



**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2024
MINISTRY REPORTS**

MUSIC MINISTRY

What a blessing it has been to lift our voices in praise to God this year! I want to thank all of our CEC Choir members for sharing their time and talents to lead our congregation in worship! The year 2023 has seen the addition of new choir members, and we have also established a regular choir rehearsal on Wednesday afternoon at 2:30. Much thanks to Betty Prince, who in addition to arranging music for the 8:00am services, has also graciously accompanied the choir at the 10:30 am service, and has arranged the music in addition to accompanying the choir when I was not able to attend. In the coming year we look forward to bringing more voices and new music into the choir. We would like to encourage everyone who has an interest in either singing, or anyone who plays an instrument, to feel free to join us in the Sunday worship service!

SENIOR SHEPHERDS

The Senior Shepherds welcome anyone in the church over the age of 50. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:45 AM in the library/kitchen for a delicious potluck luncheon and enthusiastic conversation. We do outreach projects such as making valentines in February with our children for the residents at several of the local nursing homes. We also make Valentine Surprise bags for the church children with educational material and various games and goodies. This past year we gave out the bags on "Scout" Sunday and made enough bags for all the Scouts also. In March we gave out "Surprise bags" to the children for St. Patrick's day with Educational material and treats. In April we got out in our gardens and had our annual plant exchange. At our May meeting we celebrated the Feast of the Ascension with a fowl based potluck and reviewed how churches worldwide celebrate this day by eating Fowl since this is the day Christ "flew up to heaven". We hosted the LEAD team in June to do the Congregational Survey. In the hot months of July and August, our wonderful "Living Compass Group" gave us two excellent seminars on "Aging Well". In September we participated in the Fall Festival Trunk or Treat. In October we welcomed Rabbi Reice from the Cedar Park

Reform Jewish Synagogue who gave us an excellent talk on the History of Reform Judaism. In November we prepared the usual Thanksgiving Dinner weekend, which includes making 12 shifts of Thanksgiving meals for the brave Sheriffs who meet in our church. Our Speaker at the November meeting was Father George Oommen who spoke to us about the History and Structure of the Church of South India and the History of the St. Thomas Christians in India. In December we had our Annual Christmas Party playing exciting games prepared by Sarah Seaman and singing Christmas Carols.

LAY READERS AND CHALICE BEARERS

Our group of lay readers and chalice bearers continues to grow. At the beginning of 2023 we had fourteen lay readers and twelve chalice bearers. Most of our volunteers act both as a lay reader and a chalice bearer, but others prefer only to read or only to serve the chalice. We also have one volunteer who does not want to be scheduled, but is available to fill in when others cannot make it. We have added three new lay readers and two new chalice bearers. Thus, by the end of 2023, we had 17 lay readers, 14 chalice bearers, and one more volunteer who will fill in when needed. Our group includes youth and adults, men and women.

We welcome new volunteers and are happy to provide training to anyone who wants it.

ACOLYTES

I'm proud to work with our acolytes, all of whom exhibit such pride and dedication to our order of worship. The historic tradition and ritual each fulfills in assisting Fr. Richard and Deacon Jan with Communion and the Gospel reading provides a strong spiritual and aesthetic richness to our service.

Our ongoing challenge with this ministry is one of numbers. While we have a need for three acolytes each Sunday, (one cross-bearer and two

torch-bearers) we presently have seven acolytes who serve rotating Sundays and special services during Advent and Holy Week. We'll soon be losing one of our acolytes to college, so our numbers will be diminished.

Acolytes can begin serving at eight years of age. It's necessary that we keep this important ministry not only functioning, but thriving. Our numbers should increase with growth but until then, we need your help.

If you are a parent or acquaintance of someone eligible and who would like to be trained to serve as an acolyte, please encourage them to do so.

Call, text, or send me an e-mail and I would be happy to visit with you.

John Willbanks

johndwillbanks@gmail.com

405-655-1268

THE ALTAR GUILD

The guild has been blessed this year with new and returning members. We are a joy filled group celebrating each season. We change the colors, we set up for special occasions and each week prepare the altar for our services.

We welcome all to join our wonderful ministry. Please ask any of our members about this important ministry.

Linda Dozier

Patty McDanel

Cindy Wells

Lea Melvin

Barbara Strauss

Connie Mendez

Chris and Tom Rardin

Delinda Woltring

USHER MINISTRY

Our ushers help to support a worship service that we hope fuels your soul. Much of our work is in the background, but please know that we believe it is an important ministry and gladly serve to help make the church service run smoothly and to help people feel comfortable in attending our CEC services. For those of you who have attended a service at Christ Episcopal Church, you probably have a good idea of what the ushers do.

- Greet and welcome parishioners
- Count and record attendees
- Remind Children's church leaders that it's time to bring kids back to the sanctuary
- Deliver the communion elements to the altar
- Pass out the collection plates
- Make sure there are chairs available for intercessory prayer during communion
- Help with the flow of parishioners for communion
- Open doors at the conclusion on the service
- And once everyone left, straighten up the pew contents by picking up leftover bulletins or replacing prayer books

If you are looking for a way to serve, please consider volunteering to serve as an usher, please feel free to contact the church office or contact me directly at tqmartinez@hotmail.com.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

The Congregational Care Ministry (CCM) is a program provided by the laity of Christ Episcopal Church to serve the needs of our parish family. We are available to pray with you, provide meals, visit you at home or in hospital, and celebrate the Holy Eucharist with you during our visit. The component ministries in this program include the Pastoral Care Ministry, The Prayer Ministry, The Feed My Sheep Ministry, the Eucharistic and Visitor Ministry,

the Neighborhood Group Ministry, and the Bereavement and Encouragement Ministry.

During the year 2023 our Feed My Sheep Ministry prepared 20 meals for our parish families recovering from illness, surgeries, and loss of loved ones. Our Bereavement and Encouragement Ministry sent out 29 get well and sympathy cards to our parish family. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has been busy this year making small holiday wreaths for the residents of New Hope Nursing Home. Along with their beautiful prayer shawls they have made several hundred cancer caps and passed them on to the Oncology Center. New caps and shawls are blessed each month and are ready to comfort those in need. Our Prayer Ministry composed of 19 “prayer warriors” is dedicated to praying for the needs of our parish family. There were 92 new prayer requests made this year along with 23 continuing prayer requests. Each request has several updates and many of those result in Thanksgiving for prayers answered.

For additional information please see our brochure on the desk in the Narthex or contact Bobbie Wallstrom at:

714-264-8728

bobbiewallstrom@yahoo.com.

STEWARDSHIP

1. 2023 Fall Pledge Campaign Follow Up – The 2022 Stewardship Committee performed several final duties to close out the 2023 Fall pledge campaign in early 2023:
 - a. Phone and/or text contact of parishioners that had pledged in previous years
 - b. Performed preliminary pledge analysis
 - c. \$226,820 was collected from 59 pledging units
2. 2023 Spring/Summer Time and Talent Campaign – Cullen assisted Barbara and Craig Strauss in setting up the new online template. Barbara Strauss collected hard copy and online data, met with several parishioners to refine the Ministry Names and Leads. Still

outstanding to do is send the revisions and new member list out to the congregation.

3. 2024 Fall Pledge Campaign – The 2023 Stewardship Committee performed the duties to conduct the 2024 campaign. To date we have not yet conducted the final duties mentioned in 1 above. To date, we have collected \$227,418 from 52 pledging units.

WELLNESS COMMISSION

Members: Linda Dozier, Amy Hatzler, Laura Lerma, Lea Melvin, Barbarba Strauss, and Delinda Woltring

In 2023 The Wellness Commission held two retreats and two classes. They were as follows.

On March 18, 2023, we presented the Lenten Retreat, Practicing Compassion based on the Living Compass materials. There were 13 participants.

On May 6, We sponsored a Grief and Loss workshop presented by Deacon Jan Halstead.

In July and August, we presented a class on Aging Well to the Senior Shepherds during their monthly meetings.

On December 3, 2023, the Advent Retreat, Practicing Wonder, with 18 participants.

In addition, we sponsored portions of and participated in two relationship-building events:

In June, we participated in the Water Balloons and Watermelon Event.

In October we provided a fall photo booth for the Trunk or Treat Fall Festival.

We are currently working on the Lenten Retreat, Practicing Forgiveness, and welcome any who would like to join us.

Submitted: 1/22/24

Linda Dozier

