



FROM
HIS
FULLNESS
WE HAVE
ALL
RECEIVED
GRACE
UPON
GRACE.

—JOHN 1:16

EVERY MEMBER
CANVAAS
2019



Time and time again, Christ Church has proven to be steadfast and strong, generous and compassionate. In our 179-year history we have survived fires, floods, and raging storms, not to mention shifting demographics in our neighborhood and city.

Our community of faith has stood as a beacon of mission and ministry, a center of spiritual conversation and inquiry, awarded for musical excellence, and a leader in service to those who live on the margins of society. During Hurricane Harvey, the Cathedral community responded to the needs of others even before the rain had stopped. This past spring, with the Sowing the Seed capital campaign, we re-committed ourselves to our presence downtown, undertaking an extensive restoration project of our campus that will guarantee our good work for future generations.

This is what we are all about at Christ Church Cathedral. We are disciples of Jesus, and we have received grace upon grace beyond measure. But we must keep moving forward, leading the charge and experiencing re-formation to best serve this community, our city, and the world beyond. God's Gospel work requires much of us, and only with the financial support of every parishioner can we continue this life-giving work.



THE WORD BECAME FLESH

In his Gospel, St. John the Evangelist promises that we do not do this work alone. St. John assures us that we are loved and cherished by God. God demonstrated that love when he became incarnate in his son, Jesus. St. John tells us,

And the Word became flesh and lived among us; we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

— JOHN 1:14

This passage reveals the depth of God's love, that God would become flesh and choose to walk among us, experiencing the full range of human life. In the form of Jesus, God hungered, thirsted, felt pain, wept, rejoiced, marveled, and was moved to anger and compassion. God understands human joy and challenge, because God has encountered them in Jesus. God has walked in our shoes and asks that we continue to be his hands and feet.

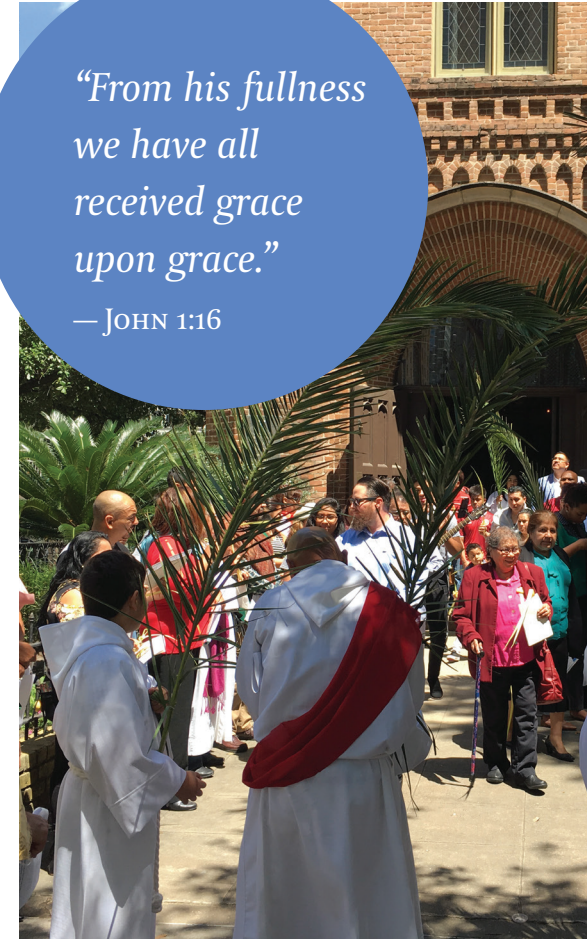
But the blessings of the gift of Jesus Christ do not end here. St. John goes on to share that Jesus is “*full of grace and truth*,” the embodiment in a person of the wholeness of the eternal God.

*From his fullness we have all received
grace upon grace.* — JOHN 1:16

Through our connection to Jesus, each day we experience the boundless grace of God's love for us. And we are called, as Christians, to spread that grace, to embrace to those we meet, and to best equip our community to live as the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

*“From his fullness
we have all
received grace
upon grace.”*

— JOHN 1:16



AND LIVED AMONG US

Occasions of grace occur every day at the corner of Texas and Fannin. They can be found in the obvious places of our robust ministries — in moving liturgy, inspiring music, feeding the hungry, and tending to the sick.

But grace is experienced in other ways that may be less conspicuous — sunlight through a stained-glass window, a friendly greeting, a quiet prayer, or a smile over a cup of coffee. Together, we worship in a beautiful, sacred space, nurture our children, serve people in need, care for one another, and ensure that God's love is felt through our work in Houston and beyond.

COMMUNITY

The relationships built in the spirit of Christ are the ones we turn to in time of plenty and times of crisis. Jesus provides us with the best examples of how to love our neighbors, and the people of Christ Church have worked to ensure communion with one another extends far beyond the altar rail. Parishioners are meeting God in their neighborhoods through seasonal Neighborhood Gatherings, the Vicar's Road Show, and the expansion of Bible by the Glass to serve both downtown and the northern suburbs. Our growing Latino congregation continues to host communal gatherings through *Noche Familiar*, *La Conferencia TE*, and the Advent celebration of *Las Posadas*, just to name a few. Immigration Forums, Justice & Peace Council documentary nights, and "Coming Out in Faith" at the Hines Center indicate that both our hearts and our doors are open to those spiritually hungry from all walks of life.

Christ Church Cathedral | Established March 16, 1839

OUTREACH

Serving our brothers and sisters who live on the margins of society has always been a cornerstone of the mission of Christ Church Cathedral. The Beacon continues to be a centerpiece of Houston's work with the homeless and restores dignity to more than 250 men and women each day. The Beacon also provides access to civil legal aid and health care benefits, and houses Brigid's Hope, which helps women transition from incarceration back in to society. In 2017, for the annual Christmas at the Cathedral outreach event, the Mission Outreach Council partnered with Small Steps Nurturing Center, the Rusk School, and Kids Hope at Bruce Elementary to increase the number of children and families invited to join in the celebration. Over the past few years, the needs of the community have been shifting, and our efforts have been reshaped to better respond to the call. In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, through the generosity of the Cathedral community and its friends, through both time and treasure, upwards of 25 homes were mucked out after the storm and \$250,000 in financial assistance was provided to more than 80 families. The Cathedral hosted an orientation session for those affected by Harvey, an immigration clinic, and a DACA help session for Dreamers and parents of Dreamers.

WORSHIP

Offering praise and thanks to God through worship is one of the paramount ways we serve the community. Christ Church Cathedral is healthy and thriving by every national standard. The Cathedral's average Sunday attendance (ASA) has grown 22% in the past five years. Since its implementation in 2016, *The Well*, a contemplative Celtic Eucharist, has tripled average attendance at the Sunday five o'clock service. Easter services drew more than two thousand attendees for the third year running and a record number of children participated in the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant. In addition to the premier quality of sacred musical programming offered all year round, both the Parish and Cathedral choirs grew in size and excellence, not only supporting worship at the parish but also at diocesan and citywide services.



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
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EVANGELISM

Every Sunday we sing, serve, and celebrate the Eucharist five times; during the week, three services are offered each day in Golding Chapel. And at other times our commitment to worship expands to celebrate other sacred occasions as an expression of our faith, hospitality, and evangelism. The Cathedral has offered space and resources to a citywide ecumenical service, and hosted the ANZAC Day Service of Remembrance for the Australian Consulate. In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, alternative performance and rehearsal space was provided to local and national arts organizations. Last year brought multiple opportunities to “wear our welcome” when we hosted extra tours of the historic Cathedral during the week leading up to the Super Bowl, bathrooms and coffee were found to be most hospitable in the early hours of Marathon Sunday, and an invitation to attend The Well was extended to many who participated in Houston’s St. Patrick’s Day parade.

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*The word became
flesh and lived
among us.*
— JOHN 1:14

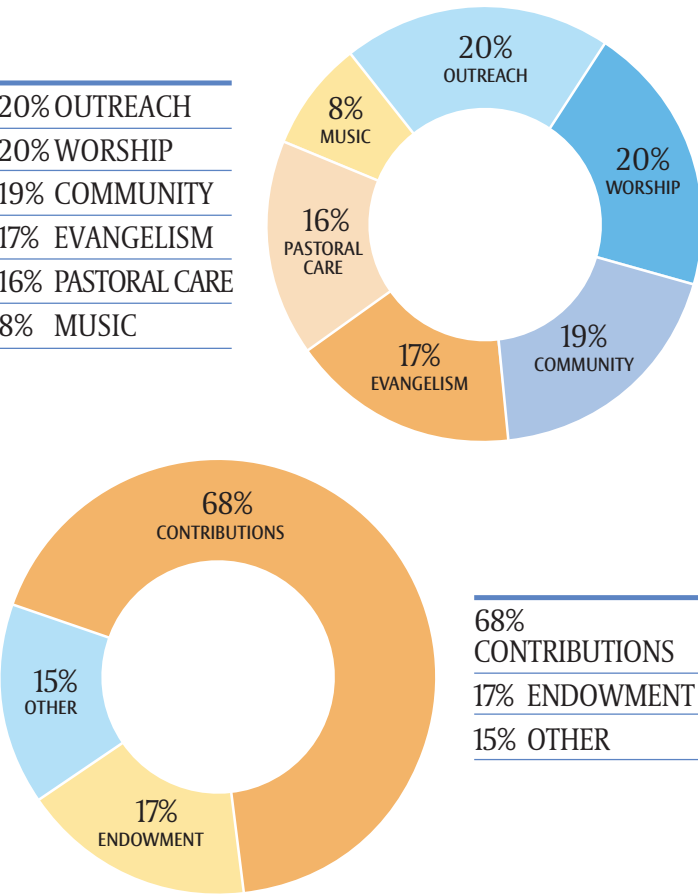
PASTORAL CARE

One of the many graces of God is God’s assurance that we are not alone, as God is always with us. The Cathedral’s pastoral care ministries strive to be the manifestation of that assurance. In times of celebration and in sorrow, pastoral care is shared through prayer shawls, baby baskets, the Mourner’s Path (a multi-week program for those experiencing grief), the Longest Night Advent Service, a pastoral care resources database, and much, much more. The Cathedral Shepherds, a group of volunteers trained in the Community of Hope program, offers a deeper level of care for those in need of pastoral support. “Meet Your Shepherd” Sundays provide parishioners an opportunity to meet face to face with their assigned shepherds and aid in educating new members about the variety of pastoral care offerings. With great care and intention, the Pastoral Care team of Christ Church Cathedral works ardently to ensure that no parishioner feels without hope in a time of need.

MINISTRY ALLOCATION

We must continue to always be willing to ask ourselves where we are already loving as Christ loves, and where we have yet to make that love manifest. God has generously called us as the body of Christ, to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Now it is our turn to give, from all that we have received, to our mission of proclaiming in both word and deed the good news of Jesus Christ.

Sustaining our ministry financially is our collective. With your financial commitment to this good work, you can help us ensure that Christ Church Cathedral continues to be a vanguard and respond swiftly to where needs are greatest. In the past several years, we have been blessed time and time again to receive increased support from generous parishioners just like you. It is these gifts that have allowed us strategically to increase ministry budgets and put to use in our community all that we have received.



Every Member Canvass 2019 | 9

FROM HIS FULLNESS WE HAVE ALL RECEIVED

In order to continue to proclaim God’s hopes for the world from the heart of downtown Houston, we need the financial support of every parishioner.

Every gift counts, every pledge makes a difference, and every contribution helps us build up the body of Christ.

The costs of financing Cathedral ministries, even at their current levels, increases every year. Our willingness to give is deeply reflective of our willingness to be open to God’s invitation into our lives. Let us continue to share the graces we have been given with others and renew our annual commitment of resources to the missions and ministries of the church.

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With gratitude, we share that last year 622 families made a pledge to Christ Church Cathedral for a total of \$3.47 million. In order to fully and responsibly fund the 2019 budget, the vestry anticipates that we will need \$3.6 million, only a 3% increase over last year’s pledge total — a reachable goal!

Additionally, we encourage everyone to participate in this year’s Every Member Canvass, no matter the amount. We are asking that each and every parishioner prayerfully consider increasing his or her pledge by 3% in 2019. We are hopeful that we are also able to increase our number of pledges by 3%.

We hope you’ll join us as we share in the blessings that God has given to us; and we pay it forward by giving back to this community and the world with **grace upon grace**.

Faithfully,
The 2019 Stewardship Council

THE 2018 STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

- MR. DAVID DUPRE
- MRS. KAREN KRAYCIRIK
- MR. MIKE MCCORD
- MR. STEVEN OWSLEY
- MRS. MIMI PRIOLEAU
- MR. ROB REEDY
- MS. SUSAN REEVES
- MRS. MARY SWIFT
- THE VERY REV. BARKLEY THOMPSON
- MRS. JULIE THURMOND
- MR. HAL WATSON

GRACE UPON GRACE.

RANGE OF PLEDGES	PLEDGES RECEIVED	
	2018 ACTUAL	2019 GOAL
25,000 and above	24	25
15,000 to 24,999	28	30
10,000 to 14,999	32	34
5,000 to 9,999	111	114
2,000 to 4,999	183	185
1,000 to 1,999	135	139
\$999 and less	109	113
	622	640

Out of an estimated 825 families in the congregation, 188 did not pledge in 2018. If more families pledge and do so generously, we will be able to expand our mission.



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
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Each
Cathedral
parishioner

is asked to pray over, complete, and return the enclosed pledge card during the month of October and no later than Loyalty Sunday, November 4, so that that Finance Committee of the Vestry can prepare the 2019 budget.



CHRIST
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CATHEDRAL

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