

ST. CUTHBERT  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LIFE



## Faith Working through Love



Confirmation 2023



Delivering food to refugees



Preparing breakfast for the homeless

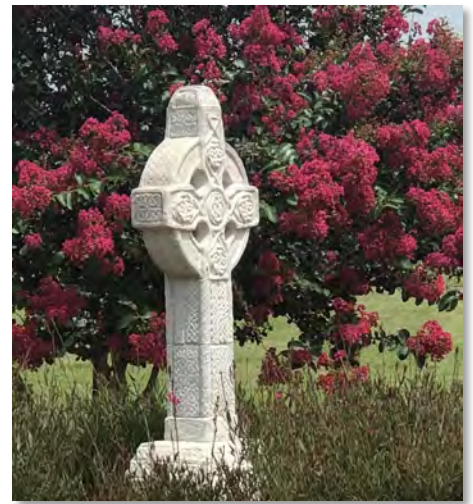


I-Fest: Celebrating our diversity





July 2022



The story of St. Cuthbert Episcopal Church is like watching a garden being cultivated by a master gardener with patient tenderness.

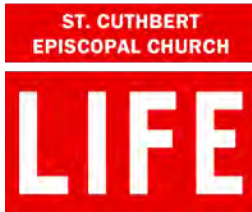
Indeed, metaphors abound between our St. Cuthbert Prayer Garden and the life of our church. We've endured hard frosts and droughts, and rabbits devouring our flowers, yet we continue to weed, prune, plant, water and mulch. As we prepare this Profile, it is March 2023, a time of Lenten reflection, a time of longing for new growth. With the appearance of green foliage, we eagerly await the resurrection of the earth and the celebration of the resurrection of our LORD.



March 2023

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.  
—I Chronicles 16:11





## MISSION

Building the Kingdom of God together as we *gather* for worship and fellowship, *grow* in Christ's love and grace, and *go forth* to share and serve.

## VALUES

### WELCOMING CHURCH FAMILY

with open arms and open hearts. We are all-inclusive, understanding and supportive of one another in joys and in sorrows.

**MEANINGFUL WORSHIP** through music, Scripture reading, and sermons that engage our hearts and minds, and equip us to take God's message outside the church walls.

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH** as individuals and as a church body in our faith journey to know and serve God. We offer ongoing weekly Bible studies, prayer groups, as well as church-wide renewal activities. We encourage parishioners to discover and use their spiritual gifts.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE & OUTREACH

to be the helping hands and loving heart of Christ through our various ministries, with a keen eye for compelling needs.



## VISION

We prayerfully seek to follow the Holy Spirit's leading, to encourage one another in the faith, and do the will of God in our community and the world.



## WE ARE

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17020 West Road @ Queenston  
Houston, Texas 77095  
281-463-7330  
[stcuthbert.org](http://stcuthbert.org)  
[facebook.com/StCuthbert](https://facebook.com/StCuthbert)

St. Cuthbert School  
281-463-1912



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SOUTH AFRICA



MEXICO



JAMAICA



LIBERIA

## St. Cuthbert International Festival



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



LEBANON



GUATEMALA



If it's the first Saturday in November - it's I-Fest!

Every year for the past 17 years, our incredibly diverse congregation invites the community to drop by for free samples of authentic international food. Most booths are hosted by parishioners who emigrated and are so happy to share their cultures with guests. There's even a booth serving Texas BBQ (for those who still believe Texas is a country).



There are passports and prizes for the kids, and Russel's amazing display of drums from around the world! Who doesn't love to beat a drum?

"O, taste and see that the LORD is good!"  
-Psalm 34:8







INDIA



CZECHOSLOVAKIA



ENGLAND



SPAIN

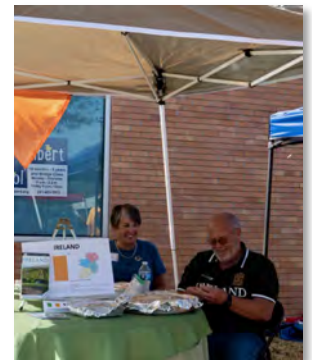


Rollicking music fills the air as DJ Sally plays each country's traditional favorites.

"We truly treasure each other's backgrounds and love sharing our cultures with the community."  
-Sally



GERMANY



IRELAND



St. Cuthbert Pre-Schoolers perform (above).  
The Youth Group lines up to present a Fashion Show of traditional dress (below).



THE BAHAMAS



TEXAS





When I-Fest is over, the parishioners all pitch in to un-pitch tents and pack up gear while the lively music continues. A spontaneous conga-line of all ages carries on the St. Cuthbert festival spirit.

"We hear them declaring the wonders of  
God in our own tongues!"



PENTECOST SUNDAY at St. Cuthbert is a little taste of heaven. Before the reading of the famous passage from Acts, chapter 2, as many as a dozen parishioners gather in a half-circle behind the lector standing at the microphone. As the lector reads clearly in English, those behind the lector read the passage in their native tongues: Portuguese, German, Yoruba, Punjabi, French, Spanish, Japanese, Vai, Tagalog, Arabic. The wonderful dissonance of languages patters softly in the background as the lector reads the thrilling account of the first Pentecost.

There are 27  
flags hanging in  
the sanctuary;  
each  
represents a  
native country  
of our  
parishioners.





# LIFE OUR WORSHIP

A weekly rotation of many volunteers brings cheer, warmth, and meaning to St. Cuthbert Sundays.



Sharon has the coffee ready.



David and Eliana are ready with sound and slides.



Dan has mowed and trimmed the premises during the week, but he spies a bit of debris on the entryway and quickly sweeps it up.



A team of greeters is ready by the doors.

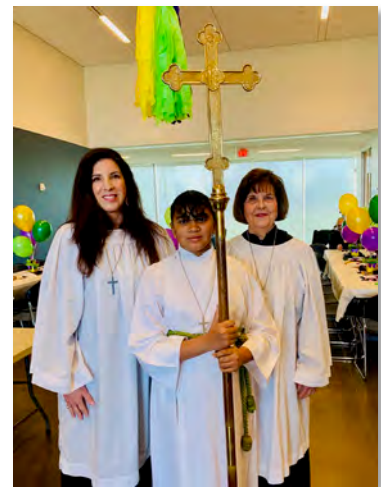
"All prayed-up and ready to go!"



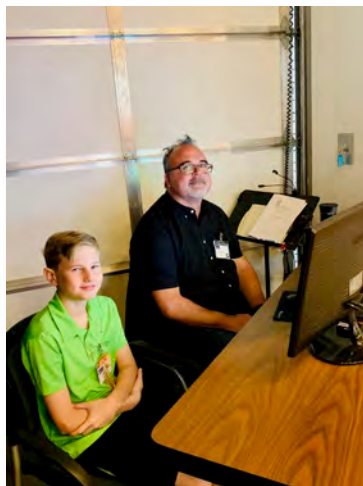
Peggy is ready to welcome all.



Vestry members have opened the building, gone through their checklist, and are ready to assist with any detail, large or small.



Tanya, Norma, and Sabrina are ready to serve.



Johnny and Jonathan are ready to livestream the service.



Jan has prepared flowers for the altar.









There's a sweet,  
sweet spirit  
in this place . . .



ST. CUTHBERT EPISCOPAL CHURCH offers two services each Sunday, one at 8 a.m. and one at 10 a.m.; both are Rite II services. The first service is celebrated with our Minister of Music and pianist. The 10 a.m. service is livestreamed with the choir.

(Left) Each Sunday an Online Host welcomes and responds to questions from people who log on to our worship service. Not only do parishioners attend our services online but also people from other states and around the world.



## Making God Real

Intense but joyful, Barbara leads her stalwart singers through a syncopated contemporary piece, clapping her hands in metronome fashion, while singing soprano. It's a Wednesday evening choir practice in February.

She then quickly takes them through another piece, "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus," a traditional hymn with predictable progressions. They are rehearsing the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, after which "alleluia" is omitted for 40 days of Lent.

"This is our 'alleluias' week," Barbara laughs. "Gotta get them all in this Sunday before we must put them away for a while."

"Our church enjoys the full breadth of music," she explains, "the freshness of contemporary music, time-honored choral arrangements, the wealth of traditional hymns, and I like to revisit St. Cuthbert favorites, too." She adds, "The goal is always to seek selections that touch hearts and lead us to a closer relationship with God."



Barbara, who has been leading St. Cuthbert worship since 1987, peruses lectionary Scriptures a good month ahead to begin meditating and pondering music selections that will support and enhance the Gospel reading as well as the spiritual theme for each Sunday. For special worship times, she plays a trumpet that would rival Gabriel's.

"Singing in choir makes me feel close to God," says 14-year-old Ximena. "It's like talking to Him, except it's singing."

"Sometimes the words in the songs are so true to my heart that I choke up and can hardly sing them," says Sylvia.

"It's about the only place in regular life that you get to sing," quips Mark, who grew up singing in choirs, even singing in Cornell University's Men's Glee Club. Like Sylvia, he has sung in St. Cuthbert's choir for decades.

"I've been singing in a church choir nearly every Sunday since I was six years old," says Maggie. Her dark eyes gleam. "It's all I know. When I'm in church, I must sing."

"It's the gift I have that I can offer to the Lord," says Kevin quietly. In August, he led the music for St. Cuthbert's "Reigniting our Flame" Saturday retreat.





Lynda, who emigrated from England three decades ago, attends rehearsal on a crutch with a fractured hip. In a soft voice, she says simply, "Choir is my second home. I love to sing."

"For me, it's my ministry," retired English teacher Amy declares.

"It's what gets me through the rough times of my life," Mike states profoundly, his voice resonating with passion.

Radiating joy when she sings, Donna smiles, "Singing is how I worship. I can just see the angels in heaven singing along with us."

"Music has the capacity to connect us to the Holy Spirit, making God more accessible, more real," says Tiffany.

A frequent soloist and a mother of two young children, Tiffany is an Oberlin College voice major. "Our music worship," she explains, "aims to bring the Scripture reading of the week into a clearer focus, to make it personal."

After the singers finish rehearsing, Barbara conducts another rehearsal with instrumental musicians, which again involves pianist Jeanna, who sometimes sings solos, harmonizes with Barbara, and provides offertory music at the first service that can range from sacred classics to toe-tapping Gospels.



"I've been filling in temporarily since the summer of 2006," jests drummer Russel. However, he is hardly a sub, and in many ways, Russel is the heartbeat of St. Cuthbert worship, ready with a soft swoosh or tingling cymbal, and so many deft strokes of steadfast love and thrilling exaltation.



"It's fun seeing everyone getting into the worship," observes Lee, who adds his own special musicianship to the mix, playing an acoustic 6-string guitar. Lee occasionally sings soulful renditions of old favorites like "Let There Be Peace in the Valley," which carries us to the third heaven.

"We're one big family," Barbara smiles. "We've watched our children grow up together. We've rehearsed while holding each other's babies."







LAS POSADAS, for St. Cuthbert Youth, is an evening of re-enacting Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay with scripted parts, singing, and planned visits to several parishioners' homes. The movable Nativity Scene eventually winds up back at church for a Christmas party.

"The kids are so fabulous!" says Sally, our Youth Minister. "The Youth Group is like a big family."

And they do seem like family on Wednesdays as the kids come to the Youth Room after school, do homework, then go over to the church for dinner together at a table with candles and linen napkins. Sally insists on proper table manners as they share, one by one, the high point and low point of their week.

"Talking together around the table is probably my favorite part of Youth Group," says Michael. "The food is my favorite part," chirps Connor.

After dinner, they return to the Youth Room with its lime green accent wall (the color chosen by the kids), and play Bible Trivia with two brothers, Josh and Jacob, joining them via Zoom. They also enjoy acting out Bible stories (they love donning costumes), doing mock interviews, and art projects. Sally encourages them to follow their passions for music or art or sports, and this helps determine group activities.

The kids meet again on Sundays after church for a serious Bible Study, lunch, and always a game.







THE YOUTH GROUP played a major role in St. Cuthbert's Palm Sunday service by doing a dramatic reading of The Passion.



FRIENDS are the best part of Youth Group agree all the girls--which is remarkable because they come from four different schools. "My besties are here!" says Joylyn. "You always feel like you belong," Lilly says. "You never feel left out."

"You feel seen here," adds Ximena.

Jonathan sums it up for everyone: "We do so much fun stuff in Youth Group."

(Above) The Youth Group spot-cleans church chairs--and they needed it!  
(Right) A Valentine's Day Game







OUR CHILDREN'S Sunday morning Bible Story reflects the Gospel of the day followed by a craft.

SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT is abundant at St. Cuthbert for the mighty oaks as well as the little acorns---and everyone in between. There are ongoing weekly Bible studies at church and small group studies in parishioners' homes. An adult Sunday School class, "Walk Through the Bible," meets every week after the first service.



THE MOM'S Bible Study (Ministry of Motherhood) meets on Monday mornings. They are active in projects supporting The St. Cuthbert School.

**We grow in Christ when we study the Word together, go through struggles together, and see how God works in our lives.**

BETTY'S MONDAY night Bible Study (below) has been a regular feature for years and now is attended online by women from other states and countries as well as by St. Cuthbert women. Do your homework!



THE SENIORS Bible Study meets every Thursday at 1 p.m. Once a month, they eat together at a nearby BBQ place before gathering for study, lively discussion, and prayer.





For 23 years, there's been a Saturday morning Men's Bible Study at St. Cuthbert.

Thy rod and thy donuts, they comfort me is their unofficial motto.

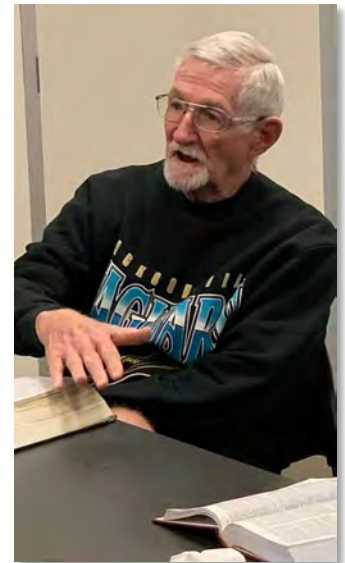


"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come"  
—Psalm 72:18

Our Men's Bible Study has always been open to all, and it's always been attended by others in the community. These men, whether three or a dozen, gather faithfully each Saturday to read and ruminate on Scripture. They also make great Shrove Tuesday pancakes and sausage and organize the parish Blood Drives.

On this particular Saturday morning, Emmanuel facilitates a discussion of men gathered around scooted-together tables with two participants joining via Zoom on a large TV screen. Their Bibles lie open in front of them, alongside their coffee. Their words are tempered, thoughtful, wise, punctuated by an occasional round of belly laughs.

"The Bible is full of mysteries," Randy expounds. "God has given us the capacity to reason, to question, but also to realize that there are some things we will just never understand. But this book will never age, be useless or be out of date."



"I recall when I was five, I had a conversation with my dad as we were looking out at the Milky Way one night," Terry begins. "When I asked my dad about it, he said 'That's it! What you're seeing is all there is. It ends there.' As I got older, the Hubble telescope came along and showed us that there is so much more. Now, we have the Webb telescope showing us wonders we could never imagine," he pauses. "And that's how God is."



Hal steps out briefly and returns with a birthday cake to honor Terry, who has just turned 82. As the cake is served up, Terry obligingly shares an insight.





July 2021





"A new command  
I give you: Love  
one another as I  
have loved you."  
—John 14:34



"We turned St.  
Cuthbert into  
one gigantic  
boombox!"  
—Beth

Vacation Bible School  
in the middle of a  
pandemic requires lots  
of prayer and careful  
planning. Maybe  
that's why the exciting  
and meaningful music,  
the fantastic games,  
and the super crafts  
were all hits with the  
kids.





**At 5:15** on a Sunday morning, a caravan pulls out of St. Cuthbert's parking lot and cruises along Houston's empty freeways and dark downtown streets to Trinity Episcopal Church, the oldest Episcopal Church in Houston and the setting for serving breakfast to Houston's homeless after they attend an early mass.

Upon arrival at Trinity, the St. Cuthbert volunteers (20 to 30 strong) immediately go to work.

Some set up the long tables in the gym with cloths and condiments, others begin an assembly line to bag snacks to be given to each person; still others take up their posts in the kitchen, preparing coffee and cocoa, scrambling eggs, baking huge trays of bacon and sausage and biscuits, pouring boxes of orange juice into pitchers.

At last, the big moment comes: time to make the grits! Only Betty makes the grits, wielding her gigantic whisk which she brings from home. The grits must be perfect--and Betty's grits are always perfect.



St. Cuthbert volunteers have been preparing breakfast for LOTS since 1997. Church-wide sock drives provide hundreds of pairs of socks for the homeless from St. Cuthbert parishioners.



Lord of the Streets (LOTS) is the special Mission Church of the Diocese of Texas for Houston's homeless and disadvantaged.







"Made with love and prayers especially for you by the family of St. Cuthbert Episcopal Church" states the label on every blanket.

## PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

"At first I just thought it was using my talent to sew," says Andrea Stewart, leader of the ministry. "But after I began hearing the testimonials of people who received the blankets, I realized it's touching people way beyond what I thought. It's providing more than just comfort while someone is sick. There are people who are buried with them, there are people who have requested that they be kept or passed on to family members."



A CROSS and a label are stitched on to every blanket or quilt. "We pray over them while we sew and then they are blessed by the minister."

## JUNIOR DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

attended the 2022 Triennial where they crocheted blankets to be given to a women's shelter in Baltimore.



## WE ARE THE NOODLE CHURCH

to Cypress Assistance Ministries (CAM) after being assigned to supply their pantry with Ramen Noodles and bringing a U-Haul truck full of noodles! We continue to bring hundreds of boxes of noodles to stock CAM all year around.





**TRUNK OR TREAT** staged in our parking lot with costumed characters and creatively decorated vehicles draws a huge response from the community.

### YOUTH GROUP

members volunteer at the Houston Food Bank and Rise Against Hunger on a regular basis.

Here, they spent a day in March at Houston Food Bank and packed seven pallets, consisting of 560 boxes, which will provide 7,467 meals. Well done!



### ECW OUTREACH TO REFUGEES

In Spring 2023, St. Cuthbert ECW volunteers began working with a Syrian refugee family that had been living in southern Turkey. These five children just missed the horrific earthquakes.



At Christmas time, ECW organized a church-wide food drive, furnishing baskets of food and small toys to five refugee families through Abba's House, a ministry that helps resettle refugee families without fathers.







"I love it because I know that prayer works and is powerful, and I've always had that in my heart."

—Deloise

I got started in the Prayer Chain Ministry when Sally asked me to be the leader. At the time I had been a member and leader of the Prayer Team that we used to have at the church. I also had a prayer group at my school which met in my classroom before school started. So, it was just natural for me as I have loved the idea of prayer, even as a child. Back then I wanted someone else to do the praying, but eventually I started praying myself. I do pray every day. It centers me.

This ministry is not something that I have to be up in front of anybody talking to them, because that's not my forte. I glance at my phone throughout the day to make sure I don't miss any of the prayer requests that come in. I've seen it in my own life that prayer works.

When my son passed away, I knew people were praying for me and my family and that something was sustaining us, keeping us level and going. I attribute that to prayer.

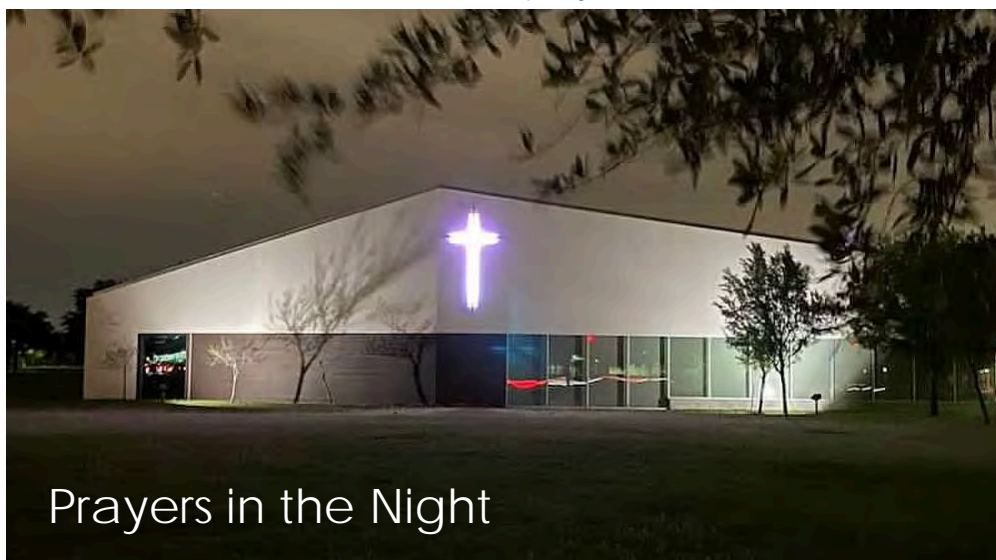
**The Daughters of the King, Ruth Chapter, cover the church body in prayer each week, and the Prayer Chain responds daily to prayer requests.**

When I see it happening in my own life, I know it's happening in others' lives. And we've had people come back and thank us and give us updates on what's happening.

And what I also know from the prayer chain, we pray continuously for them. The answer might not come right when they want it to and it may not come the way they expect it, but I know He answers all prayers and I like being a person that spreads that out to other people.

I really love this ministry.

—Deloise

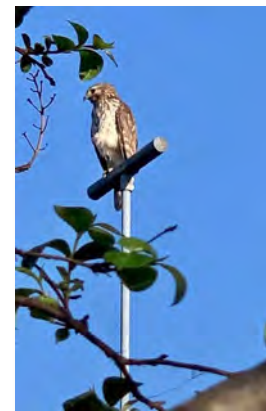


Prayers in the Night



"My vision for this Prayer Garden is for people to come here and experience the peace of Jesus," says Gale.

"In February the Rebel's Child salvia starts coming back and they're blooming by mid-March," Gale says of the bank of deep purple flowers that greet you upon entering the Prayer Garden.



Hawkeye stands guard from his perch above the garden. For years, rabbits stripped plants of leaves and blooms, then suddenly two hawks arrived on the scene and are keeping the pesky bunnies at bay.



"Cut everything back to the green," she tells her work crew on this spring day. She points to the Turk's Cap under the forked pine then pivots to the row of oleanders on the west side of the garden. With loppers and hand clippers and even an electric trimmer, they go to work, pruning, pulling, clipping and gathering dead undergrowth to be stuffed into large brown paper bags.



Hungry Monarch caterpillars feast on the garden's milkweed.

Gale and her husband Steve became involved with the Prayer Garden soon after they joined the church in 2010, and Gale has been leading the ministry with an unmatched passion for gardening, enthusiasm for research, hard work, and humor, much of which Steve supplies along with a truck to carry 30 bags of mulch at a time.

"Hola Amigos!" begin her emails, announcing work to be done or decisions to be made. "Early on we decided that we would have mostly native plants and a butterfly garden for the endangered Monarch butterflies. The garden is now officially a Monarch waystation," she smiles.

"The way we got our plants, trees, benches, irrigation and the gazebo was by interested parishioners' donations, so it's really been the church's prayer garden," Gale explains. "People have really been good about helping and being involved."

"It's also very therapeutic," she adds, citing instances when people undergoing treatment for cancer or going through challenging times found visiting the garden and working there aided in their healing.

Twice a year, parishioners can buy memorial bricks to place in the garden to honor loved ones.







STRIKING AN "AMERICAN GOTHIC" POSE with pretend dour faces, these parishioners came out on a drizzly Saturday in January to place layers of newspaper and mulch around eight trees bordering the Prayer Garden. Steve has made blueberry scones for the occasion, and they are reposing in the gazebo for break time.



HIS AREA WEEDED and cleaned, St. Francis waits for the garden to grow up around him like prayers rising.



Folks in the neighborhood also come to the Prayer Garden to sit quietly. "I love the prayer garden," says Gale. "I think I have the best ministry in the church. I love working in it, I love how God shows up in it. I'll be out there working, and I can really feel His presence."



## ECW Sparks Fellowship and Fun for all Ages



CHURCH-WIDE celebrations, elegant receptions as well as feeding the multitudes and preparing Mercy Meals for funerals are the work of the Fellowship Ministry. Anyone care for a little cheesecake topped with a raspberry?

"I want people to feel special when they walk into the foyer," says Monica, our ECW leader and decorator extraordinaire. St. Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) has been extra vibrant this past year. "After Covid, we wanted to get people back and involved," she says. ECW has put together family events such as Family Feud, Lotteria, Mardi Gras and Shrove Pancake Sunday. The ECW Christmas Luncheon is always an elegant event. The Rose Sunday Casserole and Bake Sale is another ECW hallmark that the entire church delights in and supports.

"The funds we raise we use to support other ministries and projects in the church," Monica says. "ECW's goal is to bless our church in every way we can."



Contagious fun reigns when the games start rolling. Shirley and Hal are good sports!





ST. CUTHBERT FAMILY FEUD game night roared with laughter. Here, the youth group takes on a group of seniors.



DECORATIONS IN THE FOYER create a spirit of family fun.



SENIOR WARDENS at ECW Christmas luncheon.



YUMMY toppings on pancakes are a big hit.





## Palm Sunday Blessings



WE BEGAN IN THE GARDEN with Father Malcolm blessing the palms and children singing. We processed to the church to hear our Youth Group read the Passion. St. Cuthbert School children sang for us and enjoyed watching Father craft a donkey from a balloon as part of the Palm Sunday story. After the service, everyone loved the fresh Hot Cross Buns made by Betty and the Junior Daughters of the King.









ST. CUTHBERT  
EASTER 2023





# ST.CUTHBERT SCHOOL



An Amazing School  
of High Reputation

18-months through  
Bridge to Kindergarten



St. Cuthbert School was established in 1984 as an outreach ministry of St. Cuthbert Episcopal Church with the mission of providing a loving, Christ-centered environment where children can learn and grow. Our school is NAEYC accredited and takes pride in maintaining an excellent developmentally age-appropriate Christian curriculum. Our desire is for students to experience the love of God while they are with us and develop hearts for God in their lives.



## What Parents Say

"We absolutely love St. Cuthbert School, the staff, and the curriculum. Our children feel loved and confident through the warm and positive learning environment." K.B.

"I attended St. Cuthbert School over 20 years ago when I went to preschool so when it was time to choose a school for my own children, I knew right where I wanted to send them. My kids love the school." R.N.

"St. Cuthbert has a very safe and organized process for dropping off and picking up the kids. Their teachers are very devoted." J.M.G.



"Our family loves St. Cuthbert School. We wish we had known about it sooner. The teachers and staff are the best at teaching these little minds. My son started going when he was 4 and was so excited to show up every day that he even came home asking if he could stay for their additional classes after school. Such a fun environment at St. Cuthbert! We can't wait to enroll our youngest!" I.P.

"The teachers do an amazing job of making the students feel safe and loved and making learning fun! The School does a great job of keeping an open communication with the parents. We have also made some great friends along the way." A.S.



## From Sandwich Shop to Mud to Bricks

"Although I'd attended church on and off while growing up, I'd come to a place in my life where I felt no connection to God nor a desire to go to church. God did not seem relevant," reflects Shirley.

The year was 1979. A friend who had been unsuccessfully inviting Shirley's family to attend a newly formed Episcopal church, called to say that she would be picking up their two young sons to take them to church on Easter Sunday. She invited Shirley and husband Hal as well. Shirley says, "We felt we had no choice!"

Thanks to the bold St. Cuthbert charter member, Shirley and Hal and their sons visited the gathering in the sandwich shop in Bear Creek off Highway 6. "When I walked in, I saw steam tables and a ham and other food items painted on the wall. Although it didn't look like any church I'd been to, I sensed something very special there. People were warm and welcoming." She muses a moment, "I liked the sermon! It made sense for my life. It was logical."

**"That welcoming spirit.  
That acceptance.  
No judgment. It's in the  
St. Cuthbert DNA.  
We just do it organically.  
That's who we are."**

She describes the rector as "enthusiastic, patient, with a wonderful sense of humor." Rev. Jeremiah Ward started this fledgling group in 1978 in Bob and Linda's Sandwich Shoppe with perhaps 25 adults, a bunch of children, folding chairs, and a little table for communion.

"They had to get the service over with before the lunch crowd started coming in," recalls Norma, who also attended St. Cuthbert in the early days. By all accounts, those early folks were not afraid to get their hands dirty. Outgrowing the sandwich shop, they moved to a one-room modular building on Addicks-Satsuma Rd, fondly called "The A-frame."

"In those days we all pitched in," says Maggie. "We scrubbed, cleaned, painted."

"We lugged portable platforms to create an altar area," Shirley recalls. "We had two awfully beat-up trailers--one for Sunday School and the kitchen, and the other for a nursery.

"I remember lots of mud between the sanctuary and the mobile units." Everyone seems to remember mud. "We walked on wood planks to avoid the mud," Norma recalls.

Shortly after the move to the A-frame in 1981, the Rev. Tom Brindley arrived, a young priest for a young church. A Trinidadian woman named Betty also showed up with her three young sons. Raised in Arima in a family of devout Episcopalians, her first job had been cooking for the American ambassador to Trinidad. Her culinary skills would eventually make their way into St. Cuthbert's kitchen. She has warm memories of the young priest who arrived just as she did.. "He was an incredible Bible teacher," she smiles.

During this time, St. Cuthbert's growth began reflecting Houston's growth as people poured into Houston from all over the world looking for jobs. Folks came to St. Cuthbert from the Caribbean Islands as well as Africa, seeking a worship service similar to their Anglican or Episcopalian upbringings.

(continued next page)



# Building the Kingdom of God Together



Evangelistic energy was palpable. "Church members were involved in prison ministries and one couple started a latchkey ministry for children in their neighborhood," recalls Norma.

Hearts were knit together by shared hardships and joys. Eternal friendships were forged as they worshiped and studied and grew in the Lord. Charlie recalls being urged by a church friend to attend a short course on how to be open to the Holy Spirit's leading. "It really helped me grow spiritually as I learned how to let Christ play a fuller part in my life."



"Just as we finally had the A-frame all fixed up, the Diocese stepped in and said, 'we have a place for you in Copperfield,'" Shirley recalls. In 1983, construction began on a new building on Willow River Drive near Highway 6. The cross that the parishioners had so lovingly constructed for the A-frame would be brought to the new church, which gained parish status in 1992. Father Brindley continued to serve as Rector until 1994.

The Rev. Dr. Steve Sellers accepted the call to serve as rector in 1994 and remained through 1999. "He was a great storyteller, played the guitar," recalls Norma. In February 2000, the Rev. Desmond Goonesekera, a native of Sri Lanka, became rector. He emphasized small groups and led church-wide Bible studies.

With hard work and dedication, St. Cuthbert's ranks grew to 275 families.

However, the deed restrictions of the planned community in which the church was located became a major concern. Land was purchased in February 2007, at West Road and Queenston Blvd., our present location. Our building was dedicated and consecrated on August 23, 2009, with the cross from the A-frame moved to the church foyer. Father Desmond retired in February 2013, and we were joined by Rev. Bruce Bonner who served eight years and retired in 2022.

Looking back on those tender early days, we are compelled to praise God for the sacrificing souls who nurtured the infant church and all who have worked and prayed mightily along each step of our development. We have humbly witnessed so many instances when God clearly had a purpose and a plan for us as a community of believers in spite of our human weaknesses. Time and time again, we have navigated uncertainties with a compass called faith, desiring God's will and experiencing his grace.

"Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare."

--Psalm 40:5



## What Does a Parish Administrator Do?

Almost everything when it comes to Tanya. She drove the truck carrying Ramen Noodles to a local food pantry; she shows folks how to operate machines in the office and kitchen and programs on the computer—and she pays the bills, doing all the accounting work for the church and school.

Here are excerpts from her message to the congregation in 2022.

"As the Parish Administrator, I have the opportunity to witness how all the business transactions come together to minister to the congregation and our community. . .

How will we be able to pay our bills this month? Will our air conditioner hold on a little longer? It sure is making a weird noise. How do we continue to care for our church family in the midst of a pandemic?

"I have witnessed the daily miracles that keep this church running."

Miracles like receiving funds from the Paycheck Protection Program that kept the church solvent during the pandemic. Miracles like grants we were awarded to pay for camera equipment to live stream services that connected people all over the world to St. Cuthbert. Miracles like starting a necessary capital campaign—the Our Journey Campaign—in the middle of a pandemic and culminating our meetings in the middle of a snowstorm. With God's help, we were able to meet our financial goal of this campaign . . . I am witness to every one of your financial sacrifices each week, and I give thanks to God and to you for those blessings. "



Tanya helps with many church activities from the Youth Group to I-Fest.

## We Inspire One Another



Florence, age 101, never missed coming to church with her daughter Peggy even during the pandemic. She passed away in April 2022.



## OUR FINANCIAL OVERVIEW and MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

Financial Overview					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average Sunday Attendance	253	223	230	86	127
Number of Pledges	110	131	121	76	75
Pledge and Plate	681,276	672,287	619,184	568,868	485,197
Total Operating Revenue	792,189	737,439	674,867	714,307	535,290
Funds Received - Capital Campaign			89,692	208,168	57,631
Total Expenses	854,980	733,142	704,760	543,958	619,044

Membership Demographics		
Age	Number	Percentage
Children (ages 0-12)	24	6%
Youth (ages 13-17)	26	7%
Young Adults (ages 18-34)	56	15%
Middle Adults (ages 35-64)	133	35%
Senior Adults (ages 65 and older)	142	37%
Total	381	100%
Race/Ethnicity	Percentage	
American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)		0%
Asian (non-Hispanic)		1%
Black or African American (non-Hispanic)		23%
Hispanic or Latino(a)		6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)		0%
White (non-Hispanic)		66%
Multiracial		4%
Total		100%
Length of Membership	Number	Percentage
Not a member	58	13%
One year or less	20	5%
2-4 years	32	7%
5-9 years	91	21%
10-19 years	124	29%
20+	106	25%
Total	431	100%



## OUR PRAYER FOR THE FUTURE

*To borrow from Tennyson, we do not wish  
"to rust unburnished," but "to shine in use!"*

OUR MOST FERVENT PRAYER as a parish is to bring young families into our church with the understanding that if we work on the depth of our ministry, God will provide the breadth. We are acutely aware that we must improve our Christian Formation as well as our infrastructure in order to offer meaningful teaching and activities designed to spiritually nurture young families. Strategic leadership and the ability to articulate a compelling vision for accomplishing this goal are perhaps the greatest challenges facing our next rector. We need unity in prayer and purpose. Naturally, the new rector must be a good listener who can evaluate the human landscape of our community, its strengths and its weaknesses. However, the new rector will have genuine and active support from the staff, vestry, and congregation in this vision, and, most importantly, "if God be for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31

Of course, we desire preaching and teaching that connects God's Word to our daily lives, admonishes us, encourages us, challenges us, and inspires us. And we pray that we will be responsive with open hearts of "faith working through love."

We seek a rector who lives with values that align with traditional biblical principles and at the same time understands the importance of St. Cuthbert being a safe and open space for people to be themselves. The Holy Cow! survey describes us as "a theologically diverse parish," and states that our rector needs to be comfortable working along side a bunch of folks who put the "D" in diversity.

The list of adjectives that pop up in the survey--energetic, creative, discerning, encouraging, compassionate--would suggest we seek an action hero, not a rector. But, the truth is, all these qualities can be summed up by saying we seek a rector who is passionate about spreading the love of Jesus Christ--because knowing Him-- is what makes life worth living.

### WE ARE AN OFFERING

*We lift our voices  
We lift our hands  
We lift our lives up to You  
We are an offering  
Lord use our voices  
Lord use our hands  
Lord use our lives they are Yours  
We are an offering  
All that we have  
All that we are  
All that we hope to be  
We give to You*



"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever! Amen"  
--Ephesians 3:20



ST. CUTHBERT  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**LIFE**



St. Cuthbert Prayer Garden

Let all that I am wait quietly before God,  
for my hope is in him. –Psalm 62:5