

Western Deanery Report 2023

Greetings in Christ!

I am pleased to report that the Western Deanery is doing well. We enjoyed all sorts of activities this 40th Anniversary year. Since our last convention, our clergy have met monthly, notwithstanding the summer break. This has fostered collegiality in our group and good communication. Our last meeting before Memorial Day was at a breakfast café in Willow Park. We were blessed by another patron who picked up our tab. Being out in public dressed in clergy attire is a fine witness to the world.

Our parishes and mission's report:

St. Andrew's Breckenridge has spent 2023 celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding in Breckenridge. We have held two commemorative events, with the third and final scheduled in November. The first was the rededication of our refurbished courtyard with Bp. Iker officiating. For the second event, the St. Andrew's Bargain Box resale shop held a week-long half-price sale and celebration. The final event will be our Catfish and Cornhole celebration on Nov. 19. We will also take an offering for the Bishop's discretionary fund in support of the 40th Anniversary of the diocese. In addition to these special events, St. Andrew's has seen a noticeable increase in weekday attendance. If the Lord wills, the last quarter of the year will include one baptism, one confirmation, and reception of three new members.

St. Luke's Mineral Wells, under the steady guidance of Fr. Jeff Logan, has enjoyed good stability and growth. It has over the past several years seen a rise in financial support and has sought to bring the priest's stipend in line with the diocesan standard on its own. With the continued yet decreasing help of the diocese, they were able to do this. The spirit of peace and cooperation among the vestry and their confidence in Fr. Logan to lead them is remarkable and something we all strive for.

St. Francis Willow Park: This year St. Francis has had two baptisms and presented five people for confirmation, one person to be received, and one person to make a reaffirmation of faith. As of Oct. 10th, the parish was able to give 684 pounds of fresh produce from their Saint Francis of Assisi Community Garden to Tarrant Area Food Bank to feed the hungry in their community. At their annual outdoor St. Francis Day Eucharist, they blessed and dedicated their new church sign that finally reads: "Saint Francis of Assisi *Anglican* Church". They are excited to begin their fourth annual Saint Francis Pumpkin Patch next week. In honor of the 40th anniversary of the diocese, they plan to give their profits from Saturday, October 21 to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

Christ Church Midland reports that they are continuing to grow numerically with God sending them several new families with children. They are in the process of completing a \$13,434,000,00 building project, also they have brought on staff a

- Discipleship and Mission pastor
- Director of Music Ministries/Resident Composer
- New Priest Associate - Fr. Matt Traylor

Looking to the future, Christ Church is developing preliminary plans for a downtown Ministry Center where they can reach out to those who will not come to the church. They are expanding their Hunt/Fish weekend ministry to inner city and foster children who have no opportunity to get in the outdoors. They recently assisted Arusha, Kenya with the completion of a medical clinic and the government has assigned two physicians to this clinic. They are funding a mission to the Kolbar people of Northern Iraq. This is the Iraqi's first long-term encounter with believers.

Holy Cross Abilene recently had a 9-member refugee family from Tanzania join their congregation, a great blessing and lots of ministry opportunity. As a result They've purchased a 15-passenger van to help get them to church each Sunday (they have no vehicle). All is going well. The parish has also relocated to a more suitable facility in the heart of Abilene which will better support future growth.

All Saints Weatherford is currently celebrating 100 years in their building. All Saints laid the cornerstone to their first structure in 1876 and later sold that to the city of Weatherford in 1919. They began construction on their current Church in 1923 and completed the work in 1924. With the Lord's help, this Weatherford treasure will grow and expand its ministry in the community.

Missions St. Peter's by the Lake and Holy Trinity Eastland: Holy Trinity is an actively growing mission and St. Peter's by the Lake is holding steady. They are being lovingly shepherded by the Very Rev. Fr. Andrew Bradely, SSC.