



**2021
Annual
Report**





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Rector's Report by the Rev. R. Casey Shobe, D.Min.



Another year has come and gone. Another year of seeking and serving Christ in all persons, albeit in the midst of some of the most challenging circumstances of our lives. Among all the things I'm proud of – many of which you can read about in the pages of this report – the thing about which I'm most proud is our refusal to let the pandemic define us. Our mission remained our mission, and our core values remained our core values. We had to adapt (that's an understatement), but our adaptations were the necessary steps we took to ensure we would continue to worship, learn, grow, serve, and care for each other. Which is why, in spite of everything, Transfiguration remains a flourishing beacon of God's love that continues to offer light to a lost and hurting world.



Evolution of Worship

I want to recap the evolution of worship in 2021, because it is important to maintain this story for posterity. By the time I sat down to write this (in January 2022), the details of last year were already so fuzzy that I had to consult with several members of the staff to help me piece it together. This amnesia is the product of all the stress and anxiety we've faced, making it so important that we keep a good record for the sake of those who come after us.

When 2021 began, we were still limiting worship to a simple service outside on Sunday at 11:15, and producing a recorded service for everyone to experience at home. In January, we began using our newly installed camera equipment to record the service on Wednesdays, and that footage was then beautifully edited by Alex Vorse of Shiny Box Pictures and published on Sunday morning. I am grateful to our musicians who played and led the music at the outdoor service, and to all the hearty souls who regularly braved the cold. Indeed, we welcomed more than a few newcomers in those months who have since become active members!

It was our intent to begin livestreaming on Ash Wednesday, but due to the terrible snow storm (more about that later), we were delayed by a week. Even then, we had to limit the congregation to only those who were helping with the service. Finally on March 21 we opened the service to 30 registered people, and by Holy Week, increased that number to 45. Meanwhile, we continued with our outdoor celebration of the Eucharist, which enabled us to regularly experience the holiness of the Sacrament.

At Easter, we made the Great Vigil our sole in-person service, moving it from Saturday night to early Sunday morning, and setting up a beautiful worship space beneath the Belltower. 250 attended this holiest of Christian services, which included the joyful voices of humans and birds, a bonfire in the parking lot, baptism by full immersion in a water trough, and the largest celebration of the Eucharist since the start of the pandemic. We sang Alleluia with gusto that day, for sure.

Throughout the season of Easter, we maintained both indoor and outdoor services, slowly increasing the number who could attend the livestreamed indoor service, until we reached the Day of Pentecost. That day included a visit by Bishop Wayne Smith, and we had planned another outdoor celebration like the Great Vigil, including brass instrumentalists, but at the last minute rain forced us indoors. Yet our spirits wouldn't be dampened, and for the first time in over a year, the Nave was filled to near capacity. It was a strange feeling, unsettling and joyful at the same time, to suddenly be with so many. It was also a jolt to our community that propelled us forward and kept us hopeful for better days.

Almost immediately, we decided to return to our full pre-pandemic worship schedule, including relaunching The Table on Saturdays, with no requirement to register or assigned seating, although masking would continue to be required indoors (and remains the requirement to this day). As more and more people became fully vaccinated, attendance slowly grew all summer and fall; every week, three or four parishioners would attend in-person for the first time since the pandemic began. There were many tears, joyful reunions, and prayers of gratitude.

By the grace of God, we've kept it up. Worship is the heart of this and every church, and we are proud to continue to offer the full schedule of services our community knew before the pandemic. In the fall, we conducted Evensong on Holy Cross Day and the Faure Requiem on All Souls Day; in Advent, we experienced Lessons and Carols and the Taize service on the Labyrinth; and at Christmas, we celebrated all our traditional services, including the Pageant. We continue to livestream all important services, so those who are sick, traveling, or still cautious about contagion, can participate. This is all possible thanks to the dedication of our entire corps of liturgical ministries (Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Emcees, Adult Acolytes, Youth Acolytes, Sound Techs, Ushers, Greeters). God bless each and every person who has jumped back in so we can worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Transfiguring Our Foundations

Among all the events of 2021, there are no highlights greater than the successful relaunch of the Transfiguring Our Foundations Campaign. Forced to suspend it at the outset of the pandemic, the Vestry, campaign leadership (Jim and Tammy Kirkman, Jordan and Jeremy Teeple), and I decided in early March that we would resume in April. To wait any longer threatened the loss of all momentum, and might require us to completely start over. Meanwhile, our capital maintenance needs weren't going away, and we were staring several enormous and expensive projects in the face (reroofing the church, for example). The campaign leaders, whom I admire more than I can possibly say, felt that the mood in the church was hopeful and the congregation would respond with support if asked. They were so right!

In April, we resumed our contract with CCS, reconvened our huge group of volunteers, and got to work. CCS Consultant Alex Fruin arrived shortly after and partnered carefully with the staff, the Teeples, the Kirkmans, and the whole corps of volunteers to guide our efforts. Over the next four months, over 100 personal meetings were conducted and hundreds more requests for support were mailed. By August, thanks to all this hard work, we had surpassed our original goal of \$6 million in commitments!

With that milestone reached, we set our hopes on raising \$1 million more, which would enable us to comprehensively update the Sacristy. Over the fall, we chipped away at that new goal, and finally, just before Christmas, a generous family supplemented their commitment by an addition \$250,000, bringing our fundraising to \$6.9 million. This leaves us on the doorstep of our "stretch goal," and I am extremely hopeful that, with the help of our generous parish, we will exceed that amount in coming weeks.

Meanwhile, as you can read about in the Building, Grounds, and Technology Committee Report, we've been putting all those funds to work! The exterior of all our buildings have been cleaned, seams have been caulked or tuck-pointed;

skylights replaced; cracked sidewalks repaired; the parking lot improved and restriped; locking mechanisms replaced. This coming spring, we'll reroof the church, airlift in new air handlers, and begin work on refinishing Roper Hall. The Roper Kitchen remodel is also scheduled for this spring and summer. And thanks to our successful fundraising, we've begun working with an architectural firm on plans for a renovated Sacristy, so that when we reach \$7 million, we can be ready.

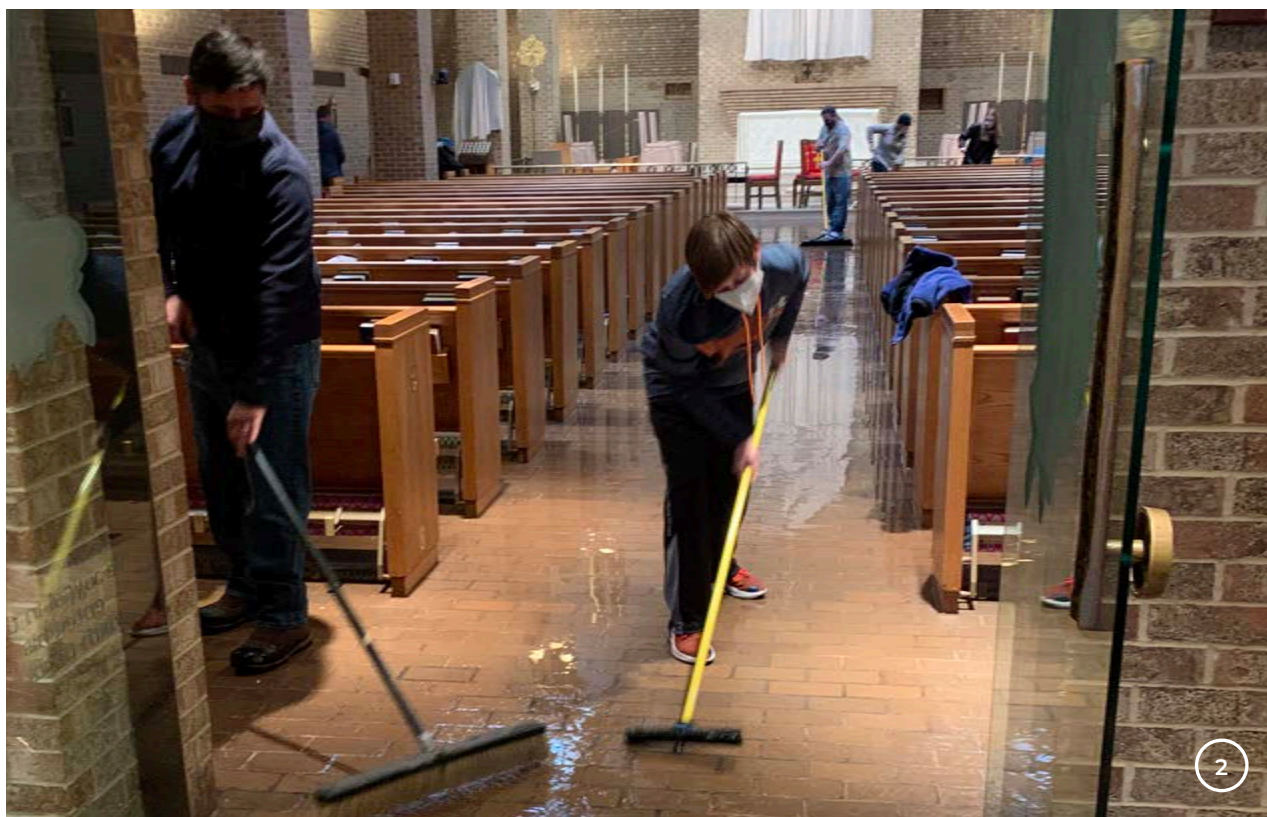
Thanks to all of you, the campaign will accomplish what we set out to do: help us leave this place better than we found it, and ensure our beloved campus is a blessing to future generations.

Frozen Ash Wednesday

On the morning of the strangest Ash Wednesday in memory, in the midst of the terrible winter storm that gripped Texas for nearly a week, a frozen pipe burst in the ceiling just outside the north transept. The building was empty, so it gushed forth, slowly filling the surrounding area, including the nave. In a few hours' time, nearly two inches of water stood in every corner of the church, from transept to transept to all the way to the Gathering Space, and was inching past the Memorial Garden toward Roper Hall.

The burst pipe was part of the fire alarm sprinkler system, which meant that it triggered our emergency system. Normally, the sound of the alarm would have alerted everyone on campus, but no one was around due to the icy roads, and the sound of the alarm, muffled by the snow, didn't ever reach the ears of our neighbors. A local Fire-Rescue team was dispatched to the church, but owing to a mistake that we've since corrected, they were unable to get inside and couldn't reach anyone by phone.

Just when the damage might have become irreparable, a neighbor, John Selzer, happened to walk by the church and heard the alarm. On impulse, he called his neighbors, Jordan and Jeremy Teeple. Jordan immediately texted me, and I got in touch with our Director of Operations, Bracken Reece. The water was soon turned off, volunteers called



in, and after four long hours of hard, wet work, the church was safe and drying out.

Without John Selzer, a Good Samaritan if ever there was one, this story would have an entirely different outcome: heroes are made when ordinary people care enough to speak up. And we also owe a debt to Sr. Warden Oliver Cone, parishioners Cesar Hernandez, Eric Smith, David and Janet Wilson, Jodi and Kirby Dalton, Wendy Cone, Jordan and Jeremy Teeple, and a whole troop of hard-working kids! I had to pause from squeegeeing the floor several times for the tears in my eyes at the sight of everyone quietly laboring away. Let me tell you, our church was filled with many prayers that Ash Wednesday, but it was sweat and not ashes that adorned our heads.

Ultimately, we were spared the worst, and there was no permanent damage to our church. We were back in the church that weekend for worship, and life carried on without too much interruption. I only wish that was true for the thousands of our neighbors who also suffered burst pipes, severe damage, or other dangers as a result of the storm.

Navigating the Pandemic

Throughout this long pandemic ordeal, I have relied upon the Vestry and Staff to help make decisions. We have sought to balance caution with creativity, and do all we can to maintain the ministry life of our church while respecting the dangers to public health. I am grateful beyond words for all the messages of encouragement and words of gratitude you've expressed during the long ordeal. Your support has meant the world to our leaders, because it helped us know we were finding the right balance and keeping us moving forward. We continue to preserve a spirit of caution as we look ahead to 2022, which is why we maintain our mask-requirement and will be slow to resume indoor refreshments. The changes thrust upon all of us during the pandemic have been enormous and persistent, so one of our goals is to introduce change as carefully as possible.

The biggest challenge of the pandemic has been the gradual detachment of a significant number of our community. In the last year, the Staff and I feel like we've "seen" (either in-person or

virtually) about two-thirds of our congregation, and the number of pledging households for 2022 is also about three-quarters of the 2021 total. It will be extremely important in the next few years that we find ways to reconnect with people who have, as a result of the pandemic, drifted into deep orbit or detached completely from any sort of involvement.

Gratitude for the Team

I have never felt more grateful for the people with whom I serve. The Staff of Transfiguration are among the best people I know, and they all, to a person, love what they do. They consider it a privilege to serve our congregation, and they are passionately committed to helping us live out our mission. In 2021 we said goodbye to a few – Deacon Ginny Kivel was assigned to a new parish in early summer, Dana Jean left to begin seminary in August, and Cindy Hauser retired in early September – but God has provided new servants to join our team: the Rev. Ted Clarkson returned to us in July as Curate, Michael Sturdy began that same month as Interim Director of Youth Ministries, and Allison Blalock arrived in August to become our new Director of Children's Ministries, David Stanley became Music Director for The Table, and Fred Ellis welcomes visitors at the reception desk.

This is a battle-tested bunch, who has demonstrated creativity, commitment, and deep faithfulness. In the past year, we've led hundreds of reverent worship services, preached our hearts out, made gorgeous music, taught inspiring classes, lovingly cared for the sick and dying, devotedly served our children and youth, diligently maintained our facilities and finances, and compassionately responded to the needs of the suffering outside our walls. And with the support, efforts, and generosity of everyone who calls our church home, the staff will help us be ready for whatever 2022 may throw at us.

Ordaining a Priest

On July 8, barely a week after beginning on staff as Curate, Transfiguration hosted the ordination to the priesthood of the Rev. Ted Clarkson. Bishop Scott Mayer of the Episcopal Church in North Texas (formerly the Diocese of Fort Worth) presided, and Fr. Casey preached. Ted was a significant lay leader of our church for a decade, before beginning seminary at Sewanee, so the joy was deeply personal for many who had encouraged Fr. Ted along the way to that day.

Navigating the Future

You need no reminder of the challenges of these times. In addition to, and no doubt also the result of the pandemic, we are becoming angrier, pettier, and less forgiving. One study says that charitable giving is in rapid decline, including among those who associate with religion. We've been steeping so long in stress and anxiety that the fabric of our society is beginning to tear. We saw that on fiery display last January 6 at the United States Capitol, but there are smaller fires smoldering all around us all the time – at restaurants and the grocery store, on airplanes and in traffic, in classrooms and school board meetings.

There are no magical fixes for times like these. There is no leader, no election, no act of Congress that will solve what ails us. Just like we didn't arrive at the bottom of this deep chasm overnight, we will not claw our way out of it overnight, either. It will require the patient efforts of people who are committed to truly loving their neighbors as themselves, which must be lived out daily, hourly, minute-by-minute. Christians with a passion for justice, mercy, and inclusion may be a tiny minority of our society, but I believe we are the smokejumpers who will eventually turn the tide on the catastrophic blaze that is bearing down on our world. We may be few in numbers, but our courage and steadfastness, combined with the tools we bear – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, gentleness – will be the way God leads us through this smoldering valley to greener pastures.



Membership

In 2021 Transfiguration welcomed

39 New Members

11 Adult Wayfarers

284 Formation Class
Participants



New Members

Courtney Barrow
Jameson Barrow
Dechlan Barrow
Adelaide Barrow
Nick Bennett
Billie Bennett
Allison Blalock
Lydia Brandt
Andrew Britton
Chris Carson
Jonah Cave
Shannon Cave
Betsy Cave

James Cave
Ed DeStefano
Jim Eason
Roy Enriguez
William Floyd
Cara Floyd
William Jr. Floyd
David Gray
Pace Irvin
Lauren Kelly
Michele Mrak
Rob Mullins
Joseph Palacios

Pete Peterson
Mary Peterson
Samuel Peterson
Katherine Peterson
Jan Reynolds
Susie Rodriguez
J.J. Rodriguez
Josh Scott
Cynthia Taylor
Sabrina Taylor
Max Taylor
Melanie Williams
Anabelle Yates

Faithful Departed

Jane Hall Ferguson
Nicholas Spiros Georges
William Henry Grona
Betsey Peale Hardman
Judith Ann Harrell
Virginia Carole Johnson

Sue Anne Kerrigan-Kempton
Richard Edward Kerner
Ann Sharpe Mason
Jeffrey B. Mullins
Elizabeth Anne O'Donnell
Nancy Mae Park

Allyn S. Patrick
Betty Marie Sacchetti
Marion Davenport Triano
Lois Alline Waller

Baptisms

Brynn Charlotte Bean
Rachel Wilder DeVey
Hannah Jane Thompson
Georgia Claire Baker
Declan Thomas Paulus

Owen Biscardi Beckley
Sophia Artemis Matsumura
Cecilia Adelaide Surley-Strong
Ian Jacob Renner
Phoebe Rose Hill

Marriages

Diane Lowe and Michael Durrance



Staff Reports

Administration by Sophie Lowrance



The Administration Office exists within Transfiguration to enable and support the many ministries of the church and staff that rely on a solid infrastructure to function and flourish. Our goal is to provide a high level of excellence in accounting and financial reporting practices, human resources, legal and tax issues, and risk assessment and management.

2021 was another year of changes for the church and office staff with our shift back into the office after being home for many months. Thanks to the incredible flexibility and dedication of Mary Hall, Jill Carpenter, Robin Caldwell, and Allison Murphy, we continued to manage our office responsibilities through email, Zoom meetings, regular check-in texts, and phone calls. In addition, we navigated our first full financial audit, renewed our lease with Parish Episcopal School, coordinated the installation of a new columbarium unit, and transitioned the public phase of the Transfiguring our Foundations Capital Campaign to a continuation committee, among many other things. Thankfully, our hybrid situation of in-person and virtual services did not deter the congregation's generosity as many embraced alternate methods of giving, and we continued to see more online donations, recurring gifts, and pledges through Realm.

There were several staff departures in 2021: Cindy Hauser, Director of Children's Ministry; Dana Jean, Director of Youth Ministry; and Deacon Ginny Kivel. We welcomed four new staff: Ted Clarkson, Curate; Allison Blalock, Director of Children's Ministry; Michael Sturdy, Interim Director of Youth Ministry; and Fred Ellis, receptionist. It has been an honor for the administrative staff to serve Transfiguration over this past year, and we remain grateful for the continued support of the congregation.



Adult Formation by the Rev. Rebecca Tankersley



Adult formation seeks to nurture spiritual growth by providing a deeper understanding of and ability to communicate the Christian faith, guiding participants to engage their faith in all aspects of daily life, and facilitating growth as humans made in the image of God.

In 2021, we focused on connection and community. In the spring, we met virtually and offered connection opportunities through small group break-out sessions. Our topics included: the early conflicts which shaped Christianity, Christ's Epiphany manifestations, theologies of atonement, the Psalms, and the Great Fifty Days of Easter. In these spring classes, we welcomed the Rev. Dr. Paul Bradshaw, the Rev. Dr. Lauren Winner, the Rev. Dr. Jaime Clark-Soles, and the Rev. Dr. Mark Stamm as guest instructors. We celebrated an immersion baptism at the Easter Vigil, as well as fifteen confirmations and four reaffirmations on Pentecost. In the fall, we offered two hybrid (virtual and in person) classes: Community with the Corinthians (welcoming back Dr. Clark-Soles) and The Wired Word. In September, The Way began meeting in person preparing adults for the Christian faith and life. This year, 12 Wayfarers began a journey into deeper faith; they are joined and supported by 7 Companions.

We also offered a variety of special formation events. Over MLK Weekend, we co-hosted (with Good Shepherd Episcopal Church) Dr. Lerita Coleman Brown to teach on author and theologian Howard Thurman, a key mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr. Our online Lenten program, "The Sermon on the Mount", featured Dr. Amy Jill Levine and offered participants connection through small groups. Pastor Nancy DeStefano continued her 34-week Disciple Bible Study. In November, we held a joint service of Thanksgiving with the Rev. Dr. Michael Waters' church, Abundant Life AME. We spent Advent in Narnia and were blessed by the Rev. Heidi Haverkamp's reflections in our first class and Drs. Roy Heller and Robert Patten's contributions throughout the series. We ended the year by offering a service of the Longest Night.

In 2022, our Lenten program will be "A Celebration of Discipline." This program is designed around Richard Foster's beloved book, and our speaker each week will focus on a different discipline we might practice to draw closer to Christ.

I am deeply grateful to serve among the Transfiguration staff. In particular this year, I am thankful for TJ McCoy and Lana Mederos who ensure our hybrid classes run smoothly, for all who lead the daily office online, and for Allison Blalock and Michael Sturdy who are leading outstanding formation for our children and youth. I remain thankful for both the annual budget and St. Catherine's Fund, which together make possible these opportunities to grow in knowledge, prayer, and faithfulness to our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Children's Ministries by Allison Blalock



It has been a joy and pleasure to begin my ministry this fall with the children and families of Transfiguration. Children's Ministries' focus age group is six weeks old through fifth grade and works to grow and encourage a spiritual life in children in partnership with their parents. Children are introduced to God's love through faith formation classes, worship, prayer, story, play, service, and outreach. We begin Sunday mornings offering an interactive age-appropriate chapel service for children ages four through second grade to help children experience Scripture, prayer, and worship in ways they understand and enjoy.

We offer a Montessori curriculum, Godly Play, during our faith formation hour. Children experience a nurturing play-based environment in which they learn, grow, and belong.

Childcare is provided during our Sunday worship services and the faith formation hour. In addition to our Sunday offerings, our children are ministered to through: Blessing of the Backpacks, third grade Bibles, First Informed Communion, the Advent Festival, our Christmas pageant, a Lenten program, Passion experience for families and children's Stations of the Cross, age-appropriate worship services during Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter, a weeklong Vacation Bible School, opportunities to serve in a variety of ministries within our parish as lectors, acolytes, and choir members, and outreach opportunities, especially, but not exclusively, with our ImpactKids (4th & 5th graders).

Children's Ministries offers a professional nursery staff and adult volunteers in their ministry to children. All are dedicated and passionate in their love for God and about his purposes for children. In 2021, Children's Ministries outreach projects were in service to Our Friends Place and Austin Street Center.

We at Transfiguration celebrate the spiritual interest and desire we see in our children and their love for God. We are blessed by and thank the many parents who take seriously their role in nurturing a spiritual life in their children.



Communications by TJ McCoy



In 2021, the Communications Department was integral to the growth, flourishing, and impact of the myriad ministries of Transfiguration. From creative and timely updates on formation and outreach, to rich worship tools and remote access to services, we helped our people navigate another year of unpredictability by seamlessly extending the reach of our ministries far beyond the walls of our church.

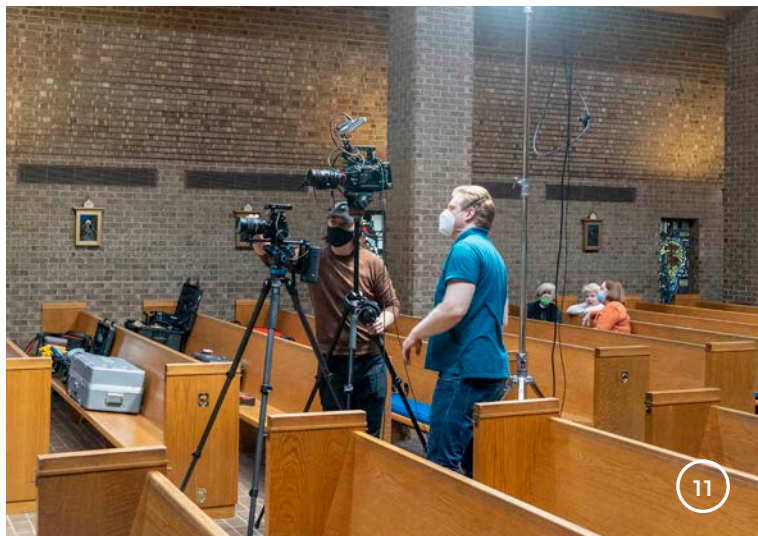
In February, after a year of pre-recording worship services on Wednesdays for Sunday viewing, we made a transition to live-streamed services. This enables a more natural schedule for clergy, staff, and volunteers and provides a more intimate, organic connection to those worshipping from afar. It also offers distant loved ones access to funeral services and allows would-be concert-goers a way to experience beautiful music and liturgy, live, with their church family. We have since streamed over eighty services from the Nave to locations as far off as the United Kingdom and Australia.

Thanks to a little persistence and a good measure of grace from our formation class participants, most of our formation classes at the Fig can now also be accessed as a hybrid experience – both in-person and via Zoom. We hope you'll take advantage and join in as we welcome guests, discuss books, and grow as Christians together.

Alex Vorse of Shiny Box Pictures recorded and edited our Easter Day service, butterfly release, and a series of beautiful testimonial videos promoting the *Transfiguring Our Foundations* capital campaign. We are so grateful to the featured parishioners of that campaign. Your faithful, heartfelt stories helped us reach our campaign goals!

Last year we published a new issue of *Illumine* and produced dozens of postcards, brochures, mailers, greeting cards, surveys, and large-format images to inform, engage, and promote Fig programming and campaigns. It takes a village to do what we do every day. We are grateful to Fr. Ted for preparing bulletins for all worship services and special occasions, and Michael Sturdy for publishing our weekly enews and notices.

Special thanks to parishioners Robert Hacker and John Makowski for their continued generosity – capturing photos of church life at the Fig. And to Al Blackwell for learning the ropes and writing the training manual for future livestream volunteers.



Evangelism & Welcoming Ministries by Anne Schmidt



This year as we emerged from lockdown, we focused on “Belonging.” When we asked you to name one word that describes Transfiguration, the most frequent response was “welcoming.” Thank you all; you make my job easy.

The culture of welcome continued, despite many hurdles, in 2021. We experienced a steady stream of visitors to our virtual worship and, once we resumed indoor worship, those visitors joined us in person. We welcomed more than 70 guests this year, of whom 39 have formalized their membership and more are new and attending regularly. We know, too, that we welcome folks to worship every weekend via our livestream, though we often don’t know who they are.

We held two newcomer events this past year: one in May via Zoom and the other in person in September. It is always a joy to gather our new people and hear the stories that led them here.

Our Greeters continue to amaze me and are the smiling faces our guests see when they first arrive. We need more Greeters (especially at 11:15), so if you are interested let me know. It’s easy and fun and a great way to get to know more people. Families can do this ministry together.

In collaboration with the Vestry and with a generous grant from the Endowment Fund, we launched a name tag initiative in September. Emerging from our separation caused by the pandemic prompted us to revive this simple act of hospitality. Wearing a name tag helps us know and remember each other and makes it easier for new people to learn names. We have had a tremendous response with over 400 magnetic name tags ordered. Sadly, the supply chain issues have caused delays in delivery. Even so, our new magnetic name tag storage board soon will be filled.

Last year we served as a “co-host” with Saint Michael and All Angels’ for the CEEP (Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes) Annual Conference. This conference was planned to be held in downtown Dallas but because of COVID became a “virtual” conference. Ordinarily, we would have hosted about 700 Episcopalians from across the country in our church and city. As it turned out, we welcomed 1100 people virtually into our naves for live



prayers and words of welcome. Transfiguration has been a member of CEEP for many years, and our relationship to the other churches in the network has served the staff, vestry and endowment members well. I have served as President of the CEEP board for the last 1 ½ years and appreciate the support of all of you in this work.

Music Ministries by Joel Martinson



Introduction

The year 2021 took the form of a gradual crescendo of activity in the Music Ministry as we transitioned from recorded services with archived recordings to indoor live services with congregational and choral singing once again. These twelve months have not been without stops and starts, as we had to adjust plans to respond to the surge of COVID-19 and its variants in our community.

Highlights of the Year

The section leaders and I recorded music for Advent and Christmas which I edited and posted as “A Celebration of Music” on January 6 on our Facebook and YouTube pages. Dorothy Baker, our choir music librarian, was awarded the Tau Cross & Crown at the annual meeting.

On February 21, Lent 1, we held the first live service in the church with organ and soloist. The following Sunday our five section leaders sang as the choir. The choir expanded over Lent and Easter seasons to be a sextet, octet, and small chamber choir, until 30-some members of the Transfiguration Choir sang for the Pentecost service accompanied by Imperial Brass.

In the Easter season we restarted Wednesday rehearsals of the choir in three alternating groups and continued with sectionals and social time in June. On June 6 we began our return to “normalcy” by dividing the entire Transfiguration Choir into four groups to sing the two Sunday services in the church on alternating weeks. That weekend, the 5:30 Saturday service – The Table – resumed, as well, with David Stanley directing the music.

Our children’s and youth choirs began rehearsals in September and have sung several times for worship services. The Bella Musica Handbell Choir rehearsed in November and December and played at the December 12 services for the first time since March 8, 2020.

First Professional Organ Recordings of Opus 17

Christopher Anderson, Associate Professor of Sacred Music at SMU Perkins School of Theology recorded Max Reger’s 52 Chorales, Opus 67 in May. It will soon be released by Centaur Records in compact disc and downloadable formats.

Our Artist-in-Residence Stefan Engels recorded J. S. Bach’s Advent chorales and other works at Transfiguration in the first days of 2022. This CD is part of Professor Engels’ project of recording the complete organ works of Bach and will be released with two CDs of Christmas music on the Motette Ursina label in the coming months.

Music Fund of the Church of the Transfiguration Endowment

The 2021 Music Fund disbursement from the Endowment Trustees enabled 12 chairs to be ordered from New Holland Church Furniture for the Performance Hall. Donations from parishioners and funds from the Music Restricted account added 18 more chairs to the order.

We now have 50 wooden chairs in the Performance Hall as permanent seating for choir rehearsals and Art Music performances in honor of Frances and Robert Martin, in thanksgiving for their gift of gilding the organ carvings.

Upcoming Sabbatical

I am looking forward to a three-month sabbatical this coming May through July which will take me to Scandinavia to experience choir and organ music in the three capitals of Copenhagen, Oslo, and Stockholm. I am thankful to the Sabbatical Committee and Vestry for granting approval of my plan and look forward to sharing the trip by a presentation next season.



Youth Ministries by Michael Sturdy



“Don’t talk about COVID. We’re tired of talking about it all the time!” These were my marching orders from the Youth Council during our first meeting of the school year. We might not be back to normal, but we also weren’t going to let it ruin the things we love about youth life at the Fig.

So we started youth events outdoors instead of indoors, thanks especially to the new Parish Pavilion, which provided shade during the hot August and September nights. Food hadn’t come back to Wednesday nights, but prayer, fellowship, and games had.

Meanwhile, in Sunday school we began a new series on the early Church, discussing how people with one thing in common – Jesus – could create a community despite the many things they disagreed on. An era of the Church filled with grace and understanding, where Christians’ starting point was “What is best for the Body of Christ?”

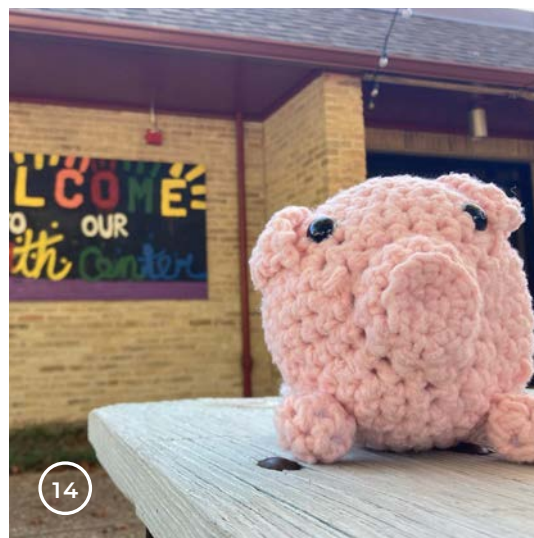
This September the youth answered a call from the North Texas Food Bank and hosted a peanut butter drive. Peanut butter is a shelf stable source of protein that often appeals to children who might be picky eaters. To help children experiencing food instability in North Texas, Fig Youth raised and donated 136 pounds of peanut butter!

In October we continued our partnership with Our Saviour Community Gardens, doing the hard work of beautification for an organization that suffered some major setbacks in the last year. October also saw the return of food to Wednesday night Crossovers, with extra lighting over our picnic tables thanks to the amazing Transfiguration operations team.

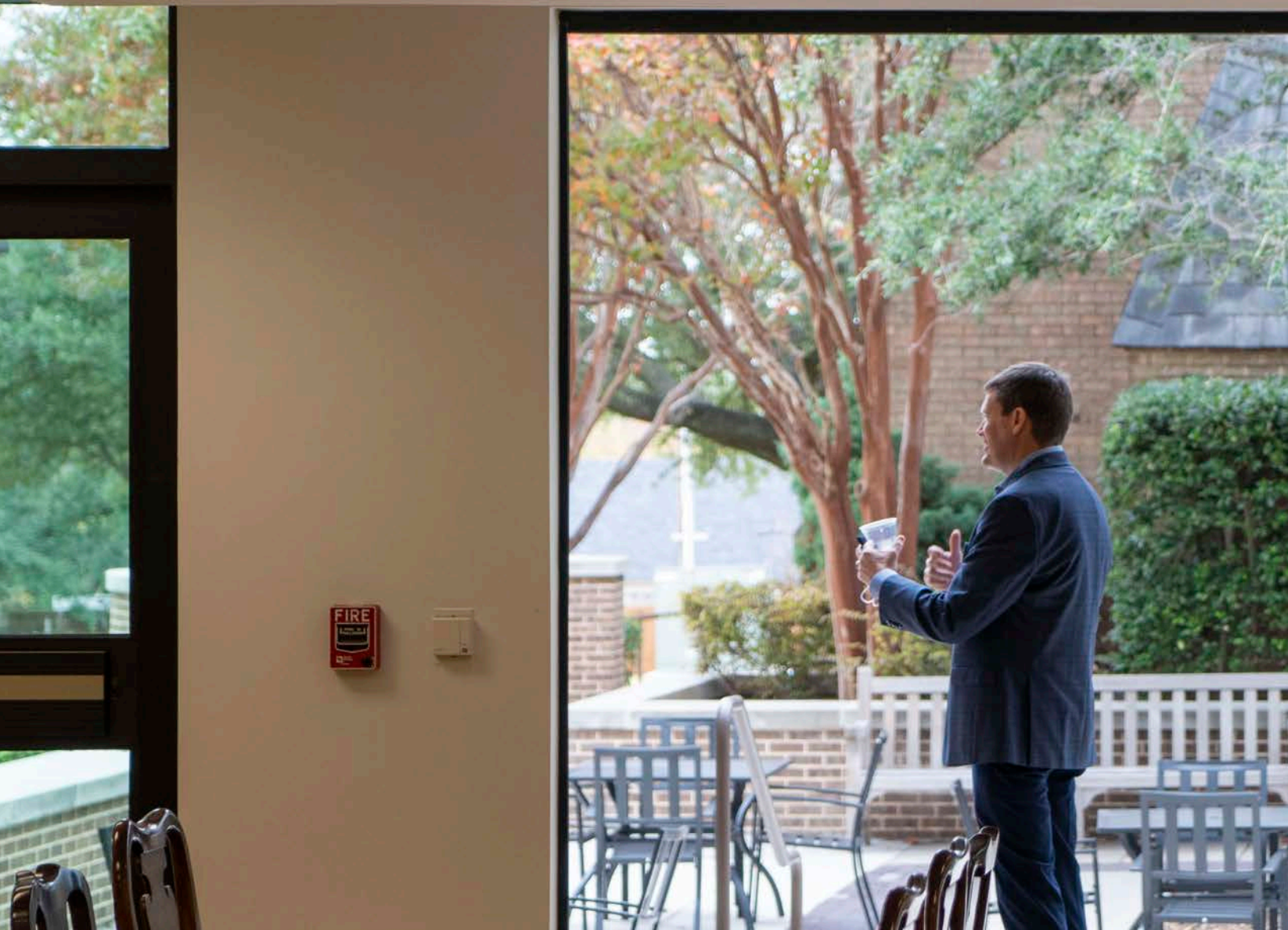
November was dedicated to jumping in with both feet to help Children’s ministry pull off the magical Advent Family Sunday in Narnia, from constructing artificial Christmas trees to painting sleighs to costumed characters from The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. We also introduced our new mascot, the Fig Pig, created by one of our talented sixth graders.

As regular programming and special events have returned – including our return home to our beloved Youth Center – we have seen the return of the adult volunteers who make everything worth, from our Sunday school teachers (who couldn’t contain their excitement for getting back to in-person talks) to Crossover volunteers who always make time for a game of pool or an art project, Fig Youth volunteers have made this year of transition back to in-person life a breeze.

We’ll be masked, we’ll eat outdoors, we’ll stay home for the night if we get sick, but COVID won’t stop us from being the Fig Youth. We’ve got better things to do!







Vestry Reports

Senior Warden's Report by Oliver Cone

2021 unfolded in much the same way as 2020 – with the Vestry, staff and congregation of Transfiguration having to adapt to the frequently changing and uncertain effects of a global health pandemic – and yet, just as last year, we collectively took some truly meaningful steps to support our church's continued growth and mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

Among the priorities established at the Vestry's virtual retreat in February was a commitment to providing the financial stability required to meet the staffing needs of the church. We have for several years operated with fewer full-time clergy and staff members than many parishes of our size, which ultimately limits our growth and possibilities, and places a heavy burden on the team we do have. We supported continuing the decision made in 2020 to make the Director of Youth Ministries a full-time position, and enthusiastically welcomed (back) the Rev. Ted Clarkson as full-time Curate.

After putting our capital campaign on hold in 2020, the Vestry elected to relaunch in March and spent much time this past year prioritizing and funding key projects. Just as we need to invest in clergy and staff if we are to sustain and expand our ministries, the Vestry believes strongly that we have an obligation to maintain and upgrade our campus and buildings to ensure a safe, welcoming and nourishing environment for years to come.

On a related note, in 2021 we renewed and amended the agreement between Transfiguration and Parish Episcopal School for PES's use of buildings and spaces on our campus. This new agreement updated some of the operating and capital cost-sharing calculations and extended the arrangement through the middle of 2034.

Three years of serving on the Vestry has opened my eyes to the commitment and hard work of so many people who make Transfiguration the wonderful church community it is. We are blessed by the efforts of a relatively small number of remarkable people, including clergy, staff and volunteers, and every contribution of time, talents and treasure has an outsized impact.

Knowing our collective potential and recognizing the budgetary constraints we are facing in an environment of rising costs, I ask you all to support the Vestry's commitment to growth by pledging to our operating fund and finding an opportunity to get involved in the life and ministries of Transfiguration wherever your interests and talents lie.



Budget, Finance & Administration by Robin Caldwell

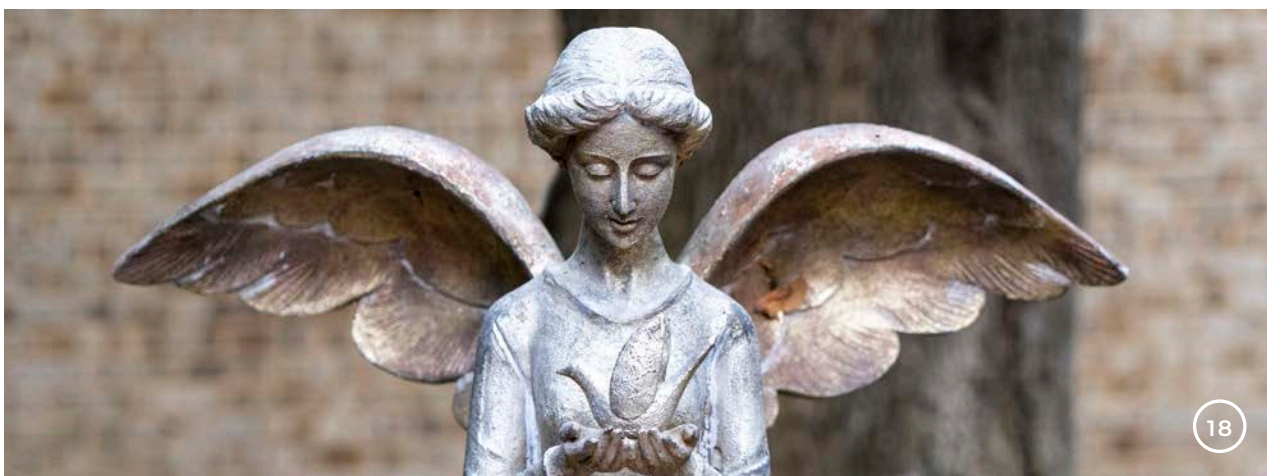
The Vestry's Budget, Finance & Administration Committee (BFA) supports the church's mission by monitoring and advising on all financial and administration matters relating to church business. BFA develops the annual parish budget for approval by the Vestry and reports monthly on the church's financial position relative to the budget as well as activity in restricted ministry and investment accounts. BFA provides a liaison to the Transfiguration Endowment trustees, facilitating communications and cooperation between the Endowment and the Vestry. This year, Mark Ramsay served as the liaison. This year's committee was chaired by Robin Caldwell who extends many thanks to this year's committee: Paul Brown, Kristin Cutts, Lacey Garcia, Louis Guion, Cesar Hernandez, Beth Hotchko, Sophie Lowrance, Allison Murphy, and Mark Ramsay.

The parish recognizes that COVID had a substantial negative effect on many households and thanks those who were able to maintain or increase their support this year.

Along with overseeing the Church's first full financial audit, as appropriate for a church of its size, BFA reviewed and updated the Parish Policies & Procedures Manual; began a review of Parish Bylaws; established a Risk Management Committee (chaired by Bill Evans), and established, in partnership with Endowment, the Capital Sustainability Fund associated with

the Transfiguring Our Foundations Capital Campaign. Additionally, the Columbarium Committee (chaired by Paul Sternweis) undertook a review of the long-term financial health of the Columbarium, installing Section C in the Memorial Garden and updating Columbarium documents. A Sabbatical Committee (chaired by Rosemary Luquire) was established and met to review upcoming sabbaticals, ensuring appropriate preparation and funding capacity. In May, the Small Business Administration approved Transfiguration's Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness application.

BFA also exercises oversight of the Nominating Committee for open Vestry positions and our Diocesan Convention delegation. The 2021 Nominating Committee was well-chaired by Kristin Cutts who led the committee, as well as both the on-line and in-person voting, under COVID-dictated healthy circumstances. The following recommended slate for Vestry was approved: Chip Brownlee, Gabrielle Guion, Jeremy Teeple and Peter Young. Also elected by the parish was our 2022 Diocesan Convention delegation: Robin Caldwell, Oliver Cone, Barbara (Babs) DeLizza, Alan Dunlop, Louise Cottingham Harms and Elaine Sweet. Many thanks are extended to the Nominating Committee for their hard work: Laurel Brewster, Claire Collins, Babs DeLizza, Michael Durrance, Barbara Geiter, David Reece, Tessa Samarripas, and Kerry Tate.



Building, Grounds & Technology by Jodi Dalton

The Building, Grounds and Technology Committee of the Vestry is charged with monitoring and supervising the use, conditions, repair, improvement and sustainability of all building and grounds on Church's property, as well as the technology utilized by Transfiguration to carry out its ministry in a method and manner consistent with its core mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

The Capital Campaign moved into high gear in 2021, and as pledges have been received the work to address the needs outlined in the 2019 facility audit began in earnest. In calendar 2021 more than \$200,000 was expended to complete a variety of projects including repairs: re-stripping and landscaping of the parking lot; the replacement of the labyrinth skylight; replacement of all of the door locking systems; and various Heating and Air-conditioning repairs (with more to come!).

The main Sanctuary will be reroofed this spring utilizing Tesla Solar tiles. The energy produced by the tiles will be directly wired into the Church's electrical system, reducing our electrical usage and helping to address our long term goal for a zero carbon footprint.

Design work for an update of Roper Hall and a full renovation of the Roper Hall kitchen is underway and that work will be completed in 2022.

Beyond the Capital Campaign, 2021 saw the completion of the improvements to the Parlor Courtyard and the addition of new doors opening from the parlor to that space, the completion of the outdoor pavilion and work to expand the Columbarium.

The winter storms of last February did not leave us unscathed. The extreme cold led to the rupture of a sprinkler line outside of the North Transept that flooded the Sanctuary. Various parishioners, staff and even neighbors braved the cold and ice to come and clean up the mess and we avoided any major damage.

Very special thanks are due to Director of Operations Bracken Reece, and his staff for their dedication and hard work in keeping this entire operation running so smoothly. We could not do it without them.



Transfiguring Our Foundations

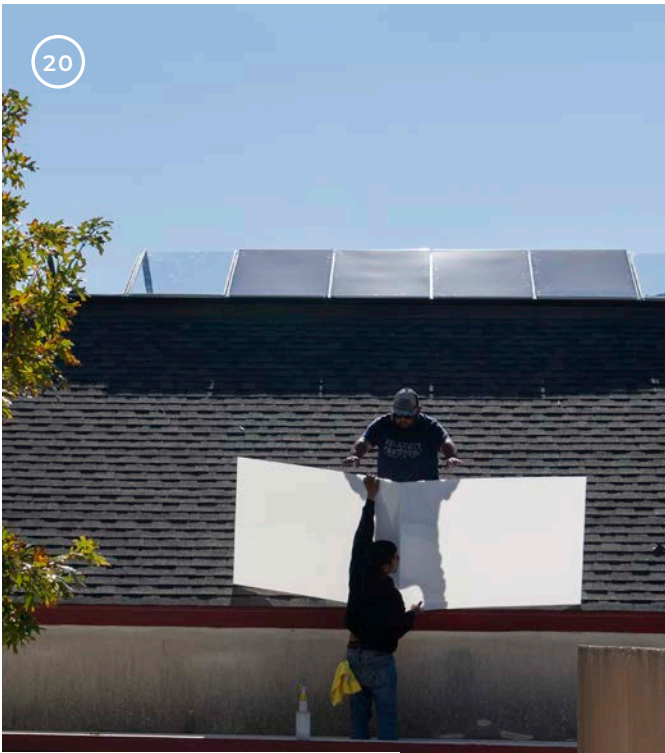
by Jordan & Jeremy Teeple and Tammy & Jim Kirkman

The *Transfiguring Our Foundations* Capital Campaign initially began in January 2020 with the goal of raising \$6 million to fund numerous capital projects and establish a Capital Sustainability Fund to ensure our ability to fund future maintenance. After raising over \$2 million in only two months in early 2020, we were forced to suspend campaign activities due to the proliferation of COVID. After much discernment, church leadership and our campaign consultants reengaged in early 2021 and restarted campaign activities.

Throughout the spring and summer of this year, a highly energized and passionate group of over two dozen volunteers participated in weekly campaign meetings via Zoom and conducted hundreds of in person meetings and phone calls with fellow parishioners to educate them about the campaign. Momentum began to build during the summer, and it became apparent how much Transfiguration means to so many of its parishioners.

Given the campaign's success, we elected to establish a stretch goal of \$7 million, with the incremental amount being used to replace the Sacristy. We have seen significant interest in this project given the important role it plays for so many of our ministries and staff, and thus will continue the campaign in a limited fashion in 2022 in hopes of achieving this goal. As 2021 draws to a close, the campaign has secured pledges totaling \$6.9 million, with \$3 million already collected.

As a leadership team, we are forever grateful for the hard work and countless hours the volunteers sacrificed, as well as the financial sacrifices parishioners have made, all in the name of making the Fig a safer and more welcoming place for generations to come.



\$6.9 million in Capital Campaign Pledges!

300 Pledges | \$6,907,918.94 Total | \$3,066,621.03 Collected



Mission, Ministry, and Connections Committee by Mason McCamey

2021 marked a productive time for the newly formed Mission, Ministry, and Connections Committee. Previously, two committees existed: the long-existing Mission and Ministry Committee, tasked with monitoring the health of the parish; and the nascent Connections Committee, which was created to break down walls within the parish and connect ministries to each other and people to those ministries. However, it became clear we were doubling efforts that would be better served under the leadership of one group. Thus, the Mission, Ministry, and Connections Committee (MMC) was born late in 2021 as the two existing committees were combined into one, as described in a new description of responsibilities:

The MMC shall support all parish ministries and serve as a resource for Transfiguration's outreach efforts to the broader community and world. The committee is expected to regularly communicate with and maintain a database of the ministries of the parish. Per vestry goals, the MMC will focus on those ministries which may need assistance in formation, continuation, and completion of their work. The committee shall work with parish leaders to plan annual parish-wide events, and to schedule and oversee meetings of the Parish Council. The MMC will work to provide vital relational ministry

opportunities by facilitating connections in and between ministry groups and individuals within the parish community.

Anne Schmidt, Director of Welcoming and Evangelism, became our liaison to the clergy and staff and will be joining the MMC at its monthly meeting. She has been a welcome resource to the committee by assisting in streamlining communication and pointing the committee in important directions where our assistance was needed.

Other completed goals include: assisting in finding (and being) volunteers in various capacities at parish events; continuing to keep up with the health of our parish ministries by connecting with ministry leaders; assisting in creating a digital archive of parish records and holy objects to clean up our physical storage as well as to secure our archive of parish documents and objects for longevity; and directing a visioning workshop with the Racial Justice Ministry.

The MMC will continue under the leadership of new chairperson Linda Horton. Though the last two years have been difficult, particularly in the subdued nature of parish life experienced mostly at home, I thank the parish and my fellow committee and vestry members for the honor of being trusted to lead.





A photograph of a group of people, mostly women, standing in a church lobby. They are all wearing face masks. The lobby has high brick walls and large windows, including a stained glass window. The people are engaged in conversation. A woman in a colorful patterned top is holding a piece of paper. In the foreground, the back of a person's head and shoulders are visible, and a wheelchair is partially seen in the bottom right corner.

Financial Reports

Endowment Fund by Alan Dunlop

The Transfiguration Endowment Fund receives and manages gifts and legacies for the long-term benefit of the Church and its ministries. It is managed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Vestry. The Endowment is divided into six sub-funds: Outreach, Youth, Music, the Rodgers Seminarian Fund, supporting Transfiguration members at seminary, the Infrastructure Capital Fund, investing capital campaign receipts for long term infrastructure needs, and the Legacy Fund, supporting diverse Church projects and ministries. Donations and bequests may be made to any of the sub-funds, and if you are in the process of considering or reviewing your estate planning, please consider a legacy to one of the Endowment funds. Parishioners who let us know that they have provided for the Endowment Fund in their estate plan become members of the Legacy Society.

In 2021, the Endowment agreed with the Vestry to create a new sub-fund to invest that portion of capital campaign receipts which is going to be held for the long-term infrastructure needs of the church. It is anticipated that no grants will be necessary from this sub-fund for a number of years. This sub-fund will grow quickly as more capital campaign pledges are received by the church.

During the year ended December 31, 2021, the total assets of the Endowment Fund increased from \$1,989,245 on December 31, 2020 to \$2,569,559, partially as a result of market appreciation and partially from contributions, especially to the new Infrastructure Capital Fund. During the year, the Endowment Fund received contributions of \$386,314 including bequests and other gifts. Of that amount, \$329,091 was earmarked for the Infrastructure Capital Fund. Disbursements of \$48,811 were made in

response to various grant requests. Grants included \$34,050 from the Legacy sub-fund for Church projects, \$7,900 from the Outreach sub-fund, \$2,260 from the Seminarian sub-fund to support Transfiguration's two sponsored seminarians, and \$4,601 from the Music sub-fund.

Spending in 2021 was limited to 4.25% of each sub-fund's assets, except for the Youth sub-fund which is limited by other restrictions. The spend limit for 2022 will be 4% of each sub-fund's assets.

The Endowment Fund retains the Episcopal Church Foundation, which advises many endowed parishes and schools, as its investment advisor. Investments through ECF are managed by State Street Global Advisors, investing primarily in mutual funds and ETFs and following an agreed balanced asset allocation strategy. The target asset allocation is 60% equity and 40% fixed income.

Officers of the board of trustees for 2022 are: Alan Dunlop, chair; Sergio Garcia, vice chair; Michael Widmer, secretary; and Renee Thomas, treasurer. Other trustees are Linda Ayers, George Banitch, Dana Bartholomew, John Caldwell, Bill Keslar, Carolyn Lewis and John Mottram. Special thanks are due to John Mottram for his service as treasurer during 2019, 2020 and 2021.



Stewardship

\$1.667 million
2022 Stewardship Pledges

364 Pledges

150 Increased Pledges

32 First-time Pledges

You Belong Here by Sophie Lowrance

In the fall, we launched the *You Belong Here* campaign. Throughout the pandemic, a significant way we were able to carry on, in spite of the feeling of separation, was the knowledge that we really belong at Transfiguration. We are known, appreciated, and loved at our church, because we are known, appreciated, and loved by God. This feeling of belonging fills our souls, and it also inspires us to make sacrifices, so we asked everyone who feels like they belong at the Fig to make a pledge for 2022. As of late January, we have heard from 361 households, who have pledged \$1.63 million. 31 of those households are brand new, and 148 of those households actually increased their pledge from 2021 – this in addition to most of them having made a commitment to the *Transfiguring Our Foundations* campaign. It is a remarkable sign of support.

However, we are still short of our goal of \$1.8 million, owing to the lack of response from nearly 90 households who pledged in 2021, but have not yet for 2022. We remain hopeful that everyone who receives their deepest sense of belonging will choose to make a pledge as a sign of faithful support.





Lay Ministries

Fellowship

Outreach

Austin Street Center

Food Pantry

North Dallas Shared Ministries

Outreach Committee

Children's Ministries

Vacation Bible School

Children's Formation

Children's Chapel

Holy Family Children's Choir

Junior Lectors

Impact Kids

Nursery

Acolytes

Youth Ministries

Crossover

Youth Council

Youth Choir

Youth Forum

Ministry Reports

Altar Guild

by Peter Soper

The mission of the Altar Guild is to support the clergy by preparing the altar for Holy Eucharist services throughout the week. We clean and maintain the altar, linens, chalices and clergy vestments. We also support special services including funerals and weddings.

Starting early in the year the Fig returned to indoor worship services. The Altar Guild was able to support at first hybrid and then full weekly services with no issues. We also had a very successful recruitment campaign and were able to add an additional eight folks to our team. Today the Altar Guild is well staffed and ready to support the church with any future needs.

My term of service as Altar Guild Director has ended and Olga Ruff has stepped up to lead the team starting in 2022.



Austin Street Ministry

by Judy Loveday-Corbett

July was a special month for ASC volunteers - eight of us served the 250 clients in person for the first time since lockdown in March of 2020! All other months of the year we bought and delivered hot dogs with all the trimmings (including chopped onions, thanks to Olga Ruff), bananas, milk, & cookies (baked by our group of 16 faithful parishioner cookie-bakers led by Nancy Korman) and had the staff there serve each meal. Thanksgiving Eve in November was our traditional feast, including 50 pies from iParent, organized by Wendy Cone, Jackie Neylon, & Matt Harms, and December featured fried chicken. Many thanks to Matt Harms, Ron Kerker, Robert Hacker, and John MacLennan for helping me purchase and deliver the food.

We delivered several special donations in 2021: 260 small zip-bags of cough drops in March, 500 breakfast bags in August (sponsored by the Outreach Committee - Sally and ET Manning, Pam and Paul Sternweis, thank you for helping David and me deliver them - also thanks to the many parishioners who helped pack them!), 30 pairs of new reading glasses and 15 large tubs of coffee (from ASC's wishlist) in mid-August using Outreach Committee funds leftover from the breakfast bags, and in December, many bags of toiletries (leftover from the Advent festival - thank you Allison and our children!). Several times throughout the year, Ron continued to deliver bags of clothing donated by our Clothes Horse.

2022 will be a year of transition with Matt Harms joining leadership as my Co-Coordinator and will be our new Coordinator in 2023. We eagerly anticipate returning to in-person serving later this year, as soon as Omicron is better under control and ASC welcomes back volunteers.

Centering Prayer

by Susan Witten

Centering Prayer is a daily practice of sitting in silence in God's presence while letting go of all business of mind and body. This silence deepens our relationship with God by making us more open to the Beloved Trinity and the Divine love that flows between us. This experience helps us become more aware of God's presence in our lives and to live out of a place of love and compassion.

Many passages in the Bible emphasize that God is present in stillness and silence. For example, Isaiah 30:15, "In quietness and in trust shall be your strength." According to Father Thomas Keating, Centering Prayer becomes the foundation of a much more fruitful apostolate and of relationships and actions that are truly unselfish with ourselves, others, God and our church. Centering Prayer provides the experience of the Trinity living the divine life within and through us.

In 2021, Centering Prayer expanded to twice on Thursdays.

We met mostly online, with the option in the morning session of meeting in the library.

Daughters of the King

by Elaine Sweet

The Order of the Daughter's of the King is for women and it is based on prayer, service and evangelism. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to know Jesus Christ and to make him known to others.

The Daughters meet on the third Monday of every month at 6:30pm. For the past two years, we have been meeting primarily on Zoom. We had one in person meeting this past year but we still broadcast on Zoom so more people could participate. We have 35 members.

In addition to meeting monthly, we also prepared food and other goods and delivered to the Genesis Women's Shelter.

Episcopal Men's Fellowship

by Paul Sternweis

Owing to the continued disruptions caused by the Pandemic, EMF remained on hiatus in 2021. We had a small BBQ in May, and look forward to fellowship opportunities in the coming year.

The EMF Board continues to meet monthly via Zoom, and maintain some semblance of continuity and community. Each of our Board members is anxious to see the end of this pandemic and "pick up where we left off" as soon as it is safe to do so.

EMF 2021

<i>Beginning Balance:</i>	\$14,760.08
<i>Income:</i>	\$ 0
<i>Expenditure:</i>	\$ 1,169.90
<i>Ending Balance:</i>	\$13,590.18

Episcopal Peace Fellowship

by Ron Damholt

As Shane Claiborne has noted, "The peace, according to the prophets, doesn't begin with the politicians. It begins with the people, who lead the politicians towards that peace."

Given that understanding, the major focus of Transfiguration's Episcopal Peace Fellowship group consists of Peace Post, as we gather monthly (right now, via Zoom) to write notes to elected officials, in order to influence their positions on issues related to justice and peace.

While we generally suggest three topics for consideration, writers are encouraged to address any issues of public justice which lie close to their heart as persons of faith. We try to write briefly and to the point.

Episcopal Peace Fellowship was founded in 1939, serving the Church at both national and parish levels. Its mission is "to pray, study and take action for justice and peace in our communities, our church and the world."

Eucharistic Ministries

by Liz Kerner

With continuation of the pandemic, the use of Eucharistic Ministers for chalice administration has remained paused. We have not been doing any training, awaiting being “reactivated”.

During the past year MC’s have been able to return to the altar to assist the clergy. The use ofthurifers for special occasions has also resumed. Currently MC’s are just about back to their normal pre-COVID duties. There have been no distribution of funds this year.

Once we begin use of EM’s, there will be a notice in the blue notes and weekly enews for training.

Eucharistic Visitors

by Ted Clarkson

In 2021, after months of pandemic restrictions that kept the Eucharistic Visitors from seeing people in their homes, the EVs resumed their normal operations of bringing communion to members of our parish who cannot get to church. In the second half of the year, the EVs visited 24 different individuals. Currently, we have 13 active, licensed Eucharistic Visitors who are sent out an average of once a month.

While we are largely back to normal, we are still feeling the impacts of COVID. Under the guidance of physicians and out of an abundance of caution, several of our home-bound parishioners who would normally receive an EV are abstaining for the time being. We look forward to the day when we can safely bring them all back more fully into our eucharistic life. “We who are many are one Body, for we all share one Bread, one Cup.”

Figs with Kids

by Jacqui Neylon

The mission of the Figs with Kids (formerly iParentX) ministry is to help connect a community of parents of children living at home as we model seeking and serving Christ for our kids in today’s information age through, worship, education, evangelism, outreach, pastoral care and fellowship.

Throughout a typical year we take time for regular activities designed to help us get to know each other better, strengthen our connections to Transfiguration, and enhance our spiritual growth as parents.

While our monthly events schedule was not possible in the beginning of 2021, we were still able to host our annual crowd-favorite Game Night via Zoom. Once meeting face to face became possible again, Figs with Kids families baked Thanksgiving Pies for the residents at Austin Street Shelter. Our private Facebook group continued to be a place to share frustrations about parenting during a pandemic as well as a haven for online support and fellowship.

In 2022 we look forward to welcoming families who are new to Transfiguration and are excited to offer a more regular schedule of in person events.



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Flower Guild

by Carolyn Lewis

As with every ministry, the Flower Guild was significantly impacted by the cessation of in-person services and the ongoing challenges of COVID. We elected to again provide fresh arrangements early in the year and use small groups of three to four to arrange the flowers. As the pandemic eased, we now have the issue of supply chain shortages for fresh flowers, which led to some last-minute creative challenges. Throughout every crisis, the Flower Guild members continued with their enthusiastic participation. I could not be prouder of this supportive creative team who are always ready to do whatever is necessary to add beauty to our services.

Food Pantry

by Alan Justice

Six and a half years ago, Transfiguration's Food Pantry came into being. We serve 29 families, which comes to 130 people, 69 of whom are children under 18. Since COVID began, we have operated out of Roper Hall to allow our volunteers to work at a safe distance from each other. Clients remain in their cars, except when they shop at the racks of clothing brought up to the porte-cochere from the Clothes Horse.

Food pantry workers include retired persons and some kids brought by their parents. There is a special camaraderie amongst the volunteers. One consistently makes lunch for other volunteers. Another oversees the Pantry Angels project. Many of these kids would get no Christmas gifts, were it not for the generosity of the Fig's parishioners.

Throughout COVID, with the support of the clergy, staff, and volunteers, the pantry has been able to continue operating.

Foyer Groups

by Sheila Runnels

Foyer quit meeting almost two years ago...right when the Pandemic began. During the Pandemic while we had no formal gatherings, many of us stayed in touch with one another. Whenever I had an update on when we might be able to meet again, I always emailed the entire (approximately) 100 of us. As we progressed through the months, I began to gather names of people who wanted to be in Foyer when it restarted.

I learned that people are hungry for fellowship with one another.

We foster "belonging" by our sincere enthusiasm for our ministry. We run "blurbs" in newsletters (explaining our mission) encouraging anyone interested to join us.

Every member of Foyer deserves accolades for showing honest enthusiasm for our group. Enthusiasm travels!

Funeral Guild

by Elizabeth Jenkins

The Funeral Reception Guild provides a simple reception consisting of cookies and non-alcoholic beverages at the church following a funeral or memorial service if requested by the family. Depending on the number of attendees and the weather, the receptions are held in the parlor courtyard patio, in the Tower Cloister or in Roper Hall.

Eight funeral receptions were held in 2021.

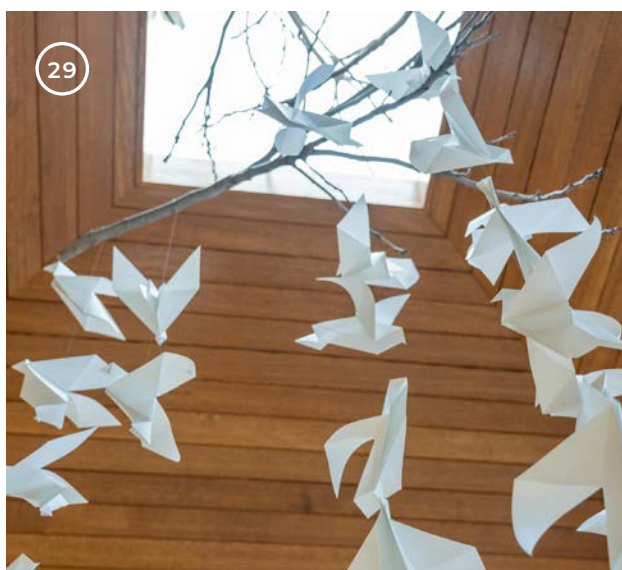
MacMaster Library

by Nancy Banitch

The MacMaster Library contains over 2600 books for both adults and children. The focus is on spiritually enriching material that explores the meaning of scripture, tradition, reason and faith in our lives as Episcopalians and, more broadly, as Christians and as citizens of the world.

Among the topics included in the collection are: The Bible and its history, theology, and interpretation; Church History; devotional literature and worship; prayer and meditation; biographies of Saints and other religious figures; dealing with major life issues of loss including illness, divorce, and death; contemporary social and ethical issues; parenting books; fiction and memoirs, and many others. There is also a large group of picture books for young children, as well as titles written for older children and teens. The catalog is accessible online through the church's website under connect/read.

The Library is centrally located next to the Sanctuary and is open during church hours. Books are available for loan on the honor system for three weeks. To check out an item, please fill out the enclosed card inside the book's cover with the date, your full name and phone number, and leave the card in the designated box next to the desk.



Nurturing Faith through Fiction

by Ron Damholt

We're a group consisting of parishioners and friends who gather monthly either to discuss a noteworthy novel, or to screen and discuss a high-quality movie - enjoying conversation (and, when COVID allows, refreshment) along the way. Our goals include helping us reflect on our faith and deepen our faithfulness to Christ, in the light given us through authors, directors and actors.

As a taste of our various explorations, during the past year we've screened and discussed (among others) the films *City of God* (2003), *Good Night and Good Luck* (2005), and *A Raisin in the Sun* (1961). We've also read and discussed Rudolfo Anaya's *Bless Me, Ultima* (1994), Ursula K. LeGuin's *The Lathe of Heaven* (1971) and Charles Williams's *Descent Into Hell* (1937).

We generally meet in Transfiguration's parlor at 7:00 pm on the fourth Thursday evening of each month. Please email rdamholt@att.net for more information.

Open Door

by Bradley Ferst

The mission of Open Door is to seek and serve Christ in all persons, embracing the LGBTIA+ community, their families and friends through opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and service. We answer questions people may have, and we assure people that all people are welcome at Transfiguration's table. We are who we say we are!

During the Pandemic members of Open Door have led Evening Prayers from the Nave. This virtual gathering allowed for wonderful fellowship afterwards. We look forward to increased fellowship opportunities in 2022.

Outreach Committee

by Lindsey Murphy

To mangle a phrase from Mr. Rogers “Won’t you help my neighbor?” This was the question that the Outreach Steering Committee asked in 2021 and the parishioners of Transfiguration responded “yes” over and over again.

We started the year by provided monthly lunches for Spring Valley Elementary School staff through the end of the school year and classroom sanitizing supplies were purchased as requested.

We are a covenant church with North Dallas Shared Ministry – which means we are required to hold a food drive each year. We fulfill that by having our children make soup kits during the Annual Meeting each year. Since the 2021 meeting was virtual, we asked people to make the kits at home and bring them to the church. 376 kits were made which almost doubled our usual total.

Our twice yearly “FigWorks” days were held in February and August building on this hands-on tradition which was started in 2020. February had to be held virtually with parishioners buying items on-line. We had a diaper drive for Vogel Alcove providing them with more than 7,000 diapers and 10,000 diaper wipes. We also paired with the Youth for Virtual 5K that benefitted Promise House. In August we purchased and assembled 500 Austin Street Center breakfast snack bags, held a Blood Drive, and made 15 “Welcome Back” posters for Spring Valley Elementary School.

Helping children in our community continued to be a priority for us. Refugee children were treated to one of our sweetest traditions with 30 Easter Baskets and 200 eggs stuffed with candy for Gateway of Grace. The St. Philip’s Mother’s Day store provided pure happiness to more than 90 children who picked out gifts and made cards for the mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures in their lives. We also gave \$250 to Literacy Achieves so they could purchase books for their youngest readers.

We supported other Transfiguration groups by having a toiletry drive for our Food Pantry families as well as helping with the annual Angel Tree efforts for the Food Pantry and the Salvation Army. The Youth had a food drive benefitting the North Dallas Food Bank and we provided guidance to them. We purchased reading glasses, masks, and coffee for Austin Street Homeless Center as a helping hand to that ministry.

I would like to thank the Outreach Committee members: Staff Liaisons Dana Jean and Father Ted Clarkson, Melissa Cates, Martha Cordell, Michael Durrance, Brooke Grona-Robb, Louis Guion, Matt Harms, Darla Hodge, Alan Justice, Ron Kerker, Jim Kirkman, Judy Loveday-Corbett, ET Manning, and Karen O’Rear.

We could not do any of this without you. Your donations, support, enthusiasm, and willingness to go where we lead are so inspirational! Mr. Rogers would be proud!

Outreach Grant Recipients

In 2021, the Outreach Committee disbursed \$30,000 in grants to the following local organizations in need.



\$1,000



\$1000



\$1,000



\$2,000



HAPPY HOMES PRESCHOOL

SOUTH AFRICA

\$2,000



Transportation for Victims of Abuse

\$500



"Where Kids Succeed"

kids-u.org

\$2,000



\$1,500



\$2,000



\$2,600



ST. PHILIP'S
SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CENTER

\$3,000



\$2,800



\$1,000



\$3,000



VogelAlcove

\$2,000



\$3,000

Parish Nurses

by Tish Maedche

The Church of the Transfiguration embraced the concept of a Parish Nurses' Ministry in 1997 and recruited a dozen or so nurses on rotation to perform blood pressure screenings for the Saturday evening and Sunday morning worship services. The nurses at Transfiguration are also health counselors and advocates who assist with minor health emergencies during worship hours and special events.

Several of our Nurses are "frontline" workers: Cathleen Bauer, Darlene Justice and Whitney Paulus. We are so thankful for their dedication and service to the community and our parish.

As Health Care Professionals, our primary concern is for the health and safety of our fellow parishioners and our Ministry volunteers. We look forward to again serving our faith community in the spring. Look for us the first weekend of every month in the Library, we'll be happy to take your blood pressure and visit with you about your health questions or concerns.

Prayer Chain Ministry

by Bridget de Bruyn

Every day, nearly 100 of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are experiencing particular life challenges are lifted up in prayer by a team of loving members of the parish community. The Prayer Chain Ministry is a group of 42 parishioners and 4 members of the clergy who have committed to daily intercessory prayers of comfort, healing, strength, guidance, and the specific needs of dear friends and family members who have been added to the prayer lists at their own, or their loved ones', request. The ministry was virtual even before the pandemic, so there was little change in terms of process or procedure for 2021, although the average number of requests increased. Any person wishing to request a Prayer may email the church at prayers@transfiguration.net or email Bridget de Bruyn at bridget@capitalplaninc.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

by Sally Manning

As the pandemic has continued to rage, the Prayer Shawl Ministry has been knitting and crocheting, adapting to Zoom meetings and filling the cabinet in the Gathering Space with many prayer shawls! We've been blessed to have knitters for our ministry from as far away as England, who regularly visits the Fig, physically and virtually, bringing her beautifully knitted shawls for delivery to our ministry friends and recipients in Dallas and the States. Thank you, Ginny Ward! Even though we must remain masked and socially distanced we have delivered some 50+ shawls in 2021. And we welcome all those who love to create these blessed gifts of love through yarn. Call Sally Manning, at 806-681-6486, to get started making prayer shawls.



Racial Justice Ministry

by Alyson Thompson

The mission of the Racial Justice Ministry (RJM) is to transform hearts, minds and lives so racial justice becomes firmly planted in our communities. In 2021 RJM continued to meet on Zoom on the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 pm to pray, to share where each of us had been serving in our communities, and to educate ourselves on issues of racial injustice. Memorable offerings in 2021 included adult formation classes with Hidden History DFW, reading group discussions including the books *Just Mercy* and *The New Jim Crow*, a worship service of remembrance for Commodore Jones on the 110th anniversary of his lynching in Collin County, and planning for service work on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day 2022 alongside Remembering Black Dallas. We learned that partnering with and building relationships with our friends and neighbors already involved in racial justice work makes lasting connections, honors our baptismal covenant, and improve our effectiveness in this important work. At our Visioning Workshop in September 2021 and again at our steering committee meeting in January 2022, we prioritized all the many ways we want to promote racial justice in our community. We agreed that one goal is to strengthen Transfiguration as a radically welcoming community in worship and in service.

Second Half

by Nancy DeStefano

As COVID continued to keep us from safely gathering in person, second halfers continued to meet each week via Zoom. Every Wednesday afternoon we meet for 90 minutes on Zoom for our “Seniors’ High Tea”. We talk about our lives, our faith, our families, our memories and just about everything else. This year we invited members of our staff and vestry to join us and share their story and their ministry with us. This has been a wonderful experience and we have become a caring and supportive community for one another. All in the second half of life are welcome to join us. Just contact Pastor Nancy DeStefano or go on Realm to sign up.

Stephen Ministry

by Jack Skelton

In 2021 the Stephen Ministers continued our pandemic efforts by using phone calls, text messages, email, and outdoor meetings with our Care Receivers. Stephen Ministers devoted approximately 300 hours to the people in our care in 2021.

Stephen Ministers and Leaders continue to meet monthly via Zoom. We plan to meet in person once a quarter this year. We will have seven active ministers this year, so one of our challenges will be to recruit at least two more. We also plan to step up our efforts to make the congregation aware of our ministry and it’s purpose.

Our clergy liason, Pastor Nancy continues to be an inspiration and Debrorah Diehl has done an outstanding job with communications.



St. Hilda's Guild

by Pat Kriska

In 2021, the pandemic has continued to impact St. Hilda's Guild in several ways. The Kay Andrews Bookstore is open on a regular basis, but with only two staff volunteers to keep things going. Sales have increased as parishioners return to in-person church, formation classes drive demand for some books, and the holidays provide opportunities to sell a range of gift items and cards. Bonnie Wilson has done a great job with e-mail marketing, complete with photos and descriptive text, not only increasing sales, but maintaining awareness and a connection to the Bookstore, while foot traffic is still low. And Carolyn Georges remains the stalwart, keeping everything in ship-shape order.

The Clothes Horse reopened in mid-June, but only on Tuesdays and Saturdays, due to a diminished volunteer base. We were able to add Thursdays in the fall and are now regularly open from 10:00 to 2:00 on those days. Our loyal customers returned, and business has grown steadily. Kathryn McClure and Debra Griffin have done an outstanding job with sorting and pricing the continual flow of donations. We have added two new volunteers to the sales force but need at least three or four additional helpers.

We continue to make free clothing available to our Food Pantry families, on the third Monday of the month, and have given away more than 1500 items of clothing and accessories during the past year.

Even though income was meagre, St. Hilda's Guild was able to donate generously to two Outreach ministries as well as contribute a large sum (relative to our budget) to the Capital Campaign.



Saint Hilda's Guild Year-End Financial Report

	<i>Bookstore</i>	<i>Clothes Horse</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Income			
<i>Clothes Horse</i>	-	\$6,699.03	\$6,699.03
<i>Book Store - Books</i>	\$9,815.15	-	\$9,815.15
<i>Book Store - Gifts</i>	\$8,975.04	-	\$8,975.04
Total (Gross) Income	\$18,790.19	\$6,699.03	\$25,489.22
Expenses			
<i>Book Store Purchases</i>			
<i>Books Purchased</i>	\$8,931.42	-	\$8,931.42
<i>Gifts Purchased</i>	\$2,904.84	-	\$2,904.84
<i>KAB Operating Expenses-Shipping</i>	\$335.87	-	\$335.87
<i>Credit Card Fees</i>	\$283.70	-	\$283.70
<i>CH Operating Expenses</i>	-	\$2,899.12	\$2,899.12
<i>State Sales Taxes paid in 2021</i>			\$952.72
Total Expenses	\$12,455.83	\$2,899.12	\$16,307.67
Net Profit	\$6,334.36	\$3,799.91	\$9,181.55
Giving			
<i>Tithes in 2021</i>			\$606.33
Grants	Grant - Vogel Alcove		\$3,000.00
	KidsU		\$3,000.00
Total Grants in 2021			\$6,000.00
Gifts	Bonuses to CH Cleaner		\$550.00
	Ginny Kivel		\$1,000.00
	Dana Jean		\$1,000.00
	Cindy Hauser		\$1,000.00
	<i>Transfiguring Our Foundations</i>		\$10,000.00
Total Gifts in 2021			\$13,550.00
Endowment Fund Donations	In memory of Helen Brown		\$250.00
	In memory of Marlene Willis		\$250.00
	In memory of Andrea Lee		\$250.00
	In memoroy of Judy Harrell		\$250.00
	In memory of Jane Ferguson		\$250.00
	In memory of Betty Sachetti		\$250.00
	In memory of Betsey Hardman		\$250.00
	In memory of Marian Triano		\$250.00
	In memory of Lois Waller		\$250.00
Total Endowments in 2021			\$2,250.00
Total monetary gifts in 2021			\$22,406.33

Transfigured Nights

by Joel Martinson

Transfigured Nights continued its 2020-2021 season with pre-recorded concerts and services in Spring 2021. Two events were moved to later dates due to the “deep freeze” in February and a hectic May, as life grew busy with things opening up again after COVID-19 vaccines became widely available. Our 2021-2022 season has been back in-person, with the church services livestreamed, as well. The two Art Music events were live and have been recorded for future posting on our streaming locations once editing time becomes possible. Our November Requiem with 51 singers and an orchestra of 15 was a very poignant moving event as it signaled an end to the long “winter of silence” during the pandemic.

We learned a great deal during our months of virtual offerings and have realized that along with reaching a wider audience, recorded events allow people to experience performances “up close” than would be possible at live events without multiple screens and projectors. Our “view” figures continued to be high, though they do not capture how many people were watching one screen, nor if they sat through an entire event. We have been very pleased with our attendance figures since returning to live events and know that they will continue to grow as the pandemic subsides in the coming months.

We continue to be thankful for the generous support of our patrons these past two seasons. The number of parishioners and friends supporting Transfigured Nights is consistent with pre-pandemic levels and a good number of individuals and couples have increased their donation amounts during this time.

Many thanks are due to Delynda Moravec for serving five years on the committee and being our Executive Director from fall 2019 through spring 2021. She also gave untold hours to the task of artistic director of the *Broadway @ Hillcrest* event which was a highlight of last season. We are indebted to Paula Tiffin for her service as Treasurer for Transfigured Nights.

SPRING 2021 (2020-2021 Season Events)

PRE-RECORDED CONCERTS & SERVICES:

(View totals are as of August 20, 2021)

Transfigured Nights

A Celebration of Music – March 1 (moved from 2/14)	Views: 384
Meditations on the Stations of the Cross – March 21	Views 324
Evensong for St. Basil the Great – June 13	Views: 341
Broadway @ Hillcrest – June 20 (moved from May 8)	Views 897

Art Music Mondays

Three Strings and a Piano – January 25	Views: 744
Ten Years of Art Music – April 26	Views: 309

FALL 2021 (2021-2022 Season Events)

LIVE SERVICES & CONCERTS:

Transfigured Nights

Evensong for Holy Cross Day – September 19	Attendance: 112
Requiem for All Souls’ Day (Fauré with orchestra) – November 2	Attendance: 239
Advent Lessons and Carols – December 5	Attendance: 210

Art Music Mondays

Mendelssohn Octet – October 4 (in Church)	Attendance: 101
Beethoven & Tchaikovsky – December 13 (in Performance Hall)	Attendance: 64

Transfigured Nights Financial Statement 2021

Beginning Cash Balance	\$69,107.83
Income	
<i>Patronage & Donations</i>	\$41,706.00 <i>Down 3.9% from 2020</i>
Total Cash & Income	\$110,813.83
Expenses	
<i>Art Music Mondays</i>	\$18,613.84
<i>Professional Production Expenses</i>	\$6,000.00
<i>Child Care</i>	\$8,168.73
<i>Misc. Expenses</i>	\$198.06
<i>Reception Expenses</i>	\$715.67
<i>Printing & Postage</i>	\$0.00
<i>Honorariums</i>	\$2,816.08
<i>Audio/Visual Equipment</i>	\$0.00
<i>Instrument Maintenance & Tuning</i>	\$449.48
<i>Audio/Visual Equipment</i>	\$1,800.00
Total Expenses	\$38,761.86
Total Transfers Out	\$0.00
2021 Ending Cash Balance	\$72,051.97
<i>Less budgeted encumbrance for second half of 2021-2021 season*</i>	\$18,332.38
Unencumbered Cash	\$53,719.59

**Transfigured Nights budget runs on a season basis from July 01 to June 30*

Tuesday Women's Book Group

by Nancy DeStefano

This group continued to meet weekly via Zoom. We read and discuss a variety of non-fiction books. The books we read are usually recommended by members of the group. This year we have completed: *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber; *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubled Times* by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans; *The Meaning of the Miracles* by Jeffery John; *Cokie, A Life Well Lived* by Steven Roberts. Through reading these books and sharing with one another, we have continued to grow in love for God and one another. We meet every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00. Although, we open Zoom to fellowship for the 30 minutes before we start. We pray, laugh, and share.

Wedding Guild

by Elizabeth Jenkin

There were no weddings at the church in 2021. One wedding is on the calendar for January 2022. The wedding guild director has met with the couple and is preparing to assist with that wedding.

Women's Evening Book Group

by Betsy Warren

This informal group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. to discuss books—both fiction and non-fiction—chosen by the members at the group's annual book selection meeting.

A typical meeting has about 12 women, sometimes more, sometimes less. Betsy Warren and Julie Evans are the facilitators. All women are welcome.

Youth Acolytes

by Brooke Robb

The mission of the acolytes is to serve and support the rich worship life of Transfiguration. Roles in this ministry include crucifer, torchbearer, first and second server, and wardens.

As the services changed through COVID, so too did the use of acolytes. They first returned in April, and volunteers throughout these changing times were greatly appreciated.

There was one graduating senior this year, Sophia Roper, who had served since 2013.

On August 29, over 30 acolytes gathered with the acolyte wardens to train for new positions and for refreshers before acolytes returned to full schedule. Youth acolytes are an important way for youth to feel they belong to the church, and this practice session was filled with both learning and laughter.

Thank you to wardens Dana Bartholomew, Jim Cates, Judy Loveday-Corbett, Bill Keslar, and Adam Wilson.

The lead acolyte warden, Bill Grona, died on December 30, 2021. After 48 years of leading the youth acolyte program, one of his first concerns after a stroke was to make sure that the acolyte program was running smoothly. There are many generations of young acolytes who will remember him fondly.



Staff

Clergy

The Rev. R. Casey Shobe, D.Min. – Rector | cshobe@transfiguration.net
The Rev. Rebecca Tankersley – Associate Rector | rtankersley@transfiguration.net
The Rev. Terry Roper – Rector Emeritus | troper@transfiguration.net
The Rev. Ted Clarkson – Curate | tclarkson@transfiguration.net
The Rev. Nancy DeStefano – Pastoral Assistant | ndestefano@transfiguration.net

Programs

Allison Blalock – Director of Children’s Ministries | ablalock@transfiguration.net
Michael Sturdy – Interim Director of Youth Ministries | msturdy@transfiguration.net
Anne Schmidt – Director of Evangelism and Welcoming | aschmidt@transfiguration.net

Music

Joel Martinson – Director of Music and Organist | jmartinson@transfiguration.net
Chris Ahrens – Director of Youth Choir | cahrens@transfiguration.net
Kimberley Ahrens – Director of Children’s Choirs | kahrens@transfiguration.net
Stefan Engels – Artist in Residence
David Stanley – Music Director for The Table

Administration

Sophie Lowrance – Parish Administrator | slowrance@transfiguration.net
TJ McCoy – Director of Communications | tmccoy@transfiguration.net
Mary Hall - Bookkeeper | mhall@transfiguration.net
Lana Mederos – Executive Assistant to the Rector | lmederos@transfiguration.net
Jill Carpenter – Administrative Assistant | jcarpenter@transfiguration.net
Fred Ellis – Receptionist | fellis@transfiguration.net

Operations

Bracken Reece – Director of Operations | breece@transfiguration.net
Joseph Gerick - Sexton
Francisco Negrete - Sexton

Vestry

Oliver Cone,
Sr. Warden
Mark Ramsay,
Jr. Warden
Robin Caldwell
Kristin Cutts
Jodi Dalton

Scott Daniels
Robbi Dietrich
Lacey Garcia
Linda Horton
Peggy Kwoka
Rosemary Luquire
Mason McCamey

Libby Nicodemus
Clerk
Allison Murphy
Treasurer
Jay Madrid
Parish Chancellor
Evan Williams
Assistant Chancellor

Vestry-elect
Jeremy Teeple
Chip Brownlee
Gabby Guion
Peter Young

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Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons