



November 2022

# CROSSTOWN

*At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg*

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**Seating Our New Bishop, Page 2**

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**Here Come the Holidays:**

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**Live Nativity is Back! Page 9**

*Our youth spent some time recently talking about “Bad Things, Good People, and God” and creating art to reflect their thoughts. Jack Knippen was inspired by the war in Ukraine. [See page 25](#) for more pictures.*

## Cathedral Will Host Shortened Convention, Seating of New Bishop on December 10

The work of the Diocese of Southwest Florida will move ahead with two events at the Cathedral on the same day — Saturday, December 10: Diocesan Convention and the seating of our new bishop.

Diocesan Convention was originally scheduled for October 13-14 in Punta Gorda. Those plans changed abruptly because of the damage created by Hurricane Ian in the southern part of the diocese.

The convention, starting at 9:30 a.m., will be a business meeting only to do the necessary work of the diocese: hear the bishop's report, approve the budget, and elect candidates to various positions. The workshops, ministry fair, and social events that are ordinarily part of convention have been canceled.

Because of Covid-19, this is the third consecutive year we have been unable to hold a full in-person convention.

You are welcome to watch the proceed-

ings at <http://www.episcopalswfl.org>.

Then, at 1:30 p.m. that same day, we will officially seat our bishop coadjutor, the Right Rev. Douglas F. Scharf, as the bishop diocesan, and Bishop Smith will pass him the crozier and officially resign as diocesan.

This is a colorful service that begins when the coadjutor knocks three times on the door of the Cathedral and is welcomed by the dean and escorted to the bishop's seat, the cathedra. That's the chair on the left side as you face the altar, the one with the bishop's mitre atop the back of the seat.

All are welcome to attend this service. A reception will follow in Harvard Hall. This service will also be available on the diocesan website or at [spcathedral.org](http://spcathedral.org).

*The new bishop will be formally seated in his cathedra, the chair to the left of the altar that bears the bishop's mitre on top and the diocesan seal on the back.*



## Please Make Your Faith Filled Commitment by November 6

By now you should have received your Faith Filled Financial Commitment information packet, which was mailed October 11. If you did not, please let us know and we'll be glad to send you another packet that includes information about Cathedral finances, a letter from Dean Morris and Stewardship Chair Ray McColgan, and a pledge card. (Call the front desk at 727-822-4173 to request a commitment packet.)

Many of you have already made your Financial Commitment for 2023, either by returning your Commitment Card or by pledging online. The pledge ingathering is at both services on Sunday, November 6, and we encourage you to turn in your card or make your online commitment by then.

You can mail your card to the Cathedral or drop it in the collection plate on Sunday, or you can click this link to pledge: [spcathedral.org/give-abc](https://www.spcathedral.org/give-abc).

Thank you so much for your generosity and support!

## Give Us Your RSVP for Our Thanks-a-Brunch on November 13!

Please consider this your invitation to our annual Thanks-a-Brunch celebration! We'll gather after the 10:15 a.m.

service November 13 in Harvard Hall to enjoy good food and to thank everyone for their 2023 Faith Filled Financial Commitment to the Cathedral. There is no charge for this event.

On the menu: fruit, mini danishes, scrambled eggs, cinnamon-apple French toast, glazed ham, bacon, and sausage, and roasted red potatoes.

We do need to give the caterer an accurate count by November 4, so please sign up in one of two ways: (1) Call the front desk, (727) 822-4173, and leave your name and the number of people attending; or (2) click on [www.spcathedral.org/thanks](https://www.spcathedral.org/thanks) to register online.



## For the 14th Year, the Giving Tree Will Brighten The Holidays for Children, Thanks to You

It wouldn't be the holiday season at the Cathedral without the Giving Tree, our annual way of spreading Christmas cheer to children who otherwise might not enjoy a Merry Christmas.

From November 1 through 30, you can visit [spcathedral.org/giving-tree](http://spcathedral.org/giving-tree) or visit **Giving Tree** under the Events tab on our website and sponsor a child for \$50. The Giving Tree is sponsored by the Friends of St. Aelred (see [page 16](#) for more on St. Aelred's).

We are providing gifts for children at Campbell Park Elementary, Resurrection House, and Brighter Seasons for Children, which works with children infected or affected by AIDS. The staffs there have asked the children for their Christmas gift wishes and have provided us with lists. Members of St. Aelred's will order the gifts online and

*In 2019, the last year parishioners purchased specific gifts, Judy Beck sorts Christmas presents in Harvard Hall. Photo by JUDY STARK*



have them shipped directly to the organizations with which the children are affiliated. The staffs will make sure that Santa Claus delivers the right gift to the right child.

Learn more about these organizations by viewing videos on the Cathedral website, [spcathedral.org/giving-tree](http://spcathedral.org/giving-tree), or visit **Giving Tree** under the Events tab on our website.

You can pay by debit or credit card on the website; or you can drop off or mail a check to the Cathedral (payable to the Cathedral Church of St. Peter with "Giving Tree" in the memo line); or pick up a copy of the QR code at the tree in Harvard Hall.

You may sponsor as many children as you like. We're unable to direct your sponsorship to a specific child or a specific organization.

"Over the years our congregation has been incredibly generous," said Ray McColgan, a longtime organizer of the Giving Tree.

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## 2022 Giving Tree

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“People look forward every year to the opportunity to make a child’s Christmas special. Thanks to everyone who makes the Giving Tree part of your Christmas celebration.”



### About the Giving Tree

Since 2009 the Friends of St. Aelred have sponsored the Giving Tree, a way for parishioners to provide Christmas gifts for children who otherwise might go without.

In the pre-Covid years, parishioners could choose a card from a Christmas tree with the gender, age, sizes, and wishes of children (as in this photo from 2010); purchase the gift; and return it to the Cathedral. St. Aelred’s members would sort and deliver the gifts.

Since 2020, when Covid-19 made shopping and in-person delivery of gifts difficult, we’ve switched to sponsorships. Parishioners sponsor a child for \$50. The Friends of St. Aelred order the gifts online and have them delivered to the organizations with which the children are affiliated, and staff there distribute them to the appropriate recipients.

## How to Give to Hurricane Ian Relief Efforts

Much of the south end of the Diocese of Southwest Florida was devastated in October by Hurricane Ian.

You can make a financial donation to support hurricane relief by visiting the diocesan website, [episcopalswfl.org](http://episcopalswfl.org), and clicking on the “donate” button. There you will find information about giving online or by check.

Please visit the diocesan Facebook page for regular updates on relief efforts.



## *Advent Lessons and Carols November 27: [Page 7](#)*

# Season of Advent Begins the Journey Toward Christmas

The long green season after Pentecost finally comes to an end on November 20, the Last Sunday after Pentecost (it's the 24th Sunday), a day known as Christ the King, when we acknowledge Jesus's messianic kingship and sovereign rule over all creation.

Pentecost this year was June 5 — 50 days after Easter. The season after Pentecost is a time when we observe the ordered life of the church and explore what it means to live daily in faith and observe everyday sacredness.

Starting on November 27, we begin a new Christian year with the season of Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas. Many people like to count down the days until Christmas with Advent calendars that offer a picture or Bible verse or little gift each day. (Yes, there are beer and wine Advent calendars, makeup calendars, even Advent calendars for your pet.)



Advent is a season of preparation for the Light of Christ coming into the world. We move gradually out of darkness, singing the hymns of longing, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," or of hope: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord" and "Sleepers, wake!"

The clergy vestments and altar hangings are blue, the color of hope, expectation, and heaven. It is also the color associated with Mary, the mother of Jesus, in iconography and art.

On each of the four Sundays we will light a candle on the Advent wreath. Three of the four candles are blue. The candle for the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday (say "GOW-day-tay"), is rose. "Gaudete" means "rejoice," and pink symbolizes the joy that Jesus is almost here.

In the fourth and fifth centuries, Advent was observed for 40 days, often as a time of severe fasting, and was thought of as a "little Lent" without an explicit link to

Christmas. In later centuries the deeply penitential aspect of Advent was set aside and the season was reduced to four weeks with a specific tie to the celebration of Christ's birth.

During the current Christian year we have been reading the Gospel of Luke. Starting on Advent 1, we will read from the Gospel of Matthew. This Gospel is thought to have been written in the 80s or 90s, some 50 or 60 years after the death of Jesus. It is the first book of the New Testament because it is viewed as a bridge between the Hebrew Bible and the story of Jesus and his followers.

In the course of the year we will hear familiar passages: the Sermon on the Mount (the Beatitudes); the storm at sea; feeding the 5,000 (and the 4,000); the Transfiguration, Jesus's teaching of the Lord's Prayer. Matthew's Gospel ends with the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."

*A new season in the Christian year: [Page 6](#)*

## We'll Say Goodbye to Bishop Smith with Service of Advent Lessons and Carols

A service of Advent Lessons and Carols at 5 p.m. Sunday, November 27, will mark the beginning of a new season on the church calendar and a loving farewell to our bishop diocesan.

The service is the Cathedral's gift to Bishop Smith, who will resign December 10 and will be succeeded by our Bishop Coadjutor, the Right Rev. Douglas F. Scharf. Bishop Smith will be the officiant at the service and will be honored at a festive reception in Harvard Hall.

If you enjoy the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge, that is broadcast every Christmas Eve, this service of readings and music that point the way to Christmas will strike a familiar note.

The service opens with a candlelighting in which the flame is passed from person to person until the entire nave is bathed in flickering light. Eight readings trace the story of salvation, from the Garden of

Eden through the birth of Jesus to the promise of Christ's second coming. The readings are accompanied by 14 carols or hymns, some old, some new.

The service replaces our usual Choral Evensong for November.



We **RETURN TO STANDARD TIME** at 2 a.m. Sunday, November 6. Turn your clock back one hour (spring forward/fall backward) when you go to bed Saturday night so you're on time for church the next morning.

## Cathedral Holiday Schedule

Here are the major worship services and activities at the Cathedral as we move into the holiday season. Mark your calendars now and plan to be here. We'll have details about all these events as the time draws near.

**10 a.m. Thursday, November 24: Thanksgiving service**

**November 24-25:** Church office is closed for **Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday**.

**5 p.m. Sunday, November 27: Advent Lessons & Carols** (see [Page 7](#))

**4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, December 18: Live Nativity** at the home of Dwight Thomas and Bruce Rice, 1770 52nd Ave. N. Real animals — sheep, camel, even a mini-cow! See [Page 9](#) for details.

**7 p.m. Wednesday, December 21: Longest Night service.** Music, prayer, and mindfulness for all who suffer any kind of loss in this season.

**5 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve services.**

**10 a.m. Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day service.**

**December 26-31: Cathedral offices closed.** No services, no activities.

**10 a.m. Sunday, January 1: One service.**

**Monday, January 2: Cathedral offices closed.** No services, no activities.

**Tuesday, January 3:** We return to normal office hours and service schedule.

## Two Farewells: Canon Cole and Our Sexton Jason Ray

We bid farewell this month to the Rev. Canon Ethan J. Cole, who has just been called as the rector of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in St. Petersburg. His last Sunday will be November 20.

"I've loved being here and being part of the Cathedral family," Ethan said. "This is an opportunity for me to be a rector, to work with a small congregation, and to be active in the diocese. I want to stay in St. Petersburg, so it's a great chance and a big challenge for me."

St. Bart's is the "mother church" of St. Peter's. In 1888, its founders established a little church near what is now 11th Street between Baum Avenue and Fifth Avenue N,

the Church of the Holy Spirit, that was renamed St. Peter's and later moved to our current location.

We also said goodbye in late October to Jason Ray, our sexton, who has left to accept a position in construction management. We're grateful to him for keeping the place in good repair, resolving some long-overdue maintenance issues, and being a strong contributor to our capable lay staff.



*Canon Ethan J. Cole*



*Jason Ray*



## Our Live Nativity Will Return in December: Animals! Food! Carols! Fun!

Back for a second year: our live nativity/Cathedral Christmas party. We'll gather at the home of Dwight Thomas and Bruce Rice at 1770 52nd Ave. N, St. Petersburg, from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 18.

Don't miss out on the live animals:

camel, donkey, goats, sheep, and mini-cow that you can pet and feed. There's a stable (our administrator, Michelle Thomas, and her father built it last year) and costumes so everyone can dress up and re-create scenes from the Christmas story for a perfect photo op.

There will be activities for kids, lots of good food, and we'll close the night singing carols by candlelight around the pool.

Dwight and Bruce's house is known as the Circus House because it was once owned by someone affiliated with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Live circus animals once lived in the house.

*Barney the camel was a big hit at last year's live nativity. Photo by JUDY STARK*



*Little angels in the manger at the live nativity. Photo by JUDY STARK*

Volunteers are needed! Please contact Hillary Peete ([hpeete@spcathedral.com](mailto:hpeete@spcathedral.com)) if you're able to help with set-up. We'll have work to do Friday through Sunday, December 16, 17, and 18. This is a great all-parish event, but it takes a lot to pull off. A sign-up will be available at [spcathedral.org/live-nativity](https://spcathedral.org/live-nativity).



## Rescheduled Canoeucharist Welcomes You

This time for sure! Our Canoeucharist, postponed because of Hurricane Ian, has been rescheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, November 6. All are invited to join us at Topwater Kayak Outpost, opposite the Dog Park Beach at Fort DeSoto Park. We'll paddle around the waters where Tampa Bay meets the Gulf of Mexico, then circle our kayaks and canoes and celebrate a Eucharist. Email Hillary Peete to RSVP: [hpeete@spcathedral.com](mailto:hpeete@spcathedral.com). Canoe rental is \$20 (holds two or three people).

## Thanks to Those Who Serve

We honored our acolytes October 2, thanking them for their contributions of time and talent at our worship services.

The honorees are:

- \* Acolytes with five or more years of service: Joanie Andrews, Frank Casorio, Ken Esteb, Maggie Moore, Mia Moore, Gavin Sosa.
- \* Four years of service (acolytes receive a personalized cross and chain): Joel Burnsed, Connor Carlisle, Dustin Knight.
- \* Three years (cross with a white ribbon): Caleb Knight, Olivia Norman.
- \* Two years (cross with a purple ribbon): Avary Fleming, Lydia McDowall.
- \* One year (cross with a red ribbon): Millie Burnsed, Anna Chandler, Elise Chandler, Ellie Curtis, Katherine Knippen.
- \* New acolytes this year: Adam Burnsed, Aletta Adams.



*Our acolytes! Back row: Ken Esteb, Caleb Knight, Frank Casorio, Lydia McDowall, Ellie Curtis, Olivia Norman, Dustin Knight, Mia Moore. Front row, Connor Carlisle, Joel Burnsed, Adam Burnsed, Millie Burnsed, Maggie Moore, Joanie Andrews. Photo by DAVID LESSARD*

# Book Study (and Pot-Luck) Will Help You Build Connections Across Differences

If you are tired of the anxiety, frustration, and fear that pervade your connections with other people, both online and in real life, Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers want you to know one thing: You are not alone. In *Now What? How to Move Forward When We're Divided (About Basically Everything)*, Holland and White will help you understand the powerful connections you have with other people on a personal, community-

based, national, and even international level. Then they show you how to:

- \* engage your family with a spirit of curiosity
- \* listen closely to the anxieties and fears of your friends
- \* explore shared values within your community
- \* understand your work as a citizen in a diverse country
- \* hold lightly those things that are beyond your control around the world

The status quo isn't working. If you long to be a peacemaker and a positive influence in your spheres, *Now What?* is your door to a future that is characterized by hope, love, and connection despite our differences.



***Now What? How to Move Forward When We're Divided (About Basically Everything)***

**by Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers**

**Wednesdays, November 2 and 9  
Potluck from 5:30-6:15 p.m.**

**Discussion until 7:30 p.m.**

**Register at [spcathedral.org/beloved-community](https://spcathedral.org/beloved-community)**

## Christmas Flower and Music Memorials

If you would like to make a donation for Christmas flowers and/or music, go to [spcathedral.org/christmas-memorials](https://spcathedral.org/christmas-memorials) to fill out the form and make your donation. Your gift supports the Flower Guild's special arrangements and decorations for the season as well as outstanding music in our worship services. Deadline is Sunday, December 11.

# Holiday Activities Start This Month For Children, Youth, and Families

## Messy Church for Families

5:30-7:15 p.m.

Thursday, November 10

Families with kids ages 4 through 5th grade are invited to learn about God through science, scripture, art, movement,



and some messy fun! This month we'll talk about Jesus's baptism.

Dinner is served from 5:30-6 p.m. (\$10/family) and we close with a prayer at 7:15 p.m. Please RSVP to Hillary ([hpeete@pca-thedral.com](mailto:hpeete@pca-thedral.com)) by Monday, November 7.

## Friendsgiving for Youth and Families 5-7 p.m. Sunday, November 13

Youth and their families are invited to this pot-luck meal to celebrate an early Thanksgiving celebration together. A sign-up for sides, drinks, and desserts is at [www.spcathedral.org/youth](http://www.spcathedral.org/youth). Please RSVP by November 4 to help us plan.

## EYC Movie and Game Night

4-8 p.m. Sunday, November 20

Come hang out before Thanksgiving

*Last year's Friendsgiving was a time for youth, friends, and family to join for an early Thanksgiving. We'll do it again this year November 13.*

break! We'll watch movies (we usually watch some Christmas favorites like *Elf*), play games and hang out. Everyone is invited to wear their most festive holiday pjs, too! Bring a snack to share! Pizza and popcorn provided.

## Middle School Christmas Party 4-6 p.m. Sunday, December 4

The Great Escape Room  
2429 Central Ave., Suite 101

Be here for the President's Bunker Escape Challenge: While visiting Washington, D.C., you and your group have been invited to a special private tour of the White House. The last stop is the Presidential Command Bunker. The bunker suddenly goes into automatic lockdown and you are informed of an imminent attack on the United States. Now it is just you and your fellow tour members, locked in with no

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## Children, Youth, and Families

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hope of outside help. You have 60 minutes to prevent nuclear Armageddon! Please RSVP to Hillary ([hpeete@spcathedral.com](mailto:hpeete@spcathedral.com)) by November 21.

### High School Christmas Party 4-6 p.m. Sunday, December 11 The Great Escape Room 2429 Central Ave., Suite 101

Join us for The Final Seance Escape Challenge: Famed illusionist Harry Houdini passed away on October 31, 1926. Prior to his death, he and his beloved wife, Bess, had discussed how she might try to contact him in the afterlife. It is now 10 years since the death of Harry Houdini. Bess has decided that this will be her final attempt before she gives up on trying to contact Houdini forever. You have come to her aid in an attempt to help her succeed before she puts out the lights on Harry's shrine for good. Will you succeed in helping Bess to contact her beloved husband one last time ... or will Houdini rest in silence forever? Please RSVP to Hillary ([hpeete@spcathedral.com](mailto:hpeete@spcathedral.com)) by November 21.



## Advent Wreath-Making

Everyone is invited to create a beautiful Advent wreath with fresh greens on November 27, the first Sunday of Advent, from 9 to 10 a.m. or from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We'll provide greenery, a foam ring, and candles (suggested donation \$10). A simple Advent devotional will be available to take home and use throughout the season.

## A Fine Harvest at Benison Farm

Thank you to everyone who has participated in Benison Farm work days. It's been a joy to witness the full cycle of seasons at the farm. We helped plant fruit trees, fed and cared for the chickens, planted, harvested, and composted.

Benison Farm is a community garden at 2920 26th Ave. S, a joint project of St. Thomas's and St. Augustine's Episcopal Churches. The goal is to provide fresh produce for the neighborhood, a food desert, and to cultivate relationships as we work with others.

Our official partnership with Benison Farm has come to a close. If you'd like to stay connected with the farm, please visit [benisonfarm.org](http://benisonfarm.org). Stay tuned for new outreach opportunities in 2023.

## Saints Among Us



### **Altruism and Humility Earned This Royal Couple the Status of Sainthood**

#### **Kamehameha and Emma King and Queen of Hawaii**

King Kamehameha IV (Prince Alexander Liholiho) and his wife Emma Kalanikaumakaʻamano Kaleleonālani Naʻea Rooke were Christian rulers who encouraged the building of Christian schools and hospitals, and who contributed greatly to the spread of Christianity among the Hawaiian people.

Prince Alexander was born on February 9, 1834, in Honolulu on the island of Oʻahu.

Princess Emma was born on January 2, 1836. As a member of the Kamehameha

dynasty, she was eligible for the Hawaiian throne and was sent to be groomed at the Chiefs' Children's School, where she was educated with her cousin and future husband, Prince Alexander, whom she married in 1856.



*King Kamehameha*

Within a year of ascending the throne, King Kamehameha and Queen Emma embarked on a path of altruism and unassuming humility for which they have been re-

vered by their people. During the 1850s, native Hawaiians were horribly afflicted

with smallpox. Accustomed to a royalty that ruled with pomp and power, the people saw instead a king and queen who walked among the people soliciting from rich and poor the funds to build a hospital, Queens Hospital (named after Emma), which is now the largest civilian hospital in Hawaii.



*Queen Emma*

King Kamehameha toured England as a boy and saw, in the stately beauty of the Anglican liturgy, a quality that seemed attuned to the gentle beauty of the Hawaiian spirit. In 1860 the king and queen petitioned the Bishop of Oxford to send missionaries to establish the Anglican Church in Hawaii. The missionaries arrived in October 1862. Kamehameha and Emma were confirmed a

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## Saints Among Us

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month later. They then began preparations for a cathedral and school and the king set about to translate the Book of Common Prayer and much of the Hymnal into the Hawaiian language.

After the death of their only son in 1863, followed by the death of King Kamehameha IV himself in 1864, Queen Emma declined

### A Prayer for Queen Emma and King Kamehameha

O Sovereign God, who raised up (King) Kamehameha (IV) and (Queen) Emma to be rulers in Hawaii, and inspired and enabled them to be diligent in good works for the welfare of their people and the good of your Church: Receive our thanks for their witness to the Gospel; and grant that we, with them, may attain to the crown of glory that never fades away; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

to rule Hawaii. Instead, she committed her life to good works. She was responsible for schools, churches, and efforts on behalf of the poor and sick. She traveled several times to England and Europe to raise funds for these projects, where she became a favorite of Queen Victoria.

The Cathedral was completed after Emma died and was named for St. Andrew, on whose saint's day King Kamehameha had died. Among the Hawaiian people, Queen Emma is still referred to as "our beloved Queen."

The altruism and humility of King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma of Hawaii is celebrated on November 28.

*The Hawaiian monarchy lasted until 1895, when Queen Lili'uokalani, of the Kalākaua dynasty, was deposed by pro-United States forces. Hawaii became a state in 1959, and President Barack Obama was born in Honolulu two years later.*

*On November 23, 1993, the Congress passed Public Law 103-150, also known as the Apology Resolution, acknowledging the American role in the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. President Bill Clinton signed the joint resolution the same day.*



New to the Cathedral? You're invited to **COFFEE WITH THE CLERGY** from 9 to 9:50 a.m. Sunday, November 13, in the Chapter Room/Library, hosted by our Canon for Hospitality, the Rev. Brandon Peete. Come learn more about the Cathedral and let us get to know you.

## New Convenor of St. Aelred's Draws on the Past, Seeks New Members and Initiatives

*Jonathan Soots is the newly-elected convenor of The Friends of St. Aelred, the Cathedral's organization for LGBTQ+ Episcopalians and their straight allies. Meet him and learn about next steps for St. Aelred's.*

### **Q. Why did you want to take on the leadership role as convenor of St. Aelred's?**

A. Many of the new attendees and members of the Cathedral may not be fully aware of the mission or activities of St. Aelred's. More than a decade ago, I found the Episcopal Church and came home to Christ. The world tells you, as an LGBTQ+ person, that you are less than worthy of God's love. Or they question your choice to exist in the image that you are created to be. The role of convenor allows me to solidify my homecom-

ing and to join a group of souls who serve the parish with a specific fortitude and love for community.

### **Q. Tell us about yourself — what you do for a living, your background, your family, how you got to St. Peter's, how you're involved here.**



*Jonathan Soots*

A: I found the Episcopal Church as a homecoming and welcoming place. In 2011 I joined the staff of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Tampa as the youth minister. We did diocesan safeguarding training at the Cathedral. My husband, Dr. Stephen Hawk, and I were married at the Cathedral in 2019 and I now serve as an usher. I am a Realtor with

Berkshire Hathaway Home Services; a test-prep instructor with Varsity Tutors; and I

have my own store on eBay, where I sell designer clothing, vintage VHS Disney videos, and a hodgepodge of consignment. I have a Master of Arts in teaching middle grades and a B.A. in Biblical Studies. I have been involved in pastoral ministry and education for more than 20 years.

### **Q. Where do you see the Friends of St. Aelred moving in the next few years?**

A. I see us growing by continuing the activities we've been involved in for many years (see the box on [page 17](#) for details). The Pride activities in June, along with new initiatives, can increase participation and membership. We want to balance the generations who have brought us to where we are with new and younger people who become more active than they are now. We will thrive as an organization once we find this careful balance with prayer and unity.

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## Jonathan Soots

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### **Q. What is it about St. Peter's that has attracted many gay Episcopalians? What makes this a welcoming place?**

A. First, look at the city. For eight years St. Petersburg has received a perfect score in the Human Rights Campaign's annual Municipal Equality Index, a nationwide assessment of cities' commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion in laws, policies, and services. This is a welcoming community. The Cathedral is in a growing downtown area close to Central Avenue and Kenwood, the heart of the LGBTQ+ community. The Episcopal Church is known nationally for its diversity and inclusion.

What makes the Cathedral a welcoming place? The clergy who identify as LGBTQ+ or as allies, both at the Cathedral and nationwide, have created a welcoming vibe. But it is the work behind the scenes for advocacy that has given the Cathedral its brilliant spiritual luster and gift of hospitality for all.

### **Q. Talk about the importance to LGBTQ+ people of having a supportive faith community at a time when the rights of gay and trans people are threatened.**

A. A supportive faith community is crucial to our existence as LGBTQ+ persons. As St. Aelred's and as the Cathedral community, it is our responsibility to be a bridge to those who are rejected because of who they are and to extend our hands with the overwhelming love of God. We are here, as we read in Micah 6:8, to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

When LGBTQ+ people are told that their rights to marry or have a family don't matter ... or when they are told their pronouns are a joke or their gender identity is a lie ... or when our transgender community is attacked ... we must embrace them and affirm their identity. LGBTQ+ people are no different and are loved no differently by God. They are Christ's own forever. We must affirm them in this message of baptism. That is the true work of the Kingdom of God.

### **About the Friends of St. Aelred**

The Friends of St. Aelred is a group of LGBTQ+ Episcopalians and their supporters and friends. The Friends started nearly 20 years ago as a support group for gay people and gradually became a service organization whose contributions to Cathedral life include the annual Christmas Giving Tree, delivery of lilies to our homebound members at Easter, and activities and Easter food baskets at Resurrection House.

The Friends also put on community-building events including a brunch and our Spiritual Pride dinner (postponed for several years now because of Covid), and are involved in St. Pete Pride activities every June. They also enjoy socials and outings throughout the year.

St. Aelred was a 12th-century Cistercian monk, abbot, and author who taught that friendship is a gift from God and allowed his monks to hold hands and give other expressions of friendship.

Besides convenor Jonathan Soots, newly elected officers are treasurer BJ Scarborough and clerk Doug Hansen. Please congratulate them!

## Help Us Decorate for the Holidays

The Flower Guild can use some extra hands and bodies during the busy fall and holiday season. We have been asked to provide flowers for Thanks-a-Brunch and the youth group Friendsgiving on November 13; Lessons and Carols as we say goodbye to Bishop Dabney Smith on November 27; the diocesan convention and seating of our new bishop on December 10; and decorating the narthex, the nave, and Harvard Hall (including the tree!) for Christmas. Contact Ron Gallucci: [ronbill@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:ronbill@tampabay.rr.com) or call (727) 906-8521.



*The Cathedral dressed for Christmas 2021. Photo by JUDY STARK*

## Honoring Our Veterans

Veterans Day is November 11. Learn more about the Cathedral's noted veterans at [spcathedral.org/crosstown-blog-veterans](http://spcathedral.org/crosstown-blog-veterans). This story from 2020 will introduce you to extraordinary military heroes and will direct you to the plaque honoring those who served in World War II.

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## New Aging and Spirituality Series

A new five-part series on Aging and Spirituality will be offered from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. starting Thursday, December 1. The topics will be: Health and Aging, Fitness and Lifestyle, Chronic Conditions, Cognitive Aging, and Depression and Aging.

Sign up at the front desk starting Sunday, November 6.

A Zoom option will be offered from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays starting December 6.

Information: Rita Sewell, [rita195382@gmail.com](mailto:rita195382@gmail.com)

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## Continuing Health Services

Our Faith Community Nurse, Rita Sewell, continues to offer these services: blood-pressure clinic, 9-10 a.m. the first Sunday of the month in the Chapter Room/Library; and consultations on health matters or mind-body-spirit issues, from 10 a.m. to noon most Thursdays at the Cathedral. E-mail her at [nurse@spcathedral.com](mailto:nurse@spcathedral.com) to make an appointment.

# FAST Proposes Top Priorities, Starts The Hard Work of Research and Persuasion

**Rewind:** In September and October, 27 people responded to the call to attend our first round of Faith and Action for Strength Together (FAST) house meetings. Participants were able to share the community concerns that most impact their lives as well as the lives of family and friends.

The information derived from these house meetings was then taken to the FAST Team Assembly Meeting on October 3 and shared with other member churches from around Pinellas County. Thanks to house meeting attendees, our concerns were voiced and heard. (Learn more about St. Peter's affiliation with FAST at [spcathedral.org/fast](https://spcathedral.org/fast).)

On October 24, the Cathedral officially

became a FAST member congregation as St. Peter's parishioners stood to be recognized at the FAST Annual Assembly. The Annual Assembly is the time when network members and member congregations gather to vote on which problems we will tackle over the next year.

The priorities the committee approved are:

**Affordable Housing:** Ensure that the county spends the Penny for Pinellas housing money on families who need it most; ensure that the city of St. Petersburg has clear, ambitious goals for affordable housing; and work to make sure the Tropicana redevelopment site includes affordable housing.

**Criminal Justice Reform:** Continue to push for pre-arrest diversion for non-dangerous driving offenses (for example, not arresting someone for unpaid fines).

**Water Quality:** Continue work started last year and ensure the community takes action against stormwater runoff and pollution.

When you see these parishioners who responded to the call for FAST House Meetings, please thank them for helping to make our voice heard in the community:

Karen Amundrud, Judy Beck, Kerry, Reid, and Connor Carlisle, Jean Curtis, Lauren Durst, Lou Ann Ferguson, Lucy Foster, John Hannay, Mary and Barry Howe, Misty and Edward Landers, Rebecca Lyons, Fay Mackey, Shar Nudelman, Hillary Peete, Susan Regan, BJ Scarborough, Sydni Shollenberger, Rita Sewell, Jan Strimer, Averill Summer, Karen Torrisi, Brett and Marilyn Vengoff.

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## FAST

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**Fast Forward:** In November, after the Annual Assembly, the “in the trenches” work of FAST begins: the research phase. Groups of FAST members who feel the call to go deeper into one of the three priority areas meet to begin researching the problem area, identify problems, and develop proposed solutions and formulate a plan of approach with elected officials. In our experience these groups generally meet monthly with opportunities to speak with elected officials for information-gathering. Betsy Adams, Karen Amundrud, and Cynthia Garrels have all participated in these research groups. If you are interested in wading deeper into the FAST pool, please contact them to discuss the options.



*The Cathedral became a Covenant Congregation of FAST during its annual assembly. Their pledge: "We, the members of FAST of Pinellas County, will draw upon*

*the strength of the people of faith to address issues of justice in our community. Amen."*  
Photo by HILLARY PEETE

### What Is FAST?

Faith and Action for Strength Together (FAST) is a justice-ministry organization of 50 religious congregations throughout Pinellas County that band together to create positive

change in our community. It has been active in Pinellas County since 2004 and includes Christian and Jewish congregations. Learn more at [fast-pinellas.org](http://fast-pinellas.org).

## Can't Wait to Get on the Road Again With This Month's Book Club Selection

There is pleasurable reading in store this month. The St. Peter's Book Club will offer a discussion of the can't-put-it-down new book by Amor Towles, *The Lincoln Highway*.

Sydni Shollenberger will be the presenter at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 22, in the Chapter Room.

Towles, the author of the best-selling *A Gentleman in Moscow*, turns this time to the United States, in 1954, when two young brothers set out to seek their fortune on the West Coast. But a couple of acquaintances persuade them to make a slight detour — from Nebraska to the East Coast — that sets off a series of adventures, some amusing, some threatening.

It's a classic road story, named for the first cross-country highway for automobiles, which stretched from New York City to San Francisco.

"Spanning 10 days and told from multiple points of view, Towles's third novel is

a multilayered tale of misadventure and self-discovery, populated by an eclectic cast of characters, from drifters who make their home riding the rails and larger-than-life vaudevillians to the aristocrats of the Upper East Side," the author's website says. "An absorbing, exhilarating ride, *The Lincoln Highway* is a novel as vivid, sweeping, and

moving as readers have come to expect from Towles's work."

If you can't attend in person, we offer a Zoom option. Visit [spcathedral.org/book-club](https://spcathedral.org/book-club) for the details. No need to have read the book; our lively discussion may persuade you to do so!



## Another Round of Microgrants: A Little Makes a Big Difference

When the Outreach Committee set its budget for 2022, we voted to distribute a portion of the funds to small, specific projects of non-profit organizations. We set up a microgrants subcommittee, which administered two cycles of awards of grants of \$250 to \$750.

We received applications for more worthy projects than we could fund. We were able to financially support the projects



of 10 non-profit organizations and look forward to continuing the micro-grant program in 2023.

The recipients of the second round of 2022 Outreach Microgrants, awarded in October, are:

### **\$750 to Farmworkers Self-Help Inc., Dade City**

Their project: Purchase roofing materials to replace the badly-leaking roofs over their social service office and food pantry (two buildings). Labor will be provided by roofers from their community.

### **\$550 to Green Devils' Closet and Pantry**

Their project: Stock a 54-square-foot pantry/closet in a classroom at St. Petersburg High School with supplies for students in need, including feminine products, underwear, food, cleaning supplies, and sneakers. More information at: [www.pcsb.org/domain/10671](http://www.pcsb.org/domain/10671)

*The Green Devils closet and pantry provides clothing, food, and personal-hygiene items for students at St. Petersburg High.*



burg High School with supplies for students in need, including feminine products, underwear, food, cleaning supplies, and sneakers. More information at: [www.pcsb.org/domain/10671](http://www.pcsb.org/domain/10671)

### **\$500 to St. Petersburg Youth Farm**

Their project: Provide access to nutritious food in South St. Petersburg, a food

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## Microgrants

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desert. The grant will be used to acquire materials to build three or four rectangular planter boxes by the sidewalk along 12th Street between 16th and 17th Avenues S. More information at: [stpeteyouthfarm.org](http://stpeteyouthfarm.org).

### **\$500 to CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse) Family Justice Center –Youth Center**

Their project: Supply a youth center at the CASA Family Justice Center in St. Peters-

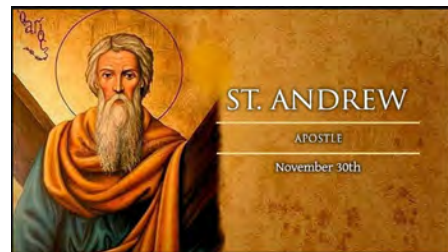


burg with age-appropriate activities, toys, books, and food so that children accompanying their parent can play with specially trained advocates and other children while their parent attends to adult matters with law enforcement, legal representatives, and so forth. More information at: [casapinellas.org/familyjusticecenter/](http://casapinellas.org/familyjusticecenter/)

### **\$500 to Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa/DBA Safe and Sound Hillsborough**

Their project: Provide food and program materials for the Evening Reporting Center (ERC). Youth (who are court-ordered to the ERC for 21 to 90 days) receive academic assistance, mentorship, vocational exposure, and group/individual counseling/therapy, all in an effort to reduce recidivism.

To see the full list of grant recipients this year and to learn more, please visit [spcathedral.org/grant](http://spcathedral.org/grant). It's never too early to share the link with your favorite non-profit and encourage them to apply at our next round of grant-making.



In addition to our regular 12:05 p.m. Eucharist on Wednesdays, we now offer Holy Eucharist on Feast Days during the week. This month we will observe the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle at 12:05 p.m. on November 30. The full schedule of Feast Day Eucharists for the rest of the year is at [spcathedral.org/services](http://spcathedral.org/services).

# Still Time to Donate to a Thanksgiving Dinner for Others

The collection of items for Thanksgiving food bags for those at Campbell Park Elementary School and Resurrection House will continue through Sunday, November 13.

We need donations of

- \*Boxed mashed potatoes
- \* Canned green beans
- \* Cranberry sauce



- \* Boxed stuffing mix
- \* \$35 Publix or Walmart gift certificates to be used to buy the meat of the recipients' choice.

Please bring your donations to the front desk.

We need volunteers to assemble the Thanksgiving bags in Harvard Hall after the 12:05 p.m. Eucharist on Wednesday, November 16.

For additional information, please contact Penny Roen ([penny-roen@gmail.com](mailto:penny-roen@gmail.com)).

Through the Outreach Committee, the Cathedral will provide cooked turkeys for a community Thanksgiving meal at Peterborough Apartments.



## Thanksgiving Service on November 24

Before the turkey and the football games, we'll join together for Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. Thursday, November 24, Thanksgiving Day. We'll sing the familiar hymns and give thanks for bounties and blessings and making it through a difficult year. No nursery that day.

**Know this:** The settlers who arrived on the Mayflower in 1620 were no friends of the Church of England, the spiritual ancestor of the Episcopal Church. Bishops? Vestments? Candles? Stained glass? Bah! Learn more about who the Pilgrims really were at [spcathedral.org/crosstown-blog-pilgrims](http://spcathedral.org/crosstown-blog-pilgrims). The video referenced there, *American Experience: The Pilgrims* is now available on PBS Video.



## Bad, Good, and God

Our youth spent some time recently talking about “Bad Things, Good People, and God.”

We each have our own experiences and understanding of God, especially during difficult times.

They took on this two-part challenge: First, create an artistic

representation of something in the world or your life that makes you wonder: Why did that happen? Second: Create how you experienced God during that time. We got some beautiful, creative responses!

Photos by HILLARY PEETE



*Esther Jacobson*



*Joel Burnsed*



*Eden Jacobson*



*Olivia Norman holds up her artwork in front of Joel Burnsed, center, and Dustin Knight.*

# Two Families Are Sheltered and Are On the Way Toward Sustainable Housing

**Dennis M. Sousa, Family Promise Executive Director**

It finally happened! Family Promise is back in business. We are sheltering two families and have provided a total of 157 services for those families in one week. Each family has been given a clear road map that will enable them to achieve their goal of sustainable housing.

Yes, there were wrinkles, but we were able to iron them out quickly and make the necessary changes as we move ahead to assist more families.

A huge shout-out to Central Christian Church for their unwavering support as they host our families for two weeks. The families they are sheltering have given a unanimous thumbs-up for the meals they have provided.



We have hired a family coordinator to work intensively with our clients to ensure their future success. I have met with our supporters at Palm Lake Christian Church to complete their training as they prepare to be our next hosts.

The resumption of work with homeless families comes after services to clients were put on hold in late 2018 while the board worked toward financial stability and leadership development and dealt with limitations imposed by the pandemic.

The statement “It takes a village” is absolutely true. With all our efforts, working together, we can chip away at homelessness in Pinellas County.

## About Family Promise

Family Promise of Pinellas County is part of a national nonprofit organization serving homeless children and their parents. They are housed at participating churches, moving from church to church each week. St. Peter’s has provided meals for the families several times a year. Families spend days at the Day Center at Central Christian Church, 6201 22nd Ave. N, where they seek jobs, social services, and permanent housing.

Want to know more? Please contact Karen Amundrud ([amundrudk@yahoo.com](mailto:amundrudk@yahoo.com)) for details. Learn more at [fppinellas.org](http://fppinellas.org).

# November Transitions

## Birthdays

1	Corey Lentini	11	Justin Grimshaw
1	Ellen Morris	12	Penny Robbins
1	Cole Naylor	12	Gaby Gramling
2	Blanton Garnett	13	Jake Smithhart
2	Greg Glenn	13	Suzanne Haines
4	Emily Williams	13	Stefan Palen
4	Jenny Reese	14	Michael Myers
5	Raymond Lannon	14	Tracey Gross
6	Mary Matthews	14	Sarah Parker
7	Andy Munkittrick	15	Cindy Gines
8	Ida Brophy	16	Kassidy Gums
8	Dave Darrow	17	Alex Costello
9	Phyllis Waters	18	Bruce Rice
10	George Sykes	18	Carter Curtis
10	Anna Guengerich	19	Bob Summer

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

## Anniversaries

13	Rich & Cathy Rome	23	Tim Staney & Matthew Stewart
15	Jack & Susan Regan	23	Fred & Susan Stansbery
15	Laurence Roberts & Scott Strader	26	Todd & Terry Llewellyn
17	Matthew & Ellen McDonald	27	Ray McColgan & Mike Schillace
21	Richard Gibson		
21	Kristen Herman		
21	Jacob Peters		
22	Elias Scultori		
22	Beatrix Peete		
23	Mary Marcantonio		
24	Susan Oates		
24	Carole Cowan		
25	Tallulah Taylor		
25	Cynthia Sinclair		
26	Michael Adams		
26	Elise Chandler		
26	Clayton Roen		
27	Heather Hollingsworth		
27	Lydia McDowall		
28	Ken Post		
28	Susan Churuti		
29	Steve Hawk		
29	Cassie Ramsey		
30	Evelyn Finklea		



## Those Who Have Died

Larry Arsenault

## 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**

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

**Wednesday, 12:05 p.m., Holy Eucharist**

**Fourth Sunday, 5 p.m., Choral Evensong  
(through April except December)**

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

**If you have a pastoral emergency after hours,  
please call (727) 822-4173 ext. 1 to speak to  
a member of the clergy.**

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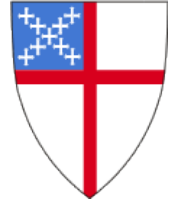
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### Diocesan leadership:

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith, Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas R. Scharf, Bishop Coadjutor

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

### Our clergy and senior staff:

The Very Rev. Stephen B. Morris, Dean

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

The Rev. Canon Brandon Peete, Canon for Hospitality

The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams, Canon Theologian

Mr. Dwight M. Thomas, Canon for Music and Precentor

The Rev. Elma Rosenberg, Deacon

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