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## Where Our Heart Is





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

What a joy and privilege it continues to be to serve as your rector. I thank God for our church and all the ways we endeavor to seek and serve Christ in all persons. This Annual Report is filled with stories and information about our dozens of ministries, for ours is a church that is busy with the work of love seven days a week. Frankly, as I read through all the reports, I felt a mixture of awe, pride, and exhaustion – how did we fit so much in one year? Among it all, here are a few of my own highlights.

First, I want to thank our staff. We have assembled a marvelous group of servant leaders, and they amaze me by their creativity, dedication, and kindness. Nearly 60% of our church's budget funds our staff, because they are essential to a thriving and dynamic community. When so many churches and non-profits contracted during the pandemic, we maintained our full staff footprint, so we would be ready for the inevitable rebound. Our vibrancy today is the reward for our courage and faith.

Second, we're able to sustain this special team in 2024 thanks to a wonderful stewardship campaign. For the first time in our church's history, we surpassed \$2 million in pledges, the result of a 10% rise in pledged giving. I marvel at the response to the Where Our Heart Is campaign, because you showed loud and clear that your heart is with us. As a result, we are able to give our staff a much needed pay raise and restore a host of ministry budgets that had been reduced in recent, leaner years. Our budget in 2024 is over 40% larger than my first full year as rector (2015), and in that growth is more funding for worship, formation, pastoral care, administration, communications, and maintenance. Thanks to all of you, we enter 2024 with stability and strength.

Where Our Heart Is began with a spiritual gifts assessment paired with the "small bites" campaign. During the fall, we invited everyone to put their spiritual gifts to work in one or two new ways. Pulling this off took dozens of hours by our communications team, lots of creative thinking by ministry leaders to make all those "bites," and a huge push from our stewardship committee. It resulted in significant growth in giving, and a much-needed infusion of energy to our ministries. Thus, we are already planning future "Small Bite" campaigns, to make it as easy as possible for everyone to get involved.

Third, we are experiencing an incredible wave of newcomers to Transfiguration. They come from all sorts of backgrounds – LGBTQ+ folks hungry for a truly inclusive Christian community; some who feel abandoned by other churches or

denominations; others who love the spirit and reverence of our worship; and a sizable group of families with young children. Just peek in Children's Chapel some Sunday, where Allison Blalock regularly welcomes 15 or more kids (ages 4 to grade 2). Figs with Kids, our ministry for parents of children at home, is thriving, and we are doing all we can to foster meaningful relationships. This is a good time to remember how important it is to be genuinely welcoming to people you don't already know. Take time each week to meet someone new. We can help every newcomer feel seen, welcomed, and connected using the holy tools of curiosity and kindness.

Your hospitality isn't just about growing the church, either. Several recent public health studies have revealed the scope of the loneliness epidemic in our society. [1] Millions are suffering from depression, anxiety, and even physical ailments that stem from a lack of meaningful connection to others, which is why we need to focus on being friends and companions in a world of strangers and isolation. The salvation Jesus offers is not individual; it is communal. We are not each left to figure things out on our own, but we are called to join a community, the Body of Christ. We need one another, and now more than ever.

And community will be as important as ever this year. We are once more in a presidential election cycle, which will pull the divisions of our society to their limits. The Enemy is on the prowl, whispering at us to be cynical, distrustful, and contemptuous. We will be told a million times between now and November that our political opponents are evil, that they are a threat to our very existence, and the only appropriate attitude toward them is revulsion. To rise above the challenges of this year, we will need to redouble our discipline as followers of Jesus: praying daily for wisdom and humility; listening carefully before speaking; seeking (not just acknowledging, but seeking) the goodness in all people; loving even those who are hard to love; holding fast to our consciences, without assuming we are always right. There is no way to predict the future, but whatever November

brings, we want to wake up the day after the election with our souls intact, our hearts not hardened, and our primary allegiance with Jesus.

Fourth, a word about joy. Joy, as the theologian Teilhard de Chardin once wrote, "is the infallible sign of the presence of God." Where there is joy, there is Christ. I thank God for regular occasions of joy at Transfiguration. I love it when we laugh, when we play, when we sit in silent awe at beautiful music, when we are loud at a party in Roper Hall. Joy is easily recognizable, but impossible to manufacture. It is a way of being, a lightness of soul, an outlook on life, an act of faith. I thank God for all the joy we share at Transfiguration. Let us never take it for granted but foster it in ourselves and one another.

Fifth, here is an update about our Transfiguring Our Foundations Campaign. Since we launched in 2020, we have surprised even ourselves by our success. We raised \$6 million, then stretched and raised a seventh million. This propelled us into a multi-year effort to perform maintenance on our beloved campus, including improvements to things like roofs, AV and HVAC equipment, lighting, walkways, and fire safety systems. Now, in the campaign's fourth year, we are preparing to perform the largest and most complicated of all the work: renovating the church and sacristy. As I write this, we are still finalizing our plans and deciding how to go about this complex and costly process. Frustratingly, cost estimates for the work - which includes updating the electrical system, improving lighting, replacing the pews (but not the kneelers!), updating the HVAC systems, and completely overhauling the sacristy - have increased significantly. The Vestry, with the strong guidance of our Buildings, Grounds, and Technology Committee, is deeply invested in this work and weighing options carefully to make the best decisions possible to accomplish the best end result.

The reality is that we will need additional fundraising – as much as \$1.5 million – to fully fund this keystone project of the campaign while also providing the \$3 million for the Infrastructure Fund, which was one of the twin goals of the campaign. But I'm extremely hopeful. This church always steps up when the need is real. We have never fallen short of our goals, especially when those goals have to do with blessing future generations of Fig folk. \$1.5 million is not a drop in the bucket, but 1,500 members working and giving together can tackle this challenge and ensure we finish the work of Transfiguring Our Foundations.

Finally, and on a related note, we will spend much of 2024 in a sort of exile. The work happening in the church and sacristy will require us to vacate those spaces for months, perhaps until Christmas, and during this time, we will conduct our services in Roper Hall. With the input of dozens of lay leaders, the staff and I are already planning ways to foster beauty and reverence in that large, versatile room. We will offer our very best - we always do - but it will be different. So, I'm asking you to see this as an adventure. Embracing these months with an open, patient, and resilient attitude will help us not just endure, but actually grow as a community. Grumbling is infectious, but so is joy and positivity. So let's do the things to help us arrive at the end of the year with a beautifully restored church – both the building and the people.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The crisis is so great that the Surgeon General declared it an epidemic. https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf











## Membership

In 2023 Transfiguration welcomed

83 New Members

14 Adult Wayfarers

**400+** Formation Participants

9 Newly Baptized

Confirmations, Receptions, and Reaffirmations



#### New Members

Antonio Abella, Diana Topel Sully and daughter, Celeste Abella Jacob Acton & Bill Warburton Lee Asher Ryan Boehm Jae Yoon Alice & Joe Bogdan John & Megan Bourgeois Kevin Brown & Bruce O'Donnell German & Claire Carmona and daughter, Cecelia Paul & Whitney Carter and daughters Elliot and Rosemary Max & Laura Choi and daughter, Naori Mandy Moore & Rebecca Bordelon and sons, Fin and Fisher Moore

Bryhanna Follis & Michael Withers and daughters, Taylyn Massey and Kaislee Massey Jeremy & Carolyn Frazer and sons, Jackson-Thomas and Brodie Jerry Garner & Sean Norton Jean Van Gee & J. Paul Giolma Jordan & Emily Hammons Liz Hayden Richard & Jacqueline Hill Tripp Jones Robert & Rachel Kent and daughters, Dot and Maddie Daniel Keyser Bill Krapek Matthew & Morgan Ladd and son, Grayson Jody & JoNell Lindh

Patrick & Blair Marquardt and children, Patrick Jr. and Rose Emily Bennett and son, Daniel Morris Georgina Mroczynski Samantha Mroczynski Phillip & Kathryn North Gay Pearson Donna Pizarro William Schwartz Gayle Sheehan Pat Tate Ashley Wiginton **Jackie Williams** Robert & Ashley Withers and daughters, Layla and Claire John & Mojgan Withers Aidan Wright

#### Faithful Departed

Rob Farquhar & Joe Sims

Bobbie Jean Campbell
Christine Brandenburg
Caperton
Sally Gruenig Cobb
Russell Cowser
Billie McMiller Daniels
Crista Wallace Smith de Bruyn
Robert Lee Ekstrom

Doris Kilmer Ferguson
Hollye Carson Fisk
Lorraine Agnes Horan
Forrest Lane Jones
Daniel Paul Kennedy
Clara Marie Perkins Marchant
Joe Franklin Marchant
Rolando Vital Melendez

Elizabeth Odsted Russell Rolf Robert Schneider Myrna Lee Taylor Rosalie Watkins Paul Hesse Welch Joseph AlexanderWilson Wells

#### Baptisms

Quinten Tiberius Aureliano Bolden Flynn Gordon Brown Naomi Sofia Nieto Hale Taylor Darryl Hintz Daniel John Keyser Helena Pearl Mikulas Zoe Anne Ajija Nggilari Kellan Reid William Carter Spotswood

#### Marriages

Ashley Wiginton & Mat Thekkil John Bhadelia & Riley Davis Kayleigh Chapman & Joshua Harden



Staff Reports

#### Senior Associate Rector's Report

by the Rev. Rebecca Tankersley



#### Pastoral Care

Transfiguration nurtures those needing pastoral care in various ways, including Eucharistic Visitors, Stephen Ministers, and offering special liturgies throughout the year. Our clergy meet weekly to review concerns and pray for our members, especially those sick or living alone.

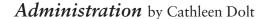
In 2023, our team Eucharistic Visitors took Holy Eucharist to more than 51 different individuals who were unable to get to church. Currently, we have 16 active licensed Eucharistic Visitors, who are sent out at least once a month. I am grateful to collaborate with Pastor Nancy DeStefano, Martha Cordell, and Peggy Kwoka in this ministry.

Stephen Ministers are lay members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing spiritual challenges, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. We have six active Stephen Ministers who spent approximately 650 hours providing care to people coping with illness, grief, and loss in 2023. I am grateful for Pastor Nancy DeStefano's leadership of this group.

During 2023, we held funeral services for 24 people. I am grateful to our active and retired clergy, as well as to our Altar Guild, Flower Guild, and Funeral Reception Committee for their compassionate care of families and friends who lost loved ones this year. In response to so much loss, this December, we once again held "A Service of the Longest Night," in which we made space for those experiencing a less-than-joyful Advent and Christmas to worship together on the night in which we experienced the longest period of darkness in the year.

#### Outreach

Transfiguration lives into our mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons through various Outreach ministries. In the following pages, you will find a full report of the activities of our Outreach Committee from Brooke Robb. Your clergy are deeply grateful to all who support our Ministry Fund, which allows us to render assistance to an ever-increasing number of individuals who come to us alone, in need, and without access to help. Our assistance may be as simple as providing a small sack of food or a gift card to the local Walmart or gas station. Other times, we help pay a family's utility bill, make a car payment, or help keep a family in their apartment through a job transition. This form of outreach would not be possible without your generosity, for which we are grateful.





The role of Transfiguration's administrative staff is to support and enable the various ministries of this church. Our goal is to provide a high level of excellence and transparency in accounting and financial reporting, human resources, legal and tax issues, risk assessment and management, and our other administrative functions.

2023 was a year of thinking creatively about increasing Transfiguration's revenue. Did you know that the Fig receives revenue from two cellular providers, whose equipment is in the bell tower and on the roof above the staff offices? In 2023, we negotiated new contracts to maximize this income. The Diocese of Dallas is currently reviewing these contracts, and

we hope to execute them in the first quarter of 2024. Transfiguration also applied for and was granted significant funds under the IRS Employee Retention Credit program. It offers tax credits for employers that kept their employees on payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, our administrative staff negotiated higher interest rates on our various bank accounts and more favorable rates with several vendors, thereby reducing our expenses. Thanks to these measures and a record-setting Stewardship campaign, Transfiguration is in a stronger financial position as we move into 2024.



#### Adult Formation by the Rev. Ted Clarkson



The goal of any Christian formation program is to help God's people along their discipleship journeys. It is a life-long endeavor that seeks to "equip the saints for ministry," and help them "grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 4:12 and 2 Peter 3:18) At Transfiguration, Christian formation happens in all sorts of ways: in small groups and classes, on Sundays and every other day of the week, here at church and virtually over Zoom.

While most calendar years begin with a variety of classes that meet for three or four weeks during the season after Epiphany, 2023 began with several one-off events and presentations during the Sunday School hour, including a presentation about Fr. Casey's sabbatical, an information session about Sacred Ground presented by the Racial

Justice Ministry, a breakfast sponsored by the Legacy Society, and a Rector's Forum.

During Lent, the parish spent five weeks on a program called Biblical Theology and *The Saint John's Bible*. On Sunday mornings, the clergy gave presentations on various loci of biblical theology and invited guests, including Dr. Roy Heller and Rabbi Andrew Paley. The classes covered the basics of Biblical Theology and its understanding of the law, sin, death, and resurrection. On the first Wednesday of the series, we welcomed Tim Ternes, the Director of *The Saint John's Bible*, to give a marvelous presentation on our remarkable illuminated bible. On the following Wednesday evenings, we opened the volumes of our Heritage Edition and did group visio divina exercises with illuminations related to that week's theological focus. Various rooms around the church were turned into intimate, reverent, meditative spaces for these exercises, and people moved from room to room, spending 10-12 minutes with each illumination. In Lent, we also welcomed the Rev. Sam Wells, renowned author and Rector of St. Martin in the Fields, London, to discuss the Beatitudes.



A high point of the year for Christian Formation is when recent participants in The Way are baptized, confirmed, or received. In 2023, we baptized three adults at the Great Vigil of Easter and confirmed/received eighteen more later in Eastertide. During the Great Fifty Days, we offered three classes to finish the program year: Fr. Casey taught about the butterfly as a symbol of the resurrection, Mtr. Rebecca taught a class called The Poetry of Resurrection, and I did a training program for those who desired to become docents of *The Saint John's Bible*.

Immediately after Labor Day, the program year began with a new crop of fourteen Wayfarers and a variety of Sunday School offerings. Pastor Nancy and I led a class entitled Discernment as a Lifelong Spiritual Discipline, and Mtr. Rebecca taught a class called Women and *The Saint John's Bible*. We also welcomed Dr. Courtney O'Dell-Chaib from Parish Episcopal School to teach a class called Ethics and the Good Life. Figs with Kids had their own class led by Rev. Jared Williams: Cracking the Relationship Code.

The year ended with an extended Advent season of worship and formation where we focused on angels and their participation in the various comings of Christ. It began with an interactive Advent Festival for all ages in Roper Hall ("Be not afraid…"). It continued with a class called Angels of Advent, where we learned about all the ways angels are depicted in scripture and popular culture. During one class session, we were blessed to be joined by Rev. Susan Robb, author of the devotional book Angels of Christmas.

2023 was a wonderful year for Christian Formation, and it could not have happened without all the teachers, presenters, guest lecturers, and discussion group leaders. Thank you to everyone who made the year such a success.



#### Children's Ministries by Allison Blalock



It has been a joy and pleasure to enter my third year 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 by offering an interactive age-appropriate chapel service for children ages four through second grade to help them experience Scripture, prayer, and worship in ways they understand and enjoy. During our faith formation hour, we offer a Montessori curriculum, Godly Play. Children experience a nurturing play-based environment where 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, sacramental preparation classes, the Advent Festival, our Christmas pageant, a Lenten series, 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, primarily, but not exclusively, with our Impact Kids (4th & 5th graders). Children's Ministries offers a professional nursery staff and adult volunteers to minister to children. All are dedicated and passionate in their love for God and about his purposes for children. In 2023, Children's Ministries outreach projects were in service to Our Friends Place, Austin Street Center, and our Little Free Pantry. 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.

I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to watch your children learn and grow in their faith.





#### Congregational Life by Gabby Guion



The welcome mat in front of our Welcome Center reads: "Yay! you're here!" In 2023, we opened a pop-up Welcome Center, borrowing the library space, on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings. The "Oh Hello!" mailbox filled with candy is a big hit with the kids (and the adults)! We welcome everyone entering our church doors, and 10 new people a month, on average, fill out a welcome card or sign the registry.

The demographics have varied slightly this past year. We have seen a surge of young families with kids, young couples, older couples, and single adults. More members of the LGBTQIA community have found a home here. Those looking for connection, fellowship, and meaning have come to the right place.

One visitor commented, "We seem less stuffy." Indeed, we have a "come as you are" philosophy, yet we embrace traditional liturgy, incorporating the glorious vestments of the Episcopal Church. We are an unusual and remarkably friendly parish. I had an amusing comment from a young couple, who told me they liked coming on Sundays to see what would happen next. They had witnessed our parish burning greens at Epiphany, painting giant hearts on the wall, hosting Baroque music recitals, displaying balloon arches, making pies together, kirking tartans with bagpipes and drums, and donning wings for Advent Festival. Behold the life of our church!

With the help of the Ministry, Missions, and Connections Committee, we have plans to update the training manual for Ushers and Greeters. We are creating a section on identifying visitors and helping new people navigate the church and get connected. We are refining the church website to make it easier for visitors looking for a church home and have plans to make our Welcome Center permanent.

The growth of our church these past few months is encouraging, and we definitely could use some help in the Greeter and Usher ministries (hint hint).

The definition of Congregation is: "a group of people assembled for religious worship," but

Congregational Life is what we do while we are here. The next few months will challenge us creatively, but some things are relatively easy. A simple warm welcome when a friend or stranger is at our door is about the kindest, loving-Christian thing you can do. And our church happens to be GREAT at it!

We'll be rolling out the welcome mat again this weekend, and I hope to see you! "Yay! You're here!"



#### **Communications** by TJ McCoy



2023 was another action-packed year at The Fig! Our parish-wide communications incorporated a healthy amount of cardio into our regular programming with the rollout of the *Where Our Heart Is* stewardship campaign. Leading into the campaign, we developed an online Spiritual Gifts Assessment that invited the parish to reflect on skills and talents given to them by God, followed by the coordination and promotion of nearly 400 "small bites" experiences aimed at creating awareness of our many ministries and giving folks opportunities to try those that fit their gifts and interests.

This year, we fully celebrated the arrival of our Heritage Edition of *The Saint John's Bible* with a Lenten series that invited us to explore its beautiful illuminations on a massive scale, on-screen and in print.

We hosted an ecumenical dedication ceremony, inviting clergy from other denominations to read scripture from each of the seven volumes, which have a new home in beautiful display cases spanning the length of the Gathering Space. Our children's Lenten series resulted in a series of heartwarming illuminations, lovingly crafted by our children under the age of twelve and bound into our very own illuminated children's Bible.

We kept the community connected by deploying over 75 email newsletters, livestreaming over 65 worship services, inviting distant family and friends to participate in 15 funerals and a wedding ceremony remotely, and providing access to 26 online formation classes. We published two issues of *Illumine* and printed over 35,000 service bulletins in-house.

Thanks to a generous grant from Endowment, we have updated our campus wayfinding signage, and thanks to our Safety and Security Committee, we've posted evacuation maps across our campus.

Special thanks to our stewardship committee for their efforts in imagining ways to engage our community, for the work done by our ministry leaders to create such a robust menu of "small bites," to Al Blackwell, who beams our worship services to the far corners of the world every Sunday, and for his tireless efforts ensuring access to small bites opportunities via our website and Realm, and to Robert Hacker and John Makowski for their help capturing beautiful photos of events at The Fig!





#### Music Ministries by Joel Martinson



#### The Year in Review

On revisiting last year's datebook, I was reminded of the inordinate number of funeral services for which I provided music during 2023. The clergy and other staff have shared with the parish at various times over the year how much the act of remembering our dead in liturgy has become a prominent part of our parish life and work in recent years. Fortunately, amid busy weeks with multiple requiems, I also was privileged to meet with and hear singers new to Transfiguration who have once again filled our sixty Transfiguration Choir folders! Kimberley and Chris Ahrens continue their important work in the formation of the children's and youth choirs. I continue to be amazed at the

enthusiasm of the Holy Family and Canticle Choir singers and the mature growth of our Youth Choir members.

#### **Recording Projects**

I programmed music for the Transfiguration Choir this fall in preparation for recording some of my mass settings and anthems. I hope these works enriched your worship on Sundays and at the All Souls' Evensong. Recordings will take place early in 2024. Stefan Engel's first 4-CD set of Bach Recordings was released in March and is available in the bookstore. The first CD – music for Advent – was recorded at Transfiguration on our Jerry D. Godwin Organ.

#### Legacy Fund Grant Enabled Pay Raise for Section Leaders

I am grateful for the grant from the Legacy Fund in late 2022, which enabled a pay raise to be given to the choir section leaders during 2023. Through belt-tightening in the music area, we can continue offering this pay rate through the parish budget in 2024.

#### Music Fund of the Church of the Transfiguration Endowment

The 2023 Music Fund grant was approved to continue our sixth section leader position – Alto 1 – for the first half of 2024. This position currently sits vacant upon the departure of Katie Renner in November to Australia.

#### Music Ministry Highlights

- Attending the priestly ordination of Meghan Mazur at Sewanee on February 7
- Hosting a Dallas AGO Recital by Kimberly Marshall on May 5
- Planning, playing, and directing music for the St. John's Bible Dedication on May 7
- Hosting and making music for the Closing Eucharist of the Association of Anglican Musicians Dallas Conference on June 15
- Hosting a Christmas Concert of the Orpheus Chamber Singers on December 17

#### Youth Ministries by Delynda Moravec



I am pleased to report that our Fig Youth are growing and thriving!

The theme for the year, "Embracing Our Identity," guides our activities and discussions. The Youth Council continues to play a pivotal role in leading weekly events and planning activities, infusing a sense of purpose and direction into everything we do!

Our Fig Youth engaged in various celebrations and events throughout the year, striking a balance between fun and service. For example, the Fall and Winter Lock-Ins were attended by over 35 enthusiastic youth, which made for joyous and chaotic nights. We also implemented Sunday Fundays to allow youth who are unable to participate in Crossover the chance to meet up with friends and relax once a month.

The Fig Youth's commitment to social responsibility was evident through youth-driven initiatives like a backpack and school supply drive for Vogel Alcove, resulting in the donation of 33 fully stocked backpacks. Fig Youth also volunteered at Our Savior Community Garden, made Freshman Care Packages for our recent high school grads, served dinner at Austin Street Center, provided babysitting for our parish, and volunteered for "I Belong," to name a few. In addition, 18 youth participated in a Civil Rights Pilgrimage to the Deep South, and the whole youth group had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Michael Waters to study the role of youth in the Civil Rights Movement. The Youth also participate in churchwide events like the Passion Experience, Epiphany, and the Christmas Pageant.

An integral part of our Fig Youth's Sunday Faith Formation journey was utilizing the "Unconventional Saints and Holy Troublemakers" curriculum. This program empowered our youth to explore their faith in unconventional ways, fostering a deeper connection with spirituality by studying traditional and modern-day saints who have changed the world.

Wednesday's Crossover continues to be well attended and growing. We start each evening with a shared meal provided lovingly by our dedicated parents and share in a group activity. Then we continue the tradition "Good and Get Betters," a meaningful time for sharing joys and concerns, creating an environment where everyone feels heard and loved. We conclude the evening with prayer for each other and our world.

The Fig Youth have accomplished a lot over the last year. However, we could not have done this without the incredible and generous support of the Episcopal Men's Fellowship, St. Hilda's, and St. Elizabeth's. Each of these groups played a crucial role in providing us with the financial support we needed to grow in faith and fellowship.

I want to thank Father Ted Clarkson and Allison Blalock for their incredible mentorship and partnership. We are a great team! And I want to thank all those volunteers who so generously give their time and talent to love and care for our beloved Fig Youth. Your service and commitment humble me.

I look forward to seeing what our Fig Youth will do in 2024!



Vestry Reports

#### Senior Warden's Report by Peggy Kwoka

I am amazed by the energy and the innovative ideas that this vestry has shown since we first began working together at a planning retreat in the beautiful woods of Camp All Saint's.

The vestry made a significant effort to improve safety and security, with a visible example in the presence of an off-duty police officer at all weekend services. New key card policies were implemented, and exit maps were installed. At the same time, Transfiguration became a much more welcoming church with changes to the Welcoming Space and improvements in the process of welcoming newcomers. We began to organize and digitize the many documents and photographs held by the church. A records retention policy was put in place to provide consistent instructions for the storage of parish records, baptismal records, and wedding records.

The vestry welcomed the new Parish Episcopal School Head of School, Dr. Matt Rush.

Our excellent relationship with the school continued, and we were able to identify and agree to plans for campus improvement to be continued into 2024. One completed example is the wall at the Southwest corner of the campus. It protects the playground and, once the planned landscape is in place, will provide a pleasing appearance consistent with the church buildings' design.

The capital campaign improvement projects continued with the completion of the kitchen remodel. The Episcopal Men's Fellowship, for one, has enjoyed using the new dishwasher and stove for the recent and very delicious Epiphany Breakfast. Policies and procedures for maintaining the space are in place in the kitchen.

The vestry continues to conduct substantial preparatory work on the church/sacristy project. We've met with architects, engineers, and contractors and have commissioned and obtained build and construction documents. The vestry has been fully engaged with the project. Unfortunately, we have seen the cost dramatically increase since we received initial estimates. As envisioned in the drawings we commissioned, the project could cost as much as twice what we initially expected. The vestry asks for your prayers as we carefully discern the next steps and weigh options.

The vestry has been blessed by the support of a hard-working and creative staff as well as the prayers and encouragement of an involved and caring parish. We pray that God, the source of all wisdom and understanding, continues to guide the vestry and the parish to fulfill his will in the world.



## **Budget, Finance & Administration** by Lacey Garcia

The Vestry's Budget, Finance & Administration Committee (BFA) supports the church's mission by monitoring and advising on all financial and administrative matters relating to church business. BFA develops the annual budget for approval by the Vestry and reports monthly on the church's financial position relative to the budget and activity in restricted ministry and investment accounts. BFA liaises with the Transfiguration Endowment trustees, facilitating communications and cooperation between the Endowment and the Vestry.

This year, Brett Vanderbrook served as the liaison. This year's committee was chaired by Lacey Garcia, who extends many thanks to this year's committee: Paul Brown, Kristin Cutts, Cathleen Dolt, Louis Guion, Cesar Hernandez, Keri Holt, Brett Vanderbrook, Bill Evans, and Peter Young.

BFA reviewed and updated the Parish Policies & Procedures Manual, continuously reviewed the budget throughout the year, and assisted with additional funding for the capital campaign.

BFA also exercises oversight of the Nominating Committee for open Vestry positions and our Diocesan Convention delegation. The 2023 Nominating Committee was well-chaired by Kristin Cutts, who led the committee and both the online and in-person voting. The following recommended slate for Vestry was approved: Olga Ruff, Michael Durrance, Elaine Sweet, and Brian Ferrell. Also elected by the parish was our 2024 Diocesan Convention delegation: Sergio Garcia, Leslie Hudson, Bill Keslar, Mason McCamey, Mark Ramsay, and David Reece. Many thanks are extended to the Nominating Committee for their hard work: Keri Holt, Barbara DeLizza, David Reece, Kerry Tate, Bill Keslar, Mark Ramsay, Mason McCamey, Pat Kriska, Travis Adamek, and Barbara Geiter.

### Building, Grounds, and Technology by Jeremy Teeple

The Building, Grounds, and Technology Committee of the Vestry is tasked with overseeing the use, conditions, repair, improvement, sustainability, and safety of all buildings and grounds on our Church's property and making sure we have the technology necessary to carry out our mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

Much of the committee's work over the past year was spent executing multiple projects directly tied to the Transfiguring Our Foundations Capital Campaign ("Capital Campaign"), in which total expenditures totaled roughly \$900,000 during 2023. We completed the Roper Kitchen project during the first half of 2023. The new kitchen has provided multiple ministries throughout our church with a brand new and significantly more functional space to carry out fellowship amongst our members, as well as a space to help serve those in our community through activities such as Thanksgiving pie making for Austin Street shelter. Various smaller projects were also completed during the year, including new HVAC units, additional parking lot lights, and improved key card access on several doors.

Another project currently being executed is installing a building automation system across all buildings on our campus, both church and school. This state-of-the-art system will allow key stakeholders to adjust comfort settings seamlessly, be notified of system events, and interface with the system from any web-enabled device. As a result, we should not only see the benefit of always having appropriate temperature settings, but we will also be better able to identify and react to maintenance events when they occur.

The most prominent and most visible project that BGT is undertaking as part of the Capital Campaign is a combined Church and Sacristy project that is designed to meaningfully enrich our core worship spaces for decades to come. Over the past year, BGT has been heavily engaged with our architect, engineers, general contractor, and other vendors in finalizing the design, completing the construction documents, and working toward an appropriate final project scope that balances our congregation's needs and desires with our current financial resources. The Vestry has been fully engaged with this project all year, providing guidance and support when it comes to critical decisions that need to be made. There is no doubt that the inflationary environment we have witnessed since the depths of COVID has dramatically increased the project's cost since the initial estimate, with the most recent estimate coming in close to double our original expectation from only three years ago. Thus, along with the Vestry, we are now carefully discerning the next steps and weighing our options with critical decisions coming over the next few weeks after the Annual Report goes to print. We are squarely focused on doing the right project for our congregation, knowing that we must be good stewards of our resources, especially as we also need to fully fund the sustainability fund with \$3 million that ensures we have the means to take care of our beautiful campus for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, BGT and the Vestry ask for your prayers as we discern and make critical decisions over the coming weeks.

Outside the scope of the Capital Campaign, BGT is well into the planning stages of a project that will include beautifying the greater Bell Tower area, including a fountain, upgraded landscaping, and a butterfly garden. The plan also includes a much more functional outdoor gathering space along the east side of the church building and a concrete path providing access to the pavilion on the south side. Parish Episcopal School is joining us in the project as we will make various modifications around the parking lot to improve access and traffic flow during times of high

activity. This project was made possible by a very generous donation from a parishioner in honor of his late wife, and we have subsequently received many other impactful contributions from individuals in memory of David Diggs. We still need to raise more funds to cover our share of the cost, but we hope to complete the work this coming Summer. Please let us know if you feel compelled to help financially, as this project will be a great addition to our church fellowship.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude for Bracken Reece, our Director of Operations. His unwavering commitment to ensuring the smooth functioning of our church's operations does not go unnoticed. We are truly fortunate to have someone of his caliber overseeing the operational aspects, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Bracken for everything he does.

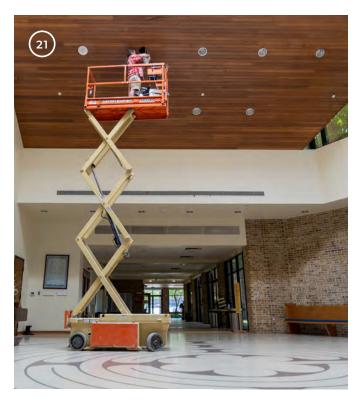


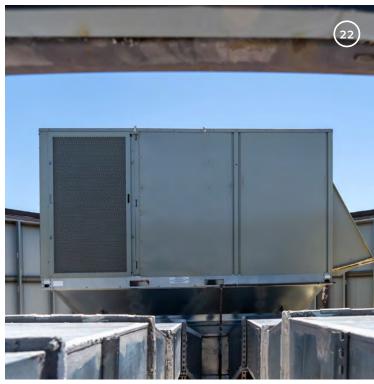
#### Transfiguring Our Foundations

by Robbi Rice Dietrich

From the beginning of Transfiguration's Capital Campaign, which was launched in 2020, a priority was placed on providing information to the parish throughout the five-year project timeline on funds raised, their use in improving our buildings and grounds, the status of projects, and the amount of funds invested for future infrastructure needs. The Capital Campaign Continuation Committee ("Quad C") is a group of parishioners focused on updating the parish on the status of Capital Campaign projects. Several times a year, we can be found at weekend services at the *Transfiguring Our Foundations* booth in the Gathering Space, where we answer questions about projects underway and those planned and, perhaps most notably, offer a sincere thank you (along with celebratory donuts!) for the incredible support of our members in accomplishing our campaign goals. As of December 31, 2023, we have received pledges/contributions totaling \$7,049,352 for the Capital Campaign from 358 donors. Of that amount, \$5,008,048 has been remitted to the church. In keeping with the commitment to invest a portion of contributed funds for future infrastructure needs, \$1,033,271 has been transferred to the Endowment Committee for investment.

The remaining major project, the renovation of the Sacristy and Sanctuary, will begin this spring, with completion anticipated by December 2024. Cost estimates for the project have increased since the original estimate, so plans are being reviewed with an eye toward reducing costs, and additional funding will be secured to cover any gap. Major projects completed include the remodeling of Roper Hall Kitchen and the renovation of Roper Hall, replacement and repair of roofing throughout the campus, including the installment of solar tiles on the church roof, replacement or repair of HVAC units and controls throughout the campus, installation of new lighting in the Entry Hall and Gathering Space, upgrade of audio-visual equipment in Roper Hall and the Vestry Room, installation of additional security cameras and security door locking systems, replacement of skylights in the Church and Gathering Space, new gutters and downspouts, addition of perimeter fencing and retaining wall, and improvement in parking and landscaping. In the Memorial Garden, drainage was corrected, and a new area for the internment of remains into the ground was completed. For more information, contact: Father Casey, Robbi Rice Dietrich, Jim and Tammy Kirkman, Susan Fisk, ET and Sally Manning, or Jeremy and Jordan Teeple.



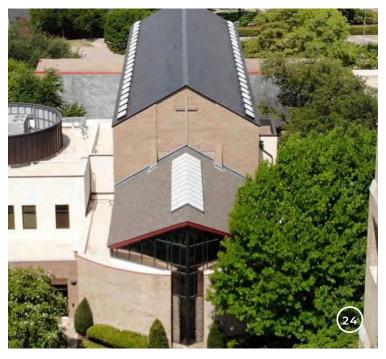




# \$7.05 million in Capital Campaign Pledges!

358 Pledges | \$7,049,352 Total | \$5,008,048 Collected





#### Mission, Ministry, and Connections Committee by Chip Brownlee

The MMC supports all parish ministries and serves as a resource for Transfiguration's outreach efforts to the broader community and world. The committee regularly communicates with and maintains a database of the parish ministries. Per vestry goals, the MMC focuses on ministries needing assistance forming, continuing, and completing their work. The committee works with parish leaders to plan annual parish-wide events and to schedule and oversee meetings of the Parish Council. The MMC works to provide vital relational ministry opportunities by facilitating connections in and between ministry groups and individuals within the parish community.

MMC's primary goals from the vestry this past year included a re-imagining of our "Welcome," both physical and procedural; the development of a policy and procedure document for the newly renovated Roper Kitchen; and to identify the scope of the parish records archive project and to develop a plan to organize and digitize certain documents.

The new Welcome Center was opened on April first in the Library and has provided a warm space to interact with guests and new parish members. Julian Garza worked with Gabby Guion to develop a new member onboarding program utilizing a journey mapping approach. This involved working with Al Blackwell on our current website structure and identifying the various member and visitor groups we are trying to help engage with the church and its ministries.

A new policy document was created for Roper Kitchen, which includes instructional resources for the use of the various equipment, cleaning, and sanitation protocols. It also incorporates a checklist for the different ministries that use the space to report any supplies needed or areas requiring the attention of maintenance personnel. A full inventory of the various place settings was completed, and we are in the process of acquiring a complete set of dishes,

glassware, and place settings for 300 guests. St. Hilda's and EMF both provided grants to help purchase items for the renovated space.

Alyson Thompson spearheaded the archive project and has made great strides in organizing the material and working with a third-party company to digitize photos and other documents. A retention policy was developed to help guide the parish in the storage of future records. A "Spill the 'T' Party" was held over the summer, where new and old parishioners gathered to help identify members featured in old photos and publications — our heartfelt thanks to the Endowment, which awarded a \$5,000 grant for this project.

The committee worked to help staff with the Lenten soup suppers, Ministry Fair, the small bites campaign, the stewardship campaign, and Fig Fest. We continually look for ways to help engage our members and connect them with ministries that would benefit from their talents. We look forward to helping develop creative ways for the various ministries to stay active during the upcoming year of capital improvements throughout the campus.

I want to thank all of the committee members who donated their time and expertise over the last year, including Al Blackwell, Susan Casone, Robbi Dietrich, Bill Edwards, Julian Garza, Barbara Geiter, Gabby Guion, Lindsey Murphy, Brooke Robb, and Alyson Thompson.





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.

During the year ended December 31, 2023, the total assets of the Endowment Fund increased from \$2,758,460 on December 31, 2022 to \$3,212,169. This net increase is made up of a year of significant market appreciation and new contributions, especially to the Infrastructure Capital Fund. During the year, the Endowment Fund received contributions of \$136,959 including bequests and other gifts. Of that amount, \$114,069 was earmarked for the Infrastructure Capital Fund.

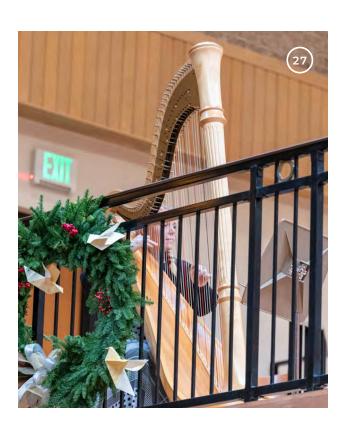
Disbursements of \$76,038 were approved in response to various grant requests. Grants included \$56,300 from the Legacy sub-fund for Church projects, including children's wing renovation and the music ministry, \$9,704 from the Outreach sub-fund, \$2,150 from the Seminarian sub-fund to support three seminarians connected with Transfiguration, \$5,109 from the Music sub-fund, and \$2,775 from the Youth sub-fund.

Spending in 2023 was limited to 4% of each sub-fund's assets, except for the Youth subfund, which is limited by other restrictions.

The spend limit for 2024 will also 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 and members of the Board of Trustees for 2023 were: Alan Dunlop, chair; Chuck Hodge, vice chair; John Caldwell, secretary; and Renee Thomas, treasurer. Linda Ayres, George Banitch, Dana Bartholomew, Tony DeBruyn, Keri Holt, Elizabeth Jenkins, Bill Keslar, Kurt Meisenbach. In 2024, Bill Keslar will become chair, Alan Dunlop will become treasurer, George Banitch will retire with our heartfelt thanks, and Paul Sternweis will join the Board.



## Stewardship

## \$2.02 million

2024 Stewardship Pledges (96% of \$2.1M goal)

#### Where Our Heart Is by Julia Trizzino

In 2023, the Stewardship committee led a campaign that has resulted in the largest pledged total for Transfiguration in our history - we have broken the \$2 million barrier! The purpose of the Stewardship committee is to plan and shepherd the annual Stewardship campaign to support the church's operating budget.

For the 2024 campaign, the committee selected the theme *Where Our Heart Is* - a play on Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." We tied in with the time and talent aspects of stewardship by offering a Spiritual Gifts assessment for members to learn where our gifts lie and offering "small bites" to sample ministries that align with those gifts. We hope this portion of the campaign has helped more people connect with our mission and ministries and perhaps discover where their heart is.

We are grateful to all who have pledged to the 2024 campaign to support our church operations. Our budget is set based on the pledges we receive during the campaign. The Vestry helped us to establish a goal of \$2.1M in pledges for 2024, which is necessary to maintain our staff and ministries and offset inflation.

As of January 15, we have heard from 419 households for a total pledged amount of \$2.02 million. The committee and clergy have followed up with those we have not yet heard from and are hopeful that we can achieve our 2024 goal.

Many thanks to this year's committee members: Julia Trizzino (chair), Travis Adamek, Courtney Barrow, Jane Biggio, Robin Caldwell, Tim Cutts, Cathleen Dolt, Julian Garza, John Holt, Peggy Kwoka, Sally Manning, Andrea Mayfield, the Rev. Casey Shobe, and the Rev. Rebecca Tankersley, with additional support from Al Blackwell, Gabby Guion, TJ McCoy, and Shalu Abraham.



Ministry Reports

#### Altar Guild

by Diana Rawlins

Altar Guild saw multiple areas of growth in 2023. These included an increase to a total of 29 members, an increased volume of communion elements needed for Eucharistic services, the purchase and donation of sacred vessels, the repair and maintenance of existing vestments, the addition of new Palm Sunday veils, as well as the procurement of new altar linens through a generous gift from St Hilda's Guild. Also, an Altar Guild "Director's Drive" was created to store all Altar Guild documents in the cloud. In 2024, an additional drive will be created for members to access the documentation.

Lessons learned in 2023 reflect the continued dedication of the Altar Guild membership in the preparation of sacraments and sanctuary under the direction of the clergy.

Olga Ruff, former Altar Guild Director, deserves special acknowledgment for her leadership and tireless "hands-on" work. The four Altar Guild Team Leaders, Gabby Guion, Colleen Carson, Elaine Sweet, and Ann Huffman, deserve special acknowledgment for their continued communication, scheduling, and training of the Altar Guild.

Due to budgetary restraints, Altar Guild was not provided with an operating budget in 2023, which required us to rely upon limited restricted accounts. The purchase of liturgical supplies such as communion hosts, wine, candles, candle oil, linens, and the costs of cleaning supplies, vestment dry cleaning and repair, etc., came to approximately \$9,300. In 2023, Altar Guild received roughly \$8,000 in donations. Although the 2023 Transfiguration Adopted Budget did not provide specific funding to Altar Guild the Vestry voted midyear to cover Altar Guild expenses up to \$5,000.

#### Altar Ministries

by Liz Kerner-Wyse

Transfiguration Altar Ministries assist clergy with the ceremonial requirements of each kind of church service, ensuring the smooth operation thereof and facilitating a meaningful worship experience for parishioners.

Eucharistic Ministers (EM) assist with the administration of the chalice during Communion. This ministry is open to all baptized adults. Those interested should contact Samuel Harkins via Realm for more information and training.

Minister of Ceremony (MC) The MC assists the clergy in setting up for each service and during the liturgy. Participation in this ministry is at the invitation of the Rector. We now have an older youth MC and have filled several vacancies due to life changes. Anyone interested in serving this way should have experience as an adult acolyte and an EM. Please contact either Elizabeth Kerner or Fr. Shobe for more information.

The *Thurifer* carries and swings the thurible in which incense is burned during the Eucharist and other liturgies. Mat Thekkil oversees this ministry, where three adults were active and two new youth thurifers completed their training.

Adult Acolytes carry the cross, torches, and banner at services and assist throughout the services. Three new adult acolytes were trained this year, bringing the total number to 25 that serve during the 11:15 Sunday services.

Please contact Robin Caldwell or Mike Rawlins for more information and training.

#### Austin Street Ministry

by Matt Harms

This past year, the Austin Street Ministry served approximately 400 clients monthly in person at their new facility. On the third Wednesday of January through October, we served our traditional Chili Dogs with all the fixings, bananas, and cookies. This was accomplished by a rotation of three teams of volunteers led by Ron Kerker, Judy Love-Corbett, and Matt Harms. These regular meal services typically had 15-20 volunteers. The Cookie Team was led by Elizabeth Jenkins, who assumed the leadership role from Nancy Korman in February. Over fifteen families provided cookies for our dinner service.

As has been the tradition for decades, we provided a full Thanksgiving meal on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. This year, we changed things up and only catered the turkey and gravy from Tom Thumb. Youth and Figs with Kids prepared the pies, dressing, and potatoes in the newly renovated Roper Hall kitchen. The meal was well received by the clients of ASC. Food was abundant, allowing us to provide a complete selection of pies to the last client in line and offer seconds.

In December, we provided a special Fried Chicken dinner with Mac and Cheese that was prepared in cooperation with the Kitchen staff of Austin Street.

Ron Kerker stepped down as an in-person team member for the dinner service and assumed a role as volunteer group coordinator in 2023. He will be retiring from his service to ASC in 2024. We would like to recognize and thank him for dedicating over a decade of service to this ministry.

Looking forward to 2024, we plan to find ways to utilize ASC's newly established relationship with North Texas Food Bank and commercial buying relationships to be even better stewards of the money given to this ministry.

#### 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 a more intimate experience of the Trinity living the divine life within and through us.

Centering Prayer meets at 11:00 AM in the parlor or online and at 4:00 PM online.



#### Daughters of the King

by Barbara DeLizza

The Mary and Martha Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King had an exciting and productive year. We continue to live our mission of prayer, service, and evangelism. The Daughters meet monthly in person and on zoom.

We serve our parish and the community in a variety of ways. Within the parish, we have participated in the Lenten Soup Supper, making of palm crosses, Clergy Appreciation Breakfast, Ministry Fair, and Rosary Workshop. Our service in the community consisted of Dinner for Members of New Friends New Life and a Clothing Donation for them. We made a donation for a Solar Water Pump for a community in Kenya.

This year, we commissioned six new daughters after their preparation class. We plan to hold class again this year for interested potential daughters.

The Order continues to offer prayer for all the parish and support to the Clergy and Ministry leaders. Special thanks are due to our officers Barbara Geiter, vice president; Kathey Roberts, past secretary; and Olga Ruff, treasurer; and all who offered devotions and formation opportunities.



#### Episcopal Men's Fellowship

by Alan Dunlop

The usual activities of EMF returned to normal following the disruptions from COVID-19 over the prior few years. A silent auction was held, leading to the best year ever in terms of fundraising and overall fun using bidding tablets and smartphones.

Other activities included the pancake supper, a golf tournament, and the resumption of monthly meetings despite the disruption of the Roper Hall kitchen renovations. The auction in June 2024 is planned to be held in the gymnasium of the Parish School next door.

The EMF Board meets monthly and is always looking for new volunteers interested in getting more involved with the EMF to help develop its activities and fellowship.

Financially, the EMF had an excellent year of fundraising, leading to significant grants, including a \$25,000 contribution to the Capital Campaign, a \$6,343 grant to the Children's Ministry, and a \$8,383 grant to the Youth Ministry, as well as other smaller in-reach and out-reach grants.

Available funds at	\$9,074
January 1, 2023	. , ,
Income from activities and donations:	\$74,323
Expenditure on grants:	(\$52,326)
Expenditure on activities:	(\$11,423)
Available funds at December 31, 2023	\$19,648

## 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."

Aligned with that insight, each month (generally on its first Sunday), parishioners gather to write notes to elected and appointed officials, aiming to influence their positions on issues related to justice and peace. During 2023, we have addressed legislation concerning homelessness, the environment, racial discrimination, and militarism - among many subjects. While we generally suggest three topics for consideration, writers are encouraged to address any issues of public justice on which they've reflected as persons of faith. We try to write briefly and to the point.

As Christians, we need politicians to hear our voices as we work to help fulfill our baptismal covenant to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being."

#### **Eucharistic Visitors**

by Rebecca Tankersley

In 2023, our team of Eucharistic Visitors took Holy Eucharist to more than 51 different individuals who were unable to get to church. Currently, we have 16 active licensed Eucharistic Visitors, who are sent out at least once a month. I am grateful to collaborate with Pastor Nancy DeStefano, Martha Cordell, and Peggy Kwoka in this ministry.

### Figs with Kids

by Jacqui Neylon

The mission of the Figs with Kids 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 2023, we gathered 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. We have gained many new members this year. We have continued to gather for adult formation each week that focused on parenting skills.

We enjoyed fun gatherings such as Game Night, a day at Cedar Creek Lake, a pool party hosted by the Teeple family, and monthly moms' night out dinners. As part of our mission to serve, we baked Thanksgiving Pies for the residents at Austin Street Shelter, set up for the Advent festival, volunteered for VBS, and hosted musical treats at Fig Fest.

Our private Facebook group continued to provide online support and fellowship. www.facebook.com/groups/figswithkids



#### Flower Guild

by Carolyn Lewis

In 2023, the Flower Guild was pleased to welcome new members of various ages and experience levels, bringing our total membership to twenty three. The group is divided into teams so every person can produce their own arrangement each week. We created fresh designs for over 50 events, from receptions, weddings, and funeral services to weekly arrangements for the altar, font, and children's chapel.

We are also delighted to continue providing nosegays for home-bound parishioners as part of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors ministry. In addition, to support the creation of a Butterfly Garden in honor of our co-founder David Diggs, we held a flower arranging class, which, along with other efforts, raised over \$20,000. We appreciate the support of members of Transfiguration and look forward to continuing our ministry in 2024.

### Food Pantry

by Alan Justice

Every month, *La Despensa*, as our Hispanic clients call it, provides about one week's worth of food per family—fresh produce, protein, vegetables, fruit, pasta, and flour. The pantry currently serves 40 families, up from 31 in January 2023 and 26 in July 2022. We feed 177 people; 98 are children under 18. Texas rates second in the country in food insecurity, just behind Arkansas. According to the North Texas Food Bank, 13% of all families in their service region are food insecure. The rate is 17% among Hispanic families (the vast majority of our clients).

The Daughters of the King provide non-food items—toilet paper, shampoo, deodorant, etc. The Clothes Horse makes free clothing available for our clients. The parish once again donated Christmas presents for all the pantry kids through the Angel Tree program. A single donor provided a Christmas cash gift for each family—an anonymous donation of \$4,000.

### Foyer Groups

by Sheila Runnels

Foyer groups are an amazing way to build a church family. Humans are social animals, and we have an innate longing to be part of a larger friend group. This longing is a major reason for Foyer group's success. At this time when many people are feeling a sense of loneliness and isolation, Foyer groups provide a means for people to better connect with their church congregation. It is like a magic glue that provides a strong sense of belonging and church community.

This unique connection extends across age divisions to provide an activity for meeting an expanded friend base.

This added connection brings people together to get acquainted and build friendships over the dinner table. There is a special bond that occurs when people break bread together. The primary goals here are to build fellowship with one another and make lasting friendships.

Foyer groups are assigned at casual events, which are held to divide up the participants into their groups and agree on a schedule. These groups each consist of a small set, typically 4 couples or about 8 people. Then, the Foyer couples take turns hosting a meal at their home or a restaurant, usually on a monthly schedule. So, a Foyer cycle lasts typically 4 to 6 months. There is a Spring cycle and a Fall cycle each year. The Fall 2023 Foyer Groups included 96 members in 12 groups.

## Funeral Reception Ministry

by Tish Maedche

The Funeral Reception Ministry has had a transfer of leadership this year. After more than 20 years of faithful service, Elizabeth Jenkins has passed the baton to Tish Maedche. We are grateful for Elizabeth's service to this ministry, and although she may not be in the leadership role, she is remaining a part of the team.

We provided 16 receptions in 2023, utilizing various spaces throughout our campus. Smaller receptions were held in the Parlor or the Tower Cloister, with larger receptions being held in Roper Hall.

### Labyrinth Ministry

by Nancy Jagmin

The Labyrinth Ministry is pleased to offer people information on our labyrinth's history and how it can be used as a spiritual tool. During 2023, Linda Horton trained to become a part of this ministry by completing a qualifying course plus 16 hours of Facilitator Training with Veriditas, a worldwide organization supporting labyrinth training. Linda and Nancy Jagmin respond to requests from people (including those outside Transfiguration) who want to schedule a group for an introduction before they walk the labyrinth. For example, in December, 10 members of the Young Adults Ministry at the First Chinese Baptist Church of Dallas visited our labyrinth. Nancy and Linda were also pleased to introduce four Fig parishioners to the labyrinth when they signed up for the "Small Bites" initiative.

#### 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. 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 of parishioners and friends who gather monthly to discuss a noteworthy novel or to screen and discuss a high-quality movie enjoying conversation (and refreshments) along the way. We strive to reflect on our faith and deepen our faithfulness to Christ in the light given to us through authors, directors, and actors.

A sampling of our various explorations screened and discussed (among others) during the past year includes the films *Milk* (Gus van Sant, 2009) and *Monsieur Vincent* (Maurice Clode, 1947). We've also read and discussed Frederick Beuchner's *The Son of Laughter* (1993) and Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960).

#### Open Door

by Chip Brownlee

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.

Over the past year, Open Door hosted Transfiguration's presence at Dallas Pride with a festival booth and parade entry. We also cohosted the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper with the Racial Justice Ministry. The group hosted a tour of the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum and the special exhibition Rise Up: Stonewall and the LGBTQ Rights Movement. Open Door ended the year with a holiday social hosted by Mark Abbott and Jim Weatherwax.

Our goals in 2024 are to revise the group's leadership structure and add more fellowship, programming, and outreach opportunities focused on diversity and inclusion.



#### Outreach Committee

by Brooke Robb

Outreach at Transfiguration continues to thrive as we maintain our partnerships with Austin Street Center, Spring Valley Elementary, North Dallas Shared Ministries, our own Food Pantry, and many other organizations.

We strengthened our commitment to Austin Street Center by recruiting new volunteers for the monthly food service. ASC opened their new facility and now serves over 400 folks every night. This and inflation increased the costs of each meal substantially, which we were able to meet through the Endowment (\$5,100), and cost-cutting measures. Rising food costs made prepared foods for our traditional Thanksgiving meal too costly, so we recruited extra youth and family volunteers to make mashed potatoes and dressing in addition to the traditional pies.

Transfiguration's Food Pantry continued to serve around 40 families each month (you can read their report on page 38). Outreach supplemented our Pantry by gathering school supplies and coats for the participants this fall.

Other projects the Outreach Committee coordinated include: soup kits for North Dallas Shared Ministries, gathering Easter baskets for Gateway of Grace, supplying gifts for St. Philip's Mother's Day Store, creating food bags for Vogel Alcove, and redesigning our Angel Tree to benefit families from both our Food Pantry and Spring Valley Elementary.

We held two "Fig Works" days. In February, we offered many projects for our parishioners to engage in: making homeless care kits, creating cards for those who are unable to come to church, and collecting gift cards for Traffick911 and Genesis Women's Center. In August, we had our second annual bake-off, where participants vied for the golden spatula, raising almost \$1,200 for Our Friends Place.

In 2023, the Outreach Committee disbursed \$15,000 in grants (see page 42 for list of recipients).

The Committee also gave \$5,000 to North Dallas Shared Ministries as part of our covenant relationship with them, \$2,500 from the vestry budget, and the rest from our reserve account. We asked for, and the Endowment trustees approved, a gift of \$4,500 to Lone Star Justice Alliance's Reengagement Youth Center.

Outreach recommended organizations to the Vestry for the loose-plate offering at Easter and Christmas, and the following gifts were given from the loose plate:

Loose Plate Offerings	Episcopal Relief and Development (both)	\$9,000.00
	New Friends New Life (Christmas)	\$5,000.00
	Lone Star Justice Alliance (Easter)	\$4,000.00

We are grateful for all the members of the Outreach Committee, especially retiring members Ron Kerker and Alan Justice. Ron has generously given countless hours to the committee's efforts and Austin Street Center. Alan has helped with many outreach efforts and will continue to serve at the Fig Pantry, where he helps lead monthly.

# Outreach Grant Recipients

In 2023, the Outreach Committee disbursed \$15,000 in grants to the following local organizations in need.







\$1,000

\$1,000

\$1,000



\$1,000



\$1,000



\$1,000



\$1,500



\$2,000



\$1,000



\$2,000



\$2,500

#### 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.

The Parish Nurse ministry welcomed a new member, Diana Rawlins, and said goodbye to Barbara Smith. We are thankful for the service that Barbara provided and wish her well.

The monthly blood pressure clinic served a total of 126 parishioners in 2023.

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 serving our faith community again in 2024. Look for us the first weekend of every month in the small room off the Labyrinth; we'll be happy to take your blood pressure and visit with you about your health questions or concerns.



#### Prayer Chain Ministry

by Pam Johnson and Kathey Roberts

Our Prayer Chain members pray daily for nearly 100 of our brothers and sisters in Christ. The team of 47 parishioners and three clergy members have committed to offering intercessory prayers of comfort, healing, strength, and guidance for the needs of parishioners, their family members, or dear friends.

This year, the ministry began publishing prayer requests via the Prayer Chain Group on Realm. All prayer requests are published when received and posted on Realm for Prayer Chain members. The two prayer lists – Parishioners and Friends & Family - are updated as the requests are posted.

Anyone wishing to request a Prayer or join this wonderful group of devoted members of the parish may email the church at prayers@transfiguration.net

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

by Sally Manning

The Prayer Shawl ministry benefitted greatly from the Stewardship Campaign's focus in 2023 on parishioners exploring each individual's various aptitudes and interests. Mainly through the "Small Bites" workshops in September and October and the return of the Ministry Fair in August, we gained a significant number of new members of all ages living in Dallas, some even in other states or countries!

The Prayer Shawl ministry now has a prominent location outside the Parlor in two large cabinets, housing the completed shawls inside and on the above space. A large album of the various recipients of shawls is displayed, along with prayer shawls and a sign-out clipboard, so that anyone can select a shawl and personally gift it to a friend, family member, or anyone who needs the love and compassion of a shawl.

The ministry meets via Zoom on the first Monday evening of each month. We occasionally meet in person during the warmer daylight savings time months. All are welcome - male and female, beginners to advanced – lessons and free yarns available!

## Racial Justice Ministry

by B. Woster

In 2023, the Racial Justice Ministry offered two circles each in the Spring and Fall for the National Episcopal Church's Sacred Ground curriculum. From the Spring circles emerged the 2024 ministry co-leaders. Events held at Transfiguration included a MLK Day weekend presentation on Dallas civil rights heroes, a Juneteenth meal with Living Faith Covenant Church, and a September Hispanic Heritage dinner and dance. We brought food for the Maundy Thursday meal (with Open Door) and for FigFest. Events outside of Transfiguration included February's visit to the African-American Museum, April's visit to the Holocaust and Human Rights Museum with Open Door, and a second visit in October for an exhibit on Jim Crow. We volunteered at Project Unity's Together We Ball in August and manned a booth representing Transfiguration at the Holiday on Forest event in December at Forest Audelia, primarily serving the lower-income residents of that area. All are welcome to join us on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30pm.



## Sound Technician Ministry

by Shaun Maning

In 2023, the Sound Technician Ministry was pleased to welcome new members. Sound technicians support regular services, funerals, and weddings. Our current membership has 17 sound members, two of whom are new this year.

The sound team members are divided into groups to support specific services with each person serving an average of one to two times a month.

The sound team holds several training sessions each year to help assist and train new members. We are very blessed to have these 17 dedicated members who serve in this ministry, and we are always happy to welcome more!

## Stephen Ministry

by Jack Skelton

In 2023, our Stephen Ministers spent approximately 650 hours with our care receivers. This time was devoted to helping them cope with numerous personal issues ranging from illness to grief from various forms of personal loss.

We currently have six active ministers and plan to conduct a training class this year as several people have expressed interest in becoming Stephen Ministers. We also plan to train a new leader.

We will continue our efforts to create a better understanding of how we can be of service to the congregation.

Pastor Nancy, our clergy liaison, continues to offer valuable insight and advice in our efforts to assist others.

#### St. Elizabeth's Guild

by Michael Durrance

St. Elizabeth's Guild blessed the parish with loads of food, fun, and fellowship in 2023! Expanding our monthly attendance and our leadership team, we were fortunate to continue our mission of highlighting the many ministries that help Transfiguration excel as a parish.

Our Spotlight Ministries this year included the Altar Guild, the Youth Ministry, the Racial Justice Ministry, and St. Hilda's Guild, which runs our fabled Clothes Horse ministry. We even had a spectacular Argentine Tango demonstration (not a ministry, exactly, but we had a lot of fun!). We hope to recruit and highlight more of the many wonderful ministries of the church next year!

St. Elizabeth's will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00pm in Roper Hall. However, our location will likely change in 2024 due to the exciting efforts from the *Transfiguring Our Foundations* campaign.

#### St. Hilda's Guild

by Cassie Bledsoe

St. Hilda's Guild operates the Kay Andrew's Bookstore and Gift Shop in the church by the Meditation Garden, and the Clothes Horse Resale Shop in the same building as the Youth Center. St. Hilda's mission is to provide volunteers and financial support to projects that benefit children and women.

St. Hilda's has played a vital role in Transfiguration's outreach efforts for over 63 years and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund those efforts. St. Hilda's is among the most prominent organizations at the church, with over 40 members volunteering their time weekly. In 2023 alone, St. Hilda's added 10 new volunteers to its weekly Clothes Horse operation. For its long-term effectiveness, St. Hilda's was recognized by the Vestry in 2023 for its "Outstanding Service to the Church."

#### In 2023, St. Hilda's funded the following projects:

- The parish Youth Program that the Vestry was unable to fund.
- Two Godly Play classrooms for our parish children
- Supplies for the Altar Guild
- \$2,000 to totally fund the Advent Festival in December
- 160 uniforms for underprivileged students at Spring Valley Elementary
- \$900 to the Endowment Fund for memorials
- \$500 for new kitchen equipment
- Clothes for Transfiguration's Austin Street Center ministry
- Clothes for clients of Transfiguration's Food Pantry
- Clothes to auction in support of EMF's Fish Fry
- Clothes for battered women's ministry
- Collaborating with Daughters of the King, clothes for New Hope New Life
- Clothes for Catholic Foundation's ministry for homeless young men
- Clothes to the Salvation Army
- Pledged \$10,000 to the Capital Campaign Fund
- And tithed 10% of our annual earnings to support the parish further

In 2024, St. Hilda's plans to upgrade its operational capability, expand its marketing activities, add more new volunteers, and continue to "seek and serve Christ in all persons."

St. Hilda's 2023 financial statement is on page 46.

Note: Net revenue increased in 2023 by 4% over 2022 and giving increased 59% in 2023 over the 2022 level.

## Saint Hilda's Guild Year-End Financial Report

Fig  Vestry for Fig Kitchen Equi  Fig Youth for Advent F  To Spring Valley Elem  Total Grants in 2023  Gifts Bonuses to Clothes Horse C  Total Gifts in 2023  Endowment Fund Donations In memory of Nicholas  In memory of Joe  In memory of Kathryn Hud	orse Totals	Clothes Horse	Bookstore		
KAB - Books         \$8,443.21         -           KAB - Gifts         \$8,863.55         -           Total (Gross) Income         \$17,306.76         \$20,534.03           Expenses         Book Store Purchases           Books Purchased         \$6,645.96         -           Gifts Purchased         \$1,075.19         -           KAB Operating Expenses-Shipping         \$571.37         -           Credit Card Fees         \$466.57         -           CH Operating Expenses         -         \$1,098.91           Total Expenses         \$8,759.09         \$1,098.91           Net Profit         \$8,547.67         \$19,435.12           State Sales Taxes paid in 2023         Giving           Tithes in 2023         Altar           Fig         Yestry for Fig Kitchen Equi           Fig Youth for Advent F         To Spring Valley Elem           Total Grants in 2023         Bonuses to Clothes Horse C           Total Gifts in 2023         In memory of Nicholas           In memory of Journ memory of Kathryn Hud				Income	
KAB - Gifts         \$8,863.55         -           Total (Gross) Income         \$17,306.76         \$20,534.03           Expenses         Book Store Purchases           Books Purchased         \$6,645.96         -           Gifts Purchased         \$1,075.19         -           KAB Operating Expenses-Shipping         \$571.37         -           Credit Card Fees         \$466.57         -           CH Operating Expenses         -         \$1,098.91           Total Expenses         \$8,759.09         \$1,098.91           Net Profit         \$8,547.67         \$19,435.12           State Sales Taxes paid in 2023           Giving         Titles in 2023           Grants         Altar           Fig         Vestry for Fig Kitchen Equi           Fig Youth for Advent F         To Spring Valley Elem           Total Grants in 2023         Bonuses to Clothes Horse C           Total Gifts in 2023         Bonuses to Clothes Horse C           Total Gifts in 2023         In memory of Nicholas           In memory of Stathryn Hud	\$20,534.03	\$20,534.03	-	Clothes Horse	
Total (Gross) Income	\$8,443.21	-	\$8,443.21	KAB - Books	
Expenses  Book Store Purchases  Books Purchased \$6,645.96 - Gifts Purchased \$1,075.19 - KAB Operating Expenses-Shipping \$571.37 - Credit Card Fees \$466.57 - CH Operating Expenses - \$1,098.91 Total Expenses \$8,759.09 \$1,098.91 Net Profit \$8,547.67 \$19,435.12  State Sales Taxes paid in 2023  Giving Tithes in 2023  Grants Altar Fig Vestry for Fig Kitchen Equi Fig Youth for Advent F To Spring Valley Elem Total Grants in 2023  Gifts Bonuses to Clothes Horse C Total Gifts in 2023  Endowment Fund Donations In memory of Nicholas In memory of Joc	\$8,863.55	-	\$8,863.55	KAB - Gifts	
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Total Expenses \$8,759.09 \$1,098.91  Net Profit \$8,547.67 \$19,435.12  State Sales Taxes paid in 2023  Giving Tithes in 2023  Grants Altar Fig Vestry for Fig Kitchen Equi Fig Youth for Advent F To Spring Valley Elem Total Grants in 2023  Gifts Bonuses to Clothes Horse C Total Gifts in 2023  Endowment Fund Donations In memory of Nicholas In memory of Joe In memory of Kathryn Hud	\$466.57	-	\$466.57	Credit Card Fees	
Net Profit \$8,547.67 \$19,435.12  State Sales Taxes paid in 2023  Giving  Tithes in 2023  Grants Altar  Fig  Vestry for Fig Kitchen Equi Fig Youth for Advent F To Spring Valley Elem  Total Grants in 2023  Gifts Bonuses to Clothes Horse C  Total Gifts in 2023  Endowment Fund Donations In memory of Nicholas In memory of Joe In memory of Kathryn Hud	\$1,098.91	\$1,098.91	-	CH Operating Expenses	
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Giving  Tithes in 2023  Grants Altar  Fig  Vestry for Fig Kitchen Equi  Fig Youth for Advent F  To Spring Valley Elem  Total Grants in 2023  Gifts Bonuses to Clothes Horse C  Total Gifts in 2023  Endowment Fund Donations In memory of Nicholas  In memory of Joe  In memory of Kathryn Hud	\$27,982.79	\$19,435.12	\$8,547.67	Net Profit	
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Gifts Bonuses to Clothes Horse C Total Gifts in 2023  Endowment Fund Donations In memory of Nicholas In memory of Jon In memory of Kathryn Hud	entary \$1,500.00	To Spring Valley Elementary			
Total Gifts in 2023  Endowment Fund Donations  In memory of Nicholas  In memory of Joe  In memory of Kathryn Hud	\$8,950.00			Total Grants in 2023	
Endowment Fund Donations  In memory of Nicholas  In memory of Joe  In memory of Kathryn Hud	Cleaner \$400.00	Bonuses to Clothes Horse Cleaner		Gifts	
In memory of Jod In memory of Kathryn Hud	\$400.00			Total Gifts in 2023	
In memory of Kathryn Hud	Braun \$250.00	In memory of Nicholas Braun		Endowment Fund Donations	
	e Wells \$100.00	In memory of Joe Wells			
I.,	iburgh \$250.00	In memory of Kathryn Hudiburgh			
in memory of Lorraine	Horan \$250.00	In memory of Lorraine Horan			
In memory of Paul	Welch \$100.00	In memory of Paul Welch			
Total Endowments in 2023	\$950.00			Total Endowments in 2023	
Total monetary gifts in 2023	\$14,358.81			Total monetary gifts in 2023	

#### Non-monetary gifts -

Over 125 large, black trash bags of clothing to Austin Street Center; Approximately 1,800-2,000 items of clothing to our Food Pantry families; Several clothing items to Spring Valley Elementary; Several clothing items to EMF for Silent Auction; Several clothing items to New Friends New Life

## Transfigured Nights

by Sara Ivey

Transfigured Nights (TFN) reached a total audience of 1,645 people through the performances of 12 live programs in 2023. That's a post-Covid record, and equal to our 2019 (pre-Covid) attendance! Now, midway through the 20th season of TFN, we hope to reach an even greater live and online audience for our beautiful Evensongs, emotive All Souls' Requiem, heartening Advent Lessons & Carols with a delicious Christmas cookie buffet, amazing solo recitals, and intimate Art Music Monday chamber series led by cellist Gayane Manasjan Fullford. Specifically, the total and average live attendance figures for Transfigured Nights (1,265/158) and Art Music Monday (380/95) were very impressive in 2023. Our talented musicians soothe the soul, raise the pulse, and inspire us all. Special thanks to the choir and our brilliant artistic director, Joel Martinson, who leads with his head and his heart to deliver the greatest music.

We are grateful to the expanding number of generous patrons, our only source of revenue. All programs are free, except for the ticketed fundraisers. The September Hillcrest Live! benefit concert raised approximately \$25,000. The money will cover a portion of the cost of the 2024 Transfiguration Choir pilgrimage to Edinburgh, Scotland, this July.

#### SPRING 2023 (2022-2023 Season Events)

#### Transfigured Nights

Joel Martinson's Scandinavia - January 23

Attendance: 81

Solemn Evensong for Candlemas – February 5

Attendance: 167

Nathan Laube, organist – March 26

Attendance: 125

#### Art Music Mondays

February 27 Attendance: 100 June 5 Attendance: 110

#### FALL 2023 (2023-2024 Season Events)

#### Transfigured Nights

Evensong for Holy Cross Day - September 17

Attendance: 160

Benefit - Hillcrest Live! - September 30

Attendance: 197

Damin Spritzer, organist - October 15

Attendance: 92

Solemn Requiem for All Souls' Day – November 2

Attendance: 180

Advent Lessons and Carols - December 3

Attendance: 263

#### Art Music Mondays

September 18 Attendance: 95 November 13 Attendance: 75



## Transfigured Nights Financial Statement 2023

Beginning Cash Balance	\$81,085.36
Income	
Patronage & Donations	\$60,440.10 Up 10.8% from 2022
Total Cash & Income	\$141,525.46
Expenses	
Transfigured NightsPerformer Fees	\$18,255.28
Art Music Mondays Performers Fees	\$6,200.00
Printing & Postage	\$5,873.41
Hillcrest Live! Expenses	\$4,471.11
Instrument Maintenance, Moving & Tuning	\$675.00
Reception Expenses	\$2,151.68
Audio/Visual Equipment & Subscriptions	\$302.88
Child Care	\$540.06
Misc. Expenses	\$267.27
Donations to Arts Education Organizations	\$4,300.00
Total Expenses	\$43,036.69
Total Transfers Out	\$1,183.00
Transfer to music payroll for 7th choir section le	eader
2023 Ending Cash Balance	\$97,305.77
Less budgeted encumbrance for second half of 2023-2024 season*	\$17,731.00
Unencumbered Cash	\$79,574.77

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

## Wedding Guild

by Elizabeth Jenkins

The Wedding Guild is chaired by Elizabeth Jenkins and a team of four helpers. They help couples plan their wedding at the church and assist with the wedding rehearsal. They coordinate with the Flower Guild and work with the couples' photographers. On the day of the wedding, they assist the couple and the wedding party while they are getting ready and work to make the day as stress-free as possible for the couple and their families.

Wedding Guild provided a table at the 2023 Ministry Fair and maintains the wedding scrapbook with pictures of each couple that had their wedding at Transfiguration. This scrapbook is on display at the Ministry Fair table each year.

### Tuesday Women's Book Group by Nancy DeStefano

This group reads and discusses a variety of non-fiction books. The books we read are usually recommended by members of the group. This year we read several great books including Mere Christianity by CS Lewis, The Heart of it All: The Bible's Big Picture by the Rev Sam Wells, Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Iesus by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, and The Language of God by Frances Collins. 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 1:00 to 2:30. We open our meetings with prayer, fellowship and sharing prayer concerns for the first 30 minutes and then we discuss what we have read. We pray, laugh, and share. We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

### 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

Youth acolytes allow youth aged 8 to 18 to learn the Episcopal tradition in a new way: by being part of the Eucharistic service. Youth traditionally serve as crucifers, first and second servers, and torchbearers. This year, two youth were also trained to be thurifers. Youth acolytes are an essential part of the service, even though much of what they do is invisible to most in the congregation.

We had three graduating seniors this year: Sophie Guion, Russell Nicodemus, and Zoe Wilson. All three had served as acolytes for many years.

We had our annual breakfast and training in August and now have 37 youth acolytes and nine acolyte wardens. Thanks to all the wardens, acolytes, and parents for making this program such a success.

## Staff

## Clergy

The Rev. R. Casey Shobe, D.Min. - Rector | cshobe@transfiguration.net

The Rev. Rebecca Tankersley - Senior 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 Delynda Moravec – Director of Youth Ministries | msturdy@transfiguration.net Gabby Guion – Minister for Congregational Life | gguion@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

Cathleen Dolt – Parish Administrator | cdolt@transfiguration.net

TJ McCoy – Director of Communications | tmccoy@transfiguration.net

Al Blackwell – Digital Communications Specialist | ablackwell@transfiguration.net

Darla Rupert - Parish Bookkeeper | drupert@transfiguration.net

Shalu Abraham – Executive Assistant to the Rector | sabraham@transfiguration.net

Fred Ellis – Administrative Assistant | fellis@transfiguration.net

## **Operations**

Bracken Reece – Director of Operations | breece@transfiguration.net Alex Alvarado - Sexton Francisco Negrete - Sexton Erik Welch - Sexton

## Vestry

Peggy Kwoka, Lacey Garcia Jay Madrid Vestry-elect Sr. Warden Parish Chancellor Michael Durrance Mike Mignardi Evan Williams Mat Thekkil, Lindsey Murphy Brian Ferrell Ir. Warden Assistant Chancellor Olga Ruff Alyson Thompson Chip Brownlee Brett Vanderbrook Bill Evans Elaine Sweet Kristin Cutts Jeremy Teeple Treasurer Robbi Dietrich Libby Nicodemus Peter Young

Clerk

## Photo Index

Cover: Cecelia Surley-Strong and Fr. Casey at the Childrens Christmas Pageant Photo by John Makowski

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- 2. Fr. Casey under the Where Our Heart Is banner
- 3. Blair, Rose, and Patrick Marquardt
- 4. Judy Loveday-Corbett serving treats at the Bake-off
- 5. Nathaniel Dick watching over angels at the Childrens Christmas Pageant | Photo by Robert Hacker
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- 33. Mikey Whitman at the Dallas Pride Parade
- 34. Deanie Winstel, Pat Shaughnessy, Pam Johnson, Nancy Torell, and Bridget DeBruyn at "Spill the 'T" event Photo by Alyson Thompson
- 35. Civil Rights Pilgrims at the home of MKL, Jr. in Montgomery, Alabama
- 36. Transfiguration Choir singing at Requiem for All Souls' Day Back Cover: New visitor in the Tower Cloister

Photo by TJ McCoy



## Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons

