

Christ Church Cathedral

Annual Parish Report 2016



JANUARY 22, 2017



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 Parish Family and Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Christ Church Cathedral experienced abundant blessing in 2016. Two things especially stand out: a day and a project.

The day is September 11. It may seem strange to call this day a blessing, since September 11 was the fifteenth anniversary of 9/11. Yet, we commemorated the solemn occasion by hosting the Rev. Dan Matthews, Sr. as our guest preacher and teacher. Dan was the rector of Trinity Church-Wall Street in lower Manhattan on 9/11, and on September 11 he riveted us with his harrowing account of that day. 9/11 was horrible, but Dan's story was one of hope. Later that same day, two hundred parishioners attended the inaugural service of "The Well," our new 5 p.m. Sunday Celtic Eucharist. The Well serves as a lovely complement to our morning services, and those who have attended report that it provides a peaceful, contemplative, and nourishing way to begin the week.

The project is "Turn Toward Love," which we launched over the summer in response a series of violent episodes across the country between citizens and law enforcement officers. Turn Toward Love sought to redirect people's energy away from animosity and suspicion and toward reconciliation and grace. It was simple in design: panels made of wood and wire, coupled with tags and twist ties. The panels were placed along Texas Avenue, and people were encouraged to affix their own messages of love and lament. The civic response was overwhelming. Soon, all the panels were full to overflowing with the hopes of passers-by. Local media covered Turn Toward Love on the evening news. Parishes and organizations across the country reached out for information on how they could replicate the project in their own cities.

In their vitality, thoughtfulness, and faith, September 11 and Turn Toward Love were emblematic of many other occasions at Christ Church throughout the year. We see the results in our metrics. Membership, attendance, financial giving, and involvement all increased substantially in 2016. More and more people are discovering "God in the midst of the city" and responding by choosing the Cathedral as their spiritual home.

This past year we saw several staff transitions. Notably, the Rev. Eileen O'Brien completed her curacy and became the campus missionary at the University of Houston, and Anne Shepard retired after a decade as our parish registrar. Patrick

Saccomanno joined the Office of the Dean as our Minister for Finance and Audit. Torie Ludwin brought new energy to our communications office. Becky Landes arrived as the new Beacon CEO. We have the hardest working, most gracious and faithful staff in Christendom. I am honored and privileged to work with them.

When my children were younger, our family frequented theme parks. We rode roller coasters, teacups, miniature old timey cars, and log rides. As soon as one ride would end, and often before I could catch my breath, one of the kids would ask, "What's next, Dad?"

That question has arisen in the past couple of months at Christ Church, because (as described in greater detail by Wayne Clawater in the Sr. Warden's letter) in 2016 we completed our vision action plan "A Future Filled With Hope."

At the Cathedral, the answer to "What's next?" is almost certainly the soon-to-be-completed report from our Historic Preservation and Renovation Task Force. The task force is looking very closely at the specific preservation needs of our beloved Cathedral, focusing on the deterioration of bricks and mortar, foundation issues, interior spaces that haven't been addressed in decades, and several other vitally important items. The task force will report to the Vestry in early February, and soon thereafter the findings will be made known to the congregation. Preserving our historic campus is an expression of our fidelity to God. It is a sacred responsibility, and one that the Vestry and I take very seriously. In the upcoming couple of years, ensuring that our campus continues to be an inviting and structurally-sound venue for our mission will be our priority.

Next month I begin my fifth year as Dean of the Cathedral. Thank you for your support of Christ Church and for inviting me to serve among you. May God continue to bless the Cathedral, so that we can be a blessing to our people, Houston, and the Diocese of Texas.

Grace and peace,



The Very Rev. Barkley S. Thompson
Dean

Senior Warden's Report

Dear Cathedral Family,

In the Vision Action Plan launched in 2014, we said: "Since September 2013, Christ Church Cathedral has focused on a theme spoken by the Prophet Jeremiah: 'For surely I know the plans I have for you, to give you a future filled with hope.'" Thus, our Vision Action Plan was named "A Future Filled With Hope," which was adopted by the Vestry in 2014. It was an ambitious plan, and I am proud to say that the final two components of the plan were completed in 2016: the creation of a spirituality center for the Cathedral, and the creation and offering of an alternative worship service.

The Bishop John E. Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer had its grand opening on January 23, 2016 to a capacity crowd. The realization of the dream of having the Hines Center was the result of enormously generous benefactors, great leadership by Dean Thompson, and a lot of hard work by many. Since its opening, the Hines Center has continued to evolve and develop under the leadership of the Hines Center's Executive Director Brooke Summers-Perry. The possibilities and potential for programming and education continue to grow, as was seen in September of 2016, when Pittman McGehee taught a class on Saturday and then preached and participated in the Dean's Hour the next day. I strongly encourage you to become a Hines Center member. Visit the website to find out what is being offered and available there. If you haven't experienced the Hines Center, you are really missing something.

This fall, "The Well" became the 5 p.m. Sunday service. "The Well" gets its name from the ancient holy wells found throughout Great Britain and Ireland. In the Celtic tradition, such wells were a place of pilgrimage, gathering, and worship. Careful and prayerful thought was given by the alternative worship task force to develop the liturgy, and "The Well" was an instant success. I believe that all who have attended the service have loved it. It is quiet, contemplative, and provides space for meditation. If you haven't yet attended "The Well" please do so. You'll love it too.

The first quarter of 2016 also saw the conclusion of an incredibly successful 2015 Every Member Canvass (EMC). We set an ambitious 2016 EMC goal of a 5% increase in the dollar amount of the 2015 pledges. Because of the generosity

of the membership of the Cathedral, the numbers for the 2016 EMC look very good and we are optimistic about reaching our goal.

The Mission and Ministry (M&M) Committee was headed in 2016 by Vicki Cawley, and she did an amazing job. M&M is responsible for overseeing so many aspects and issues relating to the Cathedral's ministry and mission. Among the yearly activities of M&M are Rally Day, the Vestry Retreat, and scheduling the various councils to report out at Vestry meetings. The chair of M&M is a huge job and we all owe a big "thank you" to Vicki for the job she did this year.

We began some "inward looking" in 2016 as well. In light of the many ministries of Christ Church Cathedral, organizational changes took place in the office of the Dean. Among the changes was the creation of the position of Minister of Finance and Audit (Controller). This led to the hiring of Patrick Saccomanno, a CPA with vast not-for-profit experience. We are excited about the strengths Patrick brings to our incredible Cathedral staff, and how his expertise assists the daily accounting and financial management needs of the Cathedral. Our "inward looking" has also focused on our responsibility to be faithful stewards of the Cathedral's physical campus. We have been blessed to have Charlie Prioleau as our Junior Warden in 2016. As you know, the building and grounds are the Junior Warden's responsibility, and he has had more than his share of challenges—ranging from sprinkler systems breaking in the middle of a wedding to the discovery of an underground vault that did not contain a hidden treasure. Charlie has done a superb job in these and the many other issues he has handled. The physical needs of the Cathedral campus prompted Dean Thompson's wise decision to form the Historic Preservation and Renovation Task Force. This task force is truly a "Blue Ribbon" group that will assess the needs of our campus and report to the Vestry at the Vestry Retreat in the first weekend in February.

Sincerely,



Wayne Clawwater
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

Dear Cathedral Family,

A number of projects were accomplished by the Buildings and Grounds (B&G) Committee during 2016. 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. Special credit is also due to our Dean for having the foresight to establish the Tom Barrow and Stuart Hellman Legacy Fund for Cathedral Preservation, which allowed us to launch and complete several projects identified as top priorities in the 2015 Replacement Reserve Study. A final written copy of the Replacement Reserve Study was received by B&G in January of 2016.

In no particular order, here is a recap of completed projects in 2016:

- Re-leveled the floor slab in McGehee Building.
- Cleaned-out and shored Jones Building vault roof structure under Prairie and Fannin Street sidewalks.
- Repaired and retrofitted two air handlers in Jones Building.
- Replaced entire sprinkler piping system in Cathedral's attic space.
- Installed stained glass window treatments in Reynolds Hall.
- Repainted walls in Reynolds Hall.
- Installed a hearing loop system in Reynolds Hall.
- Repaired minor leaks in Cathedral's copper roof.
- Recovered fabric wall coverings in Reynolds Hall.
- Cleaned/repainted altar kneeling cushions following sprinkler system leak.
- Added improved ground lighting to Cathedral sidewalk sign/nameplate on Texas Avenue.
- Installed wall crack monitors in Latham Hall.
- Repaired Cathedral bell tower's front steps metal hand railing.
- Repainted west transept walls of Cathedral following sprinkler system leak.
- Refinished Cathedral altar due to water stains from sprinkler system leak.
- Added higher wooden book rails and card/pencil holders to Cathedral's front pews.
- Repaired elevators in Jones Building and Parking Garage.
- Installed new HVAC system in West U rectory.
- Replaced sump pump in Jones Building basement.
- Installed new kitchen lighting in West U rectory.
- Replaced rotted windows at Mystic Meadows rectory.
- Performed plumbing and other repairs at Deanery.
- Received proposal to enhance tract lighting for cloister art gallery displays in Reynolds Hall.
- Installed new AC system at Mystic Meadows rectory.
- Launched process to determine permanent repair solution for Jones Building vault ceiling, including interviews of several engineering firms and retaining consultant to evaluate options for vestry.
- Removed bat colony from Deanery.
- Served as member of Cathedral's Historic Preservation & Restoration Task Force, which was organized to evaluate capital needs to maintain and enhance the Cathedral's historic campus and buildings.

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 2016: Ted Dom (past Junior Warden), Michelle Ruch, Bob Richter, Floyd Robinson, and Robin Bullington. In addition, I would like to offer special thanks to Cathedral staff members David Simpson and Frank Guevara as well as Cathedral member volunteers Andre Jackson and Dieter Ufer for their diligent efforts and support this past year.

Sincerely,



Charlie Prioleau
Junior Warden

Treasurer's Report

Vestry Process for Legacy Expenditures

In 2013, the Vestry approved the creation of the Tom Barrow and Stuart Hellman Legacy Fund for Cathedral Preservation to be available to pay for significant maintenance needs that recur less frequently than every five years. 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 20% of undesignated gifts to the Endowment of \$1,000 or more are added to the Legacy Fund with the other 80% added to the Endowment's General Fund. At the end of 2015, the Legacy Fund had already reached \$240,000.

Parish Fund Operating Accounts — 2016

In 2015, revenues exceeded expenses by \$1,100.

For 2016, the Vestry approved a budget with a \$5,600 surplus which anticipated that revenue would decrease by \$22,300 and expenses would decrease by \$26,900. However, the budget did not include any potential legacy expenditures since the costs could not be estimated and because the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund could be used, if needed, to reimburse those expenditures.

Preliminary results are that revenues will exceed expenses in 2016 by \$65,600 excluding legacy expenditures.

Total revenues of \$5,236,000 were \$216,000 higher than in 2015 and \$238,000 higher than the budget primarily due to better than budgeted Every Member Canvass (EMC) revenue, plate receipts, and unpledged gifts.

Total expenses of \$5,171,000 were \$152,000 higher than in 2015 and \$179,000 higher than the budget due to facilities, staffing, computing, and insurance expenses. This included a second year of budgeting and contributing \$100,000 to the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund.

However, unbudgeted legacy expenditures totaled \$184,200, and \$119,600 was reimbursed from the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund to bring total revenues equal to expenses.

Despite the net flow to the parish of \$119,600, the Barrow/Hellman Legacy Fund still ended 2016 with net assets increasing to \$375,000 because of gifts and investment appreciation.

Parish Fund Operating Accounts — 2017 Budget

The budget for 2017 will be presented to the Vestry for adoption at the Vestry Retreat. In the current draft version, revenues equal expenses excluding legacy expenditures.

Revenues of \$5,129,000 will be \$106,000 lower than in 2016 both due to lower oil and gas revenue that is passed, a year later, from the Endowment to the Parish Fund and also due an expected return to more "normal" levels of plate and unpledged gifts. Increased EMC gifts will partially offset those decreases.

Expenses of \$5,129,000 will be \$42,500 lower than in 2016 except for legacy expenditures, with higher salary and benefit expenses offset by decreases in facilities and administrative expenses, a lower contribution to the Barrow/Hellmann Legacy Fund, and a lower assessment from the Diocese.

Endowment Fund — 2016

The Endowment Fund net assets increased \$1,199,000 in 2016 to \$19,473,000. Market value increases totaled \$1,390,000. This was supplemented with \$1,233,000 in bequests, gifts from friends, gifts from Building Our Legacy and the Parish Fund, and oil and gas revenues. In addition to the distribution from the Barrow/Hellman Legacy Fund, support of the Cathedral totaled \$922,000, and support for the start-up costs of the Hines Center totaled \$290,000.

Respectfully submitted,



Will Hamilton
Treasurer

Financial Summary (Dollars in Thousands)

| Cathedral Operating Funds | 2014 Audited | 2015 Audited | 2016 Unaudited | Change from 2015 | 2017 Proposed | Change from 2016 |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Every Member Canvass | 2,786 | 2,972 | 3,053 | 81 | 3,047 | (6) |
| Other Gifts | 341 | 296 | 424 | 128 | 345 | (79) |
| Endowment Contribution | 1,010 | 1,024 | 918 | (106) | 880 | (38) |
| Facility Use and Other Revenue | 600 | 728 | 840 | 112 | 857 | 17 |
| Total Revenue | 4,737 | 5,020 | 5,235 | 215 | 5,129 | (106) |
| Salaries and Benefits | 2,535 | 2,658 | 2,776 | 118 | 2,919 | 143 |
| Beacon Grant and Dunn Center | 286 | 367 | 300 | (67) | 285 | (15) |
| Other Outreach | 36 | 53 | 51 | (2) | 34 | (17) |
| Liturgy and Ministry | 732 | 699 | 728 | 29 | 698 | (30) |
| Hines Spirituality Center Grant | | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Diocesan Activities | 283 | 332 | 372 | 40 | 354 | (18) |
| Facilities — Legacy Expenditures | 45 | 4 | 184 | 180 | 0 | (184) |
| Facilities — Addition to the Legacy Fund | 104 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 54 | (46) |
| Facilities — Normal | 720 | 706 | 744 | 38 | 685 | (59) |
| Total Expenses | 4,741 | 5,019 | 5,355 | 336 | 5,129 | (226) |
| Net Revenue less Expenses | (4) | 1 | (120) | (121) | 0 | 120 |
| Parish Use of the Barrow/Hellmann Fund | 920 | | | | | |
| Change in Net Assets | (4) | 1 | 0 | (1) | 0 | 0 |
| Endowment Fund | 2014 Audited | 2015 Audited | 2016 Unaudited | Change from 2015 | | |
| Bequests and Memorial Gifts | 288 | 137 | 137 | 972 | | |
| Building Our Legacy | 765 | 420 | 285 | 0 | | |
| Parish Gift to the Legacy Fund | 104 | 100 | 100 | 91 | | |
| Investment Return | 1,187 | (747) | (746) | 1,063 | | |
| Oil and Gas Royalties | 376 | 192 | 192 | 112 | | |
| Total Revenue | 2,720 | 102 | 2,238 | (2,752) | | |
| Support of the Cathedral | 1,018 | 1,024 | 922 | (102) | | |
| Parish Use of the Barrow/Hellmann Fund | | | 120 | 120 | | |
| Support of the Hines Center | | 221 | 290 | 69 | | |
| Other Expenses | 143 | 126 | 91 | (35) | | |
| Total Expenses | 1,161 | 1371 | 1,423 | 52 | | |
| Net Revenue less Expenses | 1,559 | (1,269) | 1,199 | 2,468 | | |
| <i>Memo: Net Assets</i> | <i>19,540</i> | <i>18,271</i> | <i>19,473</i> | <i>1,202</i> | | |
| <i>Memo: Invested Funds</i> | <i>20,990</i> | <i>19,410</i> | <i>18,363</i> | <i>(1,047)</i> | | |

2016: The Year in Review

January

- The Bishop John E. Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer launches with an opening celebration attended by 250 parishioners and guests.
- At the Annual Parish Meeting, Dieter Ufer receives the Dean's Cross for his years of faithful service and lay leadership at the Cathedral.
- The Vestry gathers at Camp Allen for its annual retreat, focusing on Christian Leadership. The Very Rev. Sam Candler, Dean of the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, inspires Vestry members with his insight and entertains them with his skills on the piano.
- The Cathedral's Pastoral Care Shepherds, our team of lay caregivers, begin the year with listening skills training as a part of their Circle of Care meetings.
- The Cathedral Urban Service Experience (CUSE) begins a year of programming that will result in 24 groups consisting of 330 people from 5 states spending 87 nights on the Cathedral campus and performing 7,331 hours of service at agencies across Houston.

February

- A packed Reynolds Hall enjoys "Happy Days," a cabaret featuring pop music from the '50s and '60s, presented by the Cathedral Choir as a fundraiser for its summer England tour to Durham, Bristol, and St. Paul's Cathedrals.
- Celtic Christianity comes alive in an evening lecture at the Hines Center by noted St. Patrick scholar, teacher, and pilgrimage leader Fr. Marcus Losack, of Wicklow, Ireland.
- Over 230 Mardi Gras revelers, supported by a krewe of more than 30 volunteers, celebrate the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper officially marking the start to the Lenten season.
- For the third year, Cathedral clergy take "Ashes to Go" on Ash Wednesday to street corners downtown, imposing ashes on more than 110 Houstonians.
- The 2016 Robert C. Stuart Lenten Series brings together regional and national thinkers to explore concepts of Health and Healing. Participants include former Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey and the Director of the Episcopal Health Foundation Elena Marks.

- A "hearing loop" is installed in Reynolds Hall, granting those with hearing aids the ability to tap directly into the Reynolds Hall amplification system.

March

- The Cathedral hosts the Houston Area Episcopal Young Adults for a unique service opportunity, "Canoecarist," where participants kayak Buffalo Bayou picking up trash, celebrating the Eucharist, and finding themselves amid God's beautiful creation. Over 20 attend from 5 area parishes.
- Twenty-eight children and their parents participate in the Cathedral's first annual Instruction in Eucharist class, a time for hands-on learning and an open door for questions about Communion. Dean Thompson and Minister for Children and Families KariAnn Lessner team teach the class.
- The Cathedral Choir sings Evensong on Palm Sunday, one of the six times a year the Cathedral offers this sublime Anglican service to mark the Liturgical Year.
- The Religion and the Arts Council sponsors the 2nd Annual Palm Sunday Peeps Diorama Contest. Highlighting the parables of Jesus, contestants fashion edible models from myriad Easter candies.
- Lent culminates with Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- More than 2,000 parishioners and guests gloriously celebrate the Resurrection on Easter weekend.

April

- The Pastoral Care Council hosts 46 parishioners at the annual Tulip Reception. Guest speaker Lydia Washington, a descendent of 19th century Cathedral sexton Friday Carr, presents a genealogy discussion. Lydia encourages guests to research their family history by saying, "the ancestors are waiting."
- As part of Compassion Week Houston, the Hines Center hosts Jim and Jori Manske in an introduction to Compassionate Communication (also known as Non-Violent Communication or NVC) and their concept of "radical compassion."
- Three different parish households, along with the Canon Vicar, open their homes to more than 150 of their Cathedral neighbors during the spring series of the Cathedral's Neighborhood Gatherings.

- Barnard Crosses for 25 years of service in the Cathedral Choir are awarded to Madeleine Hussey, John Catalani, and Hal Watson. Eric Strom is awarded the Barnard Cross in September.
- The annual Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) Giving Tree raises over \$15,000 in support of youth mission trips.

May

- The Cathedral's annual May Fete celebration speaks to both the past and future, with liturgy from the 1892 BCP at the 10 a.m. service and a full service in Spanish at 2 p.m.
- Twenty-one youth are confirmed during Bishop Andy Doyle's annual spring visitation.
- Pub Trivia is hosted by the 20s and 30s group, with a great turnout even with threats of flash flooding. The family-friendly event has 60 in attendance.
- The Cathedral Music Department hosts the annual spring concert by the Rusk School Choir, sponsored by the Houston Chamber Choir. The Rusk School is also supported by the Cathedral's "Kid's Hope" mentoring program.
- The Hines Center hosts its first YogaMass®, celebrated by Rev. Gena Davis, Vicar of Grace Episcopal Church.

June

- The Cathedral hosts the national convention of the American Guild of Organists, at which the Cathedral Choir sings two Evensongs. Cathedral Organist Monica Czausz also presents a "Rising Star" organ recital.
- The Vestry conducts its annual "Comfort Call-a-thon" to all Cathedral families, inquiring, "How are you doing, and how are we doing?"
- Fifteen 5th graders participate in a mission trip in partnership with the CUSE program.
- The Second Annual Costa Rica Mission trip includes 15 high school youth and 11 adults. The team works in the Limon province building a sidewalk, installing a septic system, and building a Sunday school classroom. The mission team also teaches Vacation Bible School to 80 local children.
- Twenty-six members of our Latino congregation attend the annual Diocesan Latino Ministry Conference at Camp Allen, where Bishop Doyle and Bishop Monterroso from Costa Rica are the keynote speakers.

- Vacation Bible School attracts 72 children and almost as many adult and youth volunteers. Participants explore the Olympics through the food, traditions, games, and artwork of four countries in the Anglican Communion. VBS topics include faith, hope, love, courage, and justice.
- Cathedral Moms (and some of their friends) enjoyed a week of "When Mama's Happy Camp" at the Hines Center, in a collaboration between the Center and the Cathedral's Ministry for Children and Families.

July

- Thirty middle school youth from the Cathedral participate in the Diocese's Missionpalooza, serving flood victims around the San Marcos area.
- Over 650 Episcopalians from across the Diocese of Texas attend the pregame cookout for Episcopal Night at the Ballpark in the Bishop's Courtyard.
- The Cathedral Choir undertakes its 6th England tour, singing Evensongs and Sunday morning services at Durham, Bristol, and St. Paul's Cathedral, London.
- The Cathedral responds to national violence with "#TurnTowardLoveHTX." Eight panels are created, with dedicated space for words of hope, lament, and encouragement. The panels are on display on Texas Avenue throughout the summer, drawing local media attention and great participation from parishioners and members of the community.
- The Justice and Peace Council hosts one of several summer documentary nights, where parishioners view films and engage in constructive conversation about topics such as human trafficking and human sexuality.
- The Cathedral fire sprinkler system is completely replaced with modern equipment.
- The interior of Reynolds Hall is refurbished, and stained glass windows are added through a generous gift from a parishioner.

August

- The Cathedral has over 20 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.

- Parishioners kick off a new semester of Sunday school and fall programming by embarking on a journey around the world during “Destination: Rally Day.” Stamps in a passport booklet are a reward for engaging with the different missions and ministries of the Cathedral.
- Cathedral Latino Ministry launches its first Vacation Bible School in neighborhood homes where Latino parishioners live. A total of 174 participants attend throughout five days. 18 volunteer adults assist during the week.
- Canon Callahan launches his “Vicar’s Road Show,” a new concept in neighborhood-based mid-week formation. The Road Show takes cathedral classes out into the community, offering several instances of the same class in different locations throughout the month. The initial offering, on bible translation, attracts more than 40 members.
- The Vestry deputizes the Justice and Peace Council to advocate in the community against human trafficking, especially in the lead-up to the Super Bowl next year.
- Costa Rica Missioners host the second annual “Costarific” Luncheon, raising \$2,000 to support Escuelita Santiago, the church and school Cathedral missionaries served in June.
- The Vestry commissions a blue ribbon task force to investigate historic preservation and renovation needs on the Cathedral campus. The task force will report its findings to the Vestry in February 2017.
- Seminary of the Southwest professor and Episcopal priest Danielle Tumminio kicks off the Adult Formation Council’s Fall Speaker Series with a reading from her book, *God and Harry Potter at Yale*. The crowd includes many youth and young adult members for whom the Potter novels are an important part of their personal canon.
- Cathedral House Episcopal School celebrates its 30th anniversary.
- The annual Beacon “Come to the Table” gala raises a record-breaking \$424,000 to support the Beacon’s mission of restoring dignity to the homeless.
- The Every Member Canvass begins with a fun-filled dinner and skit themed “Back 2 Skool.”
- The ceiling of the vault underneath the Prairie/Fannin sidewalk is shored up with extensive support scaffolding, in anticipation of a permanent repair.

October

- Dean Thompson launches the Dean’s Hour series “Faith of Presidents,” focusing on the lives and faith of Washington, Lincoln, FDR, and Eisenhower in the lead-up to the presidential election.
- The Pastoral Care Council hosts The Mourner’s Path, a six-week grief support workshop through which participants strengthen their faith and discover new ways to move through the stages of grief.
- In the fall series of the Cathedral’s Neighborhood Gatherings, more than 150 parishioners come out to meet their neighbors in four Cathedral member homes.
- The Adult Formation Council partners with the David Dykes Foundation to bring Sr. Joan Chittister to Houston. This Faith and Reason seminar also brings young, local interfaith leaders to share the stage with Sr. Joan, proving that the future of public intellectual discourse in Houston is bright.
- The 2nd annual “Boo Bash” welcomes downtown neighbors and Cathedral members to the Cathedral campus for Halloween fellowship.

November

- The Every Member Canvass (EMC) culminates in Loyalty Sunday, when parishioners are encouraged to turn in their pledge cards for the upcoming year. This year’s EMC is a record-breaker, resulting in more than \$3.2 million in pledged dollars to support our mission and ministry. Thanks be to God!

September

- Twenty-four 8th graders begin confirmation class with a weekend retreat at Camp Cho-Yeh.
- Twelve hundred people participate in the four Fiestas Patrias celebrations hosted by our Latino congregation. Fiestas Patrias is an occasion to honor and recognize the presence, culture, and contribution of the Latino population in the United States.
- The Cathedral launches “The Well,” a new and yet ancient 5 p.m. Celtic Eucharist. The service is meditative and prayerful, with music played on harp, flute, and cello.
- The Mission and Outreach Council partners with Saint Luke’s Blood Center for the Cathedral blood drive. The drive collects 30 pints of blood.
- On the 15th anniversary of 9/11, the Rev. Dan Matthews preaches and teaches at the Cathedral, recounting his experiences of horror and hope at Trinity Church-Wall Street on September 11, 2001.

- A dozen adult parishioners are confirmed during Bishop Andy Doyle's annual fall visitation.
- Ninety-five parishioners and their pets participate in the St. Francis' Day Blessing of the Animals. For the first time ever, a goose is blessed at Christ Church (along with dogs, cats, horses, hamsters, snakes, and a tarantula).
- The Mission and Outreach Council hosts the Alternative Giving Market (AGM), which encourages parishioners to support area charitable and social service agencies in honor of loved ones, in lieu of more traditional Christmas gifts. The AGM collects more than \$30,000. More than 20 offer their time and talents to support the event.
- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preaches at the opening Eucharist of the International Black Clergy Conference, hosted by Christ Church Cathedral. A packed house is riveted by Bishop Curry's impassioned words that we shine the light of Christ to the world.
- Parishioners of all ages gather to watch movies and engage in theological conversation about superheroes during Popcorn Theology.
- Parishioner Donald McDonald's gift and vision are realized through the Hines Center's installation of an intricately-carved Celtic cross and prayer panels.
- The annual high school EYC Progressive Dinner draws over 25 students to three different homes to celebrate the Eucharist and feast on delicious food.
- Christmas at the Cathedral hosts at-risk children and families from Rusk Elementary School for the second year in a row. The event includes real snow in the Bishop's Courtyard, a photo booth, games, and a succulent Christmas dinner. In total, 283 people attend, including youth and adult volunteers from the Cathedral as well as other parishes and organizations. Christmas at the Cathedral is sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Council.
- Las Posadas attracts more than 650 people, an average of 75 people per night over the course of a week of evening celebrations. A significant number of the people attending were not familiar with Christ Church Cathedral. Twenty-four families work together to organize Las Posadas. Along with Canon Bautista, Dean Thompson and Canon Callaham each take a turn celebrating the Eucharist in Spanish.
- More than 1,800 parishioners and guests celebrate the Nativity at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

December

- Forty-nine Cathedral adults, 15 youth, and 11 children brave the elements on a rainy weekend at Camp Allen to engage in fellowship at the parish retreat.
- The Advent season is marked by the annual presentation of Advent Lessons and Carols sung by the Cathedral Choir. In total, 370 parishioners and guests attend.

Vital Statistics

Average Sunday attendance in 2016: **715**

*In 2015: 664**

Easter attendance in 2016: **2,039**

In 2015: 2,024

Total active baptized members at the end of 2016: **3,729**

At the end of 2015: 3,648

Number of pledging households in 2016: **616**

In 2015: 605

Total amount pledged in 2016: **\$3,126,398**

In 2015: \$3,076,529

Total church school students enrolled in 2016: **353**

In 2015: 334

Baptisms in 2016: **33**

In 2015: 34

Confirmations in 2016: **31**

In 2015: 25

Received in 2016: **4**

In 2015: 3

** Unusually heavy rains and flooding depressed attendance on several Sundays in 2015.*

Ministry Reports

Formation and Worship

Report by the Rev. Art Callahan

The relationship between “form” and “function” is a perennial debate in areas of design and architecture. Do the potential uses of a thing dictate how it should be designed — “form follows function?” Or, does that design tell us something about how it will or should be used — “function follows form?” For designers, the jury is still (and will likely always) be out. But, for the Worship and Formation communities of Christ Church Cathedral in 2017, some important changes have been made on this front.

For generations, we have used the standard forms of “Southern Christianity” to guide the planning and resourcing of our Adult Formation and Worship programs. Folks come to church on Sundays, stay for Sunday School, and then come back on Wednesday night for another dose of each. Classes are divided by age-and-stage. Topics are chosen demographically. It was a good system.

But time, culture, and, frankly, traffic have made this model ever more difficult to sustain. Our members do not always have the capacity to stay long on Sundays or to return at midweek. They do not always wish to be in classes solely with folks that look and think like they do. And even if they did, traffic makes getting to the Cathedral at 6:30 p.m. on a Wednesday evening a challenge for some.

So, we have begun to redevelop our sense of how we deliver formation programming for the largest part of the Cathedral. Sunday mornings remain largely unchanged, but now offer a smaller variety of classes and focus on taking full advantage of a single opportunity for us all to be together each week. Midweek classes are shifting from weekly to monthly commitments to offer participants the opportunity to engage in multiple groups, each with its own diversity. And, following the lead of our Latino and Family ministries, the Cathedral is hosting classes in the neighborhoods, shifting the burden of the Houston traffic from the many students to the one teacher. As the architects and designers of the Cathedral’s programming, we have and will continue to shift the form of our offerings to match the way our members function in this great city.

For those who wish function to instead follow form, do not despair. There remain some areas in our common life where new forms are still defining their functions. I would be remiss in my reporting of all things Worship and Formation if I did not mention the wild success of our new Celtic Eucharist, “The Well,” which in taking an old form, the Sunday evening service, and transforming it through the application of Celtic theology and aesthetic, has brought new vitality — new functioning — to the faith lives of an increasing number of folks even as they make their way to the deep downtown in the evening.

2016 was a very good year in Formation and Worship and we are designing many more wonderful things for 2017. Stay tuned.

Music

Report by Robert Simpson

If 2015 was a year of change for the Music Department, 2016 has been marked by stability and achievement. Monica Czausz completed her first full year as Cathedral Organist while winning praise for her recital work around the country. Her place among the leading organists in this country and Europe was secured by the invitation she received to join the MacFarlane Artists Management, perhaps the most distinguished recital management organization in America.

The Cathedral Choir was privileged to return to England for its sixth tour of English Cathedrals, singing evensongs at Durham, Bristol, and St. Paul’s, London. The generosity of the Cathedral parish in support of this trip was once again overwhelming and deeply appreciated.

Distinguished choirs performed at the Cathedral this year, including the Yale Glee Club, Stile Antico, a noted English early music ensemble, and St. Martin’s Voices from St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London. The annual Youth Choir Festival brought young singers from around the diocese to the Cathedral for a day of music and camaraderie, concluding with Evensong under the direction of Giles Brightwell of St. Thomas Church, Houston.

The American Guild of Organists held its national convention in Houston in June, and the Cathedral played a prominent role in the week’s activities. Not only

was it the site of the organ improvisation contest, the Cathedral Choir was selected to sing two Evensongs at which a commissioned piece, "As it is in heaven" by Dale Trombore, was premiered. Monica Czausz was one of the featured recitalists.

Throughout the year, a determined band of choir members under the leadership of Charlotte Jones reorganized and updated the choral library. Housing more than 2,000 individual works, the Cathedral Choral library is a treasury of sacred music spanning centuries. I am indebted to Charlotte and her team for their work. In addition, Charlotte volunteers endless hours as our choral librarian.

I was privileged to serve on the Alternative Worship Task Force, which advised the Dean on a new Sunday service. The resulting Celtic service, "The Well," with music lead by harp, flute, and cello, was launched at 5 p.m. on September 11 and has already proven to be a deeply meaningful experience, drawing large numbers of current parishioners and those new to the Cathedral.

The Parish and Cathedral Choirs remain the backbone of the Cathedral's music program. Providing musical leadership for Cathedral and Diocesan service through the year, members of these choirs are called on to give their time and talents in generous amounts, something they do without reservation. The Treble Choir of Houston at Christ Church Cathedral, directed by Marianna Parnas-Simpson with the assistance of Ann Miller, represents the Cathedral with distinction throughout the year. Their offerings at Sunday services are invariably received with well-deserved applause. They perform outside the Cathedral on a regular basis, most recently in two performances of Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" with the Houston Chamber Choir.

The daily work of the Music Department is greatly aided by Music Administrator Marilyn Dyess. A longtime member of the Cathedral Choir with extensive experience in parish and arts administration, Marilyn is responsible for many day-to-day operations of the department.

As I begin my 23rd year at the Cathedral, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities I have each day to work with Dean Thompson and the enormously gifted individuals on the staff, in the choirs, and within the parish. I am blessed beyond measure.

Christian Community

Report by Karen Kraycirik

Every year in the life of the church, we can look back and identify trends. One of the trends that stood out to me this year was the Cathedral community's focus on fellowship. Parishioners ceaselessly found ways to engage with one another, break bread, volunteer, share stories, and enhance lives.

The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper kicked off another year of great community engagement with over 230 Mardi gras revelers celebrating the rich bounty with which our church pantry and our lives have been blessed.

May Fete, the annual spring festival, was new and improved this year in an effort to involve a greater number of parishioners in the success of such a complex event. This new model made use of the Cathedral's council system, giving individual councils a more active role, both increasing participation and diversifying areas of interest. Another significant change for May Fete was the move to begin and end the day with worship and praise. At ten o'clock, the worship service utilized liturgy from the 1892 prayer book, bridging our festivities of today with those of the past, reflecting on how even more than one hundred years ago, fellowship and merrymaking was an important part of church life. Additionally, a two o'clock worship service was conducted in Spanish, acknowledging the growth of Christ Church's Latino congregation and providing another opportunity for the community to celebrate.

We also saw an increased focus on connecting Cathedral members in fellowship where they live. From Missouri City to Memorial, Piney Point to River Oaks, and West University to Montrose, more than three hundred members came out to participate in the series of Spring and Fall neighborhood gatherings hosted by fellow parishioners all around Houston. In October, Cathedral Unplugged created an opportunity for all ages to disconnect from electronic devices and connect with one another at five different park locations throughout the city.

We concluded another great year with our Annual Parish Retreat at Camp Allen. While the weekend may have been a bit soggy from rain, the spirits of those in attendance were still high. Seeking respite from the storms, parishioners found themselves making connections around

the fire place and in the kitchen; warm places helped not only to warm hearts but also to feed souls.

In this upcoming year, 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 2016, the theme for the Every Member Canvass (EMC) was “For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you to will and to work for God’s good pleasure.” This passage from Philippians seemed particularly fitting for a congregation that continues to exemplify that “it is God who is at work” in us, inspiring us to be the hands and feet of Christ in the heart of a vibrant, urban setting.

On Sunday, September 25, the congregation was invited to go “Back 2 Skool” at the EMC Kickoff Dinner. Two hundred and fifty people gathered in Reynolds Hall to be entertained by clergy, Cathedral staff, youth, children, and even our 2017 EMC co-chairs, Rob and Susan Reedy. The evening took a look at all of the ways the Cathedral provides for our formation in Christ, and together they made for a fun-filled event for all ages.

The past several years of the EMC campaign have been record-setting, but this past year has been awe-inspiring to say the least. By December 1, the 2017 Every Member Canvass had reached a major milestone – receiving 538 pledges totaling just over \$3 million. This is indeed indicative of the generosity of our members, considering that in 2016 the EMC total did not reach \$3 million until the middle of January.

With our current numbers, 586 pledges totaling \$3.23 million, we are on track for another record-breaking year. Our 2017 goal of \$3.25 million is within sight and just might become a reality. We have been 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

*“Abide with me, fast falls the eventide: The darkness deepens,
Lord, with me abide; When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.”*

— *hymn by Scottish Anglican Henry Francis Lyte,
often sung to “Eventide” by English composer William Henry Monk*

Abide was the word we chose to hold as a banner over 2016; and how fitting that word turned out to be. To abide means to stand by, to stick with – and in all things we knew God’s abiding presence was with us in Children’s ministries this year. It was a year of change and growth in our programs and in our people.

The spring brought new opportunities to connect families through our first Instruction in Eucharist class, Children’s Lenten programs, and parent meet-ups during the Sunday School hour. Offering The Road to Easter, a children’s guide to the Stations of the Cross, along with a child’s palm-sized clinging cross, was the first and perhaps best reminder that we do not walk this life alone. Volunteers from the Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) helped with the readings as families retraced the steps of this journey in the Bishop’s Courtyard.

Summer afforded Cathedral families many possibilities for connection through Compline and Pajamas, Art Space at Summer Place, and our Vacation Bible School (VBS). Outreach offerings like Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack (a national program with local impact that feeds children over the weekends during the school months and offers meal supplements during the summer) and SOLE Hope (an international program designed to allow children in the United States to cut the shoe patterns from discarded denim for children in Uganda whose feet need protection from jiggers, an aggressive insect that burrows into unprotected feet) helped our learners connect with each VBS daily focus: Faith, Hope, Love, Courage, and Justice.

With the start of school we celebrated the return of families from vacationing with new SPARKHOUSE curriculum in the two-year-old and Rotation classrooms, while investing further in the rich traditions of Cathedral Godly Play. We continued to encourage families to connect and be present with each other through Fall Parent Meet-ups, Compline with Kitties, Clean Slate Sunday, Popcorn Theology, and our annual Parish Retreat.

The traditions of Advent Wreath Making and Cathedral Christmas Eve pageant called us all to focus on the wonder of the season. From the five-to-one shepherd-to-sheep ratio, the very Roman guards (both male and female), the live baby Jesus, and five points on the Christmas star, we came to abide anew; Emmanuel, God is with us.

Youth and Young Adults

Report by Jeremy Bradley

Community has been a huge focus for youth at the Cathedral over the year. The confirmation class of 2016 felt such a connection with each other in community and in the knowledge they were receiving that they suggested we make confirmation a year-long process, which would allow them to have a deeper knowledge of themselves, God, and their faith.

Thanks to generous support of the Cathedral community, the youth ministry was able to raise over \$15,000 for the Giving Tree. This is the most we have ever received for scholarship for our youth community, and we are grateful. We returned to our friends in the Diocese of Costa Rica for our second mission trip. This time we went to a different region of the country to further our mission by partnering with the Costa Rican Episcopal Church. We shared knowledge, compassion, and love with each other.

Lastly, the EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) has continued to evolve and grow into a community that supports, encourages, and shares the love of Christ with each other. A glimpse of hope can be seen in our students as they tear down the walls of race, economical status, and a variety of other differences to form community.

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 are able to foster community and allow for connections to be made and friendships to be formed.

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.

Social Justice

Report by the Very Rev. Barkley Thompson

The Justice and Peace Council continued to carry out its mandate in 2016 to raise awareness about unjust structures in our society. Early in the year, Dean Thompson facilitated a Faith and Society seminar for the Council on the issue of gun violence. During the summer, the Council sponsored its documentary series "Pray, Learn, Act," with films including "La Bestia,"

which focused on human trafficking, and "For the Bible Tells Me So," which chronicles the challenges to LGBT Christians posed by the church. The Council hosted the third annual "Coming Out in Church" event, which empowered LGBT Christians to share their stories. As a follow-up to October's Cathedral Faith and Reason program with Sr. Joan Chittister, the Council sponsored a series of ethics roundtables, at which parishioners explored the ways Christian ethical thinking should inform our lives. Importantly, in 2016 the Vestry deputized the Justice and Peace Council to speak on behalf of the Cathedral on the issue of human trafficking. The Council is partnering with St. Paul's United Methodist Church and South Main Baptist Church to raise awareness about human trafficking and effect change.

Mission Outreach

Report by the Rev. Simón Bautista

The Mission and Outreach Council (MOC) continues to explore ways to best serve the mission of the Cathedral by strengthening its relationship with organizations who support the underserved and vulnerable in the city of Houston. This Council is blessed with the presence of a solid and strong leadership, which includes members of the congregation, vestry liaison, and a staff liaison. Eight new members are joining the MOC starting in February 2017, which gives us confidence that the Mission and Outreach Council is prepared for another exciting year.

During 2016, the Mission Outreach Council organized, ran, or participated in several events and activities. It coordinated and participated in regular volunteer work with the Lord of the Streets to serve breakfast to the homeless. The MOC also partnered with personnel of Saint Luke's Blood Center to lead a blood drive at the Cathedral. There were four volunteers from the Latin and Anglo congregations. Around 30 people signed up to donate blood.

The Alternative Giving Market, run by the Mission Outreach Council, drew parish members from all services on Sunday, November 20, and collected \$30,000 to distribute among 16 organizations the Cathedral supports via the work of the MOC. Over 20 volunteers from our congregations offered their time and talents to support this event. The Alternative Giving Market is the only fundraising activity the MOC conducts throughout the

year, and the money collected is used to support the work of sister organizations serving individuals and families in need. This year the number of donations received was 131.

For the second year in a row, Christmas at the Cathedral hosted poor families of children attending Rusk school. One more time we had snow blown in by a truck on 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 offered to all attending, nearly 300 people including volunteers from our youth group, adults from our congregations, and people from organizations with a relationship to MOC council members. Twenty-two percent of the volunteers for Christmas at the Cathedral were members of the 1 o'clock congregation.

In addition, members of the Mission and Outreach Council met with members of other local Episcopal churches Mission and Outreach committees to discuss best practices. The goal of this first conversation was to touch base on what each other is doing, what challenges we are facing in the work we do, what we can learn from each other, and what we can possibly do together. This conversation will continue in 2017.

Care and Support

Report by the Rev. Glenice Robinson-Como

The pastoral care Shepherd Program began the year organizing listings and calling on Cathedral members. These calls provide an introduction to the program and the opportunity to begin building pastoral relationships within our community. The Shepherds also continue to receive support and training through their Circle of Care meetings. In December, the group gathered to receive a mini training session on listening skills for their lay pastoral care work. The council continues to identify and recruit more Shepherds to support the growing congregation and will train two new members under the Community of Hope Program in January 2017. The addition of new members will allow the ministry to offer a deeper level of care for those who seek pastoral support. In addition to the members from the Cathedral who will receive training this year, the Cathedral will also be the host site for other local churches for the Community of Hope program. Partnering with other churches in the area

will allow us to share ideas and support one another in the compassionate work of pastoral care.

This year we celebrated the 20th anniversary of care in Houston with Amazing Place, a day center for families with members who suffer with dementia and early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Canon Como spoke in the celebratory video and serves as a board member of Amazing Place. This year the Cathedral has deepened its engagement in the mission of Amazing Place with the recent appointments of Don Vold to the Council of Congregations and Dean Thompson to the Advisory Council. The Cathedral is committed to providing avenues of care for all stages of life for families and those who suffer from dementia and Alzheimer's.

The pastoral care coordinator Kim Williams and Canon Como continue to fine-tune the ministries under the pastoral care umbrella. This year they re-invented the pastoral care database system. This system 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 should be operational no later than March 1, 2017. This database will capture professional services provided by our Cathedral members such as catering, counseling, or accounting. The pastoral care ministries have already begun to use a catering service to provide meals to sick and shut-in members, and paired a member with a computer support service.

In 2017, 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 Initiative celebrate another year of successful ministry. The mission of the Council is to foster a culture of invitation and welcome within the Cathedral community, drawing and connecting unaffiliated people into the life and worship of the Cathedral, resulting in spiritual and numerical growth.

Accomplishments this year include the expansion of the Welcome Team to include The Well at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Sharing Faith Dinners held in May in Reynolds

Hall and June in Spring, Texas brought Cathedral members together to share faith and fellowship. Creation of Cathedral Neighbors ministry pairs established Cathedral members with newcomers living in their local neighborhoods.

Bible by the Glass at OKRA Charity Saloon continues to draw participants from beyond Cathedral membership, primarily through personal invitation and the social media service MeetUp. Continuing the campaign with downtown residential and hotel concierges, a curated Cathedral e-newsletter is sent once a month with the addition of a December Christmas card mailing including BEACON information cards and Christmas service times.

In collaboration with other councils, Welcome & Evangelism hosted Boo Bash in October and Chill & Grill in November, both building on prior Reaching Out to Downtown efforts. Together these events welcomed Downtown neighbors and Cathedral members to the Cathedral campus and into fellowship.

Many thanks to all who invited and welcomed new people into the Cathedral community this year. Keep up the good work.

Latino Ministry

Report by the Rev. Simón Bautista

The Latino Ministry at Christ Church Cathedral continues growing and deepening in Houston's neighborhoods as part of the implementation of the neighborhood initiative as described in the Vision Action Plan. Meanwhile, the church community at the Cathedral is becoming even more robust. We are operating under the motto: Go, Settle, Evangelize, and Multiply.

In January, we moved children and youth Sunday School classes to one o'clock and introduced new material and new leadership. Thanks to effective leadership, the support of the Cathedral staff and leaders, and a strong commitment from parents and children, we have seen a significant increase in the number of children present on a regular base.

In addition to classes, we hosted several events to give people a chance to congregate and experience fellowship, such as Noche Familiar, our Lenten Retreat, Advent retreat, the annual Diocesan Latino Conference at Camp Allen, and an Immigration Forum primarily intended

for people seeking information about the new status of the immigration debate. One hundred and thirty people participated in this forum; we also had representatives from the Consulates and community organizations as well as lawyers.

The Cathedral also sponsored two Latino lay leaders to attend the Nuevo Amanecer/New Dawn conference in Kanuga, North Carolina. This conference is for leaders, both lay and clergy, involved in developing Latino congregations in the Episcopal Church inside and outside of the United States.

The Cathedral Latino Ministry launched its first Vacation Bible School in the neighborhoods this past summer. A total of 174 children attended throughout the five days, including 53 at the Cathedral on the closing day. Eighteen volunteer adults helped during this week, and four houses of our members were made available to teachers and children so we can develop the program.

This past year we expanded the celebration of Fiestas Patrias from one day to four Sundays to cover an entire month of Fiestas. Fiestas Patrias is an occasion to honor and recognize the presence, culture, and contribution of the Latino population in the United States. Around 1,200 people participated in the celebrations. This number combines people attending the one o'clock service and people attending the four events we had immediately following the service. Seventeen different community organizations were represented, and 45 volunteers were available throughout the four events.

During the fall of 2016, the Latino Ministry hosted many services and celebrations in the neighborhoods. We launched a new weekly Spanish language service of the Cathedral in two different neighborhoods (two Friday services per neighborhood per month). The service is part of our efforts to establish missional communities and to expand our presence in Houston. On Thanksgiving Eve, a total of 87 people gathered in a member's front yard to celebrate with a service. This is the second year in a row we have held this service in a neighborhood. So far the Latino people have responded very well to the effort, on this occasion we had two members of the morning congregations joining us.

Las Posadas, from December 16-24, brought together around 675 people, an average of 75 people per night. A significant number of the people attending were not familiar to Christ Church Cathedral. Over 24 families

worked together organizing Las Posadas. The offering of Eucharist added a special touch to each night. Dean Thompson and Canon Callahan each came to a posada to celebrate Eucharist.

Las Pastorelas/The Pageant was presented on Christmas Day during the regular service. Our Latino children made a wonderful presentation to an unprecedented 171 people on Christmas Day. This occasion, as usual, brought together both families who are members and families who are new, as their children were performing.

Hines Center

Report by Brooke Summers-Perry

The Bishop John E. Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer began the year with a grand opening for about 250 parishioners and friends in January 2016. Within a couple of months, the Center was offering 30 yoga and movement classes a week and unlimited sessions for a monthly membership fee of \$50.

Other early crowd-pleasers were Fr. Marcus Losack of Wicklow, Ireland, presenting a program on Celtic Spirituality, and Cindy Wigglesworth, bestselling local author of the book *SQ21: the Twenty-One Skills of Spiritual Intelligence*. In March, the Hines Center partnered with Rice University and the Boniuk Institute to host a religious studies symposium: Being Spiritual but Not Religious – Past, Present and Future.

In late spring, the Hines Center held a week of dedicated programming in support of Compassion Week Houston, in partnership with the Houston Non-Violent Communication (NVC) community and Compassionate Houston, founded by the Cathedral's own Rev. Betty Adams. In May, we hosted YogaMass®, celebrated by Rev. Gena Davis, Vicar of Grace Episcopal Church. The Hines Center client count, at the end of May, reached 500.

Last summer, in June, the Center tested a new concept by offering "When Mama's Happy Camp," a collaboration between Hines Executive Director Brooke Summers-Perry and KariAnn Lessner, Cathedral Minister for Children and Families. The camp was offered twice – a one-week session concurrent with children's Vacation Bible School, and

another stand-alone evening session over several summer weeknights.

The fall programming season was highlighted by the Mind, Movement, and Mystery series of packed-house Saturday workshops and co-sponsored events. In August, Dr. William Kerley, of St. Paul's United Methodist Church (UMC), presented the paradoxical journey. Two weeks later, the Rev. Pitman McGehee, former Dean of Christ Church, addressed the ways we experience mystery in our lives. The Hines Center collaborated with the Cathedral and the Dykes Foundation to co-sponsor Spirituality, Self and Society with Sr. Joan Chittister, OBS. In November, Dr. Mark Ryan presented the history and impact of transpersonal psychology. Later in the month, The Hines Center partnered with the Kerley Endowment and St. Paul's UMC to present Compassion and Quantum Entanglement with Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF.

Over the year, the Center developed relationships with Cathedral parishioners in several meaningful ways. The Hines Center hosts Brigid's Place's Centering Prayer group on Monday mornings and an icon writing group on Wednesdays. Several labyrinth walks were offered regularly including a few guided walks by parishioner Sarah Gish, who also led a monthly series of Words of Wisdom (WOW) talks about cultural events and personalities around town. Late in October, we partnered with the Cathedral Latino Ministries to welcome Noche Familiar at the Hines Center, to share a meal, games, and fellowship while honoring all the living and departed saints in our lives. In November, the Center provided the spiritual formation programming for the Latino Ministries leadership conference.

The year ended with the launch of our Circles program, facilitated small groups that foster self connection, group reflection, and inner wisdom and guidance. We also launched a paid digital advertising campaign, targeting downtown residents and those working downtown during the day. Our total client count is over 900. The staff and steering committee look forward to widening and deepening the individual and small group programming, launching customized group programming and continuing to build a strong community throughout 2017.

Cathedral Bookstore

Report by Kathy Jackson

This past year was a busy year for book signings and conferences, for which the Cathedral Bookstore provided books and volunteer support. In February, Beth-Sarah Wright and Helen Kimbrough were here, followed by Fran Early, who will return this fall to discuss her book *Doing Good . . . Says Who?* In September, the Reverend Danielle Tumminio spoke and signed her book *God and Harry Potter at Yale*. October brought the return of Joan Chittister for a two-day conference. The International Black Clergy Conference convened here for five days in November. At the end of November, J. Bradford Hipps read from his debut novel, *The Adventurist*, and held a talk with Canon Callahan; his book was the December choice for the Dean's Book Club. We send kudos to all our volunteers who put in extra hours to make things run efficiently. We completed the year with our annual Advent newsletter and book signings by Chase Untermeyer and Bill Curtis. We are grateful for your support of our work and ministry in our thirty-fourth year of service to the Cathedral, the Diocese, and the Downtown community.

Kids Hope

Report by Jennifer Lin Sickman

This past year was a time of transition and expansion for the Kids Hope Community. Thanks to the generosity of mentors, prayer partners, and Cathedral friends, the eight-year-old program took on five new third grade student mentees and expanded student participation into middle school. The program also upgraded its activity supplies at Rusk with the addition of a few Lego building sets, idea books, and new educational games. Kids Hope mentors hosted an ice cream social for students, an appreciation luncheon for Rusk School faculty and staff, and provided judges for the first Rusk School Spelling Bee in addition to over 500 hours of dedicated mentoring and relationship-building. With the changes in administration and curriculum at Rusk, Kids Hope also began exploring expansion of the program to a new elementary school campus. That transition work will continue in 2017 along with a planned field trip to NASA and many more hours making a difference one-on-one in weekly mentoring sessions.

2016 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

Wayne Clawater, *Senior Warden*

Charlie Prioleau, *Junior Warden*

Whitney Ogle, *Secretary*

Lyman Paden, *Chancellor*

Will Hamilton, *Treasurer*

Michael Bullington, *Assistant Treasurer*

Chris Alexander

Consuelo Bravo

Robin Bullington

Vicki Cawley

Linnet Deily

Elizabeth Goza

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Karla Schapansky

Joy Stapp

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Clergy *as of December 31, 2016*

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, *Bishop of Texas*

The Rt. Rev. Dena Harrison, *Bishop Suffragan*

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

The Very Rev. Barkley S. Thompson, *Dean*

The Rev. Arthur A. Callaham, *Canon Vicar*

The Rev. Glenice Robinson-Como, *Canon Pastor*

The Rev. Genevieve T. Razim, *Canon for Welcome and Evangelism*

The Rev. Simón Bautista Betances, *Canon Missioner*

The Rev. Betty Adam, *Canon Theologian*

The Rev. John A. Logan Jr., *Canon Emeritus*

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

Cathedral Staff *as of December 31, 2016*

MINISTRY STAFF

Jeremy Bradley, *Minister for Youth and Young Adults*

Monica Czausz, *Cathedral Organist*

Karen Kraycirik,
Minister for Stewardship

KariAnn Lessner,
Minister for Children and Families

Torie Ludwin,
Minister for Communication

Patrick Saccomanno,
Minister for Finance

David Simpson, *Chief Operating Officer*

Robert Simpson, *Canon for Music*

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Peggy Beltrami, *Financial Administrator*

Yency Bermudez, *Assistant for Spanish Ministry*

Mark Bohenic, *Publications Editor*

Lisa Cantu, *Receptionist*

Elizabeth Cuevas, *Program Coordinator*

Marilyn Dyess, *Music Assistant*

Brandi Gillispie, *Revenue and Accounts Payable Coordinator*

Nelda Horton, *Executive Assistant to the Dean*

Christy Orman, *Youth Associate and CUSE Director*

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

Kimberly Williams, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

FACILITIES STAFF

Frank Guevara, *Facilities Administrator*

Ardell Ray, *Senior Sexton*

Shadrick Griffin, *Sexton*

Brandon Johnson, *Sexton*

Blanca Ortiz, *Senior Housekeeper*

Esther Calderon, *Housekeeper*

Carolina Espinoza, *Housekeeper*

Maria Lara, *Housekeeper*

AUXILIARY STAFF

Patty Hurt, *Archivist*

Martha Lewis,

Special Needs Program Coordinator

Elizabeth Cuevas, *Childcare Supervisor*

Cathedral Bookstore

Kathy Jackson, *Manager*

Cathedral House Episcopal School

Teri Jackson, *Director*

Cathedral Treble Choir

Marianna Parnas-Simpson, *Director*

Cloister Gallery

Ellen Harrison, *Director*

Kids Hope USA

Jennifer Lin Sickman, *Director*

CATHEDRAL HEALTH AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES

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Administrative Assistant

Haley Coates, *Development Associate*

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Jonathan Holland, *Operations Director*

Loretta Randolph, *Case Manager*

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Laundry and Shower Coordinator

Brian Gorham, *Security Coordinator*

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Program Manager

David Pogue, *Benefits Manager*

Stephanie Marrone, *Staff Attorney*

David Randall, *Staff Attorney*

Erin Russel, *Paralegal*

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