



Parish Profile 2021



CHRIST CHURCH





**KNOWING CHRIST  
AND MAKING  
HIM KNOWN**

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## *Welcome.*

Christ Episcopal Church is a diverse gathering of Christians in a crossroads area of Central Texas on the cusp of change. Appreciating our roots in the Anglican tradition, we are open and we welcome our life-long journey to proclaim Christ Jesus crucified and risen to all peoples.

To fulfill our mission, “knowing Christ and making him known,” the congregation is committed to know Christ through prayer and diligent study, and to make him known through love and service to others through effective communication with parishioners and the community at large as well those on the Internet throughout the world.

We are committed to the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in worship.

These practices bolster us for our sometimes challenging, always rewarding journey. Indispensable to our work is constant prayer and diligent study.

We believe God is with us and that we are not alone. We want to stretch out welcoming arms to the disenfranchised, the displaced, and the lonely. We seek to love and serve others.

Although Christ Church is the oldest continuously meeting Christian congregation in the City of Temple, the church lives in the present and in God’s presence. Our future is firmly planted in our willingness to grow together, to make Christ known throughout our community and the world, and to care for each other.

## *Our Promise as a congregation during this period of transition:*

- ✠ Regularly worship in spirit and truth, celebrating the Eucharist as the great unifier and visible presence of the Holy Spirit.
- ✠ Gather regularly for study of the scriptures and the Apostles’ teachings.
- ✠ Continue fellowship and open communication with each other.
- ✠ Pray without ceasing for our church, our search committee, our future rector and in support of others.
- ✠ Remain unfailingly faithful in our generosity of gifts and talents, standing firm against forces that would hinder our congregation in any way.
- ✠ Remember to forgive ourselves when we stumble and to forgive and lift up others when they falter.
- ✠ Seek and serve Christ, continuing to be a welcoming and loving presence wherever we go as we work for justice and peace.
- ✠ Proclaim the Good News of God in Christ privately and publicly.



# OUR *vision*

The risen Christ will shine through us as a beacon to others so that, when our work is completed, we shall joyfully unite in God's perpetual light.

# OUR *mission*

*"Knowing Christ and making him known"*

Our mission is to know Christ through prayer and diligent study, and to make him known through love and service.





# RECTOR *we seek*

## Comforts and cares.

When we began the search for a new rector, we placed great value in what we hear at our services and appreciate a rector who can encourage and inspire with their sermons. We also believe that Pastoral Care is vitally important. The current pandemic has created challenges of social distancing, isolation and health issues for all our parishioners – no matter their ages or backgrounds. We need to know that our rector not only loves God, but loves us.

## Guides and leads.

We also feel that leadership — strategic and religious — is important. Our new rector should have a mature understanding that can help us find solutions to fulfill our mission “*knowing Christ and making Christ known.*” That leadership should be tempered with listening to the congregation to move us forward in a cohesive manner.

## Unites through shared goals.

Our new rector will be passionate about our journey together and reflect that passion through actions and preaching. We seek a rector who will lead us in new directions, who will guide us through conflict resolution, and who will unify us. We, as a congregation, thirst for knowledge and are willing to listen, learn, and change with a rector who is willing to teach us.



*Our new rector  
should have a mature  
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“knowing Christ and  
making Christ known.”*





### **Lives among us.**

It is critically important that the rector live in or around Temple so that he/she can better know the community. Our new rector's presence among us is vital as we search for ways to better serve our community with relevant social programs. We want to find our way forward in a world that is divided and hurting.

### **Guides diverse groups.**

Our new rector must also effectively oversee and guide the different communities and groups in the church, such as youth, choir, study groups so that we can all grow together in faith and practice.

### **Fiscally responsible.**

A few additional characteristics of our new rector would include the ability to understand the financial conditions at the church but not to be heavy handed about it. We have a vestry and financial committee with a demonstrated capability for managing finances.

### **Comfortable with technology.**

Our world has become driven by technology. Our new rector must be ready to harness technology to further expand its use for everything from the obvious communication and teaching to outreach and care giving.



*Our new rector will be passionate about our journey together and reflect that passion through actions and preaching.*





# WELCOME FROM *the vestry*

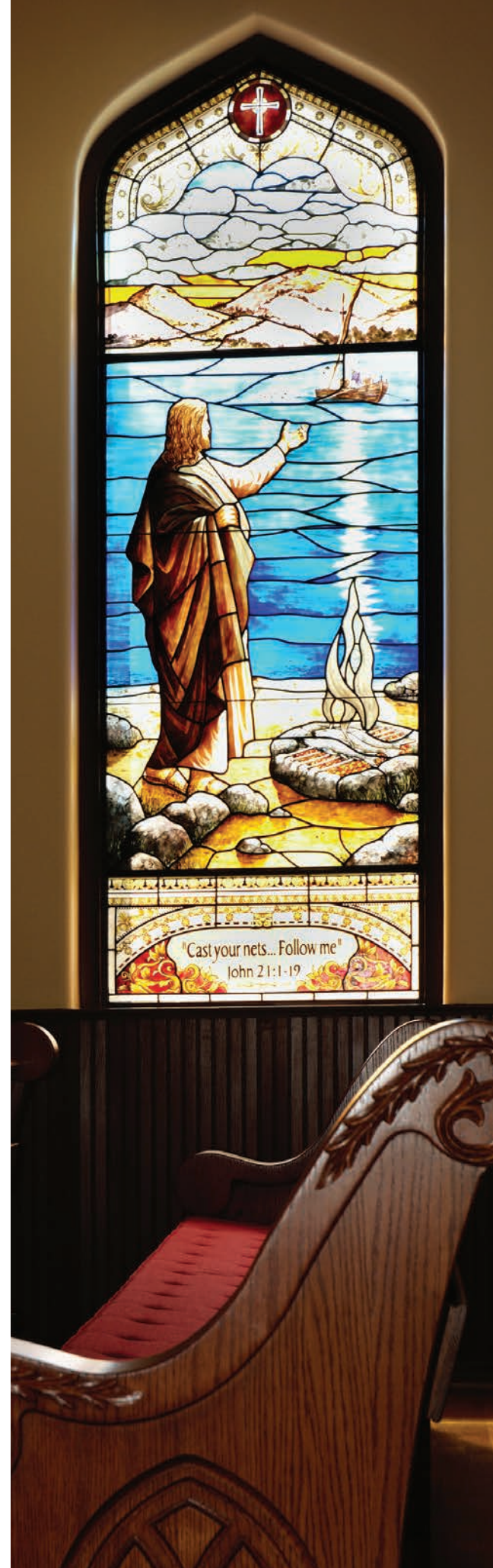
We thank you for considering Christ Episcopal Church as a place to call home. We look forward to meeting you and to welcoming you.

*We are ... well, complicated.*

Our congregation is predominately older, but we also are blessed with young families and a growing youth ministry. We have generous hearts and are willing to invest whole-heartedly in our congregation and community with a strong financial commitment as well as with time and service. Although this transition and these perilous months of pandemic have left us grieving, we have committed ourselves to healing. We are passionate about our commitment to move forward and to grow through prayer, study, and hard work.

This time of transition has strengthened our dedication to Christ Church. We are, perhaps, even more involved, using our passion constructively to serve God, our families, and our communities.

Our hope is that you will help us recognize our common ground, nurturing our gifts, and resolving and celebrating our differences. We look forward to a leader who will share our desire to be a catalyst for change and help us to unite through shared goals.





# PARISH *snapshot*

**576** Members in 2019

**585** Members in 2020

**157** 2019 average Sunday attendance

**151** 2020 average Sunday attendance

Our congregation did not offer online worship services before the pandemic, but we quickly upgraded our technology in our 1905-era building to livestream and record broadcasts.

**91** 2020 signed pledge cards

**\$525,252** 2020 plate offerings, pledge payments, and regular support

As the pandemic spread, so did our care and concern for others in our community:

**3,000** Food pantry, soup kitchen, or meal projects in 2019

**4,200** Food pantry, soup kitchen, or meal projects in 2019

**35** Support groups (bereavement, divorce, job loss, 12-step, etc.) 2020

Sustainable food garden/cooperative 2020: **150**

2019 clothes closet, thrift store: **900**

2020 clothes closet, thrift store: **1,200**

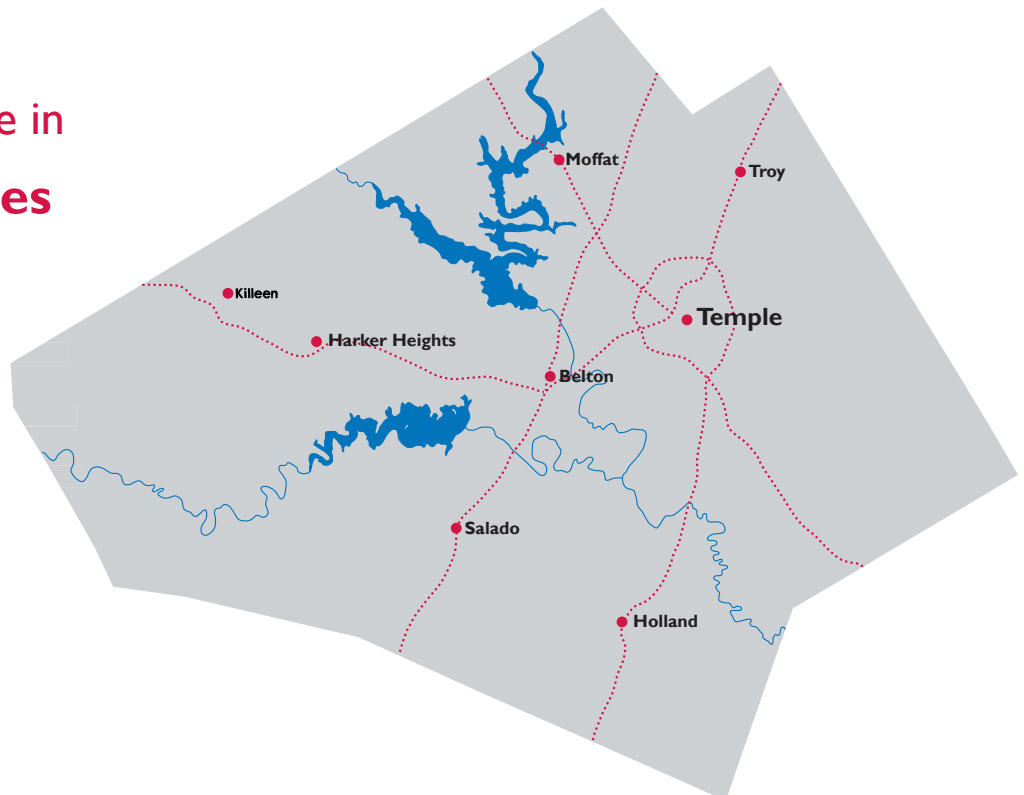
Overseas sponsorships (Honduras mission) 2019: **3,000**

Overseas sponsorships (Honduras mission) 2020: **3,500**

**177 households** live in

**17 different zip codes**

76501	76548
76502	76549
76503	76557
76504	76570
76513	76571
76522	76574
76524	76579
76528	76712
76542	







# **I 40 YEARS: A BRIEF HISTORY**



Temple is a crossroads city, built on the great 19<sup>th</sup>-century's transportation and industrial expansion. Christ Church's history reflects that history. Its strength was the influx of new faces, peoples and ideas into what was once an agrarian society.

The city was created by the Santa Fe Railway in 1881 and became a main division point for the Santa Fe and a key junction for the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railway by 1882. The Santa Fe encouraged establishment of churches by giving free land to denominations.

Founded in 1883 as a mission, Christ Church was among the first congregations established in Temple shortly after the city was founded. As Temple grew, so did the tiny Episcopal mission, which finally achieved self-supporting congregational status in 1902.

Parishioners immediately began fund-raising to erect its stately English-Gothic house of worship reflecting its Anglican roots. Donors from all faiths and backgrounds throughout Temple generously supported the construction, completed by 1905, when the first service was conducted.

Over the years, members of Christ Episcopal Church became known for benevolence and community involvement. For example, during the 1930s, Great Depression, Christ Episcopal in cooperation with other denominations took an active lead in assisting and operating food banks for the poor and unemployed.

During World War II, the church graciously opened its doors to servicemen from nearby Camp Hood (now Fort Hood). War-weary soldiers could get home-cooked meals, take showers or just relax. Additionally, many church members were actively involved as Red Cross volunteers or leading music therapy classes for wounded soldiers recovering at McCloskey Army General Hospital (now the Central Texas Veterans Health Care Center).

By the 1950s, when Temple and Bell County doubled in population, Christ Episcopal maintained active support to families and children by beginning a day school. Christ Church School operated from 1957 to 2018, when it closed because of increased competition from other private schools and changing economics. Even as the community grew, Christ Church remained committed to its Anglican roots with reverent worship, while maintaining an open door to people of diverse backgrounds.

Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Christ Church members rose to prominence in the community as mayors, state legislators, judges, district attorneys, artists, musicians, professors, military officers, physicians and business executives.



Church shortly after construction, 1905

*Over the years, members of Christ Episcopal Church became known for benevolence and community involvement.*



Interior, 1915



By the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the congregation committed itself to modernizing and additions, kicking off a decade-long undertaking to improve and restore its historic building and grounds. Our first “Living Stones” campaign included \$2.8 million for the nearly 15,000-square-foot addition of a new narthex, parish hall, library, kitchen, parlor, nursery, classrooms, choir room, office and administrative facilities, and columbarium, as well as upgrading and refurbishing the Church’s exterior. These additions were fully paid for by 2010.

Our second “Living Stones” campaign begun in 2010 included the restoration of the century-old sanctuary, a much needed project. Work began in spring 2011 and was completed by May 2012.

The new surroundings allow more than 300 people to gather for worship in a comfortable setting. The previous building design created blind spots for viewing. The new design gives everyone a direct view of the chancel. Renovations were faithful to the historical integrity of the original building while allowing us to add state-of-the-art technology.

The result is a lovely worship space that enhances sound and our music. Our recent Allen Renaissance three-manual digital organ faithfully reproduces a strong pipe organ sound, further enhancing the congregation’s long tradition of music excellence. The previous chancel design hindered special-needs individuals approaching the altar rails. The chancel now is accessible and easy to approach from all sides. The entire renovation of the 1905 building cost \$1.7 million, and we currently hold about less than \$700,000 in debt for this project. The parish also owns free and clear adjacent property for future development.

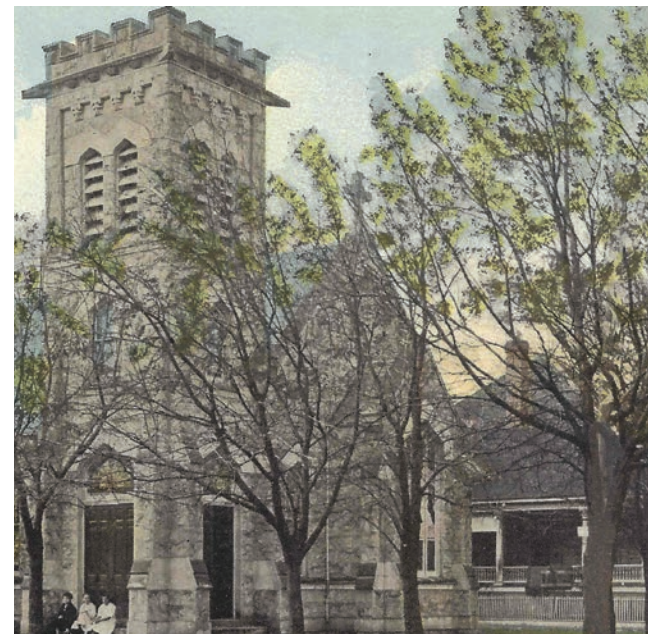
However, the church is more than bricks and mortar; it’s composed of members, all committed to our mission statement, “knowing Christ and making him known.”

We follow the example of our forefathers and foremothers who, nearly 140 years ago, worshipped God, appreciated our Anglican roots, served others and opened doors to people of all backgrounds.



Photo of rood screen, probably around 1925.

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# OUR SURVEYS TELL *the story*

*\* We regularly track online analytics, viewership, and in-person attendance.*

## **We're generous with our time and money.**

Our annual contributions are in the 79th percentile, far above the national average.

## **We're an older congregation.**

A total of 80 percent of us are aged 45 and older.

## **We're educated.**

The majority of our membership (85 percent) has college degrees and professional backgrounds.

## **We are a diverse congregation with great potential, generous hearts and concern for each other.**

We come here from many places and have many views. We are determined to see Christ Episcopal Church flourish in Central Texas and spread the love of Christ.

## **We are a destination church.**

More than three-fourths of us (77 percent) drive from five to more than 15 miles each Sunday to worship services. Our 177 communicant households come from 17 different ZIP codes, but they consider Christ Episcopal Church, Temple, their home church. The majority of parishioners live in Temple and Belton. This indicates our commitment and love for each other.

## **We are engaged despite our distances.**

Parishioners say they attend worship either the same amount or more than they did three years ago. Of respondents, 70 percent indicated they are more engaged and active in church-related activities beyond Sunday morning worship, which they find meaningful.



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## **We have many views theologically.**

Overall, we have a moderately conservative theological outlook, reflecting society as a whole.

## **We are ripe for renewal and redirection.**

We want to welcome new people and develop new relationships with them but we need direction. We want to grow and learn to be flexible to develop skills that open us up to newcomers.

## **We value congregation and spiritual unity.**

This difficult year and a half has been a time of renewal and has given us an opportunity to learn more about ourselves as we serve others. Our love of learning and our commitment to our mission are our key strengths as we walk in love to be the hands and feet of Christ in our communities. Most important, we believe that God and his grace will guide us.

## **We are committed through this time of transition and uncertainty.**

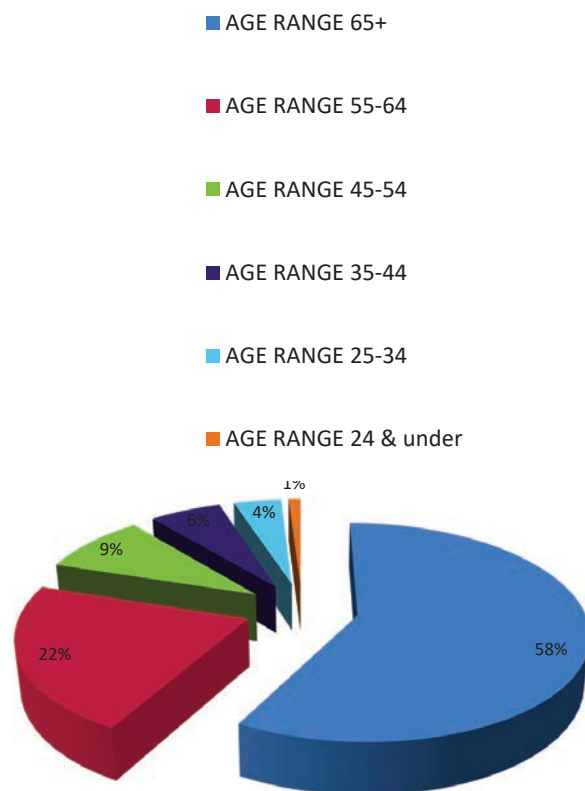
An overwhelming majority (95 percent) said they would continue their involvement in the church, and the same percentage said they would continue financial support through our transition. The majority (90 percent) indicate they will participate in or are seriously considering formation classes. Small group classes and studies experienced phenomenal growth during the pandemic, opening opportunities for more participation. Additionally, we see more people involved in all areas of ministry and outreach.

## **We are readying ourselves for new challenges.**

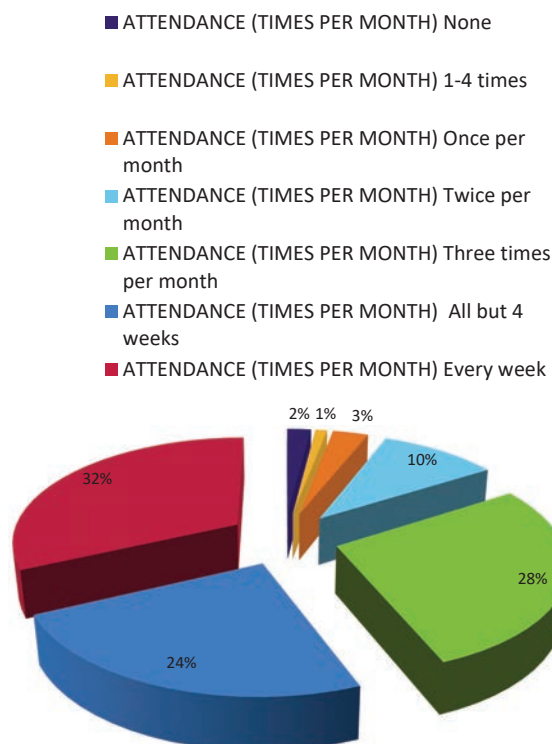
In this interim between rectors, we have been working on becoming a healthier, reconciled congregation – in mind and spirit. The good news is, with God's guidance, we have the will and the resources. Our survey also shows that we are ready to learn and listen to each other.

*We are ready to go wherever God leads us.*

## **Parishioner's Age Range (Based on 2019 Survey)**



## **Attendance (times per month)**







**WORSHIP:  
PRAISE, PRAYER,  
& PREACHING**



Worship is central to our lives, and Christ Church offers two Sunday morning services as well as a mid-week Eucharist. We value The Book of Common Prayer (1979 edition) as our source and guide.

Before the restrictions of Covid-19, we valued our times of worship together; once the quarantine began, we continued to be faithful in our worship as we sought new ways to gather online and in person.

Our congregation has had a long tradition of excellent music, and we rely on well-trained musicians in our congregation and from the community. The early Rite I service includes hymns and organ; the later Rite II service incorporates Choir, organ, piano and guitars. A service may include classical works by composers such as Bach or Handel to spirituals to contemporary praise songs. Instrumentalists are often added to enhance the worship, especially during High Holy Seasons. In all cases, congregational singing is robust and highly valued.

The church's youth are encouraged to participate in the service. In special times during the year, they are invited to lead the service, including delivering the homily.

Our church has a dedicated group of volunteers who serve at all services as Lay Readers, Chalice Bearers, and Lectors including Sundays at both services, Wednesday noon, funerals and during Lent for Friday Evening Prayer. Our Lay Readers are trained and meet as a group for retraining. Anyone in the congregation may join us if they feel a calling for this ministry.

Lectors also offer daily noonday prayers online through Facebook – a welcome break from daily busy-ness.

We are blessed with Christians of all ages who want to serve the Lord during worship services by participating in a wide variety of duties and responsibilities. The Altar Guild actively supports all aspects of our worship life – especially on Sundays and Wednesday Eucharist services. The faithful service of Guild members is essential to the life of our church.



*Once the quarantine began, we continued to be faithful in our worship as we sought new ways to gather online and in person.*







**FORMATION:  
LIFE-LONG  
LEARNING**



In response to our holy calling to spiritual growth and to grow in wisdom, Christ Church offers an array of programs, classes, and small groups to persons in all seasons of their lives.

We are a gathering of people who love to learn and who want to nurture a deep and honest faith.

### **Adult Forum**

Sunday Adult Forum class is a conversation about scripture, faith, and spirituality. We open ourselves to ideas and to each other as we deepen our relationship with God and our community.

**Adult Formation & Small Group Leaders** Formation leaders are volunteers who feel called to lead groups of adults. These leaders work with the priests to insure we have Sunday classes for adults, as well as offerings during the week. Small Group leaders are volunteers who feel called to lead groups of adults. These small groups can meet in homes or at the church. Women gather on Thursday mornings; Wednesday mornings before noonday Eucharist is devoted to lectionary studies. Lay-led small group studies continue four days a week via ZOOM.

### **Rector's Lectionary Study**

Members gather on Wednesday mornings before noonday Eucharist to study and discuss the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday.

### **Children & Youth Formation**

All who work with children and teens are specially trained and have completed Diocesan-mandated training. Our focus is to make Bible stories come alive for children and to help them recognize God's presence and care in their lives and families.



*We open ourselves to ideas and to each other as we deepen our relationship with God and our community.*





## Children's Chapel

Christ Church offered Children's Chapel during Sunday service up until October 2019. We were experiencing staffing issues because of volunteers' changing work schedules. Instead, children attending services were offered their own personal kiosk with quiet-time craft items, educational material about the day's gospel reading, crayons, stuffed toys and reading matter. The kiosk is restocked weekly.

When Children's was offered, facilitators lead the children out of the service to a classroom where they taught a child-friendly version of the gospel. They also provide a craft or activity about the day's gospel reading.

## Christian Formation

Children's Formation helps elementary-aged youngsters become aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives, explore their faith, gain religious language and enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play.

## Nursery Program

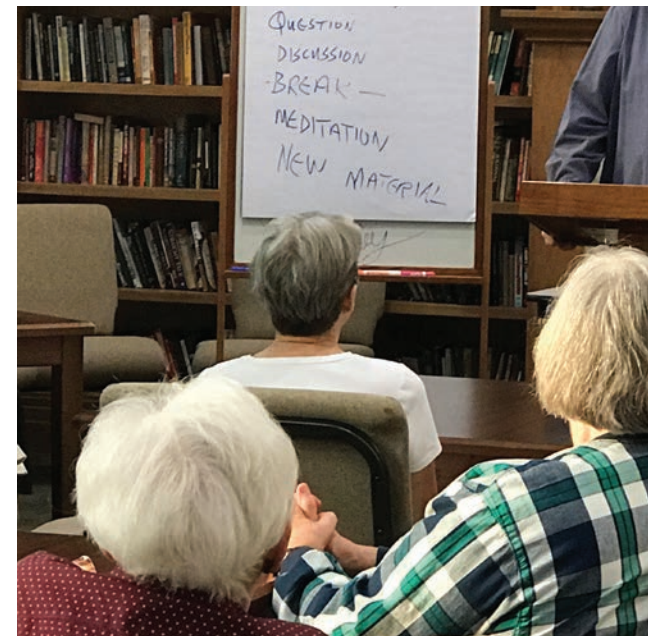
For children younger than 4, Christ Church offers a Nursery Program provided by specially trained teachers who interact with children as they play age-appropriate music and videos.

## Youth Group

Teens have their own group, led by parents and our deacon. Using a variety of online resources, teens stay in contact with each other and with the church, despite Covid-19 restrictions. They meet on Sundays for conversation, fellowship and faith. The Youth Group has taken a leadership role in fund-raisers for missions, helping with food ministries to the needy and with the summer backpack ministry. They also meet monthly for fun outings, recreation and more conversation.



*We are a gathering of people who love to learn and who want to nurture a deep and honest faith.*



# LETTER FROM *the youth*

The Christ Episcopal Church youth group has formed a close bond. Although most of us go to different schools and vary in age, we find common bonds, have fun together and genuinely care for each other. Over the last two years of youth group together we have enjoyed getting to know one another and the Church parishioners better during activities.

The Church and Vestry have encouraged and supported our youth group in so many ways. They guide us spiritually, support us in opportunities to help those around us in the community and are there to lift us up in our own projects and ideas.

Our time together on Sundays for small group is important for each of us. We enjoy each other's company and always have lots of laughs. Being able to get together outside of Church in a casual setting is also important to us. We always look forward to fun opportunities to go bowling, play Frisbee golf, go on a picnic or eat lunch with each other. The fact everyone is unique and genuine is what brings and keeps us together.

Here's a sample of our activities: <https://bit.ly/3ksETnf>

Our youth group also participated in the worship service on Aug. 9, 2020. Here is our service: <https://bit.ly/36t8WGt>

Our group welcomes working with community groups and other youth organizations. We joined forces in several community and church-sponsored projects together and look forward to future opportunities to grow our bond together in faith.

We look forward to making memories with our Church family and building relationships. Thank you for filling an essential part of our congregation. We look forward to getting to know you, growing deeper in our faith and walking alongside Christ.

Thank you,

*Christ Episcopal Church Youth Group*



*We joined forces in several community and church-sponsored projects together and look forward to future opportunities to grow our bond together in faith.*







**OUTREACH:  
LOVING OUR  
NEIGHBOR**



## Invite Welcome Connect

We have launched a new initiative to strengthen and expand our congregation by using the “Invite Welcome Connect” module. We are currently working to upgrade our sound and video production to improve our online services. The quarantine has opened new online presence for us that we are striving to enhance and expand.

## Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies is an opportunity for our congregation to provide a backpack full of school supplies to students in need in the Temple Independent School District. In 2020, despite the Covid-19 quarantine, Christ Church provided 112 backpacks chockfull with grade-appropriate school supplies. This was more than what we had originally committed to provide. Even in times of quarantine and economic insecurity, our congregation remains generous to others. Additionally, church members pledge to pray for each child throughout the school year.

## Feed My Sheep

Christ Church provides meals to the poor, homeless and disenfranchised. Christ Church cooks and serves 100 hot meals each month. This requires volunteers to shop, cook and serve at the local shelters. We also pack more than 100 sack lunches monthly that include sandwiches, snacks and fresh items.

## Campus Ministry

Christ Church is supporting the campus ministry at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton.

## Grab-A-Bag

When we are meeting together, parishioners bring sacks filled with non-perishables. Volunteers deliver them each month to the Salvation Army and to a homeless ministry.



*Covid-19 has not stopped our ministries because we know the dire needs in our community do not end with the quarantine.*





## Honduras Good Works

We have continued our partnership with Honduras Good Works ministry by participating in medical missions and fund-raising. This summer, our Youth Group was disappointed because the coronavirus forced cancellation of their mission trip to New Orleans. Instead, they raised funds for Honduras Good Works.

## Music to Help Others

Christ Church sponsors an ongoing series of benefit concerts to raise money for community charities. So far, the church has raised about \$15,000 to help the children's charities, homeless, food banks, medical clinics serving the poor. Local professional and semi-professional musicians have been generous with their support. Here's an example: <https://youtu.be/ju5spxHB6xs>

## Kyle Outreach

Christ Church sponsors activities and socials at a neighborhood low-income housing facility in the historic Kyle Hotel, one block from our campus. Some residents have been welcomed as new parishioners.

## Reading Buddies & Lunch Buddies

Reading Buddies commit one hour a week each semester to read to elementary students. Lunch Buddies have lunch with a couple of students every two weeks. These children are deemed high-risk by their teachers and in need of adult role models.

## Tuesday Solace

Christ Church partners with our sister congregation, St. Francis Episcopal Church, for Tuesday Solace, a free service supporting families affected by dementia and other health problems. Early stage Alzheimer's patients participant in a safe and structured program of hymns, a devotional, chair exercises, refreshments, entertainment or crafts, and games.



*By sponsoring concerts, fund-raising and creative activities, Christ Church generates support and care for the sick, hungry and homeless of our area.*



## Unincluded Club

Christ Church partners with the Unincluded Club, a non-profit organization that provides literacy, urban agriculture, and leadership programs for the Temple underserved youth.

## Opening doors to the community

In addition, Christ Church has opened its doors to community groups who use our building. The area Girl Scout troops and a creative writing group regularly meet here. The Academie Musique, a preparatory music academy, rents our vacant, former school building for classrooms and studios. The Academie also uses our Parish Hall for concerts. Our Parish Hall has also hosted luncheons for civic and social organizations.

## Racial Justice Initiative and Planning

With the events and impact of racial awareness, Christ Church has established an incubation group to prayerfully advise and lead as we find a way to become a Beloved Community.

We are taking advantage of publications and initiatives recommended by the Episcopal Church. In addition, we continue to rely and build on a relationship with the Unincluded Club (which is enhanced with the help of the Diocese of Texas' Episcopal Health Foundation) and others who sense a calling towards healing, specifically in the area of racial consideration in the greater Temple area.

The emphasis is on care for the Body of Christ, treating each other with respect, and acknowledging our dependence on each other.



*The emphasis is on care for the Body of Christ, treating each other with respect, and acknowledging our dependence on each other.*







**PARISH LIFE:  
WE ARE FAMILY**



We offer many opportunities for members and visitors to gather together to enjoy time together. We strive to work together, in the spirit of unity, guided by the Holy Spirit -- Rector, Deacon, lay ministry leaders, laity/church members and with the Holy Spirit.

We represent all ages and wide range of lifestyles; we have found strength and support by working together and learning more about each other.

### **E-Men (Episcopal Men) Breakfast & Social**

The E-men's group is an informal lay ministry of Christ Church. They meet for breakfast and Bible study. They also meet socially each month. E-men may be called on to help with the more labor intensive projects around the parish or to meet any special needs of parishioners.

### **Parish Life Committee**

The Parish Life Ministry committee organizes receptions for confirmations, baptisms, ordinations, and other celebrations requested by the rector. These may include parish retreats, Dinners and other fellowship activities throughout the year.

### **Sunday mornings**

Parishioners enjoy breakfast in the parish hall on Sunday mornings during formation. After services, worshippers are encouraged to linger, drink coffee and visit. These Sunday informal gatherings have become an ideal way to connect with newcomers and visitors.

### **Quarterly gatherings**

Where two or more Episcopalians gather, we're going to celebrate. These times for fellowship may include Shrove Tuesday Cajun Fest, Advent St. Nicolas Market, Easter brunch, picnics, and pot luck suppers.

### **Gardening Angels**

Volunteers assist the groundskeeper with planting, weeding and maintaining the flowerbeds and gardens.

### **Office Volunteers**

Volunteer greet and assist visitors and parishioners, answer phones, prepare bulletins, and perform other light office work duties.



*Cooperative, intergenerational fellowship is an important component to our lives at Christ Church.*





## Christ Church Caring

Christ Church Caring is a comprehensive ministry involving specially trained Shepherds who are partners with clergy to provide care. Others, such as meal and transportation volunteers, work with the Clergy and Shepherds to help parishioners receive the care they need. In order for this ministry to be successful, specially trained volunteers are called upon as a need arises. Ministries that are offered through Christ Church Caring are:

- Short-term meal preparation and delivery.
- Short-term transportation.
- Eucharistic Visitors: We take Communion to those who cannot attend service.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry: We create prayer shawls to bless those who could use a physical reminder that they are loved and prayed for.
- Card ministry: Volunteers mail cards to parishioners celebrating happy times and offering comfort in troubled times.
- Reaching out to home-bound: Shepherds call to check on home-bound parishioners and/or their caregivers.
- Celebration of Life: The Celebration of Life Team provides comfort to bereaved families. The team works together with the family to provide a reception for a funeral or memorial service.

## Daughters of the King

The faithfulness of the Order of the Daughters of the King reflects the health and stability of our congregation. The Daughters are essential partners in our overall Pastoral Care program. This is a community of women who have made a lifelong commitment to a program of prayer, service and personal evangelism. A recent project was preparing Blessing Bags with basic necessities to be given to those in crisis. Daughters of the King are essential partners in our Pastoral Care Program by “praying without ceasing” for those in need.

## Intercessory Prayer

In addition to the Daughters of the King and the Pastoral Care program, Christ Church offers Intercessory Prayer each Sunday during Communion when we gather in person for worship. Persons who choose to pray with a member of the congregation are needed. Requirements are the ability to listen to the needs of the person requesting prayer, the willingness to let God speak through you and the integrity to maintain confidentiality.



*Christ Church Caring is a comprehensive ministry involving specially trained Shepherds who are partners with clergy to provide care.*







**TOGETHER APART:  
OUR ONLINE  
CONNECTIONS**



Christ Church members and professional staff continue to shuffle their schedules and shifted their priorities during the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting quarantine and other measures.

Through it all, one important fact withstood the vicissitudes of the pandemic: While the doors are closed, the church remains open, working, and serving.

We were able to shift quickly from in-person worship to broadcasting services online once the quarantine began. As restrictions eased, we began offering a 9 a.m. online service and a 10:30 a.m. in-person outdoor service that followed guidelines for face masks and safe distances.

YouTube and ZOOM have become important partners in the life and liturgy of our congregation. We have been working diligently to upgrade our software and hardware to meet these challenges. Of course, we have experienced the usual technical glitches along the way, but overall response and participation have been strong despite the speed bumps.

The Covid-19 crisis brings us to the reality that we have two campuses -- our Virtual Online Community and our community that meets in person on North Main Street. We are certain that, even when the crisis ends, we will continue to enhance and expand our online presence.

As we retool and refocus through these difficult months, we now offer ways to stay in touch:

- Broadcasting Sunday services, daily noonday prayers and Wednesday services.
- Active presence on Facebook.
- Updated website with links to services and classes.
- Formation classes on Sundays and during the week on ZOOM.
- Vestry and other committees also meet on ZOOM.



*Through it all, one important fact withstood the vicissitudes of the Covid-19 pandemic: While the doors are closed, the church remains open, working, and serving.*



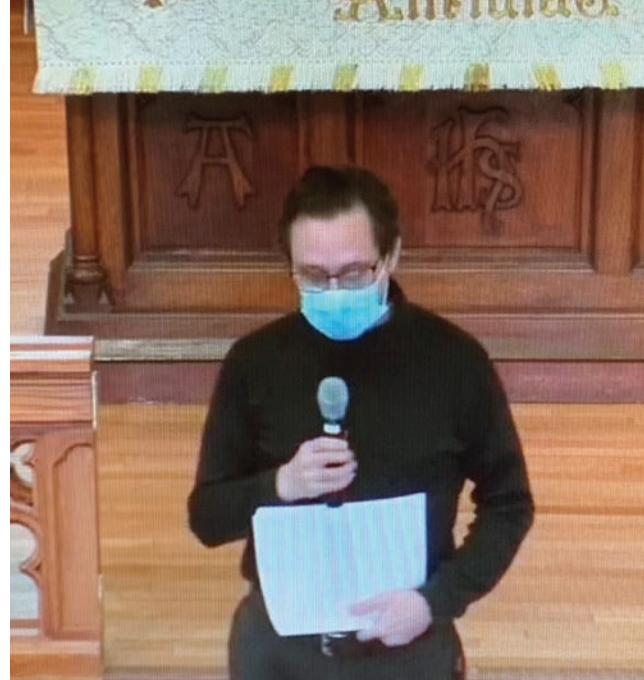
“Old-fashioned” technology isn’t forgotten, either. Our Pastoral Care Shepherd teams make frequent telephone calls to all parishioners to stay in touch and assure members we are still active. At the beginning of the Covid-19 quarantine, we distributed “Lent in a Bag,” filled with educational material and resources developed by Virginia Theological Seminary. This proved so popular, we expanded the service to each quarter and keyed to the liturgical year. “Advent in a Bag” includes special devotional booklets with short essays written by parishioners and produced in-house by the communications director. The devotional booklets during Lent and Advent have been well-received by parishioners and a means for parishioners to get to know each other.

Our online analytics remain strong, even as the quarantine continues. We stay in touch with the congregation with frequent emails, providing updates and news about the congregation. To entice people to open and read, we sneak in weekly “Easter Eggs” with cartoons, amusing videos or inspirational music.

In the early months of the Covid-19 quarantine and continuing during the summer months, we offered on Zoom we offered “Sunday Afternoon at the Movies.” Participants watch a movie online, then linked up on Zoom to discuss it.

As some quarantine restrictions eased, we scheduled “Meet-ups with Masks” in the parking lot. Members wear masks and stay apart in safe distances while they are able to talk and visit.

Most beneficial has been the online giving feature on all church communications and videos. This has allowed the congregation to keep their pledges current during this time. Online giving has also been expanded to other aspects of the congregational life, such as “Music to Help Others” benefit concerts and youth projects.



*As we retool and refocus through these difficult months, we now offer ways to stay in touch.*







**THINGS WE LOVE  
ABOUT LIVING IN  
BELL COUNTY**



Located in the heart of Central Texas and the population center of Texas, Bell County offers a little bit of everything: small town charm, big-city amenities, natural beauty, and opportunities to learn and serve others. It has a diversified economy, balanced by agriculture and agribusiness, healthcare, biotechnology, transportation and federal government -- all providing economic stability, even in challenging times. Here are just a few reasons why we moved here and made it our home:

### **Downtown offers activities**

Christ Episcopal Church is an anchor of faith and worship in downtown Temple, which in 2018 was named a historic Main Street community by the Texas Historical Commission. The landmark 1910 Santa Fe Railway Depot in downtown Temple is the centerpiece of an urban revitalization program currently underway within just blocks from Christ Episcopal Church. Just a short walk from the church building, downtown Temple has peaceful urban oasis with gardens, plaza with fountains, performance stage and walking trails.

The active Amtrak station serves more than 15,300 passengers annually. Nearby is a playground, recreation area with tables, pavilion and a pond. Historic buildings nearby are being transformed into new eateries, brew pubs, luxury living quarters and boutiques. During weekdays, the downtown is filled with office workers; on weekends, people come from throughout the county to eat in its restaurants, to shop and to enjoy the historic setting. The plaza feeds into the Santa Fe Market Trail following along the railroad tracks to the MLK Festival Grounds.

### **Our creativity flows**

Bell County is known for its arts and cultural opportunities. The three-story Temple Public Library is an anchoring linchpin to Temple's downtown and just two blocks from Christ Episcopal Church. It offers a busy schedule of programs, children's reading and story-telling events, literacy tutoring and meeting spaces for civic groups.

Azalee Marshall Cultural Activities Center, the state's oldest multi-disciplinary arts organization in Texas, offers performances ranging from classical music to Austin-based singer/songwriters to ballet to a trio of visual arts gallery to painting and ceramics classes – all under one roof.



*Located in the heart of Central Texas and the population center of Texas, Bell County offers a little bit of everything.*





Temple Civic Theatre, marking more than a half century of live stage performances, features local thespians in musicals and dramas.

The Sammons Community Center welcomes adults and seniors with daily opportunities to socialize, exercise and learn. The center boasts an indoor pool, golf course, classes, billiards, card games, computer lab and opportunities to socialize.

Temple Symphony Orchestra is a professional orchestra with a varied season of classical and light classical music, including opera and choral performances.

The Temple-Belton-Salado area also provides educational opportunities in local history:

The Temple Railroad & Heritage Museum, located in the 1910 Santa Fe Depot, sponsors family fun weekends, railroad trips and historic exhibits about Bell County's significant rail history.

Temple Children's Museum in downtown Temple provides exhibits and hands-on learning fun for children ages 8 and younger and their caregivers.

Czech Heritage Museum and Genealogy Center displays artifacts sharing the rich influences of Central Texas' Czech culture. The museum sponsors polka concerts and Czech movie nights.

The Bell County Museum in Belton schedules frequent guest speakers and exhibits spanning two hundred years of local history. It also provides children's activities that include science, math, archeology, geology and anthropology.

Salado Museum and College Park tells the pioneer history and cultural diversity of Central Texas. College Park is the site of the ruins of the historic Salado College.

## **We have places to wander**

Temple extensive parks and recreation programs for a city its size. Anchors are six community parks in different areas that include a water park featuring "lazy river" ride, three-story water slides, splash zone and pad, deep water-pool, aqua climbing wall; two neighborhood outdoor pools; indoor recreational pool; four splash pads; 14 neighborhood parks; downtown playground and all-access picnic pavilion; skate park for skateboards, roller-blades and bikes; all access-playground for special needs children; dog park. The park in West Temple has more than dozen fields allowing more than dozen teams playing at once, baseball and softball fields, soccer fields, a disc golf course and tennis courts. Twelve undeveloped sites are earmarked for future use.



*Temple has numerous recreational opportunities: professional symphony, live performances, art center, museums and extensive parks system.*



## Food, festivals, and family fun

Temple's Parks and Recreation Department generates fun and festivities all year long through special events. The Bloomin' Temple Festival features three days of carnival rides, vendors, live music and family activities. The Christmas Parade, the city's official kickoff to the holidays, winds just two blocks from Christ Episcopal Church. The Fourth of July Fun Fest is a free music and fireworks extravaganza.

Temple is a Main Street Community, part of a statewide project "to provide technical expertise, resources and support for Texas communities in the preservation and revitalization of historic downtowns and commercial neighborhood districts." Christ Church is located in this Main Street improvement project. Thanks to a massive renovation and urban renewal push, downtown Temple hosts First Fridays, a monthly street festival featuring vendors, artisan booths, food trucks, indoor and outdoor music and shopping. Downtown Belton clears the downtown traffic for Belton Market Days on the third Saturdays.

Locally grown produce is available each week in farmers' markets in Temple, Belton, Rogers and Salado.

Sam Farrow Amphitheatre at Temple's Lions Park offers free outdoor concerts during the summer. The audience brings blankets and lawn chairs for an evening of entertaining music.

Salado's Wildflower Arts & Crafts Festival, which includes the Wine & Rogue Art Fest, Wildflower Art Festival, Spring Pub Crawl & Edgy Art Show, are all part of this two-day and one-night event. Tablerock's Gospel Festival attracts top gospel performers from throughout the state.

The Belton Fourth of July Parade and PRCA Rodeo is among the state's oldest continuous celebrations attracting tens of thousands from throughout the Southwest.

Czech Dance Halls are dotted throughout east Bell County offering family fun of dancing and music. You don't have to be Czech to enjoy them. These family-friendly halls are where you can expect to see deftly executed Texas two-steps, cotton-eyed Joes, and "put your little foot."



*The Belton Fourth of July Parade and PRCA Rodeo are among the state's oldest continuous celebrations attracting tens of thousands from throughout the Southwest.*





## Diversity works for us

Connectivity and proximity to major markets go a long way in a region 2.5 hours from 28 million people. Bustling interstates, rail systems and five airports streamline deliveries from this area. Bell County has a diverse and ever-growing workforce. College graduates, trained specialists and veterans provide the expertise relied on by bioscience innovators, manufacturers, STEM fields, logistics leaders and more.

**Transportation:** Capitalizing on its central location along Interstate 35, nicknamed “the spine of Texas,” Temple is a major hub for transportation, grocery distribution, logistics and infrastructure networks. The BNSF Railway, a major employer, also operates an active hub.

**Manufacturing:** Manufacturing and bottling plants are an important linchpin in Temple-Belton’s economic stability. Temple is also the global headquarters of WilsonArt, the world’s leading laminate manufacturer. With a 28 percent increase in manufacturing employment between 2010 and 2020, above the national average of 21 percent, Temple’s manufacturing industry continues to expand.

**Bioscience:** The Temple Health and Bioscience District provides office and lab space for early-stage biotech companies that are taking health-related products from conception to manufacturing. It attracts top-notch researchers, sciences and engineers in a collaborative system designed to create innovative solutions to current issues.

**Active and retired military:** Located in West Bell County is Fort Hood, the Army’s premier installation to train and deploy heavy forces. Comprising nearly 215,000-acres, Fort Hood is the nation’s only post capable of stationing and training two armored divisions. Currently, nearly 65,000 soldiers and family members make their home here. Thousands of retirees choose to stay in this area after they leave the military. Christ Church continues to benefit from their expertise and leadership.



*This area thrives on transportation with interstates, rail systems and five airports streamlining deliveries to and from Bell County.*



## Education's our foundation

The immediate Temple area is served by three independent school districts – Temple, Belton, and Academy. Salado, Rogers, and Troy are nearby.

Temple Independent School District, a 6-A school district with more than 8,700 students, is expected to grow to more than 10,000 within the next eight years. The school excels in advanced academics, including international baccalaureate diplomas; fine arts and award-winning theatre training; championship athletics as well as career and technical programs such as cosmetology and food services certifications. More than 200 National Merit Scholar Award Winners have graduated from Temple High School; students have exceeded state and national SAT/ACT averages for more than 15 consecutive years.

One of the fastest growing districts in Texas, the Belton Independent School District likewise is expanding with a second new high school and an elementary school. Belton Independent School District currently serves more than 12,200 students on 16 campuses, with two new schools scheduled to open in fall 2020.

Recognized as a national leader among community colleges, Temple College is a comprehensive community college offering an array of educational opportunities from degree programs to vocational training, certifications and continuing education. Temple College is nationally recognized for excellence in its programs from the visual and performing arts to competitive athletics, and has become one of the premiere institutions in the state for education and training of health-care providers. The college in partnership with Texas A&M Central Texas can now offer baccalaureate degrees in certain subjects.

Other educational offerings: Depending on where a family chooses to live in the Temple-Belton area, parents may send their children to schools in the independent school districts of Temple, Belton, Troy, Rogers, Academy, or Salado. The Temple area has several highly ranked private schools, such as Holy Trinity Catholic High School, St. Mary's Catholic School, Central Texas Christian, and several charter schools.

Additionally, many districts allow high school students to earn dual college credit, giving them an extra boost in their education.



*The immediate Temple area is served by three independent school districts.*





Besides the universities, the Temple-Belton area offers many adult education and continuing education opportunities. Temple's community centers offer programs and classes for all ages – school children to grandparents. Classes are varied from wellness to computer literacy to art to yoga to tai chi to creative writing. The city also manages several other community centers available for private gatherings, civic club meetings and classes.

Central Texas College, about 30 miles away in Killeen, is a public, open-admission community college offering associate degrees and certificate programs in academic, professional and career and technical fields.

Texas A&M University-Central Texas, established in 2009 with central campus in Killeen, is part of The Texas A&M University System, one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation.

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, chartered in 1845 by the Republic of Texas, is the oldest continuously operating college in the state with deep historical roots in the Baptist Church. The university emphasizes training educators, nurses, business leaders and missionaries.

The Texas A&M University Health Science Center encompasses five colleges that work together to improve health through transformative education, innovative research and team-based health care delivery. The A&M College of Medicine campus in Temple offers training through Baylor Scott & White, Darnall Army Medical Center at Fort Hood and the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System in Temple. Temple is the home of numerous medical residencies and fellowship training programs covering all major specialties.

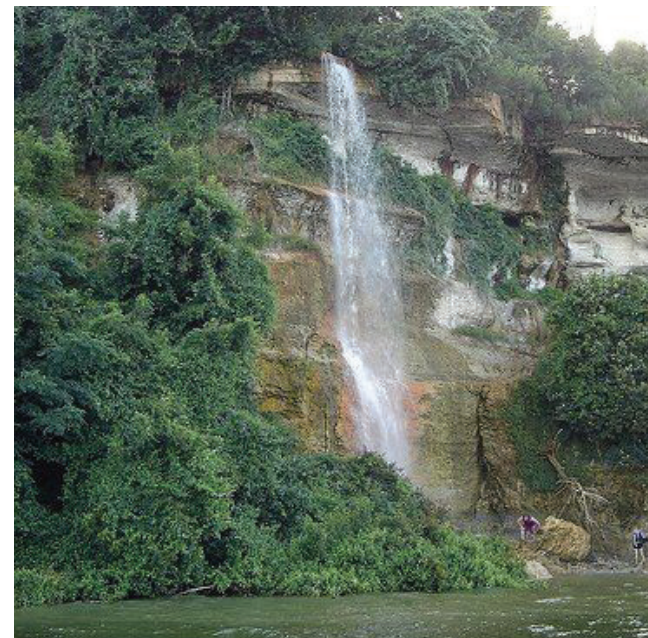
### **We have fresh air and a place to splash**

Bell County is blessed with a healthy balance of rural, open areas for outdoor recreation as well as city amenities and neighborhoods.

Lake Belton and Stillhouse Lake are ideal spots for boating and fishing. The 12,000 -acre Lake Belton features 16 parks operated by the Corps of Engineers with campsites, boat ramps and hiking trails. The lake also has three marinas. Stillhouse Lake, with its 6,500 acres has marina and fuel dock. Both lakes are ideal recreational spots and offer the best fishing, camping and boating in Central Texas.



*Besides the universities, the Temple-Belton area offers many adult education and continuing education opportunities.*



Temple is developing a 30-acre botanic garden at Bend O' the River for recreation, education and research. Miller Springs Nature Center is a 260-acre pristine natural area located between the Leon River and the 110-foot bluffs. The natural preserve is open for self-guided walks. Chalkridge Falls along the Lampasas River features hiking trails, kayaking, a suspension bridge and waterfalls.

The city also operates a Tree Farm, home to about 1,200 plants of various species that are given away free to anyone who will plant them. Walking trails crisscross throughout the city connecting neighborhoods, major employers and recreation areas.

The Bell County Master Gardeners Association volunteers with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in providing research-based horticultural education and service. Members work to improve community gardening skills throughout the community and train other volunteers through its Master Gardener program. They conduct youth and community education and establish and maintain demonstration gardens,

### **We're smack-dab in the middle of everything**

When we say "Central Texas," we really mean Central. Bell County is the population center of Texas, according to the U.S. Census. A brass plaque marks the exact spot in a wooded area southeast of Belton. Temple, Belton, and Salado are located right on Interstate 35. This quick accessibility means that it's about two-and-a-half hour drive to San Antonio, Dallas, or Fort Worth and about three hours from Houston. Austin, the Music Capital of Texas, is 90 minutes away.

Because of its central location, Bell County and Temple have been primarily Texas' key crossroads for more than 170 years. Even in prehistoric times, migratory Native Tribes from all regions would converge here to trade and share before moving on.

That convergence is evident in the faith groups located here. Temple-Belton-Salado is blessed with a wide variety of Christian denominations. Temple also has the only Hindu temple between Austin and Dallas; it also has a mosque, Baha'i fellowship, and Unitarian Universalist congregation, among other groups. These fellowships work together with Christian churches in community charities serving the poor and disenfranchised, such as food banks, meal kitchens, homeless shelters and free medical clinics.



*Walking trails crisscross throughout the city connecting Temple neighborhoods, major employers and recreation areas.*





## We are grateful for health care

For more nearly 125 years, Temple has been known as “the hospital center of the South,” attracting millions from throughout Texas and the nation to come to Temple for world-renown care. Baylor Scott & White Health is the largest not-for-profit health care system in Texas and among the top five in the nation. Baylor Scott & White offers everything from primary care in all specialties, cardiac and cancer treatment centers, transplants and Level I trauma center.

Baylor Scott & White McLane Children’s Center offers comprehensive pediatric primary and specialty services and equipment as well as a surgery, intensive care and pediatric emergency department. Young patients are also treated by teams of health-care professional certified in their pediatric fields.

The Central Texas Veterans Health Care System is a Level 1-A facility serving veterans in 39 counties in Central Texas. The main campus in Temple is a full-service, 90-bed teaching hospital that serves as the medical/surgical referral center for all veterans; centers as well as providing outpatient services to veterans across the 39-county service area. Also located at the Temple Campus is a 187-bed domiciliary, a 70-bed community living center which includes a hospice unit.

Other medical centers: Bell County is also served by Seton Medical Center, 83-bed acute care hospital in Harker Heights, and AdventHealth Central Texas Medical Center in Killeen with 148 beds in and a behavioral health unit licensed for 60 beds.

## Welcome to all

Temple and its Central Texas sister cities thrive on a constant flow of newcomers – military, veterans, health care professionals, teachers, business executives, transportation/logistics specialists, as well as retirees. We came here because of the area’s fresh air, opportunities for enrichment, good jobs, and opportunities to serve others. We like it here because of everything this area offers.

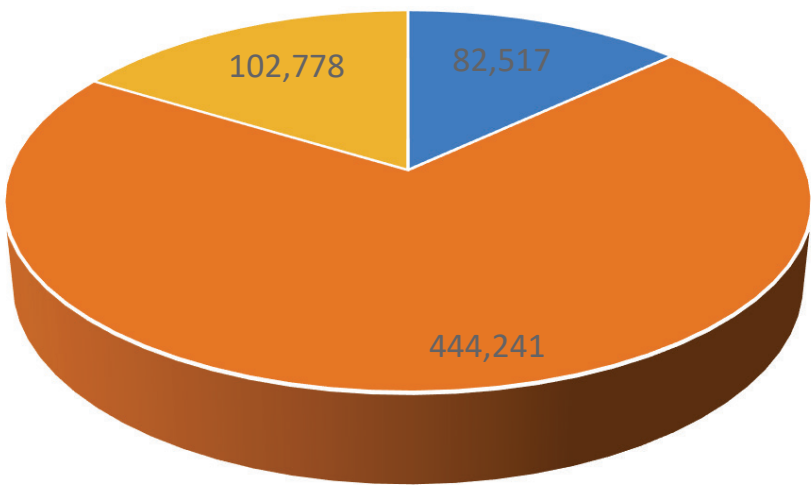
The only thing we can add: *Welcome home.*



*For more nearly 125 years,  
Temple has been known  
as “the hospital center of  
the South.”*



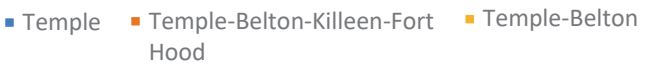
# BELL COUNTY *numbers*



**Bell County Population**  
(2020 estimate)

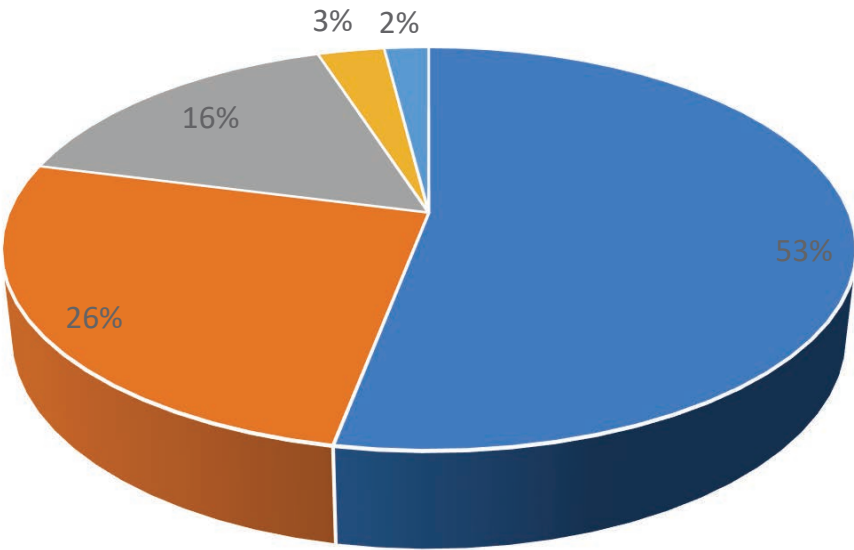
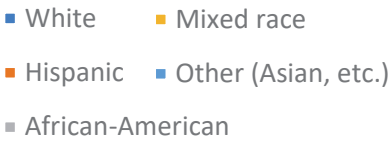
Temple	82,517
Temple-Belton-Killeen-Fort Hood	444,241
Temple-Belton	102,778

Temple decade increase 17 percent



## Temple Demographics

White	53%
Hispanic	26%
African-American	16%
Mixed race	3%
Other (Asian, etc.)	2%



**82,517**  
2019 Population

**17%**  
Population Increase  
(Over 10 Years)

**34.6**  
Median Age

**17.6 M**  
People Within  
180 Miles

**\$58K**  
2019 Average  
Earnings

**\$15.56**  
Median Hourly  
Wage



# FINANCIAL *numbers*

OPERATING FUND	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
<b>GIVING INFORMATION</b>		
Number of Pledges	117	92
Total \$ Pledged	531,146	488,954
<b>REPORT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES</b>		
Operating Plate Income	9,515	8,000
Regular (Unpledged) Giving	16,377	16,000
Operating Pledge Income	485,025	488,954
Other Revenues	68,210	64,872
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>579,127</b>	<b>577,826</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Outreach	48,411	53,326
Payroll and Benefits	246,846	259,514
Professional Expense	69,474	62,198
Program Expense	73,039	75,786
Property Expense	131,120	124,860
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>568,890</b>	<b>575,684</b>
<b>NET REVENUE LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>10,237</b>	<b>2,142</b>
<b>CASH AND INVESTMENT ASSETS AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2020</b>		
Cash in Checking Account		<b>115,286</b>
PECC Participating Fund Investment Account		<b>407,014</b>
<b>SHORT-TERM LOAN BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2020</b>		<b>3,900</b>
<b>MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2020</b>		<b>675,000</b>

A person is seen from the side, looking out a window at lush green foliage. To the right, a bookshelf holds several books, including one with a rainbow cover. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting daytime.

**We look forward with hopeful anticipation as we seek a rector —a shepherd — who can help us grow into the church God intends for us to be.**





# WE LOOK TO THE *the future*

God planted this church here in this town nearly 140 years ago. Here is where we set our roots and flourished. While other nearby churches moved away from downtown and into suburban neighborhoods, we chose to remain in our historic location in a sacred space amid an ever-evolving landscape of downtown Temple, Texas.

The Good Shepherd window that was installed in our chancel in 1905 reminds us constantly that we must minister to each other and to those beyond our walls.

We look to the future of Christ Episcopal Church. We look forward with hopeful anticipation as we seek a rector—a shepherd—who can help us grow into the church God intends for us to be.

*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve.... -- 1 Peter 5:2*

We seek a rector who will nurture us, teach us, and guide us. We want to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God right here where we have been planted.



*Our mission is to know  
Christ through prayer and  
diligent study, and to make  
him known through love  
and service.*







# CHRIST CHURCH

An Episcopal Parish Since 1883

300 N. Main  
Temple TX 76501  
254.773.1657  
[christchurchtemple.org](http://christchurchtemple.org)

CHRIST  
EPISCOPA  
CHURCH