

**Welcome to St. Boniface, Comfort**  
**[www.stbonifacecomfort.com](http://www.stbonifacecomfort.com)**



# Our Mission

We are a welcoming church family grounded in traditional Christian sacraments, committed to the spiritual growth of all.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are committed to:

- Welcoming and including all people as we pray, worship, serve others, and enjoy the richness of music, liturgy and Christian fellowship.
- Doing God's work of service in our community and the wider world.
- Offering programs and facilities to accommodate the needs of our community and church.

*We expect the miraculous so come along for the journey!*



# Our History

In 1906, St. Boniface was established as a mission in the Diocese of West Texas. Contributions came from near and far to make the new chapel built at the cost of \$2,500.00 become a reality. The first service was held in St. Boniface on the Feast Day of the Epiphany on January 6, 1907. St. Helena's in Boerne gave the brass cross and a basin. St. Boniface was first served by the Reverend James Albert Massey and his sister, Deaconess Charlotte Gregory. On January 7, 1912, the Reverend George Belsey moved to Comfort after serving at St. Mark's in San Antonio and began his ministry at St. Boniface. Reverend Belsey was known to jog down the railroad track on his weekly round of visits in the country while he meditated on his sermons; he served St. Boniface for 20 years.

Through the decades, St. Boniface has been served by numerous clergy and lay people who have enabled the church to grow and flourish. In 2005, after a number of episodes of flooding, St. Boniface reluctantly left its lovely neo-gothic church for higher ground just north of town. There we built a beautiful, sun-filled sanctuary on 10 acres. For several years, St. Boniface had a thriving day school, but sadly, dwindling numbers caused its closure in 2017. In 2025, we made the momentous decision to start the process to become a parish.

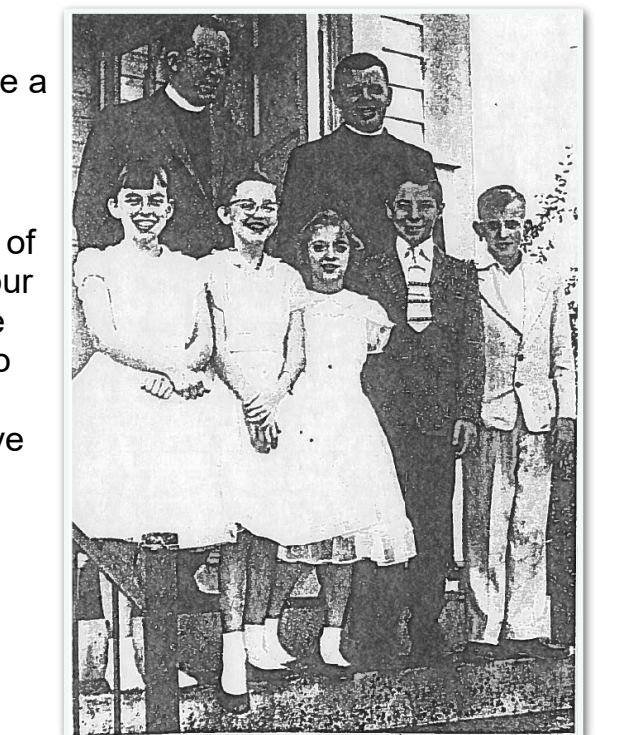
St. Boniface is located along US-87 just a short distance from I-10, and it offers a spectacular view of the Texas Hill Country. Our nave serves both as our place of worship and our place of fellowship, as we often convert the worship space after our service to hold lunches and special events. Our church has faced many challenges over the years, and we have also experienced many joys and blessings.

### St. Boniface's Church Has Served 32 Years



By Annie L. Karger

St. Boniface's Chapel is a mission in the Parish of St. Helena's of the Diocese of West Texas. This first church building of the Episcopals was built in 1906 and was opened for Divine service on the 6th day of January, 1907, being the festival of the Epiphany, in the presence of a congregation from San Antonio, Boerne and Comfort. The Rev. J. Albert Massey, rector, celebrated the Holy Communion with the Rev. J. T. Hutchinson, president of standing committee and representative of the Bishop of the Diocese and Mr. U. S. C. Saul, warden of St. Boniface's. A number of local people were interested and among those who contributed were the late Mr. J. W. Oppert, contractor in charge of the building, Mr. T. O. Codrington and Mrs. E. F. Gaddis. Contributions from church people outside the diocese were also responsible for the building and for the work that was being carried on. The Baptismal font, a gift from Mrs. E. F. Gaddis, is a memorial to her daughter, Pauline and the first persons to be baptized were Adelheid and Chester Arno Schwethelm, John Francis and Irvin Albert Kutzer on March 31, 1907. The Rite of confirmation was administered on Nov. 1, 1908 by the Rt. Rev. J. S. Johnston D. D., First Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas, confirming Ottilie and Ida Schwethelm and Frederick Cooling. Mr. Cooling became a vestryman of the parish and warden of St. Boniface's Chapel. His death on Aug. 12, 1911 was the first burial service conducted by the rector, the place of interment was Corpus Christi. On Wednesday, Aug. 14, 1907, Miss Alma Estelle Langhein of Sisterdale and Leonard C. DeBono of Eagle Pass were married. This was the first marriage ceremony performed by the Rev. J. A. Massey in St. Boniface's Church. The late Alfred Giles of San Antonio an ardent church man, bequeathed to St. Boniface, a trust fund, the income to be used for this chapel. Many gifts have been received from time to time, some in the form of memorials. One of the most recent, was the beautiful processional cross given by the Rev. H. R. Remsen. A church school is conducted Sunday mornings and services are held every Sunday, by the Rector, who at this time is the Rev. Wayne Buchanan. Church organizations which have functioned during these years were the Woman's Auxiliary, Junior Auxiliary, Daughters of the King, Church Service League and St. Boniface Pioneers. In the thirty-two years St. Boniface has had four Pastors. The Rev. J. A. Massey, the Rev. Geo. Belsey, the Rev. W. W. Stewart and the Rev. Wayne Buchanan. At times when the need was great, other ministers have generously helped, and we are thankful and happy to have still with us the Rev. Geo. Belsey, who served so long and faithfully and the Rev. H. R. Remsen, who is ever with us.



# Our Facility



# Who We Are

When we were asked at our parish profile workshop to identify the three things everyone should know about us, our overwhelming response was “welcoming and friendly”. We attached words like “extraordinary”, “exceptional”, and “the best I’ve ever experienced.” Our website boasts that we turn strangers into friends! Newcomers do not have to try to get to know us; as members of St. Boniface, we make sure that we get to know them. We enjoy being with one another and we love having the opportunity to share with others.

Although we come from six different communities (one couple drives over 80-miles one way to worship), we are very connected to one another, and we look forward to reconnecting every week.

We are a diverse congregation, as we welcome people from all walks of life. We genuinely love and care not just for members, but for anyone who walks through our doors. Everything we do is based on the truth that God loves you! We make every effort to insure that anyone who arrives on Sunday mornings or at any other gathering will experience that same love and welcome of God.



“We are a happy bunch and enjoy our time together!”

“You will be hugged!”

“People make you feel special.”

“We are authentic.”

“You will feel like family in a short amount of time.”

“We rejoice together, grieve together, and walk through difficult times together.”

“We love a good laugh.”

# Our Challenges

At St. Boniface, we recognize that we have challenges. Rather than seeing them as barriers, we see them as opportunities and areas in our life together that we want to explore with our new priest. We do not expect our next priest to do all of this on their own; we want to partner with our new leader in prayer and planning to meet whatever challenges St. Boniface might face. We have identified our top three challenges.

1. We know that we need to grow. We do not see growth as a way to achieve a higher ASA. For us, growth means that God is bringing people to our church and they are finding connections with God and with us!
2. We would like to explore the ways in which we can invite, welcome, and connect younger families to our church.
3. We would like to move to a place of further financial stability while fostering a greater sense of stewardship. On the bright side, we paid off our mortgage in early 2025!



“Our small size challenges staffing our ministries.”

“We would like to introduce St. Boniface to different needs in the community.”

“Membership, maintenance, ministry, stewardship.”



# Our Hopes, Prayers, and Dreams

Continue in life-giving worship and leadership

Increased financial security and growth projects

Have a loving, compassionate vicar

Continue to fuel our love for one another and new friends through laughter and love

Attain parish status

To exhibit the love of God in all that we do

Small groups and Bible studies

Funding for members who are in financial danger

To keep our informality without losing the beauty and depth of the liturgy

Become more visible in addressing needs in our community



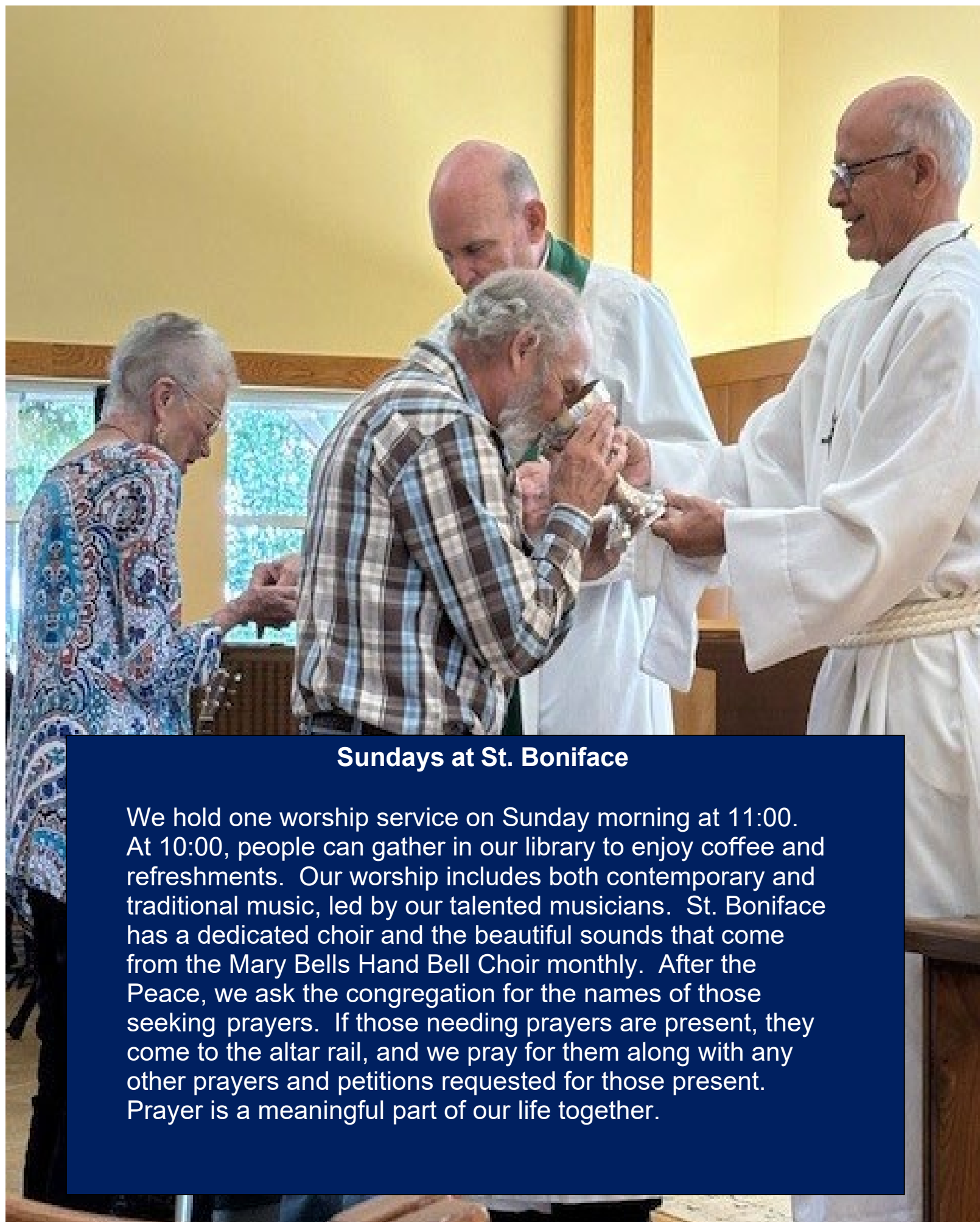
# Our Next Priest

In transitioning to our Permanent Vicar, we step out first! We choose not to step out in fear or because we have no choice, but because we choose to step out in faith by looking for a leader who wants to guide us to Parish status. We look forward to a person who will embrace who we are while leading us on a path for growth.

When asked to choose from a list of “priest gifts and qualities” that we believe would best fit our church, our top 5 responses were:

1. Pastoral Care encouraging Laity Participation
2. Strong energetic preaching
3. Spiritual Growth and Direction
4. Lives in or near Comfort
5. Supporting strong music program





### **Sundays at St. Boniface**

We hold one worship service on Sunday morning at 11:00. At 10:00, people can gather in our library to enjoy coffee and refreshments. Our worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, led by our talented musicians. St. Boniface has a dedicated choir and the beautiful sounds that come from the Mary Bells Hand Bell Choir monthly. After the Peace, we ask the congregation for the names of those seeking prayers. If those needing prayers are present, they come to the altar rail, and we pray for them along with any other prayers and petitions requested for those present. Prayer is a meaningful part of our life together.

# Ministries at St. Boniface

At St. Boniface we have ministries that serve the worship services as well as ministries that serve the building and grounds. Our outreach/community ministries are regularly organized around the needs of our community and often come together spontaneously as part of an outreach passion in the congregation. St. Boniface is unique in that our members come from areas as far east as San Antonio, south to Sutherland Springs, west to Ingram, and north to Fredericksburg, with all the towns in between. We have diverse interests and passions, but we are a whole church body eager to be the *Light of Christ* when a need is brought forward.

**Bishop's Committee:** As a mission, we have a Bishop's Committee made up of six members from the church and a clerk. The BC meets monthly on the third Sunday after church. The Bishop's Committee manages/organizes all aspects of congregational life with the participation of our current vicar.

**Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild does a lovely job of preparing the altar and the church for worship and other services.

**Flower Guild and Church Décor:** While flowers usually come under the Ministry of Altar Guild, we are building a Flower Guild. Others in the church lend their hands to beautify our church during church and calendar seasons.



**Crucifer/Eucharistic Minister:** At St. Boniface, the jobs of crucifer and EM are combined. He or she leads the processional at the start of service, leads the gospel procession, and then leads the recession at the end of service; he or she assists the celebrant and other priests during the Holy Communion.

**Lector:** We have a large group of excellent lectors. Bringing the Word of God to the people is always a heartfelt privilege.

**Greeter/Usher:** This is the first impression we can make on visitors. Our greeters are pleased to be at the door welcoming all who come through the doors. Once the service begins, they become Ushers facilitating the offering and the communion service by ushering people to the altar.

**Building and Grounds:** While we do not have a committee per se, we do have several couples who keep an eye on needs around the building and grounds. They do much to keep our plant in good repair and look nice outside. Often members of the Bishop's Committee will take on the coordination and management for special projects related to maintenance and plant improvement.

**Planned Giving:** St. Boniface has recently established an endowment fund and looks forward to future gifts to protect and enhance its future. The new Endowment Committee will work to educate the congregation on future giving and encourage gifts to the fund.

**Choir:** Several members of St. Boniface lend their voices to our choir, headed by M. D. (Doc) Stephens, our music director. The choir is open to all who wish to share their talents.

**Organist/Pianist/Worship Leader:** Mary Anne Havens is our accomplished organist/pianist under the direction of our worship leader, Doc Stephens, who leads the choir.

**Handbell Choir:** St. Boniface has a lovely and accomplished handbell choir headed by Molly Houck. The Mary Bells play the third Sunday of the month.

**Daughters of the King:** The St. Brigid Daughters of the King meet on the third Monday of the month by Zoom. They pray the names of the congregation daily throughout the year.

**Medical Equipment Closet:** the Medical Closet is a welcome place to drop off no-longer-used medical equipment. Anyone may borrow from the closet at no cost and for as long as needed. It is open to all.

**Centering Prayer:** Our Centering Prayer group meets on Monday evenings by Zoom.

**Healing Prayer:** Healing Prayer meets by Zoom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays to learn about healing prayer and to pray for others during their time together.

**Prayer Shawls:** Our group of Soul Stitchers creates prayer shawls and blankets, which are blessed before or as we give to a recipient.

**Second Sunday Lunch/Kitchen Ministry:** We have a church fellowship meal second Sundays of the month where we can enjoy a leisurely visit with our table companions and experience the joys which come from a variety of kitchens.

**The Comfort Pantry:** The Comfort Table and Pantry was founded in 2000 by members of St. Boniface as an ecumenical effort to help the underserved in Comfort. The Table is a place to go for fellowship and a meal. The Pantry serves those who need food support.

**Ladies' Third Friday at High's Café:** This is a social gathering at High's Café in Comfort. There is no agenda, no study, no requirements except to come and enjoy—maybe invite a friend or two.

**Sip 'n Chat:** Every Sunday morning church members and guests can find coffee, treats, and conversation in the Library. It's a great way to catch up with each other and to welcome guests.

**Drug-Free Comfort:** Drug-Free Comfort is an awareness program sponsored by several school, church and business entities in the county. While not an official program or ministry of St. Boniface, it was begun with members of St. Boniface and we are great supporters of this worthwhile program.

**Yes You Can Go To College:** A local weekly gathering began some years ago encouraging a young man to enroll in college; he was the first in his family to see this as a possibility. St. Boniface members of that group were instrumental in the formation of Yes You Can, working with the high school superintendent and counselors, then inviting other churches in Comfort to join together to form a ministry. Yes You Can members meet with these students, listen to their dreams for college, then mentor them through the process. They all receive a new laptop and usually a Trunk Party to outfit their college apartment or dorm room. We all love to see the joy in the faces of those who never thought this possible.





# New Life

We've had a baby! New life has entered our church congregation not just in new members but with the addition of a precious new life. We are renewing our Nursery—changing the room (originally a nursery) from a storage and work room to a *fresh new Nursery!* By the time our new Vicar arrives, the Nursery will look entirely refreshed. We are all excited to embrace this change as a step into our new future. After all, what's better than new life?



# Outreach and Events

**Pancake Supper:** On Shrove Tuesday, like most Episcopal churches, we have a Pancake Supper. Ours is held in the Comfort Park and is open to the community. The event is free to the public. We have live entertainment and a usual highlight is the joy brought by the students from His Hill Bible School.

**Lenten Acts of Kindness:** During the Sundays in Lent we choose charities from several communities (as our church is made up of people from several towns) and collect those goods under the altar, bless them and send them to their respective non-profits.

**Advent Blessings:** During the Sundays of Advent, we generally collect for a couple of non-profits to help them in their busiest seasons. A favorite is stuffed bears for the Sheriff's Department to have on hand for kids in crisis situations.

**Community Organizational Support:** In the Comfort community we support the Table/Pantry, the Boys and Girls Club, the Golden Age Senior Center, and Drug-Free Comfort. We have recently taken on the stuffed animals for children in crisis project and the backpack project for children in Comfort. We also give yearly to Episcopal Relief and Development either as a single donation or to a particular project, such as water or mosquito nets.



# St. Boniface by the Numbers

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<u>Membership and Attendance</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Total active baptized members	79	81
Average Sunday Attendance	43	51
Easter Sunday Attendance	85	90

<u>Stewardship and Finances</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Number of pledge cards received	25	25
Total dollar amount of pledges	\$172,640	\$174,340
Pledge and plate offerings	\$185,846	\$215,221
Operating revenues	\$192,753	\$233,815
Non-operating revenues	\$114,945	\$24,723
Total all revenues	\$307,698	\$256,538
Operating expenses	\$174,030	\$219,455
Non-operating expenses	\$114,834	\$11,713
Total expenses	\$288,864	\$231,168
Total cash in checking and savings	\$43,057	\$80,108
Total investment at market value	\$49,447	\$56,764

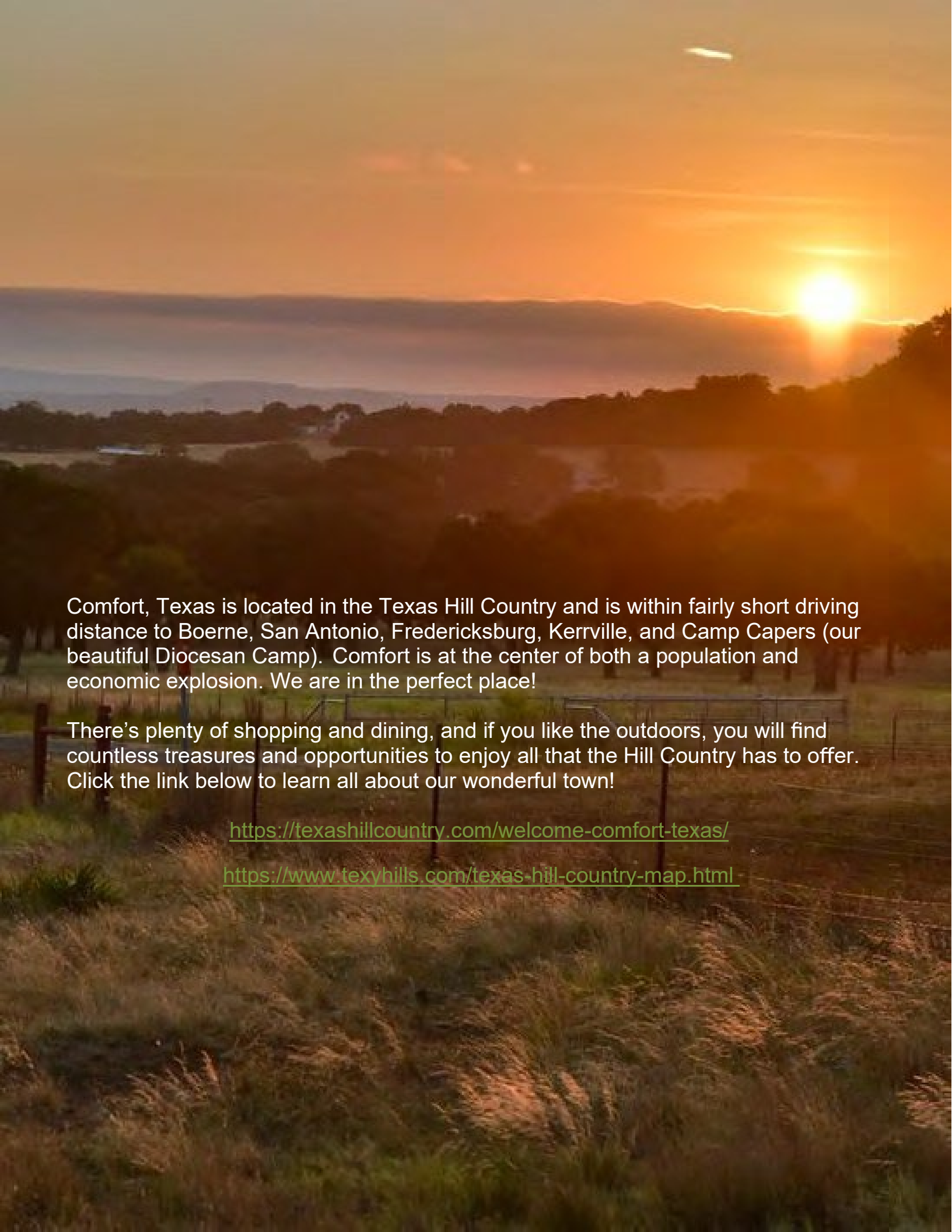
## Notes

When our Vicar retired in June 2021, we were without a priest through October 2022. We used great supply priests and MP as well as Ante-Communion services. The diocese appointed a priest for us who was here Nov. 2022 through Sep 2023. He retired and we again went to supply priests and lay-led services. We were blessed with a vicar from Feb 2025 to March 2026. During the time from 2021 to present, we have maintained a steady attendance and income. In 2025 we were able to pay off our mortgage.



Welcome to Comfort, Texas!





Comfort, Texas is located in the Texas Hill Country and is within fairly short driving distance to Boerne, San Antonio, Fredericksburg, Kerrville, and Camp Capers (our beautiful Diocesan Camp). Comfort is at the center of both a population and economic explosion. We are in the perfect place!

There's plenty of shopping and dining, and if you like the outdoors, you will find countless treasures and opportunities to enjoy all that the Hill Country has to offer. Click the link below to learn all about our wonderful town!

<https://texashillcountry.com/welcome-comfort-texas/>

<https://www.texyhills.com/texas-hill-country-map.html>



# EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of West Texas*



The Right Reverend David Read, Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas, was consecrated as the 11th Diocesan Bishop in July, 2023. Prior to his consecration, Bishop Read served as rector of four congregations in the Diocese, most recently at St. Helena's in Boerne. Bishop Read brings a strong vision for church planting, discipleship, and congregational development. He reminds us that the Diocesan Staff exists solely to serve as a resource for the 87 congregations in the Diocese of West Texas.

Bishop Read has been married to his wife Jacqui since 1991; they have two children (Amy and Aiden) and three grandchildren (Kaydence, Makenna and Jameson David).



The Right Reverend Angela Cortinas, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of West Texas, was consecrated as the 7th Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese on March 15th, 2025. Prior to her consecration, Bishop Cortinas served congregations in Florida and Texas. She brings her many gifts and skills to the work and ministry of the Diocese, and oversees lay ministry development, Christian formation, and discipleship.

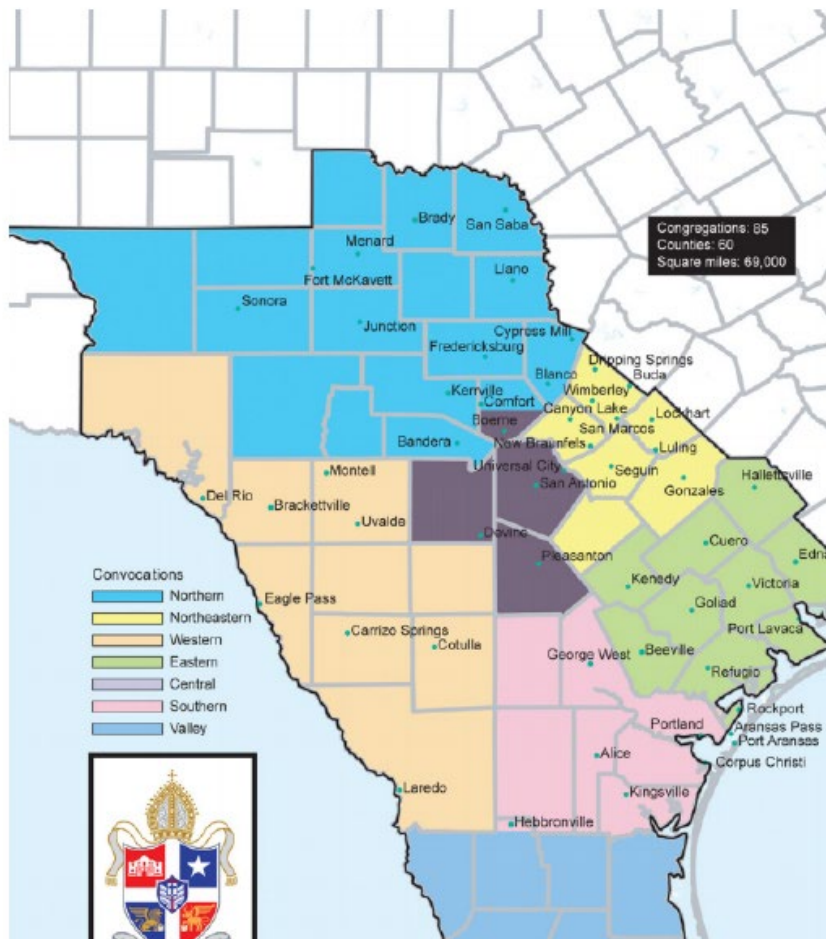
Bishop Cortinas has one daughter, Victoria Fletcher.



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