



# CROSSTOWN

December 2018

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

---

---



*Anticipating Christmas: What Advent is all about. Photo by SABRI TUZCU*

**Season of Advent Marks  
New Church Year**  
— Page 2

**Christmas Pageant**  
— Page 5

**Your Clip-and-Save  
Holiday Calendar** — Page 6

**Explore the Spirit World**  
— Page 13

## Season of Advent Marks the Start of A New Christian Year

December 2 marked the first Sunday in Advent, the beginning of a new Christian year. The four weeks leading up to Christmas — December 2, 9, 16, and 23 — are a time of preparation and expectation that moves into hope and joy as the birth of Christ draws near.



The sights and sounds and signals of Advent are all around you.

Notice the color of the clergy vestments and the altar hangings. Blue is the color for Advent, representing hope, expectation, and heaven. It is also the color associated with Mary, the mother of Jesus, in iconography and art.

We will light a candle on the Advent wreath at the start of services on each of the four Sundays.

Instead of the “Gloria” on Page 356 of the Book of Common Prayer, which we sing early in the Sunday ser-

*The focus in Advent is on Mary, the mother of Jesus, as she — and we — await the birth of Jesus. Photo by TIM MOSS-HOLDER*

vice at 10:15 a.m., on the second Sunday of Advent (December 9) we will sing the First Song of Isaiah (Hymn 679): “Surely It Is God Who Saves Me.” The “Gloria” will return on Christmas Eve. For the first Sunday in Advent, December 2, our music is a service of Advent Lessons and Carols. For the third, on December 16, we’ll have the children’s Christmas pageant with congregational singing. For the fourth, on December 23, we’ll again sing “Surely It Is God Who Saves Me.”

The hymns we sing in Advent are songs of yearning and hope: “O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel”; “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh.” We await Emmanuel, “God with us”; we prepare a home in our hearts “where such a mighty guest may come.” We sing, “Prepare ye the

[continued on page 3](#)

## The Season of Advent

[continued from page 2](#)

way of the Lord.” Our music will be a little more restrained than usual so that — come Christmas Eve — we can burst forth with triumphant organ and song at the birth of the Savior.

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 this time we look back to Jesus’s original coming into the world; to his presence each day in our hearts; and to his future Second Coming.

Starting with the first Sunday in Advent, and continuing throughout this new liturgical year — until Christ the King Sun-

day next November — we will read from the Gospel of Luke. This Gospel was written between 90 and 100 CE, and is one of two books of the Bible attributed to the same author, the other being the Book of Acts. It is in Luke that we find the beloved birth narrative (“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night”), as well as the story of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. Luke shows special sensitivity to women and he is called “a describer of Christ’s kindness.”

And the other seasons in the Christian year? Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and the Season After Pentecost. We’ll talk about each of these as the year goes by.



**...let us not  
love in word  
or speech but in  
deed and in truth.**

— 1 John 3:18

Except for Christmas Eve services, the Cathedral and offices will be closed on Monday, December 24: no 12:05 p.m. Eucharist, no activities.

On Tuesday, December 25, we will be open only for the 10 a.m. Christmas Day service.

We will remain closed through Tuesday, January 1. No weekday services, no activities. We will offer our 5 p.m. service as usual on Saturday, December 29. On Sunday, December 30, we will have one service at 10 a.m. We will reopen Wednesday, January 2.

# 'Preparing the Way' Advent Devotional and Resources for Families

**Hillary Peete, children's minister**

Christianity often turns our understanding of the world on its head. Quotes in scripture highlight this: "The first shall be last," "The lion will lay down with the lamb," or "You must lose your life to gain it." We were reminded on Christ the King Sunday that Jesus is not the kind of king that everyone was expecting or wanting.

But the one that confounds me the most is the season of Advent, the beginning of the church year. "Advent" means coming or arrival. It is a time where we are invited into a posture of waiting and quiet preparation for Christ into the world and our lives. It's not the waiting with hopeful anticipation that I struggle with. It's that what is supposed to be a reflective and spiritual time coincides with the month of December.

For a busy mom with two young kids, this is a not the time of the year I have a posture of quiet preparation or an abun-

dance of patience. December feels more like a race to the finish line, not the start. I'm sure I'm not alone in this.

Here we are: The world is telling us to rush, rush, rush, buy, buy, buy and God is inviting us to slow down, to anticipate, and create space for the arrival of Christ among us. One way we hope to help families find balance is by providing "Illustrated Advent for Families." This resource from Illustrated Children's Ministry is a way for your family to slow down and experience Advent.

The theme is "Preparing the Way." As we journey through this season of Advent together, we will be introduced to prophets, or God's messengers, who helped prepare God's people for Jesus's arrival. We will also meet individuals who faced the unexpected and continued to prepare for Jesus, trusting in the promises of God for their lives. And finally, each week we will create time and



space to prepare for Jesus through scripture readings, discussions, and activities together.

[continued on Page 5](#)

## Advent Resources for Families

[continued from Page 4](#)

Each weekly devotional has five elements: scripture, reflection, discussion and coloring page, family activity, and prayer. You can do a few of them or all of them. It might work best for some families to sit down once a week for the devotional; others might do prayer one night and the coloring page another. There's no right or wrong way.

There are a variety of ways that families can access the "Preparing the Way" Advent devotional. I will have a few copies of the complete five-week set (with additional coloring pages, Advent calendar and Christmas ornament set!). I will also have each individual week's devotional available on Sunday mornings in Children's Chapel. Finally, I will e-mail the devotional out each week of Advent and you can access it at home.

My hope is that for my family and yours, December might become less of a time we feel overwhelmed and rushed and more of what God calls us to in Advent – an invitation to wait with patience and hopeful anticipation for new life.

## With Words and Music, Pageant Will Tell the Christmas Story

Our annual Christmas pageant, a beloved Cathedral tradition, will be offered as the Liturgy of the Word at the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, December 16. "Christmas: God With Us" will involve our children, youth, and Readers' Theatre. A special coffee hour will follow.

This will mark the debut of our new pageant choir for children.

Children and youth who want to participate must attend a rehearsal at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, December 9, in the Children's Chapel and a dress rehearsal at 10

a.m. Saturday, December 15, in the sanctuary. Please contact youth minister Alicia Schmid ([aschmid@spcathedral.com](mailto:aschmid@spcathedral.com)) if you'd like to participate.

We also need help from parents and other adults at rehearsals and on performance day. Please speak to Alicia if you can help.

If you have sheep, angel, shepherd, or other costumes or props to donate, please contact children's minister Hillary Peete ([hpeete@spcathedral.com](mailto:hpeete@spcathedral.com)).



*Members of St. Peter's first Christmas pageant choir rehearse for the big day on Sunday, December 16. Photo by HILLARY PEETE*



## Advent, Christmas, and New Year's at the Cathedral

*Find details about many of these events elsewhere in this newsletter.*

**Sunday, December 9, 11:45 a.m.:** Tacky Christmas Sweater Party for youth.

**Sunday, December 16:** Christmas pageant during the 10:15 a.m. service. Special coffee hour follows.

**Monday, December 24:** Except for Christmas Eve services, cathedral and offices closed. No 12:05 p.m. Eucharist.  
**5 p.m.:** Christmas Eve service. **10 p.m.:** Music prelude;  
**10:30 p.m.:** Christmas Eve service.

**Tuesday, December 25:** Christmas Day service at 10 a.m. Cathedral offices closed, no other services.

**Wednesday, December 26, through Tuesday, January 1:** Cathedral and offices closed. No weekday services, no activities. We will reopen Wednesday, January 2.

**Saturday, December 29:** Regular 5 p.m. service.

**Sunday, December 30:** One service at 10 a.m.

**Monday, December 31:** First Night activities (opera, chamber music) from 7 to 11 p.m. Purchased First Night button required for entry; details at [firstnightstpete.com](http://firstnightstpete.com).

## Welcome Our New Deacon, Scott Nonken

At a service of ordination that was held on Saturday, December 1, four new deacons were welcomed into the Episcopal Church.

They are Scott Nonken, a member of our congregation; William Gilmore of St. Mary's, Bonita Springs; Mercedes Marshall of St. Stephen's in New Port Richey; and David Wyly Jr. of St. Hillary's in Fort Myers. They are vocational deacons: They do not intend to become priests — their vocation is to be deacons — and they carry out a unique ministry of servant leadership.

That ministry is to bring the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world into the church, and to take the church back out into the world in response.

The deacon proclaims the Gospel at worship services, sets the table for the Eucharist, and dismisses the congregation. Scott

has been assigned to the Cathedral, so we will be seeing him in all these new roles.

Born in Kansas in 1963, Scott earned a B.S. in computer science from Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, in 1985 and a master's in leadership and liberal studies from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, in 2001. He is employed by a defense contractor, providing online support and training for an engineering system that is widely used throughout the Department of Defense community.

Scott began attending the Episcopal Church in 1993, shortly after meeting his life partner, Matthew (Rob) Porachan. Scott was received into the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pittsburgh in 2002.

He began attending the Cathedral after moving to St. Petersburg in 2010. During his time at the Cathedral he has been active in



*Deacon Scott Nonken*

the choir and outreach committee. He has also made several trips to the Dominican Republic with the Cathedral mission team and is a member of the Companion Diocese Committee.

"It has been a long and winding road to get to 'yes,'" Scott said. "The first time I can remember feeling like I had a call was early in college, but I always found some reason or another not to answer. I began exploring the diaconate in 2011 at the urging of our former Cathedral canon, the Rev. Jamie McElroy, but it wasn't until Dean Morris encouraged me in late 2015 to spend some time in personal discernment that I finally got to a point in my life that I was ready and willing to say yes.

"Since that point it has just been going through the rigors of the process: parish discernment, diocesan discernment, evaluations, classes, field assignment, etc.," Scott recalled. "Each checkpoint in the process has helped me to look deeper inside to

[continued on page 8](#)

## Welcome Deacon Nonken

[continued from page 7](#)

reconfirm my call. The process isn't easy, but in some ways I think that is what makes it a good process."

The most memorable part of the journey, Scott says, "has been the year I spent in my field assignment at St. Vincent's. I was nervous going to a new church where I didn't really know anyone or the way things were done. The members and clergy of that church went out of their way to introduce themselves to me and make me feel welcome, comfortable, and one of them from day one.

"I feel called to the diaconate in particular because I feel there are a lot of issues in our community, country, and world where we can make a difference," Scott says. "We have to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this earthly life."

## Our Deacon Will Become a Priest on January 5

Plan to be here at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 5, when the Rev. Paige Hanks, who has been serving at the Cathedral as a deacon, takes the next step in her vocation and is ordained a priest.

A lifelong Episcopalian and a native Floridian, Paige graduated from High Point (N.C.) University with a degree in elementary education and later earned a master's degree in educational leadership at the University of North Florida. She worked for many years as a school principal and administrator.

She began her seminary education at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. When she and her husband, David, and their daughter, Amelia, moved to North Carolina, she completed her coursework at Duke Divinity School and graduated summa cum laude from Perkins last May. She was ordained a transitional deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas last June. (Candidates for the priesthood must serve at least

six months as a deacon before they can be ordained priest.) Paige served as deacon for vocational discernment at the Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill, NC.

Another move for David's job brought the Hanks family to Florida, where Amelia works for a community newspaper in Sarasota. Paige and David have just moved into a home in the Crescent Heights neighborhood of St. Petersburg.

"I was always supported and often encouraged in my path to becoming an educator regardless of my gender," Paige says. "But so many women — myself included — have faced difficulties when considering whether God was calling us to ordained ministry because we had so few role models and so little support.

"As the Catechism from our Book of Common Prayer states on Page 855, the ministers of the church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons. The laity are listed first and foremost in this list!" she said. "My focus in ministry is to point to the ministry of the laity, so that all members of the community represent Christ and the Church in all that we are called to do in the world."



*The Rev.  
Paige Hanks*



## We'll Host Two Musical Events on First Night

St. Peter's will host two performing groups on First Night, the family-friendly, alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration in downtown St. Petersburg.

At 7 and 9 p.m. you can enjoy Opera in the Cathedral, and at 8 and 10 p.m., Chamber Music in the Cathedral.

First Night offers dozens of acts, performances, and activities all around downtown from 4 p.m. to midnight, with fireworks at 8 p.m. and again at midnight.

Admission to First Night venues — including the Cathedral — requires a purchased First Night button. You can buy these online in advance ([www.firstnightstpete.com](http://www.firstnightstpete.com)) or at participating vendors (visit [www.firstnightstpete.com/event-info/FAQs](http://www.firstnightstpete.com/event-info/FAQs) for a list). Buttons are \$12/adults, \$5 children ages 6 to 12 in advance; \$15/adult, \$10/children after December 30.



## Tree Time

Left, Herb and Marilyn Polson choose cards from the Giving Tree in Harvard Hall. The tree is our annual holiday project to provide gifts for children and their families at Resurrection House, Brighter Seasons for Children, and Campbell Park Elementary.

We had a little tree in the sanctuary so the 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Sunday congregations could participate.

Photos by JUDY STARK (left) and RAY MCCOLGAN



## Youth: Get Out That Tacky Christmas Sweater

Bring on the best of the worst!

Youth in grades 6 and up are invited to a Tacky Christmas Sweater Party from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 9, in Harvard Hall.

Wear a tacky holiday shirt, sweater, hat, etc., to be eligible for the Christmas party raffle for a mystery gift card. You can increase your chances of winning by (a) RSVP-ing to youth minister Alicia Schmid ([aschmid@spcathedral.com](mailto:aschmid@spcathedral.com)) or (b) by bringing friends.

We'll have a potluck, treats, games, and more.



## Shared Ministry, Shared Fun, and Music for Children and Youth

Youth are invited to “Our Story: An Afternoon of Shared Ministry,” from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, December 16, at St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church, 1200 Snell Isle Blvd. NE, St. Petersburg.

This is a deanery gathering offering fellowship, prayer, and more fun than some people can handle. Special guests are Barney & Leta, The Rascally Duo, who will lead us in activities and music. Sunday dinner will be provided, and the evening will end with a service of Compline.

Please register with youth minister Alicia Schmid, [aschmid@spcathedral.com](mailto:aschmid@spcathedral.com). Grades 6 and up can be dropped off; grade 5 and under are welcome with a caregiver.

Visit our new website! Hillary Peete and Tess Burnsed have redesigned the site, making it much easier to navigate, with new text, new images and lots of information. Find it at <http://www.spcathedral.org>.



## Expecting a Little Sunshine in June!

### Canon Katie Churchwell

It is with great joy that Logan, Addison, Crawford and I share that we are expecting a new addition to the family next June, a little girl. We are all



quite excited — Addison and Crawford especially, who will finally have their own baby to fawn

over and will stop surrounding random children in Publix.

We know, however, that miscarriage and infertility are deep wounds, and that news of pregnancy and babies can be difficult for some families at the Cathedral. Having experienced miscarriage ourselves, we are especially sensitive to this. As a family, we are committed to respecting the dignity of all people, and will be discreet in our public talk about baby number three.

All in all, nothing really changes. I'm still the same priest and am available as I have always been. For our family, this isn't our first rodeo, and



we are looking forward to raising another child at the Cathedral, which has proven to be a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive place to bring our children into a deeper knowledge of Christ. Thank you for being our village.

*Canon Katie*

*The Churchwells:  
Anticipating an addition to the family.*

Our Book Talk series takes a break in December, but mark your calendar for Tuesday, January 8, at noon. Our presenter that day will be Colette Bancroft, book editor at the *Tampa Bay Times*. She'll speak about Lauren Groff's newest short-story collection, *Florida*, a finalist for the National Book Awards. Hurricanes, snakes, abandoned children, people on the run — you know, Florida.

Another one for your new 2019 calendar: Our annual Quiet Day is Saturday, January 26. The Rev. Jean Hite, associate rector at Trinity-by-the-Cove in Naples will lead this day of meditation, prayer and silence from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We'll have signup sheets next month; \$5 charge for lunch and materials.

## Giving Thanks: Continuing Our Support for Campbell Park Elementary

### Canon Katie Churchwell

Breaks from school mean a break from two solid meals a day for a lot of the students at Campbell Park. More than 184 students there qualify as “homeless,” i.e., living in a shelter, at a motel, couch surfing, and in a few instances, in cars. For these children, school means more than just learning.

With a whole week off from school for Thanksgiving, our students needed help filling their bellies. It was a joy to partner with the St. Petersburg Free Clinic and Gulfport Produce to ensure that our families were fed. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to give \$1,600 to families in need: \$1,300 in gift cards to Publix and \$300 to pay for the fresh produce. Add in the canned goods from the Free Clinic, and our families were able to share with us in a wonderful Thanksgiving break.

*Produce, canned goods, and gift cards fed Campbell Park families before and after Thanksgiving. Photo by KATIE CHURCHWELL*



## Explore the Spirit World During Advent

During the four Sundays of Advent — December 2, 9, 16, and 23 — the Rev. Brandon Peete will lead a class on “The Spirit World.” This is a look at how different cultures and religions, including our own tradition, understand these extraordinary forces.

We’ll look at how spirits move and spark and inhabit the world around us. What control might they have on our bodies? Why do

some places and people seem to be affected more than others? What does all this have to do with the notion of good and evil?

No reading or preparation required, Brandon says — just come (from 9 to 10 a.m. in Harvard Hall) with curiosity and a sense of wonder!



*The Rev. Brandon Peete*

## First Brunch of the New Year: January 6

We’ll start the new year in our usual festive way — with a feast.

On Sunday, January 6, after the 10:15 a.m. service, the Friends of St. Aelred will host their annual brunch. The Friends will provide pulled pork; you provide everything else — salads, sides, desserts. Be sure to pick up an aluminum pan on Sunday, December 30, and bring it back on January 6 with your contribution to the pot-luck.

St. Aelred (1109-1167) was the abbot of Rievaulx, a Cistercian monk, an author, and a major figure in English church life. Under his leadership, the abbey at Rievaulx grew to a membership of more than 600 monks. Aelred taught that friendship is a gift from God and allowed his monks to hold hands and give other expressions of friendship.



# Why I Pledge: We Asked, You Answered!

## Ray McColgan, Stewardship Chair

During our annual pledge campaign this fall, we asked parishioners to tell us why they pledge by posting a sticky note on the board in Harvard Hall. Here are just a few of the answers we received:

- because I am so loved by God
- as an expression of gratitude for my life and this community
- to get the most bang for the buck: music, education, fellowship, beautiful liturgy, great clergy
- because I love the Cathedral Family and want to see it prosper
- I love you at the church
- I'm grateful and thankful!
- we find that the church brings a sense of peace
- to support this wonderful community and its programs
- for my family
- I believe in local community caring and helping one another
- because the Cathedral is welcoming to ALL!
- to support the important life of the church – as a member we should all have a commitment to do so
- welcoming community
- I love St. Peter's for the preaching, music and diversity of people that attend the services
- to pay the love forward
- I love the community
- to have a welcoming and open place where all can know Christ and make Him known
- to seek to be faithful
- to help St. Peter's do the Lord's work – inside and outside the parish
- because it helps keep me faithful
- because I need the Eucharist and because of St. Peter's charitable outreach
- for gifts received
- I feel blessed
- for our new family!
- it's what all the cool kids do!
- for our children and all that is done for them
- to support the wonderful music programs of the Cathedral

Why do you pledge? We invite you to prayerfully consider your answer and to extend that beyond the stewardship of your treasure. Have you thought of pledging some of your time and talent as well?

If you have not already done so, it is never too late to submit your pledge for 2019, and we encourage you to do so. You can find pledge forms in Harvard Hall or at the front desk.

## Now Thank We All ...

We celebrated our pledge ingathering with our annual Thanks-a-Brunch on November 18. The Chapter and the Stewardship Committee hosted the brunch. Great food (thank you, A Fresh Connection), great fellowship, a fine time to give thanks for our rich blessings in the year that's ending. And thanks to all who have made a financial pledge to the Cathedral for 2019: It's an investment in our future.

Photos by HILLARY PEETE



Canon Millard Neal is surrounded by friends at his table.

*Right, Sandy Powers and Gary Patterson staff the biscuits-and-gravy station.*



*Below, Marilyn Polson dishes up scrambled eggs — plain or with cheese? — on the buffet line.*



# Chapter Confirms Resurrection House Board

## Susan Churuti, Senior Warden

November's Chapter meeting focused on one of the Cathedral's missions, Resurrection House. A joint meeting was held among the Chapter, the Corporation for Florida Resurrection House, Inc., and the board of directors of Resurrection House. The Chapter and its stipendiary clergy serve as the standing committee of the Resurrection House Corporation, and at least six of the board of directors are required to be members of good standing of the Cathedral.

Resurrection House's board of directors and executive director joined us, as did two resident families.

Dean Morris was at the Anglican Center in Rome, preparing for the North American Deans' Conference, which we will host at the Cathedral next May. Before he left, he charged the Chapter to meet to consider the confirmation of the board of directors appointments, and to learn more about Resurrection House and how we might bet-

ter serve and assist them in their ministry.

The Chapter heard from the Resurrection House board chair, Suzanne Lanza, about the program, which is a community, faith-based, transitional-housing and self-sufficiency program for motivated families with minor children who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

We also heard from longtime board member Joel Giles, a former senior warden and treasurer at the Cathedral who is now treasurer at St. Bede's. Joel explained that initially, the program was primarily a service provider supported by government funding. Over time, the board regretted the restrictions that came with government funding, which kept them from the workings of the church, and they stepped out in faith to continue without those funds, and into a capital campaign to provide transitional housing.

We also heard from a 20-year volunteer and from executive director Cynthia Sin-

clair, and from two adults and four children present who are current residents of Resurrection House.

The Chapter confirmed the appointments, including Al Phillips, who will chair the board, and Fay Mackey, who is renewing a one-year term. Bishop Barry Howe, who was very involved with Resurrection House during his years as dean of the Cathedral, and Susan Churuti, the outgoing senior warden, were confirmed for new three-year terms. Judy Beck was confirmed for a new one-year term. Martha Goodwill, director of congregation support for the Diocese of Southwest Florida and a deacon at St. Thomas', will join for a new term of two years.

With the new board in place at Resurrection House, and the new members of the Chapter to be elected at our Annual Meeting in January, we are looking forward to fulfilling the dean's charge.



## Plan for January: Meet the Candidates, Annual Meeting

Plan to be here at coffee hour after the 10:15 a.m. service on January 13 and 27 for two events that will shape the future of the Cathedral.

On January 13 we will hold our “Meet the Candidates” day, when candidates for Chapter will be introduced.

The Chapter is the 12-member lay board of directors that, with the dean, monitors Cathedral finances, sets policy and tends to the spiritual welfare of the congregation. Candidates will be announced in late December or early January, and we’ll have photos and bios of the candidates available before Meet the Candidates day.

Then on January 27 we will hold our Annual Meeting, with the election of new Chapter members; Dean Morris’s annual “state of the Cathedral” address; a budget presentation; updates on what’s going on; and a slide show of great events in 2018. We’ll have details about the election in next month’s *Crosstown*.

## New York High Society in the '30s: What the Book Club Reads This Month

The St. Peter’s Book Club meets early this month: at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 18, in the Chapter Room/Library. This month’s selection is *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles (author of the best-selling *A Gentleman in Moscow*), presented by Betsy Corbin.

On the last night of 1937, Katey Kontent, 25, is in a second-rate Greenwich Village jazz bar when Tinker Grey, a handsome banker, happens to sit down at the neighboring table. This chance encounter and its startling consequences propel Katey on a year-long journey into the upper echelons of New York society, where she will have little to rely upon other than a bracing wit and her own brand of cool nerve.

**Looking ahead:** On January 22 John Sumner will present *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. This sweeping novel, based on a true story, traces the journey of the 15th-century Sarajevo Haggadah, an illuminated Hebrew manuscript, and offers a look into the intrigues of fine-art forgers and ultranationalist fanatics.

Information from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) was used in this report.



## Holiday Romance (and Some Festive Wassail) At Movie Night December 7

### Susan Regan

With so much other holiday activity, we're showing only one movie this month, but it's a special event.

On Friday, December 7, we'll hold a wine-and-cheese movie night and show **Love Actually** (2003, R). This charming treatise on romance and relationships is an all-star ensemble comedy that tells several separate but intertwining London love stories, leading up to a spirited climax on Christmas Eve. The cast includes Colin Firth, Liam Neeson, Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, and Keira Knightley.

Since wine is being served, this event is open only to those age 21 and older. If you'd like to bring a favorite movie munchie or holiday snack to share, please do! This should be a fun and festive respite from the holiday hustle and bustle. The show starts at 7 p.m. in Harvard Hall.

The Burns Movie Night — named for our founder and programmer, the late Eddy Burns — will return Friday, January 4. Comments and suggestions: Susan Regan, [sfrcpa23@gmail.com](mailto:sfrcpa23@gmail.com).



Foyer Groups will gather for a festive holiday get-together at 5:45 p.m. on Thursday, December 13. In addition to a Christmas feast (\$5), we'll enjoy a presentation by the Readers' Theatre. Marion Fleming ([mimideeda@gmail.com](mailto:mimideeda@gmail.com)) is eager to welcome you to these monthly dinner gatherings that offer fellowship, good food and a chance to get to know others.

# Merry and Messy

On December 2, our special Messy Sunday, children celebrated the new church year, made Advent wreaths, and created crafts reflecting the stories of God's messengers. Plus youth cookie-baking (not pictured) to thank first responders at the local fire station.



## Lots of Ways to Keep a Faithful Advent

Many of us like to observe Advent with calendars or devotionals. Here are some possibilities:

\* We have two simple Advent calendars to pick up on a table in Harvard Hall.

One is a pictorial calendar, good for families, with suggested daily activities. The other is the “Journeying the Way of Love” calendar, a great introduction to the “Way of Love” curriculum, practices for a more Jesus-centered life. During Epiphany (starting January 13), Gabriele Stauf will lead a seven-week class exploring this way of enriching our spiritual lives. We’ll have details next month, or read more at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/explore-way-love>.

\* Luther Seminary offers its devotional, “Hark! The Glad Sound.” You can download it here, in regular or large-print type: <https://tinyurl.com/yawts6f3> Or sign up to have the devotions sent to your inbox each day.

\* At [episcopalrelief.org/advent-toolkit](http://episcopalrelief.org/advent-toolkit), you can download a printable Advent calendar or shop the “Gifts for Life” catalog for gifts that save lives and strengthen communities around the world. These are the perfect gifts for people who have everything and need nothing but whom you’d like to remember in a way that enriches a life, near or far.



## Halloween Blessings

The Rev. Brandon Peete blesses our children in their Halloween costumes on October 28. The kids went trick-or-treating at tables at coffee hour after the 10:15 a.m. service. Photo by HILLARY PEETE

# December Transitions

## Birthdays

1	Christy Fryer	9	Alice Putman	20	Lydia Behnke
2	Deborah Abraham	9	Frank Turner	20	Nicole Brady
2	Martha Apgar	11	Rick Neefe	20	Larissa Crow
3	Judd Chapin	11	Judy Sallows	20	Jan Curtis
3	Cary Gums	12	Maggie Moore	20	Christy Dunn
4	Helen Galletly	13	Claudia Botero	20	Lori Townsend
4	Carmen Moore	13	Zara Larsen	21	Louise Bennett
5	Tom Southard	13	John McCoy	22	Nicholas Carpenter
7	Lana Febus	16	Luke Goodwill	23	Jean Curtis
7	Dabney Smith	16	Phillip Ketchum	23	Gail McCoy
8	Blake Bardell	16	Tim Snyder	24	Carole Cowan
8	Ron Gallucci	17	Don Fritz	24	Benito Pastoriza-Iyodo
8	Natalie Schmid	17	Elle Methvin	25	Mary Evertz
		18	David Andrews	25	Wil Laroche
		18	Jocelyn Beavers	26	Michael Mellessey
				27	Vivian Crona
				27	Tony Gecan
				27	Tom Ravenel
				28	Penny Adams
				28	Sarah Gecan
				29	Ryan Ferrell
				30	Connor Crosby

30	Cathy Kleckner	31	Barbara Abbott
30	Nancy Thomas	31	Hillary Peete

## Anniversaries

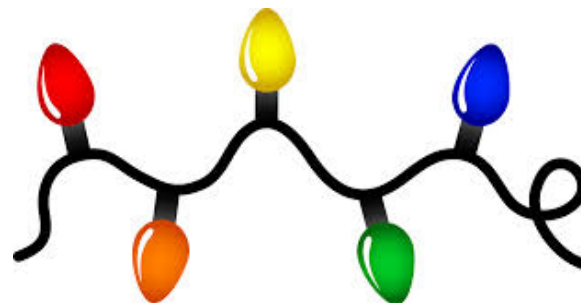
4	Gene & Holly Haines	29	Bill & Elaine Clark
7	Alexandra Blacker-Kunis & Michael Kunis	29	David & Nancy Kramer
10	Ryan Sandy & Sarah Redding	30	Ralph & Kathy Hancock
17	Camilo & Amanda Cotrino	30	Tom & Donna Southard
23	Deborah & Bob Abraham		
27	Bill & Kally Harvard		

## Death

Dorothy Lomison



[Click here to view  
this month's calendar  
of St. Peter's events.](#)



# 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  
*A traditional service, no music*

10 a.m.: Children's Chapel and  
Middlers' Chapel

10:15 a.m.: Holy Eucharist Rite II  
and Sermon  
*Worship music led by choirs*

11:20 a.m.: Coffee Hour

### Saturday

5 p.m.: Holy Eucharist Rite II and  
Sermon  
*A traditional service, no music*

### Monday through Friday

Holy Eucharist, 12:05 p.m.  
Holy Eucharist and Healing:  
Wednesdays, 12:05 p.m.

**If you have a pastoral emergency after hours,  
please call Canon Sam Tallman  
on his cell phone, (727) 251-0629.**

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: December 15, 2018.**

## Visiting/getting in touch

Office: 140 Fourth St. N, 33701. Church and office entrance: On Second Ave. N just west of Fourth Street.

### Mailing address:

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

### Telephone:

(727) 822-4173

### E-mail:

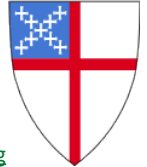
[spcathedral@spcathedral.com](mailto:spcathedral@spcathedral.com)

### Fax:

(727) 823-2205

### Web site:

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



## Diocesan leadership:

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith, bishop

## Our clergy and senior staff:

The Very Rev. Stephen B. Morris, dean — [sbm@spcathedral.com](mailto:sbm@spcathedral.com)

The Rev. Canon Katie Churchwell, canon for community formation —  
[kchurchwell@spcathedral.com](mailto:kchurchwell@spcathedral.com)

The Rev. Canon Samuel V. Tallman, precentor and canon for pastoral care  
— [stallman@spcathedral.com](mailto:stallman@spcathedral.com) (November-May)

The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams, canon theologian  
— [proftomasiwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:proftomasiwilliams@gmail.com)

The Right Rev. Barry R. Howe, bishop in residence

The Rev. Earl D. Beshears, assisting priest

The Rev. Canon Ronald G. Brokaw, assisting priest

The Rev. Peter W. Fleming Jr., assisting priest

The Rev. Canon Millard F. Neal, assisting priest

The Rev. Brandon Peete, assisting priest

The Rev. Dr. Henry J. (Jeff) Robinson, assisting priest

Dwight Thomas, director of music ministries and organist —  
[dthomas@spcathedral.com](mailto:dthomas@spcathedral.com)