

# 2020 MINISTRY REPORTS RECTOR'S REPORT - FEBRUARY 14, 2021

# **2020 MINISTRY REPORTS**

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## **Thoughts from Pastor Jonathan**

This is my ninth annual letter! Since our arrival in Bluffton in 2012 our family has had the time of our lives. We have loved being a part of The Church of the Cross as well as the Bluffton Community.

This past year has been one of incredible heights and memorable lows. With the loss of friends and family because of COVID it has been a year where the Lord has

walked with us every step. It has also been a year that God allowed me to be a part of something great as I commissioned a beautiful group of high school seniors that have been a part of my life these last nine years. This Church played a large part in the formation of their faith.

As we move into a new year please keep our family in your prayers as we manage the life of six children and all the challenges of ministry. This will be the third year we send another of our children (Rachel Scott) to college. I'm always reminded that our lives are in God's hands, as they have always been. Thank you for being an amazing congregation.

Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever!

The Rev. Jonathan H. Riddle





## 2020 in Review from Pastor Kevin

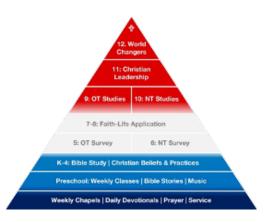
Just 2 months into my role as Chaplain at Cross Schools, COVID-19 began shutting things down. Still, the Lord has continued to work and move and do marvelous things at Cross and at the church.

During the Spring season of remote learning and virtual programs, I focused on developing the vision and focus of the Christian Formation programs at Cross Schools. The

addition of a high school has required some significant changes to the way we approach formation and education. Across all programs – academic, athletic, and faith – Cross Schools leadership has taken a top-down approach, considering where we want a successful senior to be upon graduation. From that perspective, we've worked our way backward in vertically aligning programs and curriculum to meet those goals.

One of my major tasks this year has been to develop the Christian Formation programs

of the new Cross High School. I've had the enormous privilege of teaching and connecting with the 24 students of the inaugural freshman class and developing a particularly special bond with them. I hope to be for them as Pastor Jonathan has been to the graduating seniors of the class of 2020. In anticipation of the high school's growth, I have been preparing class curriculum and materials for the upcoming New Testament and Christian Leadership classes, as well as prayerfully dreaming and vision-casting



formational extracurricular activities and programs in partnership with Tim.

But I'm not only a pastor to the high schoolers, but to the whole community. It's been a joy to teach and connect with the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students as well and get to know them and their families. I continue to focus on building relationships with Cross families and faculty and being a pastoral resource for them. Thank you for supporting the ministry of Cross Schools with your prayers and gifts! The Lord is doing marvelous things in our midst. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

The Rev. Kevin G. Cook

## The Church of the Cross Consolidated Financial Report Operating 2020 Budgets January-June 2021 (Unaudited)

#### As of December 31, 2020

	YTD Actual Jan-Dec 2020	2021 Budget Jan-June
Income/Expense	Jan-Dec 2020	Due to Covid19 - we will re- visit the budget after June 2021 for the remainder of the year
Income		
INCOME	2,508,939.50	1,090,000.00
Total Income	2,508,939.50	1,090,000.00
Expense		
MINISTRY EXPENSE	394,065.65	160,280.00
SALARIES	1,098,654.72	593,579.52
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	406,691.10	172,450.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS	144,754.28	64,400.00
Total Expense	2,044,165.75	990,709.52
Excess Cash Received Fund Principal 2020 - Church	464,773.75	99,290.48
Loan Principal repayment from Excess Cash	-480,191.69	-112,000.00
Remaining Cash 2020 - Church	-15,417.94	-12,709.52



## **SENIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2020**

"My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Ps.121:2; NIV)

God the Father, through Christ, has prevailed in sustaining us during 2020. The Church Year began as a glorious celebration with the dedication and consecration of The Chapel and initiation of the streaming of worship, teachings and events. Within days we were confronted with the reality of the coronavirus pandemic and its implications for gatherings. This challenge was met by most worship services and parish activities being suspended, restructured or streamed "on-line", to be faithful to public health restrictions. Anticipating the pandemic's impact on giving and pledges, the budget was reworked including reduction of clergy and staff salaries. Adding to the unexpected events of 2020 was the resignation from the clergy of Pastor Juan Rivera, though he and his family continue as parishioners.

There is no doubt about God's Providence. Parishioner participation in-person or online has significantly continued, donations have been generous, the reach of TCOTC has greatly broadened through streaming and the Food Bank families served have more than doubled. To present, the reduced staff salaries have been restored and all in-person worship services are available (though with COVID-19 limited participation). Furthermore, we successfully concluded "The Present for the Future" donation program in December.

Considering the impact of the continuing pandemic, the church budget has been developed for just the next six months. Any hope of resuming Parish normality lies beyond our population being extensively COVID-19 vaccinated.

Still, our future looks bright. We are searching for additional Parish clergy and, on the Diocesan level, a new bishop and perhaps we may see the conclusion of the Diocesan legal struggles with the Episcopal Church.

The Vestry( Jr. Warden Rod Musselman; Secretary Joanne Byrd; Treasurer Michael Simon; Sallie Brach; Doug Barone) thank God for: Fr. Owens' leadership along with our other Clergy; our Parish staff; our volunteers who have ministries in teaching, Hispanic outreach, Pastoral Care, Food Bank and God's Goods, music and more! We are blessed beyond measure.

In Christ, G. Millard Simmons

## FAITH FORMATION

## **CROSS CHRISTIAN WOMEN (CCW)**



In March, ministries took a shift as we stopped in-person gatherings and adjusted to the change in all our ministries and lives.

•Crossroads finished out their small gatherings in the spring then began meeting in-person again as each group felt comfortable with many choosing to meeting

outside on back patios and outdoor spaces.

- Seeing Jesus Through The Old Testament led by Rebecca Hamilton successfully met virtually using Zoom for a summer and fall session.
- DHC continued to hold their monthly meetings through Zoom.
- The spring event with Tara-Leigh Cobble was postponed and moved to September 2021.
- MOM'S Thursday Morning Group led by Sue Carlson and Lisa Riddle took a break over the summer and met again in the fall and began a study on the book of James.
- Several IF: Table groups stopped meeting in-person but continued to meet through Zoom.
- Stingray Mom's Bible Study has been unable to meet due to Covid restrictions at Cross Schools.
- Women's Shepherding Ministry connected with 36 new members during the pandemic.

We look forward to 2021 and seeing how God will continue to draw us to Him in ministry as we seek and serve Him during unusual times.

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca Hamilton

## **CROSS KIDS**

The Church of the Cross offers dynamic children's programming focused on meeting the needs of our diverse worshipping body and community as well as attracting families and children that do not currently have a place of worship.

#### Nursery

In 2020, we currently have 9 nursery workers that help with our CrossPoint service each week. We are pleased to be caring for so many of the little children in the low country and sharing God's love with them.

#### Sunday School

On our Cross Schools Campus, we offer Nursery which includes ages infant to 3 years of age, and Cross Kids which is for our PK4-4<sup>th</sup> graders. We start each Sunday with upbeat praise and worship, move into our lesson, and finish with either a craft or game to reinforce the lesson. We want to offer the kids a safe and fun environment while teaching them about how to grow closer to Christ! Across 2020, we added Virtual Sunday School lessons. We reached many different states, even countries!

#### **Special Events**

In 2020, we had a number of exciting new ways of reaching out to our community. We had Bedtime Devotions with families through our Facebook Church page. For Christmas we were able to have Cross Christmas Craft Make and Take. We had kids come and make crafts for their loved ones as gifts. We also had our first Jesse Tree Devotions leading up to Christmas Day. We started a monthly Newsletter that lets our families know what their kids are learning in Sunday school.

#### Volunteers

As our children's program continues to grow, we wouldn't be able to have this ministry without our Cross Kids Team members. These teachers and assistants have a dedication and love for both God and children that positively impacts the lives of every child they interact with each week. They are a huge blessing and a talented group to work with. The people are what makes our Church's children's ministry so extraordinary!

Respectfully submitted, Michael-Anne Land



## **CROSS SCHOOLS**

## At Cross Schools, we inspire future leaders to grow spiritually and academically by intentionally designing opportunities for inquisitive learning and active service all for the glory of God.

This year, Cross Schools made history in welcoming our first-ever 9<sup>th</sup> grade class! The 24 members of the class of 2024 brought the total enrollment of the school to over 600 students campus-wide. Even in the midst of the challenge accompanying the COVID-19 pandemic, our school community has joined together to make on-campus learning the reality for our student body, while making streaming instruction available to those students who are forced to miss class due to either preventative quarantine or recovery from a positive diagnosis of COVID-19. Our reputation of delivering a program of academic excellence has resulted in several recognitions and awards on both the local and state level. This past fall, Cross was recognized as the W. Keller Kissam School of Honor by the South Carolina Independent School Association this past fall. SCISA Executive Director Dr. Spencer Jordan remarked that "Cross Schools was being recognized for the school's cutting edge interactive academic programs as well as the school's commitment to STEM education initiatives."

Preventative measures implemented in the name of mitigating the spread of COVID-19 have often necessitated the re-thinking of how our students can find opportunities to serve their local and global communities. While we continued our partnership with Operation Christmas Child this year, and had a great level of participation by all measures, we also challenged our faculty to identify in class "micro-missions" that still taught the lessons and the blessings associated with service. One of our micro-missions of note saw lower school students writing personal letters to our members of the Armed Forces overseas. Our students were elated when they actually received correspondence back from several servicemen and women sharing how much their notes buoyed spirits when they were received.

At Cross Schools, we continue to provide opportunities for our students to know, love and grow in their understanding of Jesus Christ. Each school day begins in prayer and students and faculty routinely pray together in times of trial, and times of joy. A monthly prayer card authored for members of the Cross community challenge each of us to pray daily for a specific need or purpose of the school. Students continue participate in Faith Formation classes and weekly chapel services. Bible is incorporated into all aspects of daily life at Cross.

In Him, Pete Laugen, Head of Schools



## **CROSSPOINT WORSHIP**

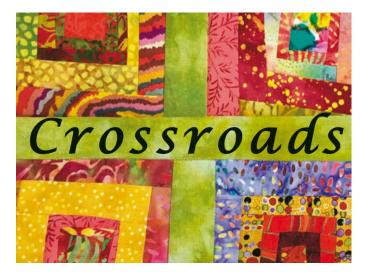
Our team has been blessed with another year of worshiping our Lord alongside all of you! We continue to strive for an atmosphere of worship that is humble and inviting. This past year was a time of many emotions and challenges, but we've learned a great deal about how to most effectively spread the gospel of Christ via the technology available to us.

The addition of Jason LaPorte, a talented worship leader and technical director, to our team has been invaluable, as we were able to begin streaming services immediately after the shutdown order was given. Without his guidance and hard work, we would have been delayed considerably. With all the uncertainty beginning to subside, we're very excited and prayerful about the future here at The Church of the Cross!

Respectfully submitted, Jordan Ross



## **CROSSROADS WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY**



The Crossroads Ministry for the year 2020 consisted of 8 groups meeting in the homes with a designated leader and up to 7 participants. We averaged 45-50 participants. Some groups chose to meet virtually due to Covid and some met in the homes maintaining social distancing. When it is safe to do so, all groups will return to the guidelines of meeting in the homes. We had 3 Sessions consisting of 8 or 9 weeks.

Session 1 Jan- March Study: Psalms Session 2 Apr- May Study: Psalms Session 3 Sept- Nov Book of Acts We will continue to study Acts and complete it during the winter and spring session of 2021.

The Ministry Leaders Mimi Harmon, Carol Halpin and Sue Kelley met periodically during the year to discuss the progress of the groups and the direction that should be taken. Together, they prayerfully consider what Book of Scripture should be studied for the upcoming season. The recommendations are presented to the Crossroads Council for consideration and approval. The Crossroad Council met March 3 and May 31, 2020.

Every Group Leader has been encouraged by the women who share how much they have learned from the line by line Scripture reading and study. Women have developed real relationships with one another and feel safe and secure in sharing their lives and meeting each other's needs through prayer and fellowship.

Mimi Harmon will step down from Leadership in May. We are prayerfully seeking a replacement.

Respectfully submitted, Mimi Harmon, Carol Halpin, Sue Kelley

## THE DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS - ESTHER CHAPTER

The Daughters of the Holy Cross are women who have committed our lives to the work and service of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray daily for our Church, its clergy, other DHC sisters, and others in need. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and equipped with the powerful sword of truth as contained in the Holy Bible, we reach out to those who do not know Jesus to share His message of salvation through word and deed. We wear our cross as a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice and our need for Him to be Lord of our lives. In community with our sisters, we are strengthened and encouraged to keep our fourfold vow of Prayer, Service, Study and Evangelism.

January 4, 2020, fifteen ladies were admitted into the Esther Chapter. Our chapter now has twenty-two members. In June a dear sister, Sandy Reiter went on to be with the Lord. Sandy was an inspiration to all by her strong faith and love of God. She was one of the eight founding members of the Esther Chapter.

Candidates to the Order must allow a period of three months contemplation and nine weeks of study to become a member of the Esther Chapter. We hope to have another opportunity for women at The Church of the Cross to become Daughters in 2021.

Our support of each other in prayer, encouragement and action strengthens us daily, especially evident during this last trying year.

The Esther Chapter chose Spicy Grove Youth Center in Jamaica as our primary service project. In July we took an offering from each daughter's "Blessing Jar" and sent a check to Pastor Danny Myers for \$1400 to be used at his discretion for the ministry. (Each member of the Esther chapter maintains a "Blessing Jar". As she experiences God's blessings in her life she has an opportunity to bless others in His name by placing donations into her jar.)

The members of the Esther chapter also decided in October to buy books for the 120 children of Spicy Grove and ship them to Jamaica as our special Christmas gifts. The many books were purchased and wrapped and then shipped in a barrel with other supplies to Jamaica. Linda Laird, a member, applied for funding from MOMMS in the amount of \$4000.00 for iPads, food, Christian resources and the shipping expenses. MOMMS approved the application and The Church of the Cross also supported this

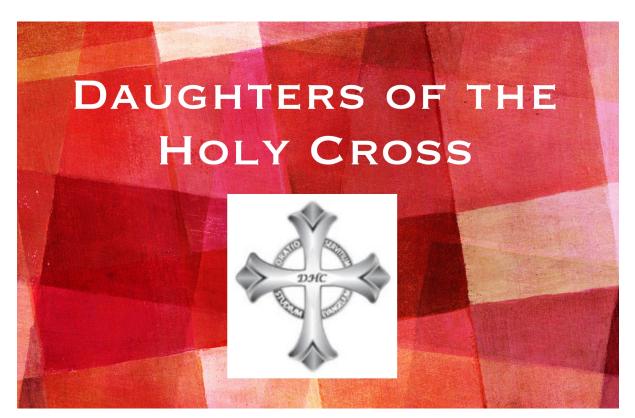
service project in Jamaica. The Esther Chapter will continue to support, pray for and help Spicy Grove guided by love and how the Lord leads.

Our ongoing Service Project is to create the Baptismal Banners for each child under twelve years of age. About five to six daughters gather to assemble the banners several times a year. The banners are presented to the family for the child at a church service.

Judy Kagle Ferguson, a member of our chapter, became a Mentor to The Church of the Redeemer in Orangeburg. Fourteen women of their parish sought membership in the Order and forming a Chapter at their church. Judy answered the call to be a resource to enable others to form Chapters at their own churches. Training sessions via Zoom began in February and ended at the end of April, with the 14 women beginning and 12 actually completing the training. The official Ruth Chapter's installation has been held up by the physical limits of the pandemic. We have remained close and pray for each other. God has blessed us to be a blessing.

President -Becky Owens Vice President – Judy Kagle Ferguson Secretary – Fran Kirby Prayer Chair - Judy Brown

Respectfully submitted, Becky Owens, Judy Kagle Ferguson, Fran Kirby, Judy Brown



## **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

On behalf of the Thursday morning Men's Bible Study, this is to report that we have been meeting each week and have been meeting in person for the last few months. We most recently completed studies of 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel and 1 Kings and are currently moving through the Gospel of John.

Respectfully submitted, Rick Adams

## THURSDAY MORNING MOM'S GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Mission: The Thursday Mom's Group exists to develop a culture among mothers in our church and community that supports, nurtures and equips one another through Bible study, discussion and prayer, so that each woman can realize her potential as a woman, mother and leader in the name of Jesus Christ.

Like everyone else, our group had to adjust from the norm and get creative in staying connected to one another this year. I do have to say, God definitely has a sense of humor. The study we were finishing up in March was called "Growing up Social, raising relational kids in a screen driven world". We had just learned how to help our families connect with others using less technology and more face to face interaction...and then...COVID. But moms being moms, we adapted. We were blessed to have good weather this spring to spend time outside together with our families, to slow down from our full schedules and reflect on how to love our families during this season.

With Zoom and group text messages, we were able to stay somewhat connected during the spring and summer, reaching out with prayer requests and praises, we lifted one another up in prayer. But we definitely missed gathering together, receiving support through hugs, laughter and tears. This fall, we began meeting in person on back decks, porches, at the park and coffee houses. Reading through the book of James together gave us much needed perspective, insight and strength to help lead our families through the rest of 2020.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." – Philippians 1:3-6

Respectfully submitted, Sue Carlson

## WOMEN'S SHEPHERDING MINISTRY

" Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers, not because you must, but because you are willing as God wants you to be. " 1 Peter 5:2a

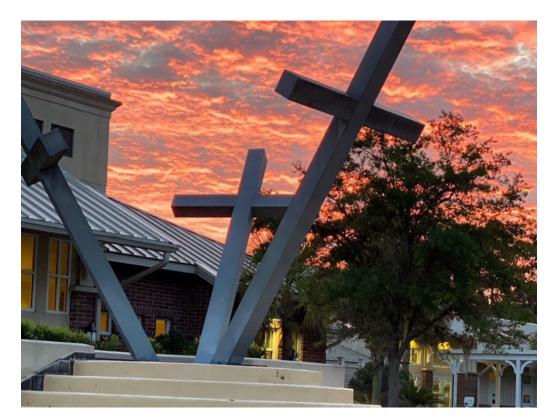
The Women's Shepherding Ministry falls under the umbrella of Cross Christian Women. The ministry reaches out to all new women members....welcoming them and familiarizing them with the facilities and the ministries of TCOTC.

The mission of the ministry is to help new members fully enjoy the many blessings of membership and to encourage them to share openly their time, talents and treasures.

Over the past year, the Women's Shepherding Ministry had reached out and welcomed over 36 new women members. Given the circumstances of this past year I praise God for these ladies who are seeking Him out! Each new member was presented a gift bag with a devotional and information about TCOTC. We encourage ladies to seek out the church web site for the most current information about Sunday services, Bible studies, ministries and ways to become involved.

TCOTC members serving as Shepherds for the year 2020 were: Sue Benton, BJ Silver, Martha Pike, Diane Harris, Cynthia Reed, Cheryl Hocevar, Sue Short, Mary Pitcher, Becky Owens, Martha Macinkoski Thank you ladies for a job well done! God has blessed us all this past year in the continued growth of our church.

Respectfully submitted, Martha Marcinkoski



## **YOUTH MINISTRIES**

#### Youth Group

With the support of weekly volunteers, we offer two weekly group gatherings. Throughout the pandemic, while our meetings were on hiatus, we communicated with our teens via technology and we gathered in small, socially distanced groups when able. We are currently back on schedule, and we follow safety protocols with the weekly program.

The groups include:

Middle School (5th - 8th grades) - Meets weekly from 6 - 8 p.m. on Wednesday nights High School (9th - 12 grades) - Meets weekly on Tuesday nights from 6:00 - 8:00.

#### Sunday Morning Youth Bible Studies

We have both a Middle and High School Bible study on Sunday Mornings at 10:30, and we meet upstairs at the Crosspoint campus. Both groups are studying the book of Acts. How relevant for our times, as we learn to live what we believe and to share our faith and hope in a world that's full of doubts and fears!

#### **Confirmation Class**

Each year, we lead a Youth Confirmation session that meets on Sunday mornings at Crosspoint. We normally begin these classes in the Fall, and the Bishop confirms the students during a special service at the historic campus.

#### **Bible Studies at Cross Schools**

We have weekly Bible studies for both girls and boys in various middle and high school grades during their lunch periods. This is one more way to connect with our teens and to disciple them as they grow in their faith.

#### New College and Career Ministry

We're starting a Young Adult ministry for 18-25 year olds and are so excited about the opportunity. Our meetings will begin this February, and dates and times for gatherings are in the works.

Respectfully submitted, Tim Edwards



## **MISSIONS**

## FOOD BANK

The Food Bank ministry mission is to give spiritual and nutritional support for anyone in need. We seek to honor God by lightening the load of life for everyone we serve in His name.

2020 has been both a year of change and a year of consistency. The Covid virus forced the food bank to completely change its operation. In 2019, food bank guests gathered inside, heard a sermon synopsis and selected their food. In 2020, guests did not come inside. They drove by to have food and other goodies delivered to their cars by a human chain of volunteers from 12:30 - 2:30 PM every Monday. Food Bank volunteers used Saturday and Monday mornings to gather food from Second Helpings, Low Country Food Bank, Cross Schools and from individual donations. This food is then put into bags for grocery, produce, meat and bread and each family is given 4 - 5 bags of food in their car as they drive by our "pick up" point.

The hardship caused by Covid was and is devastating. The number of guests served each week in 2020 tripled from 2019. The Food Bank served on average 135 families each week with some weeks providing food for more than 200 families. This community service was made possible by monetary donations from the congregation that were ten times higher than 2019. In addition, food donations from the congregation and other communities far exceeded 2019. The weekly average number of food bags donated in 2020 was 283.

Despite the changes in every operational aspect of the Food Bank ministry, volunteers kept the Food Bank delivering food and spiritual support every week (except one) all year. The Food Bank ministry has been blessed with a volunteer team that enjoys working together and serving our guests. Covid brought forth new dedicated volunteer faces to this ministry which we are grateful for, we are looking forward to the time when all of our volunteers are able to return and serve alongside us. To join this team, contact Sheryl Maddux- <u>smaddux@thechurchofthecross.net</u>.

The congregation and volunteers have kept the Food Bank ministry a constant light in a dark time. Thanks Be to God.

Respectfully submitted, Rod Musselman



## GOD'S GOODS

God's Goods started out as a year we had anticipated celebrating a huge milestone.We were excitingly planning a summer event for our volunteers and church family...celebrating God's Goods 10-year anniversary.

(God's Goods opened on July 31, 2010.)

With the arrival of COVID-19 those plans were put on hold and the ministry closed normal operations on March 14<sup>th</sup> out of precaution for our volunteers and our community.

During the spring and summer months, our senior leaders worked extremely hard on the following:

- Developing and implementing preventative COVID health and safety measures and safeguards.

- Developing contingency plans and navigating through financial and operational challenges.

- Responding quickly to the ever changing COVID environment with an emphasis on communication with our volunteers, customers and church with social media and teleconferencing (with emphasis on staying connected).

- New plans were developed for storage of donations and management of all that was coming into the store (so needed as we had to shorten the store selling time due to COVID restrictions and less volunteers).

In summary we reconfigured the entire way the store operated and the protocol necessary to keep volunteers, donors and customers safe.

While the store was closed, so much outreach was accomplished! A new Outreach Coordinator helped oversee these efforts. Hampton County tornado victims were a huge part of the outreach in addition to Family Promise, Fr. Juan's outreach, Prison Ministry and Mercy Mission. The entire listing of goods that were gifted is attached in the "Pass Through" document.

God's Goods reopened on August 25, 2020 with a totally new way of doing ministry. Prior to COVID-19, God's Goods was open with 10 shifts per week and over 300 volunteers serving. In August we re-opened with just 3 shifts (working up to 5 shifts) a week with about 120 volunteers serving. In total volunteers served 20,692.50 hours in 2020.

God was JUST AMAZING during this VERY challenging year! After being closed for over 5 months \$319,343.00 was given to the mission field!! (See the MOMMS Annual Report for beneficiaries).

At the end of 2020, we were blessed to launch "God's Gifts" in partnership with the Food Bank ministry. Clothing and household items are gifted to guests of the Food Bank (and others in need) on Thursday afternoons.

While we were unable to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of God's Goods, a special message can be accessed by going to - <u>https://vimeo.com/443193660/5c02982329</u> - watch it until it stops for a very special ending.

God's Goods ministry is beyond grateful to God for our incredibly dedicated volunteers, customers and donors in addition to our church family and all those that support the work being done in and through this ministry reaching others in the mission field!



## GOD'S GOODS 2020 PASS THROUGH GOODS

Family Promise: Furniture, Clothing & Housewares 10 for families Palmetto BreezelChristmas Outreach: Toys for 85 families – 250 Children Summer Outreach: Clothing for 25 families Hampton County Tornado Relief: 5 Trucks & Trailers FULL of Furniture & Housewares, 1 Truck & Trailer Load of Cleaning Supplies/Paper Products given by God's Goods volunteers Jasper County: Clothing for family in need Ft. Steward, GA: Houseware items for military family Savannah Mission: Furniture, housewares Mercy Mission Hardeeville, SC: Men's clothing Air Force in Charleston, SC: Furniture Boys & Girls Club, Bluffton: Cameras Ridgeland Correctional Center: Clothing for Prisoner Release Five Local Families in Need: Linens, Housewares, Kairos Ministry: Luggage, clothing Young Life: Printer Children's Enrichment Center, Estill, SC: Toys Bluffton Youth Theatre: Furniture, Housewares, Linens Habitat for Humanity: Building Supplies Cross Schools: Christmas Trees Lowcountry Presbyterian Church: Medical Lending Closet: Walkers/Wheelchairs Agape – Hardeeville: Clothing Holy Trinity – Ridgeland: Clothing Volunteers in Medicine: **Medical Supplies** Mision Cristiana de la Cruz: Furniture & Housewares

Respectfully submitted, Kim Perri





## MISSION AND OUTREACH MINDERS AND MODELERS (MOMM)

#### God is at work!

As Christians, we are called to engage in missions that proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to build partnerships to work together for God's kingdom and to meet the need in our community and around the world.

MOMM works to facilitate mission work through the distribution of funds received because of the sale of pass-through goods at God's Goods Thrift Store. We may not know why this pandemic in 2020 is happening, but we do know that God is working and there were lots of blessings during Covid-19.

God's Goods was closed for 4 months, but through God's grace we could still give funds for mission work in 2020 for \$ 319,343 to the following ministries: Open Arms Fellowship – Tornado Relief in Hampton County, Samaritans Purse – Tornado Relief in Tennessee, Anglican Relief Fund, Help Madagascar, Christian Orphan Health, Kenya Christian Education Partnership, Heal Ministry, Christian Best Camps of Kenya, Spicy Grove Youth Center – Jamaica, Hope for Life Homes – Russia, Salvation Army in Bluffton, Young Life in Bluffton, Hampton County, Christmas Outreach, Cross Schools, Video Streaming – The Church of the Cross, Passion Conference, Present for the Future – The Church of the Cross

The volunteers at God's Goods and missionaries working in all these different missions make this world a better place and we are very grateful for all their selfless contribution to help others in need and to spread the Good News here in Bluffton and all around the world.

Respectfully submitted, Sonja Wesseler

Mark 16:15-16: And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.





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## PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

## **CARING HEARTS**

Our ministry is now 3 1/2 years old. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 10:00 am in the conference room at The Chapel. These meetings are confidential and provide support and resources for caregivers.

Because of the pandemic, the numbers of attendees has been low, but we know the need for caregiver assistance is a valuable resource for many. We encourage anyone who may need help with caring for a loved one to attend a meeting or contact us. We also have the ability for using Zoom so that caregivers unable to leave their homes can still participate. Each meeting includes our leaders and a licensed social worker, Jodi Johnson, to offer support and local resources.

If you find yourself in need of support as a caregiver, contact us (<u>billdonstev@aol.com</u>) or attend a monthly meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Stevenson and Betty Fisher



## **CROSSCARE HOME VISITATION TEAM**

COVID 19 negated the function of our ministry for the entire calendar year of 2020. Our mission involved visits to homes, hospitals and nursing homes, all of which were impossible to accomplish while the virus raged at pandemic levels. The team remains intact and will resume activities when allowed.

Respectfully submitted, Charlotte Sanginario

## FINANCIAL COUNSELING

On behalf of the Financial Counseling Ministry, in January 2021 Chuck Mathieu kicked off a Financial Peace University series with approximately six TCOTC members having signed up. It will be done remotely for the foreseeable future. We are also counseling TCOTC members on financial situations on a need basis.

Respectfully submitted, Rick Adams

## FRIENDLY FACES

Friendly Faces ministry's mission is to address the social and spiritual needs of those that are in assisted living facilities, skilled nursing facilities or reside at home but are unable to attend church regularly. Our visits provide companionship and, friendship. It is truly a privilege and a joy to interact with these seniors.

Unfortunately, Covid restrictions have greatly impacted this ministry and we have been unable to make visits since March 2020. We have attempted to remain in contact by sending cards and notes by mail.

In August 2020, NHC, one of the facilities where we visit, opened up visitation by appointment only and we were able to visit the gentleman who resides there 1x/week if he did not have family making a visit that week. However, these visits were once again put on hold in December 2020 due to positive Covid tests in the facility and visitation is currently still not allowed.

Respectfully submitted, Anna Fuller

## **HEALING AFTER LOSS (HAL)**

Healing After Loss is a Christ centered compassionate and confidential program using prayer and Scripture to help people mourning the loss of a loved one. Our teaching workbook, Harvesting Our Tears, provides education about the many aspects of grief and ways of coping with this kind of loss. The program consists of seven two hour sessions on seven consecutive Sundays from 2-4pm. Our team offers support and encouragement to guide participants to accept and work through their feelings and

come out on the other side with hope and purpose for their lives. Our first session was curtailed by the Covid shutdown but those participants were able to finish with the Fall group. The evaluations continue to remain positive with some new potential volunteers. We hope to be able to have our next session in April, but only time will tell.



Respectfully Submitted, Beverly Adams and Denise Gerber

## HEALING PRAYER | INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The Healing Prayer Ministry started well but met head on with the Virus of 2020. We first went to online streaming services on a monthly basis, but that did not prove beneficial. At this point in the ministry is only available by appointment. These can be made by contracting Father Tom at (843) 422-0295 or

<u>thendrickson@thechurchofthecross.net</u>. The Intercessory Prayer Ministry is an adjunct of the Healing Prayer Ministry and meets weekly via Zoom at 9:30 am on Monday mornings. This special group of dedicated, devout individuals offer prayer and supplication on behalf of others. The scope is far reaching as they pray for our priests, leadership, individual prayers from our Church family and beyond, as well as, our nation and the world.

## HOME COMMUNION

During January and February of 2020, our ministry took Home Communion to 30 communicants upon their request, and our team of motivated people did a great job meeting their needs. We also served 90 people at Bloom in Bluffton Care Facility. Then came the virus and everything changed. We were effectively shut down by the various restrictions in place countywide.

We are currently offering to mail to those who request unblessed wafers to their homes so they can participate while watching the Chapel streaming service on Sunday mornings and once a month on Sunday mornings at CrossPoint. The list is growing each week with wafers going to Minnesota, Florida, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Texas and all over the Lowcountry. Praise God for the ways we can stay connected during this season of separation.

Respectfully submitted, Father Tom Hendrickson and Terri Hendrickson



## SEASON SISTERS MINISTRY

The purpose of the Season Sisters/Single Women's Ministry is to provide opportunities for fellowship, for social activities, for learning about a variety topics and building a sisterhood among the members. In 2020 we extended the ministry to also include ladies who are single but not widows.

We met as a group in January and February, 2020 but since all services were closed in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our activities were closed. A monthly newsletter to each member is sent by email each month, calls made, and regular mail to those who don't have email. In the summer, a survey was given to each member to assess the comfort level of attending meetings if all the protocols were made. The general consensus was that the comfort level wasn't there until the vaccine was administered. A wonderful meeting was scheduled in the Chapel in the fall with limited attendance. Author and parishioner, Shannon Kaprive, shared as our speaker. We are hoping that in the near future we will be able to have in-person monthly meetings.

Thus, limited participation in activities such as Operation Christmas Child, Ridgeland Food Bank, etc. occurred during 2020. We pray that 2021 will bring relief from our fear of the Coronavirus and we will be able to have more in person meetings. Our goal is to grow in our relationship with Jesus and to support each other.

Respectfully submitted, Emily Myers and Diane McNamara

## MEN GREETING MEN

The Men Greeting Men Ministry is a service ministry in which new men are welcomed into The Church of the Cross. During the contact, the new member is provided the latest information about the activities/ministries of the Church and any questions regarding the Church are answered. Additionally, each new man is provided a Bible inscribed, by the Rector, with an appropriate scripture verse.Our goal for 2021 is to continue to assist new men with an easy transition into men's activities/ministries at The Church of the Cross.

2020 Team Members: Bob Bothfeld, Rod Carlson, Doug Dafler, Rod Musselman, Bob Olsen, John Parker, Craig Pelley, Alan Restivo, Paul Scott, Mill Simmons, J. Michael Simon

Respectfully submitted, John Parker

## **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Our Stephen Ministry currently has 11 SM - 4 male 7 female including 3 leaders, and 1 minister and one leader, retired in 2020.

We had a total of 25 Care Receivers in 2020.

During the height of the pandemic we were continuing to service our CR in various ways, i.e. FaceTime, telephone or meeting while practicing social distancing. Also during the pandemic, several SM made phone calls to "shut-ins". We began having peer supervision meetings with masks and social distancing in the summer, usually on the bluff, and currently in the Parish Hall.

We formed a group called Low Country Stephen Ministry Group (LCSMG), consisting of 8 local Stephen Minister Churches.

We began a training class in January 2021 with 14 new students.

Respectfully submitted, Kaye Halvorson



## MILITARY CARE MINISTRY

The Military Care Ministry was quite constrained during the year 2020. The COVID 19 pandemic really curtailed our traditional involvements. Of course, it all began with the isolation that all members were required to observe. Therefore, our meetings, normally held on the second Tuesday of each month, had to go virtual. We began our virtual meetings using Free Conference Call.com. While this was useful, it didn't compare with meeting in person. We have had one virtual meeting in January using Zoom and will do the same in February. We would be happy to have anyone interested, to join us. The link will be provided to those who care to join in.

Our traditional activities which include donation of money to the Hampton Hall Wounded Warrior Golf Tournament, was first postponed, then canceled. Additionally, the MCM traditionally hosts the coffee hour at the Historic Campus after the 10AM service on both Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. Since there were no services at that location at that time, we did not host any coffee hours.

We did meet in person in October and November at the Parish Hall practicing social distancing & wearing masks. We made that decision because church services had resumed in person with strict participation requirements. However, as virus infections began rising in the Bluffton area, we changed to virtual meetings in January and will continue in that mode until things improve.

On the positive side, we continued to support our men & women in uniform. At Christmas time, we hosted a meal for patients at the Charleston Veteran's Hospital. We received a nice thank you from the hospital coordinators. Additionally, we have continued our relationship with Marjie Gaynor of the Adopt a Soldier Program on Hilton Head Island, as well as working with Jo-Ann Pimentel in Florida for a similar program. We provide financial support for postage to mail needed items to the troops, and collected food and clothing to be sent overseas. Roberta Rice and Al and Diane North have been points of contact between the MCM & our sister organizations.

We had a very successful collection of needed items from Cross Schools, which were forwarded to the troops. The total number of items brought in by the students were extraordinary! We can't thank the school coordinators enough for their involvement. The troops request food items such as tuna fish and chicken in packets rather than cans. They also request snack items and in some cases socks, blankets and gloves. Cross School came through on all counts.

We continue to work with the Marine Corps Air Station to support any items that their deployed members request. Also, we ordinarily receive prayer requests from Parris Island troops on a monthly basis. Laura Strange is very involved with the two bases.

Unfortunately, the prayer program has been temporarily halted because the individual who collects the requests has not been allowed to get with the trainees during the pandemic.

Our Strategic Plan is under review and will be updated during this calendar year. Max Fratoddi is heavily engaged in the update.

Finally, we ask all who have an interest in supporting our men and women in uniform, to consider becoming a member of our team. Once this pandemic is under control, we want to expand our involvement to the Chapel and Cross School services.

Respectfully submitted, Roger Sandler



## LAY MINISTRIES HANDYMAN MINISTRY

This ministry utilizes the time, talents, and tools of anyone that is interested in performing handyman services at the Historic Church, the Parish Hall, The Chapel and the Cross Schools campus. We give thanks to God for the gifts of the Holy Spirit who gives us the desire to do this work, the creative minds to solve any problems, the skills, and the awareness to safely perform these tasks.

Work Summary for 2020:

- Majority of our efforts were given to supporting the continued growth of Cross Schools. Opportunities there included relocating lockers, assembling furniture (tables, chairs, portable podiums, office cubicles), replacing signs, and assembling shelves.
- Our members assembled desks and shelving for offices in The Chapel as transition was made from the Seven Oaks office location as well as installing AED defibrillator and hand sanitizer stations.
- Our members supported Youth Ministry by installing cooling fans and hanging string lights over decks at the Mission Mall.
- Other handyman activities included shelving in the office at Seven Oaks prior to the relocation, also made minor repairs at the Parish Hall and the Clergy House.

The year has been a challenge with the onset of COVID-19 fears and restrictions. Many of our older members were unable to participate in the ministry as they have in the past. We no longer have the leadership of Jim Scott. He has decided to reduce his activities with the ministry. We miss Jim's leadership, but appreciate the many years of faithful participation. Past and present members of the handyman ministry should feel joy and satisfaction for the many contributions they have made in support of the mission of this congregation.

Requests for assistance by this ministry can be made to any team member or the Church Office, 843-757-2661.

Respectfully submitted, Jay Shook

# HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The Church Historical Committee held its monthly meetings in the Parish Hall Library through March. Members continued to work on the new Archives filing system and discuss several research projects.

Photographs and papers were added to the collection.

Though no additional meetings were held and the Archives unavailable, requests for information were answered by members. In May, a SCAD student requested information for her Preservation Degree project on Church History. With help of a former member, Nancy Mattison, she was sent a digital copy of the Church History Book and several photos of the exterior and interior of the church. Other requests for specific information were answered as well.

We are very appreciative of Clydia Koch's collecting Church publications and information for the Committee. They will be the written history in our Archives.

Active members in 2020 were: Jim Cheesman, Ann Elliott, Teddy McCracken and Buddy Wilson.

Anyone interested in our Church History is welcome to attend the monthly meetings and photos and information about The Church of the Cross and Ministries are wanted for Archives.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Elliott



# WEDDING GUILD

The Wedding Guild supports the clergy and the wedding party with all aspects of wedding held in the church. In 2020, we had six weddings scheduled but due to Covid-19, three were conducted in the church on a smaller scale, two were moved to off-site locations and one was postponed until 2021. (Six additional marriages were performed at off-property locations with our clergy.)

Guild members assigned are present for the bride's meeting, wedding rehearsal and on the day of the wedding.

2020 Guild members:

Phyllis Spearman, Brooke Mendenhall, Patti Garrity, Sally Hoag, Shannon Kaprive, Lynn Oberg, Leslie Young, Bonnie Leary.

Respectfully submitted, Risa Grace



# WORSHIP MINISTRIES

# **ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild serves the clergy and congregation at Historic Campus and the Cross Schools Campus for Eucharistic services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and various special services. Duties include setting the Lord's Table, changing hangings to reflect the seasonal color, replacing candles, refilling oil in candles, polishing silver and brass, cleaning and caring for linens and additional tasks of the season such as special preparations for the Christmas Eve services and Lenten services.

The members on the four teams serving the Historic Campus during 2020 were:

Team 1: Teddy McCracken (Lead), Lawton Ellis, Debbie Wood, Lynn Ryan, George & Dawn Fleishman

Team 2: Betty Mulholland (Lead), Roberta Mullins, Pat Savello, Deb Johnson

Team 3: Ann Elliott (Lead), Phyllis Spearman, Liz Maybank, Jillian Fraioli, Mary Jane Cheesman

Team 4: Risa Grace (Lead), Anne Sinclair, Karen Acker, Jeri Wires

The members on the teams serving the Chapel, Cross Point and Cross Schools Campus in 2020 were:

Family Chapel: Phyllis Spearman

Chapel Members: Rosalie Simmons (Lead), Becky Owens

CrossPoint Members: Rebecca Hamilton (Lead), Gini Simone, Genny Blackwell

During 2020, Altar Guild handled preparations for Gracetime Services, 8:00am Services, 10:00am Services, Wednesday Services, CrossPoint Services, Chapel Services, Cross Schools Family Chapel Services, and preparations for weddings, funerals, Healing services, retreats, vow renewals and HAL services. There were also special service preparations for Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter Sunrise service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The COVID-19 pandemic had several impacts on the work of the Altar Guild. Reserved seating for Altar Guild members at each of the 3 services, was implemented. The guild is responsible for putting wine on the wafers and inserting the wafers into the small baggies. The altar setups were simplified by using only a vested chalice at each service.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Spearman and Betty Mulholland

# ARTS PRODUCTION (TECHNOLOGY) MINISTRY

Over the course of 2020, the tech/production team at The Church of the Cross has had a significant outreach, especially with the temporary closing of physical services due to the shelter in place mandate from mid-March to the end of May. The most significant additions to the technology ministry were through the construction completion of The Chapel on the Buckwalter campus in February, which integrated live streaming, and also the addition of live streaming to the CrossPoint worship service. The first stream launched with The Chapel's dedication service on February 24. Then, three weeks later, streaming became the sole platform for opportunities to engage in worship as a church due to restrictions from the coronavirus pandemic. Streaming has continued even after the re-opening of physical services for those who are not able to attend physically and we plan to continue to offer the online experience moving forward in 2021. We have seen people from all over our country and even other countries tune in to our website stream feed, Facebook and YouTube. Throughout 2020, we streamed the Sunday 9am Chapel services and 10:30am CrossPoint services, Tuesday Padre's Pondering updates, Wednesday Night Teaching series, Wednesday Night Healing services, Good Friday Stations of the Cross service, Epiphany service, Easter service from the Chapel, all Christmas services from The Chapel and CrossPoint, and also a number of devotionals and content that were made available throughout the weeks.

Technology obviously cannot work without the people who use their God-given abilities to serve our Church on the production team week in and week out. So much appreciation goes out to those who served and were involved with the production team during 2020 at both the Historic Campus and Buckwalter Campus: Bratton Deloach, Guy Doty, Russ Eisenhardt, Carol Godiksen, Bill Gwynne, Drew Hamilton, Rebecca Hamilton, Joey Hicks, Josh Hicks, Charlotte Hieronymus, John Huffman, Karen Hurst, Deb Johnson, Regine Johnson, Jess Kirk, Lorin LaPorte, Davis Maddux, Sheryl Maddux, Chuck Matthieu, Alex Perri, Chris Short, Bill Walberry, and Kelly Williamson.



Reliable tech equipment is also needed to make sure every service can be executed with excellence. The generous giving to The Church of the Cross helped to purchase all of the new audio, video and control equipment that went in the build of the new Chapel, streaming encoders for The Chapel and CrossPoint services as well as the subscription services to Resi (Living As One) and Renewed Vision to make the content available to our website, Facebook and YouTube.

Some numbers from 2020:

- From June to December of 2020: 6,132 in attendance for The Chapel via the live stream on our website with 305,900 minutes of viewing.
- From June to December of 2020: 2,008 in attendance for the CrossPoint worship service via the live stream on our website with 78,200 minutes of viewing.

\*These numbers do not include Facebook or YouTube.

Respectfully submitted, Jason LaPorte



# SAFETY TEAM

The Safety Team of The Church of the Cross continues to provide a dedicated team of safety minded Christians to serve every service at both campuses and select Church events. The team's mission is to create a safe environment where people can hear the life-giving message of Jesus Christ. In 2020, the Safety Team added 2 additional members to bring the total in the ministry to 48. Due to Covid19 restrictions the following critical trainings were postponed: Safety and Awareness Training, Active Shooter, First Aid/CPR and AED certification, Fire Training with the Bluffton Fire Department.

The team is excited for 2021 and the return of parishioners and safety volunteers. If interested in joining this important ministry, please contact James Hamilton (hotelco92@hotmail.com).

Respectfully submitted, James Hamilton

# USHERS/GREETERS CROSSPOINT SERVICES

After a very normal start to the year with a volunteer crew of 34 ushers, we then shutdown in-person services. We restarted with merging into one group, the Ushers and Greeters and then added Reception teams.

We started the new controlled services with the volunteer usher/greeter being responsible for serving 1 out of every 4 Sundays. We ended the year with 12 volunteers for reception (welcoming guests and informing of their assigned seats) and 22 ushers/ greeters to direct them to their seats.

Respectfully submitted, Craig Pelley



The greeter ministry mission is to ensure that everyone who enters our doors are greeted with a spirit filled smile and feels the love of Jesus Christ. Because we are his door keepers we have a wonderful opportunity and responsibility to touch every heart. The Greeter Ministry is a face-to-face, hand-to-hand and heart-to-heart ministry committed to graciously greeting, directing and assisting worshipers as they enter and exit worship services. This year, the Covid pandemic has required us to alter the way we receive our worshipers as they enter and exit the service but our goal is the same. To welcome worshipers with an open heart and the love of Jesus Christ.

This ministry has been blessed through this unprecedented time to retain 20 volunteers who serve on a two to three week rotation as Greeter/Usher or Registration Desk volunteer and we are hoping to increase the number of volunteers as our services expand.

To all greeters, thank you for serving HIM in this ministry. What a pleasure and a blessing to serve alongside you as a member of this team!

Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have entertained angels. (Romans 13: 1-2)

Respectfully submitted, Susan Ball

#### HISTORIC CAMPUS (GRACETIME SERVICE)

This Gracetime ministry exists to provide parishioners of The Church of the Cross with the opportunity to use the gifts that God has given us, to serve our fellow Christian brothers and sisters in the name of Jesus Christ. In doing so, we follow the example set by our Lord and Savior Himself, when He said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." (Matthew 20:28)

This is an all-volunteer ministry which provides chalice bearers, greeters, ushers and power point technicians, all of which are necessary to provide The Church of the Cross parishioners and guests with the best possible opportunity to worship and hear the Word of God.

We currently have 11 ushers and 2 Powerpoint technicians; we hope to see our Greeters return soon and we are always looking for more volunteers to serve in all positions. If you are looking for a way in which to serve, please contact Sheryl Maddux in the Church office. We will be happy to provide training at your convenience.

Respectfully submitted, Randy & Deb Johnson

# HISTORIC CAMPUS (8:00 AM)

Like every other ministry on all campuses of The Church of the Cross, we have been stretched a bit to find enough volunteers. We lost about half of our 2019 group, some to concern about risks of COVID-19 and some to the new Chapel and some unknown. We no longer use Greeters, an unfortunate loss. We have reduced our service needs from about six persons per service to three. An attendance report is always filed, but we seem to average about 50 in the congregation plus those serving. Fortunately, the few ushers who have remained, have really stepped up to serve more frequently and to accept a greater responsibility. The social distancing requires more careful seating and we have refined our procedures for communion and dismissal. As a group, everyone has seen the need for special details. We will continue our efforts to make the services the best they can be. Of course we will pray for the COVID-19 issue to be soon behind us, but we'll be there until it is!

Respectfully submitted, Bob Booher

#### **HISTORIC CAMPUS (10:00 AM)**

It has been a real privilege for the 4 usher teams to greet and serve you each Sunday in 2020. COVID-19 has altered our worship service, but we can still gather and worship together. Staying flexible is the key.

Each usher team member is working to be sure you - whether a newcomer or long-time member- feel you have come home and are with friends and fellow believers. The Usher Team mission is to take care of the details of each service so that you can focus on worship and the message the Lord is sending to you.

As the COVID-19 situation changes, and vaccination density increases, we will probably move to a more "normal" worship service. As that happens, we will need to expand our worship team roster and that means there is an opportunity for you to volunteer to join or re-join our group. Optimally, each team needs six members, and each team serves once every 6 weeks at the 10 AM service.

If you are new to The Church of the Cross, this is a great way for you to meet lots of people and get involved in church life. The task is not hard, if you make a mistake, no one will know, and it is rewarding! Thank you for allowing us to serve you and HIM.

Respectfully submitted, Stew Brown

#### THE CHAPEL

With the opening of The Chapel in February 2020, came the need for a team of ushers to begin weekly services. Just two weeks after the opening dedication service, our services ceased due to Covid. Once services began in-person again, a team of volunteers stepped up from both campuses to handle the need. Thank you to the wonderful crew of men and women that greeted our visitors and seated them with a smile behind a mask in 2020.

2020 Chapel Usher Volunteers:

Doug Barone, Laura Anne Barone, Bob Faas, Steve Baker, Carl Conkin, Frank Byrd, Joanne Byrd, Steve Kiser, Thomas Maybank, Kevin Alymer, Meg Alymer, Roger Velliquette, Linda Velliquette, Don McCann, Charlie Jensen, Lynelle Jensen, Sallie Brach, Mitch Brach

Respectfully submitted, Doug Barone

# **FLOWER GUILD**

The Flower Guild activities were limited in 2020 due to the suspension of services. When we did work together, we wore masks and tried to stay six feet apart. We prepared flowers for several funerals and for weddings – one of which was for one of our own members, Sissy Rogers Baldwin. That was very rewarding!

We kept potted or house plants on the Altar when services resumed and made limited displays for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Mendenhall





# "One Body On Two Campuses"

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HISTORIC CAMPUS 110 Calhoun Street CROSS SCHOOLS CAMPUS 495 Buckwalter Parkway

THE CHAPEL 491 Buckwalter Parkway

