



January 2021

CROSSTOWN

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg



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Welcome to Epiphany,
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The Jones family — Stephanie, baby Jasper, Brian, and Lars — started the holidays at our Advent wreath party, [Page 16](#). PHOTO BY HILLARY PEETE.

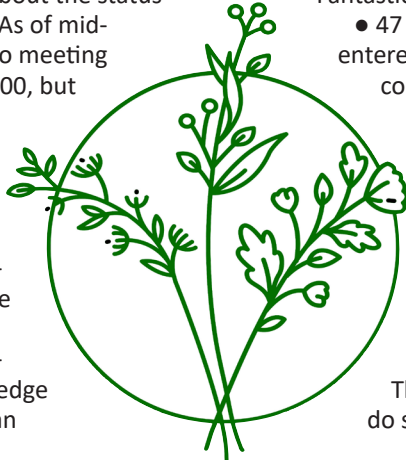
Pledge Campaign Update

Ray McColgan, Stewardship Chair

The Stewardship Committee wants to be completely transparent about the status of our Pledge Campaign. As of mid-December, we are close to meeting our goal for 2021, \$830,000, but we are not there yet. We are at \$790,520, which is also below our 2020 pledge amount.

Some statistics:

- 77 pledging households stayed at the same amount as 2020. Good.
- 84 pledging households increased their pledge for 2021, representing an 11.18 percent increase. Thanks!
- 18 pledging households decreased their pledge for 2021, representing a 33 percent decrease.
- 26 pledging households are new!



TOGETHER
FOR JOY

This increased our pledges by \$86,540. Fantastic!

- 47 households have not as yet entered a pledge. All have been contacted by phone, voice mail, or email, and we look forward to hearing from them.

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO PLEDGE! You can still use the online pledge form (www.spcathedral.org/give-joy) or contact Administrator Michelle Thomas at the Cathedral to do so (727-822-4173).

We know this has been a difficult year for many. As the new year progresses and things improve, if you are able to support the Cathedral at a higher level, it would be greatly appreciated.

Giving Tree Was a Generous Tree

Santa's helpers were really generous this Christmas. Thanks to sponsorships given through our online Giving Tree, we were able to make the holiday bright for 85 children from **Resurrection House**, **Campbell Park Elementary**, and **Brighter Seasons for Children**, who each received two or more gifts.

We were also able to help **15 families at Resurrection House** with gift certificates, using money left over after everyone's Christmas wishes were fulfilled.

Ordinarily we'd have offered a tree decked with cards bearing Christmas wishes, and parishioners would have chosen cards and purchased the gifts. Because of Covid-19, we invited parishioners to sponsor a child for \$50, and we ordered gifts online. It was more arms-length giving than we're accustomed to, but it worked, and we were able to share your generosity with children in a different way. Thanks to all who participated!

8 a.m. Sunday Service Returns ...

Our 8 a.m. Rite I service will return starting Sunday, January 10.

You will be required to register in advance (visit spcathedral.org/services) and to wear a mask and observe social distancing. This service will not be live-streamed.

... and Outdoor Worship Continues

Our outdoor worship services have proved so popular, we are continuing them into the new year on the first and third Sundays of the month at 4 p.m.

Both services — on January 3 and January 17 — will be at North Shore Park. Register at spcathedral.org/services. Please wear a mask and bring a chair or blanket.

*Canon Ethan Cole offers communion at our service last month at Denver Park.
Photo by MICHELLE THOMAS.*



More About Epiphany

*** The Magi — beyond the legends, [Page 19](#)**

*** Our Patronal Festival, [Page 20](#)**

*** ‘Let There Be Light!’ Sunday class, [Page 23](#)**

Drop-In Epiphany Party Will Welcome Everyone To Invite God’s Blessing Into Your Home and Heart

The Epiphany of the Lord is a feast day that celebrates the revelation of God as human being in Jesus Christ. Epiphany is observed on January 6 and marks the end of the Christmas season. This feast day is often associated with the visitation of the Magi, who brought their gifts to the Christ child. You may want to consider moving the Magi in your nativity scene to the manger, giving final gifts of the season, and taking down the Christmas decorations in your home.

A favorite Cathedral tradition has been creating chalk blessing bags to chalk the door frame of your home as a way to invite God’s blessing. This year, we want to

expand that tradition and continue our exploration of creating sacred space in our homes. On Sunday, January 10, you’re invited to an intergenerational, Cathedral-wide Epiphany party with a variety of hands-on projects for you to create and take home. This is an in-person event, but activities will be spaced out in Harvard Hall and outside. Masks and social distancing required.

There will be resources for blessing your home, creating a portable sacred space, flower arranging, blessing cards, and more! You can drop in any time between 1 and 5 p.m. and spend time creating and reflecting on gifts you have to offer Jesus and ways you are being invited to grow in this season.

Please register at spcathedral.org/epiphany to help us ensure we have enough materials.

**Drop-in Epiphany
Party**

**1-5 p.m. Sunday,
January 10**

Register: at spcathedral.org/epiphany

EYC Pray a Weekly Compline

Our Cathedral EYC, a tightly-knit group of 10 middle and high schoolers, have begun praying the service of Compline at the end of youth group every Sunday evening. What began as a somewhat awkward fumbling through the Book of Common Prayer (Page 127) has now blossomed into their taking complete control of the service. Hillary Peete and Michelle Thomas co-lead EYC.

“We started by having a guided Compline, and showing them what options are given in the BCP. They were able to fill out a worksheet to select their preferred psalms, collects, and scripture readings,” Michelle said. “As soon as they had

some ownership, they were all over it.”

“It’s encouraging to see that, after only a few months, the youth are enthusiastic and confident leaders,” Hillary said. “Each week, we end youth group gathered in the dimly-lit church on the marble. It is a meaningful way to be present with one another, to pray and prepare for the week ahead.”



Joel Burnsed leads Compline for EYC. Photo by HILLARY PEETE.

Sung Compline Returns to the Cathedral

The beloved service of Compline returns to the Cathedral starting in January. The word “compline” is derived from the Latin *completorium*, since the service is to be said at the completion of the day. It is relatively short – only about 20 minutes long (you can find it starting on page 127 of the BCP) – and includes the confession, psalms, scripture readings, the Lord’s Prayer, and the *Nunc dimittis* (“Lord, now let your servant go in peace”).

The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams and Michelle Thomas will chant Compline on the second Sunday of each month. “We are hoping to bring out the simple beauty of plain-song,” Michelle said. “We will be chanting the psalms, hymns, and other pieces of the service. Canon Williams and I love chant, and we enjoy singing together.” Michelle Thomas, our Cathedral Administrator, also has extensive background as a scholar of Gregorian chant.

The service will be available in person (no registration necessary) and via livestream at 7 p.m. on January 10 and in the future on the second Sunday of each month.

Choral Evensong Resumes On January 24

Our service of Choral Evensong at 5 p.m. on Sunday, January 24, will include the *Service in E* by Herbert Murrill.

At 4:45 p.m., Marco Jimenez, an organ student of Music Director and Organist Dwight Thomas, will play J. S. Bach's difficult Trio Sonata No. 3 in D minor. Then the Cathedral Quartet will sing the *Responses* by Humphrey Clucas and Benjamin Lane's anthem, "Arise, Shine."



Marco Jimenez



Herbert Murrill

Murrill (1909-1925) produced a jazz opera and movie scores and a cello concerto dedicated to Pablo Casals that has been called his masterpiece.

During World War II he worked at the British code-breaking center at Bletchley Park. He is best known for his choral works, including the *Service in E*. His musical affinities were Francophile and mildly middle-Stravinskian, tempered by an English take on neoclassicism.

You must register to attend this service. Registration will open a week in advance at spcathedral.org/music-events. Masks and social distancing are required. A freewill offering will be taken.

Starting New Year's Day, Read the Gospel of Mark with the Church

Every year the wider Episcopal Church invites everyone to participate in a churchwide reading of a book of the Bible.

This year, starting January 1, the Good Book Club will read the Gospel of Mark — the same gospel we'll be hearing on Sundays throughout the year.

At goodbookclub.org you'll find lots of material to make the most of your reading: a two-page introduction to the Gospel of Mark, a list of the daily readings (just a few verses every day), a place to sign up for weekly preview e-mails, daily podcasts of the readings and reflections, online book studies, and much more.

The readings run through February 16, Shrove Tuesday — the end of the season of Epiphany and the day before Lent begins, Ash Wednesday.



THE
GOOD BOOK
CLUB

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Slate of Four Will Be Approved at the Annual Meeting

We will approve by acclamation four new members of the Chapter at the Annual Meeting on January 24. The Chapter is the lay board of directors that, with the dean, sets policy, monitors the finances, and oversees the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

We are presenting a slate of only four for several reasons: our inability to have a large in-person meeting because of Covid-19; the difficulty of conducting a competitive election remotely; and the difficulty in finding people to serve. (More on that in the new year!)

Here are the candidates. We invited them to tell us about themselves — their backgrounds, the gifts and skills they offer, and why they feel called to serve; their involvement at the Cathedral and in the community; how they're coping during Covid-19; what they're binge-watching; and when they've seen the Cathedral at its best.

Their responses are also available on our website on the page spcathedral.org/annual-meeting, and we'll post links to them in our worship bulletin and other online communications.

Susan Darrow

Member since: May 2018. **Occupation:** Software consultant, currently working for Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority as project manager for a new system implementation. **Involvement at the Cathedral:** Appointed to the chapter in 2020 to fill a vacancy. Involved in Outreach Committee, leader of Handy Helpers for Campbell Park



Elementary, member of Sacred Ground anti-racism dialogue circles. Member of

Foyer groups (looking forward to our monthly dinners sometime this year!). **Coping during Covid-19:** I've worked from home for 20 years, so this feels familiar. We share weekly dinners with our son and daughter-in-law, part of our bubble. Zoom calls help us keep in touch with others. **Binge-watch:** *The West Wing* and *The Crown*. **Called**

to serve: I am so grateful for our welcome since Tom and I moved here from Naples and for the wonderful opportunities for worship, education, fellowship, and service, both in person and via Zoom. Feelings of gratitude always make me want to give back. I have served on vestry in other churches and feel my experience could be of help to the Cathedral. I look forward to continuing to serve with my fellow Chapter members. **St. Peter's at its best:** I think the Cathedral has really met the challenges of

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Meet the Candidates

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the pandemic. The staff has worked so well together, making sure our Cathedral family can stay in touch, with opportunities for worship, Bible study and fellowship. I think the Cathedral has really shone brightly during this trying time, bringing the Light of Christ to all of us.

Lauren Durst

Member since: My then-fiancé, now-husband, Steve Buyens, and I joined in the summer of 2019. **Occupation:** Senior program manager on the research content strategy team at Gartner, the global research and advisory company. **Involvement at the Cathedral:** Mentor for the confirmation program; member of two of Canon Paige's book studies. Steve and I also participated in this year's stewardship campaign, some of the vir-



tual events, the Blessing of the Animals, and the 2019 Oktoberfest (we were the couple in the dirndl skirt and lederhosen!).

Community involvement: We're new to St. Petersburg, so I'm hoping that more involvement at the Cathedral will lead to greater involvement in the community. In the past I've hosted local awareness events for Complex Regional Pain Syndrome called "Pints for Pain," and volunteered with Tampa Bay Watch. **Coping during Covid-19:** I've been working from home since 2014, so that much has been easy. This year, I've actually kept in touch with loved ones even more than usual, sending silly postcards often and watching shows with my girlfriends via Zoom. We recently rejoined a local boat club so we'd have a safe way to get out of the house while still distancing from others. Being on the water is so rejuvenating! **Binge-watch:** I'll never stop rewatching *Gilmore Girls*! My husband and I also love food shows like *The Chef Show* or *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives*. **Gifts/skills/experience:** I'm a

researcher by both nature and experience, which makes me a natural planner. When I asked my husband what my special gift was, he said "Southern hospitality," which was so flattering! But, now that I think of it, if others perceive what I do as hospitality, then all of my preparation worked! I also have a background in academia, so writing and public speaking are strengths I'd list on a resume too. **Called to serve:** When I was asked to consider being a candidate, I realized that I didn't have a good reason to say no. And perhaps this was God's way of opening a door to what I've been desiring — a firmer place in this community and the opportunity to get to know people better. I've been an Episcopalian my entire life (and a PK — preacher's kid — for most of it), and it's been tougher to find the right opportunities to be involved in the church as a young(ish), child-free adult approaching 40. I hope that working with the Chapter will course-correct some of that for me and for others in similar positions. **St. Peter's at its best:** The car-line farewell for Canon Katie (now Dean Katie) was a really beauti-

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Meet the Candidates

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ful example of how St. Peter's can come together to creatively overcome obstacles and still practice being a community. That touched me!

Wil Laroche

Member since: 2012. **Cathedral involvement:** Currently serving my second term as convener of the Friends of St. Aelred; member of the Fellowship and Festivities Committee. You've undoubtedly seen me many times behind the coffee and donut table on Sunday mornings with my husband, Tom Walker. We'll celebrate our sixth anniversary



on January 26. We've been together for 18 years and have four children and five grandchildren. **Occupation:** Licensed optician, manager at the Walmart Vision Center. Former finish carpenter and maintenance director at a hotel in Kennebunkport, Maine; patient accounting staffer at Maine Medical Center, Portland; insurance negotiator and patient advocate in Florida. **Coping during Covid-19:** Mostly staying home and binge-watching on Netflix and Amazon Prime video ... working around the house and being good stewards of social-distancing guidelines. **Called to serve:** Our diverse congregation is why a diverse Chapter is necessary for our church's well-being. **St. Peter's at its best:** The generous donations that our Cathedral family has offered for the St. Aelred's Giving Tree have helped so many families in this unprecedented time during Covid-19.

Mark Myers

Member since: 2015. **Occupation:** Retired senior financial officer from Duke Energy after three decades of service.

Cathedral involvement: Finance Committee, Endowment Committee. **Community involvement:** Board chair of PARC, a non-profit organization serving children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities; condominium board member; volunteer at St. Petersburg Free Clinic food pantry; volunteer on mission trips to Haiti and repairing homes through the Appalachia Service Project. **Coping during Covid-19:** Through prayer, family, friends, exercise, and taking it "one day at a time." **Binge-watch:** The movie *Patton* or John Wayne movies, and I enjoy European and Australian TV crime dramas. **Gift/skills/experience:** I value listening, collaboration, and the power of the team. In



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my past life I had the privilege to serve the executive team to help translate their vision to the organization. I have strategic, financial and communications experience. **Called to serve:** One of the greatest blessings that God has taught me is the power of serving others in our community who are in need. St. Peter's parish family is making a positive difference for our members and community and I want to help to continue its success. **St. Peter's at its best:** Adapting and serving the congregation in this time of Covid-19. A testament to the strength and leadership of our clergy and lay leaders.

New Format for Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will take place after the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, January 24. This will be a brief meeting, held in the Sanctuary, and those who have attended worship in person and stay after the service will constitute a quorum, as provided for in our bylaws.

New Chapter members will be elected by affirmation. Then a series of video presentations will be available on our website at spcathedral.org/annual-meeting:

State of the Cathedral – Dean Stephen Morris

2021 Budget Presentation – Treasurer Tim Lanz

Senior Warden Parting Comments – Ray McColgan

New Senior Warden Comments – Karen Torrissi

If you wish to be present at the Annual Meeting, please be sure to sign up on our page spcathedral.org/services to attend the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, January 24. If you are watching our livestream, simply stay tuned at the end of the service to watch the meeting.



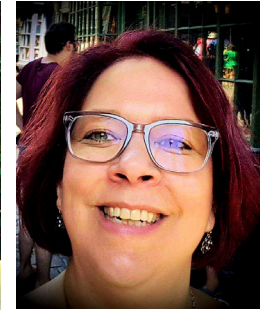
Dean Morris



Tim Lanz



Ray McColgan



Karen Torrissi

OUR HOPES FOR THE NEW YEAR

What will the new year bring? We invited our clergy and senior staff to share their hopes for 2021.



The Very Rev. Stephen B. Morris, Dean

I long for us to gather here on the Cathedral campus safely. This place was built by people for people. These buildings aren't here to stand empty. They need to be filled with the hearts, souls, and bodies for whom they are intended. Furthermore, one of the reasons I felt called to ordained ministry is that I really like being with other

people. I miss all of you and want us to come together again and have an "End of Pandemic" celebration!

The Rev. Canon Brandon Peete

My hope for the new year is for unemployment numbers to drop, the inequality gap to decrease, and for small businesses to recover and thrive. Also, that human-kind would lean into prayer, rediscover the value of spiritual life, and have a greater appreciation for gathering in person for worship (when safe for all to do so).



The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams

I'm glad we were asked to write about hope: not about wishes or expectations — or, heaven forbid, resolutions — but about hope. Wishes may go unfulfilled, expectations may go unrealized, and the less said about resolutions, the better; but "hope does not disappoint us," as Paul said to the Romans. This was no shallow optimism on Paul's part; he was writing about the hope that is born out of suffering and testing, and 2020 has given



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Our Hopes for the Future

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us plenty of that. We may be disappointed sometimes in what we are hoping for, but hope itself “does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us” (Romans 5:5 RSV).

In 2020 we discovered the limitations of connecting digitally, but we also discovered new opportunities. My great hope for the parish in 2021 is that the energy and imagination that have gone into these new opportunities will continue to meet needs and transform lives, even as the crisis that first called for them begins to abate somewhat. My great hope for myself, now that I am back in town from my sabbatical in Edinburgh, is that I will find creative ways of contributing to that effort myself. I also have a smaller, less “churchy,” hope for myself. In 2020 I fell in love with a new hobby: hillwalking. I hope in 2021 to find another new activity. Would kayaking be too out of character?

Director of Christian Formation Hillary Peete

I recently spent more than I should have on a 2021 planner. It’s the old-school paper, hardbound-book kind, with 280 pages inside where I can plan, envision, and reflect. The first seven pages are exclusively for developing a 2021 Theme and Vision, Timeline, and Goals for the year. It’s a little intense, even for me, someone who loves to plan.

My hope for 2021 is not that my 2021 planner will be put to better use than my 2020 planner. My hope isn’t even that my self-declared theme and word-of-the-year will perfectly manifest themselves. My hope for 2021 is that I will carry the lessons of 2020 with me, no matter how off the rails my carefully planned-out year goes. Despite the unbelievable challenges of this year, my friendships and community grew in delightful ways. I experienced God’s pres-



ence in surprising ways that continue to shape me. Plans that fell apart created a path for new discoveries.

My favorite quote is from author Annie Dillard: “How we live our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.” As I make the most of my new planner, I hope to remember the small moments of goodness and grace that saw me through the toughest days of 2020, and not to overlook these simple things.

Music Director and Precentor Dwight Thomas

This past Advent, some Cathedral parishioners forwarded to me a meditation on the beloved Christmas carol, “Silent Night, Holy Night.” In 1818 a parish priest of St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria, discovered just



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Our Hopes for the Future

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days before Christmas that the pipe organ had become inoperative because mice had eaten away the leather components of



the instrument. In desperation, the priest and parish musician composed the lyrics and music for the carol, “Silent Night, Holy Night,” accompanied by guitar.

For me, this is the carol that is the most synonymous with the Christmas season. This timely meditation was a reminder to me that, though our lives can face many challenges and disappointments, God can inspire us to be resourceful and creative, and to touch the lives of others.

The nuisance of rodents feasting on a mechanical musical instrument and resulting inconvenience pale in comparison to the challenges and plot twists of the year 2020, but the opportunity for action is the same. Some of the most miraculous things have been manifested through tragedy, grief, and hardship, including death on a cross. My hope and prayer for 2021 is that we, the church, continually look for ways to minister to those who are in need, and to walk in the way that Jesus showed us.

The Silent Night Chapel now stands on the site where “Silent Night” was first performed.

The Rev. Sam Tallman

I hope in 2021, as we slowly emerge into returning to normal, that it will be a NEW normal, informed by what we have learned about ourselves, our society, our body politic, and the connect- edness of our world.



The Rev. Deacon Scott Nonken



My hopes for 2021 are that: the voice from the middle finds a way to be heard again instead of the voices from the extremes; that we may see Christ in all people we encounter and find ways to acknowledge and

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Our Hopes for the Future

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embrace our differences while listening and having respectful conversations; and finally, that love — not name-calling and violence — can become our response of choice.

The Right Rev. Barry R. Howe, Bishop in Residence

Hope is centered in reality. It is not a false optimism, and it is not a field of



dreams. Hope is nurtured within us as we struggle with the roadblocks and the burdens of our lives. Hope is demanding; it is risky; it involves struggle; it brings the past together with the future; and it is ultimately grounded in our awareness of God's love for us.

When we know and accept that we are loved by God, then our hope is always nurtured by our relationship with that love that surpasses our understanding, yet always continues to give new life at all times and in all places and circumstances.

My particular hope in this challenging time is that we shall continue to discover within ourselves what we have been learning in our forced isolation about relationships with others, and then build upon those relationships with that love. It is that love that truly unites us.

The Rev. Canon Paige Hanks

While no one can dispute that 2020 will be a good year to leave behind, the journey through this overly-eventful year has taught us many things that we can carry with us into 2021. One of those lessons for me is

that personal connections are not to be taken for granted. Having a friend over for coffee or dinner, running into a neighbor at the grocery store, and gathering with family for special celebrations have been largely and painfully absent from my life. I am hopeful that as we move further into the new year, those seemingly mundane social opportunities are available to us once more. I've especially missed a hug between friends — human touch (always with consent) will be good to have back again.

As a priest, my hope for 2021 centers largely around helping us to continue to imagine a church where we care for the needy and love our neighbors. We have learned how to stay connected with one another through technology, and when all



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Our Hopes for the Future

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of the limitations of the pandemic are behind us, I pray that we can allow our faith in God and our promise in our baptisms to help us to seek to serve outside the church building with passion as we strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of everyone. Our faith is born out of these promises. May we strive to use our faith to build up the kingdom of God in 2021!

The Rev. Canon Ethan Cole

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of



hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. —1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

These verses include the words faith, hope, and love—a triad usually discussed in conjunction with that beautiful passage read at weddings, 1 Corinthians 13. But here, in Paul’s earliest letter, he writes about the same group in a slightly different way:

The emphasis is not on the abstraction of faith or love or hope—but on the noun that Paul has paired with each: work, labor, steadfastness.

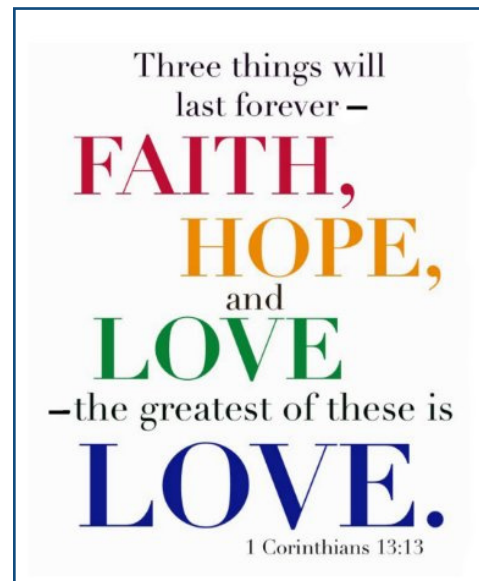
In 2021 I am hoping to focus on those energetic nouns as much as the abstractions—faith takes work to cultivate and disciplines to nurture. Love, compassion, fellowship—these take labor to build; creatively find ways in COVID to safely exercise pastoral, teaching, and spiritual formation ministries, etc.

I endeavor to be steadfast in this — the long haul through COVID can be wearying — just as many of the trials of life can. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians to stir up hope when they were experiencing anxiety, pain at sudden separation from Paul, and other trials.

In 2021 I want to focus on the concrete

— work, labor, steadfastness— so that I can grow in the spiritual things: faith, love, hope.

I invite you to consider for yourselves how you can draw your minds to some actions you can take in 2021 to increase your faith, your love, and your hope.



Lighting the Way to Christmas

Our children and youth started the holiday season by making Advent wreaths from a variety of materials. They took them home so families could light a candle on each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. From left to right: Esther Jacobson; Samuel and Michael Saut (above); Beatrix Peete (below); Tessa and Adam Burnsed; and Elise and Anna Chandler. Photos by HILLARY PEETE.



No St. Aelred's Brunch This Year, But a Look Back At How a Ministry Shaped the Life of the Cathedral

If this were an ordinary year, we'd start off January with a festive brunch put on by the Friends of St. Aelred. There'd be pulled pork as the main dish, supplemented by sides and desserts provided by the congregation. Every seat would be taken in Harvard Hall. The room would be noisy with laughter and good conversation.

This is no ordinary year (no explanation necessary), and there will be no brunch. But the Feast of St. Aelred, on January 12,

gives us an opportunity to explain who Aelred is, and who the Friends are, and how they have contributed to the Cathedral in the last 15 years.

Aelred (1109-1167) was a Cistercian monk, author, and a major figure in English church life. He taught that friendship is a gift from God and allowed his monks to hold hands and give other expressions of friendship.

It was back in 2004-05 that parishioners Rick Waterman and the late Gary Humphrey suggested forming a Bible study group for LGBTQI Episcopalians. The Epis-

copal Church was in an uproar over human sexuality. The Diocese of New Hampshire had just elected the church's first openly gay bishop, Gene Robinson.

Congregations and dioceses were threatening to leave the church — ultimately some of them did — and some members of the worldwide Anglican Communion excoriated the Episcopal Church and demanded that the Presiding Bishop overturn the New Hampshire election, a power that our Presiding Bishop does not have. St. Peter's had not yet come out on the side of full inclusion even though its membership included many openly gay people.

That, of course, has changed. St. Peter's is a fully inclusive congregation. The Episcopal Church now affirms marriage equality and prohibits discrimination against LGBTQI people, and there are four openly gay bishops.

Eventually the group's identity evolved



An early Pride brunch, in 2011, was served in the Narthex because the kitchen and Harvard Hall were still under construction. Photo by JUDY STARK.

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St. Aelred's Through History

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into an organization open to LGBTQI Episcopalians and their friends and supporters, devoted to fellowship and social activities for the whole congregation and to service and outreach.

Ron Gallucci recalls, "We started Sunday brunches during football season. We used the kitchen in the old annex across the street" — our temporary home while our office building was under construction — "and cooked away. We became the Martha Stewarts of St. Peter's."

But the group's spiritual roots have never been forgotten. Since 2012 they have hosted Spiritual Pride, an annual dinner focused on the importance of a supportive faith community to LGBTQI Episcopalians. This event, with a significant speaker, has become a sold-out activity on our spring calendar. (The 2020 Pride dinner was another casualty of Covid-19; we're hopeful it will return in 2021.)

St. Aelred's has increased our participation in the St. Pete Pride parade every June, and our booth at the street fair the next

day has provided the personal welcome that has brought us many new members.

Over the years the group's outreach efforts have included delivering Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias to our shut-ins; painting and maintenance work, social activities, and Easter dinner baskets for the residents at Resurrection House; and activities at Peterborough Apartments. Members are active in virtually every ministry and activity in the life of the Cathedral and in both elected and unelected positions of leadership.

"I believe that with our organization, we are affirming that we are part of the church as a whole and that we believe that we are breaking down the barriers of stereotypes and one-sided thinking," said Wil Laroche, the current convenor of St. Aelred's. "The Cathedral is made up of many parts and we are all one body. And the gifts we have we are given to share through fellowship and good will."

In 2010 St. Aelred's came up with the idea of the Christmas Giving Tree, a way for parishioners to provide gifts for children in need. "The congregation has responded generously from the very beginning," said Ray McColgan, one of the organizers.

"We've never had trouble making sure that there were plenty of gifts for all the children — even for the Christmas just past, when we had to shift gears from having people buy specific gifts to sponsoring a child for \$50 and we ordered the gifts online. I hope we'll be able to bring back the actual tree next Christmas."

"When I interviewed for the position of Dean in 2008, I asked about this group and its purpose," Dean Morris said. "I was told it was a gathering place, a safe space, for gay and straight to have good conversation in order to gain understanding and acceptance. I remember how much I loved hearing that.

"As it has evolved, the Friends of St. Aelred have a social component, an outreach component, and a service component.

"I am not sure we would be the spiritual community we now are if, in large part, it were not for St. Aelred's," the dean said. "And I mean that in terms of equality at every single level of our spiritual and religious life. The Cathedral is a place where we strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being."

* [Epiphany party, Page 4](#)

Season of Epiphany Celebrates the Divinity of Christ

This month we end the Twelve Days of Christmas on January 5 and enter into the season of Epiphany.

On the Feast of the Epiphany, which we will celebrate at the 12:05 p.m. service on Wednesday, January 6, we celebrate the coming of the Magi to worship Jesus and present him with gifts.

Regardless of what Christmas cards or carols may depict, the Magi were not there at the stable in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. The timeline we can piece together from the gospels is ambiguous, but the general thinking is that they arrived as long as two years after Jesus's birth.

We don't know how many there were. We assume there were three because they offered three gifts: gold, representing Jesus's kingship; frankincense, his future role as religious leader; and myrrh, his future role as prophet.

These Magi, who came from the East, may have been royalty, or priests, or as-

trologers, or scientists. Or they may have been magicians, hence their title of Magi. This word comes from the Persian *magush*, member of the learned and priestly class. The Greek version of the word, *magos*, meant "magician, learned enchanter."

By legend they are thought to have been Indian, Persian, and Arab, indicating that in sending the Messiah, God was reaching out to all the peoples of the Mediterranean world, not Israel alone. Again by legend their names were Balthazar, Melchior, and Caspar, and Caspar is traditionally represented with dark skin.

The season continues through Shrove Tuesday, February 16.

The gospel stories for the Sundays after the Epiphany describe various events that

manifest the divinity of Jesus. The Baptism of our Lord is observed on the first Sunday after Epiphany. The gospels for the other Sundays describe the calling of the disciples and various healing miracles. (On January

17 we'll interrupt the prescribed readings to observe our patronal festival: See story, [Page 20.](#))

At 9 a.m. Sundays from January 17 through February 7, Canon Brandon Peete will lead a class on Epiphany, "Let There Be Light!" Details, [Page 23.](#)

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany (this year February 14) is always devoted to the Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-1). Jesus's identity as the Son of God is dramatically revealed in the Transfiguration gospel, as well as the gospel of the baptism of Christ. We are called to respond to Christ in faith.



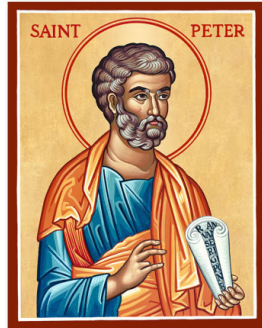
Patronal Festival Marks Confession of St. Peter

We will observe our Patronal Festival on Sunday, January 17 — the Confession of St. Peter.

This is the day we recognize the importance of our namesake, St. Peter. We read the story of his confession, or acknowledgment, of Jesus as the Messiah and celebrate our community of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter.

The Gospel lesson that day (Matthew 16:13-19) portrays Peter as the first to see who Jesus really is: “You are the Messiah, the Christ, the son of the Living God.” Jesus praises Peter and vows to build his church “on this rock,” a play on words. Peter’s name in Greek is Petros, and the Greek word *petra* means rock.

The Roman Catholic Church interprets this statement as referring to Peter, the individual, as the first pope. The Protestant Church interprets it to mean that God will build Christian community upon the confession, the acknowledgment of Jesus as the Messiah by each member of the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9).



Moving to a New Church Management Software

Michelle Thomas, Cathedral Administrator

Church management software is necessary for the life and well-being of all churches. It assists with the storage of contact information, dates of important life events (births, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and deaths), attendance records for services, and financial information like pledges and giving statements.

All of the intricate behind-the-scenes organization of a church depends on software that is easy to use, secure, and thorough.

We are starting the conversation of transferring our church management software from ACS to Realm. We are aiming to make the switch over this month. Realm is a more advanced software from the same company that we are currently using, so the migration of data will be smooth. If you use our current system and have an account, your account details and financial information will automatically transfer to the new system.

This system will also help you be more connected to the church! Once your account is set up, you will be able to access an online church directory, register for events, set up automatic giving, monitor your pledge, and update your information.

If you have any questions about this new software, I am more than happy to help explain in more detail. Feel free to send me an email at mthomas@spcathedral.com or call the church office at (727) 822-4173. We are still in the process of figuring out what Realm can do, and we are excited to begin using it in January!

Memoir of a Legendary Jewel Thief Is Book Club's January Read

The St. Peter's Book Club will start the new year by reading *Diamond Doris*, the memoir of the world's most notorious jewel thief, who stole from elite jewelers to live her dreams.

Growing up amid racism and poverty in rural West Virginia, with an abusive father, Doris Payne vowed to turn the tables after the owner of a jewelry store threw her out when a white customer arrived. She quickly became a skilled shoplifter. Over six decades, her targets ranged from local shopkeepers to the elite jewelers of Monte Carlo. She escaped arrest, she says, because her victims didn't want to admit they'd been duped by a Black woman.

Finally arrested only when a boyfriend turned her in, Payne continued to use her wit, skill, and larger-than-life personality to persuade some nuns to help her break out of prison. She now lives in Atlanta.

Shar Nudelman will be the presenter, at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 26. E-mail Roberta Poellein (rplln37@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.



Want to Help Handy Helpers Help Teachers? Come On Down!

Susan Darrow

Are you looking for an opportunity for hands-on volunteering? Consider joining our Handy Helpers team to support teachers at our community partner, Campbell Park Elementary School.

We assemble materials for art projects, create sight-reading cards, or put lesson booklets together, freeing up more time for the teachers to teach or do lesson planning.

We pick up projects each Tuesday morning, meet from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Harvard Hall to work in a socially distanced and safe environment, and are able to return the projects to the school that afternoon. The teachers love the help!

We also often help Director of Christian Formation Hillary Peete with projects for our own children's ministry. We expect the number of projects to expand in the new year, so we encourage you to join our team. Please call the Cathedral office at (727) 822-4173 to volunteer.



Book Talks Return via Zoom: Colette Bancroft Will Speak on ‘Hamnet’ January 12

Our 10th season of Book Talks gets underway at noon Tuesday, January 12, via Zoom.

Tampa Bay Times book editor Colette Bancroft will speak on Maggie O’Farrell’s new novel, *Hamnet: A Novel of the Plague*.



Colette Bancroft

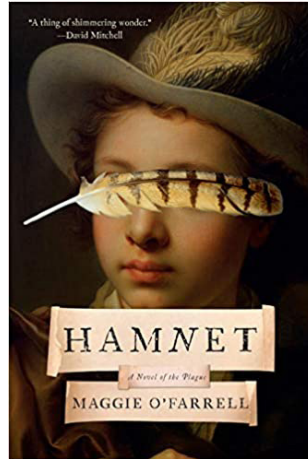
This is the fictionalized story of the death of Shakespeare’s 11-year-old son in 1596, possibly of the plague, and how it affected his parents’ marriage and his father’s art.

The book “is O’Farrell’s extended speculation on how Hamnet’s death might have fueled the creation of one of his father’s greatest plays,” the *New York Times* commented, noting that Hamnet and Hamlet are interchangeable versions

of the same name.

Register at spcathedral.org/book-talks for the Zoom link. You’ll be able to comment and ask questions in the Chat box during Colette’s presentation.

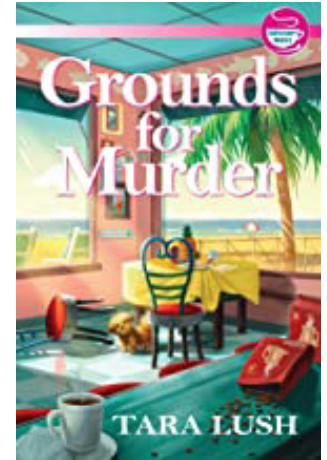
On February 9, popular speaker Ben Montgomery returns to discuss his new



book, *A Shot in the Moonlight: How a Freed Slave and a Confederate Soldier Fought for Justice in the Jim Crow South*. Publication date is January 26. The book has just been named by Oprah

Winfrey to her list of “most anticipated books of 2021.”

On March 9, our guest will be Tamara Lush, author of a series of romance novels, who has just published her first mystery novel, *Grounds for Murder*, under the pen name Tara Lush. In a fictionalized community in Southwest Florida (you’ll recognize it), reporter-turned-café-owner Lana Lewis finds herself a prime suspect in the death of a former barista.



Quiet Day Will Open Up The Richness of the Psalms

Our annual Quiet Day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, January 30, will focus on the Psalms.

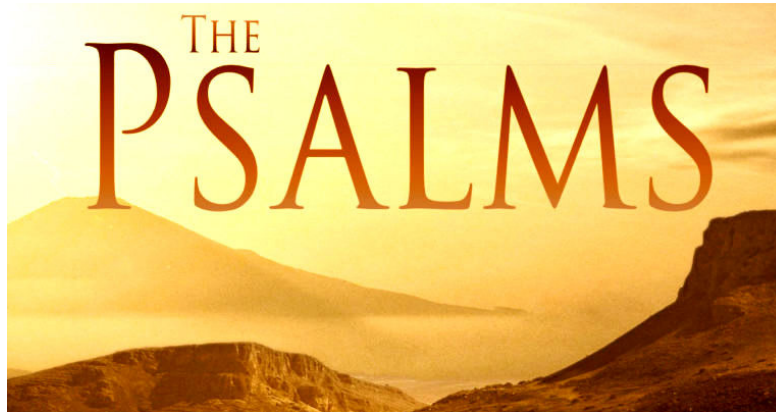
“For many people, their first deeply spiritual encounter with scripture comes when they encounter their lives mirrored in the Psalms,” said the Rev. Sam Tallman, who will lead the day. “In 150 Psalms, one can find personal struggles, social evil, battles, sickness, faith, redemption, hope, and joy.

“In our Quiet Day, we will engage the Psalms in reflection as we emerge from the experience of being beset by Covid-19, the loss it has wrought, and our hope for new engagement with the world and each other,” he said.

This will be a live event at the Cathedral with time for personal prayer and meditation.

Masks will be required.

The event is limited to 30 people so we can observe social distancing. You must register in advance at spcathedral.org/quiet-day. There is a \$5 charge, payable at the door, to cover the cost of materials and food. Doors open at 9:30. We will offer individually-packaged snacks (energy bars, yogurt) but no lunch, and of course you are welcome to bring your own food.



Ministry Partnership Comes to a Close

St. Peter's has now ended its ministry partnership with St. Bede's Episcopal Church, and the Rev. Canon Paige Hanks has completed her time as their vicar.

The partnership started in May 2019 as St. Bede's worked to find its identity and develop effective ways to use its assets, including buildings and land. The partnership was a joint effort of the Cathedral, St. Bede's, and the diocese.

You will now hear us pray every Sunday in turn for every church in the Diocese of Southwest Florida by name. “Praying for other churches in the diocesan cycle of prayer is a reminder to us that we are the Cathedral for the whole diocese,” Dean Morris said.

Participant Resource Room Opens at Florida Resurrection House

Ellen McDonald, Executive Director

The Cathedral Church of St. Peter and Florida Resurrection House had an exciting development in our ministry partnership last fall. Through a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida, we have established the new Participant Resource Room for families at Florida Resurrection House. This grant purchased all the shelving and infrastructure needed to equip the room.

In November, we hosted a “Stock the Shelves” event to gather donations to fill the room. Churches, businesses, and community members came together to provide more than \$3,000 worth of supplies. With an additional grant from Spectrum Employee Community Grants, the remaining items were purchased.

Families who participate in our program live on tight budgets so they can achieve their goals: reducing debt, building an emergency fund, paying for educational

opportunities to advance their careers. This incredible new asset to the program allows families to “shop” the room each week for all their basic household and baby needs, free of charge.

Rita Sewell, a member of the Cathedral, organized the Resource Room for participants to begin shopping. This effort was important to her because “shopping in an organized space is a blessing for all of us.”

About her experience helping on campus, she said, “Working with the staff at Florida Resurrection House is a dream.” We share the sentiment. It is a great blessing for us to see the hard work of our partners like Rita and the Cathedral bring a dream to life for our participants.

This new room increases dignity for our participants while helping them stretch their budgets farther. In the first few weeks it has been open, our participants have

marveled over this room. They have shared what a blessing it is to know their needs will be cared for each week.



The Participant Resource Room provides a place for residents to shop at no cost for household, baby, and personal necessities. Photo courtesy of Florida Resurrection House.

January Outreach Focus: St. Petersburg Free Clinic

As we live out our mission to love our neighbors, the Outreach Committee is focusing this month on the St. Petersburg Free Clinic, particularly its We Help Food Pantry.

The clients, staff, and volunteers want you to know how grateful they are for your past generos-



Volunteers donate, sort and pack food at the We Help Food Pantry. Photos courtesy of the St. Petersburg Free Clinic.

ity. Several St. Peter's parishioners volunteer at the clinic and feel blessed to work with the clients and the team of staff and volunteers. The clinic is in its 50th year of operation.

No one would have predicted the scope and duration of the pandemic and its impact on the community. The clinic has adapted to the challenges to ensure the safety and health of clients, staff, and volunteers. Last year 158,000 people were provided with food. About 50 percent of the clients had never visited a food pantry before. Continued unemployment is forcing families to choose between putting food on the table and paying critical bills. The support of the community is needed now more than ever.

We invite you to make a financial donation online at stpetersburgfreeclinic.org. Or you can send a check to St. Petersburg Free Clinic Food Pantry, 363 Third Ave. N, St. Petersburg FL 33701.

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteer opportunities, please call Kathy Coughlan, (207) 380-6780.

Please call the office (727-822-4173) to let us know when you are hospitalized or ill at home; because of privacy laws, the only way we know you are ill is if you tell us. And please let us know when good health has been restored.

And please visit our new intercessory prayer web page (spcathedral.org/prayer), where you can find guidance on how to pray; view a prayer list that is updated weekly; send in prayer requests; or request a pastoral visit.

January Transitions

Birthdays

1	Hank Sharp	8	Fay Mackey
1	David Hill	8	Sarah Howlett
1	Kylie Crow	9	Michael Lyons
2	Anslee Long	9	Patty Leavengood
2	Cameron Katzel	10	Emily Fasan
3	Melody Brown	10	Maggie Burnsed
4	Rick Knight	11	Camille Knight
4	David Hanks	12	Michael Castillo
4	Hannah Singleton	13	Lois Atkins
6	Addyson Sylvester	14	Betty Shamas
6	Lucy Bond	15	Mark Campbell
7	Ellen Alexander	15	Isabella Beavers
7	Jenny Koester	16	Bethia Caffery
7	Katelyn Hancock	16	Roberta Poellein
8	Michael Robbins		

16	Sylvia Walbolt
16	Ann Meuse
16	Caleb Knight
16	Milo Burnsed
17	Ginny Rowell
17	Randy Ramsey
18	Shands McKeithen
18	Michael Plahs
19	Albert Edgemon
19	Lacey Hodgson
19	Jillian McCoy
19	Iris Juarez
20	Clancey Miller
20	Alex Ramsey
21	Robert Powers
21	James Parker
23	Don Wright
24	Jillian Gairing
25	Jan Strimer
26	James Knight
26	Marcy Crosby
27	George Wilsey

28	Paul Bonneau	31	Averill Summer
28	Ron Felicelli	31	Lela Garnett
29	Laurel Greene	31	Liam Dunn

Anniversaries

1	John & Jan Dooley	21	Bob & Averill Summer
7	Roger & Sydney Pine	22	Bill & Silvia Hoyt
7	Shawn & Michelle Thomas	23	Steve Buyens & Lauren Durst
13	Earl & Jean Beshears	26	Tom Walker & Wil Laroche
18	Peter & Sara Pastman	30	Patrick & Ria Beavers
18	Richard & Lori Townsend		

Deaths

Thomas Brew
Mary Gardiner Evertz



If you'd like to receive Crosstown electronically, please send an e-mail to agorton@spcathedral.com asking us to put you on our electronic mailing list.

St. Peter's: A Guide

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

Our Worship Schedule

**Sunday, 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite I and sermon, starting
January 10**

Sunday, 10:15 a.m., Holy Eucharist and sermon

Wednesday, 12:05 p.m., Holy Eucharist and prayers for healing

**Fourth Sunday, 5 p.m. Choral Evensong; organ prelude at
4:45 p.m.**

Masks and social distancing are required for all services. For the Sunday morning services you must reserve in advance during the week before that Sunday at spcathedral.org/services.

Sunday services at 10:15 a.m. can be viewed on Facebook or at spcathedral.org/worship-live-stream, where the order of service can be downloaded.

**First and third Sundays, outdoor worship at 4 p.m.
(see Page 3)**

Second Sundays, 7 p.m., Sung Compline (see Page 5)

**If you have a pastoral emergency after hours,
please call (727) 238-5998 to speak to
a member of the clergy.**

Crosstown is the online newsletter of the people of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter, published monthly for members, friends, and supporters. Editor, Judy Stark (JudyStark@yahoo.com), Associate Editor, Mary W. Matthews (MotherMary@extremelysmart.com). **Next deadline: January 15, 2021.**

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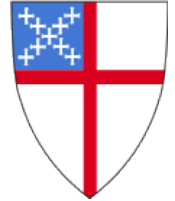
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The Rev. Canon Richard H. Norman, Canon to the Ordinary

Our clergy and senior staff:

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The Rev. Canon Ethan J. Cole, Canon for Congregational Life

The Rev. Canon Paige Hanks, Canon Missioner

The Rev. Canon Brandon Peete, Canon for Hospitality

The Rev. Samuel V. Tallman, priest associate

The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams, Canon Theologian

The Rev. Scott Nonken, Deacon

The Right Rev. Barry R. Howe, Bishop in Residence

Dwight Thomas, Canon for Music and Precentor