David Bucek and Walter P. Moore and Associates for the sidewalk vault, the Cathedral proceeded with the following scope of work:
  a. Epoxy repair of damaged concrete structural components from below
  b. Patching and repair of the concrete sidewalk surface and walls to reduce or eliminate pathways for water to enter the vault
  c. A multi-layer traffic coating system on the sidewalk surface to create a moisture barrier
  d. A specially formulated cement topcoat and UV shield to create a safe pedestrian environment and protection for the structure

March
- Work began on the front walkway to the Cathedral
- Landscaping and lighting installations began
- Cracks were repaired in the Latham Building

April
- Completed the exterior restoration of the Cathedral and Bell Tower
- Completed the storm drainage system and brick walkway to the front of the Cathedral
- Completed the landscaping installation
- Removed scaffolding and construction fencing
- We met with Enwave (Tim Kearns, VP and General Manager) regarding modifications to, and extension of, the Chilled Water Delivery Agreement currently in place and expiring in 2026. Enwave is preparing an Amendment to extend the Agreement for an additional ten years.
- Carpet installation in Latham Hall was completed

May
- Contract in place with Johnny Steele Design for the on-going maintenance of the Cathedral landscaping
- We received the Work Permit from the City for the surface repair (sidewalk) of the Jones vault

June
- Repairs to brickwork in the Bishop’s Court yard and the walkway on the south side of the Cathedral were completed
- The installation of the restored Golding Chapel Organ was completed
- The Umlauf sculpture was installed
- Bellows mobilized Epoxy Design to begin work on the surface repair of the Jones Building sidewalk vault (vault); the team also began repair work in the interior of the vault to be ready for the installation of the new heat exchanger and pump in the cooling water system
- The painting of the iron fence around the Cathedral was completed
- The design of the new Cathedral audio system with the capacity for video streaming and recording was completed
- Two new 7’x3’ stained glass windows were installed in the canons’ vestry
• Roof inspections, repairs, and drain cleaning to identify and eliminate water leaking into the sacristy and water exiting the secondary roof drains during rain storms were completed
• A “panic button” and phone were installed in the sacristy
• Remodeling and upgrading the kitchen and AV systems in the Treehouse were completed
• We discussed and approved the cleaning of the exterior of the Jones and McGehee buildings
• We discussed the need for the proper flushing of our side of the cooling water system before the installation of the new heat exchanger and the ongoing need for water treatment for corrosion control

July
• The new heat exchanger and pump were installed in the chilled water system (HVAC) in the Jones vault
• Corrosion control and filtration of the cooling water in the Cathedral’s HVAC piping was initiated and is ongoing
• A proposal was requested from Walter P. Moore for a structural study of the Latham Building and the eastern portion of the McGehee building addressing “settling/shifting” issues

August
• The repositioning of the Umlauf Sculpture was completed
• The cracked security glass over the stained-glass window on the south side of the nave was replaced
• The canvas awnings over the San Jacinto entrance to Reynolds Hall and the Prairie entrance to the Jones Education Building were replaced with new metal awnings
• The repair of the masonry associated with the iron fence was completed
• The repair of the parking garage vehicle gate was completed
• Walter P. Moore proceeded with a structural study of the Latham Building and the eastern portion of the McGehee building addressing “settling/shifting” issues

September
• A new filter system was installed in the Cathedral’s HVAC piping; water testing scheduled to be performed in October to determine the results
• The installation of the new Cathedral audio system was completed
• The roof drainage performed well during the recent storm. There was a small leak in the Cathedral roof and one in the roof of the Jones building. The roofing contractor repaired and further inspected the roof.
• The cleaning of the exterior of the Jones and McGehee buildings was completed
• Walter P. Moore completed the inspection of the Latham Building and prepared a report addressing the “settling/shifting” issues
• A new roll-down door was installed by the trash containers at The Beacon
• WIFI was installed in the Cathedral

October
• Corrosion control and filtration of the cooling water in the Cathedral’s HVAC piping is ongoing. The new filter system has improved the quality of the water and Enwave approved the connection and use of the new heat exchanger.
• Replaced the faulty refrigerator in the sacristy
• Walter P. Moore completed its Phase 1 Assessment (structural study) of the Latham and McGehee Buildings addressing “settling/shifting” issues, and it went under review.
• Safety strips in a contrasting color were added to the top edges of the front steps to the bell tower to assist those with limited eyesight
• The amendment to the Enwave chilled water delivery agreement that extends the contract for 10 years (through August 24, 2036) was put in place
• New LED lighting was installed in the walkway of Nancy’s Garden.

November
• Performed an air flow test of the HVAC supply vents to identify air flow patterns to assist with balancing the system and providing better cooling to the choir
• Some adjustments were made to the direction and amount of air flow to the transepts to decrease the air flow to the transepts and redirect it to the Chancel
• The louvers over the cellar ventilation openings on San Jacinto were put in place; the delivery of new/stronger screens to complete the installation were to come
• Signage for Logan’s Garden was installed
• A failed section of the HVAC control system in the Dunn Outreach Center was replaced with current technology, and other portions requiring attention were scheduled for replacement
• Repairs to the fire alarm and protection systems were underway to address issues identified during scheduled inspections of the systems
• An upgrade to the Mag Loc/Key Card system was installed

December
• Completed the refurbishment of the old heat exchanger and reinstalled it in the cooling water system in parallel with the new heat exchanger
• Tested and balanced the Cathedral HVAC system; commissioning and programming will be completed in January
• Completed the interior repair of the Jones vault
• We received the occupancy certificate for Reynolds Hall, Golding Chapel, and the vestries. Occupancy certificates are now in place for all the buildings on campus
• The insurance (property) coverage of the Cathedral was increased from 10 million to 12 million dollars in light of recent improvements and replacement cost
• Completed the repair of the west transept stairs and adjacent side walk area
• A recent crack in the west transept plaster near the ceiling, possible plaster deterioration within the wall, and possible structure movement in the area were noted. This is being investigated to identify the issues; tie rods had been added in this area during the summer of 2018 to stabilize the structure.
• Completed the inspection of the small diameter piping in the HVAC system to determine overall condition and suitability for continued use. Recommendations are under review and necessary repairs will be scheduled.
• Design work was underway on the Cloister Gallery and associated lighting
• Design work was underway on the addition of motorized shades to east wall windows in Reynolds Hall to reduce the amount of sunlight impinging on the projection screen during presentations
• The refinishing of the pews and frontal screens in Golding Chapel was completed.
• We met with Walter P. Moore to review the Phase 1 Assessment of the “settling/shifting” issues in the Latham and McGehee Buildings:
  a. Latham — locate additional construction drawings to allow further investigation of the structural components and load bearing capability in selected areas
  b. McGehee — install flashing on the southeast side to keep water away from the slab, investigate the sprinkler system and watering schedule, repair/replace the exit door
• Completed the raising of a portion of the
sidewalk on the east side of San Jacinto near Nancy’s Garden to remove a bump/tripping hazard

- Houston Sound and Covenant Technology Services were working on the Cathedral Video Streaming Project. A temporary system was in place to stream video into Golding Chapel for Christmas. The permanent system will be in place during the first quarter of 2020.

**Upcoming Schedule Milestones**
- Commissioning and programming of the Cathedral HVAC system — January 2020
- Install a secure and waterproof hatch in the Prairie St. sidewalk to allow future access to the Jones vault — 1st quarter 2020
- Complete the surface repair of the Jones vault — 1st quarter 2020
- Complete the Cloister Gallery — 1st quarter 2020
- Complete the addition of the motorized shades in Reynolds Hall — 1st quarter 2020
- Obtain and monetize the Cathedral Restoration Project tax credits — 2nd quarter 2020
- As we move into 2020, we are expanding efforts in identifying and documenting planned maintenance and inspection processes and procedures in order to improve overall facility operations.

Faithfully yours,

Andre Jackson
Junior Warden

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**2019 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*

Fredricka Brecht, Senior Warden

Andre Jackson, Junior Warden

Evelyn Nolen, Secretary

Lyman Paden, Chancellor

Michael Bullington, Treasurer

Tracey Cabral

Meredith Canada

John Flanagan

Kristy Greenwood

Maria Hernandez

Frances Kittrell

Bruce McDonald

Erin McMillin

Rick Ogle

Robert Reedy

Walker Taylor

Matt Wareing

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**2019 Endowment Trustees**

Wayne Clawater, President

Linnet Deily, Vice-President

Brent Bechtol

Mike Bullington

Cec Fowlers

Charlotte Jones

John Knapp

Michael McCord

Catherine Randall

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**Vital Statistics**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>Average Sunday attendance</td>
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<td>Easter attendance</td>
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<td>Total church school students enrolled</td>
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<td>Baptisms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Received</td>
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<td>Total active baptized members</td>
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<td>Number of pledging households</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total amount pledged</td>
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Treasurer’s Report

2019 Parish Operating Accounts

For 2019, the vestry approved a budget with normal revenues $8,490 more than normal expenses. The budget anticipated that normal expenses would increase by $68,000; reduced program needs and savings in maintenance, utilities, and other areas were expected to offset an increase in salaries and benefits that reflected full-year staffing. The budget did include a $50,000 addition to the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund.

Preliminary results indicate that normal revenues will exceed normal expenses in 2019 by $26,000.

Normal revenues of $5,922,000 were $289,000 higher than in 2018 and $382,000 higher than the budget primarily due to better than budgeted EMC and facility use revenue. Normal expenses of $5,896,000 were $320,000 higher than in 2018 and $364,000 higher than the budget due to higher facilities, staffing, computing, and insurance expenses.

The unbudgeted legacy expenditures of $190,000 were reimbursed with $100,000 coming from the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund. The Legacy Fund ended 2019 with a balance of $487,000, and the distribution to the parish was offset by $294,000 additions from the Parish Fund, donor-restricted gifts received by Sowing The Seed, and other gifts.

2020 Parish Budget

The vestry budgets revenues by using actual EMC pledges when the budget is adopted and distributions from the endowment. Normal expenses are controlled to match normal revenues. Major legacy maintenance needs are not budgeted since they are difficult to forecast. The vestry expects those expenses to be paid for either with actual revenues being higher than budgeted or by withdrawing from the Tom Barrow and Stuart Hellman Legacy Fund for Cathedral Preservation. The Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund was established in 2013 to “pre-pay” for major maintenance needs and the vestry funds the Legacy Fund by a) budgeting and adding at least $50,000 annually from the Parish Fund and b) directing that 20% of undesignated gifts to the Endowment over $1,000 are added to this fund.

The budget for 2020 will be adopted by the vestry at the vestry retreat. In the current draft version, normal revenues are $88,000 more than normal expenses. Normal revenues of $5,642,000 will be $280,000 lower than in 2019 due to lower EMC pledges and anticipated facility use revenue. Normal expenses of $5,554,000 will be $342,000 lower than in 2019 with lower revenue offset by lower personnel and ministry expense and anticipated higher maintenance and utility expenses.

Endowment Fund — 2019

The Endowment Fund net assets increased $4,028,000 in 2019 to $22,952,000. Market value increases totaled $2,993,000. This was supplemented with $1,241,000 in bequests, gifts, and oil and gas revenues. In addition to the distribution from the Barrow/Hellman Legacy Fund, support of the Cathedral totaled $908,837 and support for the start-up costs of the Hines Center totaled $100,000.

Sowing The Seed Campaign — 2019

Parish support for the Sowing The Seed campaign was evident in strong pledging. Pledges and unpledged revenue now total $13,042,000, and over 50% of the pledges have already been paid. In 2019, $2,985,000 was spent on construction and related fees for engineers, architects, and permits.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Bullington, Treasurer
### Cathedral Operating Funds

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 Audited</th>
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<th>2019 Unaudited</th>
<th>Change from 2018</th>
<th>2020 Proposed</th>
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<td>Normal Revenue</td>
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<td>5,633</td>
<td>5,922</td>
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<td>5,642</td>
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<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
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<td>Other Outreach</td>
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<td>Liturgy &amp; Ministry</td>
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<td>Hines Spirituality Center Grant</td>
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<td>Normal Expenses</td>
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<td>Normal Net Revenue less Expenses</td>
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### Endowment Fund

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<th>2018 Audited</th>
<th>2019 Unaudited</th>
<th>Change from 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bequests &amp; Memorial Gifts</td>
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<td>From Capital Campaigns</td>
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### Sowing The Seed

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2019: The Year in Review

January

• The Cathedral welcomes the Reverend Becky Zartman as Canon Missioner for Welcome and Evangelism.
• Reynolds Hall is the temporary host to a mobile planetarium from the Houston Museum of Natural Science, showing “The Christmas Star” following the story of the magi’s cosmic map to the Christ child.
• More than 100 adults, youth, and children attend the parish retreat in the piney woods of Camp Allen.
• Cathedral Young Adults have a fantastic night out at the Hobby Center to see “The Book of Mormon.”
• In partnership with Brazos Bookstore, the Cathedral launches notable Houston author Chris Cander’s latest novel, The Weight of a Piano. The program, featuring a dramatization of the novel, an original piano work, and a Q&A with the author, packs Reynolds Hall.
• At the Annual Parish Meeting, Cathedral Treasurer Will Hamilton retires after seventeen years. Dean Thompson and the Cathedral wardens present the Dean’s Cross to Will in honor of his faithful service.
• The Beacon Housing Case Management staff and volunteers participate in the annual Point in Time (PIT) Count. Organized by the Coalition for the Homeless, this year’s PIT Count confirms that, through the efforts of The Beacon and its partners, the Houston region has reduced the number of individuals living on the streets by 54% since 2011.

February

• Twenty-eight students watch the Super Bowl in the Treehouse in partnership with Palmer and St. Mark’s Episcopal Churches.
• Thirty middle/high school students and Cathedral young adults volunteer to create over 200 animal beds for AniMeals with Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston.
• The Latino Ministry Council’s women’s conference, Conferencia TE, includes 85 women from different parts of Houston to strengthen faith and empower Latina women.
• The Cathedral Choir presents its triennial Cabaret with seated dinner and entertainment to raise scholarship funds for its upcoming summer residencies at Salisbury and Canterbury Cathedrals.

March

• Christ Church Cathedral co-hosts the 3rd annual “Touch-A-Truck” event, where children are able experience a fire truck, a METRO bus, motorcycles, an RV, a boat, and other vehicles close up.
• Over a series of four Spring Neighborhood Gatherings, at various parishioner homes across the city, more than 200 people gather in fellowship to meet their Cathedral neighbors.
• The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper officially marks the start to the Lenten season. More than 200 Mardi Gras revelers, a Zydeco band, and a volunteer krewe of 40+ parishioners join in the celebration.
• The 2019 Robert C. Stuart Lenten Series brings together regional and national thinkers to walk the congregation through the myriad facets of the concept of Resurrection in the life of the Church.

April

• Following a year-long process to evaluate feasibility, The Beacon merger with COMPASS is completed. COMPASS officially joins as a program of The Beacon.
• The annual Youth Giving Tree raises over $20,000 in support of youth mission trips.
• Over 35 members of the Welcome Team attend welcome team training. Welcome Team members learn about hospitality as a spiritual practice and how we meet Jesus in the stranger.
• Canon Vicar Art Callaham hosts the spring Newcomer Gathering at the vicarage. More than fifty people attend.
• The Cathedral again hosts Houston’s annual ANZAC Day service on behalf of the Australian Consul-General, commemorating Australian and New Zealand troops who have given their lives in armed conflict and peacekeeping operations.
• The Cathedral walks the way of the Passion through Holy Week and celebrates the Resurrection on Easter with joy and gladness.
• The Religion and the Arts council’s annual Peep Diorama Contest breaks new ground by undertaking to build a scale model of the holy city during the education hour on Palm Sunday morning.

May

• May 5 is another glorious May Fete, the Cathedral’s century-old annual spring celebration. Mariachis, aguas frescas, and Mexican flower crowns help to create a festive fiesta on Cinco de Mayo.

• A Sunday of celebration marks the completion of the campus restoration project as part of the Sowing the Seed Campaign. Among the final components of the project, the restored Aeolian-Skinner organ is reinstalled in Golding Chapel and the Charles Umlauf sculpture “Striding Christ” is installed in the Bishop’s Courtyard. Following a ceremonial blessing, parishioners tour the restored and renovated spaces.

• Cathedral Young Adults end a semester of fellowship with 29 folks enjoying the annual Crawfish Boil.

• Fifteen Cathedral youth are confirmed during the Bishop Hector Monterroso’s visitation.

June

• CUSE director Christy Orman becomes Minister for Youth Adults as Jeremy Bradley prepares for seminary.

• The fifth Annual Costa Rica Mission trip includes 14 high school youth and five adults. The team works in the city of Limon, building a new diocesan center. The Cathedral invited St. Thomas, College Station, to participate with our mission expanding the outreach across the diocese.

• Young Adults enjoy a night at Karbach Brewery, one of many opportunities offered for individuals in their 20s and 30s to gather together and build community over the summer. They saw 34 individual Young Adults during Summer Hangouts.

• Latino Ministry Council and Mission and Outreach Council partner to conduct a yard sale. Profits of the yard sale support low-income high school graduates on their way to college.

• Twenty-seven members of our Latino Ministry attend the annual diocesan Latino lay leadership conference held at Camp Allen.

• Canon Callaham and his family head out on the Vicar’s three-month sabbatical.

July

• Jody Gillit joins the Cathedral staff as Minister for Pastoral Care. Jody’s focus is strengthening the pastoral care team so that parishioners can know they need never walk alone.

• The Children’s Ministry council hosts Vacation Bible School “Salt & Light” in collaboration with Cathedral House Episcopal School students and teachers. A total of almost 100 children, youth helpers, and adult volunteers participate.

• Minister for Youth and Young Adults Jeremy Bradley departs the Cathedral after eight years of service to attend Virginia Theological Seminary. The Cathedral welcomes Marcia Quintanilla as the new Minister for Youth.

• The Cathedral Choir departs for two weeks to sing Evensongs and Sunday services at Salisbury and Canterbury Cathedrals. This is the eighth time since 2000 that the choir has traveled to be the choir-in-residence at English Cathedrals.

• Over 700 Episcopalians and friends from across the Diocese of Texas attend the pregame cookout for Episcopal Night at the Ballpark in Nancy’s Garden.

• Ten individuals from the Cathedral participate in the diocese’s Missionpalooza, serving Hurricane Harvey victims in Houston.

August

• On August 4, the “Cathedral Reads” program kicks off, bringing 200 parishioners of all ages together to discuss Harper Lee’s classic, To Kill a Mockingbird. The conversation continues over Popcorn Theology on August 16 as we watch Gregory Peck in the award-winning 1962 film and wraps up with a deeper dive into the story during a special session of the Dean’s Book Club on September 4.

• The Cathedral Urban Service Experience (CUSE) concludes its summer session, during which it hosts seven different youth groups to serve the underserved in Houston. CUSE provides a full-service experience, including food, entertainment, and project supervision. This summer, CUSE groups served The Beacon, Emergency Aid Coalition, Houston Food Bank, and Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston, among others.

• CUSE hosts Jerusalem Peacebuilders’ Voyager Program. Thirty youth and chaperones, including Christians, Muslims, and Jews, come together in friendship and service.
• More than 600 Cathedral parishioners gather on Rally Day, August 25, to “Rally Against Hunger,” raising more than $60,000 and packing 100,300 meals. Additionally, Cathedral children pack 300 MREs (meals ready to eat) for kids serviced by our partner Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack.

**September**

• The Women’s Evening Bible Study begins with a wonderful and fun group of women. Together with Canon Zartman, they study the Parables of Jesus.

• Amazing Women of Faith begins, a monthly program that meets at The Pearl Bar and Restaurant on Prairie. Women gather to talk about female saints and luminaries.

• The Treble Choir of Houston at Christ Church Cathedral, comprised of 45 young women grades 5–12, sings its first services of the new choir year.

• The Cathedral hosts a packed house to see a conversation between Brené Brown and Marie Forleo about Forleo’s best-selling book, *Everything is Figureoutable.*

• Dean Thompson hosts the fall Newcomer Party at his home; two-thirds of the participants are young adults.

• “Tea and Toast” is introduced as a time for fellowship and refreshment between The Well and Sunday evening classes. Parishioners gather in the Latham Building for gourmet toast and jam and tea. The Bookstore is open, providing a warm and welcoming environment.

• The “2020 Vision,” a comedic look at what comes next in the life of Christ Church Cathedral, draws more than 200 people to the EMC Kickoff Dinner in Reynolds Hall to be entertained by Cathedral clergy, staff, and volunteers.

**October**

• Dean Thompson teaches the Dean’s Hour course “Vanity of Vanities,” focusing on Ecclesiastes and Christian non-attachment. Reynolds Hall is packed each week. The videoed lectures continue to be available on the Cathedral website.

• Dean Thompson’s and Washington National Cathedral Dean Randy Hollerith’s friendly wager on the World Series gains national attention, with coverage in the *Houston Chronicle, Washington Post,* and across social media. The Nationals eke out a series win over the Astros, and Dean Thompson graciously wears Nationals gear at the 11 a.m. Eucharist on All Saints Sunday.

• Another year of Foyers Fellowship Groups kicks off with a potluck brunch. The program organized more than 80 participants into small groups based on their neighborhoods.

• EMC co-chairs Gail and Mike Hendryx host the fourth Fall Neighborhood Gathering at their home. The second series of four gatherings brings together over 150 people in fellowship throughout the month of October.

• The Cathedral hosts the 60th annual Diocesan Choral Festival led by Dr. Marty Wheeler Burnett, Canon Precentor of Trinity Cathedral in Omaha, Nebraska.

• The Latino Ministry Council culminates the Month of Latino/Hispanic Heritage, or Mes de la Herencia, which is observed nationwide from September 15 through October 15, with a special event including popular area Latino performers.

**November**

• The Pastoral Care Council launches the Cathedral Alzheimer/Dementia caregivers support group, the only such program in downtown Houston. The group is led by parishioners who are Alzheimer’s Association-trained facilitators.

• 31 Cathedral youth serve at The Beacon, preparing meals and doing laundry for homeless clients.

• The Every Member Canvass culminates on Loyalty Sunday, when parishioners are encouraged to turn in their pledge cards for the upcoming year.

• The members of the Bishop Richardson Society gather at the home of Judy and Charles Tate in celebration and recognition of their commitments to remember the Cathedral in their estate plans.

• More than 200 Cathedral parishioners visit the Mission and Outreach Council’s Alternative Giving Market held in Reynolds Hall, contributing $23,607 to be distributed among 14 participant organizations.

**December**

• This year’s *Come to the Table* fundraiser for The Beacon is a great success thanks to the leadership of chairs Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen. Raising over $645,000, the event is punctuated with a four-course meal prepared by some of Houston’s well-known chefs, a moving testimony from a Brigid’s Hope graduate, and an impromptu song from Dean Barkley Thompson in support of the event’s live auction.

• The Rt. Rev. Kai Ryan, Bishop Suffragan of Texas, makes her inaugural visit to the Cathedral, confirming and receiving 15 new Episcopalians.

• Two dozen children and adults alike gather on Sunday morning to receive Instruction in Holy Eucharist from Dean Thompson, as we strive to understand the holy mysteries contained in communion.
The Sunday evening series *Creating Home* provides an exploration of the spirituality of home. Authors Margaret Reckling and Ariane Roesch present their books *Woody Creek: Views from a Homestead* and *How to Build: A Home, a Life, a Future* and discuss their experiences with Canon Becky Zartman, who concludes the series with concepts from her forthcoming book *Belovedness*.

The Mission and Outreach Council hosts Small Steps Nurturing Center and Rusk Elementary for another unforgettable Christmas at the Cathedral. More than 120 guests representing 30 low income families gather with 67 Cathedral volunteers for an afternoon of games, laughter, photos, and community-building in an event that embodies the real spirit of Christmas.

The Cathedral Choir presents the American premiere of Bob Chilcott’s “Christmas Oratorio,” first heard last summer at England’s storied Three Choirs Festival.

For the eight days leading up to Christmas, the Latino Ministry Council hosts *Las Posadas* in homes across Houston. Hundreds of parishioners and community members participate in the nightly reenactment of the Holy Family seeking protection and shelter in Bethlehem.

62 children participate in the annual Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant. Animals at the manger include a razorback and a two-humped camel.

More than 2,000 people gather to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity as the Cathedral welcomes the Christ child into the world.

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**Ministry Reports**

**Formation and Worship**

*Report by the Rev. Art Callaham*

Perhaps Judy Garland said it best as she tapped her red slippers together and said, “There is no place like home.” The worship and formation of your Cathedral in 2019 can be seen as a homecoming of sorts. And, oh, what a wonderful home it is.

With the nuisance of construction beginning to fade, the year started off strong. Continued work on the drainage of the Bishop’s Courtyard may have kept us up to our knees in mud, but the inside of the Cathedral and several other restored spaces was warm and inviting.

By Easter, much had returned to normal around here, including not only our robust worship and stellar welcome, but also our large variety of formation and arts programs for adults. How powerful it was to be thinking and talking about resurrection even as our church home was being brought back to life.

I personally got an invaluable lesson in the dynamics and meanings of “home” as my family and I travelled throughout Europe during my sabbatical. I want to take this opportunity to once again publicly thank the leadership and membership of the Cathedral, as well as the Lily Foundation for their generosity in helping me to undertake this trip of a lifetime. As the rector of my curacy parish used to say, “it was good to be away. It is even better to be home.”

Fall came on quickly here in Houston and, thankfully, found our home fires burning. Our commitment to a new spate of Sunday evening programs bookended by a time of genuine hospitality has captured the imagination of those who frequent The Well. We even closed out the year with a three-part evening series on the notion of “home” during the holidays.

It has been a great year, friends. There truly is NO place like home.

**Christian Community**

*Report by Karen Kraycirik*

Each year, happenings at Christ Church Cathedral are steeped in tradition. Yet long-standing traditions can become new again, when certain opportunities arise. One such tradition was this year’s Annual Parish Retreat held at Camp Allen. Every year, parishioners gather for a weekend of rest, relaxation, and togetherness. The retreat presents a number of opportunities for participants to connect with one another and with God, from preparing and serving meals, partaking in outdoor activities like canoeing and trail riding, and even sharing stories and s’mores around
a campfire. Almost half of the more than 90 participants attended the retreat for the first time — made possible by moving the date from early December to mid-January.

It is tradition to serve the “secret recipe pancake pudding” and “special rum sauce” along with other breakfast favorites at the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, held the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. In 2019, more than 250 revelers joined the merriment along with over 40 members of a volunteer krewe, helping make this year’s Mardi Gras-themed event one to remember.

It is quickly becoming a new tradition that we can expect a thriller year for the Houston Astros. In July, Episcopal Night at the Ballpark experienced another home run, when more than 700 Episcopalians attended a pregame cookout (consuming more than 700 hot dogs in 90 minutes!) to engage in community fellowship before walking to the ballpark.

On a Saturday morning in October, another season of Foyers Fellowship Groups kicked off in style with a potluck brunch. More than 80 people who signed up for the Foyers program came out to break bread and meet the members of their assigned group, continuing this long-standing fellowship tradition of more than 30 years.

The things that help connect our community the most are the traditions that are observed throughout the year. It is these same traditions that will continue to strengthen the individual bonds we have with one another — and most importantly with God. As we look forward to the year ahead, let us remember to be thankful for the opportunities God has provided to us to continue to grow our Christian community.

Stewardship

Report by Karen Kraycirik

In 2019, the theme for the 2020 Every Member Canvass was “Dear Children, let us not love with words or speech, but in actions and in truth.” This passage from 1 John aimed to inspire the Cathedral community as we approached the upcoming visioning process to really dig deep and help turn words into actions.

The evening of Sunday, September 29, 250 people gathered in Reynolds Hall to be entertained by Cathedral clergy, staff, volunteers, and stellar vocal talent. This year’s skit theme was “2020 Vision,” taking a comedic look at the dreaming and scheming for what is to come in the next chapter of Christ Church Cathedral.

Loyalty Sunday was November 10, a day when we can bless and celebrate the pledges that were received. The generosity of our members is truly awe-inspiring, as we watched the EMC numbers continue to grow throughout the remaining weeks in the year. For the third year in a row, pledges surpassed the $3 million mark before Thanksgiving.

At year’s end, we had received 564 pledges totaling $3.90 million. Of these pledges, 49 of them are new, meaning that we did not receive them last year. We are truly blessed here at the corner of Texas and Fannin by the generosity of our members in their time, talent, and treasure. Simple words cannot express all our gratitude for this continued support and increasing generosity. Thank you!

Children and Families

Report by KariAnn Lessner

When you explore with a child what Matthew means in his gospel, where he tells us to be “salt and light” in the world, you just never know what you will find yourself doing: painting with salt, making rainbows, dancing in glowstick parties, making shadow puppets, taste-testing red and black salt on on fruits — all in an effort to help kids remember that everything we do in this life is an act of worship.

We’ve worked hard this year to live into this call; from summer camp sessions and vacation bible school themes to flashlights handed out on Back-to-School Sunday, our aim was to encourage children to be God’s light in this world. We even lined the walkways leading to our host family’s home for Las Posadas with farolitos — little lanterns — or luminarios — festival lights — small brown paper bags filled with sand and a candle to light the way of the Christ child.

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

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

It is our prayer that we can link arms with families who chose to make the Cathedral their spiritual home, in ways that support and encourage. We hold the candle high and offer you both God’s light and love as you worship and form in this place.

Youth

Report by Marcia Quintanilla

I recently took the Seed Group (middle school students) to watch the movie “Frozen II.” In it, Elsa, the oldest sister, sings about going into the unknown and following a call placed in her heart. She goes through several obstacles to get there, but in the end, she reaches the unknown and
realizes that it's a place that perhaps her heart and soul have always known. A place where she belongs. A place where her talents, attributes, and gifts fit right in. I began my journey into the unknown here at Christ Church Cathedral in mid-June of 2019. Like Elsa in “Frozen,” I quickly realized my call to be here and serve. I come from San Mateo, one of the largest self-sustained Latino parishes in the Diocese. I am a proud native of this great city and of Salvadoran descent. After following the path to the unknown and now the known, I’d like to say that I am living the dream!

Youth Ministry at the Cathedral focuses on three things: formation, outreach, and community. Our programming is designed with each of these in mind. It has provided us with a clear vision of what is essential to and for our students. You will see this focus throughout our calendar.

Last fall, Seed and Root Groups were introduced to replace EYC. Now, a year later, despite the change in leadership, it continues to thrive. These groups meet weekly in the evenings and create a space for youth to gather together, break bread, and study scripture through curriculums. This semester we went over The Way of Love curriculum and explored different practices to live a Jesus-centered life. We also added a new Seed Group on the west side for our youth that reside there.

Our annual fundraiser, The Giving Tree, had its most successful year yet, raising just over $20,000. Through the generous donations of our Cathedral family, we were able to give full and partial scholarships to students in need of financial assistance and partially underwrite the cost of each mission. This summer, we served by helping those affected by Hurricane Harvey, helped the underserved in Downtown Houston with CUSE, and helped begin the construction of a new diocesan center in Limon, Costa Rica. Pura Vida!

Lastly, The Treehouse community is doing good work. We’ve connected with over 160 youths during the past school year, and we look forward to seeing our students grow.

**Young Adults**

*Report by Christy Orman*

This has been quite a year for Cathedral young adults. As I think back through 2019, I am full of gratitude for the community, those who belong to it and those with some connection to it.

Our year began with an outing to view “The Book of Mormon” together at the Hobby Center. We continued our year with regular Wednesday evening meetings on topics and with speakers that brought young adults from all over the area. The annual young adults retreat in March has been important to our ministry for a while. We made our way out to Rio Lago Ranch and were able to rest, learn, and spend time together. For this, all were grateful.

Our summer brought a change in leadership. The community warmly welcomed me as the new minister for young adults. We also met for summer hangouts for a few Fridays, a great opportunity for fellowship that we will keep in summers to come. We had 35 different young adults join us over the summer, some for the first time.

Our Young Adult Council has really enjoyed the visioning process. We are looking forward to many more years of supporting a community that creates a place at the table for young adults as they find out how and where they fit into the Cathedral as a whole. We wish for all who enter to feel welcomed.

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

**Mission Outreach**

*Report by the Rev. Greg Seme*

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

In 2019, the Mission and Outreach Council carried on with great success some important projects, all of them inherently connected with our mission. These projects included the Alternative Giving Market, volunteering at Lord of the Streets and The Beacon, the annual Blood Drive, Christmas at the Cathedral, and the annual Yard Sale in neighborhoods.

**Lord of the Streets**

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 Episcopal Church on various Sundays of the year. Twenty-five members of Christ Church Cathedral served breakfast at Lord of the Streets after the 7 a.m. service at Trinity Episcopal Church for five Sundays throughout the year 2019. The people who have been served breakfast
are homeless. Clients of Lord of the Streets make up the congregation of the 7 a.m. service; they average 200 people per Sunday, and we are blessed to serve Jesus in serving them. And of course, we recognize Jesus in our homeless brothers and sisters.

Yard Sale

These two bodies of the ministry of the Cathedral put their heads together to organize a yard sale at one of the Latino member’s homes. Approximately $2,400 was collected, thanks to the generous donations of items made by the various congregations of the Cathedral. The money collected goes to support low-income students, members, and non-members of Christ Church Cathedral just out of high school in their preparation to attend college. There were over 30 volunteers helping with the entire process of making the yard sale possible. As this experience continues shaping, it is becoming clearer of the power of community building it has for the members of the English-speaking services and the Spanish-language service.

Blood Drive
There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends, John 15:13. When we donate our blood to help people to live a better life or to save their lives, we are not dying for them, but we are helping them to live longer, this is a great expression of love and care for others.

At the 2019 Blood Drive, the Mission and Outreach Council partnered with Gulf Coast Regional Hospital to help save lives by the generous act of donating blood and encouraging others to do likewise. On Sunday, November 3, a total of 14 members of the Cathedral were among the donors who heard the calling of our Mission and Outreach Council to save lives. The members of the Mission and Outreach Council understand that in holding events like this one we might be touching people’s lives far beyond the walls of the Cathedral, and we are very thankful to those who signed up to make this event a success.

The Alternative Giving Market
The Alternative Giving Market (AGM) drew parish members from all services on Sunday, November 17. Around 200 Cathedral members stopped by during the hours of the event. Thanks to the generosity of our members, AGM has collected approximately $33,607 as of December 31, 2019. Fourteen organizations are the beneficiaries of the 97 contributions made by our members over the website, by mail, or at the day of the event we held in Reynolds Hall. But because of the kindness of the people of Christ Church Cathedral doesn’t end with their financial contribution; we also had 22 of our members donating their talents and time helping in various tasks necessary to make AGM 2019 the successful event it was.

Christmas at the Cathedral
For the fourth year in a row, Christmas at the Cathedral hosted over 30 low-income families with small children attending school, 200 people in total this year. This year we partnered with Small Steps Nurturing Center again and Bruce Elementary. On December 14, Christmas at the Cathedral 2019 provided loads of fun for children and adults. There were games for children at our EYC center and a photo booth in Reynolds Hall available for families to have their photos taken. We also had a station with Christmas cards where children had a chance to write a card to loved ones and either take it with them or have us mail them out for them. Having all these children running around with their parents, and our 27 youth and 45 adult volunteers helping them, brought a special joy and feeling of the Kingdom of God in action to the Cathedral. The event also included a delicious dinner served by volunteers, both youth and adults. Gifts cards were distributed to the families during dinner as a small token to help with Christmas shopping.

We are thankful for all the support we received from our members and Cathedral staff in the development of this event. It is a beautiful sight when we see children of many ethnicities and backgrounds make this place their Cathedral. “Let the children come to me. Do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14

The Mission and Outreach Council will continue carrying on the mission of the Cathedral by always aiming to enhance Gods’ mission among God’s people, serving and supporting those institutions who serve the underserved and who can be where we cannot.

Welcome and Evangelism
Report by the Rev. Becky Zartman

The year began with the arrival of the Rev. Becky Zartman as the new Canon Missioner for Welcome and Evangelism. New leadership was needed for the Welcome and Evangelism Council and for Welcome Teams, as the Welcome and Evangelism Council said grateful goodbyes to nearly all council members. An especially grateful goodbye was said to Chris and Diane McKeown, who had faithfully served as the Welcome Team Captains for several years. Rory Hatch agreed to serve as the Council Chair for 2019, and Mandy Giles stepped in as Welcome Team Captain. In addition, the council invited the Tour Guide Leader, Valerie
Meisel, and the Usher Captain (incoming John Dennis) to become *ex officio* members of the council. New Welcome Team members were recruited and trained before Easter; we continued the Newcomer Parties in the spring and fall.

Social media was identified as a strategic and crucial area for improvement. Hannah Roberts was hired (in addition to her many other jobs at the Cathedral) to shepherd our social media presence, take pictures, and create content. Her work began with a bang as Dean Thompson entered a friendly wager with Dean Hollerith of the Washington National Cathedral during the Astros-Nationals World Series. Although we may have lost the bet to the National Cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral truly won with news coverage and tens of thousands of social media interactions. The Cathedral continues to build a social media audience on facebook, instagram, and twitter (@cccathedraltx) and interact with Cathedral members and others in Houston.

The year ended with the visioning process and strategic thinking about how the Cathedral can better welcome newcomers and reach out to downtown Houston in new meaningful ways. We look forward to exploring a more relational newcomer ministry, creating ways for Cathedral members to own and tell their stories of faith, and building on the great work that was started by Canon Razim.

**Latino Ministry**

*Report by the Rev. Simón Bautista Betances*

Our Latino Ministry Council continues shaping and equipping to better respond to the constant demand of a congregation that, like the Spanish language-speaking community, is an open field full of challenges and opportunities, especially in the neighborhoods. Year 2019 was a good year because we saw significant progress in our members’ understanding their relationship with the Cathedral and becoming more familiar with the mission of the Cathedral. The presence of our ministry in the neighborhoods grew throughout this year, and we expect to continue deepening our relationship with the neighbors of our members. We have seen more new families coming to worship with us and participating in the programs we offer throughout the year. The Latino community at the Cathedral continues to be more robust and more engaged with each year.

Thanks to the great dedication of our teachers, the enthusiasm of our children, and the support of the parents, our Sunday School continues to grow and become more dynamic. Our Sunday School program led, with great success, the neighborhood Vacation Bible School. This year we had two days of our program in two neighborhoods we had never been in before. Over 130 children and volunteers were part of Vacation Bible School. All sessions of our neighborhood VBS took place at our members’ homes with a great support from parents.

In addition to Sunday School classes for children and adults, we continue to offer trainings to our lay leadership. We hosted several events to give people a chance to learn, congregate, and experience fellowship. Events such as Noche Familiar, Lenten and Advent retreats, 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 also held our traditional Thanksgiving Eve service in the neighborhood, this year at the Bautista family house, with an attendance of around 90 people.

The Month of the Latino/Hispanic Heritage, or el Mes de la Herencia, celebrated at the Cathedral, was an absolute success in 2019. We averaged an attendance of 160 people per Sunday. The Latino Ministry Council hosted four events for el Mes de la Herencia, starting mid-September and ending mid-October. Various performers and organizations made presentations at each one of these events at Reynolds Hall after the one o’clock service. The Month of Latino/Hispanic Heritage is a great resource that helps us introduce the Cathedral to many Latino families attending these events.

Once again, this year the Latino Ministry Council partnered with the Mission and Outreach Council to conduct a yard sale event to support low-income students just graduated from high school on their way to college. The profits of the yard sale are dedicated to support these students and their parents, we understand how hard it is for low-income parents to prepare a young student to go to college, and we believe we are making a difference when our faith community sends our contribution to these students. One of the blessings of this type of event is bringing together members of the English-speaking services and Spanish-language service for a worthy cause. This community-building opportunity has the power to bind us and bring us closer to each other, as Jesus asked us to be.

The 2019 Posadas, from December 16–24, brought over 700 people throughout the nine nights we gathered to continue honoring this important tradition for the Latino culture. There were several significant highlights in our 2019 Posadas season: we had Canon Vicar Art Callaham presiding at the liturgy, while our curate the Rev. Greg Seme delivered the sermon at the Grand Posadas at the Cathedral; there were over 35 families involved in hosting Posadas in the neighborhoods, including several families from the Anglo congregations; each one of the clergy on staff led one of the services at parishioner’s houses; we had...
the largest participation ever of people new to the Cathedral. We strongly believe that the Posadas promise to get better and better each year.

Yes indeed, God has been great to us this in 2019, and we are thankful for so much grace.

Justice & Peace

Report by Michael DeVoll, chair, Justice & Peace Council

The mission of the Justice & Peace Council is to challenge both the Cathedral community and the greater Houston community to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being. This requires continual education, reflection, and dialogue on sometimes challenging issues. This year’s council undertook this mission with members who were dedicated and active to create an exciting year for the council.

The council’s first major undertaking for the year was an increased effort for Houston’s annual Pride Parade on June 22. The council determined to purchase Cathedral t-shirts with a new pride design on the back. These were made available for purchase at the same time that we were recruiting members of the Cathedral to march in the parade with the Integrity-Houston parade entry. Before the parade began, we participated in a street-side Eucharist. Our contingent joined in the march and tossed out Cathedral and/or Pride frisbee rings and doubloons. It was an emotional experience for many, and the Houston community was able to see the level of affirmation the Cathedral offers the LGBT community.

The Council again undertook our summer documentary film series. This year, the committee decided to focus on films that address justice and peace issues as related to children. On Wednesday, June 19, we screened “Which Way Home,” a film about immigrant children from Mexico and Central America. Elizabeth Trovall, immigration reporter with KUHF (Houston Public Media), provided insight to the current state of this issue and took questions from the audience. On Wednesday, July 17, we screened “Who Cares About Kelsey,” a film about children in schools with learning disabilities and emotional issues. Lisa Puccio and John Standish led a post-film discussion about the topic. Our final film was on Wednesday, August 14. The film was “Newtown,” a film about the aftermath of the school shooting in that town. Panelists from Texas Children’s Hospital Grief and Trauma Center, City of Santa Fe Resiliency Center, Mothers Demand Action, and SMART (a gun safety advocacy group) participated in a post-film discussion. All these films were preceded with a light dinner. The films continue to be an engaging way to prompt discussion about current justice and peace concerns around a range of topics.

A committee also undertook the planning of a Houston Civil Rights bus tour, although it was decided to postpone this event until February 2020. Sign up for this event started strongly in December 2019, and we look forward to an enlightening and educational experience in February.

Of course, our council members also assisted with annual Cathedral events such as May Fete, where our council members helped children make windsocks, and Summer Place, where members were hosts in July. We ended the year with some lively discussions about the future efforts of the council as part of the Cathedral visioning process. There appear to be passionate, dedicated volunteers to continue the work of this council well into the future.

Music Department

Report by Robert Simpson

The Music Department had a busy and successful 2019. Here are some highlights.

• The 45 young women of the Treble Choir of Houston at Christ Church Cathedral, under the direction of Marianna Parnas-Simpson, enriched our worship while representing Christ Church in the broader community. This year, they were featured at the Houston Sister City celebration at MATCH, performed Mahler’s 3rd Symphony with the Texas Medical Center Orchestra, and joined the Houston Chamber Choir at Christmas at the Villa da Matel.

• Cathedral Organist Daryl Robinson traveled to South Korea to present a concert and masterclass at the Seoul Presbyterian Seminary and University. He also served as Director of the 2019 Pipe Organ Encounter, designed to encourage young musicians in their interest in studying the organ.

• The Cathedral’s historic Golding Chapel two-manual Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ was completely refurbished and returned to mint condition after 81 years of service. It was first installed in the Cathedral immediately following the fire of 1938, while the much larger Aeolian-Skinner now in the Cathedral was being built. Upon that instrument’s arrival, the smaller organ was moved to the Golding Chapel.

• Organ Scholar Tom Marvil has established himself as an essential part of the music ministry while completing his Master of Music degree in organ performance at the University of Houston.

• The Cathedral Choir presented the American premiere of “Christmas Oratorio” by well-known English composer Bob Chilcott.
• Hannah Roberts continued her excellent work as Music Department Administrator and Choir Staff Singer. Her assistance in both capacities is invaluable.
• The Choir Cabaret in February was once again a great success thanks to the generosity of the parish. This event, held every three years, raises scholarship funds to assist choir members participating in the summer England trip.
• The Cathedral Choir was honored to return to England in July to sing Evensongs and Sunday services at Canterbury and Salisbury Cathedrals. It is a rare privilege to assume responsibility, if only briefly, for the sacred music in these historic houses of worship.

I am blessed by the opportunity to work with Daryl, Tom, Marianna, and Hannah along with the wonderful people who sing in the Cathedral, Parish, and Treble choirs. Their friendship and support enrich my life more than I can say. It is also a privilege to be part of such an extraordinary Cathedral staff, inspired by the leadership of Dean Thompson. I look forward to the coming year with great anticipation.

**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 2019, this mission was furthered through the partnership with Christ Church Cathedral and a variety of events and programs.

In January, the Ardell Ray Day Center was the hub for multiple organizations and volunteers who coordinated the annual Point in Time (PIT) count. Beacon staff and a board member joined the outreach efforts on the streets of Houston to interview and count folks experiencing homelessness. The three-day activity measures progress toward the community-wide effort of reducing the number of individuals living on the streets and in shelters. The most recent data shows that the number of homeless individuals in Harris County has steadily decreased by 54% since 2011.

In April during Volunteer Appreciation Month, The Beacon acknowledged volunteers from its programs and board of directors and invited all to the annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch. Serving brunch allowed staff to express their gratitude to volunteers and share time together over a delicious meal. Volunteers at The Beacon are so valuable to the mission and complete approximately 65% of the work annually across the organization.

Following a year-long process to evaluate feasibility, The Beacon merger with COMPASS was also completed in April, and COMPASS officially joined as a program of The Beacon. The merger preceded the retirement of Cynthia Brannon, who faithfully served and led the organization for 18 years. The COMPASS staff stepped up, taking on new responsibilities and continuing to serve individuals with services such as mail privileges, case management, housing navigation, and transportation assistance.

The Brigid’s Hope program celebrated 15 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 10% for the life of the program. Graduates were recognized not only for completing the program, but also for sustaining stable housing after exiting the program. In late spring, a stewardship event was hosted to thank Brigid’s Hope contributors for their support. In conjunction with partner agency New Hope Housing, the event provided an opportunity for supporters to visit one-on-one with the women who are transitioning from homelessness to self-sufficiency and to see first-hand the community-based housing units and facility.

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 fifth year in a row and strong attendance by our constituents helped to secure our share of the funds raised. Contributions such as this make the year-round work of our staff attorneys and paralegals possible. More than 4,300 legal cases were completed in 2019 for individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Our Beacon Law team was also recognized this year by Clio, a leading legal aid database creator and administrator, as the 2019 Reisman Award Winner, Community Champion. Our Beacon Law team competed with more than 10 legal aid entities nationally for the coveted award.

This year’s Come to the Table fundraiser in September was postponed due to Tropical Storm Imelda. The Beacon board, volunteers, and staff rallied to host the event in early December. The results exceeded expectations under the leadership of chairs Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen. The event raised just over $645,000 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, impromptu musical performance by Dean Thompson in support of the live auction.

The Beacon Board of Directors had a very active year leading the organization. Every board member contributed as a volunteer and to our fundraising efforts. 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 the men and women we serve.

**The Bishop John E. Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer**

*Report by Danielle Fanfair*

It’s been a great year at The Bishop John E. Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer.

Here are a few highlights:

- We saw over 1,700 people visit the Hines Center, and we successfully impacted their daily lives for good.
- We saw 15 media placements in local television, magazine, and digital outlets.
- We successfully completed an 8-week summer concert series with opportunities for interfaith dialogue and spiritual practice.
- Our first-ever (beta-test) Comedy and Laughter Meditation Showcase, Well That’s Funny: Laugh Yourself to Wellness was a success.
- In December, we invited our partners to “Beat The Holiday Blues” with extended savasana after yoga (a break on your mat), self-guided meditations, nourishing beverages, time in our quiet rooms, and labyrinth walks.

In the coming year, the Hines Center will be home to:

- Beginning Mindfulness for Lawyers: an opportunity for local lawyers to earn ethics Continuing Legal Education credits by learning mindfulness with MindfulBeing Houston.
- Preventive Spiritual Wellness Partnerships with the Houston Bar Association, Houston Young Lawyers Association, Texas Young Lawyers Association, and more.
- Song + Story Summer Concert Series sponsored in part by Saint Arnold Brewing Company.
- A longer comedy series that engages the power of laughter, the usefulness of meditation, and the joy of community.
- “Spirituality of _____” series, where spiritual leaders lead us in exploring the divine nature and origins of things we all enjoy together like bread, wine, and coffee.
- Yoga Teacher Training in our movement studio with a yoga nonprofit organization.
- A Building Trust workshop with George Dom, a retired Navy Blue Angels Captain.
- Marvel movie film screenings and discussions around the sacred messages in superhero movies.
- Indoor labyrinth walks and meditation lounge.
- A robust monthly calendar of spiritual practices, wellness workshops, and community events.
- Hines Center-hosted inner city retreats for local and regional organizations.

We are so excited about the upcoming year. Our new programs, partnerships, and growing community can expect a year of fulfilling spiritual growth, practices for peace of mind, and ways to feel better in our bodies.

**Cathedral Bookstore**

*Report by Lucy Chambers*

The Bookstore opened for 2019 on Epiphany Sunday with a focus on the calmer pleasures that midwinter affords — time for more reading, more writing, and more contemplation.

Christmas gifts on the shelves made way for journals and devotionals, books on homelife, and all the novels that we didn’t have time to read during the holidays.

On January 22, we partnered with Brazos Bookstore for the launch of Houston author Chris Cander’s new novel, *The Weight of a Piano*. The Cathedral was the first stop on Cander’s national tour, and the unique launch packed Reynolds Hall for a dramatization of a section of the novel, original piano music, and a Q&A with the author.

During Lent, the Bookstore opened on Sunday evenings to support theologians and authors Luke Timothy Johnson, the Rev. Dr. Ben Nelson, the Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing, and Miroslav Volf, who presented during the Dean’s Hour and after The Well as part of the Robert C. Stuart Lenten Series.

Over the summer, in anticipation of the Cathedral Reads program, we focused on Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*. We stocked up with cartons of the classic novel, copies of the new graphic edition, biographies of Lee for all age groups, and other titles analyzing her work and life from different perspectives. Throughout the summer, parishioners and visitors shared their connections to Lee and the novel with us, as well as their experiences reading or revisiting the classic. On August 4, during the Dean’s Hour, we gathered in small groups in Reynolds Hall for coffeecake and conversation about the book. The conversation continued over Popcorn Theology on August 16, when we watched Gregory Peck in the award-winning 1962 film, and the Cathedral Reads program wrapped up with a deeper dive into the story during a special session of the Dean’s Book Club on September 4.

Our experiences opening the Bookstore on Sunday evenings during Lent led to the decision to stay open every Sunday evening during the program year. On September 1, the Bookstore hosted the inaugural Tea & Toast — fellowship time in the Latham lobby between The Well and evening classes. It’s a cozy time to be in the bookstore: the stained-
glass glows across the Bishop’s Courtyard and the murmur of conversation and warm scent of cinnamon toast waft in from the lobby.

After Tea & Toast on September 8 and 15, Lee Steiner of Domestic Papers presented workshops on book art. The first provided an overview of vintage books, which have value to collectors and which can be used in creative ways to make art; the second was a hands-on journal-making class where participants created travel journals. On September 22, Mike Vance, Houston historian and author of Mud & Money: The Timeline of Houston History, provided us with an overview of life at the corner of Texas Avenue and Fannin in the early days of the Cathedral.

In addition to regular Sunday evenings, we also opened on the evening of September 23 when Brazos Bookstore brought life-coach and MarieTV founder Marie Forleo to discuss her book Everything is Figureoutable with Brené Brown. The well-known speakers packed the Cathedral and brought many old and new friends to the Bookstore.

Fall flew by as we rooted for the Astros up until the very end. In November, people turned off their televisions and seemed to begin reading again. On November 17, mindfulness expert Micki Fine Pavlicek spent the day signing her new children’s book May All People and Pigs Be Happy and reconnecting with Cathedral friends. Author and interfaith minister Dana Trent joined us on November 24 to sign her four titles after her Dean’s Hour presentation on Christian meditation.

As Advent began, we focused on the concept of home. December 1, 8, and 15, authors Margaret Reckling and Ariane Roesch presented images from their books Woody Creek: Views from a Homestead and How to Build: A Home, a Life, a Future. After their presentations, they discussed their experiences with Canon Becky Zartman, who concluded the series with concepts from Belovedness, her forthcoming book with James Franklin.

Throughout the year, we received many generous donations of used books, which we carefully culled to share among our used book department, New Hope Housing, and the Book in Hand program, which continues to provide books for the Harris County Sheriff’s Re-entry Program at the jail. To determine the best way to provide books to those who are incarcerated, Book in Hand works regularly with the social workers involved with the program, and they celebrated a successful year of sharing reading with a Christmas lunch.

The year wrapped up with the Bookstore’s traditional Advent Newsletter that shares our ideas for great book gifts, table-toppers in Treebeards reminding the broader downtown community to have a merry little lunch hour by attending a noon service and letting us help with Christmas shopping and wrapping, and the final Tea & Toast for the season — a gathering complete with fruitcake before the Religion and the Arts Council’s screening of the Cathedral’s traditional presentation of Truman Capote’s “A Christmas Memory.”

As the Communications department’s beautiful Advent Word calendar counted down the days to Christmas from our storeroom’s back window, it highlighted our continuing gratitude for the opportunity to engage with our community by sharing our love of books. Our generous and dedicated volunteers — Cynthia Pyle, Earle Martin, Jan Fitzhugh, Mary Finn, Michele Hale, Pat Hallmark, Roxanne Dolen, and Wendy Bentlif — worked faithfully to ensure that the Bookstore provided an engaging selection of books, cards, and gifts in a comfortable environment. Former manager Kathy Jackson generously continued to help and advise us. The constant help and good cheer of sextons Shadrick Griffin, Rigo Perez, and Hilario Barrera and housekeepers Blanca Ortiz and Carolina Espinoza allowed us to keep the Bookstore and Tea & Toast running smoothly. And the Cathedral community so warmly supported the Bookstore this year, forgoing the lure of online shopping and enthusiastically sharing their knowledge and love of books with us.

A new decade dawns, and we look forward to our 38th year serving as the Cathedral’s Bookstore. We are excited to see what opportunities the visioning process will reveal for us as we continue to provide books and gifts, tea and toast, to readers and visitors from all parts of our community.
The Cathedral is deeply grateful to all those who have named the Cathedral Endowment Fund in their estate.

William A. Kirkland  
Frances S. Kittrell  
David Hebard Knapp  
Letitia Knapp  
Evelyn Knolle  
Elaine W. Krause  
Gary R. Krause  
Nancy Lawrence  
U. Whitney Leavell III*  
Mary R. Lewis  
Polly Lewis*  
H.W. Linnstaedter  
Dr. Joan Lynch  
Harrison J. Luhn  
Robert Lincoln Maby Jr.  
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Eugene Decker Manly  
Lena Mann  
Robert Mann  
Christian Manuel  
William Sherman Manuel III  
Leland Glenn Marsters Jr.  
Kristi Shipnes Cassin Martin  
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Mrs. John A. McClellan  
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Catherine McDonald  
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Keith McFarland*  
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Jack Moore  
Nancy Powell Moore  
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Muffie Moroney  
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Hugo Neuhaus  
Richard Alan Newlin  
Roy L. Nolen  
Haylett O’Neill Jr.  
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Lyman Rushton Paden  
Mary Lynn Pannill  
Mrs. Gary Pearson  
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Stan Pieringer  
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Patricia Prioleau  
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Lucile M. Rutledge  
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Thomas O. Stansbury  
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Jim Stevens  
Josephine Shuck Stewart  
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Stanley Hill Swift III  
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Susan Taylor  
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Matthew Wareing  
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Adrienne Elizabeth Webb  
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Phyllis Keese Webb  
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F. Carrington Weems  
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Damon Wells  
Nance Foules Wier  
I. M. Wilford  
Bertha Williamson  
Ray Wilson*  
Sr. Mary Winfred, C.A.  
Barbara Wallace Winston  
Christine Theriot Woodfin  
Anne R. Woods  
William F. Woods III  
Mary Barden Attwell Worrell  
Joyce E. Nogle Young  
Nancy Younger-Kruka  
deceased as of December 31, 2019  
* new member as of November 1, 2019
Cathedral Staff as of December 31, 2019

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Karen Kraycirik, Minister for Stewardship and Chief Administrative Officer
KariAnn Lessner, Minister for Children and Families
Victoria Ludwin, Minister for Communications
Christy Orman, Minister for Young Adults and CUSE Director
Marcia Quintanilla, Minister for Youth
Daryl Robinson, Cathedral Organist
Patrick Saccomanno, Chief Financial Officer
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Sylvia Garcia Castellanos, Assistant for Latino Ministry
Louise Langford, Executive Assistant to the Office of the Dean; Baptism, Confirmation, and Funeral Coordinator
Hannah Roberts, Administrative Assistant and Digital Media Specialist
Ramona Sikes, Manager of Human Resources and Parish Records

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Carolina Espinoza, Housekeeper
Maria Lara, Housekeeper
Scarlet Monegas, Housekeeper

AUXILIARY STAFF
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Will Hamilton, Archivist
Thomas Marvil, Organ Scholar
Lisa Viktorin, Wedding Liaison, Flower Dedications Coordinator

Cathedral Bookstore
Lucy Chambers, Manager

Cathedral House Episcopal School
Teri Jackson, Director

Cathedral Treble Choir
Marianna Parnas-Simpson, Director

Cloister Gallery
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