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Summer 2018

illumine

enlightening and celebrating where God is at work in our midst



A PUBLICATION OF
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
Transfiguration

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 The Rev. Nancy DeStefano—Pastoral Assistant
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Cover photo of one of this year's VBS crafts
 by Robert Hacker

Worship Service Times

Wednesday | 6:00 p.m.

Thursday | 12:00 p.m.

Saturday | 5:30 p.m.

Sunday | 9:00 a.m.* and 11:15 a.m.*

*Childcare available for children
 6 weeks to age 5.



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Illumine is a quarterly publication of Church of the Transfiguration. The word itself has two meanings: to light up or brighten and to enlighten (someone) spiritually or intellectually. The goal behind this magazine is to tell the stories of this congregation, highlight new ministries, and celebrate where God is at work in our midst.



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From the Editor

Waiting for Delivery

By Rebecca Gingles

I recently returned to work full time from a three-month maternity leave after giving birth to our second son, Silas, at the end of February. I am

grateful for the time at home to recover and get to know the newest member of the family. The way Transfiguration supports its staff by providing parental leave is just one way that this congregation sets an example for how to be the church in the world.

When our first son Graham, now four, was born, after weekends of scouring resale shops, I chose a pretty wooden rocking chair that perfectly matched the crib in which to nurse him. It was fine for rocking before bedtime but became more painful to sit in as he and his nutritional needs grew. This time around I decided to find a more comfortable chair for 'round the clock feedings, ordering a plush glider two months early that was scheduled to arrive just before my due date.

Though I'm a planner, parenthood has taught me to be flexible with smaller details and to focus on the big important things. My plans for my first maternity leave with Graham naively including the following (in addition to keeping a tiny human fed and happy): visit family in far off states, read 20 novels, take up yoga, and organize the storage closet. Ha! For my time at home with Silas my list was more realistic: rock the baby, get some sleep when possible, and keep everyone nourished, bathed, and alive. I also hoped to get back into a practice of daily structured prayer. We try to do morning prayer as a family, but by spring semester it was often a mad scramble to get out the door with teeth brushed and lunches packed.

The first plan on my simplified list was thwarted when the rocking chair we ordered was not delivered in time for the Silas's birth. After multiple calls to the store we discovered that the furniture company neglected to inform us that they didn't even make that model anymore. Cue the scene of me driving around to six furniture stores in Houston at eight days postpartum to sit on any rocking chair I could find. We ordered another one and waited for it to be delivered.

And waited.

You might have guessed by the way this story is going so far that many other things didn't go according to plan on leave—even the simple ones. Thus, the missing rocking chair became the foil for everything that was not going well in my life: extreme lack of sleep, unforeseen specialist visits for Silas, no quality time with my firstborn, missing church on Easter because of a cold. By the time the chair finally arrived, Silas was two months old, my calf muscles were stronger than ever from faux rocking him on the side of our bed, and I was so desperate for it that I cried the first time I sat down.

My plans for my prayer life on maternity ended up looking quite different, as well. My mental image of sitting, coffee and BCP in hand with sunlight and spring air streaming through the open windows while the baby napped was far too idyllic. Most days, morning prayer took the

form of me walking the length of our house while bouncing a fussy baby and praying, "Dear Lord, please let him sleep."

With the arrival of the rocker, my postpartum fog began to clear a little. As I rocked, I found I could think about the world outside my home more, and the rhythms of our rocking began to pound out the anxiety that had welled up in my heart. I found myself saying prayers along to the back and forth motion: Oh Lord, help her. Dear God, heal him. Almighty Father, hear us. My prayers were scattered out like seeds—anyone who popped into my head or my newsfeed was prayed for. Help her, heal him, hear us.

At the same time my rocking prayers began, Graham came home from church one week talking about centering prayer. He had learned this practice during children's chapel that morning and asked if we could try it before bed each night. We each had to think of a "holy word" for two minutes and then share our word with each other. Sometimes Graham echoed words from his comic books ("Mom, what does justice mean?"). Sometimes breathing the word "peace" for two quiet minutes was exactly what I needed to get through a long night of little sleep.

I have always believed in the power of prayer. It is one of the things that drew me to the Episcopal Church. I love imagining that through our collected prayers and weekly liturgy we are together turning to God as we seek to love our hurting world. And over the last several months while I was waiting for delivery—from my worries, loneliness, and pain (and that blame chair!)—prayer found me. My petitions rocked their way into my very breath. As I was comforting Silas, I found comfort. As I was lamenting not having time with Graham, he gave us the great gift of prayer together.

Now in the moments I feel desperate or overwhelmed, I am able to step back with just a breath and think "O God, thank you."

Postscript: I didn't know that at the same time I was shoulder deep in worry about the quotidian rhythms of my incredibly shrunken home life that there were parents, many in our very state, having their children wrested from them at the border. While I was waiting for delivery from my incredibly easy life by comparison, they are still waiting for deliverance. So, the work of our prayers continues. 🙏





SECOND HALF

Making Connections in Our Time

Do you ever...

- Feel afraid of getting older?
- Get a little peeved when people ask you what things were like “in your day”?
- Wonder what retirement will be like, or know what it is like but aren’t quite sure what to do with it?
- Feel alone because no one quite understands what you are going through?
- Talk to the dog/cat because there isn’t anyone else around?
- Feel as though there is more to life, there is more for you to do, more for you to *be*?

If you answered yes to any of these questions you may be in the second half of life!

Ministry Spotlight

Second Half is Transfiguration’s ministry with those of us who are in, or are approaching, the second half of life. There are no exact dates or ages that define this time—we each get to define it for ourselves. Second Halfers are those who want to make connections and affirm that now is our time and we have a



lot of living to do, a lot of ways we can serve, a lot of growing in discipleship and love of God and a lot of ways that God is calling us to be God's hands and feet in this world.

The Second Half Ministry has been taking shape for a few years now and is launching into a new phase of sharing and caring. Rev. Nancy M. DeStefano has come on staff to give special attention to this part of our congregation and to help build a community of support and caring that can deal with all aspects of what we experience as we grow older.

A Sunday School class was launched last fall with a program of "Sage-ing"—a curriculum that heralds the second half of life as a vibrant and meaningful time of sharing the experience of a lifetime with our loved ones, our peers and our faith community. This class continued in the spring, using Wisdom Circles to go deeper into some of the issues and challenges facing older adults. Now, in the summer, we continue to meet as we consider the book *The Gift of Years* by Sr. Joan Chittister. All are welcome to join us for these classes this summer and on into the fall!

Second Halfers will be very active in the coming months as we find new ways to embrace this time in our lives and to reach out to one another, to be sages for younger generations, and to seek out those beyond our congregation who will benefit from knowing of God's love for them as they face the challenges that aging can bring.

Plan to join us on Thursday, August 9 for a movie matinee and brown bag lunch following the noon Eucharist as we view and discuss the movie *Coco*. Watch for lunch and speaker opportunities, workshops, and service opportunities in the months ahead. Second Halfers are making connections, living our time, and making a difference in our world! Come join us! 🍿



PHOTO CREDIT ROBERT HACKER



“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

—1 Thessalonians 5:11



Second Half Movie Matinee & Brown Bag Lunch

Thursday, August 9

Eucharist - 12:00 PM

Screening of **Coco** to follow in Room S203

Getting to Know Mother Rebecca Tankersley



PHOTO BY DICKIE HILL

AN INTERVIEW WITH

Our New Associate Rector

Tell us about your background.

Where are you from? What's your family like?

How did you experience your call to ministry? Where have you served?

I was born in Boston. Dad was a PhD student at MIT, and Mom was a nursing student at Mass General. We moved to Dallas when I was 2, where my sister (Amy) was born. Mom and Dad were divorced while I was young, amicably so for the sake of us kids. When I was 10, Mom remarried a Canadian. I joke that he may have changed countries (moving from Windsor, Ontario to Troy, Michigan), but we moved all the way across ours! Eventually I attended University of Michigan, graduating with a B.A. in English and Psychology, graduated from University of Michigan Law School, then returned to Dallas to practice law.

I first became aware of God's call to ministry during my first experience of Taizé worship. I had a powerful encounter with God and heard God tell me I was needed to share that experience with others. That kicked off a period of discernment for several years, first characterized by exploring other options within my vocation as an attorney and ultimately coming to understand it was a call to ordained ministry. Once I understood this, I began looking back over my life and realized that God had been preparing me for



Mother Rebecca Tankersley

this ministry for many years. Of significance,

- I'd participated in Forensic Speaking competitions in high school. My category of choice: oration.
- In college, I began the RCIA course to prepare to join the Roman Catholic Church. Much of what I learned felt uncomfortable, but the session that helped

me understand that the RC Church wasn't the place for me was the evening spent on ordination. Though I was, at the time, heading for law school, I couldn't stomach the notion that the fullness of God—male and female—would not lead the churches I would be a part of going forward.

- My oldest son, Trevor, identified me within the pages of an illustrated version of Lesbia Scott's "I Sing A Song of the Saints of God" when he was just two and a half years old.
- I found that the best parts of my days while practicing law happened when someone would come to my office, close the door, and say, "Can I talk with you about something personal?"

I was serving as a lay minister at St. Matthew's Cathedral when I first heard the call. Scott and I were married there, and all 3 of our boys were baptized there as well. I discerned for a year while serving at Epiphany Richardson. As a curate, I served at St. Augustine's Oak Cliff. Shortly after I was ordained a priest, I was called to serve as Assistant Rector of St. James Dallas.

What is your favorite thing about being a priest?

FAVORITE PRIEST THING? LET ME COUNT THE WAYS.

I love it to the depth, and breadth, and height
 My soul can reach, when preaching morn' or night
 Of God's desire to connect with all.
 I love sharing grace after people fall,
 Celebrating Eucharist, teaching of
 God's heart and soul and mind—God's big, big love
 For one and all. I love walking with friends
 Through the valley of the shadow of death,
 Blessing parents at their babies' first breath,
 Anointing, reconciling, sharing life
 With young, with old, in joy, in peace, in strife.
 I love it all in truth; and if God' choose
 I shall but love it better year by year.

What are skills that you used in your time as a lawyer that carry over into the priesthood?

As an attorney, I practiced corporate and securities law. After leaving private practice in my law firm for an in-house position, my practice grew to include employment matters, negotiating settlements, advising business leaders, strategy and visioning with officers and directors, and a variety of other work. Throughout, I frequently reviewed laws and regulations and was responsible for interpreting them to my clients. I've often said that I still practice law; I just answer to a higher authority!

What Scriptures/subjects/themes do you most enjoying preaching/teaching about?

I love to teach on the Old Testament. OT was the first class I took at the Stanton Center for Ministry Development when I first began discerning this call in earnest, and Fr. George Luck taught me to love these ancient texts. I was blessed to take OT again at Perkins with Dr. Heller who helped me to find myself in the flawed heroes of God's revelation.

In terms of preaching, I try to stay true to God's call to share with others the big, big love God has for all. We live in a culture that demands perfection, presses us to work

relentlessly, and often leaves us feeling like hamsters running in circles on little wheels. This isn't what God wants for us. God wants us to follow the command to take sabbath rest, to be still and know, to listen and let God love us. That said, God calls us to stillness and rest for a reason: so we can become laborers in the vineyard, working to cooperate with the coming kingdom. There's a tension in these themes, but it's the tension facing each of us every day.

What are your favorite things to do outside of church?

I am an avid cyclist. Most Fridays (and plenty of other times), I can be found ... or more to the point, I can't be found ... riding my bike all over the bikeways of Dallas. Sometimes on my

own, sometimes with family, often with other clergy, I love being outside on the bike!

I love to read, having more books on my "to-read" list than I may be able to cover in my lifetime, enjoy movies, swimming, and relaxing at home. I love to sing and usually do so loudly in my car during my commute.

What's something about you that would surprise us?

Maybe that I love to write poetry. I don't take time to cultivate this, but even I am still surprised when I can scratch out a few verses.

What does your role at Transfiguration entail and what are you most looking forward to about your work here?

Fr. Casey and I agreed that I would serve as Associate Rector for Formation, sharing in our liturgical life and taking my place in preaching and teaching. Over time, we knew we'd learn together where our gifts and graces best align, so we left some portion of the job description open for mutual discernment.

I'm looking forward to many things about serving here at Transfiguration. Perhaps most of all, I'm enjoying serving as a member of this extraordinarily talented staff. I'm enjoying collaborating as we envision and plan ways to live into our mission: to seek and serve Christ in all persons! 🙏







Fish, Chips and a Week in Santa Fe, Anyone?

By Alan Dunlop

The date of Easter may float uncertainly around the church calendar based on a strange formula involving lunar cycles, but you can be sure that the first Sunday in June is always the Episcopal Men's Fellowship Fish Fry and Auction.

The origins of this popular event and the related EMF Fishing Trip at the beginning of May go back for decades, and no one seems sure now whether the fry came before the fish, or vice versa. However it all began, what happens now is that the intrepid men of the EMF head off towards the Oklahoma border on the first Friday in May, pause to pay homage to how golf must have begun in 16th century Scotland by playing over some cow pasture near Denison, then set sail on Lake Texoma early on Saturday morning for some fast and furious fishing.

The cleaned fish, a mixture of sand bass and striper, are tenderly dry-aged in someone's freezer until June, when they are defrosted and prepped on the Saturday before the Fish Fry. Coated with a secret formula dressing and deep fried by the EMF cooks, they form the basis of the fish and chips dinner sustaining bidders during the auction.

Auction items are sought throughout the Spring: a mixture of good quality used (and some new) items donated by parishioners, services donated by local businesses, themed parties and dinners offered by EMF members and others, and vacation opportunities given by those willing to lend their vacation home to a winning bidder for a week or two.



EMF men and their haul on their annual fishing trip in May.

The themed parties and vacation opportunities have increased in sophistication and popularity over the years, and now account for most of the funds raised, totaling \$22,123 in 2015, \$22,978 in 2016, \$28,763 in 2017, and a record \$37,000+ this year. EMF has become more sophisticated over the years as well, with a website advertising the auction items, electronic bid recording, and pre-registration of bidders and credit cards, all designed to speed up the check-out process at the end of the evening.

The Fish Fry and Auction is EMF's main fundraiser. The funds are disbursed by the EMF Board on the recommendation of its Disbursement Sub-Committee, and generally go to help organizations which are part of or connected in some way to Transfiguration, and sometimes to help the church itself with some necessary but unbudgeted item. Grants in recent years have gone to youth ministry, the altar guild, Happy Homes Pre-School, the

communications ministry, the flower guild, Hurricane Harvey relief, Austin Street Shelter, the children's ministry, seminarian support, Voice of Hope, Spring Valley Elementary School and numerous other good causes.

Credit is due to Jim Kirkman for his tireless pursuit of auction items and general organization of the event for many years, to John MacLennan for the website, bid registration and checkout process, to Jack Skelton for organizing the fishing trip, and to Bart Bartholomew for leading the kitchen team, as well as to the many EMF members, spouses, children and others including the youth ministry whose efforts before, during and after the auction make the event the great success that it has become. 🐟

Introducing Pastoral Assistant, *Nancy DeStefano*

Born and raised in New Jersey, I lived on Long Island for a few years before coming to Plano, Texas in 1990 with my husband and three children. Leaving family and friends behind was one of the hardest things I've ever done and our journey across country was quite eventful, sometimes trying, often amusing. Texas has been a wonderful place to raise our children and put down new roots, and now being at Transfiguration feels like home.

Ed and I were married in 1980 and had three children: Katie, Megan and Kevin. All grown up now they are all married. Kevin and his wife Sara live in Conway, Arkansas where Kevin is a middle school history teacher and varsity girls' soccer coach. Katie and her husband Jared and two children, Peyton and Nolan, live in Bee Cave, Texas where Katie is a history teacher and varsity girls' basketball coach. Megan and her husband Marcus and four children, Mason, Mallory, Matthew and Madelynne (yes, all M's) share a home with Ed and I in Little Elm. Megan is a Product Owner with a company that offers Patient Support Services and she volunteers as a basketball coach.

My call to ministry came early—I can remember feeling drawn to God and church at the age of four. Living out that call has taken many forms and it often seems like, as the song says, a long and winding road. I have worked in business, been a Director of

Christian Education, a Youth Minister, a Social Worker, a history teacher and an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. As a minister I have served churches in Bells, Kemp, Denton and, most recently, St. Stephen UMC in Mesquite, a Reconciling Congregation in the UMC. I retired from St. Stephen in June of 2017. And now I have the profound joy and blessing to serve here at Transfiguration!

The Episcopal church and Methodism have always been close. And I have always leaned toward the Anglican side of Methodism. About two years ago, while I was serving in Mesquite, my husband and I felt the need to worship together in a place where we could grow spiritually and receive weekly Eucharist and so we started attending the 5:30 service on Saturdays. Then I would lead worship on Sunday mornings at St. Stephen. Once I retired and needed a place to worship, it was only natural that we would choose to become a part of Transfiguration. As we got to know the clergy here and became more and more a part of church life the need for ministry to older adults and my background in counseling, issues of aging, and spiritual direction seemed like a perfect fit. So here I am!

I became a Social Worker because I was always seeking ways to be in ministry and to answer my call. I have always believed that ministry is much wider than the work of the ordained. At the time I was Roman Catholic (told you I was ecumenical!) and women's roles in the church are limited. So I sought ministry outside the church and discovered


Some fun facts about Nancy

- ✓ I named my dog after my mother—Fritz.
- ✓ I survived a roll over accident in the '70s before there were seat belts.
- ✓ I love everything Irish.
- ✓ I'm an avid NY Giants fan.
- ✓ Underneath my brown hair I am snowy white and one day soon I will give in to reality and let it go natural.

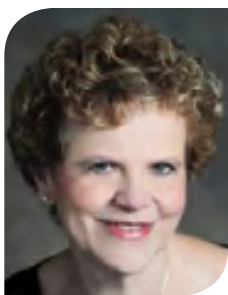
that social work could be an avenue to serve some of the neediest in our world. I have worked in schools, crisis centers, senior living facilities, and been in private practice. It was this same desire to minister that caused me to want to be a teacher when I was in college and to return to teaching when my children were in elementary and high school.

My favorite season of the church year is Lent. I find it a time when the church takes a deep breath, pauses for a few weeks and intentionally seeks to grow deeper in our walk with Christ. It is a time for being mindful of the grace that is ours and the love and mercy of a God whose love knows no limits and never leaves us. It is a time to refresh, renew and recommit to our life in God's service and love.

My favorite things to do outside of the church all revolve around my husband, children and grandchildren. I cherish every moment we spend together and love the memories we are creating. When I'm not at Transfiguration I am probably watching a grandchild play a sport or instrument or driving them to an activity or sitting with one or two on my lap reading a story.

My work as Pastoral Assistant at Transfiguration will be helping to form and support the Second Half of Life Ministry and to offer Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Direction to any member who would like to come. I am most looking forward sharing life and ministry with everyone at Transfiguration and hearing all the ways that God has worked and is working in each life and in the life of the church. 





Vestry Goals Update

By Nancy Jagmin—*Junior Warden*

In January this year, the Vestry traveled to Camp All Saints for a weekend retreat.

It wasn't quite as much fun as the parish retreat, since it was about 30 degrees and we spent most of our time in meetings! However, we valued the opportunity to get to know each other better and discuss our most important goals for 2018. We reviewed our progress against the several goals we set as part of the 2016 vision plan. The weekend together also gave us an opportunity to talk about what we felt best about, what worried us, and what opportunities we wanted to pursue. After we had reviewed progress against all the goals, we decided to get clear as a group about what our focus for 2018 would be. As always, the Transfiguration Vestry and parishioners at large are busy pursuing many goals and initiatives. We thought you would want to know which topics are receiving particular attention this year so far. The following "Top Five" are in no particular order.

“As always, the Transfiguration Vestry and parishioners at large are busy pursuing many goals and initiatives. We thought you would want to know which topics are receiving particular attention this year so far.”

Pastoral Care

There were many changes in staff support for pastoral care in 2017 as Fr. Merriman and Deacon Liz retired, and the Vestry wanted to ensure that any gaps in support be addressed. Since the Vestry offsite retreat, pastoral care has continued to evolve as Mother Erin and Shea departed from the staff. Supporting the work of Deacon Ginny Kivel, this spring Pastor Nancy DeStefano was hired as a part-time Pastoral Assistant to help strengthen our support for pastoral care, especially for those in the second half of life. Our new Associate Rector, Mother Rebecca Tankersley, has jumped in with both feet, offering her support to parishioners in need. (Get to know Nancy and Mother Rebecca in their interviews in this issue). Given all the changes, it is timely that the Vestry Mission and Ministry Committee volunteered to assist the staff by facilitating a “Pastoral Care Summit.” This meeting will attempt to convene both staff and representatives of the many groups throughout the church who offer support to our parishioners in need. The aim is to clarify the first steps, hand-offs, and possible gaps or overlaps that may exist when a need for support surfaces.

Welcome/Connect/Include

The Vestry discussed the fact that both the number of parishioners and the average Sunday attendance decreased in 2017. Recent parishioner survey efforts indicate that our rolls need continuous updating if we are to have accurate information to guide our efforts (a challenge in our modern high mobility

society). However, we had to acknowledge that the national trend toward declining church membership and attendance has caught up with us. This fact was one we returned to repeatedly in our discussions throughout the weekend.

The Vestry affirmed the importance of welcoming visitors and retaining new members for the health of our parish. We also acknowledged the period of transition we were in with Ellen Dingwall's departure in February. (The period of transition continued with Shea's departure, and now Nancy DeStefano is the interim staff support person for Welcoming Ministries.) Discussion acknowledged the need for all of us to go beyond being our usual cheerful and friendly selves on Sunday mornings. Research has shown that new members tend to stay with a church when they really connect and get involved in the life of the parish. Feeling fully included and connected may be an opportunity for long-time members as well. In our discussion, we considered how we might better understand the gifts of all our parishioners and invite them to be involved as they are called. Of course, it will take effort and creativity to make sure that each individual feels he/she is part of the Fig community. Bill Edwards, lay chair of the Welcoming Ministry has been leading a group of dedicated volunteers to lay the groundwork for this important ministry. All the while, we continue to search for a new staff member whose duties will include responsibility for this important work. In the interim, Nancy DeStefano is serving as the staff liaison for this committee.

Evangelism—Invite

Everyone acknowledges the importance of attracting people to our church, as Transfiguration offers exciting opportunities to grow one's faith and ministry. The Vestry spent some time discussing the various components of an overall strategy to attract new members. However, the major focus of conversation was how parishioners could grow in their natural capability to be the major ambassadors for their faith and their church. We planned to build on the experience of Vestry members, as we have been sharing our own experience with "enthusiastic evangelism" at our monthly Vestry meetings. We affirmed our intention to equip parishioners for "evangelism" by destigmatizing the term and identifying occasions and ways to talk about our church to potential seekers. More will be done on this initiative when we identify a staff member to assume leadership of this work.

Space Utilization & Capital maintenance

The Vestry discussed the fact that we are in the process of making some important decisions about the future of our building and grounds. During 2017, an ad hoc committee of parishioners was convened to consider the need for a chapel on our church property, something that was part of the planned south building project over 10 years ago. After considering the vision for a chapel, the committee transitioned into a committee dedicated to the task of evaluating the current need for building space, chapel or otherwise. This spring the leaders of our parish ministries responded to a call to share information on what space they currently use and what additional space would further their ministry. The Vestry is looking forward to reviewing the recommendation of the committee and weighing it against other projects which require significant capital, including major maintenance projects which are looming on the horizon.

Stewardship

A windfall of donations beyond promised pledging level caused us to finish 2017 "in the black" financially. However, the Vestry realizes the need to be realistic about our finances going forward. Initiatives to Increase our focus on pastoral care and grow our membership take financial support. We also have several ministry and outreach goals which would require an increase in operational funding. All the while, we continue to be challenged by the capital needs of maintaining our large and aging campus. We discussed our continued need for fiscal discipline, adhering to budgets which reflect the current level of stewardship. We also discussed how to better engage parishioners in owning the real cost of running the church and the constraints that our current level of stewardship puts on our true financial stability. Our capital maintenance needs represent a promissory note that will eventually come due.

Special limited goal for Spring, 2018 Promotion of Same Sex Marriage at General Convention

Your Vestry discussed how we might support all actions that encourage the General Convention, meeting this month, to close the loophole which limits the availability of Same Sex Marriage in all dioceses. Our discussion included consideration of a Vestry resolution, lobbying at hearings, and withholding apportionment over longer term if unsuccessful. After our retreat, all Vestry members signed a resolution endorsing our support for a change which was mailed to all convention delegates.

In Conclusion

We hope that this glimpse into our discussions gives you an indication that your Vestry is considering current and future needs as we make decisions for our church. We also hope you can see our love for this community reflected in our work. Vestry members look forward to learning more about how you feel about these issues. Watch the weekly Notices for more information on opportunities to connect with us! 🙏



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
Transfiguration

Mission

The mission of Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration is to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

Vision

We seek to be an inclusive community of disciples who love God and follow Jesus through reverent worship, compassionate service, formative education, and sacrificial stewardship.

Introducing



Our church is moving to a new kind of church record keeping solution (or member database) called Realm®, which offers some exciting opportunities to support the way you are involved at Transfiguration. Realm will make it easier for our members to connect with each other, keep up with what's going on, and grow as a connected community of believers.

This new tool will enable you to:

1. View your giving history and give online.
2. Connect with your groups and classes throughout the week. You can keep track of upcoming meetings, who is bringing what, and what is going on in each other's lives.
3. Register for events (without having to input all of your information every time!). You'll be able to view upcoming church events and register for the ones you'd like to attend. If an event's registration requires payment, you'll see its cost, any required deposit amount, and acceptable forms of payment.
4. View up to date contact information, no directory needed! Everyone in our church gets a unique profile. Your profile contains everything you want people in our church to know about you. Your profile also enables you to join a small group, RSVP to events, track your giving, update your contact information, change family details, set notification preferences, or replace that outdated family photo.



How do I sign up?

You will receive an email from the church with a personalized link for you to create an account by mid-July. Click on the link and follow the instructions. You will log in with the email address already on file at the church, so if you need to update your email address, please call the church office to speak with Sophie or Meghan, or email Sophie at slowrance@transfiguration.net. If you have any trouble, stop by the Library on Sunday mornings between July 22 to August 5 for in-person help. 🙋



Please note, Realm replaces MyFigFamily. The interface is easier to use and provides us with more options. Once you're set up in the system, if you'd like to download the app for your phone, it is called RealmConnect.

Why Transfiguration?

//We attend church to strengthen our relationship with God and Jesus and we feel we can do that by worshiping in service and by walking through life with church friends by our sides.

Lacey and Sergio Garcia

We are so happy to have finally found a church home that fits us so well.

We didn't follow a traditional path to get here, though. Sergio grew up Catholic and switched to an evangelical church in high school and throughout college. Lacey grew up Baptist and switched to non-denominational in college. After we got married, we attended quite a few churches throughout Dallas to try and find a fit for us. We did not attend an Episcopalian Church until we moved to the East coast for a couple of years. There we attended St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington D.C. When family issues brought us back to Texas, we immediately sought out an Episcopal church to attend here in Dallas. Lacey made a list, as she does for everything and that first Sunday in the great Episcopal Church search brought us to Transfiguration. We were greeted warmly and told all there is to know about Transfiguration. In that discussion we learned how inclusive Transfiguration is for all people and that is really what sealed the deal for us. Treating everyone equally is very important to us. We threw away the list and never looked back.

We have been attending Transfiguration for three years. The past nine months or so were part of a group that traded off teaching the Connect curriculum to children in fourth and fifth grades. It was a great opportunity to make an impact with the children of our church. What really happened is that we got to learn about Jesus and the Bible through the eyes of the children and they never failed to amaze us with their insights. For a while we knew more children than we did adults. We remedied that by starting The Way with a whole group of wonderful people last September. We attended class weekly and learned more about the Episcopalian teachings and traditions. In April, we made the decision to be confirmed together. We also attended the church retreat where we met a lot of new people and made new friends.

Our goal going forward is to continue to be involved in church activities and continue to meet new people and build friendships. We attend church to strengthen our relationship with God and Jesus and we feel we can do that by worshiping in service and by walking through life with church friends by our sides. 🙏



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 EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
Transfiguration
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Bring a *friend*
to Church!



Invite a friend to church to celebrate
the Feast of the Transfiguration.



Sunday, August 12

Bonus: there will be ice cream and
a drawing for prizes for those who
bring a guest and those who visit!