

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**THE CHURCH
OF THE CROSS**

**ROOTED IN THE PAST
SHELTERING THE PRESENT
REACHING OUT TO THE FUTURE
EMPOWERED BY THE GOD OF THE AGES**



From the Rector, Father Chuck Owens

Thank You!

“Thank you” to the faithful folks who were members of this parish before I became its Rector in 1996 and who continue to inspire us with their commitment to the Lord – we are standing on their shoulders and the shoulders of their predecessors in this holy place.

“Thank you” for faithfully attending worship services on our Historic Campus and Cross Schools Campus and for your participation in the Christian education offerings during the week.

“Thank you” to those who have embraced an appropriate sense of urgency for our efforts to reach unbelievers, nominal believers, and mature Christians of all ages, in southern Beaufort and Jasper Counties and beyond.

“Thank you” to the many parishioners who have assumed leadership and followship roles in the increasing number of programs equipping our saints to minister to each other and others in the Lord’s name.

“Thank you” to the members of our Vestry for their commitment to personal Spiritual growth and for their willingness to spend countless hours discerning and implementing God’s will for our parish in this dynamic time.

“Thank you” to the large and growing number of families and individuals who have made and honored pledges of their time, talent and treasure to support God’s Kingdom building work in and through this parish.

“Thank you” to those who are quietly going about the serious business of praying for hearts and minds to be open to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and who are inviting others to “come and see” what God is doing in our midst.

“Thank you” to the parents, teachers, staff and trustees of Cross Schools for their splendid efforts to partner with this parish in the spread of the Gospel.



“Thank you” to the folks who serve tirelessly at God’s Goods to generate funding, and to the many who made these global efforts to strengthen Anglicanism so productive and meaningful for us and them.

“Thank you” to Pastors Jonathan Riddle, Nathan Weaver, Tom Hendrickson, Andy Nix and John Ring for their leadership in this parish and for their efforts to help us step boldly into God’s new tomorrow.

“Thank you” to the excellent staff of folks and office volunteers for all they have done and continue to do to support our witness to the world.

“Thank you” to the volunteers who work to make our ongoing ministries so dependable and successful: Acolytes, Altar Guild, American Heritage Girls, Care Ministry Team/Cross Christian Counseling Center, Caring Hearts, Christmas Market Crafters, Convention Delegates, Cross Visiting Care Team, CrossPoint Communion Teams, Crossroads Bible Studies, Cross Christian Women, Cross Kids, Cross Schools, Cursillo, Daughters of the Holy Cross, Dinner Ministry, Docent Ministry, Finance Committee, Financial Counseling Ministry, Flower Guild, Food Bank Teams, Funeral Team, God’s Goods Team, Gracetime Servers, Greeter Ministry, Handyman Ministry, Healing After Loss, Healing Prayer Ministry, High School Youth Group, Historical Committee, Hospitality Teams, Intercessory Prayer, Kairos, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Readers Ministry, Men of the Cross, Men’s and Women’s Bible Studies, Middle School Youth Group, Military Care Ministry, Missions Outreach Board, Mom’s Ministry, Music Ministries, Nursery Ministry, Operation Christmas Child, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Safety Teams, Salvation Shuttle Ministry, Samaritan’s Purse, Stephen Ministry, Technology Ministry, Usher Ministries, VBS Team, Wedding Guild, Wednesday Night Supper Team and those whose efforts on God’s behalf are known only to Him.

And for the privilege of serving our Lord and His people at The Church of the Cross I humbly say, **“Thanks be to God!”**

In His Power and for His Glory,

The Very Rev. Dr. Charles E. Owens III



Father Jonathan Riddle's Report

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

This past year I have continued to teach and preach on both campuses. Once again I had the great privilege of presenting a seven-week series on the *Life & Works of C.S. Lewis*. I also taught a meaningful series in March called *God of Wonders*, exploring what the scripture teach us about all of God's creation.

As we move into this new church year, continue to keep Lisa and our family in your prayers as we manage the life of six children and all the challenges of ministry. Our hope is get a Young Adults Ministry off the ground and to have an impact on the younger generation of our community.

Currently we have two in college. Our oldest daughter Rachel is a second year at Anderson University, and son Will is moving into his senior year in the aeronautics program at Charleston Southern. Lord willing he will one day become a commercial pilot working for a major airline. (Which I think is hilarious considering I have a fear of flying!) Thank you for your continued prayers for our oldest son Sam; with his military career on hold, he'll be attending Law School this Fall. Our other three children, ages 14, 12, & 8, still make our house noisy enough to keep life always a little crazy. I am continually reminded that our lives are in God's hands, as they have always been.

Thank you for being an amazing congregation.

Continue to glorify God and enjoy Him forever!

The Rev. Jonathan H. Riddle

Father Nathan Weaver's Report

Please click on the video below to watch Father Weaver's report.





2022 Senior Warden's Report

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Eph. 5:21, NIV)

Grace and peace from your Vestry,
*Rod Musselman, Joanne Byrd, Michael Simon, Sallie Brach, Doug Barone, Stew Brown
and Tom Durston*

The Vestry is now composed of eight members following a rewrite of TCOTC bylaws. The Parish is still feeling the lingering influence of the Covid Variants. However, our pew attendance is up 67% over last year, and Church membership continues to grow significantly. Streaming of worship and teachings is reaching 8 states and 15 countries. Weekend worship is viewed remotely by 200-300 each week. Our website is visited by at least 200/day, half of whom are first-timers. Your donations and tithes are meeting our budget categories. Thank you!

With the litigation involving The Episcopal Church ending in a favorable settlement for TCOTC, we have had the freedom to sell some Calhoun Street properties, allowing us to retire debt. Significant administrative and clergy personnel activity has taken place. With our growth, 50+ ministries and new responsibilities, administrative personnel now number more than 30+ full and part-time individuals. Fr. Josh Lake resigned to pursue church-planting in Georgia; a replacement for him is being sought. Pastor Nathan Weaver became Fr. Nathan Weaver in July. Plans for the Cross Christian Counseling Center have come to reality with Director Andy Nix, Lauren Weaver and Caitlin Fisher having offices in the Clergy House.

Our responsibilities to Cross Schools are evident. The Vestry has seating on the CS Board of Trustees. TCOTC is providing the Faith Formation faculty and curriculum for the school, under the direction of Fr. Weaver. As a Parish we are committed to the success of Cross Schools in developing well-educated Christian students. Also to that end, a National search for a new Head of Schools has just successfully concluded with Joseph Almeida being named. He will begin at the end of this school year.

The Vestry is thankful to our Heavenly Father for His providence, and brothers and sisters in Christ who guide us spiritually and nurture our Parish ... in our journey to the city whose builder and architect is God.



We are so blessed,

G Millard Simmons
Vestry Senior Warden



Financial Report

The Church of the Cross
Consolidated Financial Report Operating 2022
Budgets 2023
(Unaudited)
As of December 31, 2022

	YTD Actual Jan-Dec 2022	2023 Budget
Income/Expense		
Income		
GIVING TITHING	2,794,071.61	2,600,000.00
BEQUESTS/MISSIONS/OTHER	539,971.10	602,990.00
Total Income	3,334,042.71	3,202,990.00
Expense		
MINISTRY EXPENSE	946,163.93	899,274.00
SALARIES	1,184,457.66	1,838,244.72
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	478,799.40	273,500.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS	258,700.99	167,880.00
Total Expense	2,868,121.98	3,178,898.72
Excess Cash Received Fund Principal 2022 - Church	465,920.73	24,091.28
Extra Loan Principal payoff from Excess Cash	-500,000.00	0.00
Remaining Cash - Church	-34,079.27	24,091.28



A Growing Congregation

Here's a profile of the 251 new members who joined this congregation from 1/1/22 through 12/31/22.

- Male 116, Female 135
- 132 Families
- Average age = 52
- Worship service attended:
Historic Campus: 5:28pm 18, 8:00am 1, 10:00am 66
Cross Schools Campus: 9:00am The Chapel 67
10:30am CrossPoint 99
- Prior denominational affiliation:
Anglican 16, Baptist 15, Catholic 59, Episcopal 39,
Lutheran 13, Methodist 15, Presbyterian 27, Other 25,
Nondenominational 10, None 32
- Zip code:
29909 (not Sun City) – 43, 29909 (Sun City) – 51
29910 – 112, 29926 – 20, 29927 – 8, 29928 – 1, 29935 – 2
29936 – 6, 31326 – 5, 31411 – 3

In 1 Peter 4:10, we are told that God has given each of us special gifts and calls us to use them to serve one another. The Ministry Booklet offered here will give you the opportunity to view the many ministry opportunities available for you to serve at The Church of the Cross and provide a 2022 report on each one. Contact the ministry leaders listed to begin serving at The Church of the Cross or fill out the form on the [SERVE page](#) on the website.

The Body of Christ does not consist of a few members with gifts and talents, but the gifts of many. You are a valuable member of the Body. We look forward to serving alongside you as we serve each other, those in our community, and those around the world.

Discipleship

Bible Study & Small Group Leaders

2022 Report: *There were numerous groups meeting weekly in homes and on our campuses each week to study and pray together in 2022. To meet the growing need for community as Believers, we are looking to expand our small groups in 2023 through raising up leaders in the coming year to multiply our groups and establish Home Groups for individuals and families to create community through weekly fellowship, a shared meal, Bible Study and prayer.*

Bible Studies and small groups allow for time to discuss God's Word and sharing with one another. All groups are focused on helping us grow in our relationship with the Lord and deepen our understanding of His Word.

Contact: Rebecca Hamilton, rhamilton@thechurchofthecross.net

Cross Christian Women Leadership & Events Committee

2022 Report: *CCW gathered again for the first time in 2022 after not hosting events regularly for a couple of years. We hosted opportunities for women to experience a Quiet Day, attend a Priscilla Shirer Simulcast, gather to serve our local Young Lives community, and fellowship opportunities. We also began the Christmas Market monthly gathering in preparation for the event to be held in November of 2023. CCW welcomed a new staff support with the addition of Kat Robinson to assist*

with events and planning to provide opportunities for women to gather together for encouragement, fellowship, prayer, service and discipleship.

Cross Christian Women (CCW) strive to commit ourselves to live by, learn, and uphold the Word of God; connect women of all ages through Bible study, fellowship, and service; create an atmosphere where women can be released into their gifting for Kingdom purposes; cultivate positive, encouraging relationships that will provide opportunities for discipleship. Every woman who is a member of the Church is a member of Cross Christian Women. There are opportunities to be a part of the servant teams for events or programs throughout the year.

Contact: Rebecca Hamilton, rhamilton@thechurchofthecross.net
Kat Robinson, katrobinson@thechurchofthecross.net

Daughter of the Holy Cross (DHC)

2022 Report: *The DHC Esther Chapter had 29 members with 6 candidates in training in 2022. This group serves through collecting "Blessing Jar" contributions made for outreach ministries such as hosting a Holy Week Quiet Day, welcoming Levi to the Weaver Family and ministry in Nairobi, Kenya. Opportunities for service to others in 2022: six members writing cards for those requesting prayer each week, funeral receptions for three families, and providing clothing and supplies for the Pregnancy Crisis Center of the Lowcountry. DHC also has an ongoing service project of making baptismal banners for the parish.*

The Ministry highlight for 2022 was our Quiet Day held on the Tuesday of Holy Week. It was well attended and led by speaker, Wendy Lawrence.

Our goal for 2023 is to continue living by our daily Rule of Life: Prayer, Study, Service and Evangelism and be available to serve where we are needed.

DHC is an Order of women committed to making disciples and serving Jesus through the DHC Rule of Life: prayer, service, study, and evangelism.

Contact: Terri Hendrickson, tlhendrickson@gmail.com

Men of the Cross Leadership Team

2022 Report: *TCOTC Men's Ministry had a great year of fellowship, with 15 men serving and 150 attending functions. It was highlighted by our shrimp boil and oyster roast. Our goal for 2023 is to increase the numbers attending our Bible studies and to disciple younger members of our Church family.*

Men of the Cross is the structure on which men's discipleship grows at TCOTC. Our goal is to help men grow as disciples who are Known by Christ, Grow in Christ, and Serve Christ.

If you desire to Know, Grow, and Serve join us as we work to become more like Jesus, and walk together through this broken world.

Contact: Rod Musselman, rod.musselman1@gmail.com

Children's & Youth Ministry

Cross Kids Sunday School & Nursery

2022 Report: *We have Sunday school on both campuses with over 20 faithful servants who teach the children of The Church of the Cross each week. We started a new Anglican curriculum, SeedBed Kids, that the children have grown to love. We have 15 nursery workers who take care of our littles through music and active play. We offer Cross Kids Sunday School (PK 4 to 4th grade) at the CrossPoint and Historic 10am services each Sunday. We want the children to feel safe, loved, have fun and learn about their Savior, Jesus!*

Cross Kids Nursery is offered on the Historic Campus (10am service), The Chapel and at CrossPoint each week. This program is for children ages birth through 3 years old, and is a great way to serve our young families by caring for our littlest members in a loving, safe Christian environment.

American Heritage Girls has grown to over 50 girls and 16 adult volunteers! We celebrated our 10th anniversary in 2022. The girls have over 200 hours of combined service hours, they have had campouts, lock ins, and have earned badges as well as grown in their faith. Time commitment for teachers and assistants is once every 4-6 weeks with training and background checks required.

Finally, we offered a successful summer VBS week and a community Fall Festival on the Cross Schools campus in 2022.

Contact: Michael-Anne Land, maland@thechurchofthecross.net

Middle School & High School Youth Group

2022 Report: *With 23 volunteers assisting the Youth Program, our teenagers heard the Gospel and experienced God's love this year - whether in one-on-one conversations, weekly large group, small breakout groups, attending large events like Passion where 38 students made a commitment to be followers of Christ, or fun seasonal gatherings like a attending "The Journey" Christmas interactive event. Our weekly attendance at Youth Group on Tuesdays and Wednesdays combined is around 100 students.*

We offer two group gatherings mid-week gatherings for High School and Middle School on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at the Mission Mall (15A Centre Drive). These evening gatherings include a meal and fellowship, worship, a large group lesson and small group discussion and prayer time.

Contact: Tim Edwards, tedwards@thechurchofthecross.net

Missions & Outreach

Cursillo in Christianity Team

2022 Report: *This year's emphasis in the Cursillo Ministry was re-igniting the 4th Day at TCOTC. During the pandemic, reunion groups were halted and diocesan Cursillo weekends and ultreyas were not held. We now have 17 folks involved in reunion groups, and the diocese is now hosting two weekends a year. In addition, we have held one Cursillo Gathering in the Parish Hall, and a Cursillo Social is scheduled for later in 2023.*

This ministry serves others by facilitating the delivery of the program and by walking alongside participants who attend Cursillo weekends. The weekend is designed to encourage and prepare attendees to adopt a new way of life, as Christian Leaders standing against the flow of society for the Gospel.

Contact: *Charlie and Lynelle Jensen, jensenlynelle@gmail.com*

Food Bank Ministry

2022 Report: *We have 80 faithful servants who served on average 200 families per week in 2022. This year we were able to touch many more neighbors after opening up a second distribution from 4:30 to 6PM every Monday. We have also been able to provide special meals on holidays such as Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are always finding ways to serve more neighbors by sharing the Gospel with the volunteers and funds we have, but pray someday they won't need us.*

The Food Bank Ministry can be summarized as a glorious opportunity to share God's Word while sharing His food with the less fortunate. There are many opportunities for service within this ministry.

Contact: *Craig Pelley, foodbank@thechurchofthecross.net*

God's Goods Thrift Store

2022 Report: *This year, 350 volunteers served 40,008.50 hours, reaching more people than we can count! God's Goods Thrift Store had a record year with financial blessings of over \$620,000 given to the Mission Board. In addition, \$40,323 in outreach (merchandise including furniture, clothing, housewares, toys, linens, etc.) was given to those in need. We are so very grateful to our donors, customers and volunteers who make all of this possible!*

God's Goods is a Christ-centered store that provides usable goods to the people of our community at a reasonable price, assists people in need with pass-through goods, and provides funds to support outreach ministries of The Church of the Cross and community.

Contact: Kim Perri, kimperri@godsgoods.org

Kairos Ministry

2022 Report: *We have 40 volunteers that are approved to go inside the prison walls to conduct 4-Day Weekends and Monthly Reunions, with 8 of them from TCOTC. SC Department of Corrections has just opened the prisons for volunteers to go inside. Since the opening, we have held 3 Monthly Reunions and are planning a Fall 4-Day Weekend. One highlight this past year was our ability to provide a Christmas Dinner for all of the inmates housed at the Ridgeland Correctional Institution.*

Kairos is an international prison ministry for inmates (KAIROS) and for women who have been affected by a relative's incarceration (KAIROS OUTSIDE).

Contact: Charlie Jensen, jensenlynelle@gmail.com

Missions Outreach Board

2022 Report: *Our Missions Outreach Board works to facilitate mission work through the distribution of funds received from the sale of goods at God's Goods Thrift Store. We do know that God is at work because there were lots of blessings even during the difficult time of Covid-19.*

Through God's grace and the incredible work of all the volunteers at God's Goods and the generous donations we received from our community, we were able to give funds for mission work locally, nationally, and internationally in 2022 for just over \$620,000 to missions and ministries.

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

The goal of the board is to provide dedicated resources to participate in mission and outreach opportunities locally, nationally, and globally.

Contact: Barbara Scott, 56lcal@gmail.com

Care Ministries

Caregivers Support Ministry

2022 Report: *Caring Hearts meets on the first Thursday of each month in the Parish Hall and averages 4 caregivers per meeting. A Hospice social worker and/or Hospice chaplain are often in attendance. Our meetings are strictly confidential. We listen to the caregiver, ask questions to determine how we can assist them and then offer suggestions. These meetings are open to anyone in the Church or community. Our goal is to spread the word about this ministry - we feel certain that there are many caregivers in our area who we can assist.*

Each monthly session of the "Caring Hearts" group is a forum for caregivers to receive support, encouragement and vital information facilitated by a professional caregiver and social worker. Anyone may attend or reach out to the ministry for one-on-one support.

Contact: Donna Stevenson, billdonstev@aol.com

Dinner Ministry

2022 Report: *We have 32 dinner ministry volunteers, who served 17 families and prepared 147 meals. A highlight for the Dinner Ministry is the addition of Quick Fix Casseroles to be available at the church for members who encounter urgent needs. Guidelines from the office staff have been developed to assure quality for these meals. The goal for 2023 is to keep an inventory of 4-6 Quick Fix casseroles in stock at the church at all times.*

The Dinner Ministry is responsible for preparing and delivering dinners to those in our parish or community who are in need. Volunteers in this

ministry prepare and deliver a hot meal to families with Christian love and care.

Contact: Pat Roth, patroth304@gmail.com

Deb Fuller, debfuller52@gmail.com

Financial Counseling Ministry

2022 Report: *The ministry was able to provide help for several people who made requests this past year, in addition to putting together an informational resource packet which was given out to participants of the Goin' Home Workshop in November.*

This ministry offers confidential, individual counseling as well as large group classes to assist with debt/credit management, financial planning, decision-making, budgeting, and goal-setting. The ministry leaders follow Biblical financial principles, but do not give legal advice nor make specific investment recommendations and receive no direct or indirect remuneration.

Contact: Rick Adams, radams@walton-adams.com

Healing After Loss (HAL)

2022 Report: *HAL was held in Jan-Feb and Sept-Oct 2022. Our team consisted of 2 lead facilitators and 2 assistants. 6 people signed up for the winter program and 7 for the fall one. The newly revised HAL curriculum (a binder with 7 sessions of prayer, Scripture, music and information on grieving) was used for the first-time and was extremely successful. The HAL*

program uses its original format of 6-8 participants over 7 weeks on Sunday afternoons, and is a non-denominational program that is open to the community. All participants share their pain (including the team) and learn to work through the stages of grief to find hope and purpose. It is truly amazing to see those in mourning begin to heal and bond so strongly together as new friends.

Healing After Loss reaches out to those who have lost a loved one. This is a confidential, Scripture-based support group for people mourning the loss of someone close, and will be facilitated by members who have experienced a loss in their own lives. HAL sessions are 8 weeks long and offer comfort and encouragement to those mourning.

Contact: Beverly Adams, bevey1214@gmail.com

Home Communion Ministry

2022 Report: *There is a current team of 5+ members, both male and female, who have been trained to provide Home Communion to parishioners who request it, both in homes and support facilities. We had more requests this year than the previous one and were able to serve at least 10 individuals. In 2023, we hope to see more people request this ministry as well as provide training for additional members.*

Lay Eucharistic Ministers offer Communion to parishioners who are unable to attend weekly church services.

Contact: Elisabeth Markle, emarkle@thechurchofthecross.net

Intercessory Prayer

2022 Report: *The Intercessory Pray Ministry meets on Monday morning at 9:30AM for a one hour session when we pray for: the World, our President and all in civil authority, Cities, Towns and other communities, those who inform public opinion, those in the Armed Forces, those who live alone and the elderly, schools, colleges, universities, The Church of the Cross, Missionary societies, the sick, those in trouble or bereavement. A new prayer group was started with the explicit mandate to pray for Cross Schools. This group meets according to their availability. Both the Daughters of the Holy Cross and the God's Goods volunteers have an intercessory prayer for their members. We would like to have two or three more intercessors join our group.*

Intercessory prayer is a special form of prayer or supplication on behalf of others. The intercessors meet currently through a weekly Monday morning Zoom prayer group.

Contact: *The Rev. Tom Hendrickson,*
thendrickson@thechurchofthecross.net

Military Care Ministry

2022 Report: *The MCM had a team of 15-20 people and supported the following groups and projects: Operation Morale Support, Operation Patriot/Forward Operating Base, Parris Island CRU Ministry & Prayer Requests, Hampton Hall Wounded Military Heroes Golf Event, Memorial and Veterans Day flag displays, Cross Schools "Military Appreciation Day", Family Thanksgiving Event, and Wreaths Across America. Ministry highlights were stabilizing membership, improving MCM structure and exposure to relevant organizations and needs. Our ministry goal for 2023*

is recalibrating our strategic plan to execute the MCM vision and mission statement more effectively, and leadership transition.

This ministry reaches out to our military members serving overseas by supporting them with letters, packages, and prayers and providing loving support to their families at home. They also serve to educate the parish about opportunities to honor our veterans and active service members.

Contact: Max Fratoddi, gmfratoddi@yahoo.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

2022 Report: *The Prayer Shawl Ministry has 8 active members who meet regularly to create prayer shawls, lap robes and prayer patches for our church and community. These items are prayed over by clergy after completion and before they are given out by ministry leaders.*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is an outreach ministry providing crocheted shawls and lap robes to those parishioners in need of comfort and care. Bi-monthly gatherings are a time to knit and crochet together.

Contact: Pam Rubinos, pmrubinos@yahoo.com

Stephen Ministry

2022 Report: *At the conclusion of 2022, there were 19 Stephen Ministers who ministered to 46 care receivers in a personal, weekly relationship. Continuing education along with peer supervision is 2x per month. A SM training class began in January for a total of 50 hours, with commissioning in April. There were 15 students in the class, and 5 were members of TCOTC. In June, there was a JUBILEE, organized by the Low Country*

Stephen Ministers Leaders Group and comprised of 8 churches with 65 local Stephen Ministers in attendance. It was a very successful training experience and will be held again in 2023. Stephen Ministry has also mailed 46 grief books to members of the congregation who have lost a loved one. We are all excited about 2023 ... we don't know as yet what the Lord has planned for us, but we will be ready, willing and able.

A Stephen Minister is a Christian layperson who receives 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care through listening, caring, praying, supporting and offering encouragement. A Stephen Minister meets faithfully with his or her care receiver for one-on-one confidential conversations for about an hour each week for as long as there is a need.

Contact: Sallie Brach, salliebrach@gmail.com

Visiting Care Team

2022 Report: *We praise God that we saw growth in our team this past year and an increase in the number of people requesting this ministry. There were 13 members willing to make visits, and we were able to set up visits (some one-time only, some ongoing) for over a dozen people. We know that many of our parishioners connect with each other on their own, but we are thankful to be able to schedule visits when people need them ... and hope to do more in 2023!*

This ministry offers uplifting visits to those who are sick/recovering in support facilities or homebound. The purpose of their visits is to be a friendly face and to provide a short time of listening, encouragement and prayer on behalf of the Church.

Contact: Elisabeth Markle, emarkle@thechurchofthecross.net

Additional Ministries

Docent Ministry

2022 Report: *The number of visitors to the Historic church for the year 2022 was 13,888 that signed the guest book, however many more just walked through the church without signing. The total deposits for the year end from donations and sales of Holy Honey, post cards and cookbooks was \$25,469.40. There was a total of 30 docents serving throughout the year with a minimum of 2 docents per day or 3 docents when available. This amounted to a total of 1,356 docent hours of service. The church was open for visitors Monday through Thursday from 11am to 2pm for a total of 181 days and was closed for special services 17 days this year.*

The Docent Ministry is an outreach program that welcomes those visiting the Historic Church on Calhoun Street to hear the good news about the past history, present, and future of The Church of the Cross.

Contact: Mitch Brach, waterbranch@outlook.com

Handyman Ministry

2022 Report: *Eight people contributed time, talents, and tools through the year. The ministry served The Chapel, Cross Schools campus, and Historic Campus in various ways. 2022 started with assembling furniture and mounting white boards at Cross Schools High School. In March, Parish Hall renovations began with installing new flooring in hallways, 6 rooms, the kitchen, and the fellowship hall. The team then erected new stall*

partitions in the restrooms, replaced windows and repaired rotted siding outside. The window work and siding repairs will continue after roof extensions are built over the steps leading to the doors at the rear of the nursery. Our love of God will be reflected in the quality and craftsmanship put into the work we do, as we continue to serve in 2023!

This ministry serves the Church in doing repairs and small projects that can be done by skilled parishioners that give freely of their time and talents to allow more funds to be directed to ministry rather than paying for services.

Contact: Jay Shook, jnsshook@hargray.com

Historical Committee

2022 Report: *There were 6 members, with 4 people being served in addition to the committee's support for the docent program. In 2022, we returned to in-person meetings and added members who have technical skills to help with future goals. In the coming year, we look to establish a dedicated room for historical research with technical capabilities to produce and exhibit photographs and documents telling the story of The Church of the Cross.*

The Historical Committee serves by archiving Parish documents and compiling a history of The Church of the Cross.

Contact: Ann Elliott, annelliott@hargray.com

Wedding Guild

2022 Report: *The Wedding Guild assists the clergy, the wedding party and the guests with all aspects of weddings held in the church. In 2023, we had four weddings at the Historic Campus. Guild members assigned are present for the bride's meeting, wedding rehearsal and day of wedding.*

Assists the priest with the rehearsal and ceremony, helping the bride, the wedding party and the guests in every aspect.

Contact: Risa Grace, rgrace@thechurchofthecross.net

Christmas Market

2022 Report: *Once a month beginning in October of 2022, a group of approximately 18 women began gathering to create, worship and pray together as they prepare for the November 18th Christmas Market on the Historic Campus. More crafting hands are welcomed in 2023.*

Join together to pray, worship and craft once a month. The craft items will be sold at a Christmas Market in November 2023 with the proceeds going towards CCW events and local ministries to support women and children.

Contact: Sonja Wesseler, sonja@michaelsimon.com

Weekend Service Opportunities

Altar Guild

2022 Report: The Chapel - 2022 altar guild members for The Chapel helped with the 9am Sunday service, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Christmas Eve, with individuals serving as set-up or clearing teams.

Historic Campus - There were 17 members this past year, who handled 9 funerals, 4 weddings, and 3 baptism Sundays, in addition to all of the regular weekend services. The goal for 2023 is increase the number of volunteers serving on the Altar Guild.

The Altar Guild is a group of dedicated men and women who work diligently in teams behind the scenes caring for our altars and preparing them for worship services.

Contact: (Historic Campus) Phyllis Spearman, psssppear@hargray.com
(The Chapel) Rosalie Simmons, rosaliewsimmons@gmail.com

Communion Team (CrossPoint)

2022 Report: The CrossPoint Communion team has 12 people serving every third Sunday of the month on the Cross Schools Campus.

As Jesus instructed us to do; we gather at the Lord's table to remember all that Jesus has done for us in life, death, and resurrection, and to acknowledge that we are one church body in Jesus Christ.

Communion services are conducted monthly on the Cross Schools Campus. This team of people joyfully help to administer the Sacrament alongside the pastors.

Contact: Steve Nitz, stormsolutions@hargray.com

Flower Guild Ministry

2022 Report: *The flower guild has 13 volunteers that served by providing altar flower displays for weekend services and creating floral decorations for 3 weddings and numerous funerals and funeral receptions.*

The purpose of the Flower Guild is to enhance and beautify our historic worship space for the glory of God by creating beautiful floral arrangements.

Contact: Stephanie Mendenhall, smendenhall@hargray.com

Greeter Ministry (CrossPoint)

2022 Report: *We have over 58 volunteers who served approximately 400 congregants and visitors each Sunday as they entered and exited the CrossPoint service. This year we combined Greeters and Ushers as one team to show God's love by welcoming members and guests with a warm smile and helpful attitude. We also have volunteers who weekly assist at the Connect Desks to help answer questions about the Church, our ministries and events.*

Greeters provide a warm welcome by directing and assisting worshippers as they enter our campuses each week.

Contact: Rebecca Hamilton, rhamilton@thechurchofthecross.net

Hospitality Ministry

2022 Report: *There were 5 Coffee Hour teams set up to serve, for a total of 16 volunteers at Historic Camps and 18 volunteers for CrossPoint services. The Wednesday Night Dinner Ministry had 9 people serving. In 2022, there were 5 dinner events in July and August.*

The Coffee Hour Ministry at The Church of the Cross on the Historic Campus and the Cross Schools Campus provide opportunities for all worship attendees to meet and socialize before or after the worship services. In addition, the Wednesday Night Dinner Ministry oversees the dinners that are provided before teachings on both the Historic Campus and Cross Schools Campus.

Contact: (Historic Campus) Sue Short, sshort@thechurchofthecross.net
(CrossPoint) Rebecca Hamilton, rhamilton@thechurchofthecross.net

Lay Eucharistic Ministry & Lay Readers

2022 Report: The Chapel- *The Chapel had 4 lay readers and 12 chalice bearers who served on a regular basis.*

Historic Campus - There were 7 crucifers, 8 sacristans, 18 readers and 6 torch bearers.

Sacristans and Sub-Deacons work together with Acolytes to assist the clergy in celebrating the Holy Eucharist.

Contact: (Historic Campus) Sallie Brach, salliebrach@gmail.com
(The Chapel) Sue Short, sshort@thechurchofthecross.net

Music Ministry

2022 Report: Gracetime: We have anywhere from 5 to 8 people who serve each week. A 2022 highlight is that we are blessed to have the opportunity to bring the congregation closer to Christ through our music. Our goal for 2023 is the same that it has always been ... to serve with excellence in His name!

CrossPoint - We have a total of 15 people on the CrossPoint music team. There are 9 or 10 scheduled to serve at each weekend service. This year marked a full transition from the previous worship leader to a new music director. The goal for this coming year is to grow the team in number and also build a deeper understanding and focus of what worship is to The Church of the Cross as well as on a personal level for each musician. We would also like to start coordinating with the youth program to bridge the gap between the youth music ministry and the adult music ministry.

Historic Campus (Sunday) - There were 6 new choir members added in 2022. We resumed Wednesday night rehearsals. We had 2-4 people that participated in the 8am each week and between 9-12 for the 10am service. We have been doing some music reading classes to try and help the choir do more challenging pieces. We will continue with this and try to stretch them a bit out of their comfort zone and as we perform more

challenging pieces for preludes and special Christmas and Easter services.

The Chapel- The Chapel Choir is growing! We have 3 regular singers and four musicians who together create a beautiful worshipful atmosphere at The Chapel each week at 9am. The addition of new audio equipment in the coming months will allow even more opportunities for group with our singers and musicians to work together to make a joyful noise!

Various musical styles (traditional, contemporary Christian, country/southern gospel, and blends of all) are utilized on all three of our campuses. Those who have been given the gift of musical ability (vocal and/or instrumental) can serve on one of our worship teams at each campus and service.

Contact: (Historic Campus) Jody Turner, pianoman975@yahoo.com
(The Chapel) Billy Howe, billyhowe@me.com
(CrossPoint) Jason LaPorte, jlaporte@thechurchofthecross.net

Safety Team

2022 Report: In 2022, the Safety Team worked weekend services and major Church functions with over 25 members on the rosters across campuses. We provided CPR/AED certification courses for our teams and a safety awareness training for all members. The team successfully responded to two medical emergencies during 2022. The team's medical training, law enforcement liaison and expedited communications led to favorable outcomes.

Through constant liaison with local Law Enforcement, our Safety Teams implement industry accepted Best Practices to further the mission of creating a safe environment to share the love of Christ. All team members are required to attend Church Safety Awareness training and maintain medical certifications provided by leadership.

Contact: James Hamilton, hotelco92@hotmail.com

Technology

2022 Report: *There are 17 staff and volunteers who helped with tech across all services and campuses in 2022. Major system improvements at CrossPoint, the Parish Hall, and the Historic church were big projects and highlights for 2022. Our goal for 2023 is to continue improvements at The Chapel, Mission Mall, and CrossPoint so we can be set to grow with good quality and reliable equipment, as well as to grow the team enough that we have 2-3 people on every position.*

Worship services, teachings, and many parish events depend on technicians and volunteers to run the various types of equipment required for all of our services and events. If you are interested in learning new skills, have a teachable spirit and are willing to serve the Lord behind the scenes, this may be the ministry for you. (Training is provided.)

Contact: Charlie Fiddler, cfiddler@thechurchofthecross.net

Usher Ministry

2022 Report: Gracetime - We currently have 14 greeters, 8 ushers and 9 chalice bearers with some people serving in more than one area of the ministry. We are always looking for more volunteers to serve in all positions. If you are looking for a way in which to serve, will be happy to provide training at your convenience.

Historic 8 & 10am - There are 15 ushers for our 8am service and 34 ushers on 5 teams for our 10am service with both serving approximately 300 congregants and visitors each Sunday. We greet and welcome every parishioner with a smile, a hand shake or a hug, and the assurance that they are at home here with the presence of Jesus Christ our Savior.

The Chapel - We have 22 regularly serving. Our ministry is comprised of a group of dedicated and spiritually motivated individuals who provide a loving and helpful presence each week as we welcome on average 128 people to our 9am service.

Ushers maintain order in the service, provide direction for parishioners and visitors and assist with special needs.

Contact: (5:28pm Gracetime) Deb Johnson, randebj3@aol.com
(8:00am Historic Campus) Olivia Young, oystersonthemay@gmail.com
(10:00am Historic Campus) Stew Brown, sdb55@aol.com
(The Chapel) Doug Barone, dbarone@voselectric.com
(CrossPoint) Craig Pelley, zzcapusmc@gmail.com



Our Mission - *Rooted in the Past, Sheltering the Present, Reaching out to the Future, Empowered by the God of the Ages*

Our Vision - *To be followers of Jesus, committed to transforming lives in His power and for His glory.*

Our Strategy - *To be one Body on two campuses, committed to bringing the community to Jesus through worship, ministry, evangelism, fellowship and discipleship.*

Historic Campus
110 Calhoun Street

Cross Schools Campus
495 Buckwalter Parkway

The Chapel
491 Buckwalter Parkway