



The Episcopal Church **in North Texas**

**Supplemental Reports to the 2021 Diocesan Convention  
Of the Episcopal Church in North Central Texas**

**Saturday, November 13th, 2021  
held via Zoom**

**There is a New Creation**

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has  
passed away; see, everything has become new!

*-- 2nd Corinthians 5:17--*

## **St. Christopher's Report to Diocesan Convention**

Submitted by Bill Stanford

Submitted: October 28th, 2021

After 14 months of virtual worship, St. Christopher's gathered on Easter Day, April, 4 for its first in-person worship and one of its last in the building at 3550 SW Loop 820. Later that month, a team of parishioners worked for a week to move all post- April 2009 items from the building in response to the decision of the court to award the property to those calling themselves the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth.

Later in April, we found a home at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (ELCA) at 5709 Wedgwood Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76133. Pastor Lesley Radius, her Council and members have been miraculously accommodating. They set aside space for the Rector to have an office, cabinets in Sacristy and Kitchen, and even moved their worship time back 30 minutes so we could have a morning service. We will be doing a joint service with St. Matthew's on Dec. 12 to baptize, confirm, and also celebrate Pastor Lesley's 20 years in the ministry.

We rented additional office space near Hulen and Oakmont Roads that accommodates our Secretary, Administrator and our office equipment to continue operations. The facilities accommodate Vestry and other small meetings there, as well.

A tremendous grace from out of the blue came when Lou Eichenberger, upon hearing that our building had been sold to St. Thomas Beckett Catholic Church, called and received permission from the Pastor to take the baptismal font and stained-glass windows that were such a part of St. Christopher's. Fr. Kenneth Bolin even had a contractor of his parish remove the stained glass so that all we had to do was move it. We are so thankful for Fr. Bolin's kindness and compassion.

St. Christopher's is now immersed in the "What's Next?" discernment process, seeking through spiritual exercises to discern God's vision for the parish in the years to come.

## **Report for the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Decatur**

Submitted by Anthony Hiatt, Priest-in-Charge

Submitted: October 15th, 2021

The Church of the Resurrection resumed in-person services on May 2 after a 14-month interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the interregnum, we found technology to be a lifeline for our community; we were able to maintain our connection by holding services, meetings, and other social functions via Zoom. While it didn't replace personal contact, being able to gather virtually helped us to continue the mission of the church even while being absent from our physical space.

With the resumption of services in our building it became evident that several of our parishioners would be unable to join us due to medical conditions which made attending church unacceptably risky, even with the precautions which we had put in place. This prompted us to acquire and install the infrastructure necessary to livestream our services on the internet, an initiative which had been planned prior to the pandemic. Our services began streaming earlier this year, allowing our homebound members to participate.

Since our church's founding, one of our guiding principals has been outreach and missions. Early on we instituted a "Mission of the Month", in which we choose a mission-oriented cause or agency for assistance. The pandemic required us to temporarily suspend our monthly mission, which shifted to a "Mission of the Moment" in the absence of a physical presence. These "mini-missions" included providing grocery sacks for local mobile food pantry, collecting eyeglasses for a leper colony in Hyderabad, India, participating in local blood drives, and stocking and maintaining our Little Free Library. Our monthly missions have now resumed, and since May have included iPads for clients of Refugee Services of Texas, school supplies for children and personal hygiene items for clients at Wise Hope Shelter and Crisis Center, personal hygiene items for clients at Wise County Veteran Services, cards and pick-me-up items for the nursing staff at Wise Health System, and supplies as needed for Wise County Animal Shelter.

The Church of the Resurrection continues to do its utmost to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ. We appreciate the love and support that we have been shown as we have worked to build the Kingdom of God in Wise County

## **Report from St. Mary's, Hillsboro**

Submitted by David Skelton, MD

Submitted: October 16th, 2021

1. We are blessed to have the Reverend Paula Jefferson ministering to our needs this year. She celebrates Holy Communion with us the second Sunday of each month. Her stipend is paid by St Martin in the Field, Keller, for which we are very grateful. The other Sundays, we read Morning Prayer with a rotating cast of readers.
2. We have been receiving communion in one kind following state and county guidelines and with permission of Bishop Mayer. Our entire congregation is fully vaccinated.

3. Our average Sunday attendance exceeds 100%.
4. 40% of our offering goes to mission, outreach, or the Diocese.
5. Our Daughters of the King Chapter meets monthly.
6. We participate in “Hill County Kids” a 501c organization that feed over 200 kids weekend food through the school year. We load snack packs once a month. Our congregation is represented on their Board.
7. Our growth rate this year is 38%.
8. We participate in the Food for Families program of the Hillsboro Interfaith Ministries food pantry. This is in conjunction with a 10 county ingathering centered on Waco, sponsored by TV channel 6, HEB, and Boy Scouts of America. They have gathered 35.000.000 lb of food over the last 30 years. St Mary’s has participated for the last 25 years.
9. Our last service in our historic building was 2/27/2021. The property had been purchased in 1886. After a tornado and a temporary building, the building was consecrated by Bishop Garret in 1912. For 15 weeks, we worshiped in the back room of a real estate office. On 6/27/2021, we moved into semi-permanent space at 301 S Waco St. This used to be the drive through branch of Bank of America in Hillboro, but had been vacant for 9 years. We had to deal with broken pipes, new hot water heater, new HVAC system, flooring, ceiling tiles, furniture, and a multitude of minor details. This gave us a wonderful opportunity for fellowship.
10. We were blessed by the gift of an altar, re-table, font, pulpit/lectern, 64 chairs and many other things from the Diocese of West Texas. We also received altar linens from St Andrews by the Sea in Port Isabell, and prayer books and hymnals from Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Dripping Springs.
11. We had a Blessing of the fleet for St Michael’s Day for all the local police, fire, EMS, and rescue workers.

It is nice to have our own space. For the first time in 12 years we have bathrooms, a coffee pot, fellowship after church, and bible study before.

Thanks be to God!