



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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PARISH PROFILE

*COME UNTO ME*

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



# WHY CHRIST CHURCH

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for taking time to read our Parish Profile.

In these pages, you will begin to see what makes Christ Episcopal Church such a special place. We have thriving ministries, engaged and faithful members, visionary leadership, incredible staff, and strong operations.

We are a large, active congregation located in the heart of Monte Vista Historic District in San Antonio with widespread membership and ministries. And despite national trends, we are growing!

But what I find truly remarkable about my home church is that time and time again when our congregation has an opportunity to come together in reflection and preparation, whether it is participating in the RenewalWorks program or now as we are preparing to call our next Rector, we see strength and compassion in our community and a genuine desire to deepen our individual relationships with Christ.

We invite our next Rector to join us in our work to live out our mission statement: Drawing, Changing, and Sending People Through the Power of Christ. To walk alongside us, encourage us, and lead us as we deepen our commitment to Christ and continue to live out the work the Gospel calls us to do.

With prayer and thanksgiving, we live into this season of anticipation as we await what God has in store for us. I am confident that you will enjoy working with our Search Committee and Vestry when the time comes. I am praying for you as you enter the discernment process.

Faithfully,

Lisa S. Miller  
*Senior Warden*



Miller  
Family





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# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH MISSION AND CORE VALUES

Our Mission is drawing,  
changing, and sending people  
through the power of Christ.

## CORE VALUES

### Drawing

We are drawn into the love of Jesus Christ through a relationship with God and one another.

### Changing

We are changed through the love of Jesus Christ, transformed by God into His image.

### Sending

We are sent to share the love of Jesus Christ by God as disciples formed by His grace.



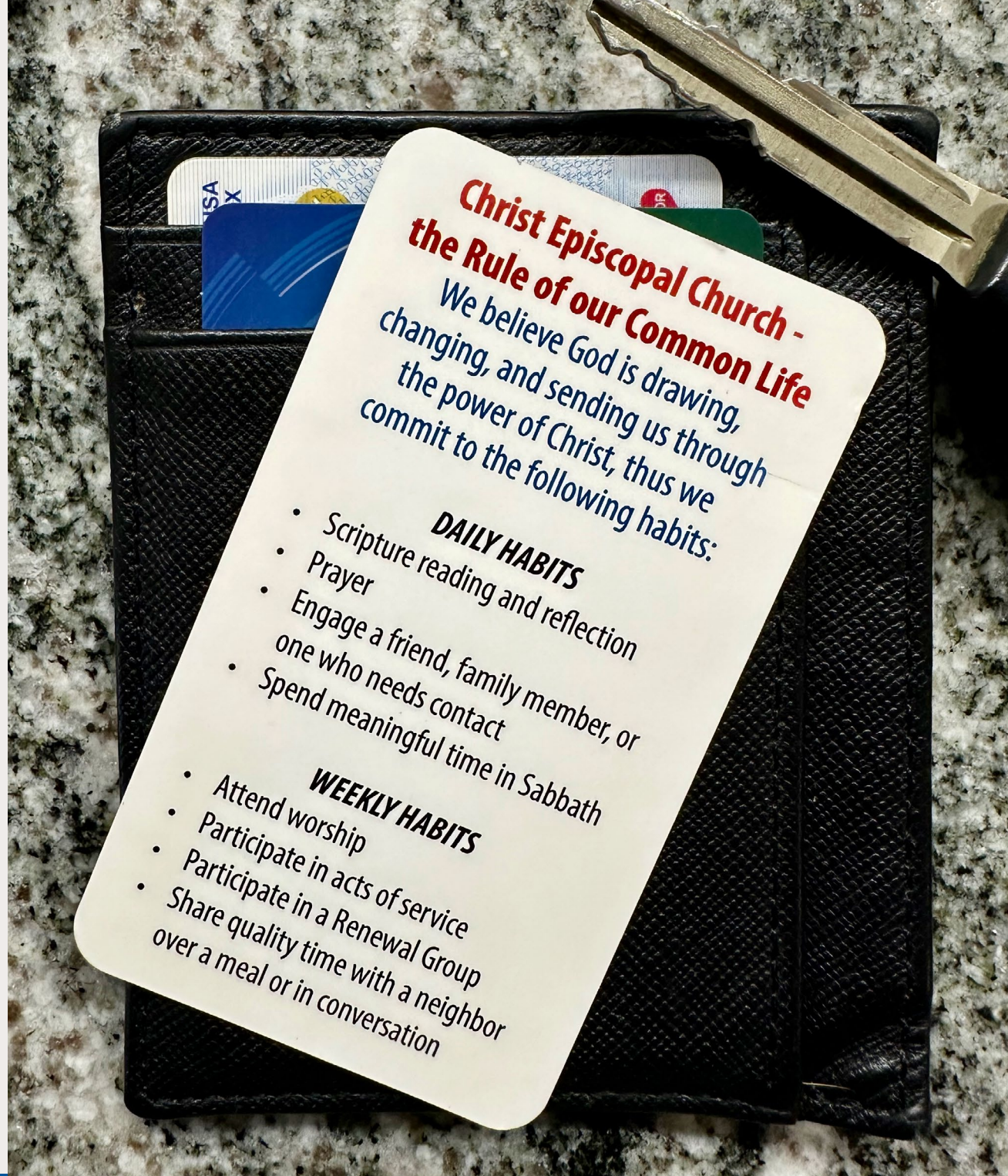
# THE RULE OF OUR COMMON LIFE

Because we believe God is drawing, changing, and sending us through the power of Christ, we commit to habits as a guide to our common life.

In early 2022, the people of Christ Church responded to the RenewalWorks Spiritual Life Inventory in great numbers. From that data, we developed the Rule of Our Common Life. Almost 3,000 cards have been given out and we are continually inviting our people into accountability relationships that help one another uphold the rule.

The habits that encompass the Rule of Our Common Life are designed to serve as a guidepost that can be individualized and personalized to fit your rhythm and routine.

It is our hope upon calling a new rector that we would enter into a Day of Renewal to continue our momentum of deepening our spiritual lives. And in early 2025 we will repeat the RenewalWorks process to see if we have made any movement in our spiritual growth as a congregation.



# MINISTRY: WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Worship is central to our common life as a community. In corporate worship, we unite ourselves with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, to participate in the Sacraments, hear the Word of God, to be inspired by the preaching of the Word, to pray for the world and others, and to be transformed through incredible music.

## OUR CURRENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Saturday

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Sidewalk Saturday

### Sunday

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite One

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Choir, Children's Chapel

10:00 a.m. Formation for all ages

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Choir, Children's Chapel

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Music

### Wednesday

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Music

11:30 a.m. Prayer Service for the Transition and Search for a New Rector

Our services on Sunday at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and our Wednesday service are broadcast live on Facebook and our website with people worshipping with us around the world. Sermons and select worship services are archived on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/@CecsaOrg](https://www.youtube.com/@CecsaOrg).

Children's Chapel at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. takes place in a chapel designed specifically for children. The service includes music, liturgy and a message for children. Children return to church at the Passing of the Peace in order to be a part of Eucharist with their families.



# MINISTRY: WORSHIP AND MUSIC

## Worship

- Altar Guild
- Welcome Team: Greeters, Golf Cart Team
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- Lectors [*Read Scripture*]
- Intercessors [*Prayers of the People*]
- Side Altar Prayer Ministry
- Ushers
- Altar Flowers & Dedications
- Psalm Leaders
- Acolytes

## Music

- Adult Choir
- Cherub Choir (Ages 3 – PreK)
- Caroler Choir (Kinder – 2<sup>nd</sup> grades)
- Sanctuary Choir (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades)
- Youth Choir (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades)



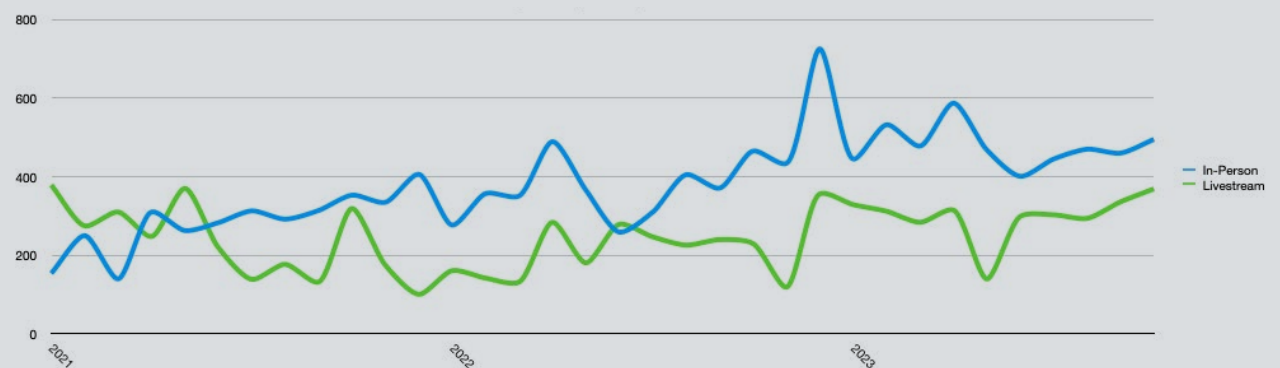
## Worship Attendance

Christ Episcopal Church tracks attendance of all worship services. The average Sunday in-person attendance for 2023 was almost 500. As the in-person attendance climbed in 2023, so did the livestream attendance. Christ Church continues to consistently connect with members outside of the sanctuary while growing attendance inside the church walls.

### Average Sunday Attendance:

2018: 478	2019: 491	2020: 512
2021: 294	2022: 386	2023: 491

Average Monthly Worship Attendance



# MINISTRY: FORMATION FOR ADULTS

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We learn to believe and trust in God—to love and obey God and to bring others to know Him; to put nothing in the place of God; to show God respect in thought, word, and deed; and to set aside regular times for worship, prayer, and the study of God’s ways. Adult formation happens every day of the week at Christ Church—either through small group Bible studies or in Sunday School offerings. Multiple classes for adults are offered year round on Sunday mornings. And, **every day of the week** there is at least one Bible study available to parishioners and their friends for formation.

## Adult Formation Opportunities

- **Sunday Formation** Four classes offered annually and taught by lay leaders with a clergy mentor.
- **Discipleship Wednesday Evenings** thematic Bible study throughout the school year
- **Renewal Groups, Bible Studies & Small Groups** over 15 separate weekly Bible studies for all ages
- **Young Adults (Adults in late 20’s to 40’s)** Coffee Talk on Sundays, Bible studies, Family Camp, Fourth Friday Fellowships
- **College Ministry** Bible studies and fellowship events for college students and recent college grads
- **JOY (Adults over 50):** Special events, fellowship opportunities, Bible studies, Sunday morning formation

## Young Adult Ministry

The Young Adults gather not only for formation (Sunday mornings and during the week Bible studies) but also for monthly fellowship opportunities and occasional service experiences. The Young Adults also bring their families to family camp at the Mustang Island Conference Center in the summer.

## College (*and Recent Grad*) Ministry

The College Ministry is led by a member of the Christ Church staff. It exists to help students to grow their relationship with God, participate in authentic community, grow to their full potential, and live out the mission of Jesus Christ. College age and young adults in their first careers may participate in a weekly Sunday School, Wednesday Night Dinner and Fellowship, Lunch Bunch, service opportunities and special events and retreats throughout the year. Local and non-local college students are supported by the College Ministry program with outreach throughout the school year including final exam care packages.

“Since moving to San Antonio in 2020, Christ Church College and Young Adult Ministry has impacted my life by providing a welcoming space for fellowship. Whether we’re gathering for Monday night dinners or hiking the Guadalupe, the sense of belonging makes our group meetings something I look forward to, and it’s an easy place to invite friends.”

— Marissa Roth

## J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

J.O.Y. is open to anyone over 50 who would like to participate. It is a group created to provide connection and camaraderie among older parishioners. Members themselves plan the outings, set the calendar in collaboration with the church office, and provide publicity about the events. In the past two years J.O.Y. held some wonderful events. Anyone who expresses an interest in planning is more than welcome to come to those meetings. Most events are held off-site, such as a local museum visit followed by an optional lunch. J.O.Y. is also the sponsor of the annual parish back-to-school picnic.

“For us, the J.O.Y. Group has been a blessing—we’ve made new friends, hobnobbed with old friends, and enjoyed learning more about our home town.”

— Bob & Susan Bell

“The J.O.Y. group brings joy into my life—a chance to learn, to discover, and to bond with others from Christ Episcopal Church.”

— Pat Lindemood

“It is lovely to have a group of people with whom you can enjoy getting to know, learn and explore. You are never too old to have fun with friends.”

— Suzanne Stanley





# MINISTRY: FORMATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

## Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry at Christ Church consists of two separate programs: middle school and high school. Our middle school program is focused on weekly meetings on Sunday morning for Sunday school, Wednesday night for Bible study, and social events such as bowling. Our middle schoolers also help in a summer service project where we team up with our local ministry partners such as Christian Assistance Ministries. High school is focused on our Sunday night program, as well as service opportunities such as giving testimonies on our middle school retreats, and our annual mission trip to the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota.

- Sunday Morning
- Youth Group
- Wednesday Evening
- Confirmation
- Mission Trips
- Diocesan Events

## Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry provides Sunday school opportunities for children from infancy through fifth grade year-round. Our nursery is available for infants and young toddlers from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Sunday mornings, led by our early-childhood educated nursery director. Preschoolers follow a Montessori-style curriculum while kindergarten through fifth graders use the Orange curriculum. Children's chapel is offered during the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services for children ages three through fifth grade, and children are brought back for communion with their families. Special events throughout the year include a Christmas pageant, first communion, Easter egg hunt, and vacation Bible school.

- Nursery (0 – 3 years old)
- Catechesis (Pre-school)
- Orange (K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Vacation Bible School
- Communion Class
- Special Events



“It just makes me happy.”



“I like Sunday school and my teacher Mr. Joe.”



“It is like a family.”



# MINISTRY: EVANGELISM

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We bear witness to Christ wherever we may be and, according to the gifts given to us, carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world.

## Invite Welcome Connect

Invite Welcome Connect is a ministry of transformation that equips and empowers individuals and congregations to cultivate intentional practices of evangelism, hospitality, and belonging. The Gospel of John (13:34 – 35) reminds us that Jesus gives us a new commandment: *“Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”*

The Ministry Council, rooted in the framework of Invite Welcome Connect, provides a practical, theological, and comprehensive process for engaging communities of faith to move from a maintenance culture to a gospel-driven mission culture, from transactional groups bonded by a task to a transformational community fulfilled by a relationship with Jesus Christ and one another.

The Ministry Council is our key component of evangelism, hospitality, and belonging and will be made up of the chairs and vestry liaisons of each of the Invite Welcome Connect teams below. We will meet quarterly to determine how each team works with each other and for each other to further the ministry of Christ Episcopal Church. The teams will meet on their own schedule as needed to accomplish their part of the mission.

## Invite Team

The Invite Team's role is to invite people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and Christ Church, through fellowship events, strategic and intentional evangelism, and building relationships with others.

## Welcome Team

The Welcome Team's role is to make sure everyone who comes to Christ Church is welcomed with genuine hospitality and unconditional love.

## Connect Team

The Connect Team's role is to enhance our belonging to Christ's church and our connection to each other through the strategic work of governance of our ministries to carry out the mission and vision of the church, rotate leadership, and provide meaningful and creative work for its members. And, to help parishioners understand the different stages of the spiritual continuum and how, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, they move from one stage to another in and through a relationship with Christ and by belonging to a ministry.



Invite • Welcome • Connect®



## MINISTRY: FELLOWSHIP

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We have numerous parish-wide fellowship events throughout the year. These opportunities to build relationships with one another across the many generations at our church are highlights for us all.

Many if not all of our events gather around the table to share a meal. Our kitchen ministry is a pivotal piece of our fellowship opportunities being so popular, fun, and fulfilling.

Kitchen Ministry volunteers work under the direction of the CEC full-time kitchen manager. Volunteers help prepare and serve meals for regular events which include Sunday morning breakfasts, Wednesday night dinners, Wednesday CEC staff luncheons, cookies for the Madison Elementary School tutoring, as well as a myriad of committee and vestry luncheon meetings, receptions, and special events. Volunteers may sign up to work as their schedules permit, and shifts range from weekly to monthly.



# MINISTRY: OUTREACH

It is our aim to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ through justice, peace, and love.

Jesus commands us to love our neighbor. Jesus' first action of love was always beyond himself: it was outreach. He turned water into wine. He healed a blind man, a leper, a paralytic, and many more. He fed thousands. His first actions were always outward. Jesus also trained his disciples for the journey that awaited them—especially the journey where Christ would not be physically present with them. Our primary work in outreach is to form people into vessels of love moved to caring companions with others through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are called to love others like Jesus did, and by doing so, to be messengers of God's love and grace. God loves all people with no qualifications, and the worth of every person stems from God's love—not our societal markers, abilities, or achievements. We at Christ Church are deeply committed to sharing God's love, not because we can ever gain more favor with God, but because in being transformed by His love, how can we not help but share this abundant gift with others? Just as Jesus told his disciples that *they* should feed the crowd (Mark 6:35 – 37; Matthew 14:15 – 16), God's love calls **us** to action and is expressed and experienced most fully in community.

One of the ways we can love is through the ministry of Outreach. Outreach and charity are distinctly different, both important and necessary. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called into outreach—called into the generous sharing of God's love—with our neighbors. In our outreach, we should expect renewal, transformation, restoration, and rejuvenation of everyone in miraculous ways.

All of our outreach is well supported by ministers (volunteers) who are dedicated, hands-on, gifted, and generous. Our efforts are about building relationships; thus, it is important to us to engage as many parishioners as we can in our outreach efforts. This has resulted in a three to one ratio across the ministry—meaning, one minister is reaching and touching three people. Hundreds of ministers are building relationships and sharing God's love with hundreds of people throughout our community. And for every \$3 brought into the church for ministry, \$1 of that is given back out into the community. True trinitarian ministry!





## MINISTRY: OUTREACH

At Christ Church, our outreach is defined by our pastoral care, service to the local community, and our global mission work.

Our outreach ministry is all about building relationships and seeking transformation of those in need through the love of Jesus Christ and the healing and restorative power of the Holy Spirit.

### Pastoral Care

- Eucharistic Visitors
- Emergency Prayer Chain
- Intercessory Prayer
- Care Notes
- Altar Flower Delivery
- Soup Ministry
- Worship at multiple long term residential care communities
- Anglican Rosary
- Good Ole Days program brings parishioners together to reminisce about years gone by
- Funeral Receptions
- Columbarium Gardeners

### Outreach (*Service to our Local Community*)

- Sidewalk Saturday: Held every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Outreach Pavilion providing our neighbors in need with a faith community, Holy Eucharist, food, clothes, household items, support and referrals to other resources.
- School Support Ministry: Madison Elementary School, Maverick Elementary School, Longfellow Middle School, Jefferson High School
- Strong local partnerships with a multitude of charitable organizations.
- Community Health and Wellness: Vista Collaborative, Trunk or Treat Fall Festival, Mission SA TX, vaccinations
- Hosts two weekly recovery groups

### Global Missions

- South Dakota: Cheyenne River
- Uganda: Band and Bible, Threads of Blessing
- Kenya
- Middle East: Love for the Least
- Honduras



# CHRIST CHURCH: WHO WE ARE

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In January 2024, Christ Church held two in-person Parish Profile workshops with over 200 parishioners participating.

Members who were unable to attend the workshops in person were provided the opportunity to send written responses and feedback.

The Christ Episcopal Church congregation was asked how they would describe Christ Church to someone who was not familiar with it. The following themes were resoundingly consistent.

- **Christ Church is a Gospel-based church.** We faithfully follow the teachings of Holy Scripture and the Good News of Jesus Christ, and we work hard, guided by the Holy Spirit and informed by the traditions of our faith, to apply Biblical principles and their meaning to all aspects of our modern lives.
- **Outreach is a top priority.** Christ Church is dedicated to outreach locally and globally. There is an intentional goal of outreach to the community, locally and globally as evidenced by Sidewalk Saturday, Respite Care support and the service to world missions. We are a giving community, committed to sharing God's love through acts of service and love.
- **There is a place for everyone,** regardless of age or faith journey. The clergy and staff are caring and know people by name. CEC is a joyful place to attend and participate.
- **Music is integral to worship.** Christ Church has the best music in San Antonio. Our worship services are filled with beautiful music led by full-time music ministers. The children and adult choirs are integral to Christ Church.
- **Children are our future.** Christ Church focuses on and invests in our children and our family ministry programs. We have an active Children's Ministry from the nursery to Sunday School. Christ Church guides our children through their middle school and high school years with youth group Sunday school, Bible study, and fellowship activities. Children are always welcome and encouraged in our worship services, and they know they are loved and safe at Christ Church.
- **Christ Church is both established and growing.** We are a church that was established over 100 years ago, so we are deeply rooted in San Antonio. We have members whose families have attended Christ Church for over 100 years, and we have members who have attended for less than a year. Our church may be old by age, but it is vibrant and welcoming to all age groups and people.



# OUR NEXT RECTOR

*Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Christ Church looks forward to the new Rector with the following skills:

- Delivers strong energetic preaching that relates the Gospel to our daily lives.
- Emphasizes the spiritual growth of members.
- Develops and supports formation for children and youth.
- Supports a strong music program.
- Engages in pastoral care that includes visiting the sick, bereaved and homebound.
- Emphasizes newcomer ministries (Invite, Welcome, Connect.)

Parishioners are encouraged and excited by the future of Christ Church, but they identified challenges through which a new rector will navigate and lead the church.

- Our new rector will be challenged with the incorporation of new ideas within the successful ideas that already exist in the services and ministries.

- Our new rector faces a church with a dynamic history spanning over 100 years in San Antonio, and with that an aging demographic. The challenge will be to engage all age groups by remaining relevant to the older demographic and the drawing in the younger demographic.
- Our new rector will have an opportunity to increase diversity at CEC.
- Our new rector will be challenged to maintain momentum that has begun with the updates to our children's ministry and grow it.
- Our new rector will be challenged with increasing the volunteer base with participation from more parishioners.

### What is your ONE hope and dream for Christ Church?

"That my great grandchildren will want to come here too."

"That we can continue to be a shining light on the hills of San Antonio, leading prayerfully all who want to know the Lord."

"I hope that its members feel the same love and support that caused me to adore CEC."

## What is your ONE hope and dream for Christ Episcopal Church?

While many beautiful responses were provided to the question, three themes consistently bubbled up to the top at both Parish Profile workshops.

1. **Gospel:** Christ Church will always stay true to and focused on the Gospel.
2. **Love:** Christ Church will always be a place where love, joy, and deep faith overflow. The hope is that Christ Church continues to reflect the love of Christ and bring glory to God. Through worship and formation, we seek to understand and be transformed by God's love, which we then share with others in our outreach, world mission, pastoral care, and other ministries that are essential to our parish.
3. **Growth:** The hope is that Christ Church will continue to grow, and it will maintain its ability to contribute to the community while remaining true to its core values. Parishioners desire for Christ Church to be a light on the hill spreading the love of Christ to all, encouraging others in their growth.



# FINANCIAL HEALTH

Christ Church is financially stable. Parishioners are incredibly generous which has provided the church with years of growth in its annual budget and a solid and growing endowment. The creation of the “For His Glory” campaign and the generosity of the parish also recently enabled the church to expand its campus and rejuvenate worn, tired, and failing mechanics of the campus. The “For His Glory” campaign is complete and all the work has been accomplished. The church carries no debt and \$1 of every \$3 goes outside the congregation toward mission, outreach, and diocesan ministry.

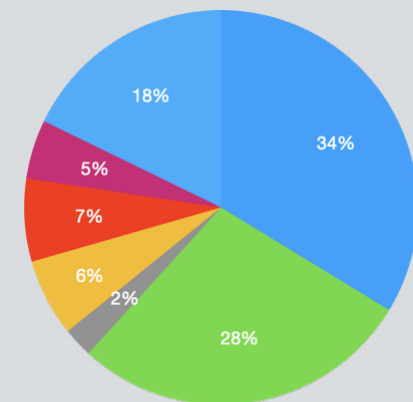
The Christ Church Endowment, Inc., valued today at \$13.1 million (*as of 12/31/23*), is composed of six distinct funds: the Ellison Scholarship Fund, the Building Maintenance Fund, the Restricted Fund, the Special Gifts Fund, the Dave Woodward Fund, and the Parker Memorial Fund. The Endowment’s board manages and distributes income from each fund according to policies and purposes spelled out by a fund’s founder. Though incorporated as a separate entity apart from the church in 1996, the church had been managing these endowed funds, in some cases, since the 1950’s. Their principal is held in perpetuity.

The Endowment is a ministry, alongside the numerous other ministries at the church from the pantry to the choir. It exists to meet the needs of those who wish to make the Kingdom of God more a reality on this earth through their financial generosity expressed as a gift while alive or by will. Its funds normally cover special purposes not ordinarily covered in the budget.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Budget
Pledge	\$ 2,569,022	\$ 2,951,844	\$ 3,017,948	\$ 3,109,131	\$ 3,163,952	\$ 3,500,243	\$ 3,246,604
All Other	\$ 184,616	\$ 177,344	\$ 140,991	\$ 171,775	\$ 319,200	\$ 405,337	\$ 301,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,753,638</b>	<b>\$3,129,188</b>	<b>\$3,158,939</b>	<b>\$3,280,906</b>	<b>\$3,483,152</b>	<b>\$3,905,580</b>	<b>\$3,547,604</b>
Ministry	\$ 2,121,134	\$ 2,228,168	\$ 2,256,069	\$ 2,445,894	\$ 2,696,114	\$ 2,904,010	\$ 2,928,858
Facilities	\$ 414,004	\$ 437,843	\$ 482,660	\$ 430,537	\$ 472,947	\$ 493,503	\$ 542,147
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$2,535,138</b>	<b>\$2,666,011</b>	<b>\$2,738,729</b>	<b>\$2,876,431</b>	<b>\$3,169,061</b>	<b>\$3,397,513</b>	<b>\$3,470,985</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 218,500</b>	<b>\$ 463,177</b>	<b>\$ 420,210</b>	<b>\$ 404,475</b>	<b>\$ 314,091</b>	<b>\$ 508,067</b>	<b>\$ 76,619</b>
<b>% Difference</b>	<b>108.62%</b>	<b>117.37%</b>	<b>115.34%</b>	<b>114.06%</b>	<b>109.91%</b>	<b>114.95%</b>	<b>102%</b>

## Endowment Breakdown as of 12/31/2023

Building Fund	\$ 4,410,686
Educational Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,672,669
Mission Fund	\$ 319,864
Music Fund	\$ 832,714
General Outreach Fund	\$ 889,732
Restricted Outreach Fund	\$ 633,712
General Operations Fund	\$ 2,329,072





# CAMPUS

Christ Episcopal Church is a loving and welcoming church family, centrally located in the historic Monte Vista District of San Antonio, Texas. Our sanctuary is one of the most peaceful and beautiful churches in the country, but the real beauty of our church is our people. We are a large church, but with a small, familial feel and lots of ways to become involved. The campus consists of approximately 60,000 square feet of buildings on 6 acres of land.

We are committed to teaching the timeless truths of the Bible, to meaningful worship that is joyful and majestic, to outreach and mission, and to children and youth ministry. We believe that every person has been gifted by God for serving him and others. Our goal is to bring all persons, young and old, into a personal, passionate, and productive relationship with Jesus Christ.

Since 1907 the people of Christ Episcopal Church have sought to know Christ and make him known. Our progression from meeting in a bowling alley to the sprawling campus of today is a visible sign of both God's favor toward His people and their obedience in following Him. Our parishioners have hungered for Him through vibrant worship, meaningful prayer, and challenging educational and outreach opportunities. The processional cross, which has been used in worship at Christ Church for over 100 years, reminds us both to enter His gates with thanksgiving and praise (Psalm 100:4) and then to go out and do "the work He has given us to do; to love and serve Him as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."



# CLERGY AND STAFF

## Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge  
*Interim Rector*

The Rev. Scott Kitayama  
*Associate Rector and Chief of Staff*

The Rev. Justin Lindstrom  
*Associate Rector for Community Formation*

The Rev. Brien Koehler  
*Associate Rector of Missions and Formation*

The Rev. John Badders  
*Pastoral Assistant*

## Music

Josh Benninger  
*Director of Music*

Jennifer Holloway  
*Assistant Director of Music and  
Children's Music Director*

## Pastoral Care

Karen von der Bruegge  
*Director of Pastoral Care and  
Vocational Discernment*

## Family Ministry

Halleta Heinrich  
*Children's Minister*

Catherine de Marigny  
*Director of Elementary Curriculum*

Lily Fenton  
*Nursery Director*

Avery Moran  
*Youth Minister*

Susan Lindstrom  
*College and Young Adult Minister*

## Administration

Gretchen Commuzi Duggan  
*Director of Communications*

Monica Elliott  
*Executive Assistant to the Rector*

Andrew Fink  
*Receptionist*

Chesley Muenchow  
*Financial Manager*

Darla Nelson  
*Office Manager*

## Operations

Robert Vallejo  
*Facilities Manager*

Rudy Segovia  
*Hospitality Manager*

Joe Garica  
*Hospitality Sexton*



# VESTRY AND LAY LEADERSHIP

Christ Episcopal Church is governed by an elected Vestry of 12 members with staggered three-year terms. The Vestry is led by a Senior Warden and a Junior Warden who each serve one-year terms. The Senior Warden will serve an additional year in 2024 added to her term to enable a smooth transition during the Rector search. Vestry members serve on the various committees at Christ Church including Outreach, Mission, and Children’s Ministry. Each February at the Vestry Retreat, annual goals are set and then championed by Vestry members.

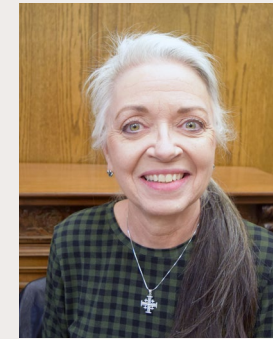
The elected leadership is bolstered by 100’s of lay members serving weekly at Christ Episcopal Church as well as numerous voices in the congregation. Opportunities to serve in the parish are abundant.



Sarah Foster



Lou Kissling



Pam Kittrell



Robert Rogers



Thomas Duesing



Allison Sawyer



Patrick Tobin



Heather Yun



Doug Daniel,  
*Junior Warden*



Spencer Hill



Lisa Miller,  
*Senior Warden*



Julianne Reeves  
*Clerk*



Scott Rose

Pictured from top to bottom:  
Row 1: Term expires end of 2026  
Row 2: Term expires end of 2025  
Row 3: Term expires end of 2024



# BRIEF HISTORY

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In the early 1900s, the potential for a new Episcopal Church on the outskirts of San Antonio proper was recognized by the largest church in the diocese at the time, St. Mark's. In a structure previously built for a bowling alley, located behind the home of St. Mark's senior warden, the first services for the fledgling group were held on October 6, 1907. For the next four years, the group was led in their bowling alley chapel by priests from St. Mark's. By 1911, they were given permission to organize a new church to be known as Christ Church. In July of that year, the church called the Rev. John D. Ridout to be its rector and set about constructing a building. Renowned architect Atlee B. Ayres designed the building on which construction was begun in July 1913 and completed in April 1914. However, the interior of the church remained without permanent accouterments for several months due to a lack of funds. The church was dedicated by Bishop William T. Capers in April of 1914.

Following Mr. Ridout's resignation in 1917, the Rev. L. B. Richards was called as rector, serving until 1930 when the Rev. Sam Capers was called. Capers led the growing congregation for the next 37 years.

Over the past 47 years, five rectors have served Christ Church, two of whom became bishops: the Rt. Rev. Maurice (Ben) Benitez in the Diocese of Texas and the Rt. Rev. John MacNaughton in the Diocese of West Texas.

Over the past decade, Christ Church has grown spiritually and numerically. We opened our Outreach Pavillion in 2018 and today serve over 300 community members every weekend at Sidewalk Saturday. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Christ Church continued to thrive by holding outdoor worship and home communions, as well as establishing a livestream ministry that continues today.

Today Christ Church is the largest congregation in the Diocese of West Texas and has ministered in San Antonio, the diocese, and throughout the world for more than 115 years.





## THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

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The City of San Antonio is the sixth largest city in the United States with over 1.5 million residents. It is the second largest city in the south and in Texas behind Houston. We are a big city that feels like a small town, like a family.

San Antonio was founded in 1781 as a Spanish Mission which is still a major part of our culture and city life. Five Missions including the Alamo are beautiful places to go to learn, contemplate, and experience the city. The Downtown Riverwalk is a vibrant and fun experience with numerous restaurants to choose from. There are trails for hiking, biking, running and walking that link the north to south, and east to west.

San Antonio is proudly known as “Military City, USA.” It is home to the largest, most diverse joint base in the Department of Defense, Joint Base San Antonio, including Fort Sam Houston, Lackland Air Force Base, Randolph Air Force Base, and Camp Bullis. Christ Church is a Military and Veteran Friendly congregation.

“Christ Church has a significant impact on the city of San Antonio. Their parishioners live out their faith with their businesses, organization leadership, and outreach to those most vulnerable in our community. It was a great honor to preach at Christ Church in the Spring of 2020. Their community warmly received my story of faith.”

—Mayor Ron Nirenberg  
January 2024



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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510 Belknap Place  
San Antonio, TX 78212

210.736.3132

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday  
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

