

## Pastor's Report – 2020

So, what can we expect for 2020 as a congregation? That was a question I asked in last year's pastor's report for the annual meeting. I started my answer to the question like this. "First off, we can expect that God will continue to provide for us as members and will empower us with the resources and will to continue doing life-changing ministry in God's name here in Atascocita/Humble."

That was more than true this past year. The hopes, dreams and plans we as a congregation had for 2020 while postponed and changed because of the worldwide pandemic did not stop us from doing life-changing ministry during the year. God did provide us with the resources and the will to move over to online worship during the period when we could not gather in-person. That did not stop once we were able to gather once again in-person. Zoom coffee hours took place after worship during the spring and early summer.

A number, of committees and taskforces gathered mostly on zoom to plan for the congregation once we were past the worst of the pandemic and able to resume many "normal" activities and events. Along with Atascocita United Methodist church we hosted 4 Food Fairs for those who are in need in our community. Many volunteers from both congregations handed out food from the Houston Food Bank and made a difference to those receiving it.

Was it all we wanted to do during this past year, honestly, NO! Yet through the many gifts given to ALC, we are now poised to move forward in new and exciting ways during 2021. The large screen TV's, Go Pro Camera, computers, internet up grade and small portable sound system that helped us go online during 2020 will allow us to reach a wider range of individuals then ever before in our congregation's history.

We will likely continue to find ourselves working thru issues of how to gather because of the Pandemic during the first half of 2021. But we will still provide worship online each week and in-person as we are able to do so. Last year the strategic planning team developed three objectives to be addressed in our congregation's ministries during 2021. Goals have been set for each objective and work has started on achieving these objectives. Some of the goals will take some time to fulfill depending on when and how the community and congregation finds itself as we near the end of the pandemic.

But work and effort will go forward as much as possible. The three objectives being addressed this year are:

- 1) Enhance Worship and Music Experience
- 2) Expand Outreach and Care Experiences
- 3) Develop New Interest Groups

I am excited to serve alongside each and everyone of you in this year ahead as we do God's work - Our hands. As we emerge into the post Covid 19 world please know that God will be working in and with us to proclaim the good news of the kingdom.

We are not the first generation to have live through and experienced the effects of a pandemic or other major world changing events. Each previous generation who found their world changed by such things found that God had been with them, protecting and guiding them through it. They also found that God was right there with them as the moved forward to new reality of the world around them. We have that same promise. Let us listen and watch for God's presence in our lives each and everyday of the year ahead and let us respond to the call God is placing before us to share the good news and fulfill God's will for our lives.

God's peace

Pastor Brian

## **Basic Congregational Statistics 2020**

Baptized Membership at end of 2019 –	292
Baptisms in 2020	- 1
New Members Received in 2020	- 1
Deaths in 2020	- 3
Baptized Membership at end of 2020 -	291

Total Confirmed Membership end of 2020 – 259

Youth Confirmed in 2020 – 2

Average weekly worship attendance in 2020 – 71

In-person – 47

Online - 24

Total number of people participating in life of congregation in 2020 - 253

## President's Report 2020

What a wonderful congregation we have when asked to go above and beyond saying "YES" to service for the church.

Thank you to Renee, Sid, Tim, Laurie, Peg, Tim, Susan, and Pastor Brian for all the work that your teams, What and How, accomplished during 2020. Thank you Peg for the altar guild work you do every Sunday, Fridays and Saturdays for the church.

Thank you to Sid and Tommy for always saying "YES" to the things I wanted to see built or repaired at the church. They love working in Tommy's garage on these projects!

Thank you to Dave for the landscaping work of making the front of our church look inviting. Thank you to Darrell who is also doing landscaping for the church and making plumbing improvements happen in the kitchen.

Thank you to Joy for answering the multitude of questions I have about what has happened in the past at ALC.

Thank you to Jim for fixing a bunch of broken things in the building and going up in a hot attic along with Sid to inspect the vent pipes that needed to be moved or replaced.

Thank you to the youth of the church who have come out on Sunday mornings to make our PowerPoint slideshow, sound system and filming of the worship service for Facebook Live happen superbly.

Thank you to Jeff and Renee for helping secure our building better with two outside cameras linked to our security system.

Thank you to the following contributors of their treasures to improve the worship space with TV's and technology that allows us to go Live on Facebook every Sunday:

Joy and Dave, Randy, Tommy and Joy, Cathy and Allen and Russ and Susan

Thank you to the "Doors and More" committee for the beautiful addition of the new double doors, a much-improved side entrance door and an insulated sacristy door possible.

Cathy and Allen, Susan and Allen, Dan, Renee and Russ and Susan

Thank you to Susan for her amazing work on the Church Directory and Website. Have you checked them out?

Thank you to Sam and Sharon for all the passion and giving for the beauty of the outside and inside of the church and the new door at the base of the stairwell.

Thank you, David, for the upgrade of the church Wi-Fi and installing the NAS for the office.

Russ Senti

## **2020 Endowment Committee**

**Members:** Sue Murtaugh, Christine Townsend, Randy Gray (Team Leader)

**Number of meetings:** 1

**Process:** Committee met to learn about HOW an Endowment Committee is formed and WHAT can be the positive impact for the congregational members who may want to give a planned gift to Atascocita Lutheran Church

### **Meeting Minutes:**

We did have a round table discussion about what the current endowment fund is and how it was started. Sue mentioned that it was started when a member donated a certain amount of money to the church.

Liz talked about how endowments could be used as a rainy-day fund, as a savings/mutual fund investment or for a specific purpose

Things we felt we needed to consider:

1. Rules should be clear of what the endowment fund will be used for with the approval of the congregation.
2. What are the guidelines or bylaws for removing money from the fund?
3. Consider this fund to be outside of the budget.
4. Think about charitable events (such as the fall festival) and donate the first 10% to the endowment fund.

## **2020 Nominating Committee**

**Members:** Dan Cargill, Tommy Cook, Sid Nice, Sharon Sledge

Leadership Team Positions to be filled: President and Vice-President

**Number of meetings:** 6

**Process:** Committee met to discuss positions open, characteristics needed for the positions and possible candidates for each of the positions. A notice of the positions to fill was posted in the church newsletter. Each member was assigned congregational members to speak with concerning their interest in filling the position. Committee continued meeting and discussing persons interested in the positions and responses of persons contacted directly. Interested candidates interviewed in person with the committee. Meetings continued until the best candidate for each of the positions was found.

**Nominees:** President – Russ Senti; Vice-President – Renee Wallace

# Stewardship Committee 2020 Report

During May a small group was gathered to read two books and then take part in a Zoom call with Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Chris Markert. Rev. Markert led the group sharing with one another what insights they had learned about stewardship from the books. What those insights could mean for how we do stewardship education here at ALC was also part of the discussion. Three sub teams were formed around the areas of: Ask, Thank, Tell. The ongoing pandemic has slowed the work of this group and the sub teams, but some important groundwork is in place that will be picked up in 2021 and will be used as the work of reaching the objective and goals put forth by the strategic planning team is lived out.

Members of this group were: Sharon Sledge, Sid Nice, Dan Cargill, Jeff Wallace, Kacey Vuong, Russ Senti and Pastor Brian

The committee read two books:

“Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation”

by Charles R Lane

“Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship”

by J. Clif Christopher