



St George's
Hope for life

ANNUAL PARISH
REPORT
2019

PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2020

ANNUAL PARISH CELEBRATION & MEETING

January 26, 2020
11:30 AM

AGENDA

1. OPENING PRAYER
2. ELECTION OF NEW VESTRY MEMBERS
(Outgoing Vestry Members Count Votes)
3. BLESSING AND SERVING OF FOOD
4. REPORTS (while eating)
 - a. Rector – Give thanks TOGETHER!
 - b. Senior Warden
 - c. Junior Warden
 - d. Budget
 - i. 2019 Financials
 - ii. 2020 Budget
5. BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT
6. SHORT VESTRY MEETING TO FOLLOW

OUR MISSION

We are a church led by the Holy Spirit to share God's (light), love, mercy, and hope with our neighbors, Texas City, and the world.

OUR CORE VALUES

Worship

Our Worship is centered in the Episcopalian tradition as we proclaim the Word of God through Love, Grace and the Holy Spirit.

Family

We embrace and celebrate the youth and families by teaching lifelong Christian values through ministry participation in a nurturing atmosphere for spiritual growth.

Fellowship

We grow through traditional Bible education, enjoy breaking of bread with all of God's people, and spread the Good News through the Holy Spirit working within us.

Outreach

We understand God's word calls us to serve our neighbors and those in need.

Spreading the Word of God

Through Bible study and passionate faith development we share God's Word to help others find Christ.

THE 2020 VESTRY

NOMINEES:

**Sharon Willingham
Haynes Dunn
David Schlegel**

TERMS TO EXPIRE JANUARY 2020

**Lloyd Criss
Sandy Tompkins
Sharon Willingham**

TERMS TO EXPIRE JANUARY 2021

**Marie Carlson
Rip Howell
Beverly Ross**

2020 OFFICERS

**Beverly Ross, Senior Warden
Rip Howell, Junior Warden
Fran Monroe and Jim Deslatte, Co-Treasurers
Ann John and Lee Sanders, Pledge Treasurers**

NOMINATED DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

February 7-8, 2020

**Haynes Dunn
Susan Dunn
Rip Howell
David Kautz**

RECTOR'S REPORT

Walking in the Way of Love and Hope as a congregation and as individuals was the focus of 2019. I think it is fair to say, we have grown in our experience of God's love and hope through community and by those whom have come our way.

Just some of the Community events in which we experienced and shared love were as follows: the annual Feast of Lights Service and Burning of the Greens where we claim the light of Christ over Texas City; Focusing on being Well in Mind, Body, and Spirit during Lent as we focused on Listening; hosting missionary drama group—the Covenant Players for Easter thanks to the generous donation of a friend of St. George's; Hosting 140 Texas City High School Choir Members' "Sacred Music Christmas Concert" with over 300 people attending.

We were blessed to share the Hope within us, within our members, and the wider community in a variety of ways: declaring Hope over our schools, youth and families by posting signs of Hope and that we have "High Hopes" for their new year; hosting the Hope Festival with over 50 booths and 350 guests. We witnessed over 300 volunteers from fourteen churches express their love for our city through coming together to serve our community in 12 locations on a Sunday morning through Servolution followed by a lunch at St. George's hosted by the Diocese of Texas and served by Lighthouse Charity.

We experienced God's love and the Hope of Resurrection as we worshipped on Sunday's and on special occasions such as: two weddings, several ecumenical prayer services, bible study, and prayer each week. We remember and hold in our hearts, Jo Butler, Leah D'Ascenzo, Peggy Tolson, Jean McKnight, John Jacobson and Gil Goodwill. We give thanks for how each of them taught us much about God's abiding love and kindness. We collaborated with First Christian/Lutheran, First Christian, and St. John's Methodist in special services and events during Holy Week. Teams were formed and learned how to "hear" the Good News for themselves in the gospel using Lectio Divina. They then shared the Good News in creative ways with members on Sundays in October and November. We also shared the love we have experienced from God with others by serving at the Food Bank, hosting our Cooking and Crafting Club for kids and their families to learn about healthy eating and connecting, Blessing Pets, and serving in restoring homes impacted by Hurricane Harvey with 4B Restoration Ministry. We learned that when we focus on loving God by worshipping him and serving others, love grows in our hearts and in the world around us. We saw members through hard times and prayed for them and their families to experience the love and hope of God in real and tangible ways. In finding my beloved David and getting engaged, we experienced God's love through you over and over throughout the year through our bridal shower and our wedding. Thank you!

In Hope
Pastor Robin+

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Well, we did it again! We, with God's help, achieved so much, with so few. Below are some of the highlights of 2019 for us to remember and be so proud.

On January 5, Pastor Robin, David, Kent, and myself traveled to Camp Allen to meet the three candidates for a new Suffragan Bishop. Kai Ryan was elected to this position. Council was held in the Woodlands with Pastor Robin, Rip, Susan, Haynes, Kent, and myself representing St. George's.

Bishop Monterosso made his annual visit 2/17, with Hart Parris and David Kautz officially becoming welcomed new members of St. George's. March brought a Vestry Retreat meeting with our newly elected vestry members here at the church. Shrove Tuesday was again observed with pancakes, made and served by the Boy Scouts. Each Wednesday of Lent, members met for Evening Prayer, lessons, meal and fellowship.

On March 23, our Stewardship committee joined with other area Episcopal churches at Holy Trinity in Dickinson. This was sponsored by the diocese and led by Beth Fain. The purpose of this new endeavor was to work with small churches who might need guidance in growing their membership and delving into current attitudes about pledges—together with possible new ways of presenting the concept and importance of pledging. Each person was tasked with reading a book from the selection presented and adopting some new approaches about this very important aspect geared toward maintaining and growing your church. Then, to follow up with presentations to their congregation. Our committee broke into six teams, each responsible for a Sunday. They each presented their interpretation of the appointed Gospel, focusing on Stewardship in relation to their Gospel lesson. The importance of actively contributing with not only your time and talent, but also, your monetary support, large or small, not only benefits your church, but yourself, was stressed. Together, all three help to keep St. George's the active, engaged parish church that we know, love, and hope to see flourish now and into the future. It can't and won't happen without you and your support. This concept was stressed in all of the books we each read—the people want to know how their contribution will be utilized and also, how it will benefit them. This technique of small teams working toward a common goal fostered team building, leadership skills, exchange of new ideas, and fellowship among those involved, bringing an awareness of this important member responsibility.

April, found us making palm crosses, and cleaning the church in preparation of Holy Week. Maundy Thursday was observed with a 6:00 p.m. service and stripping the altar, including all of the furnishings. Good Friday was recognized by a communion service and Stations of the Cross service. Easter we hosted the Covenant Players, held communion, lunch, and an egg hunt. This month, also the ladies of the church and other invited guests enjoyed a bridal shower for Robin in a beautiful Quin Hall. The tea party theme was carried out by tea services and cups, hats, gifts, and croquet on the lawn; altogether making for a delightful afternoon.

May brought us our Spring China Dinner “fundraiser,” including auctions, good food (Olive’s famous Chicken Spaghetti), and good fellowship.

The high point of the summer had to be the Reeves-Kautz “standing room only” wedding with Bishop Doyle officiating. Following in August, the Douglas-Teaff wedding was held. In between these two joyous occasions, some of us helped First Methodist with their VBS.

September through November found us fully engaged in two fundraisers—the Fish Fry and Hope Festival, both of which were very successful, in part by your active involvement. Thank You. Rounding out the evening of the Fish Fry, the TCPD presented a “neighborhood watch” program, including their canine unit.

Also, in November, we saw the birth of two new ministries—“Mind, Body, and Medicine” classes and Grief Share program.

In December, we were treated by a TCHS choir program of sacred music and one hundred forty angelic voices. This was a “SRO” event, even serenading the neighborhood with their beautiful music. To kick off the holiday season, Robin and David graciously opened their home to host the Vestry Meeting and again inviting all to come enjoy Christmas goodies, fellowship, and David’s Christmas Villages. December 22, found us enjoying a pot luck lunch following the 10:30 service, gift exchange, and decorating Quin Hall and sanctuary. Christmas Eve a candlelight service was held at 3:00 p.m. with a nice attendance.

This past year, we celebrated two weddings, added two new members, and honored the lives of five of our departed members, who are deeply missed.

As you can tell by the length of this report, we with God’s grace really did accomplish so much, so be proud and perhaps pat yourselves on the back. I leave you with the same quote, as last year, “Dream Big and don’t Quit” ending with another familiar quote “Thanks for the memories.”

Beverly Ross
Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

HVAC

1. Church front unit had compressor replaced by Woody's A/C
2. Cooling tower east fan motor was replaced
3. Associated cooling tower leaks were repaired
4. Quin Hall upstairs unit purchased with special A/C fund installation is not complete—have the duct board purchased and Doug Mullen will rebuild ducts with water repiping and electrical to be completed by Woody's

Health District Inspections

1. Quite a battle this year with rodent control, but by following recommendations from Orkin Pest Control progress has been made. (Windows caulked with expanding foam, switched bait, relocated trash cans)
2. Cleaned thoroughly the kitchen stove and sink areas and have tried to clean refrigerator gaskets but not much luck so far (may have to be replaced)

Fire Marshal Inspection

1. From inspection completed 1/6/2020, the vent hood fire suppression system is out of code (must be a "wet-based" system and not the current dry powder---waiting on the formal bid, but estimate is ~ \$3200.00 replacement cost)

No significant issues noted with church routine maintenance—good support for grass cutting and grounds maintenance—thanks to all who help with the process.

Special thanks to Nancy Lee providing for the flower beds to be cleared out and mulched.

Rip Howell
Junior Warden

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS REPORT

In the year 2019, six (6) persons were licensed as Lay Eucharistic Ministers to serve chalice:

Jim Deslatte	Haynes Dunn	Rip Howell
Beverly Ross	Kent Ross	Eleanore Wuthrich

The Lay Eucharistic Ministers served God and the people of God in St. George's parish for one hundred two (102) regular Sunday Eucharistic services, one (1) Morning Prayer service and six (6) special services.

Roxanne Balderas, Byron Hambrick, David Kautz, Doug Mullen, Hart Parris, Benice Snyder, Greg Williams, and Sharon Willingham served as Lectors in fifty one (51) Sunday Eucharistic services and three (3) special services.

Four (4) persons were licensed as Lay Eucharistic Visitor Ministers to serve to the ill at home:

Olive Krell Beverly Ross Sharon Willingham Byron Hambrick

Respectfully,
Jim Deslatte, Scheduler

ALTAR GUILD REPORT

The purpose of the Altar Guild is to make ready the sanctuary for worship services. It is a special service to serve our Lord and the church.

Those serving are: ***Nancy Lee and Chris Smith, Sandy Tompkins and Ashley Tompkins, Olive Krell, Byron Hambrick, and Tina Mullen.*** Thanks to Celia and Kenny Patterson for taking care of the Poinsettias at Christmas and Lilies at Easter. Thanks to Greg Williams who is our behind the scene person who helps us during the year. Thanks also to the parish family for coming together and helping get our church decorated for Christmas.

It is a thrill to serve as Altar Guild director. We always need new members. If you would like to serve, please call Olive at (409) 739-5479 or call Pastor Robin at the church office.

Faithfully,
Olive Krell

USHER REPORT

Once again, St. George's faithful, loyal, and dedicated ushers have completed another year of service. Many thanks to all the long-serving ushers and to those that step in when needed.

Please consider volunteering once a month or every other month at the 8:00 a.m. Service, 10:30 a.m. service, or any special services that arise.

Call me at 409-935-5226 or the office at 409-945-2583.

Sincerely,
Helen Kelemen

FISH FRY

The annual fish fry was held on September 13 in Quin Hall. There were over 90 in attendance including members of the church, their neighbors, friends, family members, and previous members of St. George's.

We had over 20 church members volunteering to do everything from invitations, greeting, cooking, frying fish, clean-up and Bingo.

The Bingo games were led by Sandy Tompkins along with her assistant, Raquel. As a matter of fact, Raquel's whole family pitched in and helped. It was such a hit that the kids didn't want to stop playing when the event was over. It would be a good idea to have this game again next time.

The expense for the fish fry was \$337.50. This was mainly for the fish. We bought 90 lbs. and had about 30 lbs left over so we froze it. All the other food was donated by church members. We did not set a price for the dinners. We only asked for donations. As a result, our profit was \$701.39.

Susan Dunn

SPRING FUNDRAISER REPORT

The Spring Gala was held on May 18 at 6 PM in Quin Hall. It was a dinner and an auction of cakes. The ladies of the church decorated 17 tables and the men of the church made cakes for the live and silent auction. I would especially like to thank Olive and her cooking crews for preparing her delicious Chicken Spaghetti and the church crew for pitching in and helping in the kitchen. I would also like to thank the students for serving the meal. They were very polite and gracious.

The night was a big success in more ways than one. All the food and drinks were donated by members of the church. As a result, our profit was \$3,041.00.

Sharon Willingham

HOPE FESTIVAL REPORT

The Hope Festival was held on Saturday, November 16. We had between 200-250 people in attendance. We had several one on one meetings before the festival. We had 21 members volunteer both before and during the festival. Before the event, we took orders for smoked hams and homemade chili as well as selling both the day of event. The day of the event, we also sold ham sandwiches, chili bowls, hot dogs and baked goods. The baked goods were all sold out as well as most of the silent auction items. We also sold raffle tickets for \$20.00 each before and during the event. As a matter of fact, we actually sold the last of the tickets the day of the event. We raffled off \$800.00 in prize money, leaving us with a profit of \$1,200.00.

Kid's rides and games were a big hit and were successful in bringing in our families with children. The activities included: pony rides, train rides, petting zoo, face painting, bouncy house, kids games, miniature golf and an EMS/Fire Truck to explore. We also gave a free hot dog and drink to all the kids. They had great fun.

We had 20 indoor vendors who sold an assortment of goods and we had 16 outdoor resource vendors to help with not only for those affected by Harvey, but those in our community that need any kind of help.

We had the community show their support of our work on behalf of the community with Sponsorships adding up to \$4,050.00. We had a gross profit of \$8,152.11. We always give 10% of the profit to a charity. This year it was \$815.21 and we gave it to 4B. After expenses, our net profit was \$7,336.90. Many, many Thanks to all who made this such a successful event.

Susan Dunn

GOOD NEWS GANG REPORT

The Good News Gang smoked fifty five (55) hams for sale at St. George's Hope Festival. Ham sandwiches and homemade chili were served at the food bar. Kent Ross was in charge in making the homemade chili. The GNG would also like to thank Tennille for the use of their barbeque pit for smoking the hams, Kroger for supplying the ham containers, and Food King for supplying the hams at a reduced cost. Rip Howell was in-charge of the smoked ham project.

All money raised goes to St. George's general operating fund to cover operational expenses.

The Boy Scouts were host for the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper which was attended by friends and family.

Reported by
Jim Deslatte

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The focus for this past year was increasing our membership and pledges. With this in mind, the stewardship committee, consisting of Pastor Robin, Marie, Hart, Susan, Kent and Beverly, met at Holy Trinity in Dickinson on March 23rd. Other small churches in our area joined with us to learn new methods of turning visitors into members and pledgers. This effort was sponsored by the diocese and led by Beth Fain. Each member chose a book to read from the various selections presented. Each of the books brought new methods and perspectives toward achieving our goals.

Throughout the year, meetings and "zoom" calls were held. The purpose of these was to assist and offer suggestions, if needed. During those times, the various churches reported on their progress, the methods of presentations chosen, and the response. These various methods reflected the scripture and new ways to consider the whole concept of pledging.

With the start of our "stewardship season," St. George's chose to divide into 6 teams, one for each Sunday. Each team presented their interpretation of the designated lesson for their Sunday. These took the form of skits, debates, and personal reflections. This process really promoted team building, leadership building, serious reflection on the scripture, and the best method of presentation, with each being presented to the congregation. Those participating, took an active part and enthusiastically engaged with their fellow members. Our last "zoom" call occurred 12/5, with each church reporting on their success, both in added membership and pledges.

Beverly Ross

PLEDGE TREASURER REPORT

We began 2019 with 34 families pledging \$97,850.00 for 2019. In October, we had a zero balance due to a variety of issues from some people not having fulfilled their pledge due to life circumstance, the death of several members whose families did not choose to honor their commitment to the church. A letter was sent out from the Vestry and Pastor Robin asking members to consider giving extra. The response was generous and helped make the difference for the shortfall of pledges. Friends of St. George's also contributed generously which helped the bottom line. In addition, we had funds come in from people renting the building. All these things helped us to end the year with \$17,000 in the bank. We hope people will give generously in 2020 and uphold their commitments.

We begin 2020 with 26 families pledging \$85,569.00 for 2020. The Vestry will be working with the Rector and Congregation to set priorities to help grow the church as we share the Good News in our Community.

GARDEN OF HOPE

The Garden of Hope coordinators took a sabbatical and decided they could not continue this ministry so it has laid fallow for the bulk of 2019. The Hope Mom's Group who meets at St. George's have agreed to clean up the garden and do repairs there and on the playground. They hope to have a garden class for Homeschoolers in our garden area; however, they need plants donated to realize the vision. The schools are no longer coming due to the changes in their schedules and the conflict created for the teachers helping lead.

In October, a local Mom involved in coordinating events on 6th Street asked to put in community garden boxes on the lot behind the church. After vestry approval and clarification, the boxes are to be put on the ends of the property so St. George's Members would be able to continue to park on this lot.

COOKING CLASS

St. George's continues to partner with Chef Jimmy in providing sanctuary, life skills, and healthy eating to area families. This past year, we held 11 classes on the 2nd Saturday of each month with an average of 30 kids and adults in attendance. We are teaching these families how to focus on and let love grow in their hearts, how to have conversation with those they don't know, and experience being ushered to by adults outside the family. This year our craft themes consisted of: Light of the World; Valentines; Spring, Lent, and St. Patrick's; Pre-Easter; Mother's Day; Father's Day and Flag Day; Summer Fun; Back to School and Hope for your Future; Fall, Super Heroes, and Pumpkin carving; Thanksgiving; Christmas Season and a Santa Visit. As for our menu, it consisted of: pita pizza with fruit kabobs; wedge salad, chicken kabobs with dressing, and watermelon wedges; meatball subs with fruit kabobs; pizza; sandwich wraps, fruit, and chips; apples—different variety; pizza, wedge salad, and fruit kabobs; veggie lasagna with fruit kabobs; no bake pumpkin pie, pumpkin seeds, and veggie snacks/dip; cheese balls and chicken salad wrap. Thank you to all who help volunteer at the cooking class!

COMMUNICATIONS

In 2019, we continued to communicate weekly with our e-newsletter to members, friends, and cooking class participants not only what is happening in the parish but the wider community and ways to grow spiritually. We used social media to share the Good News to those who follow our Facebook page and posted events on our channels and that of the 10,000 Mom's in Galveston County and in our local neighborhood pages.

We formed a Hope Community Center at St. George's to help the public be aware of our space for rent and the wellness events we host. It is another way to help the community to know us as the Hope Church.

We sent out press releases and got coverage on many of our events by Galveston Daily News and the Post. We placed some ads both in print publications and online for special events and Easter Services. We also sent out postcards and flyers to members and the wider community letting them know of special programs like our Grief Share Group. We have others sharing about our events now as well like the Hope Homeschool Group and 6th Street businesses.

We mailed over 125 vendor invitations for the Hope Festival and contacted in person and by phone over 30 sponsors to help with sponsoring activities and events at the Hope Festival.

ADDITIONAL OUTREACH PROJECTS AT ST. GEORGE'S

School Supplies for TCISD
Coats for Kids Project for TCISD
Can tops for Ronald McDonald House
Community Thanksgiving Dinner
St. Vincent's Episcopal House
Change for Crisis Pregnancy Center
Serving with 4B Disaster Recovery
Servolution
Handed out water to 1200 people at
Touch-a-Truck

"Secret Santa" project providing Christmas gift cards
for the Hope Homeschool Leaders
Expanded ministry to homebound members
Resource and Crisis Center Donations
United Faith Alliance – monthly food & personal care
items were donated
Blessing Bags for Homeless
Sorting food at the Food Bank on Fridays
Christmas Bags to Women's Prison

2020

Let us grow in
Walking in the Way
of
Love and Hope
as we
Turn, Learn,
Pray, Worship,
Bless,
Go, and Rest.

We will continue to grow in Faith, Hope, and Love trusting God has good plans for us and a Hope for our future. **For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**
Jeremiah 29:11