

**ONE PARISH FAMILY** WORSHIPING, SERVING, AND CARING  
IN TWO LANGUAGES (ENGLISH & SPANISH) FOR OVER TEN YEARS



PARISH PROFILE - APRIL 2021

SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
IGLESIA EPISCOPAL  
SAN CRISTÓBAL



## CONTENTS

PRAYER FOR OUR SEARCH	
WELCOME .....	<a href="#">1</a>
WHO WE ARE.....	<a href="#">2</a>
WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE .....	<a href="#">3</a>
OUR RESPONSE TO COVID .....	<a href="#">3</a>
HISTORY .....	<a href="#">5</a>
DEMOGRAPHICS .....	<a href="#">6</a>
STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES .....	<a href="#">6</a>
HOW WE GROW IN OUR FAITH	
WORSHIP & LITURGY.....	<a href="#">7</a>
STEWARDSHIP .....	<a href="#">8</a>
CHRISTIAN FORMATION / BIBLE STUDY .....	<a href="#">8</a>
OUR FAITH IN ACTION .....	<a href="#">9</a>
REACHING OUT .....	<a href="#">10</a>
REACHING IN .....	<a href="#">14</a>
WHERE WE'RE GOING .....	<a href="#">15</a>
MISSION & VISION.....	<a href="#">16</a>
FINANCIAL SUMMARY .....	<a href="#">17</a>
DESIRED QUALITIES OF OUR NEXT RECTOR .....	<a href="#">18</a>
DIOCESE OF ARIZONA.....	<a href="#">19</a>
OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY .....	<a href="#">20</a>
USEFUL LINKS .....	<a href="#">21</a>
INFO FOR CANDIDATES .....	<a href="#">BACK COVER</a>



*Chapel Stained Glass  
behind Altar*

### **A PRAYER FOR OUR SEARCH PROCESS AND TRANSITION**

Almighty God, who knows our needs even before we ask, grant us a spirit of faith and courage, that we may have the strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; look graciously on this parish family and send forth your Holy Spirit to guide the search committee, the vestry and the whole community of St. Christopher's to be of one heart and mind, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



In this crazy, frightening, amazing, yet wonderful world, God calls each of us to work and to love in Christ's name. At St. Christopher's, we offer many opportunities for parishioners, friends, and neighbors to answer God's call in tangible, meaningful ways that make a difference in people's lives.

What makes us unique is how much we

- Care about each other, helping one another grow.
- Are interested in connecting externally by partnering with other churches and organizations to expand our outreach, worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth.
- Are passionate about serving.
- Are one multicultural church family worshiping, learning, working, and loving in English and Spanish.

Helping others serve and connect is our passion. With your help, God's redeeming and reconciling love will continue to flourish in this parish, in the world, and in you, in new and exciting ways.

Yours in Christ's Love,  
*The Congregation of St. Christopher's*



*Stained Glass Reflected into the Nave*

## St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

10233 W. Peoria Ave  
Sun City, AZ 85351  
(623)972-1100

[StChristophers-AZ.org](http://StChristophers-AZ.org)  
[fb.com/StChristophersaz](https://fb.com/StChristophersaz)  
[Search@StChristophers-AZ.org](mailto:Search@StChristophers-AZ.org)

**WEEKLY AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (ASA): 109 (2020)**

### **WEEKLY SERVICES:**

<b>Sunday English</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Sunday Spanish</b>	<b>11:30 am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10:15 am</b>

## WHO WE ARE



We are an intergenerational bicultural and bilingual (Eng / Sp) Episcopal congregation located at the edge of a 55+ community in the Phoenix West Valley with easy access to Peoria, Glendale, Phoenix, Mesa, and Scottsdale.

We work in partnership with others and enjoy many ecumenical activities. Sitting on our patio on a Sunday morning, you are likely to hear our earlier English service now at Coffee Hour in the parish hall, electric guitar and cello accompanying our Spanish language musicians during our later Spanish service, as a small Philadelphia Assembly of God Korean church congregation begins to worship in the Chapel of the Resurrection. We always invite Pastor Grove and the Korean congregation to join us for concerts, fellowship and food events, and, in fact, one of their members won the Women's Club Chile Cook-off a couple years ago!

We are a collaborative congregation that treasures its past and is hopeful in looking towards its future. We have challenges but are resilient, joyful, and eager to move forward – past Covid – past our search process – to what the Holy Spirit and God has in store for us!

### WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE

- Our English / Spanish bilingual bicultural congregation growing, worshiping, and serving together as one family.
- Our strong, collaborative lay / clergy leadership.
- Our church family where our clergy and leaders know us by name.
- Our love and appreciation of music. We sing the Lord's Prayer, host many kinds of musical entertainment, and our parishioners participate in various Chorales, choirs, ensembles, orchestras, and bands. This is part of the underlying "vibe" of our church.
- Our depth of caring for and looking out for each other.



*Women's Club Tea*



*La Danza a la Virgen Celebration*

### OUR RESPONSE TO COVID

- We stopped all in-person activities in March 2020.
- Within days we began to create a phone tree (we hadn't had one for decades). We've contacted each of our 117 families nearly every week. 10 - 12 "callers" each contact (call, text, email) 10 to 12 families and pass on parish news, check in to see if anyone needs anything, and makes sure that everyone is all right. A small team connects those in need of groceries, a ride to the doctor, picking up prescriptions and more.
- We had completed our new directory but hadn't received it when we closed our doors. We arranged for parishioners to make contact-less delivery to most families and mailed the rest.
- Much of our congregation is at high risk due to age, ethnicity, or front line jobs. We have taken extreme caution monitoring Covid numbers regularly in 33 zip codes within Maricopa County where our members live. We twice planned to hold outdoor services only to have the Covid numbers rise above where we felt safe. We held in-person services for the first time in more than a year on Palm Sunday and we are scheduled to worship on Easter Sunday in person.

- Within the first week or so we created a check-in ministry for designated parishioners to walk the church campus daily and share anything unusual with the rest of the ministry. As Covid has continued, others have stepped up and taken this over.
- We provided information to parishioners on how to continue giving during Covid. While some parishioners have been unable to give or give at the same level, most have continued. We installed a weather proof slot on the side of our chapel and encouraged online giving, mail, or drop a check or envelope through the slot.
- Once we realized the closure would not be a short term thing, we identified several infrastructure projects that were necessary to reopening or simply more convenient during the closure. We replaced two 1977 HVAC units. We repaired storm-damaged stained glass that required scaffolding cutting us off from rooms above the narthex. We replaced the main hot water heater and installed or repaired point-of-service everywhere else. We upgraded our phone system and replaced our WIFI network to be ready to stream services when we reopen.

- Our Covid response is entangled with the death of our Priest-in-Charge who became ill in mid July as we were finishing our Regathering Plan. He was able to record the sermon for the ordination of our seminarian in late July, but it was his last sermon and the last service he participated in. Fr. Peter Fabre died August 24th.
- Our newly ordained deacon continued virtual services and expanded our pastoral care team from Fr. Peter and three Lay Eucharistic Visitors to five virtual lay pastoral care ministers and five clergy (our deacon, a bilingual priest who had served in a supply role previously, a volunteer rector of a nearby Episcopal church, and two retired priests who are members of the parish).
- In November, Bishop Reddall named our deacon as a bishop's vicar and he is now our clergy until he finishes his seminary year.
- In spite of Covid, in spite of the death of our beloved long-time priest, we are stronger. We've watched out for each other, we've cried together, we've mourned, we've been angry not to be able to have a proper Celebration of Life. And we've moved forward, working with our search consultant and our virtual search committee.





Statue of St. Christopher  
in the Front Yard

The Rev. John H. Hamilton of Roanoke, VA, retired and he and his wife, Mabel, came to Youngtown in 1954 – to pioneer in the first retirement village of this country. The Hamiltons met community members, especially Episcopalians and graciously welcomed newcomers and comforted the sick. The Rev. Hamilton conducted several funerals as there were no other local Episcopal priests. On January 31, 1961, a community met in the Hamiltons’ home. They organized and

held the first worship service on Palm Sunday 1961 in the Youngtown Community Center. Fr. Harold Adams celebrated the first service and suggested the name as “St. Christopher’s.”

St. Christopher’s, 60 years later, continues that pioneering spirit. In 2010, Bishop Kirk Smith encouraged about a dozen congregations to create “Hispanic Ministries.” For some, the organizational model was to create and maintain separate Hispanic

ministries apart from the original congregation (separate but equal within the church). For some, the model was to treat Hispanic Ministry as an out reach to others outside the church. At St. C’s, we began, remain, and look forward to strengthening our *One Family, Worshiping and Serving in Two Languages* model. We have received national notice from TEC for this and have shared our model, our lessons learned, and our materials with other churches across the country.

A history likened our start to a children’s nursery rhyme:	And the little moments, Humble though they be, Make the mighty ages Of eternity.	Little deeds of kindness, Little words of love, Make our earth an Eden Like the heaven above.
	So our little errors Lead the soul away From the path of virtue, Oft in sin to stray.	Little deeds of mercy, Sown by infant hands, Grow to bless the nations, Far in heathen lands.
Little drops of water, Little grains of sand, Make the mighty ocean, And the beauteous land.		



## WHO WE ARE

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### OUR AGES

UNDER 18	23%
18 TO 34	11%
35 TO 54	16%
55 TO 64	6%
OVER 64	44%

### OUR LANGUAGE PREFERENCE

ENGLISH	50%
BILINGUAL	16%
SPANISH	34%

### MILES TO CHURCH

LESS THAN 5	36%
5 TO 10	33%
MORE THAN 10	31%

## STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES, & CHALLENGES

### STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Our resilience and persistence. We nearly closed due to financial circumstances in 2011. In 2020 our priest died. Each time, we dug deep, trusted in God, worked, and took care of each other.
- Our committed, engaged parishioners – Over 70% of parishioners actively participate in ministries.
- Our church family where our clergy and leadership know parishioners by name and care for each other.
- Our welcoming and friendly atmosphere of worship where all are welcome!
- Our location – Maricopa County is consistently one of the fastest growing counties in the U.S., attracting individuals and families of all ages.
- Our willingness to think and step outside the box – as part of our *Invite / Welcome / Connect* strategy, parishioners and friends, walk around the neighborhood near the church and ring doorbells. We introduce ourselves to our neighbors, and invite them to concerts, talks, and neighborhood cookouts.

### CHALLENGES

- While many want to do, few want to lead. Our leadership is strong but the bench is thin; little or no backup for most positions.
- Our deficit budget – While our financial status has steadily improved since 2012, we continue to manage a deficit budget.
- Our size – At just over 200 parishioners, with one full-time clergy, part-time staff, and volunteers we are stretched, but we are unable to add staff or clergy given the deficit budget.



# How We Grow in Our Faith

# WORSHIP & LITURGY

During Covid, we are holding all worship services as well as vestry and ministry meetings via Zoom. Worship services are also linked to FaceBookLive where no account or sign up is necessary. Many other churches have chosen to broadcast from their

sanctuary with a minimal number of individuals. It has been important to us to see and hear each other. It makes for less formal worship or liturgy, but many in our congregation live alone, and the connection has been important.

Before Covid, we offered two worship services on Sundays. The English service at 9:00 a.m. followed Rite Two in the Book of Common Prayer and the Revised Common Lectionary. With our love and appreciation of music, we sang the Lord's Prayer. Most service music included traditional Anglican hymns from The 1983 Hymnal, more contemporary hymns from Wonder, Love & Praise, and occasionally from Lift Every Voice. The choir provided an anthem, sometimes accompanied by cello, horn, flute, or other arrangements. A sung psalm was used for some liturgical seasons.

The Spanish service at 11:15 a.m. followed El Libro de Oración Común, hymns from Flor y Canto, sung joyfully and whole-heartedly with guitar, electronic keyboard, cello, & vocal. We then shared a meal in the Parish Hall.

The Eucharist on Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. reflected a more contemplative aspect of our worship. A regular community of worshipers attended this intimate service in the Chapel of the Resurrection. The readings were followed by a homily that often included open discussion.





At St. Christopher's, we are working toward year-round stewardship. Stewardship is not just about the fall giving campaign. God calls each of us to share of our time, talent, and treasure. In the past decade, our Stewardship Ministry has expanded beyond Annual giving to include time and talent, and occasional giving.

We completed discernment and were in the midst of the feasibility phase of a capital campaign (with Episcopal Church Foundation) when Covid started last year. We canceled the campaign effort knowing we could not complete it in the midst of Covid and without permanent clergy.

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION / BIBLE STUDY

**Men's Bible Workbench** has been meeting weekly since Jan 2015 year-round until Covid (Mar 2020). The study is open to all men of any denomination. The men read the scriptures for the following Sunday and discuss them and talk about God in regard to what the scriptures meant to the writers, what they mean today, and especially what they mean to us. Fr. Peter often dropped in on the group and answered questions. There is no mentor or instructor; it's a self-guided group of 6 to 11 men.

### Women's Bible Study Group

The women learned through Beth Moore's DVD lessons, homework, and group discussion. The group is open to women of any faith. We hope to resume with the 15+ women who have participated regularly.

### Advent & Lenten Studies

We share a short study each year. About 15 - 20 members of this small group share a simple meal of soup and bread or crackers and then work through a lesson from a study guide selected for the season. The books were usually chosen based on the Revised Common Lectionary scriptures; most appreciated the opportunity to study the weekly lesson in greater depth. Studies usually included commentary and reflection on key Bible readings from the Old Testament, the Gospels, and the Epistles. Since Covid the studies are via Zoom.

### Children & Youth

2020 Sunday School ended the Sunday before Palm Sunday. The kids were working on memorizing the Lord's Prayer in English and following the Lectionary for their lessons, learning new songs,

doing crafts, playing games as well as their Bible studies. The 3 teachers sent out two boxes about 5 months apart, filled with Bible-based coloring books, puzzles, crafts, little snacks and letters of encouragement to each child so that the children would know that despite the virus, they were thought of and loved.



## 2020: Year in Numbers



**39 weeks**

our doors were shut but we continued to **Be the Church**

**about 13,377**

calls made by our Phone Tree to keep the St. Christopher's family connected

**2,725**

dollars donated to Light up the Rez! to bring lighting to 10 more families on the Navajo Reservation

**274**

number of days check-in ministry checked the church

**1,120 dollars**

donated to the Phoenix Rescue Mission's CODE RED Summer Water Drive

**3**

Kenyan girls' sponsored: **2** at Caring Hearts High School and **1** at Kenyatta University

**115**

virtual worship services via Zoom and FacebookLive

**more than 14**

virtual vestry sessions

**650 dollars**

given to Eve's Place to help **10** kids connect for virtual classes

**more than 500**

lunches made by the Men's club and donated to the Salvation Army in Surprise

**about 23**

baby quilts made, blessed; & wrapped; given to Eve's Place; or kept in the congregation

**205**

hosts distributed at **2** Visit the Vicar host distribution events before Zoom / FaceBookLive worship services

**1,754 \$\$\$ / 864 lbs**

of food given to Valley View Community Food Bank

**at least a dozen**

members hospitalized due to Covid

**more than 50**

volunteers (members, neighbors and friends) helped in Bargains Galore, our Thrift Store

**more than a dozen**

members sick with Covid but not hospitalized

**at least a dozen**

families have lost a friend or loved one to Covid

**1**

**congregation worshiping & serving in 2 languages (Eng / Sp)**

**1**

**There is one Body and one Spirit.  
There is one hope in God's call to us.  
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism.  
One God and Father of all.**

We are committed to living out our faith by supporting those in need, both in our community and around the world. We are committed to connecting our members of all ages to needs beyond our walls, encouraging meaningful opportunities for knowing and serving others, and participating in the reconciling work of Christ in the world through a variety of life changing outreach ministries.

Outreach meets monthly by Zoom to organize various drives throughout the year. We distribute funds and in-kind offerings to projects that meet basic human needs including food, clothing, shelter, and comfort. We build partnerships with other community organizations to maximize our efforts.

We look forward to fully resuming our outreach efforts as it becomes safer.

Our efforts are organized around Matthew 25:

**I was hungry and you gave me food:**

Food Drives for Christmas and Thanksgiving  
Sandwich Ministry for Homeless [Men's Club]  
Valley View Community Food Bank

**I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink:**

Summer Water Drive - Code Red  
Valley View Community Food Bank

**I was a stranger and you welcomed me:**

Bookshelf Bookstore  
Bring a Bunny to Church (Palm Sunday)  
Christopher Singers - sing-a-longs at care facilities  
Easter Baskets [Women's Club]  
Eve's Place - empowering domestic violence victims  
Operation Christmas Child  
Schools: Backpacks, Supplies, & WIFI Support

**I was naked and you gave me clothing:**

Baby Blankets / Quilts  
Bargains Galore Thrift Store  
Boot Fund - providing shoes for children in need

**I was sick and you took care of me:**

Baby Blankets / Quilts  
Prayer Shawls



*Valley View Food Bank  
Neighborhood Drive*



*Lunches for Homeless  
(With Salvation Army)*



*Summer Water Drive*



**Baby Quilts** - Several times a year, caring women from both services come together to create quilted baby or lap / single bed quilts. Quilts are blessed on the first Sunday of the next month. They are delivered to Eve's Place and some kept on hand for needs within the congregation.

**Backpacks / WIFI** - Due to school closures, we couldn't take part in our usual annual backpack drives for Cheyenne and Country Meadows Elementary and Eve's Place. We were able to support Eve's Place client children by donating \$640 for WIFI connection kits to help with virtual learning.

**Bargains Galore** - Bargains Galore closed in March due to Covid. In the meantime, limited individual member shopping is being arranged. Late in 2020, our merry band of sorters and pricers resumed carefully masked and socially distanced work sessions. Our little store really helps many people find holiday presents and decorations that are affordable. Our clothing racks contain the nicest and best priced items on the block

**Bookshelf Bookstore** - The bookstore is an active community gathering place on Saturday mornings. A group of regulars meet to share coffee, book and puzzle recommendations, and solve world problems. New customers are duly impressed by the variety of books, puzzles, CDs, audio books, and DVD movies. Magazines and calendars are always free, and many people exchange "theirs" for "ours". We donate unsold and extraneous items to Valley View. It's a special place to gather, converse, and feel welcome. We are eager to resume in-person activities but even without meeting, enough members have keys to Harte Hall to continue a brisk book and puzzle business.

**Boot Fund** - The Boot Fund began in 1997 because of the great need for shoes for students in the Dysart School System; many kids could not go to school because they had no shoes, so it provided shoes for low-income children. Wooden boot banks at the Bargains Galore check-out counter, on a table in the Narthex, and at Coffee-Hour accept coins or checks. The fund money now supports children at Cheyenne and Country Meadows elementary schools as well as Eve's Place.

**Bring a Bunny to Church [on Palm Sunday]** -



An annual favorite activity has returned in 2021. The usual array of bunnies, bears, ducks, and even the occasional green frogs on Palm Sunday were on hold in 2020 due to Covid. Smaller stuffed animals are added to the Easter baskets filled by the Women's Club. The baskets are distributed to St. C's children on Easter Sunday and shared with the Valley View Community Food Bank.

**Cans for CAN** - During Lent, Outreach encourages saving coins in rinsed out cans for Sun City Community Assistance Network (Sun City CAN). The funds raised are used for Sun City CAN's transportation program and provided about 250 free rides to the doctor, the grocery store or other destinations for low-income Sun City residents in need of transportation.

### **Cards & Calls Encouragement**

The Covid suspension has NOT interrupted the Cards & Calls Ministry! We send cards to the ill of our parish as well as those who are no longer able to attend church. We also send birthday cards to parishioners.

**Christopher Singers** – This sing-a-long ministry has been visiting assisted living centers for over 30 years. Anyone who likes to sing the “oldies” or play an instrument, is welcome to join.

**Cruzando Fronteras (CF) Crossing Borders** – collaborates with communities in Mexico to offer a helping hand, a warm meal, and a safe place for asylum seekers. We collected and delivered an SUV-full for CF’s Posada drive to bring toys and joy to the children of those gathered on the border seeking safety, a better life and a more secure future.

**Diaper Drive** – The 2019 drive provided 1,084 diapers and 722 wipes to the Diaper Bank of Arizona, and 200 loose diapers were delivered to a local family in need. The diaper distribution includes families in the Greater Phoenix area. We hope to resume in late 2021.

**Easter Baskets** – Women’s Club was ready for Easter Sunday 2021! They filled 35 baskets with toys, candy, and coloring books. For next year, they hope to return to the usual 70 baskets and sharing 1/2 with Eve’s Place to hand out to their clients’ children.



**Eve’s Place** provides innovative and empowerment-based programs to victims of domestic, sexual and teen dating abuse. Their Mobile Advocacy Program for victims in the West Valley brings services to victims in their own communities. Their goal is to reach 75% of domestic abuse victims who would never go to or call a shelter program for assistance. The program provides all the services available in a shelter without the beds. In 2020, we provided ten Verizon WIFI kits for clients’ children for virtual study during Covid.

**Food Drives for Christmas / Thanksgiving** – Outreach normally provides 15 bags for families at a local elementary school at Christmas. Members and others in the community, including Bargains Galore and Bookstore shoppers, shop for and donate from a Thanksgiving shopping list.

### **Kenya**

- Caring Hearts and Hands Girls High School is for orphans and children who cannot afford school fees. We sponsor 2 girls at the school and 1 graduate now at university. 68% of the graduating seniors are going on to college and the school is now ranked #2 in their district of the 50 high schools. Parishioners write each of the girls. After a recent Covid outbreak at the school we have been collecting funds to help with unexpected medical and special dietary needs.
- Days for Girls provides a safe, beautiful, washable, and long-lasting alternative sanitary supply solution for teenage girls to count on month after month — along with vital health education instead of rags, mattress stuffing, banana leaves, feathers, and worse, as is often used.

**Light up the Rez!** has attracted much attention and many contributions from \$6 to \$1k. We are helping bring light to families on the Navajo Reservation in northern AZ where there are more than 15,000 homes off the grid without electricity or running water. We've raised enough to light over 50 homes.

**Operation Christmas Child (OCC)** – A ministry of Samaritan's Purse that sends Christmas gift shoe boxes and Gospel lessons worldwide. We are an area gathering / relay station to collect shoe boxes. In 2019, we collected over 1,000 shoe boxes and over 17,000 shoe boxes were collected in the entire West Valley.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** – Talented knitters and crocheters continue to create such "blessings" for those in need of comfort. The ministry usually meets twice a year. Prayer shawls are available in the church office.

**Sandwich Ministry** – The Men's Club makes and delivers lunches to the Salvation Army in Surprise to distribute to homeless. Since Covid, members shop for, make, package and deliver the lunches. Normally the Men's Club buys everything, makes the sandwiches, and packages the cookies. People from both services bag the lunches between services on the 4th Sunday. Men's Club delivers the lunches.

**Summer Water Drive** – Supporting Phoenix Rescue Mission's "Code Red" – We were unable to collect bottles or serve as a collection point for the community in 2020, but we collected and provided over \$1,000 in 2021.



**Valley View Community Food Bank [VVCFB]** – We collect food year-round, delivering tons of food and thousands of dollars annually. We coordinate with Valley View and let parishioners know what is most needed. On the first Sunday of each month, a sampling of our donations is normally placed at the base of the altar and blessed during the service. We pass out slips of paper with food items on them asking folks to take a slip (or maybe two) and bring that item during the coming month. Much of the year we were unable to collect food, but we began to have "drive by" collection days in the fall. In 2021, we have some creative, and safe, ideas to increase our food collection.





## REACHING IN

### Pastoral Care

Our pastoral care needs range from requesting a hospital visit before or after surgery, or a home communion visit because you are unable to attend church, to prayer during a difficult time, to someone to lend a listening ear when discerning a weighty matter. Our team, ready to listen and to pray with parishioners, includes five lay ministers as well as clergy (our deacon, two retired Episcopal priests who are member of the parish, the rector of a nearby Episcopal Church, and a retired bilingual priest known to many in the congregation).



*Home Communion*

### Prayer Chain

Our prayer chain exists solely to pray for anyone in need. All requests are confidential and more than a dozen devoted people pray regularly for those who have asked. The prayers might be for illness, loss of a loved one, loss of employment, or anything else.

### Hospitality

Hospitality provides receptions for our many concerts (Sonoran Sounds Women's Chorale, West Valley Wind Ensemble, Strings and Things), recitals, talks / presentations as well as for memorials.



*Cookout*

### Women's Club

The Women's Club gives all women of the parish an opportunity for community and parish service as well as fellowship and fun. In 2020, we had to cancel plans for our Tea Party and our Hawaiian Luau. (In 2019, 75 women & girls enjoyed the catered high tea with food, china, table coverings and decorations.)

The kitchen committee keeps the fridge and freezer cleaned out. The women provide daily devotional materials to all in both English / Spanish. They support the diaper drive for babies in Phoenix and the West Valley, conduct the twice annual UTO Ingathering, and conduct social and other activities including a Day with the Diamondbacks, a chili cook-off, a game day, and a Christmas sale.



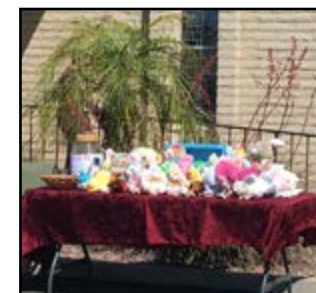
*Women's Club Tea*



We have been unable to hold a *Day of Discovery*. Instead, the vestry revisited our 2017 strategic plan and updated our parish goals created after discernment for a capital campaign. We are using informal data gathering with the congregation. Fr. Peter began preparing the vestry several years ago for his anticipated retirement and has had leadership on a deliberate path of succession planning. His sudden death in August, while we were still meeting only virtually, has been a sad and difficult blow, but we are confident and proceeding in hope.

We could not have expected or predicted Covid, or Fr. Peter's death. We have responded in faith, with deep belief that God is in control and the Holy Spirit guides us. We could not have predicted communion distribution in our parking lot prior to communion services over Zoom and FaceBookLive. We could not have predicted how quickly our seminarian, now deacon, would have stepped in to fill the gap and help us through this difficult period. So, where we are going? Wherever God and the Holy Spirit leads us. We are open ... prepared ... excited to find out where we are led in hope and trust.

**Visit the Vicar -**  
*Parking lot communion and prayer distribution*



**2021 Palm Sunday**

*1st in-person service since March 14, 2020*

## MISSION & VISION

### Strategic Plan - Vision for Ministry Areas



### Vestry Goals:

1. Expand our successful English / Spanish-speaking bilingual and bicultural ministry to better integrate living out our vision of being one family / two languages.
2. Integrate and engage our ministries so we are known as a caring, loving, vibrant community both in person and online.
3. Increase our membership by 8-10% per year so that we better live out our discipleship with our neighbors and in our communities.
4. Develop a successful strategy for financial self-sufficiency.
5. Re-energize our English music ministry balancing traditional and contemporary hymns and growing the choir.
6. Develop a comprehensive program of Bible study for all ages.

## Five-year Income Statement

Five-year Income Statement						2021
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Budget
<b>Operating Income</b>						
Plate	1,925	2,762	2,641	2,950	615	1,230
Pledges	138,478	149,128	150,866	148,448	146,559	154,855
Other Offerings	7,287	3,718	4,823	2,587	10,476	9,700
Non-Pledge Giving	9,744	9,916	14,083	10,912	2,508	2,500
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>157,433</b>	<b>165,524</b>	<b>172,414</b>	<b>164,897</b>	<b>160,158</b>	<b>168,285</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>10,622</b>	<b>7,490</b>	<b>6,498</b>	<b>6,506</b>	<b>1,743</b>	<b>3,250</b>
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>168,080</b>	<b>173,014</b>	<b>179,034</b>	<b>171,403</b>	<b>161,901</b>	<b>171,535</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Salaries and Benefits	99,515	101,459	109,220	111,521	98,538	129,220
General Expenses	69,387	72,309	76,290	71,678	65,607	62,142
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>168,902</b>	<b>173,768</b>	<b>185,509</b>	<b>183,198</b>	<b>164,145</b>	<b>191,362</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>-823</b>	<b>-754</b>	<b>-6,476</b>	<b>-11,795</b>	<b>-2,244</b>	<b>-19,827</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>-822</b>	<b>-754</b>	<b>-6,475</b>	<b>-11,795</b>	<b>-2,244</b>	<b>-19,827</b>
<b>Outreach Giving occurs outside the income statement</b>						

Although our Stewardship Ministry does a great job, our income usually leaves a gap below our expenses of about \$12,000. Sometimes ministries are able to help (Women's Club and Men's Club). Since 2014 we've used a Capital Reserve account, borrowing throughout the year to cover expenses. At the end of the year if

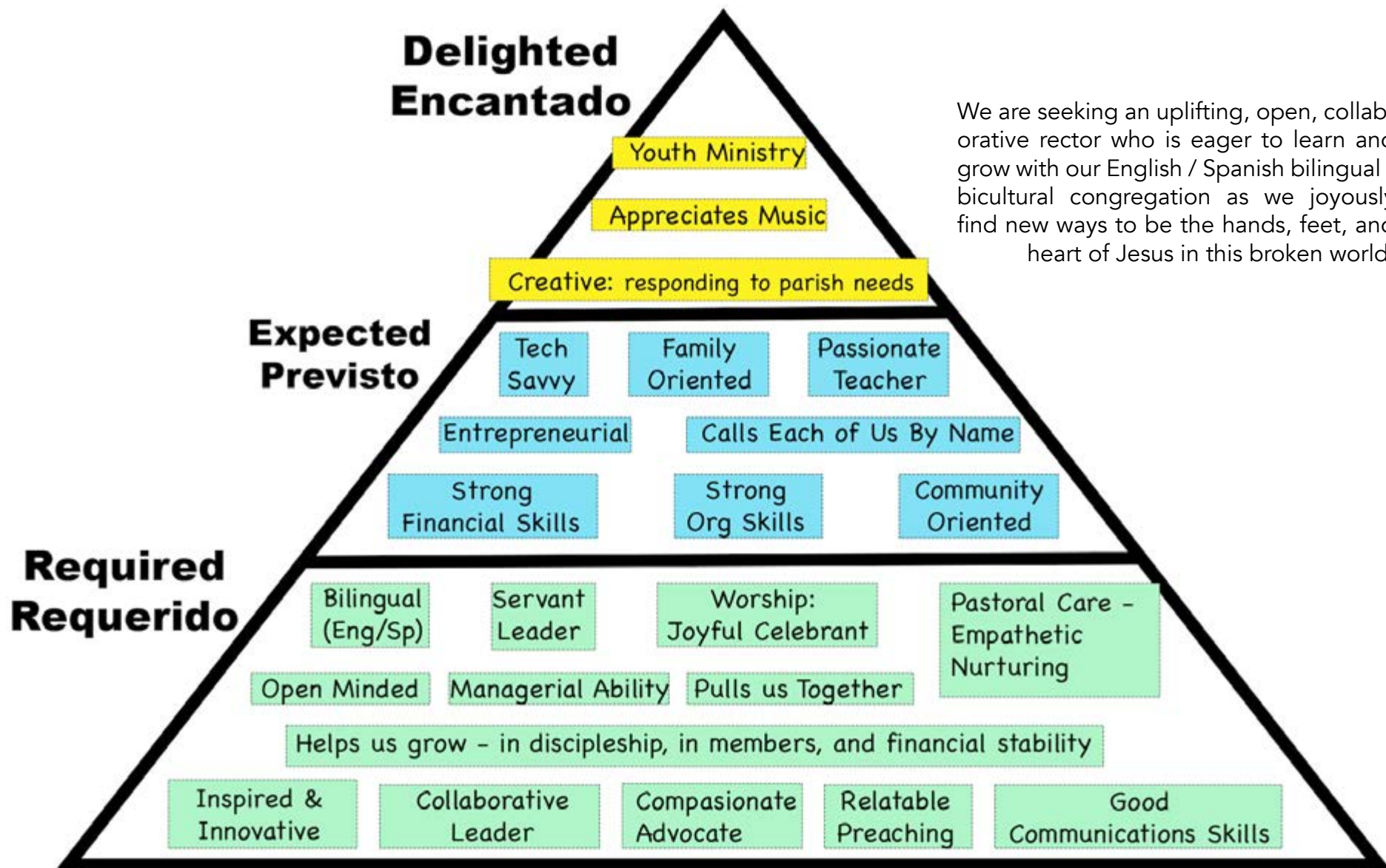
we cannot repay the loan, we declare the borrowed funds as income and pay mission share to the diocese. We received \$21,700 from a PPP loan in 2020. The full loan and interest have been forgiven.

We began saving for our current search process in 2016. We went solar in 2018,

saving us about \$6k annually; paying for health insurance and retirement for our new rector will again challenge us financially. Fr. Peter had health insurance from a former career, and we could not pay into the clergy retirement system once he turned 72.



## DESIRED QUALITIES OF OUR NEXT RECTOR



We are seeking an uplifting, open, collaborative rector who is eager to learn and grow with our English / Spanish bilingual / bicultural congregation as we joyously find new ways to be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus in this broken world.





*We exist to encourage and connect  
leaders as they grow Christ's church  
– Diocesan Mission*

The Diocese includes 67 worshipping communities: parishes, missions, college chaplaincies, schools, and the cathedral congregation. Worship is regularly held in the diocese in both English and Spanish in many communities, while other languages are embraced and used occasionally in various congregational contexts.

The diocese seeks to promote an environment of inclusion and diversity and recognizes that the current ethnic makeup of our clergy does not adequately mirror the diversity of the people of the state of Arizona. Of all of the canonically resident members of the college of presbyters, only 5% identify as African American, 4% as Hispanic, 1% as Asian American, and 1% as Native American. The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona is one of the few dioceses in the country that is growing.

Throughout Covid, the diocese has conducted a number of bilingual services available through [their youtube channel](#).



*The Rt. Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall*  
Sixth Bishop of Arizona

## OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church is located at the southern edge of Sun City, bordering Peoria. Sun City's population was about 39,000 as of 2019. The major city nearby is Phoenix, the fifth most populous city in the U.S. with an estimated population of 1,680,992. The metropolitan area has a population of approximately 4,737,270 and is known as the Valley of the Sun.

Phoenix was incorporated as a city in 1881 and served as the capital of the Arizona Territory from 1889. It is in the northeastern part of the Sonoran Desert, and while it has a hot desert climate, its canal system has led to a thriving farming economy with the original settlers' crops, such as alfalfa, cotton, citrus, and hay. Cotton, cattle, citrus, climate, and copper were known as the "Five C's" of the Phoenix economy. The city averaged a 4% growth rate from the mid-60's to the early 2000's; growth slowed with the reces-

sion of 2007 to 2009 but has rebounded slowly since. High tech companies have been moving to the area since World War II, especially as air conditioning made summers more bearable.

When Del Webb created Sun City, AZ, on January 1, 1960, he was embarking on a brave new venture: a master-planned retirement community built specifically for active adults, 55+. Up until then, retirees were expected to retreat from life so they could sit at home in their rockers on their porches. The notion that you would pull up roots, move to a vacation spot, and surround yourself with fun and pleasure in a community of people just like yourself was a new idea. Sun City's motto is the "City of Volunteers." Over time, more and more seniors are retiring earlier, healthier, and desiring to give back. St. C's is ideally located and historically situated to provide that opportunity.



### Our Website

[StChristophers-az.org](http://StChristophers-az.org)

### Our Facebook

[fb.com/stchristophersaz](https://fb.com/stchristophersaz)

### Diocese of Arizona Website

[azdiocese.org](http://azdiocese.org)

### Diocese of AZ Facebook

[fb.com/azdiocese](https://fb.com/azdiocese)

### Diocese of AZ YouTube

[youtube.com/c/azdiocese1/featured](https://youtube.com/c/azdiocese1/featured)



State Farm Stadium

### Education

Arizona State University - [asu.edu](http://asu.edu)

Maricopa Community Colleges - [maricopa.edu](http://maricopa.edu)

Western Maricopa Ed Center (West-MEC) - [west-mec.edu](http://west-mec.edu)

Peoria Unified School District - [cusd80.com](http://cusd80.com)

Cheyenne Elementary - [peoriaunified.org/Cheyenne](http://peoriaunified.org/Cheyenne)

Country Meadows Elem - [peoriaunified.org/CountryMeadows](http://peoriaunified.org/CountryMeadows)

South Mountain Environmental Education Center - [smeec.org](http://smeec.org)

### Professional Sports

Arizona Cardinals (NFL) - [azcardinals.com](http://azcardinals.com)

Arizona Diamondbacks (MLB) - [mlb.com/dbacks](http://mlb.com/dbacks)

Arizona Rattlers (Indoor Football) - [azrattlers.com](http://azrattlers.com)

Arizona Coyotes (NHL) - [nhl.com/coyotes](http://nhl.com/coyotes)

Phoenix Mercury (WNBA) - [mercury.wnba.com](http://mercury.wnba.com)

Phoenix Rising (Soccer) - [phxrisingfc.com](http://phxrisingfc.com)

Phoenix Suns (NBA) - [nba.com/suns](http://nba.com/suns)

Tour State Farm Stadium -

[visitphoenix.com/event/state-farm-stadium-tour/107302/](http://visitphoenix.com/event/state-farm-stadium-tour/107302/)

**Maricopa County** - [maricopa.gov](http://maricopa.gov) - Sun City is an unincorporated community in Maricopa Co

### West Valley Cities

Avondale - [avondaleaz.gov](http://avondaleaz.gov) Phoenix - [phoenix.gov](http://phoenix.gov)

El Mirage - [elmirageaz.gov](http://elmirageaz.gov) Sun City - [suncityaz.org](http://suncityaz.org)

Glendale - [glendaleaz.com](http://glendaleaz.com) Sun City West - [suncitywest.com](http://suncitywest.com)

Litchfield Park - [litchfield-park.org](http://litchfield-park.org) Surprise - [surpriseaz.gov](http://surpriseaz.gov)

Peoria - [peoriaaz.gov/home](http://peoriaaz.gov/home)

### Culture and Entertainment

Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park - [adobemtndesertrrpark.com](http://adobemtndesertrrpark.com)

ASU Gammage - [asugammage.com](http://asugammage.com)

Cerreta Candy Company - [cerreta.com](http://cerreta.com)

Desert Botanical Garden - [dbg.org](http://dbg.org)

Heard Museum - [heard.org](http://heard.org)

Herberger Theater Center - [herbergertheater.org](http://herbergertheater.org)

Musical Instrument Museum - [mim.org](http://mim.org)

Phoenix Art Museum - [phxart.org](http://phxart.org)

Phoenix Chorale - [phoenixchorale.org](http://phoenixchorale.org)

Phoenix Symphony - [phoenixsymphony.org](http://phoenixsymphony.org)

Phoenix Zoo - [phoenixzoo.org](http://phoenixzoo.org)

Sahuaro Ranch Park - [glendaleaz.com/SRPHA/](http://glendaleaz.com/SRPHA/)

Tempe Center for the Arts - [tempecenterforthearts.com](http://tempecenterforthearts.com)

White Tank Park - [surpriseaz.gov/2039/White-Tank-Mountain-Regional-Park](http://surpriseaz.gov/2039/White-Tank-Mountain-Regional-Park)

Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium - [wildlifeworld.com](http://wildlifeworld.com)

## Information for Candidates



Our search process is being carried out under the authority of the Bishop of Arizona, the Right Reverend Jennifer A. Reddall, with the assistance of the Diocesan Deployment Office. All interested candidates are requested to submit applications to:

The Rev. Anita Braden, Canon to the Ordinary,  
Diocese of Arizona  
114 West Roosevelt Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85003  
[Anita@azdiocese.org](mailto:Anita@azdiocese.org)

---

SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
IGLESIA EPISCOPAL SAN CRISTÓBAL

