



# CROSSTOWN

February 2024

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

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**We Honor the First Black Episcopal Priest  
With a Music Workshop and Prayer, Page 16**



**Tesla Quartet, Afro Opera:  
A Big Month For Music,  
Pages 18-19**

**Here's What You Said in Our  
Listening Sessions, Page 4**

**Pancakes, Penitence,  
Potluck Suppers:  
We're Ready for the  
Season of Lent, Page 8**

## Tower Repair and Sound System: Chapter Is Working on Repairs

At its January meeting the Chapter heard an update on plans to repair the bell tower. The Tampa engineering firm of Biller Reinhart will examine the structure and give us a report by the end of February. The weight of the steeple and top story of the tower, added in 1925, is causing the walls of the original 1899 tower to bow outward. Our hope is to begin work this spring.

We've all heard the snap, crackle, and

pop of the sound system in the Cathedral. We're calling in the experts to offer proposals to resolve these problems.

In other news, the Chapter learned that we closed out the books on 2023 with \$835,555.63 in pledge income, or 95 percent of our goal. We ended the year with a small budget shortfall because of some unexpected expenses, e.g., three of the air-conditioning units had to be replaced.

### We're Looking for Another Faith Community Nurse

St. Peter's is seeking someone to take on the important role of faith community nurse.

This volunteer position is vacant because our most recent nurse, Rita Sewell, has moved to Sebring. Rita developed this ministry of physical, mental, and spiritual health into an important part of our

pastoral-care offerings and we are eager to continue and expand it.

St. Anthony's Hospital offers a program to train interested candidates in faith-based nursing.

If you are interested, please speak to Father Alford.



# Annual Meeting: Celebrating All That Has Been, Anticipating All That Will Be

Thanks for the past and excitement about the future: Those were the themes at this year's Annual Meeting on January 28.

"I hope our time together continues to be an experience of God's grace," Dean David Cobb said, "and that this interim time leaves you and your next dean ready for your next chapter of how to serve God in this community."

Senior Warden Lucas Fleming thanked the Chapter, the executive committee, and the Rev. Mike Alford for their work during this interim time. "We're so thankful for you," he told Father Mike. This is also a time of "building relationships with our new bishop and with the diocese," he said. He thanked Bishop Scharf for his patience in waiting to find the right person as our interim dean: "It was worth the wait for Dean Cobb."

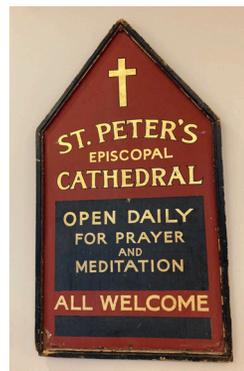
Lucas outlined plans to shore up the steeple and bell tower (see [Page 2](#)). As we celebrate our 55th anniversary as a cathedral,

our 135th year as a worshipping community and the 125th anniversary of the completion of our original worship space, the restoration of the tower and chimes will be an appropriate celebration.

Junior warden Susan Darrow acknowledged and thanked the "exceptional and hard-working staff" and the many volunteers, committees, and ministry leaders with our signature KitKats for all.

Search co-chairs Ray McColgan and Judy Stark introduced members of the committee and gave an update on their progress: at work on the profile, a final listening session on February 3 (see [Page 4](#)), and thanks to all who have taken the survey and offered advice and memories.

Treasurer Mark Myers reported that in a budget of \$1.7-million, we spend about half



on worship and music, 16 percent on service and outreach, 13 percent on formation, 6 percent on pastoral care, and 16 percent on building and grounds.

"We are financially strong with a growing endowment of more than \$4-million and no outstanding debt," he said. "Our challenge is to grow our congregation and pledge income to fully support the needs of our ministries. We are short of our pledge goal in 2024, so

everyone is encouraged to complete their pledge card. As we seek a new dean, the Cathedral has the financial strength and capability to be successful and to support our mission — to know Christ and make Him known."

Mark's budget charts and our annual slide show of the events of 2023 are posted at [spcathedral.org/annual-meeting](http://spcathedral.org/annual-meeting).

# Now Hear This!

## Here's What You Said in Our Listening Sessions

Thanks to all who participated in our listening sessions. Your comments are very helpful to the Search Committee as we move ahead to prepare a profile and develop questions for future candidates.

At those sessions, recorders took down all the comments made in table conversations, transcribed them, and shared them with the full Search Committee. Even if your specific comment is not listed here, we do have a record of it and are mindful of what everyone said.

Here's a brief summary of what you said.

### Reactions to the survey:

- No real surprises;
- Pleased at number of responses (304);
- Nice to know that the way we think about ourselves was affirmed in the survey;
- Acknowledge that we need to be open to change.



### Your best experience of the Cathedral:

- Music/choir, preaching, pastoral care, inclusiveness, family ministry, flowers.
- Book and Bible studies, emphasis on social justice.
- Baptisms of family members, family growing up in the church, being welcomed as a single father.
- Opportunity to volunteer at Resurrection House, serving as a eucharistic minister or visitor.

- Involvement of children in the service.
- Christmas Eve, Christmas pageant, Easter Vigil.
- Foyer groups, Messy Church.
- Representing the church in the community (such as Pride Family Festival and parade). Men's Bible study.

[continued on page 5](#)

### Last Call!

We'll hold one final listening session, from 10 to 10:45 a.m. **Saturday, February 3.** This will be a hybrid session: attend in person or via Zoom. In either case you must register by February 1st [spcathedral.org/dean-search](https://spcathedral.org/dean-search) so we know how many people to prepare for.

## Listening

[continued from Page 4](#)

### What can we do better:

- More cultural/racial/gender diversity.
- More diverse forms of worship at times other than Sunday morning.
- Greeting, welcoming, incorporating new members; invite/welcome/train/incorporate people into ministries.
- Pastoral care.
- Intergenerational activities, ways to get to know each other, get outside our groups. We can be cliquish at coffee hour, it can be hard to crack the friendship circles.
- Improved stewardship (disappointment at our low rate of giving).
- Campus ministry.
- Environmental justice/creation care.
- Hands-on work with underserved populations.

### What you'd like to ask/tell candidates:

- What attracts you to Florida/to St. Peter's?
- Tell us about failures, ethical challenges, your experience with urban churches.

- Will you perform gay marriages?
- Want a warm, outgoing person who connects with everyone.
- How have you been involved in social justice (Becoming Beloved Community, Sacred Ground)?
- Need someone with excellent financial/administrative skills — someone who can administer AND minister,

provide pastoral care, good preacher and teacher.

- What are your growing edges/what are you working on?
- Do you lead from in front, in the midst, or behind?
- What part of your life story helps us understand you as a member of our community?

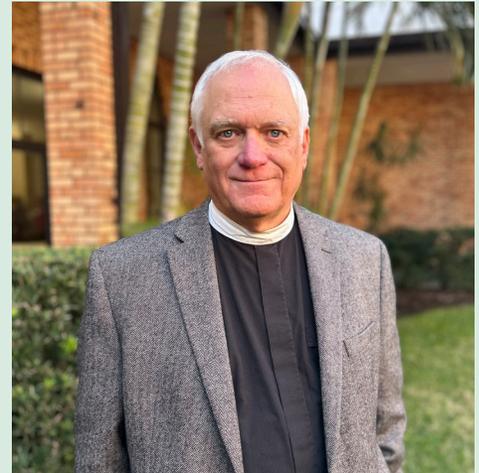
## Meet Our Interim Dean

The Rev. David C. Cobb joined us January 16 as our interim dean.

Please welcome him and take time to introduce yourselves. And do wear your nametag!

Dean Cobb is an experienced interim, having served recently as interim assistant rector at St. James' Madison Avenue, New York City, and interim rector at Christ Church, Chattanooga.

A Q&A interview and his resumé are at [spcathedral.org/dean-search](https://spcathedral.org/dean-search). Take time to get to know him!



## Meet the Search Committee

*The Search Committee comprises the nine people who will interview candidates and recommend to the Chapter the priest they believe is called to be our next dean.*

*Over the last several months we've profiled seven of the nine members, and we conclude this month with bios of the co-chairs. You can read earlier profiles and find more*

*information about the search for a new dean at [spcathedral.org/dean-search](https://spcathedral.org/dean-search). This month, meet Ray McColgan and Judy Stark.*



### World Traveler, Past Warden, Stewardship Chair

**Name:** Ray McColgan

**Age:** 80 as of February 12

**Member since:** 2009

**Involvement at the Cathedral:** search co-chair, former senior warden, stewardship chair, usher, coffee hour host, member and past secretary-treasurer of the Friends of St. Aelred, where I've worked on the Giving Tree, Easter and Christmas flower delivery to shut-ins, and the Spiritual Pride dinner.

**Occupation:** retired middle-school principal in Baltimore County, MD

**In my spare time you'll find me ...** Not a lot of spare time right now, but we do love to travel and visit new places. Last year we spent three weeks in Southeast Asia. Our

December cruise down the Rhine to the Christmas markets in Germany was canceled when the river flooded!

**What I'm watching/listening to these days:** I do enjoy the cooking, travel, and home-improvement programs.



**If Presiding Bishop Michael Curry came to town, one thing I'd like to show him is:** On the upside would be our beautiful Cathedral, the beaches, and our vibrant downtown. On the downside: our critical need for affordable housing.

**A time when I saw the Cathedral at its best:** Our response to Covid was incredible: the online worship and formation programs despite early technical glitches. Events such as the drive-by red-carnation delivery for Pentecost and the Oktoberfest strudel pickups. The phone calls to check up on congregants. Hillary's delivery of formation bags to all our children and their families. Our outdoor worship at city parks. The staff and congregation were amazing!

*[continued on page 7](#)*

## Meet the Search Committee

[continued from page 6](#)

### Wordsmith, Donut Queen, Keeper of Institutional Memory

**Name:** Judy Stark

**Age:** 77

**Member since:** 1986

**Involvement at the Cathedral:** Editor of *Crosstown*, our newsletter; Sunday-morning donut queen; lector; past chair of the Formation Committee; member of the Stewardship Committee; currently clerk of the Chapter and served several previous terms, including two years as senior warden. I've been around so long I know where everything is, from the Centennial Banner to the silver polish. For 16 years I was the program chair of Diocesan Convention.

**Occupation:** Long career as a newspaper journalist, including 20+ years at the (then) *St. Petersburg Times*. My encore career: I'm a consultant to Episcopal dioceses when they elect new bish-



ops. I've worked with 25+ dioceses, currently with the Dioceses of California and Massachusetts.

**In my spare time you'll find me ...** bird-watching around Crescent Lake, reading, cooking.

**What I'm watching/listening to these days:** I LOVED *Slow Horses* on Apple TV+ and can't wait for the next season. I'm a big fan of British police procedurals (now watching *Criminal Record* on Apple TV+). On those nights when I can't sleep, I confess that I watch *Say Yes to the Dress*.

**If Presiding Bishop Michael Curry came to town, one thing I'd like to show him is:**

The table in the Narthex made from a slice of the camphor tree that used to grow in our Memorial Garden. It's a symbol of how our past informs and enriches our present and shows us how what is old can become new.

**A time when I saw the Cathedral at its best:** Right now, actually. The Cathedral is alive with activities — sharing and caring ministries for those in need, formation,



*The top of this table is a slice of the camphor tree that used to grow in our Memorial Garden.*

inspiring worship and music, taking care of our buildings and our budget, raising up our children and youth, doing the hard work of racial healing, offering pastoral care and fellowship and friendship ... all at a time when many churches in a clergy transition just sit and do nothing. I can't imagine a better way to attract great candidates to be our next dean.

## Now We Move Into the Somber Season of Lent

The penitential season of Lent — a 40-day period leading up to Easter — begins on Wednesday, February 14: Ash Wednesday.

We'll offer three services that day (7 a.m., noon, and 7 p.m.) for the imposition of ashes. The ashes are made from the palm fronds and crosses we received last Palm Sunday. They have been burned and ground up to create the ashes the priests will use as they mark a cross on our foreheads with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

This season of self-examination and self-denial corresponds to the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism in the River Jordan by John the Baptizer. (Read Luke 4:1-13, Matthew 4:1- 11, or Mark 1:12-13.) During this time Jesus was tested by Satan while preparing for the start of his earthly ministry.

The day before Ash Wednesday is Shrove Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday). Mardi Gras has long been a day of feasting and merrymaking before the somber season of Lent. Historically it was a

time to use up the butter and cream, eggs and meat before the Lenten fast. (These items were often dwindling in supply at the end of winter anyway.) We'll celebrate with our annual Pancake Supper: See [Page 10](#).



In some parts of the world this is Fasnacht Day, or Doughnut Day, another way to feast on rich food before the fast.

The word carnival, or *carnevale* — a raucous celebration before the start of Lent — literally means "goodbye to meat." It is the custom, particularly in the Roman

Catholic Church, to observe meatless Fridays during Lent.

As for that name, Shrove Tuesday: In centuries gone by, Christians would make their confession at the beginning of Lent and would be "shriven" — cleansed — of their sins. The Middle English for "absolve" is shrive, shrove, shriven.

The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word *lencten*, meaning "long spring days," as the short, dark days of winter give way to the brighter days of spring. That is appropriate as we move from a dark, penitential season to the glory of Easter, March 31.

The season lasts for six weeks because we do not count Sundays as part of Lent (they are, in effect, "little Easters"). Lent is a time that the Church sets aside to go deeper in our faith and to develop spiritual practices that draw us closer to God.

The earliest Lent can begin is February 4; the latest, March 10. The start of Lent

[continued on page 9](#)

## The Penitential Season of Lent

[continued from page 8](#)

depends on the date of Easter, which is set according to the lunar calendar. (For everything you ever wanted to know about determining the date of Easter, see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computus> or turn to Page 880 of the Book of Common Prayer.)

You will notice changes in worship during Lent. The clergy vestments and altar hangings are a penitential purple, and we use only simple greenery rather than colorful floral displays. The music is limited and subdued. We eliminate the word "Alleluia" from our worship. The choir will sing a Choral Introit in place of the opening processional hymn. On Lent 1 (February 18) we will recite the Great Litany (Page 148 of the Book of Common Prayer).

Lent 4 (March 10) is Laetare Sunday, also called Refreshment Sunday or Rose Sunday, when we relax our Lenten discipline to recognize that beyond the somber days to come of Passiontide, Easter is drawing near. "Laetare" means "rejoice," and we do so with a processional hymn, brighter music overall, and flowers on the altar, often pink.

## Documentary Celebrating First Ordained Women Priests Will Be Screened in Dunedin

Fifty years ago, before the Episcopal Church began ordaining women as priests, a group of 11 women and their supporters organized their "irregular ordination" to the Episcopal priesthood in an act of civil disobedience. The story of their ordination, on July 29, 1974, is told in a compelling new documentary, *The Philadelphia Eleven*.

The film will be screened at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 24, at Church of the Good Shepherd, 639 Edgewater Drive, Dunedin. The screening is free, but registration is required.

This film explores the lives of the remarkable women who succeeded in transforming an age-old institution when they took a stand despite the threats to their personal safety and the risk of rejection by the church they loved. These women are an inspiration for a generation of women in the ministry, and a clarion call

for the entire Christian Church. The Episcopal Church authorized the ordination of women at its General Convention in 1976.

Doors open at 12:30 p.m. A brief meet-and-greet with Bishop Scharf will start at 1 p.m. with the documentary presentation immediately following. A discussion panel and light refreshments will be offered after the viewing. A freewill offering will be taken to support the Episcopal Church Women and Church of the Good Shepherd.

You can watch the trailer or register for the screening at [cogsdunedin.com/phil11](https://cogsdunedin.com/phil11).



*Three of the 11 newly ordained priests celebrate their first Holy Eucharist.*

# Mardi Gras Fun at Pancake Supper, Burning of the Palms, and More

Before the fast, the feast. Or, to put it another way: Before the penitence, the pancakes.

We'll hold our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper from 5:45 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 13, in Harvard Hall.

Come for pancakes (including the gluten-free version) with all the toppings, bacon and sausage, and King Cake. That's a New Orleans tradition, where Shrove Tuesday is celebrated as Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday. We'll have lots of Mardi Gras beads, and music by the Gladio Jazz Operators, directed by Mike Martin, from Gibbs High

## Help Us Make A Merry Mardi Gras!

Sign up to help with the Pancake Supper at [spcathedral.org/lent](http://spcathedral.org/lent)



*Cyndi Orozco, who always comes in full Mardi Gras regalia, outdid herself last year.*

School. At 5:45 p.m. we'll burn the palms in the Memorial Garden to create the ashes that the clergy will use the next day, Ash Wednesday, as they make the sign of the

cross on our foreheads and remind us that we are dust.

The Altar Guild has a basket in the Narthex where you can deposit the palm fronds and crosses you received last year on Palm Sunday.

Looking deeper into Lent, the Altar Guild will make this year's palm crosses on March 20. All are welcome to learn how to fold a strip of palm frond into a cross, and the Guild's many patient teachers are happy to show you how. Watch for details next month.

Also to come: **Maunder Thursday** Holy Eucharist, Foot-Washing, and Stripping of the Altar, on March 28; **the 49th Way of the Cross** led by Cathedral youth at 7:30 a.m. on Good Friday, March 29, through downtown streets; the **Great Vigil of Easter** on Saturday evening, March 30; and **Easter**, on Sunday, March 31. We'll have all the details next month.

Photo by JUDY STARK



### Lent at the Cathedral

5:45-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 13: Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Burning of the palms at 5:45 p.m. followed by supper.

7 a.m., 12 noon, 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 14: Ash Wednesday services.

4:45 p.m. Sunday, February 25: Choral Evensong for the Second Sunday in Lent.

## Collage Artist Will Display Her Work, Lead Stations of the Cross Workshop

Dee Perconti is a local mixed-media collage artist. Her "14 Stations of the Cross" exhibit will be on view in the Cathedral from March 15 through 31. On March 16 she will conduct a daylong collage workshop in Harvard Hall, where participants

can create their own stations. A community-wide reception with the artist will be held on Friday, March 22.

Learn more at [spcathedral.org/arts](https://spcathedral.org/arts), where you can register for the workshop. We'll have more next month.



*Collage artist Dee Perconti and one of the pieces in her "14 Stations of the Cross" exhibit.*



# Thanks to Those Who've Made a Commitment; And a Word to Those Who Have Not

## Ray McColgan Stewardship Chair

Thanks to all those listed below who have made a Faith Filled Financial Commitment to the Cathedral for 2024. It is much appreciated.

Despite these generous pledges, we have fallen short of our goal of \$950,000. As of late January we had received commitments for only \$778,698 -- just 82 percent

of our goal, and \$104,000 less than our 2023 commitment total.

This is a concern to me as well as to your Stewardship Committee and your Chapter. If you have not made a commitment for 2024, I'm asking you personally to do so as a sign of your support for our Cathedral and the work we do to bring the message of

Jesus to a hurting world. Visit our website, [spcathedral.org/give-abundance](https://spcathedral.org/give-abundance). Or you may call Cathedral Administrator Michelle Thomas at (727) 822-4173.

If you notice errors in this list, or believe that your name has been inadvertently omitted, please contact Michelle or me.

13 anonymous donors  
Mimi Aangeenbrug  
Bob & Deborah Abraham  
Laura & Scott Albee  
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Meg Banitch  
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[continued on page 13](#)

## Thanks to Those Who Give

[continued from page 12](#)

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[continued on page 14](#)

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*[continued from page 13](#)*

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## Best Brunch of the Year

The St. Aelred's Brunch on January 21 was a great celebration, a time of fellowship and a warm welcome to our new interim dean, the Rev. David Cobb. Thanks to all who contributed to the potluck, and to those who helped set up, serve, and clean up. Special thanks to Wil Laroche, Thomas

Walker, Ray McColgan, and Mike Schillace for sharing their experience with me, the new convenor of the Friends of St. Aelred. Want to know more about this group that supports LG-BTQI+ Episcopalians? Call me at (863) 581-5717. — *Stephen Willis*



*Above, Brandon Peete and Darius and Chelsea Underwood are having a good time.*

Photos by STEPHEN WILLIS

*Right, our kitchen crew — Stephen Willis, Thomas Walker, Wil Laroche, Al Carrico — also enjoyed the camaraderie.*



## Canon Williams Will Speak About His Book on St. Anselm

It's always a special occasion when an author joins us to discuss a book, and even more so when the author is a member of our clergy staff. That will be the case on

February 27, when the Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams, our canon theologian, will speak to the St. Peter's Book Club about his book, *Anselm: A Very Short Introduction* (134 pages).

Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) was the outstanding philosopher-theologian of the Latin West between Augustine and the 13th Century.

As a public figure, especially as Archbishop of Canterbury, Anselm corresponded with kings and nobles, popes and bishops, in letters that reveal a fascinating personality and flesh out the practical dimensions of his theoretical philosophy. He wrote at a time

when a renewed interest in logic encouraged careful and rigorous argumentation, but before the recovery of Aristotle filled the philosophical discourse with difficult technical jargon, making for writing that is unrivaled for its lucidity and accessibility.

He offers the first clear account of what we now call a libertarian view of free will, according to which free choices cannot be determined by the agent's internal states or by external influences. His famous "ontological argument" for the existence of God continues to generate discussion, debate, and puzzlement.

His understanding of God is rightly regarded as one of the definitive expressions of classical theism or perfect-being theology, which remains influential in philosophy

of religion and analytic theology. His account of the Atonement is one that every theologian to this day still grapples with.

All are welcome to join this spirited discussion with Canon Williams. The Book Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapter Room. There is a Zoom option as well. Visit

[spcathedral.org/adults](https://www.spcathedral.org/adults) for the Zoom link and a list of what the club will read from now through June.



*The Rev. Canon Dr.  
Thomas Williams*



*Who was Absalom Jones?* [Page 17](#)

## Music Workshop and Service Will Celebrate The Life of the First Black Episcopal Priest

The first Black Episcopal priest, Absalom Jones (1746-1818), will be honored at the Cathedral with a workshop on Afrocentric liturgical music and a service of music and readings on Saturday, February 10.

The workshop leader is Dr. Carl MaultsBy, composer, conductor, keyboardist, singer, author, producer, and teacher. He is director of music and organist at St. Richard's Episcopal Church in Winter Park.

His workshop, at 1 p.m., presented with vocalist Vanessa Hawkins, will integrate African diasporic music and cultural elements of contemporary and traditional gospel and spiritual music, Caribbean, and blues. This interactive forum seeks to increase understanding of and appreciation for the pivotal contributions of diasporic music in Episcopal worship.

Then at 2:30 p.m., a Service of Music

and Readings, incorporating many of the pieces introduced in the workshop, will honor the life and legacy of Absalom Jones.

This service will include readings from influential Black voices in the Episcopal Church, such as Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the Rev. Pauli Murray, the first African-American woman ordained to the priesthood. Bishop Scharf will preach and celebrate Holy Eucharist.

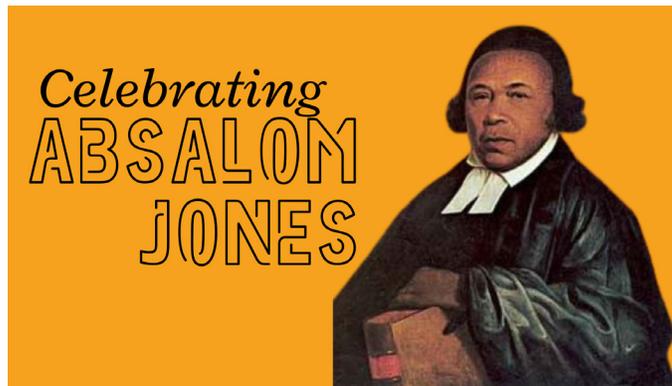
A festive reception will offer a tasting menu from the African diaspora. A freewill offering will be collected for the Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal Historically Black College

and Universities. More information is at [spcathedral.org/absalom-jones](http://spcathedral.org/absalom-jones).

The event is presented by the John E. Culmer Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians, St. James House of Prayer, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, the Cathedral, and the Diocese of Southwest Florida.



*Carl MaultsBy*



## Born a Slave, Absalom Jones Became Known as ‘the Black Bishop’

On February 13 the Church observes the Feast of Absalom Jones (1746-1818), the first Black priest in the Episcopal Church.

Jones was born into slavery in Delaware. His owner encouraged his efforts to learn to read and write, realizing that these skills increased the slave’s value. When Jones’s mother and five siblings were sold to another slaveholder, he was taken to Philadelphia, where he worked in his master’s store and learned mathematics at a Quaker school.

In 1766 he married Mary Thomas, also enslaved, and the couple saved and borrowed to purchase her freedom. In 1784, after years of resistance, Jones’s owner agreed to grant him his freedom.



Jones and his friend Richard Allen were effective evangelists who greatly increased the Black membership of St. George’s Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. When the white vestry members decided to segregate Black members into an upstairs gallery without notice, the Black worshipers indignantly walked out as a group.

By 1794, Black Episcopalians had built their own church, St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Jones was ordained deacon in 1795 and priest in 1802 by William White, the first and fourth Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church and the first bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Jones was an earnest preacher who denounced slavery and warned oppressors

to “clean their hands of slaves.” St. Thomas Church grew to more than 500 members in its first year.

Known as the “Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church,” Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God’s instrument.

### Collect for Absalom Jones

*Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## Cathedral Will Host Showcase of African-American Classical Music

Afro Opera will present its inaugural Black History Month Showcase, “A Message from the Roots,” highlighting classical music performed exclusively by African-American vocalists and musicians, at the Cathedral on Saturday, February 24.

The showcase will highlight spirituals, operatic songs, and art songs by African-American composers. Featured soloists include soprano Maiya Stevenson and mezzo-soprano Teia Watson. The accompanist is Austin Gaskin of St. Louis, a classically-trained African-American pianist.

The showcase is presented from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Regular admission is \$20. VIP admission is \$40, which includes a reception and an opportunity to meet the artists after the performance. Purchase tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-message-from-the-roots-tickets-763702403447>

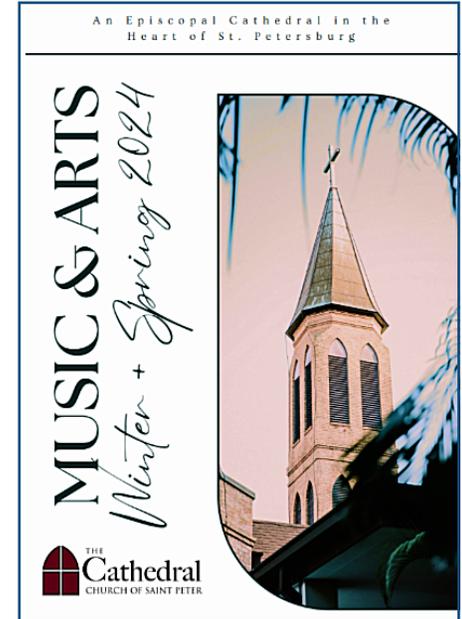
Afro Opera was founded in 2017 by Ms. Stevenson, a St. Petersburg native, to educate, enlighten, and expose a wide range of individuals to the beauty of classical music. Ms. Stevenson will also sing the Prelude for the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, February 10.



## All About Upcoming Music and Arts Performances

Our winter-spring Music and Arts brochure is now available at [spcathedral.org/music-events](http://spcathedral.org/music-events) and at the front desk.

The brochure provides details of our monthly Choral Evenings; the return of our Cathedral Brass to enhance our festival liturgies; renowned guest artists including St. Pete Baroque and the Tesla Quartet; diverse offerings from Afro Opera and a service celebrating Absalom Jones; and our reinvigorated Arts Ministry programming with local artists.



# Dynamic Tesla Quartet Returns to the Cathedral on February 16

The award-winning, internationally-acclaimed Tesla Quartet will return to the Cathedral at 7:30 p.m. Friday, February 16.

This will be the group's fourth appearance at St. Peter's, and it is something of a homecoming. The group's founder, violinist Ross Snyder, is the son of our parishioners



Beth and Tim Snyder. This is the group's 16th season.

They'll play Haydn's String Quartet in E flat major, Op. 33 No. 2, "The Joke"; Grażyna Bacewicz's String Quartet No. 3; and Antonin Dvorák's 12-movement "Cypresses," B. 152.

"The Tesla Quartet is known the world over for their superb capacity to find the inner heart of everything they play, regardless of era, style, or technical demand," The International Review of Music says.

"From cutting-edge contemporary works to established masterpieces, the Tesla Quartet's emotive and thoughtful interpretations reveal the ensemble's deep commitment to the craft

and to their ever expanding repertoire," the group's website says. "The quartet recognizes the power of their platform to amplify underrepresented voices and to encourage the proliferation of an equitable and just future for society as well as a hospitable climate for posterity."

You can meet the quartet and watch videos of their performances at [teslaquartet.com](https://teslaquartet.com). In addition to Ross Snyder, the group comprises violinist Michelle Lie, violist Edwin Kaplan, and cellist Austin Fisher.

**What: Performance by the  
Tesla Quartet**

**When: 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, February 16**

**Tickets: \$15 at the door**

## The Influential Purcells Will Provide Music for February Choral Evensong

Music at our service of Choral Evensong on February 25 will be provided by the Purcell brothers — or cousins — Daniel and Henry, both composers of the Baroque era (1600-1750).

The Cathedral Chamber Choir will sing the “Service in E minor” of Daniel Purcell (1664-1717), probably his most-performed composition. Daniel Purcell had a long career in the theater, composing incidental music for more than 40 plays. He also wrote sonatas for recorder and violin. He was organist



Daniel Purcell

at Magdalen College, Oxford, and later at St. Andrew’s, Holborn.

His more famous brother, or cousin — the relationship is ambiguous — is the author of the closing anthem, “Remember, Lord, not our offences.” Henry Purcell (1659-1695) is regarded as one of England’s most important composers. He wrote prolifically for the stage, including what some regard as the first English opera, “Dido and Aeneas.” As a church musician, so highly regarded was he that he is buried in Westminster Abbey next to the organ. Contemporary critics rank him with Bach and Beethoven.

His work influences music to the present day: the title music for the film *A Clock-*

*work Orange* is a reworking of one of his compositions. Pete Townshend of The Who

credits Henry Purcell for inspiring “Won’t Get Fooled Again,” “Miles and Miles,” and the intro to “Pinball Wizard.” Purcell’s music has been used or adapted for many movies, including *Kramer vs. Kramer* and the 2005 *Pride and Prejudice*.

An organ prelude begins at 4:45 p.m. Dwight Thomas is canon for music and organist.

A freewill offering is taken, and a reception follows.



Henry Purcell

# Family Ministry in February

## EYSeedlings (3rd-5th grade)

**Sprinkled with Love!**

**Sunday, February 4,  
from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Kids are invited to make cookies, treats, and cards for the residents at Peterborough Apartments. Join us for some fun in the kitchen and then we'll deliver our cookies to Peterborough together. Lunch provided.

## EYC (6th-12th grade)

**Sunday, February 4, from 5 to 7 p.m.**

We will make cookies, goody bags, and cards for the families at Florida Resurrection House. Join us for some fun in the kitchen and some games while everything bakes.

## Messy Church for Families

**Thursday, February 8,  
from 5:30-7:15 p.m.**

Families with kids ages 4 through 5th grade are invited to learn about God

through science, scripture, art, movement, and some messy fun. Dinner is served from 5:30-6 p.m. (\$10/family) and we close with a prayer at 7:15 pm. Please RSVP to Hillary ([hpeete@spcathedral.com](mailto:hpeete@spcathedral.com)) by Monday, February 5.

## EYC Go to Lunch

**Sunday, February 18**

After the 10:15 a.m. service we'll walk somewhere nearby for lunch. It's President's Day weekend, but we don't want to miss an opportunity to catch up with one another!



*Olivia, Beatrix, and Abigail making their compassion bracelets at the January Messy Church. More pictures, [page 22](#).*

## 'Our Love Is Bigger Than Our Anger'

At our January Messy Church we heard the story of Joseph and his brothers and talked about jealousy, love, fear, and hope. We marked our emotions on the Feel Wheel with marshmallows and

made compassion bracelets to remind us that our love is bigger than our anger.

Photos by HILLARY PEETE



**Above**, Abigail and Carsyn with their compassion bracelets. **Right**, Cathy Rome reads the story of Joseph and his brothers from Archbishop Tutu's Children of God storybook. **Far right**, Lilly with a heart bracelet.



## Canon Williams Will Introduce Us to The ‘Confessions’ of St. Augustine

Starting the Sunday after Easter — April 7 — Canon Williams will lead a six-session class on the *Confessions of St. Augustine*.

“For a thousand years and more of Western Christianity, Augustine was a theologian of unrivaled importance,” Canon Williams says. “To a remarkable degree, Christians even to this day — whether they realize it or not — think Augustine’s thoughts and draw up battle lines around Augustine’s controversies; theologians still wrestle with his understanding of the nature of God, of grace, of providence, of sin and the remedy for sin.

“But one need not

share any of his theological beliefs to find Augustine well worth reading. And any reader — Christian or not, philosopher or not — will find much in Augustine that is captivating, inspiring, and challenging. For the story of Augustine’s life as he presents it in the *Confessions* is at once startlingly intimate and dizzyingly cosmic.

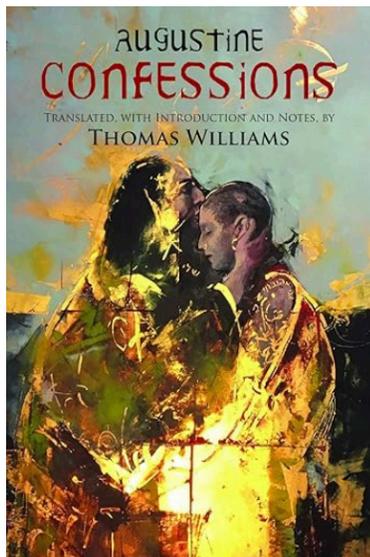
“‘How can I make sense of this action?’ turns effortlessly into ‘How can anyone make sense of any action?’ ‘Why did I keep stepping on my own feet?’ leads to ‘Why do we all make such a mess of things?’ — and, inevitably, to reflection on

what exactly it means for a life, any life, to be a mess, and what it might look like for the mess to get cleaned up, for what is broken and fragmented and dispersed to get put back together.”

The class will meet at 9 a.m. on Sundays through May 12 in Harvard Hall, and yes, there will be coffee.

Short excerpts from the *Confessions* will be available for participants to read before each session, but anyone who would like to read the full work can follow a reading plan that will be posted at [spcathedral.org/adults](http://spcathedral.org/adults).

Participants are invited to buy Canon Williams’s translation of the *Confessions* at [www.amazon.com/Confessions-Augustine/dp/1624667821](http://www.amazon.com/Confessions-Augustine/dp/1624667821). (Canon Williams suggests the paperback; the Kindle edition, he cautions, is cluttered with parenthetical references.)



# A Faithful Lent: Potluck Suppers and Two Classes Deepen our Journey

Starting February 21, we will observe the season of Lent with a series of potluck suppers and two small-group classes.

The evenings begin at 5:45 p.m. with Evening Prayer in St. Mary's Chapel. For dinner, an entree soup will be provided, and participants are invited to bring a side dish to share — bread, salad, vegetables, dessert.

After dinner you'll have your choice of two classes to attend:

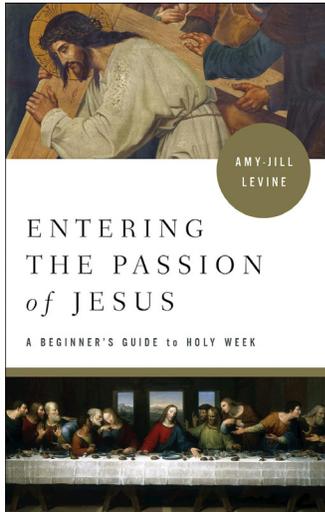
**(1) *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine, led by Hillary Peete**

Author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Pas-

sion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

This study and the story of Jesus' last days bring with them several challenges: What do we stand for? What do we believe in? When do we stand up for those beliefs? We can also watch the disciples and ask ourselves: When have we denied or betrayed?

When a friend comes to you and says, "What is the cross that you're bearing? What is the cause that you have taken up? How much have you risked?" do you know what your answer is? That is entering into Lent. That's entering the Passion.



**(2) *Creeds and Heresies, led by the Rev. Mike Alford***

Did you know that the Nicene Creed was written to protect the early church from popular heresies that Church leaders believed were dangerous and likely to lead the faithful astray? Competing doctrines regarding the true nature of God, the divinity of Jesus, and the relationship of the Trinity created vociferous debate that often erupted into physical violence. Join Curate Mike Alford for an exploration of the early church's struggles as we examine the development of the Nicene Creed and what it means for us today.

**What: Lent Potluck and Small Groups**

**When: 5:45-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, February 21 and 28 and March 6, 13, and 20**

**More: A soup entree will be provided. Please bring side dishes, salads, bread, desserts to share**

**Register: at [spcathedral.org/lent](http://spcathedral.org/lent)**

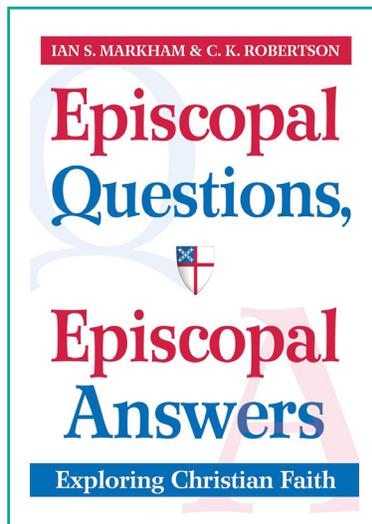
## Two Classes in Lent: For Inquirers and Newcomers

During Lent there will be two Sunday morning formation offerings: one for those who desire to learn more about the basics of the Episcopal Church, and one for those seeking adult baptism, confirmation, or reception. **The classes will meet from 9 to 9:45 a.m. on February 18 and 25 and March 3, 10, and 17.**

The **Inquirers' Class** for those seeking baptism, confirmation, or reception will use *Your Faith, Your Life* by Jenifer Gamber. Cathedral clergy will lead the group through discussions of the sacraments, church structure, worship and theology of the Episcopal Church, and prayer practices. Register at [spcathedral.org/lent](http://spcathedral.org/lent) or speak with Hillary Peete. A book will be provided for each participant.

**Episcopal 101, Newcomers' Class**, is intended for those who are new to the Episcopal Church or would like to brush up on the basic tenets of our faith. Using *Episcopal Questions, Episcopal Answers*, this is an opportunity to ask the questions that

have been on your mind, and to engage in discussion with others. Copies of the book will be available for purchase (\$10). You are also welcome to simply attend the class. Register at [spcathedral.org/lent](http://spcathedral.org/lent) or speak with the Rev. Mike Alford.



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.

Visit our intercessory prayer web page ([spcathedral.org/prayer](http://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.

## Let's Restock the Resource Room at Florida Resurrection House

During February we will collect items for the Florida Resurrection House Resource Room. This is a "store" where residents can shop at no cost for essential items for their families, such as cleaning products, hygiene items, and baby essentials.

Resurrection House provides faith-based long-term housing and life skills training to break the generational cycle of poverty for single mothers and their children.

Needed items include:

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Hand soap
- Hand sanitizer
- All-purpose cleaner
- Disinfecting wipes
- Laundry pods
- Kitchen trash bags
- Diapers and wipes
- Feminine pads



For a list of additional needed items, visit the Resurrection House website at [floridaresurrectionhouse.org](http://floridaresurrectionhouse.org), then click on "How to help" and select "Donate goods."

Please bring your donations to the Cathedral during office hours or on Sunday mornings during February.

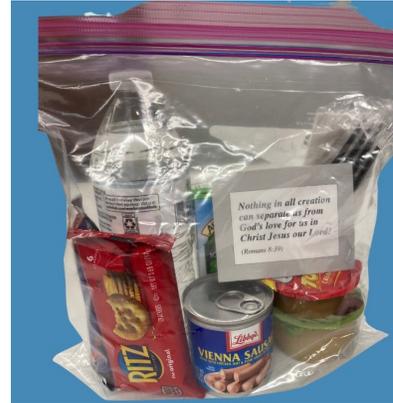
## Help Pack Manna Bags, Mentor a Scholar at Dinner

During coffee hour after the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, February 4, please stop by the Community Caring and Sharing Committee Work Table in Harvard Hall to help make Manna Bags from items donated during January to be distributed to our unhoused neighbors.

We will also assemble bags of emergency supplies, purchased using a Thrivent Financial Action Team grant, for Peterborough Apartment residents who cannot get out.

The committee voted to sponsor the attendance of 10 young men from Campbell Park Elementary School at the Annual Chew & Conversation Dinner of the 5000 Role Models mentoring program on Saturday, February 24.

Several men from the Cathedral have volunteered to attend the dinner to have one-on-one conversations with the young scholars. If you would like to participate in this worthwhile endeavor, please email Karen Raihill, [kraihill@gmail.com](mailto:kraihill@gmail.com).



## Another Round of Microgrants Is Available

The Cathedral funds projects through a competitive grant program that is open to all non-profits. The microgrant program, begun in 2022, is designed to encourage connection between the Cathedral and organizations that work to transform the lives of the vulnerable through food, health, education, relationship-building, and inclusivity initiatives.

The Cathedral has designated \$5,000 for microgrants this year. We will accept applications for the first \$2,500 from February 12 until March 30. The grants will be awarded in April.

If you know of non-profits that meet our criteria and would benefit from a microgrant, please encourage them to apply. Applications and the full listing of eligibility requirements will be posted at [spcathedral.org/grants](https://spcathedral.org/grants) on February 12.

Contact Hillary Peete ([hpeete@spcathedral.com](mailto:hpeete@spcathedral.com)) for more information.

The Cathedral will be closed on Monday, February 19, for Presidents Day. No services, no classes. We'll reopen on Tuesday, February 20.



## Goodbye and Thank You To Penny Roen

The Community Caring and Sharing Committee (formerly the Outreach Committee) would like to thank our chair, Penny Roen, for her excellent leadership. Penny and her husband, Bill, are about to move to Virginia to be closer to family.

Penny has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our committee organized and expand the Cathedral's outreach. She will be greatly missed. We wish Penny and Bill the best as they embark on new adventures.



*Penny Roen shares a smile with her daughter Elizabeth.*

# Days of Racial Terror in St. Petersburg: A Historian Will Unpack a Horrific Story from Our Past

Local journalist, author, and historian Jon Wilson and co-author Jane A. McNeil will speak about their newest book, *Days of Fear: A Lynching in St. Petersburg*, at 4 p.m. Sunday, February 4, in Harvard Hall.

*Days of Fear* is the story of the gruesome murder in 1914 of a white photographer-turned-developer Frank Sherman and the assault of his wife. Armed white residents took to the streets for three days, terrorizing Black neighborhoods, before John Evans, a Black man accused of the murder, was captured and lynched.



*In 2021 Jon Wilson received the key to the city in recognition of his work telling the full story of St. Petersburg's history.*

There will be time for questions after the talk, and a reception follows. Bring your copy for signing, or we'll have copies available for purchase. More information is available at [spcathedral.org/beloved-community](https://spcathedral.org/beloved-community).

We caught up with Jon in mid-January and asked him to tell us more about the story he shares in *Days of Fear*.

## How did you first hear about the John Evans/Frank Sherman story?

I first noted the story years ago in a few short paragraphs in St. Petersburg history books by Karl Grismer and Walter Fuller. I didn't think much

about it until the early 1980s, when I was talking with Ray Arsenault, the now-retired professor of Southern history at USF St. Petersburg. He suggested I do more thorough research and prepare a major paper for one of his classes. It ended up published in the now-defunct *Tampa Bay History Journal*. Again, the subject lay dormant until a few years ago. Co-author Jane McNeil, whom I did not yet know, was friends with local playwright Bill Leavengood. He introduced us. Turned out Jane was working on a play about the lynching that her late mother had begun. Upshot: Jane and I decided to collaborate on the book.

There is eerie irony regarding Jane's mother, as we mention in the book's Afterword. I have asked Jane to be present on February 4, and I'm sure the audience will be interested in her story and her research.

[continued on page 29](#)

## Days of Racial Terror

[continued from page 28](#)

**What is the reaction of white and black audiences to this story? Are they surprised to hear about a lynching in St. Petersburg?**

White audiences seem not to have heard about the lynching, or if at all, just barely. I was once told it was an “old wives’ tale.”



People in Black audiences, meanwhile, tend to nod knowingly. Still, like Rosewood massacre survivors, they didn’t talk about it a lot. Community activist Gwen Reese’s comment: “We knew about it but it wasn’t discussed.”

**This is a story at odds with the typical history of St. Petersburg — boom-era resort town, fancy hotels, winter playground of the rich and famous. (This is a largely white narrative.) Are your audiences/readers familiar with what life was like in St. Petersburg in the Jim Crow era?**

I always assume audiences aren’t very familiar with St. Petersburg in the 19-teens. So I take some time setting the stage, the theme being that St. Petersburg had a dual personality: a power plant, autos, an extensive trolley system, but also horses, buggies, and unpaved streets, for example. Also, of course, strictly segregated.

*In November 2022, members of the Cathedral and the community visited the historical marker at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Ninth) Street and Second Avenue S memorializing John Evans, who was lynched near this spot.*

## Final Call to Join the Pilgrimage

**The deadline to register is February 5** to join the pilgrimage to important civil-rights sites in Alabama, April 11-14.

Here’s where to find details and sign up:

\* At [spcathedral.org/beloved-community](https://spcathedral.org/beloved-community) you can **watch a video** (click on “peace and justice memorial center”) showing what we’ll see on the pilgrimage. Or click on “Pilgrimage Dates and Details” for a downloadable brochure.

\* To speak to someone in person, **contact Betsy Adams** ([betsygadams@icloud.com](mailto:betsygadams@icloud.com)).

\* **To register for the pilgrimage**, visit <https://portal.myfaithjourneys.com>. Group number: 24030.

## Around the Cathedral

If you're enjoying the **gluten-free pastries** at Sunday coffee hour, please thank Jean Beshears, our resident baker. If you have suggestions for other coffee-hour food or drink, please speak to Judy Stark ([judy Stark@yahoo.com](mailto:judy Stark@yahoo.com)).



Go team! February 11 is **Super Bowl Sunday**. You're invited to wear your team jersey to church that Sunday (your Super Bowl pick, your college jersey, your favorite team in any sport, your Rays, Lightning, or Bucs shirt, your own team that you currently play for). We'll have game-day snacks at coffee hour.



Our **Pray, Meditate, and Connect** group meets from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays, February 3 and 17. The group shares prayer concerns, 20 minutes of silent meditation, and a brief concluding prayer service. All welcome, with or without prior silent-meditation experience. More information: Karen Payne-Taylor ([kpaynetaylor@outlook.com](mailto:kpaynetaylor@outlook.com)).

**20s40s Fun: Heart Holiday Dinner, Hearty Subs, and a Hike**

**20s40s Dinner**  
**Wednesday, February 14**

After the 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday service, all who are interested are invited to walk over to the Hollander for a quick dinner together. Please RSVP to Hillary Peete ([hpeete@spcathedral.com](mailto:hpeete@spcathedral.com)) so we know how many to expect.



**20s40s Lunch + Hike**  
**Sunday, February 25, at 11:30 a.m.**

We'll meet up for lunch at Gateway Subs at 3112 Third Ave. N (20s40s member Grant Strayer is CEO and founder!), then head over to Boyd Hill for a beautiful afternoon hike. RSVP to Hillary, please ([hpeete@spcathedral.com](mailto:hpeete@spcathedral.com)). Kids welcome!

# February Transitions

## Birthdays

1	Patty Hollingsworth	6	Courtney Childress
1	Byron Shouppe	6	Isla McDowall
1	George Gramling	7	Misty Landers
2	Judy Holland	9	Nicolina Neefe
2	Timothy Saut	9	John Galiger
2	Steve Davis	9	Hilleary Gramling
3	Mike Sherry	10	Steve Stanley
4	Tom Walker	10	Adrienne Smelcer
4	Carter Glenn	11	Anthony Pinion
5	Fran Spector	11	Cole Landers
5	Sophia Preston	12	Mike Grimshaw
5	Christopher Etter	12	Mari Reive
5	Rachael Kiefer	12	Ray McColgan
6	Kathy Hancock	12	Len McCue
6	Roberta Yancey	12	Robert Denk
6	Kate Munkittrick		

14	Sarah Lewis
14	Michael Nesspor
15	Elizabeth Howlett
15	Fred Stansbery
15	Mike Zuravel
15	Rebecca Wain
16	Adrienne Haines
17	Ed Shamas
17	Peyton Parker
17	Brad Davis
17	Emily Lenhardt
19	Elisa Wolfe
19	Jordan FitzGerald
20	John Wilson
20	Bill Barlow
20	Celia Erickson
23	John Ellis
23	Sue Bracci
23	Ayla Fuchs
23	John Hannay
24	Marilyn Polson
24	Gunnar Peters
25	Jessica Grimshaw
25	Grace Hamilton
25	Kim Parsons

25	Barbara Martin	28	Clark Gairing
26	Marianne Hallas	28	Bronwyn Gairing
26	Grace Snyder	28	Scott Nonken
27	Marsha Fetchik	28	Rosamond Katzel
		28	Nathalie Dewolf

## Anniversaries

5	Mike & Rebecca Alford	14	Sam Tallman & Mike Zuravel
5	Gareth & Debra Eich		
14	Jack & Kit Clarke	17	Christopher & Courtney Childress
14	Peter & Ashley Gairing		
		28	Rick & James Knight



*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.*

## Those Who Have Died

Jay Marshall  
The Rev. Glad McCurtain

## 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 in February and April,  
5 p.m., Choral Evensong**

Sunday services at 10:15 a.m. can be viewed on Facebook or at [spcathedral.org/worship-live-stream](https://www.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.**

*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](mailto:JudyStark@yahoo.com)), Associate Editor, Mary W. Matthews ([MotherMary@extremelysmart.com](mailto:MotherMary@extremelysmart.com)). **Next deadline: February 15, 2024.**

### Getting in Touch:

**Office:** 140 Fourth St. N, 33701

### Mailing address:

P.O. Box 1581, St. Petersburg, FL 33731-1581

### Telephone:

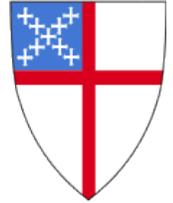
(727) 822-4173

### E-mail:

[spcathedral@spcathedral.com](mailto:spcathedral@spcathedral.com)

### Web site:

[www.spcathedral.org](http://www.spcathedral.org)



### Diocesan leadership:

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas F. Scharf, Bishop

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

### Our clergy and senior staff:

The Rev. David C. Cobb, Interim Dean

The Rev. Michael R. Alford, Curate

The Rev. Canon Brandon Peete, Canon for Hospitality

The Rev. Samuel V. Tallman, Assisting Priest

The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams, Canon Theologian

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

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