

St. Francis Episcopal Church



**Annual Parish Meeting
January 23, 2022**

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Parish Meeting January 23, 2022 10:00 AM Wheatcroft Parish Hall

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order** – Carol Sandvick, Senior Warden
2. **Opening Prayer** – The Reverend Stuart A. Bates, Rector
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting**
4. **Parish Election Commissioner** – Dick Wright- Presentation of General Election Rules and Procedures; Appointment of Teller
5. **Introduction of Vestry Nominees:** Jessica Antel, Susan Magee, Jason Martinez, Adam Powell, Miranda Tadlock, Wayne Washburn

A call to Vote for the Nominees
6. **Annual Parish Reports:**
 - a. **Senior Warden** Carol Sandvick
 - b. **Treasurer** Louise Richman
 - c. **St. Francis Endowment** John Weinzierl
 - d. **St. Francis School** Stephen J. Lovejoy, M.Ed., Head of School
 - e. **Rector** The Rev. Stuart A. Bates
7. **Generations of Faith Capital Campaign**
8. **Introduction of Departing Vestry Members:** Randy Bryant, Susan Light, John Porter, Brian Rieke, Carol Sandvick, Andrea Vogelsang,
9. **Special Acknowledgements**
Arlene Stacy
St. Francis Award
10. **New Business**
Appointment of the Senior Warden for 2022
11. **Closing Prayer**
12. **Adjournment**

St. Francis Episcopal Church – Houston, TX
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Senior Warden Wallis Marsh

Opening Prayer: The Reverend Stuart A. Bates, Rector, opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes of 2020 Annual Parish Meeting: The minutes of the 2020 Annual Parish meeting were approved by a show of hands.

Parish Election Commission: Chris Hilgert, Chair

- The general election rules and procedures were explained.
- Sally Jo Flores, Teller, was introduced.
- A quorum of 50 members was established.
- No nominees by petition or from the floor were put forward.
- The four new Vestry nominees were introduced:
 - Paul Burkhart (to be confirmed February 7, 2021), Mike Dunlap (to be received February 7, 2021) Megan Uerling (on Zoom), Gayle Vail

A motion to elect the nominees by acclamation was made, seconded, and passed on a voice vote.

Annual Parish Reports:

Senior Warden: Wallis Marsh

- Please find written report in 2020 Annual Report booklet.

Treasurer: Louise Richman

- Please find written report in 2020 Annual Report booklet.

St. Francis Endowment: Wallis Marsh for John Weinzierl

- Please find written report in 2020 Annual Report Booklet.
- The following have been appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund:
 - The Reverend Stuart Bates
 - Paul Burkhart
 - Bryan Dedeker
 - Danny Moore
 - Louise Richman
 - John Weinzierl

St. Francis Episcopal School: Steve Lovejoy, Head of School

- Please find written report in 2020 Annual Report booklet

Rector: The Reverend Stuart A. Bates

- Please find written reports in 2020 Annual Report booklet
- Special recognition was extended to members of the St. Francis community who have made extraordinary contributions during this very difficult pandemic year: Steve Lovejoy, David Alexander, George Jumonville, Louise Richman, Ed and Kristen Valicek, Pat and Barbara McCelvey

Generations of Faith Capital Campaign: Pat McCelvey, Co-chair

- Co-chairs Ed and Kristin Valicek and Barbara and Pat McCelvey
- Personal meetings with all Parishioners not yet contacted will resume soon. The proposed date to begin construction is now May, 2022.

Introduction of Departing Vestry Members: Tony Uerling, Gayle Vail, John Weinzierl, and Wallis Marsh were introduced, thanked by the Rector for their service and presented with a small gift.

ECW Honored Woman Award: 2020 Recipient Martha Ann Colangelo

St. Francis Award: 2020 Recipient Leiselle Sadler

New Business:

- Appointment of Senior Warden, Carol Sandvick
- Appointment of Junior Warden, Stephen Price

Closing Prayer

Adjournment: 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Ann Colangelo, Vestry Clerk

2021 Rector's Report

Dear Parish Family:

Here are the highlights of 2021:

- We finished the year very well in terms of worship, ministries, and finances.
- Our worship and ministries have returned and are operating normally in large measure.
- Our parish gave \$175,000 in cash and gifts in kind to those in need.
- Our Generations of Faith Capital Campaign resumed and plans are moving forward.
- Our Endowment is growing nicely.
- St. Francis Episcopal School will graduate its first Upper School class.
- Our staff, Vestry and ministry volunteers continue to serve and make St. Francis a special place.
- We give God all the glory and praise! Great is Thy Faithfulness.

We finished the year (2021) very well. To God be the glory and his grace moving through his generous people! These words may not touch you in the same way that they touch me, the Vestry and the staff. The truth is that the church and its people live by faith and trust. We live by God's grace and Spirit and therefore we should not be too surprised when wonderful things happen. God is that good.

For the entire year we continued to feel the disruption of the pandemic in our worship services, our ministry programs and fellowship and in funding of the operation of the church. It was the first year the Rector wondered if we would actually meet our budget and whether changes in staffing might be on the horizon. It was our time as a parish to remain faithful and continue our services and ministries for all who could come and for all who live-streamed. And God was faithful once again. Most of our ministries resumed and new fellowship opportunities arrived and just before Christmas we were trending about 70-75% of our pre-pandemic attendance in worship. We ended the year with several extra gifts and one very large and unexpected gift that made all the difference in terms of our shortfall. Thank you for every person and family that helped fund our mission and ministry last year.

We say goodbye to Arlene Stacy, our Business Manager, who for 16 years has served this parish with excellence. Many who read this may not know that 16 years ago Arlene was called to St. Francis and charged with a total revamp of the financial system and it has served this parish so very well all these years of my tenure. For Arlene's professionalism, absolute faith and constant prayers for our parish's well-being, I am truly grateful. Arlene is retiring and we pray for God's grace and guidance to be with her.

I am thankful to the entire staff for their excellent work in challenging times and circumstances. Their perseverance and faithfulness have made all the difference and the entire parish family benefited from their efforts. I know you join me in giving thanks to God for our wonderful staff.

Over the last year our parish has gained momentum. God's grace and years of your faithful participation in the life of our parish has brought us through the pandemic. We have continued to serve those unable to come to church by live streaming two services every Sunday. We want to thank David Alexander who has faithfully managed the live stream each week, as well as during special services. Fr. David continues to live stream Morning & Evening Prayer.

Our Generations of Faith Capital Campaign resumed in September to raise the needed funds to build our new Parish Hall, offices and classrooms. With \$7 million pledged and \$2.6 million left to raise we are eagerly participating in our fundraising. The project efforts have continued and we owe a great debt of gratitude to George Jumonville and Louise Richman who worked on architectural and building refinements and Piney Point relations. The dedicated heroes who raised \$7 million in a little over a year's time are our Campaign chairs, Barbara and Pat McCelvey and Kristin and Ed Valicek, along with our Campaign Committee, Jack Chandler, and Megan and Tony Uerling. Our Building Committee including Ellen Bachmann, Bryan Bagley, Wallis Marsh and Martha and Dick Wright continues to work diligently to raise funds for this project. We were saddened to say goodbye to some members and welcomed new members Tim Blaine.

We are so blessed with our clergy who serve you with joy and devotion to our Lord. I give thanks to God for them. My deepest thanks to the ministries of The Rev. David Price and The Rev. Bob Wismer who faithfully and creatively pressed through these uncharted waters.

Rick Keith, our Director of Music and Fine Arts continues to bring beautiful worship music to our services. Our Assisi Choir is growing in number. Please join me in thanking Dr. Danny Kelley and the Assisi Choir, Praise Choir, and musicians for continuing to inspire us and lift us into the Lord's presence. The choir members and musicians bless us week by week.

We added a new staff member, Julie Lowery, to handle New Member and Event Coordinator. She stepped into the roles of two people and has become a steady welcoming face to those new individuals visiting and joining our church and keeps our calendar. We welcomed 28 new members this year. Allison Devlin, Director of Family Ministries continues to find new ways to bring the Word of God to our children and youth. Be sure to read her report to see what exciting opportunities are available for your family. My thanks to Sally Jo Flores for keeping me on course. God gifted St. Francis with Ellen Bachmann more than 30 years ago and her dedication and faith in serving St. Francis is inspiring. Cindy Huteson, our Records Administrator, faithfully works with the ongoing Confirmands and Confirmation process and gladly assists with anything needed to be done. Finally, where would we be without Juan Pablo Castro and Juan Carlos Rivera, our sextons? They serve our church family with dedication continually.

We give thanks to Cathy Krznar whose very capable leadership of our Altar Guild guided us through strange times at the altar. Members of the Altar Guild are behind the scenes when no one else was. We are blessed to have new leadership in Outreach. Our new Outreach Director is Heather Burkhart, and Outreach Coordinators are Jessica Antel and Elizabeth Kimzey. They are doing so much to bring joy to our neighbors. They are looking forward to bringing more opportunities to our parish. Our parish gave \$175,000 (in cash and gifts in-kind) to charitable organizations and those in need.

I am thankful for Gayle Vail who leads our Commitment Committee. This committee organizes and raises the yearly funds needed for our Annual Operating Budget for Mission and Ministry.

This year, our Vestry has been headed by Carol Sandvick as Senior Warden and I thank her for her guidance and focus on ministry. Her gifts of communication, along with our Treasurer, Louise Richman guided the Finance Committee with sensible and favorable results. We thank

our Junior Warden, Stephen Price, for his service of overseeing the maintenance and repair of our facilities and Curt Wissmiller, our Director of Facilities for the Church and School community who is serving us very well. Special thanks to John Weinzierl, President of the St. Francis Endowment. John assembled a new and engaged Board with a vision for the future to assist in the ministry of St. Francis Church. This year John steps down and the Endowment will be led by the capable hands of Paul Burkhart.

Stephen Lovejoy, our Head of School, is always an inspiration to me. Be sure to read his report. Steve is proud to have the first St. Francis Upper School graduating class of 2022. Steve continues to positively transform the culture of the school as we align our divisions together. He is dedicated to the mission of educating and forming young people and is supportive of the school as a mission of the church. I cannot say enough good things about Steve. Our Upper School now has 100 students.

There are many others who contribute to the life and vitality of the parish that could and should be thanked. Please be sure and take the time to read the other reports. It is such a joy to see each of you as you return to in-person worship as you can. I thank God for each of you and for the opportunity to serve and lead this extraordinary parish. Your faithfulness to this parish and its mission and ministry continues to inspire me greatly. I thank you for that.

May our God strengthen each of you with the grace to be faithful in our calling to love and serve as the Body of Christ.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Stuart A. Bates

2021 Treasurer's Report

“So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten Minas. ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’” Luke 19:13

...ah numbers ... at times dull, tedious, and mind-numbing. But put numbers in an income statement and they come to life: anxiety when revenues do not reach expectations, the satisfaction when expenses are within budget, and giddiness over a surplus.

2021 – Uncertainty and Certainty

Financially, how do you plan for change and the unknown? Strategically, and if you are a church, you add in prayer...lots of prayers! The 2021 budget reflected the reality of the pandemic; both revenue and expense budgets were reduced as compared to 2020. Worship services and programs were adjusted for the new reality. New words became part of our everyday lexicon: streaming and zooming. While postponing, downsizing, and changing were actions taken during 2021, the quality leadership of our clergy, joyous music, vibrant Bible studies, exciting youth programs, and devotion to our Lord never wavered! Midway through the year, in-person participation was mostly resumed, and that action had a positive effect on the 2021 operating budget.

Revenues

2021 revenues were budgeted at \$1.934 million with pledges being the largest portion at \$1.8 million or 93%. Unfortunately, toward the end of 2021 pledges were at only \$1.448 million from 176 families, or 80% of the budgeted goal. During 2021, letters and emails were sent to all parishioners updating them on the pledge revenue status. This action resulted in a portion of the congregation making additional payments in December which brought the total pledge and additional pledge payments to \$1.7 million or 94% of the budgeted \$1.8 million goals. Resuming in-person worship services had among other benefits a financial one as plate offerings, Easter, and Christmas collections exceeded their budgeted goals by almost 50% or \$28 thousand. Prior year pledges were paid in the amount of \$51 thousand as compared to the budget of \$5.5 thousand. In the final months of 2021, St. Francis was the beneficiary of gifts from several very generous parishioners. A portion of the gifts will benefit the music ministry of St. Francis with the remainder adding financial security to the church. Total revenue for 2021 was \$2.7 million versus a budget of \$1.9 million because of these one-time gifts.

Expenses

2021 expenses were budgeted at \$1.934 million, a balanced budget. Expenses came in at 98.8% of the budget. The savings were in:

- **Education**, due to not being able to meet in person for a portion of the year
- **Music**, larger than budgeted specific contributions for the music programs
- **Outreach**, a portion of the contributions came from restricted revenues rather than the operating budget

- **Worship**, contributions to the church flowers exceeded expenses
- **Administration**, savings in office equipment.

There were several categories that exceeded the expenses budget:

- **Parish services**, increases were from going back to in-person worship such as Wednesday night worship and gatherings, Christmas sing-along, Fall celebration,
- **Salaries and benefits**, a part-time New Member/Event Coordinator person was hired, and previous Business Administrator was training new Business Administrator

The surplus from 2021 will be reserved for future operations and programs.

2022 Operating Budget

Who would have ever thought that “normal” would be such an important goal? For 2022, normal means full in-person worship, a complete choir, more celebration opportunities for both children and adults, resumption of OWL trips, and increased Christian education. The 2022 operating budget was prepared with two major expectations: increased pledges and increased parishioner participation in St. Francis worship and programs.

2022 Operating Revenues

The pledge revenue for 2022 is budgeted at \$1.9 million, which is approximately 93% of total revenues. Pledge revenue comes from **you**, the parishioners. The Diocese of Texas does **not** contribute to St. Francis. In fact, the expense line item entitled “Assessment” is what St. Francis pays to the Diocese of Texas. Your church is wholly dependent upon you for its financial existence, and if you do not pledge, then clergy, staff, and programs will be reduced and potentially eliminated. What does a pledge signify? It is the outward sign of your devotion, your belief, your commitment to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Think about what you and your family experienced during the past two years: fear of the unknown, unhappiness, anxiety, loss, confused children, loneliness, etc. The list is long. Think about how you searched for answers and help. God surely was an important part of your quest. And think about the comforting constancy of your St. Francis clergy who strived in the name of our Lord to provide you with peace, comfort, warmth, solace. Personally, I emerged from this time with a stronger belief in God. And, many of us increased our 2022 pledges so that our clergy could continually spread the joyful word of God to more people. Please join me in prayerfully, considering your 2022 pledge to St. Francis. I promise you that joy and contentment are wonderful accompanying benefits with your pledge.

The remaining 7% of the operating revenue budget is comprised of unpledged gifts, transfers from the Endowment Fund, family ministry contributions, rentals, weddings, and columbarium fees.

The total budget for 2022 revenue is \$2.048 million.

2022 Operating Expenses

Overall, 2022 expenses were budgeted similarly to 2021. They were increased by 5.4% to a total of \$2.073 million. The major changes are:

- Increase in **Nursery** – providing childcare during the services and at other church events
- Increase in **Adult Education (Wednesday & Others)** – resuming adult in-person events
- Increase in **Outreach** – providing additional contributions and services
- Increase in **Diocesan Assessment** – an amount set by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas
- Increase in **Salary & Benefits** – includes an annual increase

The 2022 budget is a balanced budget with \$25 thousand coming from the church's reserves.

The end of 2021 brought several changes to the church's Business Office. Arlene Stacy retired after serving as the St. Francis Business Administrator for 17 years. She will be at the Annual Parish Meeting to say goodbye to all of us. She served honorably, happily, and with great dedication. I join with all of you to say, "Thank you very much, Arlene, and we will miss you!"

And, at the Annual Parish Meeting, we will get an opportunity to meet and welcome Robbie Matteson, the new Business Administrator.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Richman
Treasurer

2021 Senior Warden Report

St. Francis Episcopal Church ("**St. Francis**") continues to be blessed with an outstanding leadership and volunteer team led by our Rector, Stuart Bates. The St. Francis Clergy (The Reverend Bates, Father Bob Wismer, and Father David Price) and staff have consistently provided exceptional spiritual service and guidance and are committed to executing St. Francis' Mission: "**Within the Body of Christ, the St. Francis Community is committed to nurturing the spiritual, educational and physical development of all God's people.**" It has been my pleasure to work with the many talented and dedicated people that make up the St. Francis Community for 2021.

Pastoral Care

The heart and soul of a Church are the Clergy. Father Bates, Wismer, and Price do so much more for us than Sunday Worship. The Clergy teach our children First Communion and Confirmation. They provide outreach when we or our loved ones are sick or in the hospital. The Clergy and staff pray for us on a daily basis. Their commitment to God and the parishioners of St. Francis is inspirational and comforting. This was especially so during the challenging events of this past fall. The Clergy are with us from cradle to grave and provide us spiritual guidance and care at every stage of our lives.

The Clergy and staff have continued to adapt to the special challenges that have arisen this year in this ever-changing environment associated with COVID. The Clergy and staff have continued to offer live-streaming of our services as well as Bible Studies, morning and evening prayers and additional activities virtually. Decisions by the Clergy, staff and Vestry regarding the care and safety of the members of St. Francis were always paramount as we returned to a more normal in person worship schedule and activity schedule.

Finance and Church Membership

The finances of St. Francis, are at this moment strong. Our Parish did an extraordinary job in giving to the Church again this past year. While our commitment pledges fell below our goal one-time gifts and non-commitment gifts made up the shortfall resulting in an overall surplus for the year. Our 2022 Annual Operating Budget for Mission & Ministry drive kicked off in November and we have had a good response from our members to meet our target goal of \$1,900,000.

In August, we hired Julie Lowery as our New Membership and Event Coordinator. We had 28 new members join St. Francis this past year and continue to see an increase in visitors to our services. Additionally, we have seen our attendance at our services increase throughout the year to almost pre-COVID levels. I am excited by the return of our parishioners and their children to St. Francis and by the new members that have joined St. Francis this past year.

In April, we formed a search committee to hire a replacement for Arlene Stacy, our valued Business Manager of 17 years, who retired at the end of the year. I am happy to report that in October, Robbie Matteson, who has a Master's of Divinity and an MBA, was hired as Business Administrator to assist with managing the financial and business operations at St. Francis. We are grateful for the service that Arlene has provided to St. Francis and welcome Robbie.

Parish Gatherings

This year, St. Francis completed a successful return to parish activities and gatherings. St. Francis hosted a Pentecost Party in May, returned to Sunday coffee and social time in the

Parish Hall, and continued adding activities and events throughout the rest of the year, including a Bingo party in September, the Blessings of the Animals in October and the children's Christmas party in early December. Additionally, Rick Keith, our Director of Music Ministry, lifted our spirits with two concerts in the Fall. We continue to be blessed by our talented musicians and our leadership

I have been truly blessed to have served as Senior Warden this past year and have enjoyed working along-side the other Vestry members and appreciate the time and service all have provided. I am confident that St. Francis' Vestry members, both newly elected and continuing, will lead the Church into the future with wisdom and vision and the Holy Spirit is present with them in love.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Sandvick

Senior Warden

St. Francis Episcopal Church Endowment Fund

The St. Francis Episcopal Church Endowment Fund (“Fund”) was incorporated in 1986. Per the Certificate of Formation, the endowment was “formed and shall exist exclusively for religious purposes....and specifically for the purposes of supporting the religious activities of St. Francis Parish.”

Fund’s Board of Trustees (“Board”) engaged Fayez Sarofim & Co. to serve as an investment advisor with the Fund’s assets being held in an account at Fidelity Investments. The Fund’s balance as of 12/31/2021 was \$825,106, which was a net increase of \$97,671 over its ending balance on 12/31/2020. In calendar year 2021, the Fund received contributions totaling \$1,500, distributed \$30,000 (~4% of Fund’s balance at time of distribution) to the Church to support its religious purposes, and paid \$4,266 of fees and expenses. The Fund is invested ~69% in public equities and ~31% in cash and public fixed income securities, an asset allocation that is consistent with the Fund’s policy.

The church vestry voted on January 22, 2022 for Bryan Kimzey and Lynn Harris to serve on the Board of the Fund. These parishioners replaced Bryan Dedeker and John Weinzierl who rolled off the Board following good and faithful service. Other trustees that will continue to serve are Rev. Stuart Bates, Paul Burkhart, Danny Moore, and Louise Richman.

Fund’s Board met on January 12, 2022, and voted Paul Burkhart as President and Treasurer, and Danny Moore as Secretary and Vice President.

Faithfully submitted,
Board of Trustees

Paul Burkhart, President



Annual Parish Report 2021

St. Francis Episcopal School is proud to be a mission of St. Francis Episcopal Church. The school extends the work of the parish through the ministry of education, with a faith-based emphasis placed on the forefront. St. Francis Episcopal School continues its work with one mission:

“In the Anglican tradition, St. Francis Episcopal School challenges and motivates students in an academically and spiritually stimulating environment to become imaginative, critical thinkers and *people for others*”

In the 2020-21 school year, St. Francis Episcopal School focused on several key areas: Upper School expansion, Strategic Plan implementation, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

St. Francis Episcopal School also focused on continuing to build relationships both internally and externally. These relationships are designed to forge a stronger community, encourage the retention of families, and support the resurgence of St. Francis Episcopal School as a destination for families in search of private, independent school education. This outreach has shown dividends as evidenced by the increase in applications and interest among prospective families. We truly believe retention will continue to be at a level representative of a healthy independent school.

One of our top priorities has been the continued expansion of the Upper School. August 2021 saw our total Upper School enrollment grow to 96 students (29 freshmen, 29 sophomores, 22 juniors and 16 Seniors). Currently, our senior class is in the process of the college application process. This will be St. Francis’s first graduating class from the upper school in May 2022. We are currently enrolling students for our fourth freshman class and will have our first Upper School graduation in May 2022. At the time of this report over 80% of our seniors have been accepted to a college or university and have received over \$600,000 in scholarship awards. A more detailed analysis from our first graduating class will occur in next years annual report.

Another important initiative has been the implementation of our Strategic Plan, *St. Francis 2025*. The Strategic Plan is our guiding “road map” for the next five to eight years. This year, our initiatives were focused on the school’s rebranding, divisional alignment, fundraising and facility enhancements on Couper and Piney Point Campuses.

Simultaneously, the school continues implementing the recommendations to our accreditation with the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) and Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES). Together, the Strategic Plan and accreditation initiatives allow the school to do a deep dive into ourselves and how we can continue to best serve our students and community.

My focus remains unwavering. St. Francis Episcopal School will continue to provide a superior education for the students of our parish and community. Serving as the leader of an Episcopal day school is a responsibility that I take very seriously; as such, I strive to make decisions grounded in research and proven through best practices that are in our students' and families' best interest while staying focused on delivering our mission with excellence.

Infrastructure:

St. Francis has broken ground on the upper school student life building on the Couper Campus. This facility will serve as the key are for all aspects of student life in the upper school. The builring will house divisional and administrative offices, a health clinic, kitchen and dinning hall, student classrooms, college counseling suite and gather spaces for students before, during and after school for collaboration. The expected completion date for this project will be the fall of 2022.

Capital Campaign:

St. Francis Episcopal School has continued to raise funds for our *Forward in Faith, Phase II* campaign. Campaign objectives for the second phase include projects on both the Piney Point and Couper Campuses. At this stage, we are soliciting major gifts from foundations and individuals. The campaign has a goal of raising \$30 million over the next five to six years.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation for the continued support provided by St. Francis Episcopal Church. I look forward to serving the community as the leader of the school and will always have the mission of the school and the church as our guiding principle and focus.

Submitted with appreciation,



Stephen M. Lovejoy, MEd
Head of School

2021 Junior Warden's Annual Report

Fellow Parishioners, Church Staff, Vestry and Clergy:

It has been an honor to serve my first year as the St. Francis Junior Warden. To say the least, 2021 was the busiest of my time on the Vestry and hopefully 2022 will be less eventful. As Junior Warden, I am tasked with being the general manager of the church facilities as well as grounds upkeep and maintenance, facilities maintenance and/or improvements. The following items were addressed or executed during the 2022 calendar year.

During the February Ice Storm, a frozen and broken fire sprinkler line in the North Transept sprayed a significant amount of water throughout the Nave, North Transept, North Hallway to the School and even damaged carpet and furnishings in the church offices. The beautiful millwork around many of the columns and outside walls was damaged as was sheetrock, carpeting and pews.

Thanks to the work of the church and school sextant staff and Curt Wissmiller, the damage was mitigated quickly, and the water was cleaned up. The church would have been damaged much worse without their quick response and hard work.

Tellepsen was contracted to perform the repairs which are almost complete. The church doors were also refinished and one was replaced as part of this work and we are pleased with the quality of the work. The repair totals are well over \$70,000.

I would like to thank the Clergy, Staff, Curt Wissmiller, and Parishioners for their prayers, support, patience, and guidance this past year.

Respectfully,

Stephen Price
Junior Warden

2021 Altar Guild of St. Francis

The St. Francis Episcopal Church Altar Guild is a ministry consisting of members that are also parishioners of our parish. We are appointed by the Rector. We gift our time and talents to serve God in His house. We are dedicated volunteers. Our mission is to care for all things related to our weekly and special services. This includes, but is not limited to, the altar, linens, vestments, and vessels. The special services for 2021 included thirteen baptisms, one wedding, thirteen funerals/memorials, and three cremains interred in the columbarium. We are also responsible for decorating the church and chapel during the Easter and Christmas seasons.

Our Altar Guild currently has a total of thirty-one members. We have twenty-three members that are in an active four-week rotation. The rotation is scheduled from Saturday through Friday. Each group consists of six members with one designated as a group leader. Any special services that fall within their weekly rotation will be the responsibility of the group assigned for that week. The remaining eight members are on the substitute list. Additionally, we have two members that are the mothers of students that attend St. Francis Episcopal School. These two mothers are committed to serving during school Eucharists.

In addition to our weekly rotation in 2021, we have specific members who are leaders for various specialty services. Julie Lowery is responsible for weddings. Stella Blackwell is responsible for baptisms. Carla Roth is responsible for floral arrangements, which includes Altar flowers. Currently, we do not have a dedicated member for funerals. Each group leader is responsible for a funeral should it land on their weekly rotation. Jane Dover was our Sunshine leader. At the end of 2021, Jane Dover resigned from the Altar Guild and Judy Parker has volunteered to be Sunshine leader for 2022.

We had seen a small turnover in our Altar Guild membership in 2020. Besides the Covid related issues, members moved away or resigned. However, in 2021, we welcomed four new members to our ministry. We were grateful as we resumed all four services on Sunday in the fall of 2021. Nevertheless, we remain understaffed and continue to pray for several more members to serve on the St. Francis Altar Guild.

We continue serving the Lord's Table with dedication and faithfulness. The ladies on this ministry are dedicated individuals and continually work together for our parish. This is a ministry that could not be done without all their hard work and dedication. I am honored to serve with them as their Altar Guild Director/Chairperson for 2021. And I look forward to continuing in this capacity for 2022.

Best regards,

Cathy Krznar
Altar Guild Director

2021 Family Ministry Report

We want our parents, youth & children to Know, Worship, Love, and Serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Our vision is for our children to be filled with a desire to have a daily relationship with God—undoubtedly the most valuable relationship to which we can invest our time and energy. Being a Christian is an ongoing process of growing, learning, and taking the next steps in our faith. Participating in these experiences enables our children to become who they are called by God to be and to live to their fullest potential. Take a look at the programs below to see what we are doing in Family Ministry!

Children

Let it Shine! with Mrs. Devlin

Every Sunday during the adult sermon, children can attend Let it Shine! where they learn a Bible story through acting out scripture with costumes and props, discuss creative ways to apply the lesson over the next week, memorize scripture, and pray.

In Spring 2021, we learned about the Sermon on the Mount, Lent, Liturgical colors and seasons, the miracles and ministry of Jesus, Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Good Friday, the Stations of the Cross, the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ, and the Great Commission. This Fall, we learned about Moses and the Exodus, Manna from Heaven, Water from the Rock, Rahab and the Spies, and Joshua and the Battle of Jericho. During Advent, children studied the Nativity, focusing on the significance and meaning of the Manger, Shepherds, and Angels. We are currently learning about the Baptism and Miracles of Jesus.

Lighthouse Expressions in Art

After the service, many children and parents enjoy creating art projects that reinforce the Bible lesson taught at Let it Shine! Stop by the Parish Hall to see our children having fun with friends and making a craft to take home.

First Communion Class

This 5-week course teaches children about the importance of our church family, prayer, listening to God, the meaning of Holy Communion, and what it means to serve the Lord. Our Spring class was led by Nichole Hilgert and the Fall class was taught by Carla Banks. A new group of student starts meeting today with Carla Banks as their teacher.

Acolytes

Young people act as Acolytes and Crucifers at our 9 am and 11 am services.

Sunday Nursery Care

The Church Nursery re-opened on Sunday, August 1st. The Church Nursery is open on Sundays from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM and is for young children and babies 6 weeks of age and older. We are glad to have our little ones back in the nursery again!

Youth

G.L.O.W.

God Lights Our Way (G.L.O.W.) gives middle school students a place to discuss their faith and form friendships while studying God's Word. The group meets after the 9 AM Family Worship Service in CE212. This Spring, we discussed the struggles and triumphs of Christian, as he traveled along the narrow path to the Celestial City, and discovered how the characters and places in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* applied to our own spiritual journey. We celebrated the completion of our study with a party for both G.L.O.W. and High School students where we ate pizza and watched the animated film version of *Pilgrim's Progress*. It was fun! In the Summer, we read *Know Why You Believe* by Paul Little. We explored concepts such as: Do science and Scripture conflict? Are miracles possible? Is Christian experience real? Why does God allow suffering and evil? This Fall, we studied *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis with a goal of growing in their understanding of the spiritual world and discovering stumbling blocks to our faith.

High School Bible Study

In Spring 2021, we started a new Bible Study for our high school age youth. During the Spring, we met every other Wednesday evening at the Houston Racquet Club for dinner, study, fellowship, and prayer and discovered the path on which God was leading us as we accompanied Christian on his journey to the Celestial City in *Pilgrim's Progress* by Paul Bunyan. In the Summer, we read *Know Why You Believe* by Paul Little. This Fall, we studied *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. The high school Bible Study resumes on January 26th with a new study— *The Parables of Jesus*.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation involves teaching in the Christian faith, exposure to the liturgy and life of the parish, a retreat, a trip to LOTS and The Beacon to care for the homeless, and a possible mission trip. Bishop Hector Monterroso came on Sunday, February 7, 2021, to confirm 28 of our young people had been preparing themselves for this step of discipleship. And we have another class of 21 getting ready to be confirmed on February 6, 2022. Our next class of around 18 will soon begin their journey of catechism getting ready for next year's Confirmation.

Confirmation Retreat

When our Confirmation classes began to get larger than normal (we average about 24 Confirmands per year), it became important to have a weekend retreat so they could get to know each other and begin to build community. Every year now, the Confirmation process involves a weekend retreat where we receive some teaching, have some fun and games, participate in an outreach activity, and end it with the 9:00 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist here at St. Francis. This year's retreat is March 4-6, 2022.

Staying in Touch

In an attempt to stay in touch with our young adults after they have been confirmed, we arranged early morning breakfasts at a number of the local high schools. Additionally, we reach out to our young adults in college with communications and gift cards.

Parish Family Events

Palm Sunday Passion Play

On Palm Sunday, children and teens acted out a Passion Play with the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem riding a donkey, trial before Pontius Pilate, denial by Peter, and the crucifixion.

Easter Egg Hunt

After the 9 AM Easter Service, we had a Children's Easter Egg Hunt in the courtyard.

Pentecost Party

To celebrate Pentecost, we had an evening of Fried Chicken, Music, Games, and Fun! There were activities and prizes for all ages...Volleyball, Big Jenga, Yard Dominoes, Bean Bag Toss, Washers, Hula Hoops, Sidewalk Chalk, and Toddler Games.

Blessing of the Backpacks

After summer break, all students were invited to participate in this St. Francis tradition by bringing their backpacks to the 9 am service to receive a blessing for the new school year. Students also received a special token to affix to their backpacks, reminding them that God is always with them.

Family BINGO Night

On September 19, families came together for an evening of BINGO! We had PIZZA for dinner, PRIZES for kids & adults, and lots of FUN!

Blessing of the Animals

We had a terrific turnout of over 80 people for the annual Blessing of the Animals. It was great to see everyone with their beloved pets to bless and honor them as God's amazing creation! We had dogs, cats, turtles, chickens, parrots, lizards, and fish show up for the service. There was a short liturgy in the church and individual blessings by the clergy. We had a photo booth, treats for our 4-legged friends, a police horse & dog, animals for adoption, VCA Spring Branch Animal Hospital, Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP) and the Houston Humane Society.

Parish Pumpkin Party

Pumpkins, Pumpkins, Pumpkins! On October 17th, we had an evening of pumpkin painting, fall-inspired crafts, and BBQ dinner.

St. Francis in the Woods

We had 12 families join us at Camp Allen during the weekend of October 22-24th for an amazing experience of spending time outdoors with nature hikes, s'mores, campfires, fellowship, horseback riding, ropes courses, fishing, and more!

Advent Wreath Making

We gathered in the Parish Hall to make beautiful, table-top wreaths with fresh evergreens, festive decorations, and four candles that symbolize the four weeks of Advent.

Children's Christmas Party

Our Children's Christmas Party on December 4th was a hit! We had over 150 people come to enjoy a visit from Santa Claus, face painting and balloon artist elves, cookie decorating, crafts, photo ornament booths, and... REAL SNOW!

Nativity Pageants

We had 2 wonderful Christmas Eve Nativity pageants. It filled our hearts with joy as we experienced celebrating these events through the eyes of our children!

Adults

Mom's Bible Studies

In the Spring, moms from St. Francis church and school began a study on *Angels, Standing Guard*. The group met on Fridays 11 AM in the Houston Racquet Club Lobby. In the Fall, we learned about the amazing courage and faith of other women in *The Women of The Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream. The group met on Tuesdays at 8:15 AM in Classroom CE212.

Our new study is *Elijah: Faith & Fire* by Priscilla Shirer and is available at two different times – Tuesdays at 8:15 AM in Classroom CE212 OR Fridays @ noon at the Houston Racquet Club.

**Faithfully,
Allison Devlin**

2021 Girl Scouts Report

St. Francis has Girl Scout troops in grades Kindergarten through Third grade and is part of the Tall Pines Hill Girl Scout Community, which encompasses 12 local schools. St. Francis hosts our Girl Scout Leaders throughout our community for quarterly meetings. Jessica Antel helps organize events for our entire Tall Pines Hill community.

The girls camp, attend field trips, participate in workshops with other Girl Scouts in the Tall Pines Hill Community and hold joint sessions with St. Francis Cub Scouts to learn a variety of skills.

On Scout Sunday in February, both Girl and Cub Scouts are honored and work together on a community service outreach project benefiting St. Francis Church Outreach programs.

All St. Francis troops attend the annual Father Daughter Dance in February. Each troop has a job for the dance, whether it is decorations, desserts, games, pictures, etc. The 3rd-grade troop is responsible for planning and funding the dance and delegating all of the jobs.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Devlin

St. Francis Girl Scout Liaison

2021 Membership Report

St. Francis Episcopal Church continues to be blessed with new members despite the challenges that we've all been dealing with. That is really something to celebrate!

- ❖ 28 individuals became new members representing 14 families during 2021.
- ❖ There were 93 individuals who visited in person. Visitors were called on the phone and/or emailed when we had contact information. They are given the opportunity to be included on the distribution for our e-Newsletter so they can see all that St. Francis has to offer.
- ❖ We continue to live stream our 9 & 11am services. This has brought many viewers from Houston and other states to the St. Francis Facebook and YouTube channels to participate in Sunday Services.
- ❖ St. Francis Episcopal School has a total of 879 students, representing 566 families. Of those, 49 are church families representing 82 students, approximately 9.3% of the student body.
- ❖ Out of the 28 new members, 4 have a connection to St. Francis Episcopal School.
- ❖ New members receive a welcome letter mailed to them from the Rector and are asked to attend a New Member Orientation class where they learn about St. Francis, our ministries and ways to connect within the Parish.
- ❖ We update members' information as changes occur. We have an online version of the Membership Information Form available on our website that has increased the submission rate and helps us keep our information accurate.
- ❖ Coffee and light bites in Wheatcroft Parish Hall after the morning services is a great opportunity for fellowship among our visitors and parishioners. This weekly time provides a way for in-person attendees to connect with friends both old and new.
- ❖ We continue to look for new opportunities to connect the church and the school.
- ❖ Upcoming activities and services are published in our weekly e-Newsletter.
- ❖ The staff prays for members of the congregation each week. Postcards are sent to the families that we pray for weekly. Our parishioners appreciate this gesture of prayer.

We look forward to increasing in-person attendance and continuing the growth of our wonderful spiritual parish. If you know of anyone interested in membership or just finding out more about St. Francis, please notify Julie so we can contact them.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Lowery
Membership Coordinator

Music Department Report – Year 2021

Highlights of the Music Program from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021:

1. The **Bronze Handbell Choir** is a highlight of the St. Francis Music Department; however, due to the barriers and restrictions handed to us by Covid-19, this group has been unable to resume its Sunday musical offerings. This group began on Monday, August 18th, 2008, and has been a faithful group of musicians ever since. **Bronze** is a 10-member intergenerational ensemble where musicians of all ages can come together and make music. **Bronze Ensemble** has rung Handbells in church numerous times, too many to count; has participated in the Greater Houston Handbell Association's FebFest 2020, in Stafford, TX along with 450 Handbell ringers from across the Region; and has been accompaniment to the **Assisi Choir**. There is always room for more folks to come out and join in the fun of music making. Keep your eyes open for that announcement to resume.
2. **Assisi Choir** has had a number of ambitious years of musical singing and performance. Covid has left us with a very small voice, but the musical horizon holds lots of promise. The roster has 20 singers, all of whom are willing to return when that time comes. **Dr. Danny Kelley, Steinway Artist**, continues to be a great addition to the musical staff of St. Francis. **John Randolph, of the Fine Arts Strings Ensemble and Shepherd School of Music**, continues to bring us some of Houston's finest musicians to join **Assisi Choir**. Our Sunday mornings are filled with some very challenging music, as well as very simple music, from across the spectrum of church music, ancient, and modern.
3. **Our Family Worship Service at 9am each Sunday continues to thrive.** The singers, Andrea Loer, Nicole Fair, Stephanie Jones, and Amanda Hart Bassett, have added a wonderful new element to the overall sound of the 9am Praise Band; Oleg Sulyga, violin; Leon Turner and Jonathan Keith, Bass; and Bryan Bagley, guitar; David Lerner, drums, all continue to support the service as part of **The Praise Band**.
4. We continue to have a ton of fun with **The Big Band on Shrove Tuesday**.
5. **Advent Sing-Along** was blessed, again, to have a wonderful group of 15 musicians perform Jazz Carols, Christmas pop and Traditional carols. What great fun it was and we will be seeing an expanded version in 2022.
6. **Good Friday, members of the Assisi Choir** supported a set of three services: The traditional Good Friday serviced at noon; A Service of The Seven Last Words of Christ, at 1:00pm, The Stations of the Cross, at 2:00pm with the musical setting of The Stabat Mater by Pergolesi for strings and chorus.
7. Our 4-week Summer Musical Theater Intensive St. Francis Playhouse took this summer off. It will return in Summer 2022.
8. **Christmas Eve**, the pre-service concerts featured musicians of the Fine Arts, Mercury Orchestra, ROCO and Shepherd School of Music; Ben Hall, Nicole Fair, and Amanda Hart-Bassett playing and singing some of the season's most beautiful and loved music; At 4:30 and 8:30pm, **Assisi Choir** presented a concert of **Messiah selections, English Carols and Hymns**.
9. In 2022, the musical life of St. Francis Church is only going to get more exciting. Please consider making a Musical Ensemble a part of your Church Life in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Keith – Director of Music and Fine Arts

2021 Outreach Ministry Report

As the globe slowly emerged from the COVID 19 pandemic in 2021, the St. Francis outreach mission also began to reengage with our partners in traditional ways. It was a year of evolution and change as outreach leadership shifted from Leiselle Sadler to Heather Burkhart, Jessica Antel, and Elizabeth Kimzey. The new team acknowledges the amazing legacy that Leiselle has left to our Parish. Her energy and deep commitment to serving the underserved are unquestionable. We hope we can carry the light of Christ into our community as well as she did. We sincerely appreciate each volunteer who has, in some way, carried the mission of St. Francis into our community. Their commitment to being a disciple of Christ is reflected in their actions.

The Gathering

The Gathering is a Caregivers Day Out program, giving a few hours off for those caring for Alzheimer's and dementia sufferers. Families bring their loved one to St. Francis the 1st Friday of every month from 10:00 AM until 1:30 PM for entertainment, friendship, food, crafts, enrichment and exercise. It is under the direction of CarePartners Texas. In 2021 Covid continued to challenge our ability to hold regular Gatherings and to stay in contact with our partners and their families. We continued to do hand delivered goodie bags each month and to call each family. Charlie Talbott created a video to send them made up of clips from earlier Gatherings so they knew we were thinking about them and wouldn't forget who we were and how much fun we had. We decided that we could go back safely in September with many Covid protocols in place. However, Covid was again on the rise causing us to make the decision to postpone our return to a much-modified Gathering in October. Some of our partners passed away during the Pandemic. We have gotten new people and can continue to serve in our mission to relieve families of the constant care of their loved one and enrich the lives of those with memory difficulties. At present, we have 16 Care Partners and 18 dedicated team members. All the team members are parishioners of St. Francis. Fr. Price is our clergy advisor and participant. Submitted by Martha and Dick Wright, Coordinators

Fair Haven Food Pantry

As the pandemic shut down society and quarantine created mass layoffs in 2020, Fair Haven became a Houston Food Bank distribution center. A huge operation was set up in Fair Haven's fellowship hall to sort and distribute fresh fruits, vegetables, and canned goods to those in need in the surrounding neighborhoods. In the Fall of 2021, Fair Haven transitioned back to its original "grocery store" model, accepting less support from Houston Food Bank and relying more on grocery store donations (Kroger, HEB, Aldi, to name a few) to supplement the smaller Food Bank deliveries. Our weekly collection of canned goods has resumed as the parish began to engage in "in-person" worship services. The need remains very high. We are attempting to focus the donations with a monthly suggestion of various canned goods. We were especially thrilled to see the donation basket, carrying the weekly donations, offered at the altar during the Offertory.

LOTS – Lord of the Streets

St. Francis Episcopal has had an ongoing relationship with Lord of the Streets (LOTS), a mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, for nearly 30 years. Since its inception in 1990, LOTS has been dedicated to the life and ministry of Houston's homeless men and women by combining life-saving relief with life-giving relationships. In 2021, our parishioners donated loads of gently used shoes and clothing, made more than 300 sack lunches and volunteered their time serving breakfast on Sundays.

THANKSGIVING – Meal in a Bag

In November, St. Francis, along with other churches and organizations contributed to the East Spring Branch Food Pantry's 2021 Meal in a Bag program. Parishioners collected a specific list of items to create over 600 Thanksgiving dinners for families recommended by SBISD elementary schools. Families were each given 2 bags of groceries, a bag of fresh produce and either a turkey or a chicken. Please see a recap of the collection and distribution here <https://eastspringbranchfoodpantry.com/highlights/>.

Dress For Success

Every March, St. Francis, led by Karen Bloomfield, participates in the **Send One Suit** clothing drive to provide needed professional attire for Dress for Success Houston. The mission of this ministry is "to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and development tools to help women thrive in work and life." Since 1998, DFSH has provided business attire, a much-needed boost of confidence, and job retention and career advancement services to more than 45,000 women in the Houston community. Due to the pandemic, St. Francis did not hold its annual drive in 2020 or 2021, but we did request parishioners deliver donations to the Dress For Success offices.

Memorial Assistance Ministries

~ Provided annual obligation under a Covenant Agreement with MAM.

~ Regularly encouraged parishioners to contribute to the MAM resale store. Many items from Kitty's coat drive were donated to this effort.

~ Contributed \$7,660 to the Back-To-School program, with funds designated for vouchers for children to purchase new school uniforms at Woodview Elementary. Each \$50 donation provides a shopping voucher for a family to purchase new school uniforms for a child.

Kitty's Coat Drive

In the Fall, Kim Perras engaged both the school and the church to collect hundreds of coats for the Kitty's Coat Drive ministry to be distributed to needy students through **Memorial Assistance Ministries** and **The Angel Tree**. 360 total coats were collected and sorted!

Angel Tree

During the Christmas season, Leiselle Sadler led our popular **Angel Tree** ministry to provide gifts and gift cards to about 200 children. This ministry is dedicated to families who St. Francis helps during the year via the **Linda Sadler Memorial Fund**. The 'angels' on the tree included families from **Lord of the Streets, Positive Black Male Association of Houston, The Beacon/Brigid's Hope, and Woodview Elementary School**. The Angel Tree party resumed this year at Trinity Church, after a hiatus due to the pandemic in 2020. We had about 70 children and their families, who all enjoyed lovingly prepared ham sandwiches and other goodies. Leftover food was plated and delivered to homeless adults.

Linda Sadler Memorial Fund

This fund, led by a committee of Fr. Stuart Bates, Ellen Bachmann, Leiselle Sadler and Jim Sadler, was created in 2010. It continues to be one of the highlights of the St. Francis outreach ministry, helping those who need a hand up. Since its inception, the LSMF has raised around \$260,000 for the primary objective of extending "hand-up" versus "hand-out" support to individuals or families, thereby, helping them to become more self-sufficient. The fund has also developed scholarships for high school graduates of the various programs. Allocated funds went to individuals from case management programs of Lord of the Streets, Raise Up Families, the Positive Black Male Association/Ladies of Great Purpose, The Beacon, together with Brigid's Hope, as well as others.

Woodview Elementary School

Woodview is a Spring Branch ISD elementary school located just three miles from the church, where 95 percent of students are economically disadvantaged. St. Francis has supported Woodview since 2015. After taking an 18-month break due to Covid, we were finally able to help support this campus again. Beginning in October 2021, 13 St. Francis volunteers joined SBISD's Reading Buddy program at Woodview. The goal of the Reading Buddy program is to provide additional reading support to second graders who are close to meeting grade level standards. Each volunteer was paired with a second grader and visited Woodview weekly to provide one-on-one reading support and encouragement to his/her "reading buddy." Wonderful relationships and better readers have emerged from this partnership.

Woodview was also a beneficiary of Outreach Sunday efforts in the fall of 2021. Parishioners gathered to assemble more than 450 Halloween treat bags, which were delivered to each student attending Woodview Elementary school.

Prayer Shawl Group

The prayer shawl ministry is led by Stella Blackwell and meets alternate Saturday afternoons throughout the year. Each year, Rev. Bates blesses the prayer shawls at the 11:00 am service. Prayer shawls are distributed to Grief Group participants. We welcome anyone who can knit or crochet and would like to join this group.

College Ministry

This year we have begun discussions to restart our outreach to the college students of St. Francis families. This ministry is so important as these young adults transition away from their families towards independent lives. We feel we can create a critical tie back to the church with encouragement and reminding them of the love from their St. Francis community. Karen Davis has agreed to be the ambassador for this program. We are planning a gathering for parents of these students in early fall as well as researching the best way to reach these students on an occasional basis via text.

Outreach Sunday

Outreach Sunday resumed in October after being cancelled due to Covid! Marilyn Weaver and her family took over the planning and execution of this favored event. It brings parishioners young to old, as well as a group from PBMA together to create around 640 sack lunches as well as additional snacks at each event; they are delivered to homeless people seeking help at **Lord of the Streets**, a mission of the whole Diocese of Texas. The homeless come to LOTS for spiritual sustenance as well as food and clothing. In addition, 460 goodie bags were created for the students at our partner school, Woodview Elementary. Every child received a bag letting them know that the parishioners at St. Francis love them. "Woodview students were so excited when they received a goodie bag in October from our St. Francis partners," said Karina Vargas, a counselor at Woodview. "They shared smiles between each other while talking about what was inside their goodie bag. Thank you, St. Francis!"

Boys & Girls Country

Our parish has hosted the end of year banquet for Boys and Girls Country for 14 years. Over 400 guests usually attend. This is a huge undertaking led by Jessica and Brian Bagley and their team of dedicated volunteers from St. Francis and elsewhere. Unfortunately, this event was canceled for the second year in a row due to Covid 19.

Confirmation Class -

Each December our confirmands participate in outreach to the homeless. The class attends either the **Lord of the Streets** church service and breakfast at Trinity Church in midtown Houston or goes to **The Beacon**, a homeless ministry of Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Houston. At LOTS, the class worships with the homeless, serves breakfast, and distributes over 200 gift bags that they decorate and assemble. These bags are funded by the annual Christmas card sale, executed by the confirmands.

Lenten Program

This year's Lenten Challenge was headed by Beth Martinez, focusing on Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors. Parishioners are asked to bring canned proteins (peanut butter, tuna fish, canned chili), shelf-stable milk, and plastic grocery bags to the church. Beth and her team then delivered the collection to Fairhaven Food Pantry. The congregation was also asked to volunteer their time at Fairhaven during Lent.

Another focus for the committee this year was to better communicate to the parish volunteer opportunities through St. Francis. We seek to provide means to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world by suggesting a variety of opportunities and experiences for young and old. Beginning in the fall, a separate flyer is included in the worship bulletin each week describing opportunities at organizations St. Francis has partnered with. We hope this is a weekly reminder of the importance of service and outreach. Additionally, Elizabeth Kimzey and Sally Jo Flores worked to better update the St. Francis website with information on these outreach partners.

Adults and youth are invited to join one of our ministries for a rewarding experience of giving back to others in need. Youth can also receive service hours. For more details about our events, about the above ministries, about how to get involved, or for information on how to join the many teams who serve, please go to the website at www.sfch.org/outreach or contact **Heather Burkhart at hpburkhart@hotmail.com**.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Burkhart
Outreach Director

2021 Pack 1703 Cub Scout Report

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Cubmaster & Advancement: | David Nelson |
| Assistant Cubmaster: | James Jackson |
| Committee Chair: | Steve Tadlock |
| Chartered Organization Rep: | Father Robert Wismer |
| BSA Commissioner to Pack 1703: | Rob Bartlett, Jr. |

Cub Scout Pack 1703 is affiliated with St. Francis Episcopal Church and part of the Mustang District of the Sam Houston Area Council. It has strong links to the local St. Francis community, both church and school, allowing great scout and parental involvement. The Pack benefits from support and guidance from Father Wismer and the Church staff.

The outgoing 2020/21 Cubmaster, Maggie Baker and Jessica Chisholm, has handed over the pack in very good shape, and guided the Pack through a full year of Covid uncertainty. The Pack's core philosophy is fun for the whole family. By ensuring the cubs have a fun experience, while also learning outdoor and scouting skills, we hope to help prepare them for life and for those that want to, progress to BSA Scouts or similar youth programs.

Pack 1703 has completed the re-chartering process for 2022.

Recruitment

Going on two years of COVID protocols and uncertainty, Pack 1703 and its leaders have been committed to bring Cub Scout activities back in full for this school year.

We had a total of 19 new boys to Pack 1703 for a total of 43 Cub Scouts this year. In discussion with other Pack and Troop leaders in the area, recruitment and re-building momentum lost from over a year of little to no formal scouting activities has been the biggest challenge faced. The following is the breakdown for Pack 1703, including Den Leaders:

- 7 Lions (Kindergarten) – Sean Brierley, Steve Tadlock
- 6 Tigers (1st Grade) – Nicole Ali, Stephanie Cheney
- 8 Wolves (2nd Grade) – Steve & Miranda Tadlock
- 17 Bears (3rd Grade) - David Nelson, James Jackson
- 5 Webelos II (5th Grade) - Jessica Chisholm, Maggie Baker

Budget and Fundraising

The Pack 1703 Committee's financial goal is to maintain a cash reserve of between \$10,000 and \$15,000 so the Pack is in a position to immediately purchase a new trailer and equipment, including pinewood derby equipment, should the need ever arise. This prudent financial management ensures that future generations of cub scouts will have uninterrupted access to first-class cub scout experiences and equipment.

Pack 1703 ended the 2020/2021 scout year with \$12,988 in reserve. Pack 1703 reinstated our \$135 year fee paid by parents. This fee was suspended in 2020/2021 due to the minimal activities allowed with Covid protocols.

The primary method of fundraising is cub scout popcorn sales, with approximately one-third of proceeds being returned to the Pack to fund our scouting activities. Fall 2021 Popcorn sales were

down from previous years but brought in a revenue of \$2,741 to Pack 1703. This, combined with an opening cash reserve above the targeted level and a tightening of our budget expenditures, allowed Pack 1703 to remain in a good financial position this year.

| 2021/22 Scouting Year Budget* | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Opening Cash Balance | \$12,988 |
| Income | |
| Registration Fees | \$5,265 |
| Popcorn Commission | \$2,741 |
| Operating Expenditure | |
| BSA Registration Fees | (\$3,008) |
| Pack Meetings & Camping | (\$5,321) |
| Den Meeting Budget (Max) | (\$1,365) |
| Expenditure from Reserves | |
| Trailer Supplies | (\$300) |
| Trailer Repairs | (\$300) |
| Pack 1703 T-Shirts | (\$0) |
| Magazine Subscriptions | Inc in Reg Fees |
| Closing Cash Balance | \$10,700 |

**A fully itemized budget was reviewed and approved by the Pack 1703 Committee at the start of the year*

In the unlikely event each Den spends their maximum budget of \$35 per cub scout for den meeting supplies, the Pack will end the year with a cash reserve of \$10,700 which is still in the targeted cash reserve range. The Pack leadership has discussed the possibility of increasing registration fees for the future in order to ensure that we maintain a healthy financial position.

The Committee believes that our conservative financial stewardship during this time of COVID and rebuilding momentum has allowed Pack 1703 to weather this storm and allow scouting to proceed on at St. Francis Episcopal Church.

Camp Outs

In October, we planned the first pack campout of the year at BSA Camp Brosig in Sealy, TX. This was the first time in at least 4 or 5 years that Pack 1703 had camped at a Boy Scouts of America camp. We had 14 families consisting of 36 kids and parents that joined us for the weekend.

In January, we held a campout at McKinney Falls State Park in Austin. This state park is one of the best that the Pack has had the privilege of camping in, and the kids and parents had a great time hiking, seeing the water falls and caves as well as joining a park ranger led evening activity called "Marvel at the Moon". The weather reached near freezing temperatures with winds up to 30 mph, but it was a weekend that the 20 participants will not soon forget.

In the Spring, we will have our final camp out of the scouting year planned for Brazos Bend State Park the weekend of March 25th-27th. Brazos Bend is another great state park that Pack 1703 has camped at before. With its proximity of only about an hour from St Francis and many activities offered, we expect this to be the largest attended campout of the year.

Pack Activities

The Pack held the first Pack and recruitment meeting successfully on September 12th. The first meeting included a presentation about what to expect for the Pack year and included how to begin selling popcorn. We also did a popsicle stick airplane building activity and finished with a Cona Ice Truck distributing treats. The second Pack meeting on December 5th celebrated the top pop corn selling scouts as well as our annual cork boat regatta.

On January 30th, we will be celebrating Scout Sunday at the 9:00 worship service at St Francis Episcopal Church. The Bear Den will receive their "God and Me" badges from Father Wismer.

In March, the Annual Pine Wood Derby event will be held. Here the boys race their cars down our aluminum track in the Parish Hall to compete for prizes and bragging rights for the year. We will host a workshop to help everyone with their builds and it is always a treat to see the creations that the boys design each year. Awards are not only given to the fastest but also the most imaginative and best-decorated cars. The cub scouts also get to choose what they believe is the most creative build.

In April, the cub scouts will be building model rockets during den meetings in a socially distanced format, ready for launching in our annual rocketry event at the South Campus. This event has become one of the favorites for the cub scouts as they watch their rocket creations blast into the sky and then they chase them all over the campus as they make their parachute-controlled descent back to earth.

We will wrap-up the school year in May with our Blue and Gold Banquet. We will advance the boys between ranks and present the boys with all of their earned awards/achievements for the year.

Arrow of Light

The Webelos II have completed the activities to work toward their Arrow of Light award during their cub scout adventures in 2021. The Arrow of Light award is the highest award available to Cub Scouts. Upon achieving this rank, the boys make their transition into Boy Scouts.

We want to thank St. Francis, Father Bates, Father Wismer, and our BSA Commissioner Rob Bartlett for their support of Cub Scout Pack 1703. The Pack Leaders will continue to honor the words of Baden-Powell as we "try and leave this world a little better than we found it." And, of course, we will ensure the cub scouts continue to have fun at the same time.

Respectfully submitted,

David Nelson

Cubmaster

James Jackson

Assistant Cubmaster

2021 Pastoral Care Report

The local church is a family of sorts: people who care for each other within the loving fellowship of Christ. Pastoral Care is a key ministry for living that out. Lay people, the parish staff and clergy do this together. When grief, illness or other matters emerge, we desire to show love and concern. People in need receive Communion, visits, phone calls and other modes of contact. Staying in touch and providing care takes extra caution in times when public health is challenged, but it is a high priority so, together, we make it happen.

The clergy did the sacramental calling, bringing Communion and Holy Unction to people. Lay ministers were active with phone calls, notes and cards. All of our parishioners receive notes when they are lifted up in prayer as part of the Rector's weekly sessions of prayer with parish staff.

Pastoral ministry also includes the planning and provision for Holy Baptism, Holy Matrimony, and Christian Burial. Our special ministry of bringing the Eucharist to our people resulted in 13 visits and 18 communions in 2021

Monthly Eucharistic visits at The Forum, The Buckingham, and Buckner Parkway Place resumed in 2021 to provide residents in independent and assisted living with worship opportunities. Rick Keith came with Doreen Hanrahan and they beautifully enhanced these services with music. They provided accompaniment to lead hymns and offer instrumental music before, after and while people took communion. In 23 services through the year we communicated 141 people with the sacrament.

Our dedicated Lay Eucharistic Ministry (LEM) team of volunteers prepares now to resume activity when it is possible to make visits. The parish also offers Morning and Evening Prayer every day but Sunday. This provides a pastoral element for the 20 or more people who come with differing frequency. The Daily Office also brings the value of intercessory prayer to the members of our parish family consistently through the week.

Our Pastoral Care team meets weekly to coordinate prayers for our people and to discuss the current pastoral care needs of our parish. We continually update our list for people named in spoken The Prayers of the People, and the list for those printed in the worship bulletin.

As a team of Pastoral Care providers, we strive to make St. Francis a community of consistent and responsive care bringing the love of Christ to all parishioners.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. David W. Price, Associate Rector

Julie Lowery, Director - Pastoral Care Council

2021 St. Francis Sports Association Report

The St. Francis Sports Association (SFSA) strives to offer the opportunity for children from pre-K through the 5th grade to play team sports in a safe and fun environment, where the focus is on skill development, teamwork, sportsmanship, and fellowship. We play in the West Houston Christian Sports Association (WHCSA) for soccer and softball/baseball/t-ball. This year we have moved our basketball participation from WHCSA to the Kingdom League which is run by Tallowood Baptist Church. Our 4th and 5th-grade girls play volleyball in a smaller league coordinated by Chapelwood United Methodist Church.

Like all things in 2021, life has been slowly returning to the new normal for the Sports Association, too. COVID-19 had a material impact on our operations during 2020-2021 with our soccer season being cancelled completely and basketball operating at about half the normal numbers. 2021-2022 is off to a better start with a successful soccer season completed this fall and our current basketball season back up to over 200 participants!

Our focus this year is on continuing to improve the SFSA experience for our families. To that end, we moved our basketball operations from the West Houston Christian Sports Association to Kingdom Basketball which is a ministry of Tallowood Baptist Church.

Neekie Kashani, Sara Miller, Sean Brierley, Trevor Wallace, and Colleen Dunlap join me on the SFSA board this year. We are thankful for the time and talent that each of them bring to SFSA. Ragan Cain continues to serve as our part-time sports commissioner. Her work is invaluable as she handles a lot of the details of registration, communication, and logistics to make our association work. I would also like to extend special thanks to Fr. Bates and Fr. Wismer for their support and guidance throughout this year and one last thank you to Arlene Stacy who has been making sure all the bills get paid and donations properly recorded for years.

After drawing slightly on our reserves in 2020-2021 due to the challenges of COVID, we are back on track to return to being a positive cash flow ministry this year. Our reserves continue to be ample and we enter 2022 in sound financial position to continue our ministry.

Respectfully on behalf of the SFSA Board,

Mike Dunlap

Vestry Liaison, St. Francis Sports Association