

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**  
**January 15, 2017**

Fr. Justin Yawn opened the meeting with prayer.

Fr. Justin called the meeting to order and appointed Sally Louth as the secretary.

The 2016 minutes that had been approved by the Vestry at the February, 2016 meeting were presented.

Fr. Justin asked the vestry nominees Robert Atmar, John Burgess, Amy Krieger and Jane Wells to come forward as well as the outgoing vestry members Brian Borchardt, Doug Brodie and Pam Hendricks. He also thanked Jeff Gorman for his service earlier in the year. Alicia Dunn moved and Helen Pickle seconded that we approve the slate by acclamation. The motion passed unanimously.

Fr. Justin stated that we need to elect a delegate to council for a three year term. John Burgess and Michelle Weller have been nominated. Ballots were given out along with the information packets. Fr. Justin asked everyone to cast their votes and Bethany Fackler and David Louth collected the ballots and will count them and report back later in the meeting.

Fr. Justin introduced Brian Borchardt, our outgoing Sr. Warden. Fr. Justin talked about what an asset Brian has been to him and to our church family. Brian does a lot behind the scenes and shepherded our church through our transition period. At Fr. Justin's request Brian stayed on the vestry and as Sr. Warden an extra year. Fr. Justin thanked Brian for all he has done for our church family.

Brian Borchardt gave the Sr. Warden's report. (You may listen to his full report by clicking on this link <http://christchurchtemple.org/Home/AnnualParishMeeting> ) In summary: He wants to point out a couple of things from this year. First, we have completed our church directory with a smart phone app or printed copies from the church office. Second are the listening dinners. Thank you to all who contributed to the process. Reflecting on his time he realized he has been attending vestry meetings for 7 years straight. He appreciates the leadership of so many people that make Christ Church what it is. Many on the vestry have taken on extra leadership roles, like Dick Archer for the mission work, Dr. Butler who led the stewardship campaign, Pam Hendricks with the pastoral care efforts and Jim Richardson's leadership for the Endowment Foundation and for our finances. Bill Hardin on the school board and all those he may not have mentioned. Fr. Justin's passion for leading us is very evident and we appreciate him. Not to mention those leaders who have been volunteering for years and years and have made Christ Church who we are. You know who you are and are very much appreciated for your leadership as well. Some items that are pending are plans for recognition plaques and an update to our meditation garden. We have good momentum leading us into 2017 and a good, solid vestry coming in. Thank you to the church staff, Bethany Fackler, Johnny DeLeon and Sally Louth.

Fr. Justin introduced Mike Baron our current Jr. Warden to the congregation and announced that he is our new Sr. Warden effective today. He thanked Mike for his service as Jr. Warden and welcomed him to his new role as Sr. Warden. Mike has done great work for our church family in caring for our grounds for the past 2 years.

Mike Baron gave the Jr. Warden's report and a written copy of that report is attached to these minutes. (You may listen to his full report by clicking on this link <http://christchurchtemple.org/Home/AnnualParishMeeting> )

Mike asked if there are any questions and Sue Johnston asked about the lighting in the parking lot. Mike answered that we have had some electrical shortage issues there and he will look into that right away.

Fr. Justin introduced our new Treasurer, Jim Richardson. He also thanked Jeff Gorman for his prior leadership in this role. He encouraged the congregation to thank Jeff for his service as well. He thanked Jim for his leadership with our finances and for his work on the Endowment Foundation.

Jim Richardson gave the Treasurer's report. (You may listen to his full report by clicking on this link <http://christchurchtemple.org/Home/AnnualParishMeeting> ) In summary: He is glad to be back and involved in the finances of the church again. He called everyone's attention to the financial report in their packet. He stated that our total revenues are up by 20% from 2016 to 2017. This is tremendous with a congregation like ours that is growing and Jim thanked Dr. Butler as the head of our stewardship team for a very successful campaign. As we put together these numbers he relied on Brian Borchardt's experience as our past Treasurer and Sally Louth, Parish Administrator. The budget for this year is a balanced budget. This is not an easy task. It includes a lot of give and take and a lot of sacrifice. But we did balance the budget. Our increase in expenditures over 2016 is at about 9.5%. So, with the 20% increase in pledges against the 9.5% increase in expenses we were able to balance the budget. We have worked through the past issues and have a good solid foundation for 2017. We have good momentum and are on solid financial footing and these numbers tell the story. Jim encouraged us to contact him with questions and gave his cell phone number to the church family.

Jim then reported on the Endowment Foundation. He and Tom Normand agreed that things were not being handled as they were intended for the Endowment Foundation. He and Sally looked through the box of Endowment Foundation paperwork and began to determine what needed to be done to get things back as they should be. With back up from those original documents, we re-determined the amount in each of the funds and we put on the vestry agenda for January 2017 the election of the Endowment Foundation Board trustees. Jim then met with Tom Normand again and they agreed that things are now set up exactly as they should be. Jim then explained each fund and their intended purpose which is lined out in the Endowment Foundation Summary included in the packet. Three main points:

1. We have a high degree of confidence that the Endowment is established and running as it was intended.
2. We have a high degree of confidence that we are straight on the money and how much is endowed and how much is not.
3. We have a very high degree of confidence that he and Fr. Justin and other members of the Parish and especially members of the board will work very hard over the next 5-10 years to build up this fund. To take the \$369,750.63 and make it \$1,000,000. This is very doable when he talks to other churches our size and with our demographics so expect that from us. We will be reaching out.

At this time, Bethany Fackler and David Louth returned with the count of the votes for the delegate to Diocesan Council. Michelle Weller was elected as the delegate and John Burgess will be our alternate.

Fr. Justin gave the Rector's report. (You may listen to his full report by clicking on this link <http://christchurchtemple.org/Home/AnnualParishMeeting> ) In summary: He asked the entire vestry to stand and for us to look around at them. They are here to serve. They are our elected folks and are available all of the time. He also mentioned Jim Richardson. We are working to be 100% transparent about everything. If there is something you have felt is being kept from you, we probably didn't realize it seemed that way. Come talk to us – we want to have conversation with you. Thank you to the vestry for their service. After he has finished his report we will adjourn and he will remain after to answer any questions that you might have. He also encouraged us to see Sally & Bethany in the Narthex to sign up for the many ministry opportunities we have available. He is reminded of how very much we have to be grateful for at Christ Church. You have heard most of that in the reports you have already heard. We celebrate God's grace in this place. He thanked many folks and groups for their support and encouragement. The dedication of all of these folks is what makes us special. That's how we carry out ministry.

He announced the Power to the People workshop on March 17-18. This workshop is all about training us up in Pastoral Care so we can better care for one another. This will teach us how to partner with our clergy to do the work of pastoral care. We can all continue to play a part in the care of our church family.

The Christ Church School Gala is February 24. This is a vital part of our life and their big fundraiser. The least we can do is to show up. We can also step up by finding folks in our community to donate items for the auction.

Many have continued to ask how he and Vanessa are adjusting to living in Temple. They are settling down nicely and he appreciates your questions. This has been a much larger transition than they anticipated. Shortly after they arrived here some serious health issues happened to some folks they love back in Georgia. He mentioned his father and grandfather and said he will take a couple of days here and there to go back and visit and support family. Please rest assured - he truly believes they are where God called them to be. He and Vanessa are happy. They love it here and know this is where they are supposed to be. They have no intention of "jumping ship" – we have far too much work to do here which you are about to hear about.

Now let's move to the exciting part. He read The Parable of the Lighthouse. (You may hear the story in his full report by clicking on this link <http://christchurchtemple.org/Home/AnnualParishMeeting> )

(The following is a transcription of Fr. Justin's message). "We are at a point in our church both here and abroad, where we are holding fast to that which is good. And we have so much to hold on to. At the same time, we are striving to sing to the Lord a new song – or as we might say here, to give in faith together in a new way. This is the challenge for Christ Episcopal Church and the broader church in the days to come. How can we be who we are and be more than we are? According to Luke, Jesus appointed 70 and sent them in pairs and gave them instruction to go out and cure the sick in the towns where they were sent. They went into the harvest that was already happening. They came back rejoicing at the demons that submitted to them and those they cured. In response Jesus says, never the less, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. Do not rejoice in the work, but rejoice in the reality that you went and lived out your faith. This is a time when the disciples could have

gotten stuck looking back, looking up and feeling lost. Instead they took their instruction and went right into the harvest.

Disciples of Jesus Christ, people of Christ Episcopal Church in Temple, Texas, let's not get struck looking blank, looking back or looking lost. We have heard about the Jesus movement and have embraced it for the last 134 years and we need to see what's next. The Jesus movement is already part of our DNA. As a church, we are eagerly and resolutely finding ourselves in the "what's next" moment of the Jesus movement. Go into the harvest is the movement part. We must go out into our neighborhoods, our schools, our parks, the campuses – all the places we think we know – but go to take a whole new look at how to do the work and to "know Christ and to make Him known". The word harvest is a way of saying that all ministry must be contextual. We must take into account the kinds and varieties of the character of a particular community. We are all in this together but there is not a cookie cutter way of being a missional church. The way to be the faithful and vigorous Episcopal presence of Temple will look a little different than the faithful and vigorous presence of Belton, Killeen, Salado, Rogers, Troy or Moody. How we identify and understand what God is doing in the world around us will shape how we respond and participate – or shall I say, how we go. If we are truly committed to following Jesus, we are not surprised or discouraged that the old is passing away. We will not be surprised that it sometimes takes an ending for there to be a new beginning. The promise is that God, in Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit makes all things new. And so, as we continue our journey together we may discover that some seasons of ministry will end. That our mission and priorities might change. We might find our community looks a little different and is made up of different people, and begin to live into a different part of the harvest.

The work we did, building on the ministries is amazing. Living in faith together for the kingdom was powerful this past year. We fed thousands of people, we collected three pickup truck loads of food to be distributed to Feed My Sheep and other local agencies. We provided clothing and toys to 50 families through our Angel Tree project. We provided 75 backpacks for Backpack Buddies. We welcomed 8,994 people in worship which equated to an average attendance of 180 up from 135 the prior year. And if you remove Christmas, Easter, Palm Sunday and Christ Church School Sunday, our average was 170. This is the very thing that is driving us to imagine our worship life changing. We are growing. Lastly, we look at our treasure and we gave generously. As Jim indicated our budget is a 20% increase. Our pledge giving is nearly at 28% increase. And that's just one sign that things are changing – that there is a belief that we are doing something for the sake of the Gospel. All of this points to some "now" moments of the harvest.

The Jesus movement this church has participated in for the last 133 years is every changing, always evolving and there is much work to be done if we want to show the world that what we do on Sunday is not just for us, but for the kingdom. How do we continue to participate in the work that God is already doing in and around us? I think we look at the Great Commission, where Jesus told his disciples to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you, and remember I am with you always, to the end of the age". Mathew 28:16-20. Discipleship is the center of our common life together and the foundation of our ministry together. As we look at the harvest we are invited to look at it from a place of discipleship. This is where I think we need to focus our energy going forward. In the place where I am going to encourage the vestry to focus its leadership and energy. Discipleship consists of several areas: Worship, Spirituality, Formation, Fellowship, Stewardship, Service

and Evangelism. As a church and as individuals, this is the foundation of how we live our life, constantly imagining our discipleship in all aspects, in all areas of our life.

Evangelism, though is little bit bigger than one category of discipleship and points us to a whole way of being that undergirds all the other aspects of discipleship. Evangelism means sharing the faith and not just “the” faith, but your faith. Sharing your faith as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Your story of what it means to love Jesus, love your neighbor, love yourself. Evangelism is the key to the life of the church as it gets us out talking about what we do on Sunday mornings. Many people in the last 20 years have said the Episcopal Church is declining because of this issue and that issue, and they welcome those people and not those people. But my brothers and sisters the truth of the Episcopal Church is it began declining steadily in the 1960s as we lost our place as the status church. The place where you just came. All of a sudden, we could not just build churches and have people fill them. We actually had to go out into the world and invite people to come, while teaching people about who we are. This is not something we are always good at as Episcopalians. But we can be, we can be.

One of the ways we live out evangelism as a community of faith in a corporate way is through the work of Christ Church School. This is a great evangelism arm of our church because each day of the week children come and learn about God through our expression of Christianity. Their parents come to events and functions in these buildings and meet parishioners who talk about our common life together. We do not look at this as something that must bear fruit for Christ Episcopal Church, Temple – that would be mighty selfish of us. But we look at this evangelism ministry for the fruit that it bears for the larger church. What will these children remember about the Episcopal church when they are looking for a spiritual home one day? Where will the parents, who may not have a church home look in a time of crisis? What do they remember about us? I know there are a lot of opinions in this community about the school but the school was 50% of my call to this church and I believe in the work we are doing. The hard, unrecognized difficult work we are doing to create a learning environment for children where Jesus is right in the middle. This is something we cannot give up on and it’s something that we must finish the race. This is an example of how we corporately live out evangelism.

You don’t tell a child to go and learn about music. You want your child to learn the music, internalize the music and play the music with all of his heart or her heart and play that beautiful music for others. In the same way, we don’t just want to learn about God. We want to learn God in mind, body and spirit. God became flesh so we could learn to embody Jesus in our lives. We embody Jesus and share in Jesus. We do this in acts of radical hospitality – in the work of Feed My Sheep, Backpack Buddies, Lunch Buddies, Grab a Bag Sunday, inviting the homeless to group in our space for various reasons and letting those who are suffering from addiction to have a place to come to support one another and feel loved in an unjudged environment. We do this in care and love of holy creation. We embody Jesus in companionship through trials and tribulations. In learning that pastoral care is about how we take care of each other and not exclusively about the myth that it’s about how Fr. Mark and I take care of you and how you sit back and evaluate us. We all participate in the reconciling work of Jesus Christ. There are a lot of opportunities for you to practice your discipleship at Christ Episcopal Church – now and over the next year. I want to name just a few.

Formation is taking on a new form this year. The vestry has formed a small team that will begin to look at a robust Christian formation plan that begins with small groups. We are going to introduce these small group ministries hopefully during Lent. And hopefully they will continue indefinitely. We will begin our study on “The Crucified Life”. We will then move to “The

Resurrected Life” and “The Spirit Filled Life”. This is a small group series put together by an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Central Florida. I think it will be dynamic and exciting but the only way this is going to work, folks, is I need you to participate. I need you to see that part of your discipleship as important. In studying about God so that we can then learn about God and play that song that God invites us to.

On the service side, we are hosting the Power to the People on March 17-18. This conference is the training for our own lay led pastoral care initiative that we may call “Christ Church Caring”. Imagine a network of volunteers in concert with the clergy taking care of you. Imagine getting a phone call from a fellow parishioner just asking how you are doing. The myth about pastoral care that it only deals with the hospitalization and rehabilitation and that it’s only done by the clergy, well that’s just not true. Even now, there are a bevy of people doing pastoral care. My hope is this training and the start of the ministry will help us better organize the work that is already happening and invite more people into that role.

On the mission side, we are starting our Lunch Buddies program. We still need more people to see this ministry as part of their discipleship. Also, we are beginning conversation with community partners about addressing mental health among our children and veterans. This is an issue that needs to be addressed and not something that is political but just plain real. There are veterans that cannot get access to mental health care when they need it and there are children in our public schools that are experiencing things at home that are affecting their mental stability and they have no access to care for one reason or another. And I don’t think our response can be tough luck. These are real issues and I believe we can begin the work of addressing these issues by inviting community partners like Scott & White and the VA Hospital and Temple ISD to the table securing the vision, and getting funding. This is not something that will happen overnight but hopefully we will make great strides this year in addressing these issues.

And last, but certainly not least, we are going to Honduras this summer. We are taking a mission trip to Honduras, with Honduras Good Works in the hopes of identifying a community that we can partner with, along with Honduras Good Works which is a medical mission. Now the myth about this medical mission is that it’s only for doctors and nurses and that’s just not true. They need all sorts of volunteers to do the work. I have asked Sue Johnston to stand up so you can see her. She is the lay leader for this ministry. If you have questions after this Sue will be here to answer a few questions and get you signed up. We will have the website listed in this week’s email so you can sign up, pay your fees and be able to go on this trip. We are looking to take 9 or 10 on this trip.

The last vision I want to share with you is a personal one. I am cautious when I share personal visions for our church because ultimately, I am not your church. These buildings and these walls, as beautiful as they are, are not the church. Look around at each other – that’s the church. But I do have a vision that just struck me, that kind of couples with the mental health initiative that I talked about and I want to talk to you about a vision for a second site. A second campus if you will, called “Luke’s Place” in Belton. Luke’s Place will be a center for wholeness and healing, for families and individuals in the Belton area. Imagine a place where you can come to see a counselor for a small fee because all the overhead for that counselor is provided for by us, the church. Imagine a place where a college ministry can group and gather and worship. Imagine a worshiping community that looks a little different than us. That meets during the week, that has a different style of worship that is still in line with the prayer book but feels a little different than the traditional. Imagine a place where you can come before things reach a crisis state and you can get the help and support that you need. This is Luke’s Place. This is a dream

that I have to meet the needs of Bell County while also staying true to our Christian faith. This is something that I will flesh out more in the year ahead with the vestry and look at the possibility of it becoming true.

So, let's see, what can we do together in the harvest during 2017. All this depends on you and your willingness to just go out into the harvest. Outside of the sanctuary you will find Sally and Bethany, and they will be there to collect sign-up sheets. I encourage you, if anything I said struck you, from Lunch Buddies to Feed my Sheep to Backpack Buddies, to whatever I might have said or something that you read along the way. I encourage you to let them know, and sign up. There are all sorts of worship ministries, from the choir and Glenda's wonderful diligence and commitment to choir and the gift of music, to the Altar Guild, to the servers. There are all sorts of Formation ministries. Imagine our children, we need more help there. We need more Sunday School teachers. This is not a time in our life where we can just slow down and stop. You can't retire from discipleship. You can't go to the pearly gates and say well the last 20 years I enjoyed golf. Your discipleship and your faith matter all the time and our church is only as strong as what we are willing to put into it. If all of this structure ceases to exist, what will we be known for? What will be our legacy? There are lots and lots of ways to be involved. There are lots of ways for you to learn about Jesus, lots of ways for you to be formed, lots of ways for you to worship. We will be working as a vestry looking at all the other ways that we can raise up disciples in the name of Jesus Christ at Christ Church, Temple. I will leave you with these two stories.

In 1893, the National Order of Kings Daughters and Sons - this was an interdenominational group here in Temple that built and founded the first community hospital. They consisted of a prominent group of Episcopal folks from Christ Church. They were big in the social gospel movement. They did it! They had a vision, they believed in where God was calling them and they didn't give up. They founded the first hospital.

Or what about the Episcopal Church Women during the depression? They realized there was a shortage of food. So, the Episcopal Church Women of Christ Episcopal Church decided they would start storing food underneath the Baptist Church. This was really successful until they had a hot, hot summer and then it kind of went sideways. But for a long period of time, they provided food when there was a shortage. So, are we going to become the lighthouse that has the best banquet or are we going to become the lighthouse that trains people to go out? The choice is yours individually and as a whole. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Sally Louth, Parish Administrator

## **Jr. Warden Report for 2016**

We experienced some building repair issues in 2016 and had accomplished some improvements also.

### **+ Air Conditioning**

We did have some on-going air conditioning problems this year. Some of our air conditioning units are old so it is just a matter of time before they break down. A couple of the older units are continually having issues and will probably need to be replaced. The cost to repair these older units is almost half of what it would cost to replace them. It sounds more feasible to replace these units than to continue putting money into repairs. This issue will be addressed early this year, (2017).

### **+ Kitchen updates and repairs**

Our two kitchen dishwashers had failed and had to be replaced in addition, a new kitchen faucet, with sprayer, was installed to make the task of cleaning the cookware much more efficient

### **+Water leak issues**

We continue to experience roof water leaks throughout our facility. We have worked with our original roofing contractor to locate these leaks and get them repaired. The issue is still on going and the contractor has suggested some fixes but not a final solution for our problems. We have spent many hours trying to resolve the roofing issues.

### **+ School mold issues**

Towards the end of the summer we had an issue with water leaks and mold in a couple of classrooms at the school. We had an inspection done and the contractor removed all the damaged wood and remediated the mold. The damaged area was cleaned, sealed, certified mold free and rebuilt.

### **+Meditation garden patio rebuild**

With a donation from a parishioner, we were able to rebuild the patio and pathways in the meditation garden. The old flagstone patio was difficult to maneuver for those people who had stability issues. So the flagstone was removed and a new concrete patio was installed. The surface has an aggregate finish which blends in better with the landscape and is less of a slip hazard.

Overall the facilities are in good shape. With a building of this size we will continue to have minor issues Hopefully this will be the year that the roof issues will be resolved

I want to give a special thanks to the "Gardening Angels", Anne Penney Newton and Shirley Watts. They plant, weed and maintain all the flower beds around the church. Without them we would not have all the beautiful flowers and plants to brighten our surroundings.

I also want to thank Johnny DeLeon, our sexton, who had helped me throughout the year with numerous repair issues around the facilities.

In addition, Sally Louth has been a great resource for me in answering my numerous questions about the building, repair people, etc.

And a big thanks to all those that were not mentioned and helped maintain our facilities.

Mike Baron, Jr. Warden