

Rector's Report 2023

I am very grateful to serve the St. John's faith community as your rector. It has only been two years and one month, but we have experienced many things together. We now have had two Lent and Easter Seasons, two bishop visits, and two Advent and Christmas Seasons together. Fortunately, we were able to hold all of our services in our sanctuary with many hybrid services.

The leadership at St. John's continues to give generously of their time, talent and treasure. And we are seeing some fruits in the work we do both inside and outside. St. John's has welcomed new members. St. John's had thirteen baptisms, three confirmations, and one reception. We have seen a fifteen percent increase in church attendance and an increase in visitors to all our services. We are also deepening in our discipleship. With the many talented people who want to grow in their faith we now offer five Christian Formation opportunities. We have an average attendance of about 35 people a week attending the four Christian Formation classes.

We also kicked off 2022 with an exciting annual meeting that adopted St. John's Agenda of Issues. An Action Team was created to work on each issue on the agenda. Each team will provide a report, but I want to focus on the commitment and dedication of the co-chairs and members. They attended leadership training sessions, conducted small group conversations, held neighborhood walks, reconnected with Buckner Villa, increased voter turnout, and hosted several events to serve our neighbors like a legal clinic. Working with Central Texas Interfaith allowed the Action Teams to influence city and county budgets to increase funding for affordable housing and worked with AISD to prevent tax breaks for a multibillion dollar corporation.

Unfortunately, we ended the year with water lines breaking in the attic of the parish hall that created a mini flood. True to form the St. John's community rallied and we have not had to cancel any church services or events. I am confident that with God's help and your faithfulness, we will be able to return to a fully restored parish hall.

It is amazing what this congregation does both inside and outside the walls. St. John's is living out its mission to be a community of God's people who heal brokenness, build bridges, and exemplify borderless kindness. I am honored to be part of this faith community and look forward to serving with you this year.