

ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2024 PARISH MINISTRY REPORTS
REPORTE DE MINISTERIOS PARROQUIALES



Dear Friends in Christ,

Last Fall St. Edwards ran the Stewardship campaign 2025 “Called to be faithful” in Treasure, with great success. As many of us already know, we surpassed our goals beyond our expectations. We had 105 people who pledged compared to 85 people in 2024. This is Saint Edwards; a community that transforms stories to create a better tomorrow for our present and future parishioners.

During the campaign my invitation was very simple, “twist” our story of Saint Edwards as the shrewd steward did in the parable that Jesus told his disciples (Luke 16). In this story, Jesus gives an example of somebody who is facing an uncertain future and comes up with a plan to ensure his very survival. Jesus praises his cleverness to change. This story has happened several times in the history of Saint Edward and continues happening, when the community faces certain challenges. We are led by the Holy Spirit and the power of the community. You answer the call with fidelity and generosity, and make things happen.

Now, during this Spring Season, when we start seeing the first colorful flowers of this year and the freshness of a new beginning in many plants, that help us to redirect our lives to God, family, and church, I invite you to celebrate our Ministry fair, the Stewardship Campaign 2025, “Called to be

Faithful” in Time and Talent. In this festival, let us celebrate the talents God has giving us to make present his kingdom here and now in Saint Edwards and in the world. We plant seeds of service, compassion, faith, love, gratitude, and perseverance. Share the information of your ministries to those who are searching to serve Christ.

You have the report of many of our ministries. Please spend time reading them, they are written for you. In these reports you see how parishioners are responding to God’s call serve one another in Christ’s love. This is sacred work that inspires many of us to be part of the community.

I give thanks to God every day for Saint Edwards, a church that in an unexpected way, gives testimony of faith and commitment.

Thank you, Alma, our wardens, vestry the heads of ministries who organize and celebrate this ministry fair 2025.

The Rev. Fabio Sotelo, priest-in-charge.

Queridos amigos en Cristo,

El otoño pasado, St. Edwards llevó a cabo la campaña de Mayordomía 2025 "Llamados a ser fieles" en Tesoro, con gran éxito. Como muchos de nosotros ya sabemos, superamos nuestras metas más allá de nuestras expectativas. Tuvimos 105 personas que hicieron su promesa, en el 2024 tuvimos 85 personas. Esto es San Eduardo; una comunidad que transforma historias para crear un mejor mañana para nuestros feligreses presentes y futuros.

Durante la campaña mi invitación fue muy simple, "torcer" nuestra historia de San Eduardo como lo hizo el astuto mayordomo en la parábola que Jesús contó a sus discípulos (Lucas 16). En esta historia, Jesús da un ejemplo de alguien que se enfrenta a un futuro incierto y se le ocurre hacer un plan inesperado para asegurar adelante. Jesús alaba su astucia de hacer un plan exitoso. Esta historia ha sucedido varias veces en la historia de San Eduardo y continúa sucediendo, cuando la comunidad se enfrenta a ciertos desafíos. Guiados por el Espíritu Santo y el poder de la comunidad respondemos a la llamada con fidelidad y generosidad, y hacemos que las cosas sucedan.

Ahora, durante esta temporada de primavera, cuando comenzamos a ver las primeras flores llenas de colores de este año y la frescura de un nuevo comienzo en muchas plantas, que nos ayuda a redirigir nuestras vidas a Dios, a la familia y a la iglesia, los invito a celebrar nuestra feria ministerial, la Campaña de Mayordomía 2025, "Llamados a ser fieles" en tiempo y talento. En este festival, los invito a celebrar los talentos que Dios les ha dado para hacer presente su reino aquí y ahora en San Eduardo y en el mundo. Plantamos semillas de servicio, compasión, fe, amor, gratitud y perseverancia. Compartan la información de sus ministerios con aquellos que están buscando, nuevas maneras de servir a Cristo.

Ustedes tienen el informe de muchos de nuestros ministerios. Por favor, dedique tiempo a leerlos, están escritos para usted. En estos informes se ve cómo los feligreses están respondiendo al llamado de Dios, sirviéndose unos a otros en el amor de Cristo. Este es un trabajo sagrado que inspira a muchos de nosotros a ser parte de la comunidad.

Doy gracias a Dios todos los días por San Eduardo, una iglesia que, de manera sorpresiva, da testimonio de fe y compromiso.

Gracias, Alma, nuestros guardianes, la junta parroquial, los jefes de ministerios que organizan y celebran esta feria ministerial 2025.

Padre Fabio Sotelo, Sacerdote Encargado.

SENIOR WARDEN - GUARDIANA MAYOR

Jennifer Khaleel.

St. Edward's Family,

It has been a privilege to serve you for a second year as Senior Warden and as I outline this report with our achievements and fulfilling challenges that have happened to strengthen our Parish. I am grateful to all of you who have stood by me, we stand as one with so much Love among us. Your support and trust have led me to a humble place. THANK _YOU!

Luke 14:7-11: "Those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Father Fabio: I could not ask for a better leader. Your faith, love and vision for this church has caused us to accomplish so many goals this past year. We so appreciate you as we look forward to you being our Rector.

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

The Vestry: "Thank you" for your continuous support in helping to make things run so smoothly for our Parish. To the members who are leaving Erica Harris, Marck Morman, Valerie Curry and Cecilia Midzi, I cannot say how much I have appreciated your hard work and dedication. May God continue to Bless you as you continue to serve God with love.

Our Chancellor, Staff and Financial Committee: I appreciate your dedication and attentiveness in doing God's work even when we get tired. "Thank You."

"Whatever you are doing word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

St Edwards Congregation: You have always shown such positive energy when challenges face us. You do that together with love and faith knowing that God is forever with us. "Thank you."

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

2024 Accomplishments:

- Full Audit for the Diocese and was able to pay \$10,000 although we were able to raise \$12,446 for this campaign.
- Town Hall meeting to go over our Financial Plans and explain our goals.
- We had our first Vocational Bible Study this summer it was based on Diversity in our Faith and religious traditions.
- The Annual Fall Festival made over \$9,000.00 in profit through donations and raffles.
- Annual Trunk or Treat community neighbor event.
- Stewardship campaign for 2025 focus on the Endowment, Priest Salary and General funds we were able to raise a total of \$ 333,652.75 in pledges.
- Approached and negotiated with the Dioceses about having Father Fabio as our Rector.
- Continued growth of our Sunday School and Youth ministry 35 children. Thank you, Nicole, Kathy, Meghan and all volunteers.

Our journey of Faith will continue this coming year. As we move into 2025, we will look forward to being "Called in to be Faithfull" reflect on our Spiritual journey and continue to light each other candles with kindness, empathy, compassion, love, loyalty and goodness. That is a beautiful light to shine in St Edward's because we believe in the God we Love.

En este reporte Jennifer agradece a la comunidad, al personal parroquial, al vestry, al departamento de finanzas y al padre por su compromiso y liderazgo. Agradece también a los miembros salientes del vestry: Ercia Harris, Marck Morman, Valerie Curry and Cecilia Midzi. Ella siente una energía positiva en la comunidad e invita a la congregación a vivir en el amor y en la fe, sabiendo que Dios esta siempre con nosotros.

Los logros del ano pasado: se hizo una auditoria satisfactoria, se hizo la reunión anual de la parroquia en el Verano, el VBS enfocado en la diversidad, el Festival parroquial, los diálogos diocesanos para la elección del Padre Fabio como el rector de la iglesia, el aumento de los niños y Jóvenes en la educación religiosa y la exitosa campaña del Tesoro, superando la meta propuesta para un total de \$333,652.

JUNIOR WARDEN - NUESTRA GUARDIANA MENOR

Alma Hurtado

Dear Saint Edward's community,

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve this parish as Junior Warden during 2024. One of my primary duties was overseeing the care of our grounds and buildings, but also my personal goal was to serve as "The

People's Warden" and help communicate goals, concerns and ideas between parishioners and our Vestry. And by the Grace of God, we accomplish so much because we had a very busy 2024.

Grounds and Building – With help of parishioners, we were able to accomplish the following.

- **Safety:** New parking lights, new pin door knobs, new locking / unlocking mechanism and light fixture were installed through the campus.
- **Nickelson Hall:** The hall was renovated in record time mostly by volunteers. We know we still have some final details to address but they will get done.
- **Undercroft:** Renovations were started in 2024 with working restrooms and a fresh coat of paint. My goal in 2025 is to have some shelving installed to also organize the rooms for proper storage.
- **Community Garden:** Parishioners really came together to build garden beds, planted seeds and care for them throughout the summer and fall. We were very blessed with an abundant harvest every month.
- **Green areas:** After losing our brother in Crist, Jorge, who mainly took care of green areas, the community really came together during the spring/summer to maintain our grounds.
- **Memorial Garden:** Michael Lyons worked during several weeks over the Spring/Summer to help revitalize the garden by adding colorful flowers.

Community Events – It was an immense pleasure to help organize the following events.

- **Farmers Market:** St. Edward's hosted a very successful first Farmers Market in 2024. This event was created to merge the gap between local farmers and small businesses with residents surrounding St. Ed's. This event not only brought former members to visit us again, it also became an open invitation for nearby residents to visit our grounds, become regular attendees and now members. Prays the Lord.
- **Cookouts:** Thanks to volunteers and donations we were able to host several cookout fundraisers.
- **Trunk or Treat:** We had yet another successful event for our parishioners and nearby residents.
- **Fall Festival:** Our second annual festival was bigger and better. Thank you to all who help one way or another.
- **Youth Ministry Events:** Meghan Vesel did an excellent job organizing events for our youth from 2nd grade to high school. It was an honor for me to host a workshop and teach our youth how to make soap and learn about self-love and self-care.
- **Christmas Holiday Market:** This was a well-received event by all of you. We invited 5 vendors, they all had a great time and a successful day of sales. In return each vendor donated a portion of their earnings to St. Ed's.

To Padre Fabio, Jennifer Khaleel, Vestry, Chancellor, Financial Committee, Ministry Heads and Staff thank you for your support during 2024. It was truly an honor to be your Junior Warden. Let's keep making amazing things for St. Edward's, our parishioners and community.

To St. Edward's congregation thank you for showing your love, commitment, and continuous support to St. Ed's time and time again. As we leave 2024 behind us and all the accomplishments we did together, let's keep the

same calling to be faithful into 2025. Let's continue to practice our mission **"In our rich Episcopal tradition, embracing diversity of cultures and languages, we empower discipleship to Christ through worship, formation, and service."**

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Aquí Alma da su reporte al final de su año de servicio como Guardiania Menor o Guardiania de la comunidad, como se conoce este rol dentro de la Iglesia. Su reporte incluye seis proyectos realizados para mejorar nuestros edificios: seguridad en las puertas a través de nuevos sistemas electrónicos, la renovación del Salón Social y del Undercroft. Además, nos recuerda que iniciamos nuestra Huerta comunitaria. Que gran logro!

Los eventos de la comunidad: El Festival, el Truck and Treat, el Mercado Campesino (en Desarrollo), los asados afuera, los eventos de los Jóvenes y el mercado de ventas antes de la Navidad. Ella agradece a toda la comunidad y a la directiva de la Iglesia por su apoyo e invita a todos a seguir adelante con nuestra misión que es "Dentro de nuestra rica tradición Episcopal, celebrando la diversidad de culturas y lenguas, fortalecemos el discipulado cristiano a través de la oración, la formación y el servicio."

VERGER MINISTRY – MAESTRO DE CEREMONIAS

Leslie Nystrom

A Verger in the Episcopal Church is a lay minister who under the direction of the rector or priest-in-charge coordinates the liturgy and assists the clergy to offer smoothly and reverently celebrations. The Verger sets the stage, oversees the worship ministries, quietly guides the liturgical ministers, and keeps the flow of the service.

My perspective as Verger at St. Ed is that my duties are a blend of practical service, quiet leadership, and a deep connection to all aspects of the liturgy.

Most Episcopal Churches that have a Verger, have more than one. If you feel this is a ministry that God is calling you to, please don't hesitate to see Father Fabio or myself.

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El Verger o Maestro de ceremonias es una persona laica que bajo la dirección del rector o sacerdote encargado coordina la liturgia y asiste al sacerdote para ofrecer los servicios religiosos de forma reverente y organizada. El verger supervisa a los diferentes ministerios liturgicos y silenciosamente guía para que el servicio se realice de acuerdo a lo planeado. Si usted siente ese llamado especial a ser Verger (maestro de ceremonias), por favor comuníquese con el P. Fabio o conmigo.

ACOLYTE MINISTRY– MINISTERIO DE MONAGUILLOS

Salena L. Sandford Staub

We have 23 members for the 10 a.m. service ministry. Two new members are still awaiting training, and we welcomed back one returning acolyte. We also have several servers for the 12:30 service. The ministry members often substituted for each other at a moment's notice, and serve together in numerous bilingual and funeral services. As an Acolyte, we not only serve the Lord on the altar, but we serve the community by example through our quiet actions on the altar. We have a training manual online to help any acolyte old or new keep up to date with their training. I would like to thank all the members of the ministry for their dedication and service. We are always accepting new members who are called by God to service their community on the altar. Please reach out to Salena L. Sandford Staub at salenamoon@bellsouth.net or 770-606-7203 via text or call.

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Hay 23 miembros que sirven a las 10 a.m. y en otros servicios tales como funerales y servicios bilingües. Ella agradece a todos por su compromiso y servicio. En el servicio de las 12 30 p.m. también hay un grupo fuerte de acólitos dirigidos por Verónica Aragón. Gracias por servir a Dios en comunidad.

ALTAR GUILD REPORT– REPORTE DEL ALTAR

Jewel French - Cindy Moseley

Welcome back to Cindy who was out for a year with a broken ankle and Christiana Jones who has returned full time, now that her husband is well enough to bring her to church. During Cindy's physical absence she was still able to order all the supplies and was very instrumental in getting our new custom made Fair Linens in 2024. We also welcomed some new members who attend the 12:30 and 8 o'clock services.

With the reintroduction of the 8 o'clock service earlier this year, the Altar Guild Ministry had to recruit new members to clear up after the 8 o'clock service and reset the altar for the 10 o'clock service. As a result 4 new members were recruited and under the watchful eye of Leslie Nystrom they were trained to handle the clearing up and resetting of the altar for the 10 o'clock service. We also had to recruit and train new members for the

12:30 p.m. service since some of the previous members no longer attend St. Ed's.

We purchased some beautiful fair linens for the altar and will use those on special occasions.

A training session for all members was held on October 26, 2024 which went very well as Leslie, John and Jewel updated the new and current members on the overall purpose of the Altar Guild Ministry and highlighted changes that have become necessary. Cindy and Leslie worked very diligently in preparing a collage for the set up of the altar for all services which will be extremely helpful in the future.

Those who serve after the 8 o'clock service are as follows; Charmaine, Etta, Kathy, Ruth and Leslie.

Those who serve to set up before and clear up after the 10 o'clock service are as follows; Jewel, Cindy, Erica, Samantha, Olive, Denise, Comfort, Christiana, Catherine and Jennifer.

Those who serve to set up before and after the 12:30 service are as follows; Claudia, Briana, Samantha, Alma, Melanie, Teresa and Martha Padron;

We are forever indebted to John and Leslie Nystrom who are always there to help in whatever capacity and whenever the Altar Guild needs them. New members are always welcomed especially if you can wash and iron small pieces of linens.

En este reporte, Jewel hace un reporte de las actividades que se hicieron en el ministerio del altar. Como se hizo cuando una de las señoras estuvo enferma, las personas que entraron a colaborar en el servicio que se creó a las 8 a.m. y las personas que colaboran para cada uno de los servicios dominicales, además de informar la adquisición de nuevos manteles del altar. Ella agradece la participación de todas las miembros de este ministerio y reconoce la presencia de John y Leslie Nystrom en la asistencia continua.

En el servicio de las 12:30 también hay un buen equipo de servidoras del altar, pero aún faltan algunas colaboradoras más.

BIBLE STUDY – ESTUDIO BIBLICO

Marilynn Emmons

The Tuesday Bible Study group is now starting its 13th year. We have spent the last 2 years in the New Testament. (Luke, the Acts, 1st and 2nd Corinthians) We are about to start a study of the prayer book of the Bible, Psalms. Questions about faith, church practices, and the problems within congregations have not changed much since New Testament times. It is a true discussion group. We don't always agree, but we learn from each other as we share our spiritual journeys.

We have grown to 10 regular members and meet most Tuesdays from 10:30 to 12:30 and occasionally go for lunch afterwards. All are welcome, so please come join us.

Hace trece años se inició este estudio bíblico. Por dos años han estudiado algunos libros del Nuevo Testamento. Ahora van a iniciar el estudio de los Salmos. Ellos afirman que los problemas de las comunidades no han cambiado desde los tiempos del Nuevo Testamento. Este es un grupo de discusión, no es necesario estar de acuerdo, sino más bien compartir los diferentes puntos de vista. Atienden regularmente 10 personas. Martes 10:30-12:30 p.m.

BEREAVEMENT CARE MINISTRY- MINISTERIO DEL DUELO

Gabriele Mayes

Grief is something not addressed well in our culture. It is a fortunate person that was initiated into the sanctity and rhythms of grief in their family growing up. Because there is no natural eldership in our society to fulfill that role – outside of, perhaps, professional grief-counselors - it is doubly important that bereaved people can find room for their tears in the kingdom of God. The local church has something to offer people in grief that is unique: the blessing of Christ in community. This is what our ministry here at St Edward's has wanted to be sensitive to, to be a group of people that can be sacramental to each other in the shadow-lands of grief.

We began this ministry in 2022 and have met monthly since then. In October I suspended our grief-care-meetings for the time being because we do not have any freshly bereaved members who are interested in this kind of support. As soon as interest is voiced again we will consider reconvening to serve those who have recently lost loved ones - and all of our former members will be invited to join and offer their listening support from their own experience of loss. We all know that grief never ends - because love never ends. When members stopped attending it meant they no longer live their lives dominated by grief and have found spiritual energy again to connect with and serve our church family with their gifts. How wonderful! Of course there are other venues of support available as well, as, for instance, the Tuesday morning Bible-Study.

Anyone in our congregation suffering from loss is invited to get in touch with me to see about renewing our monthly meetings. Our group meetings are support-meetings and cannot offer the more in depth approach often necessary early on in grief. All members are therefore encouraged to seek out temporary grief-counseling to help themselves. When we meet again it will be after the first service coffee-hour, from 11:30-1PM in the chapel. We have generated our own little liturgy that structures our meetings and conversations about loss (feel free to ask for a copy). We have guidelines about keeping confidentiality, respectful listening and acceptance of individual differences in the grief-journey. In this way we strive to become the blessing of Jesus on broken hearts to each other. As Nadia Bolz-Weber says in a blessing-poem:

Blessed are the poor in spirit. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are they for whom death is not an abstraction.

Blessed are they who have buried their loved ones, for whom tears could fill an ocean.

Blessed are they who have loved enough to know what loss feels like.

Blessed are they who don't have the luxury of taking things for granted anymore.

Blessed are they who can't fall apart because they have to keep it together for everyone else.

Blessed are those who "still aren't over it yet."

Blessed are those who mourn. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

We also offered a workshop on death and dying during Lent in order to have a conversation about the thing itself. What am I afraid of? What do I need to be ok? How do I sit with a dying person? You might be surprised how unprepared you find yourself when you are suddenly confronted with these emotional realities. I highly recommend we offer this workshop every year, seeing that we are an aging congregation (at least the English-speaking services), as well as occasionally repeating end-of-life-care seminars we have held in the past. - After all, our BCP (p.483), reminds us "All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessings from the God who meets us in the darkness!

Lamentablemente el duelo no está siendo bien orientado en nuestra cultura. Mucha gente tiene que sufrir la pérdida de sus familiares o amigos en la soledad y en el dolor. Es una gran bendición cuando se puede tener una comunidad que sacramentalmente se reúne para acompañar el proceso del duelo. Esto es lo que este ministerio hace desde el 2022. Periódicamente y de acuerdo con la necesidad un grupo de persona se reúnen durante un tiempo para acompañar a los dolientes hasta que lo necesiten. Muchas veces ofrecemos También reflexiones sobre el duelo y la muerte para considerar nuestras creencias y maneras de afrontar estas situaciones límites. Gabrielle, quien hace este reporte, termina con una reflexión de Nadia Bolz-Weber. Bendiciones del Dios que nos encuentra en la oscuridad.

Aun no se ha podido iniciar este programa en español.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION– FORMACION CRISTIANA

E. Nicole Harrison - Kathy Yukishige

Our ministry is to ensure all know: they are unconditionally loved by God and are created in God's image. We offer opportunities to study the Bible, liturgy, and current issues in the context of Episcopal theology and tradition to deepen faith, support discipleship, strengthen community, and offer guidance for daily living and challenges. For youth and children, our classes are Montessori-based and exploratory with the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and I will with God's help as curriculum foundations.

With great parish and parent support, Christian Formation exceeded its goals for 2024. St. Edwards offered formation for children, youth, and adults. We celebrated many confirmations, solemn first communions, and high school graduations. We restarted Vacation Bible School (VBS) and with Nickelson Hall filled each evening. The VBS volunteers fed the parish dinner, led the lessons and

activities, and cleaned and prepared the hall. They are too numerous to list. The youth and children took on leadership roles at special services including Black History Month, Virgin of Guadalupe, and Christmas Eve services, and continue to offer their art during the service. Mostly recently, youth-focused service projects have been added. Our youth and children also enjoyed fun events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Blessing of Backpacks, Trunk or Treat, St. Nicholas Day Candy, and a Christmas party. I am grateful for our teachers, substitutes, and other volunteers. Additional teachers and volunteers are always welcomed and needed to expand our offerings and programs.

Nuestro ministerio afirma lo que todos deben de saber: que todos somos amados incondicionalmente por Dios y somos creados a su imagen. En nuestra formación, ofrecemos oportunidades para estudiar la Biblia, la liturgia y los temas actuales en el contexto de la teología y la tradición episcopal para profundizar la fe, apoyar el discipulado, fortalecer la comunidad y ofrecer orientación para la vida diaria y los desafíos que tenemos que enfrentar. Para los jóvenes y los niños, nuestras clases están basadas en Montessori y son exploratorias con la Catequesis del Buen Pastor y lo haré con la ayuda de Dios como fundamentos curriculares.

El año 2024 sobrepasó en la formación todas las metas. Se celebraron confirmaciones, primeras comuniones, se restauró en VBS de una manera admirable. Los Jóvenes tomaron roles importantes en el Mes de la Herencia Negra, en La Virgen de Guadalupe, en la Navidad y en una serie de importantes actividades a través del año. Agradecimientos a todos los profesores, sustitutos y colaboradores. Necesitamos más voluntarios para cubrir nuestras necesidades.

COUNTING MINISTRY- MINISTERIO DE LA OFRENDA

Bernadette Matthews

The Counting Ministry at St. Edward's Episcopal Church plays a vital role in the stewardship and financial health of the congregation. This dedicated team ensures that all financial contributions are accurately recorded and processed, helping the church maintain transparency and accountability. Their work supports the broader mission of the church by enabling various ministries, outreach programs, and community services.

Serving in the Counting Ministry is a rewarding way to contribute to the church's operations. Volunteers in this ministry often find a sense of fulfillment and camaraderie, knowing they are supporting the church's mission in a meaningful way. It's an excellent opportunity for individuals who are detail-oriented and enjoy working behind the scenes to ensure the smooth functioning of church finances.

The Counting Ministry exemplifies the spirit of service and teamwork, reflecting the church's commitment to good stewardship and faithful management of resources.

If you're interested in joining the Counting Ministry, it's a wonderful way to get involved and serve the church community. No prior experience is necessary, as training is provided. For more information or to volunteer,

please contact the church office or speak Bernadette Matthews. Your participation would be greatly appreciated and will make a meaningful impact!

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El Ministerio de Contabilidad de la Iglesia Episcopal de San Eduardo desempeña un papel vital en la mayordomía y la salud financiera de la congregación. Este equipo dedicado se asegura de que todas las contribuciones financieras se registren y procesen con precisión, lo que ayuda a la iglesia a mantener la transparencia y la rendición de cuentas. Su trabajo apoya la misión más amplia de la iglesia al permitir varios ministerios, programas de alcance y servicios comunitarios.

Es un gran y necesario ministerio que de una manera casi silenciosa trabaja para ofrecer claridad y cuidado en las contribuciones de la comunidad. Hay espacio para más personas. Los interesados o interesadas, por favor, comuníquense con la coordinadora Bernadette Matthews. No experiencia es necesaria; se ofrece entrenamiento.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER MINISTRY – MINISTERIO DE LA EUCARISTIA

John Nystrom

Our LEM ministry at St. Edwards continues to grow. We now have 33 LEM's serving, including LEM's from all three services and visiting LEM's referred to as LEV's.

LEM's are Lay Eucharistic Ministers that serve at God's table, assisting the priest in administering the gifts of the Holy Eucharist. Typically, LEM's serve the blood of Christ, but are licensed to serve the full bounty of the Holy Eucharist in the absence of a priest. We serve at scheduled services, and special services including weddings and funerals. We study and train to give glory to God's Altar and to ensure that all of us can receive God's gift of great refreshment.

LEM's are licensed by the bishop, and are required to take the "Safeguarding God's People" courses provided by the diocese. In addition to our training here at St. Ed's, we also keep up to date with training sessions and updates throughout the year.

This year we added five new LEM's as noted in the LEM roster below.

St. Edwards LEM's 2025

<i>Veronica Aragon</i>	<i>Christiana Jones - new</i>	<i>Rafael Pleitez - new</i>
<i>Pat Bush</i>	<i>Kevin Lee - new</i>	<i>Denise Robinson</i>
<i>Mary Christopher</i>	<i>Ruth Mannah - new</i>	<i>Kathy Ruchalski - new</i>
<i>Etta Cole</i>	<i>Bernadette Mathews</i>	<i>Ted Ruchalski</i>
<i>Valerie Curry</i>	<i>Gabriele Mayes</i>	<i>Sanya Simmons</i>
<i>Geraldo De La Hoz - new</i>	<i>Charmaine Mitchell</i>	<i>Claudia Sotelo</i>
<i>Marilynn Emmons</i>	<i>Marck Morman</i>	<i>Melanie Sotelo</i>

Marian Franks	John Nystrom	Salena Staub
Michael Harmon - <i>new</i>	Pamela Parks	Samantha Toomey
Serene Harris	Ralph Parks	Hillary Toomey
Nicole Harrison	Martha Patron	Lawrence Toomey

I can speak for all our LEM's to say; it is our great honor serve God and his church in this important ministry.

Blessings.

Hay en total 33 ministros de la eucaristía, siete personas nuevas; somos laicos debidamente preparados para asistir al sacerdote o reemplazarlo en su ausencia dando a la comunidad la santa comunión. La diócesis nos otorga la licencia para ofrecer este servicio a la Iglesia. Es un gran honor servir a Dios en este ministerio tan importante. En el servicio de las 12:30 p.m. aun necesitamos más personas para servir. Bendiciones.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS – VISITADORES EUCARISTICOS

Marilynn Emmons

Eucharistic Visitors are parishioners who take communion to our members who are temporarily or permanently unable to attend church. Most of us are Lay Eucharistic Ministers trained by the priest to offer the wine at the altar. We are also licensed by the Diocese for this ministry. The seven EV's try to visit and/or call the people on our Those We Serve list each month. We have recently lost four long time members on this list. (Mary Hurd, Billy Ball, Kathy Morman, and Kay Morgareidge) Currently, only 2 people are permanently homebound. The others will be called on as needed.

This is a very rewarding ministry. Our homebound members face isolation as well as their fragile health issues. Some will shed tears as they receive the Eucharist and many people in memory care often will recite the words of familiar prayers. Please contact Fr. Fabio or Marilyn Emmons if this ministry appeals to you.

Los Visitadores Eucarísticos son feligreses que llevan la comunión a nuestros miembros que no pueden asistir a la iglesia temporal o permanentemente. La mayoría de nosotros somos ministros laicos de la Eucaristía entrenados por el sacerdote para ofrecer el vino en el altar. También estamos autorizados por la Diócesis para este ministerio. Los siete ministros intentan visitar y / o llamar a las personas en nuestra lista para ofrecerles nuestro servicio. Recientemente hemos perdido a cuatro miembros del grupo: (Mary Hurd, Billy Ball, Kathy Morman y Kay Morgareidge). Actualmente, solo 2 personas están permanentemente confinadas en sus hogares.

Por favor déjele saber al P. Fabio o a Marilyn Emmons si está interesado en ser parte de este ministerio. Con urgencia necesitamos expandir este ministerio a las familias latinas.

FAMILY PROMISE – PROMESA FAMILIAR

Darcey Tatum

Successes in 2024

In 2024, St. Edward's continued our strong relationship with Family Promise of Gwinnett, which helped 69 Individuals, 20 families, and 41 children. We hosted for one week in conjunction with VBS. We were selected as the star fundraiser among churches for "Night without a Bed". Several parishioners helped with work projects at Promise Haven. We contributed gift cards from our Jesse Tree. You also donated \$660 in individual contributions that were sent to FP in January. We responded generously to the special request we received in mid-Dec to help one of our newest families with houseware and clothing needs so they could stay in one of our long-term houses.

Plans for 2025

1. Participate in the Ministry Fair.
2. Help set up and take down for the 2025 Bed Race in April.
3. Host for two weeks - June 15 - 22, 2025, in conjunction with VBS. We expect to offer scholarships to attend VBS if there is any cost. The second host week will be the week of August 24, 2025. Note: Under the new concept being implemented by FP, hosts will only provide meals and breakfast and lunch supplies if needed. Providing meals does not require a background check. Hosts that have completed a background check may or may not decide to volunteer to stay for fellowship and to help the families from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Overnight and weekend volunteers will no longer be needed. Because many volunteers do not drive at night, we selected two weeks during Daylight Savings Time to serve as hosts.
4. Support two fundraising projects in 2025. Our major initiative will be in August with an effort to raise funds for the Night Without a Bed (NWAB) campaign. We would also like to help Jeanette with the Jessie Tree next Christmas.
5. Perform two work projects at PH: I suggest we plant the three-color spots at PH in the Spring and Fall. This would involve planting annuals and watering for a few weeks. We could coordinate doing the same on the church campus. I see this as an excellent chance to build a community at a low cost. We supply materials and plants.
6. Work to renew the lease for five more years.

Co-Chairman Update

Valerie stepped down as St. Edward's Coordinator for Family Promise of Gwinnett after many years in that role. She also used her many talents serving on the FP Board to help rejuvenate FP when it most needed help. Her love and dedication to this ministry at St. Edward's and other churches has been remarkable. She

really means it when she says FP is her ministry of choice! Thankfully, she is going to remain with us as a volunteer. Thank you, Valerie! .

En 2024, St. Edward's continuó una sólida relación con Family Promise of Gwinnett, que ayudó a 69 personas, 20 familias y 41 niños. Fuimos anfitriones durante una semana en conjunto con VBS. Fuimos seleccionados como la recaudación de fondos estrella entre las iglesias para "Noche sin cama". Contribuimos con tarjetas de regalo, se donaron \$660 en contribuciones individuales que se enviaron a FP en enero.

Dentro de los planes del 2025 están incluidos: Participar en la Feria de Ministerios, participar a la actividad de la competencia de camas, servir dos Semanas al programa, apoyar los programas de recaudación de fondos, plantar arboles de Jardín en el área de Promesa Familiar, renovar el contrato por otros cinco años.

Agradecemos a Valerie quien contribuyo por varios años como co-directora del programa. Gracias por su participación. Sabemos que ella de alguna manera continuara vinculada al programa. Gracias, Valerie.

FLOWER GUILD – MINISTERIO DE LAS FLORES

Marvelle Martin

The Flower Guild had another joyous year; arranging flowers most of the time with two of the members due to illness. Praise be to God.

Congratulations to the current team for their continued service.

The St Edwards flower Guild primary function is to provide flowers to increase the beauty of our worship space. The flower Guild is open to anyone who enjoys working with flowers and is willing to spend an hour or so making an arrangement once a month. Flowers are procured using cost-effective options, including flowers from the St Edwards church members flower garden and from the St Edward's flower garden when possible and any cost incurred by a Guild member for flowers arrangements are reimbursed from the flower guild fund. If you need help learning how to arrange we will be happy help. Our goal for a 2025 is to have a team of two to make the arrangements on a weekly basis and 4 to 6 for special occasions. The flowers calendar for 2025 is in the office or you could call the office for information regarding donations.

Donating flowers is a great way to celebrate special events and to honor memorialize loved ones. The suggested amount for flowers donated is \$80 and you are encouraged to submit a sentence or two regarding the person you are honoring on or holding in remembrance along with your name which appear in the Sunday bulletin. It's a great way to remember birthdays anniversary or just prayers for special events in your lives, thanks to all the members of St Edward's Flower Guild for their dedication in providing a variety of design on a weekly basis. This ministry allows us to share our talents and bring joy into creating arrangements for the altar. The flower guild wishes to thank all the parishioners for the donations and for trusting us to provide you with arrangement that touch you and enhance your worship experience each Sunday.

Fue otro año lleno de gozo en este ministerio, a pesar de tener dos miembros/as enfermas. Nuestra función más importante es proveer flores en las celebraciones para el altar. Si alguien está interesado/a en ser parte de este ministerio déjenos saber, necesitamos con urgencia a varios en este ministerio. Una vez entrenados se les asignará un fin de semana al mes. Si alguien quiere ofrecer flores en memoria de un ser querido, se sugiere una donación de \$80. Su nombre será publicado en el boletín dominical.

Foyers Ministry – Ministerio Foyers

Charles & Mary Lu Rogers

Foyers at St. Edward's are small gatherings of members who meet for a simple meal at a home or local restaurant on a regular basis in order to get to know one another better and to become more integrated into our parish family.

After a number of requests, Foyers was re-activated in the spring of 2024 for the first time since the Covid pandemic. We made smaller groups, but had four groups for the spring/summer period. Fall/winter we had three groups as several people dropped out at the holiday season.

We look forward to another signup period in March with more groups in the 2025 year.

Este ministerio son reuniones pequeñas entre los fieles de la parroquia, se comparte una cena en la casa de uno de los miembros o en un restaurante, con el objetivo de conocerse más uno al otro. Hubo siete reuniones el año pasado. Esperamos reiniciar a partir de Marzo 2025.

THE HOSPITALITY MINISTRY – MINISTERIO DE HOSPITALIDAD.

Samantha Toomey

The Hospitality Ministry has been continually active in 2024. It has been growing and has improved in numbers. We now have fourteen ladies in this ministry. We are a group who have shown so much dedication to the ministry. We represent at St. Edward's an international culture with diversity among us with such success in our community.

We serve breakfast after 8am and after 10am service we have coffee hour. Whenever we have extraordinary events and special services like our annual Vacation Bible School, Fall Festival, Easter, Harvest, Pentecost, Christmas, and other services with the Latinx Congregation we have over 150-170 people, we do that with enthusiasm, love, and kindness.

We will continue to serve God and our people in this great church that we love and hold dear to our hearts.

If you would like to be a member of this ministry, please reach out to our chair or any of the members.

Yours in Christ,

Samantha Toomey, Chair.

Gladys Tarpeh, Co-Chair.

Ruth Mannah, Vestry Liaison.

Desde el 2024 volvimos a activar el ministerio. Actualmente somos 14 personas, que ofrecemos hospitalidad a la comunidad celebrando nuestra diversidad. Servimos desayuno después de los servicios dominicales y en ocasiones o eventos especiales. Si quieres ser miembro/a por favor comuníquese con Samantha, Gladys o Ruth.

Memorial Garden – Jardin Memorial

Michael Lyons

At the request of Father, I agreed to manage the garden. After meeting with Fabio, Darcey Tatum, Nick Prakash and myself, I did an initial garden design. The garden at that time did not have any color. Clean up began with me and Nick. Darcey helped us a lot.

The focal point was the platform with the Cross. White and Pink petunias were planted along three sides of platform. Additional flowers included perennial Silvias, Dianthus, Cone flowers and Yarrow. Overall, the garden was very successful!

In 2025, I plan to replace the annuals I am considering removing the Mahonia and replacing it with something that is a better fit for the garden. I am currently researching plants that will do well with our hot and dry Summers. I am going to plant some Lavender; they have good color, great scent and they will tolerate the expected Summer weather.

We could use additional help with pruning, weeding, and dead heading flowers as these are ongoing processes.

I expect the Memorial Garden to be more beautiful in 2025!

A petición del Padre, me reuní con Darcey y Nick para hacer un plan de renovación del Jardín y plantar flores. Se hizo con gran éxito. Esperamos en este año cambiar algunas plantas que ya

necesitan ser reemplazadas por otras nuevas. Siempre necesitamos manos que quieran colaborar en este Proyecto.

MUSIC MINISTRY – MINISTERIO DE MUSICA

Carla Strott

We are singing and playing music from our liturgical past, but we are also adding new, beautiful love letters to God in the form of new music written by composers of today - in English, Xhosa, Swahili, Latin, and Spanish. What a treasure all this diversity is. We are dancing each other's dances and singing each other's songs.

We added 3 singers to the Parish Choir, 2 Handbell Ringers, and 5 Coro members in 2024. We also added a music OUTREACH project - singing and playing for The Bridge, a retirement and rehab community, at the end of 2024 - which is planned to be a yearly staple going forward.

If you are interested in joining the choir or the handbells, or if you sing or play an instrument and would like to be involved in special services, let us know – your gifts and talents are important, and we will find a way to help you use them to praise the Giver of those gifts.

Who we are in 2025:

CHOIR

Lee Ann Sipe, Pat Bratton, Laura Amend, Comfort Manobah, Michael Harmon, Joy Sibley, Hugh O'Neil, Steve Pearson, Mary Lu Rogers, Watchien Kelly, Marvelle Martin, Lorenzo Clarke, John Talipsky, Sanya Simmons, Jay Franks, Wendell Dillon, Jeannette Best-Nunex, Mikki Dillon, Charles Rogers, Marian Franks, Denise Robinson, Serene Harris, Marlaina Grant, Erica Harris, and Carla Strott, Director.

CORO

Lois Simon, Graciela Lupercio, Sonia María Ramírez, Paula Rivas, María Lupercio, Viviana E Barrios, Rafael Pleitez, Gerardo de la Hoz, Alejandro Soto, Marcos Zavala, Jorge Medina, and Gustavo Romero, Director.

HANDBELLS

Michael Harmon, Lee Ann Sipe, Erica Harris, Pat Bratton, Marlaina Grant, Carla Strott, and Sanya Simmons, Conductor

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Rich Van Slyke - Guitar, Gustavo Romero - Guitar, Rick Simon - Bass, Rafael Nunex - Percussion, Lee Ann Sipe - Flute, Sanya Simmons - Flute

Carla Strott Director of Worship Arts music@stedwardsonline.org 404-376-5973

“Bless, O Lord, us your servants who minister in your temple; Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Estamos cantando y tocando música de nuestro pasado litúrgico, pero también estamos agregando nuevas y hermosas cartas de amor a Dios en forma de nueva música escrita por compositores de hoy, en inglés, xhosa, swahili, latín y español. ¡Qué tesoro es toda esta diversidad! Estamos bailando los bailes de los demás y cantando las canciones de los demás.

Al coro de la mañana se agregaron 3 nuevos miembros, a las campanas 2 y al coro 5. Arriba encuentra el nombre de cada uno de los integrantes para el 2025.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES – MINISTERIO DE LA VIDA PARROQUIAL

Diane Van Slyke

The Parish Life Committee organizes the social gatherings at St. Edward's. There are over 20 parishioners on this committee. Our biggest event is the Lenten Fish Fry. We serve an average of 80 meals each night. The 2025 Lenten fish fry begins March 7th. Thank you to Darcey Tatum for leading the fish fry team this year! Thank you also the many parishioners that help us plan, shop, cook, fry, bake, print flyers, sell tickets, setup and serve the delicious meal!

In 2024, the Parish Life team used some of the fish fry proceeds to donate \$1000 to the St Edward's Scholarship fund!

Other events to look forward to are: Karaoke, Game Night, and more! If you have an idea for a parish event, please join us, we are always looking for more members to join our team! 😊

Este ministerio ofrece y organiza reuniones de la vida parroquial. Hay más de 20 personas en este ministerio. Nuestro mayor evento es el Pescado Frito de la Cuaresma. Servimos alrededor de 80 cenas cada Viernes. Con algunos recursos que reunimos de nuestras actividades donamos a algunos programas parroquiales tales como el Fondo de Becas de quienes se gradúan en la parroquia.

PASTORAL CARE – CUIDADO PASTORAL

Michelle Alexander In 2024, the Pastoral care team was proud to serve several families of St. Edwards in many capacities. We are happy to report that we continued to work as a team and offered our gifts to be a balm in the lives of several members and their families.

Kip Cloward led the way wearing multiple hats through visitations, phone calls and general outreach to members in need especially to Billy Ball and his family. We have been most grateful for his ministry. The team worked together to send cards, to give phone calls of encouragement, and to visit at least ten parishioners and their families.

We plan to be steadfast in our work next year, as we hope to touch more lives through this important work. If you feel drawn to this ministry, please reach out to myself or Father Fabio.

En el 2024 este ministerio sirvió a varios feligreses en varias formas. Kip Cloward coordinó varias visitas y llamadas a los enfermos y a sus familias de la comunidad, especialmente a nuestro hermano Billy Ball en sus últimos días con nosotros. Continuaremos adelante con este gran ministerio, si siente el llamado a pertenecer a él, contáctame a mi o al padre Fabio.

PRAYER SHAWL/BAPTISMAL BLANKET – SHAWL DE ORACIONES

Delores O'Neil

The members of the Prayer Shawl/Baptismal Blanket Ministry have continued their contributions of time, talent, and materials to support this service to our church community during 2024. There were twelve shawls completed, blessed, and available for distribution. Eight shawls were given away to people who were in need of feeling God's love wrapped around them in a very physical way.

We received feedback from two recipient families about how much the shawls meant. The first was about a man who got so much comfort from the shawl that his wife had it cremated with him. The second was similar in that the shawl was placed in the casket with the deceased man and buried with him. One of our shawls was requested by a young lady that grew up in St. Edward's, is now experiencing some health challenges and wanted the warmth of prayer arms enfolding her.

Baptismal Blankets are a joyous part of our ministry. We completed eight items and seven were given to the newly baptized babies.

We are always happy to welcome new knitters and/or crocheters to our group. If you are interested, contact Delores O'Neil at 678-344-6143.

Hicimos 12 shawls, siete de ellos para los nuevos bautizados. A través de este ministerio llegamos a muchas personas que en enfermedad y duelo encuentran apoyo en nuestras oraciones. Para los bautizados, es una gran ocasión de gozo. Delores O'Neil es la coordinadora.

SOUND & VIDEO

Ted Ruchalski - John Nystrom

The Sound & Video Ministry is responsible for audio and video streaming of our services. The streams are posted on YouTube for anyone to view.

We currently have eight volunteers on the team who are responsible for both the English and Spanish services. We would like to increase that number to make sure we have two people at each service (one to run the sound board and one to work the cameras).

Hillary Harmon

Ted Ruchalski

Melanie Sotelo

Mike Staub

Kevin Lee

Monie Toomey

John Nystrom

Al Tubman

Andreas Gonzales

Elizabeth Piedra

This year we brought amplified audio to Nicholson Hall. How many events have you attended in Nicholson Hall where you were too challenged to hear the speaker? 2025 is the year we fix this. Many important events occur and we simply need a PA system to give everyone the opportunity to hear what's being said clearly. Plus, there's much more opportunity to use Nicholson Hall to its best potential.

In 2025 we plan on also updating our speakers in the nave. The typical lifespan for a good speaker is 20 years, and the current speakers are the original speakers. And BTW, the PA speakers also are used for pre-recorded music in certain occasions such as the 8AM service, and other special events.

Hat's off to the AV Team. We've spent a lot of time learning and practicing to produce a quality live and recorded service.

If you are interested in joining our ministry, please contact our ministry heads:

Este ministerio se encarga del Sonido de la Iglesia y de la transmisión de los servicios via YouTube. Actualmente hay ocho voluntarios en este ministerio (ver lista arriba). Este año adquirimos un Sistema de Sonido para el salón social. Nuestra meta es adquirir nuevos amplificadores para la iglesia en este año. Si desea ser parte de este ministerio, contáctese con el coordinador de este ministerio.

COMMUNITY GUARDEN – JARDIN COMUNITARIO

This year St. Edward's started a community garden. Tomatoes, peppers, basil, strawberry, okra, parsley, cilantro, carrots, cabbage, eggplant, zucchini, onions, cucumbers grew in the garden thanks to the fifty and more committed people that week after week got involved preparing the soil, planting, watering, and caring for this beautiful project. The harvest was distributed in the parish community.

Este año la comunidad de San Eduardo inicio una huerta comunitaria. Tomate, pimentones, chiles, fresas, okra, perejil, cilantro, zanahorias, repollos, berenjenas, calabacines, cebollas y muchas otras verduras crecieron en esta huerta gracias a las cincuenta o mas personas que prepararon la tierra, abonaron, rociaron y cuidaron semana a semana el proyecto para que hubiese una abundante cosecha. Y en verdad la hubo! Y fue distribuida a los miembros de la comunidad.