

CROSSTOWN

December 2019

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg



From Advent to Christmas —
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Season of Advent Prepares Us To Welcome Emmanuel, ‘God with Us’

A new Christian year begins on Sunday, December 1 — the first Sunday in the four-week season of Advent.

The Sundays leading up to Christmas — December 1, 8, 15, and 22 — are a season of preparation and expectation that moves into hope and joy as the birth of Christ draws near. What we do in church mirrors

the secular season outside.

The sights and sounds of Advent are all around us.

The clergy vestments and altar hangings are blue, which represents 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. Three of the four candles are blue. The candle for the third Sunday in Lent, “Gaudete

Sunday,” is pink. “Gaudete” (say gow-DAY-tay) means “rejoice,” and pink symbolizes joy, the joy that Jesus is almost here.

Instead of the “Gloria” on Page 365 of the Book of Common Prayer, which we sing early in the Sunday service at 10:15 a.m., on the second Sunday of Advent (December 8) we will sing the First Song of Isaiah (Hymn 679): “Surely It Is God Who Saves Me.” The “Gloria” will return on Christmas Eve.

On Advent 1 our worship at 10:15 a.m. will be a service of Advent Lessons and Carols. On Advent 3 — December 15 — the Christmas pageant will be presented by our children during the 10:15 a.m. service.

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 an-



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The Season of Advent

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nounces 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 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 through this new liturgical year — until Christ the King Sunday

next November — we will read from the Gospel of Matthew. This Gospel was written around 80 or 90 CE, at about the same time as the Gospel of Luke, which we’ve been reading for the last year. Matthew is thought to have been an educated Gentile who studied Jewish scripture, and he constantly points out the ways in which Jesus resembled his Jewish forebears — in words and in actions and as the fulfillment of God’s will as expressed in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Although the Gospel of Matthew was written later than the Gospel of Mark, it is placed first in the New Testament because it is thought to be a natural bridge to the Old Testament and because it cites the presaging Old Testament stories.

Matthew’s birth story (Chapter 2) skips the shepherds and angels and focuses on

the sages offering their gifts at the manger. Among the stories unique to Matthew are those about the wise and foolish bridesmaids; the laborers in the vineyard; the unforgiving servant; the parable of the sheep and the goats; and Peter walking on water to meet Jesus.

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



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

Find details about many of these events elsewhere in this newsletter and at spcathedral.org/christmas.

Sunday, December 1: Advent Lessons and Carols at the 10:15 a.m. service.

Sunday, December 8: Last day to bring in gifts for the Giving Tree.

Sunday, December 15: Christmas Pageant at the 10:15 a.m. service, followed by Christmas cookie buffet at coffee hour (bring your favorites to share) and youth Tacky Christmas Sweater party.

Tuesday, 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.

Wednesday, December 25: 10 a.m., Christmas Day service. Cathedral offices closed; no other services.

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

Saturday, December 28: Regular 5 p.m. service.

Sunday, December 29: ONE service at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, 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.

Count Down the Days to Christmas With These Advent Calendars

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

* On the table in Harvard Hall we'll have copies of the "Way of Love" calendar, which offers a suggested activity for each day leading up to Christmas and acknowledging the seven concepts of the Way of Love: Worship, Go, Learn, Pray, Bless, Turn, and Rest. The Way of Love is a series of spiritual practices

that help us live more Jesus-like lives. Learn more at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/explore-way-love>

* A sweet and simple calendar with a lovely verse and a daily Bible reading can be downloaded here: thomasmousin.com/



BY ADVENT'S LIGHT WE STRAIN TO SEE A NEW AND BETTER WAY
AND THEN HEAR HIS VOICE PROMISING THE COMING PROMISED DAY:
THIS WORLD IN WHICH THE JUDGMENTS SPEAK, THE RISE AND THE GUN
HOLD SWAY AS IDEAS OF OUR PEACE WILL ONE DAY BE UNDONE.
WHEN ALL THE WEAPONS OF OUR HATES WILL SURELY BE RECAST
AS TOOLS TO FLOW AND TRUST THE SOIL WHERE PEACE WILL BE BUILT
A DREAMT DREAM, YET WE WILL SHARE BY ADVENT'S LIGHT TO FORGE
WITH CHRIST, NEW HANDS AND HEARTS WITH WHICH TO SILENCE WAR NO MORE.

their trip to the Episcopal Youth Event next summer. Details, [Page 22](#).

* At 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: a flock of chickens, a goat, clean water. These are the

We'll also have copies on the table in Harvard Hall.

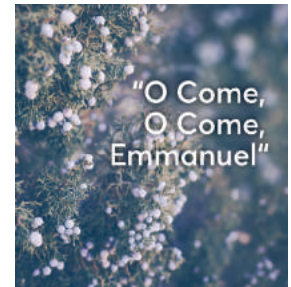
* The Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) are selling Advent calendars for \$5 at coffee hour to raise money for



O Come, Emmanuel." You can download it at <https://tinyurl.com/yawts6f3>, in regular or large-print type. Or sign up there to have the devotionals sent to your inbox each day.

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.

* Luther Seminary offers its devotional, "O Come,



Bring In Your Favorite Cookies For a Christmas Coffee Hour

It wouldn't be Christmas without cookies, and here's a chance to share your favorites.

At coffee hour on Sunday, December 15, we invite everyone to contribute your favorite cookies. Gingerbread men/women? Cutouts? Brownies? Candy cane cookies? Bring in whatever says "Christmas" at your house. We'll have family-friendly eggnog as well.



We also invite you to add an extra dozen or so that we'll take to Campbell Park Elementary School for a treat day for teachers. If there are any other goodies around your house that you'd like to bring in for the teachers, we'd welcome them. You know, that gift box of chocolates that is calling your name a little too loudly, or the gourmet assortment from a business associate.

On the Sundays leading up to December 15, you'll find flyers on the tables in Harvard Hall during coffee hour. Take one and bring it back with your contribution, indicating your name and whether your cookies contain nuts or are gluten-free. Please, no goodies with alcohol.

You're welcome to wear your Christmas sweater, reindeer antlers, jingle bells, Santa

Left, these Nutter Butters were fancied up by Louise Bennett to look like Santa — who knew this was even possible?

caps, and elf T-shirts. The tree in Harvard Hall will be beautifully decorated. This will be a festive party for one and all as we prepare for Christmas.

Photos by JUDY STARK



Above, the cookie buffet was loaded with tempting choices a few Christmases ago.

Tips for a Merry Christmas Eve Service

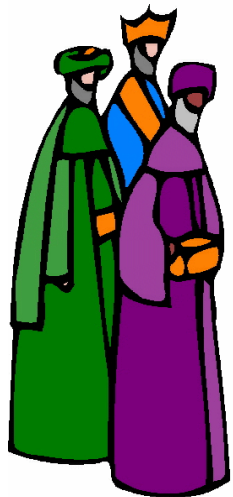
Friendly reminders in advance of our service at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve:

* **Come early. Repeat: COME EARLY.** The Cathedral fills up fast. Typically every seat is taken by 4:45 p.m.

* **We will offer overflow seating in Harvard Hall**, where you can watch the service on the big screen and a priest will offer communion. (This is also a good option for families with children who may get restless during the service.)

* At both 5 and 10 p.m., **parking will be a challenge**, since much of the parking space we ordinarily use on the north side of Second Avenue N is unavailable because of construction at City Hall, which continues until June. Think now about alternatives: the Sundial Garage, for example, or street parking in the neighborhood. Be mindful of metered parking and two-hour-limits; you don't want that lump of coal in your stocking.

* **We will offer child care at the 5 p.m. service only for those age 4 and younger.** We'll have special activity bags available in the Narthex for older children.



Our Pageant Will Tell The Story of Christ's Birth

You won't want to miss this year's Christmas pageant during the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, December 15. To help us tell the story of Christ's birth, we have a children's pageant choir singing four beautiful songs with musical accompaniment; narrators guiding us on the journey; congregational singing; and a cast of sheep, shepherds, and angels.

Children are invited to sign up to be a part of the pageant. We have plenty of costumes and one dress rehearsal, from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, December 14. Contact Hillary Peete, children's minister, at hpeete@spcathedral.com if you have questions or to sign up.



A Gift That Keeps on Giving

The ideal Christmas present for yourself or others: tickets to the concert by the renowned all-male chorus Chanticleer. They perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 21, at the Cathedral. Get your tickets now at spcathedral.org/music-events. This is the celebrated ensemble's 42nd season.



The Giving Season Is Here

Gaye Burnsed chooses a card from the Giving Tree in Harvard Hall. December 8 is the deadline to return your unwrapped gift for children and families from Campbell Park Elementary, Resurrection House and Brighter Seasons. Photo by JUDY STARK

The Venerable Bede

Christmas Trees for Sale at St. Bede's

Where will you buy your Christmas tree this year? How about at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, our ministry partner? Gulf Coast Garden Center is selling North Carolina trees, wreaths, poinsettias,



specialty plants, tree stands, kiln-dried firewood, and seasonal gifts at St. Bede's for the next several weeks (i.e., until sold out).

The tree lot is on the front lawn of St. Bede's, 2500 16th St. N. They're open from 4 to 7 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays. Questions? Call the garden center at (727) 522-3074.

For a \$10 fee your tree can be delivered and set up (delivery area is limited).

Advent Supper and Meditation at St. Bede's

At 6 p.m. Sundays in Advent — that's December 1, 8, 15, and 22 — all are invited to a simple soup supper followed by an Advent meditation at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2500 16th St. N. We'll have a little history of Advent; a little mystery of the coming of the Messiah; an Advent wreath; quiet time and prayers. No need to sign up; just come, to one Sunday or all.

LECTIO ON THE GO continues from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Mondays. Meet Canon Katie on the front steps and spend an hour reading Scripture, walking around our neighborhood, and praying. Get some fresh air and exercise while you enrich yourself spiritually.



We'll Host Two Musical Groups On First Night, December 31

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. Each performance lasts about 45 minutes.

Now in its 27th year, 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 (firstnightstpete.com), or at participating vendors (visit 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 28.

Annual St. Aelred's Brunch Starts Off the New Year

Let's start the New Year right with our annual St. Aelred's brunch after the 10:15 a.m. service on January 5.

The Friends of St. Aelred will provide pulled pork. You provide everything else — sides, salads, appetizers, desserts. We'll have aluminum pans available on Sunday, December 29, that you can take home and fill up with the pot-luck contribution of your choice.

The brunch honors the feast day of St. Aelred of Rievaulx (1109-1167), a Cistercian monk, 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.

The Friends of St. Aelred is our organization of LGBTQ Episcopalians and their friends and supporters.

In addition to this annual brunch, they sponsor the Giving Tree every Christmas season, deliver poinsettias and lilies to our shut-ins at Christmas and Easter, and sponsor the annual Spiritual Pride brunch in June, acknowledging the importance of a supportive spiritual community.



Image by Sheerie TheFay

Women Are the Stars in Reader's Theatre Performance

Women take the stage at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, when our Reader's Theatre offers its winter performance in Harvard Hall.

The well-known adage, "Well-behaved women seldom make history," rings true in this production as women speak up and stand out in these excerpts from works where women take command and dominate center stage.

Experience the original women's movement in *Lysistrata*, by Aristophanes; a black comedy, *Little Murders*, by Jules Feiffer; a British comedy, *Ladykillers*, by Graham Linehan; women and their war with fashion in *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, by Nora and Delia Ephron and *Appearances*, by Tina Howe; and the watershed, true-crime courtroom drama, *Machinal*, by Sophie Treadwell.



These unique and interesting works will not fail to entertain! Jack Clark is the director.

No charge for the performance. Light refreshments will be served.

Nominees for Chapter Will Be Announced This Month

At our Annual Meeting in January we will elect four new members to the Chapter, the 12-member lay board of directors of the Cathedral.

The Chapter is expected to approve the slate of candidates at its December meeting, and the names will be announced shortly thereafter. We will have photos and bios of the candidates available in early January in print and on our website.

A petition period will open the weekend of December 28-29 and will close at noon the following Sunday, January 5, during which additional candidates may come forward. Petition forms will be available at the front desk.

On Sunday, January 12, at coffee hour we will hold our annual Meet the Candidates day, when those seeking election will be introduced and will answer questions.

At our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, also at coffee hour, we will hear reports from Chapter leaders and from Dean Morris; there will be a budget presentation; and we will elect the new Chapter members.

Rotating off the Chapter are Dianne Casorio, Susan Hamilton Churuti, Shar Nudelman, and Tim Staney. Continuing members are Kerry Carlisle, Lucas Fleming, senior warden Ray McColgan, Samantha Nevins, Gary Patterson, Herb Polson, Rich Rome, and Karen Torrisi.

Golden Memories

On November 17, during our annual Thanks-a-Brunch, St. Peter's celebrated our 50th anniversary as the Cathedral for the Diocese of Southwest Florida with great gusto — and much gold. At the same time, we celebrated the 120th anniversary of the completion of our original sanctuary and the 130th anniversary of our existence as a worshipping community. Who would have thought, in 1889, what St. Peter's would be today? And who can imagine what we will be like in 2149?

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Right, Mary Jane Schenck shares a table with Nancy Morgan, whose husband, George, is the senior warden at St. Bede's, our ministry partner.

Gorgeous flowers and table settings made Harvard Hall festive.



Senior Warden Ray McColgan displays the City of St. Petersburg proclamation of our anniversary, November 18, as St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral Day. With him are Canon Katie Churchwell, holding her daughter Collins; Mayor Rick Krise-man, and chapter member Herb Polson.

Golden Memories

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Members of the chapter and Stewardship Committee served on the buffet line at brunch.



Above, Carey Andrew-Jaja. He and his wife Lorna are new members at the Cathedral.



In the Chapter Room we displayed artifacts and historic items from our history: our founding as a worshipping community 130 years ago, the completion of the original church building 120 years ago, and events from then to now. And of course there was an anniversary cake!

Dean Morris led us in a prayer of thanksgiving for all that has been and all that will be.



Expansive-Language Liturgy: Tell Us What You Think!

For seven Sundays in October and November, at the 10:15 a.m. service, we have been using a trial expansive-language liturgy. That's the white booklet in the pews.

Now we're asking: What did you think? What did you like or dislike?

A short survey about the trial-use liturgy is at spcathedral.org/worship-resources. We invite everyone to fill it out, give us your feedback and offer suggestions of what to change. The survey will be available until December 13.

If you need to refresh yourself on the what and the why of the expansive-language liturgy, you can watch Canon Thomas Williams's presentation on our website at spcathedral.org/adult

Rite II Trial Liturgy

Please share your feedback in our
online survey!

FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES take a break in December, since there's so much else going on. They'll be back on Friday, January 3.

FOYER GROUPS will celebrate the holidays at their monthly dinner gathering from 5:45 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 19. Enjoy a delicious meal (\$5) prepared by Chefs Marion, Jack, and Richard, plus friendly conversation and good company. This is a good way to meet others and get to know your way around the Cathedral. Sign-up sheets are on the table in Harvard Hall, or speak to Marion Fleming (mimideeda@gmail.com), who is happy to tell you more.

We're still collecting **2020 CALENDARS** for the residents of the Peterborough Apartments. Drop your unwanted charity calendars off at the front desk. Deadline: December 15, so we can get them in the hands of our neighbors before the new year begins.

The **ST. PETER'S BOOK CLUB** is taking a holiday break in December. They'll resume at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 28, with a discussion of Jack E. Davis's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*. John Sumner is the presenter. Take advantage of this extra time to read the book, or if you're dropping hints about what you'd like Santa to bring you, add this book to your list.

Becoming Beloved Community: Steps Along The Way

Betsy Adams

After 18 months of research, reflection and discernment, we have taken the first steps toward racial healing. Using the image of the labyrinth as our model, we have begun to seek common ground concerning our historic and present story around race. Members of the Cathedral, the community, and several other parishes have been gathering on Monday evenings to discuss the “Seeing White” series podcast (<https://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/>). We have discussed the history of race in the world, the advent of slavery in America, and current issues of systemic racism. We have learned that the idea of “race” is a construct to justify oppression, yet is very real in its ramifications. The discussion group will continue

through the first part of December.

On November 16, eleven members of the Cathedral family traveled to DaySpring

Becoming Beloved Community is the Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. It is the dream of a community where all people experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves as beloved children of God.



to attend a gathering to learn about and explore Sacred Ground, a Becoming Beloved Community resource offered by the Episcopal Church. Sacred Ground is a film-

and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

We were blessed to be led through this exploration by its creator, Katrina Brown. We experienced a portion of the process and discussed ways that we might bring this rich resource to the Cathedral.

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Beloved Community

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Stay tuned for more information on Sacred Ground.

For additional information about Becoming Beloved

Community please feel free to contact Canon Paige Hanks: p_hanks@spcathedral.com And please visit our very robust page on the Cathedral website, <https://www.spcathedral.org/beloved-community>

Museum Tour of 'Beaches, Benches, and Boycotts'

We're going on a Cathedral field trip! On Sunday, January 19, we have reserved a 1:30 p.m. group tour of the "Beaches, Benches, and Boycotts" exhibit at the Florida Holocaust Museum. (<https://www.flholocaust-museum.org/explore-2/exhibits/beaches-benches-and-boycotts-the-civil-rights-movement-in-tampa-bay/>)

We will gather after coffee hour for a light lunch and discussion, then travel over to the museum for our tour. Signup will begin Sunday, December 15. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for students. Lunch is \$5 (sandwich, chips, drink, dessert).

Blessings on Bread and Cup

Children who participated in our five-week Bread and Cup class to learn about the meaning of Holy Eucharist gathered November 10 with their families for a blessing from Canon Katie.

"This is how we make Christians; this is how we make Episcopalians," she told the congregation. To the question, "Will you continue to share with these young persons the joy and wonder in all of God's creation?" the congregation gave a resounding Yes!



New Cathedral History Is on Our Website

Our new history of the Cathedral is available on our website, spcathedral.com/history. Read the story of how St. Peter's came to be; follow the timeline; meet significant figures from the past; and share in memories and anecdotes. The history

was created to celebrate our 50th anniversary as a cathedral (November 18), the 120th anniversary of the completion of the original church; and our 130th anniversary as a worshipping community.



This photo, taken around 1912, shows the Cathedral at right and the rectory at left, photographed from a muddy Fourth Street.

Our annual **QUIET DAY** is Saturday, January 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Ven. Kathleen Moore, diocesan archdeacon, will lead this day that invites us to hear how God is calling us and to discern the vocation to which each of us is called. We're planning to bring the diocesan traveling labyrinth to walk for meditation. We'll have signup sheets early in the new year. Cost: \$5, which covers snacks, lunch, and materials. Invite your friends; all welcome.

Who Is the Minister of Baptism, a Sign of Grace?

The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams

Baptism as a Sacrament

Part 2 in a series

Find previous installments at

spcathedral.org/baptism

Baptism is a sacrament: It is, in the familiar definition, “an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.” The outward and visible sign is of course water, along with the words, “I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

But what is the inward and spiritual grace? It is “union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God’s family the Church, forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit” (Book of Common Prayer, Page 858). That’s a lot. And when we say that baptism is a sign of that grace, we don’t just mean that it indicates or witnesses to such grace; we mean baptism actually makes all that happen.

In addition to talking about sacramental signs and sacramental grace, theologians talk about the minister of a sacrament: that is, who can perform the sacrament? For example, the minister of ordination is always a bishop; the ministers of matrimony are (here comes little-known fact #1) the couple who get married. (Yes. A priest can bless the marriage on



Bishop Smith with vials of consecrated oil at the annual Chrism Mass in Lent.

behalf of the Church, but it is the spouses who actually administer the sacrament.)

Historically, the minister of baptism was the bishop. But as the church grew, and as people worried about the eternal fate of the unbaptized in an age of high infant mortality, it became impractical for bishops to do all baptisms, and priests were authorized to baptize as delegates of the bishop. So the ordinary minister of baptism is a priest, though the bishop’s involvement is still maintained through the use of chrisam, olive oil (typically scented with balsam) consecrated by the bishop for the anointing of the newly baptized.

But (little-known fact #2) the Church has long regarded baptism as so important and indispensable that, in cases of emergency, any baptized person may administer baptism. (See Page 313 of the Prayer Book.) A parishioner tells the story of a nursing

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The Ministry of Baptism

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student who administered emergency baptism and then called her seminarian fiance to let him know that she had had the opportunity to baptize before he did!

Still, the incredible richness of the grace of baptism, and its importance for the Church as a Body, mean that in ordinary circumstances, baptism is administered only in the context of public worship, with the solemnity and exuberance that baptism calls for, and only on days of particular significance. In my next article I will talk about what those days are and why they were chosen.



Happy Happening

The Cathedral was well represented at a recent Happening weekend, a diocesan retreat to help high-school students foster a more meaningful relationship with Christ. Our participants included Tommy Chase, rector of the weekend, as well as Connor Carlisle, the Rev. Canon Paige Hanks, Olivia Norman, and Hudson Norman.



Packing for a Feast

On a Sunday in early November, we packed shopping bags full of nonperishable ingredients for Thanksgiving dinners for students and families at Campbell Park Elementary: stuffing, vegetables, fruit, cranberry sauce, cake mix. Families also received a \$45 Publix gift card to buy fresh groceries for their Thanksgiving meal.



‘All are Welcome’ (No, Really)

The Rev. Canon Brandon Peete

As Christians, we believe that God is most fully made known when we gather in community. As Adam was not meant to be alone in Eden, we too are nourished by the presence of others. Parishioners of the Cathedral already know this power made manifest when we gather. My hope, as Canon for Hospitality, is to introduce this transformative truth to all newcomers who visit this place.

To be new to any community can be intimidating. It often takes a good bit of courage to show up, to seek, to be open to new people and a new atmosphere. I am always encouraged to see so many take that vulnerable step, each and every week at the Cathedral. They inspire continued faith in me — to be open to the new ways in which God appears in life. Our newcomers also represent vitality in this place; a sign that God continues to move and call people to corporate prayer and fellowship.

It is also my hope that all who are new to our faith community feel welcomed with open arms.



That they know we truly embody those words, “All are welcome.” That they are free to be who they are — children of God with hopes, questions, doubts, mistakes, gifts, and curious minds. Those with weathered hearts are welcome. Those with grief and heartache are welcome. The skeptical, the not-so-sure, the wonderer — are all welcome. So are the joyful and those looking to celebrate. Those new to the region, new to the faith, and the renewed souls are all welcome. You are welcome.

One of the ways we welcome our newcomers to the Cathedral is through gathering each month for Coffee with the Clergy. We casually meet from 9 to 9:50 a.m. in the Chapter Room (just beyond the restrooms in the lobby) to get to know one another. Our next gathering is Sunday, December 15.

We look forward to welcoming you in person — to answer questions, explore our tradition, and introduce you to our faith community.



Hints and tips to help us become the welcoming community we want to be.

When the service ends, invite someone near you whom you don’t know to go to coffee hour. Tell them your name and ask theirs. Make sure a newcomer goes home that day with at least one familiar face and name at the Cathedral — yours.

Being Present, Rather Than Buying Presents, May Be the Best Gift This December

Alicia Schmid, Youth Minister

The Cathedral Episcopal Youth Community — the EYC — has had a busy fall so far, and we are excited about all that's in store



for the end of 2019. We are thankful for the time we were able to spend together at our Friendsgiving retreat in November at St. Leo Abbey, and hopeful that we can bring this attitude of gratitude into December and 2020.

During the holidays, it seems that many of us spend more time stressing out about shopping, planning meals and events, etc., than we do preparing our hearts for Christ. Though this stress isn't intentional, it can really take away from the magic and memories of the holidays (and daily life in general), and leave us feeling more depleted than joyful.

What if we shifted our focus to what's

Last fall we kayaked around Weedon Island, then gathered to celebrate a Eucharist on the water. This year's destination: Fort DeSoto.

really lasting and important this December? What if we took more time during this busy season to simply be with one another, to pray, and to reflect on our intentions? As your youth minister, I'm willing to bet that we'd be more joyful, more thankful, and more centered, which would make the message of the Gospel more real to those we encounter.

It isn't necessarily easy to change our mindsets to focus on things like prayer and "just being present" when we are used to constantly going and meeting the next expectation we feel life is throwing at us. This is where a church community can help. As we approach the holidays, please keep in mind that when your young people prioritize their faith lives, it helps equip them to tackle the rest of life's responsibilities and

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December Youth Notes

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expectations with love and grace. This is true for adults as well.

Let's make this December a month to remember by being present with one another for Cathedral activities and events. We have a lot planned to prepare our hearts for the blessing of Christmas, and your youth won't want to miss it.

Youth Events in December

9 a.m. Sunday, December 1: All youth who plan to attend the Episcopal Youth Event (see story, [Page 23](#)) must attend this meeting in the Youth Room with a parent. Coffee and refreshments provided.

2 p.m. Sunday, December 1: Canoeucharist at Fort DeSoto Park. All are welcome — you need not be a youth! Wear clothing and shoes appropriate for an afternoon of kayaking (don't forget the sunscreen) as we explore the park, then we'll convene on the water for Eucharist. Cost: \$20.

Sundays, December 1, 8, and 15: Fundraising sale at coffee hour of Advent calendars (\$5) and Cathedral tumblers (\$25)

continues. All proceeds go to fund our attendance at EYE.

Saturday, December 7: Parents' Day Out. This is another fundraiser for EYE. Youth will be present from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; we'll host kids from birth to age 12 for a day of fun from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. while the parents go shopping, enjoy some self-care, or go on a day date. Suggested donation: \$15 per child, cap of \$50 for families with more than three children. We'll serve a lunch of chicken fingers, fresh fruit, and mac and cheese. RSVP to Alicia by December 3.

Sunday, December 15: Tacky Christmas sweater party during coffee hour. Wear your favorite awful Christmas attire and enjoy games, food, fun, and friendship, and be reminded what Christmas is really all about. (Hint: It isn't gaudy sweaters.) Friends are welcome!

Sunday, December 22: We'll bake cookies during coffee hour, then deliver them to the local fire department. Bring your favorite bake-and-take cookies. We're continuing

a fun activity from last year as we honor our first responders downtown.

Sunday, December 29: Deadline for on-line applications for EYE. Please speak with Canon Katie Churchwell (kchurchwell@sp-cathedral.com) or with me (alicia@spcathedral.com) for questions or assistance with your application.



The chalice is passed from kayak to kayak at our Canoeucharist last year

Help Support Our Youth As They Prepare for EYE20 in Baltimore Next Summer

Our youth are focused this winter on fund-raising so they can attend the Episcopal Youth Event at the University of Maryland in Baltimore, MD, next July 7-11.

Every three years the Episcopal Church hosts this international youth gathering so that “the energy of the youth of the Episcopal Church can continue to be utilized in active ministry as members of the Body of Christ,” according to the legislation creating EYE.

The 2017 EYE, at Central Oklahoma University, attracted 1,400 participants: youth in grades 9 through 12, clergy and lay adults, bishops, speakers and volunteers.

The theme for EYE20 is “Unite! Unamonos!” The Rev. Abi Moon of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Tallahassee, EYE chaplain, says this theme reflects “a call to action to unite as people of the Jesus Movement and as a people following the Way of Love.”

St. Peter’s youth invite you to invest in

the future of the Episcopal Church — and of St. Peter’s — by supporting our fund-raisers. We are selling Advent calendars for \$5 and stainless-steel, gold-toned tumblers bearing the Cathedral seal for \$25. We are also hosting a parents’ day out in early December. See the schedule of youth events on [Page 22](#) for details. And if you’d prefer to simply make a donation without purchasing anything, we will gladly accept!



The gold-tone tumblers bear the Cathedral seal. Photo by ALICIA SCHMID



Prayers on a Pilgrimage

Our youth made a Friendsgiving pilgrimage to St. Leo Abbey in Pasco County on November 17. Despite the chilly weather, it was a day of warm friendship and spiritual growth. “We wrote down the fears and concerns that hold us back from being who God made us to be,” Canon Katie reported. “We wrapped around them an additional piece of paper with the things that are unique about each of us, then wrapped it all up in a prayer to God that we tucked between the stones of the grotto.”

Photo by ALICIA SCHMID

A Perfect Advent, Totally Unworthy of Pinterest

Hillary Peete, Children's Minister

There is no shortage of ideas for creating a memorable Advent with your kids. Many of the ideas I've come across involve an elaborate system of envelopes and daily activities, baking escapades, and a live performance or two of *The Nutcracker*.

I am a little envious when I see these lists, because they are all good ideas. Realistically, however, it would take me at least 24 months, not 24 days, to follow through on all of them. With everything else that needs to get done before the end of the year, I'm tempted to just tell myself that I'll plan more and do better next Advent.

I find it easy to get overwhelmed by the ambitious Advent tales spun on Pinterest. But I'm encouraged by the simplicity of my own memories of Advent growing up. Our Advent calendar hung on a door in the hallway and I loved moving the mouse from one pocket to the next, counting down the days. We had small electric candles in our windows that shone really bright in the

dark. We slowly decorated our house and tree. Excitement and anticipation built up throughout the month, even with these small things.

Anticipation. Waiting. Patience. Darkness. Light. Love. Joy. These are difficult emotions to capture no matter how creative your Advent calendar is and what you've saved on your Pinterest board. I think it's possible to create meaningful and memorable memories with your family through really simple things that take very little prep, creativity, planning, or money. Here are some ideas I'll try out with my family. Take what sounds fun and leave the rest. I hope you'll join me this Advent and share some ideas of your own!

*** Read a book a night together.** We have a collection of Christmas books and we also make a trip or two to the library. For a list of 24 books that beautifully tell the story of Christmas, visit spcathedral.org/children. These would also make great



Read a book together every night.

Christmas presents!

*** Light candles.** They can be part of an Advent wreath; they can be three blue and

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A Perfect Advent

[continued from page 24](#)

one pink. Or just light whatever candle you have around. Say a prayer of thanks that Jesus is our light even in the darkness.

* **Slowly bring out the Nativity.** Start with just the stable. A week later add some animals, then a shepherd. Put Mary and Joseph a few feet away from the Nativity scene. Move them closer and closer until Christmas Eve. Keep it going until Epiphany, when the wise men finally get there!

* **Pray for others.** As holiday cards fill up your mailbox, keep them in a basket on the table. Each night (or morning), pull out one card and pray for that person or family.

More holiday activities:

* **Middler Meet-Up:** From 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, December 22, we'll have a Christmas party at Canon Katie's house for all kids in third through fifth grade. Bring a silly wrapped gift for a white-elephant exchange. There will be a hot-chocolate bar and other goodies. Please RSVP to me (hpeete@spcathedral.com) by Sunday, December 15.

* **Christmas Eve for Families:** The service at 5 p.m. is family-friendly, and we encourage children and parents to worship together. The nursery will be available for children from birth to age 4. We will have special worship bags available in the Narthex to keep little hands busy. Please plan to arrive early, since the Cathedral fills up quickly. Typically every seat is taken by 4:45 p.m. We will also have overflow seating in Harvard Hall, where you can watch the service on the big screen and a priest will be present to lead worship and distribute communion.



"Our Advent calendar hung on a door in the hallway and I loved moving the mouse from one pocket to the next, counting down the days."

Our popular series of **BOOK TALKS** takes a break in December. We'll resume on Tuesday, January 14, at noon, when *Tampa Bay Times* book editor Colette Bancroft will speak on Colson Whitehead's powerful new novel, *The Nickel Boys*. This is Whitehead's take on the infamous Dozier School for Boys in Marianna, FL, where dozens of boys were abused and killed. Whitehead won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for his previous novel, *The Underground Railroad*. Free; lunch available (\$5). We'll have a drawing for an autographed copy of *The Nickel Boys*.

Icons Exhibit Continues at St. Thomas

The exhibit of contemporary icons by the artist Ludmila Pawlowska continues through February 9 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1200 Snell Isle Blvd.

More than 100 contemporary works by the Russian-Swedish abstract expressionist are on view in the church and other parts of the campus. Also on view are a dozen tradi-

tional icons from the Vasilievsky Monastery in Suzdal, Russia.

The exhibit, "Icons in Transformation," is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays, noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, or by appointment (727-896-9641). Suggested donation: \$10 per person. This could be a fine outing with your holiday visitors!

In addition, a free holiday concert amid the art and icons by Chorus Angelorum, an a cappella ensemble, will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, December 7, with holiday carols, modern works and the romantic Russian sounds of Rachmaninov and Kopylow.



Doors to Paradise

Artist Ludmila Pawlowska with one of her images, "Your Eyes."



Against a Wall



'Mourner's Path' Workshop Begins in January

Another season of our bereavement workshop, "Walking the Mourner's Path," begins at 6 p.m. Tuesday, January 28.

This eight-week class, led by trained facilitators, helps those who have experienced a loss find peace and healing. Participants are strongly urged to attend all eight sessions.

For more information please speak to Jerry Buchert (727-346-5286) or Anita Pernell-Arnold (727-865-1388).

Family Promise Works to Reorganize After Director Resigns

Karen Amundrud

The reopening of Family Promise of Pinellas has been delayed again by the resignation of its executive director, Sharon Boyes.

Family Promise of Pinellas is part of a national nonprofit organization that helps homeless families with children by providing transitional housing and assistance in finding jobs, social services, and permanent housing.

Families are housed at participating churches, moving from church to church each week. Four times a year they receive their meals and lodging for a week at Palm Lake Christian Church, with St. Peter's support.

At the end of 2018, Family Promise paused its services while it sought a new executive director and caseworker and set a fundraising goal of \$50,000 to provide stable financing. By early fall the group had achieved the fundraising goal, but the resignation of the executive director has now

prompted the board to postpone restarting its services.

In late November a consultant met with Family Promise to map out next steps and a timeline. Those steps include expanding the board, increasing the number of participating congregations, and creating a development team.

The board is happy to talk to friends and supporters. You can e-mail the board at boardfppc@gmail.com or call board chair Mike Mills at (727) 420-8601. Or speak to me, Karen Amundrud, at amundrudk@yahoo.com. Information is available at our website, www.fppinellas.org.

"We understand the delayed reopening is disappointing, but we know that, working together, our Family Promise can reopen as a much stronger provider of services," the board said. "We'll continue to keep you updated on our progress."

Dressed to Frighten

The Rev. Canon Brandon Peete blesses costumed trick-or-treaters on October 27.



Shuffling for Fun

“And a great time was had by all”: A few of the shufflers who joined us for the Fellowship & Festivities Committee’s first shuffleboard event on October 26 at the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club. Thanks to our instructors, Meg Banitch, Ellen Alexander, and Rich Rome, who showed us the ropes and then joined in a laughter-filled evening of friendship.



Cathedral Will Host Province IV Bishops

Twenty-eight bishops from the Southeastern United States will meet at the Cathedral on December 5 and 6.

Our bishop diocesan, Dabney Smith, is the host for this gathering of bishops from Province IV of the Episcopal Church and their spouses. They will conduct business discussions, join in Morning and Evening Prayer and Holy Eucharist, and get to enjoy December weather in Florida.

December Transitions

Birthdays

1 Christy Fryer
 2 Martha Appar
 2 Deborah Abraham
 3 Judd Chapin
 3 Theresa Holly
 3 Cary Gums
 4 Carmen Moore
 4 Helen Galletly
 5 Tom Southard
 5 Lee Salviski
 7 Dabney Smith
 7 Lana Febus
 8 Ron Gallucci
 8 Natalie Stoneman
 8 Blake Bardell

9 Frank Turner
 9 Alice Putman
 11 Judy Sallows
 11 Rick Neefe
 12 Maggie Moore
 13 John McCoy
 13 Zara Larsen
 13 Claudia Botero
 16 Phillip Ketchum
 16 Tim Snyder
 16 Luke Goodwill
 17 Elle Methvin
 17 Don Fritz
 18 David Andrews
 18 Jocelyn Beavers

20 Lydia Behnke
 20 Jan Curtis
 20 Larissa Crow
 20 Christy Dunn
 20 Lori Townsend
 20 Nicole Brady
 21 Louise Bennett
 21 Mark Ferreira
 22 Nicholas Carpenter
 23 Jean Curtis
 23 Gail McCoy
 24 Carole Cowan
 24 Benito Pastoriza-Iyodo
 25 Mary Evertz
 25 Wil Laroche
 26 Michael Mellessey
 27 Tony Gecan
 27 Tom Ravenel
 27 Vivian Crona
 28 Sarah Gecan
 28 Penny Adams
 29 Ryan Ferrell
 30 Nancy Thomas
 30 Catherine Kleckner

30 Connor Crosby
 31 Barbara Abbott
 31 Okey Ryan

31 Brittny Smelcer
 31 Hillary Peete

Anniversaries

4 Gene & Holly Haines
 7 Michael Kunis &
 Alexandra Blacker-Kunis
 10 Ryan Sandy & Sarah
 Redding
 17 Camillo & Amanda
 Cotrino

23 Bob & Deborah
 Abraham
 27 Bill & Kally Harvard
 29 Bill & Elaine Clark
 29 David & Nancy Kramer
 30 Ralph & Kathy
 Hancock
 30 Tom & Donna
 Southard



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

Weekday Worship

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

Visiting/getting in touch

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**If you have a pastoral emergency
after hours, please call Canon Paige
Hanks at (214) 704-9430.**

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Next deadline: December 15, 2019.

Diocesan leadership:

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith, bishop
The Rev. Canon Richard H. Norman, canon to the ordinary

Our clergy and senior staff:

The Very Rev. Stephen B. Morris, dean
The Rev. Canon Katie Churchwell, canon for community formation
The Rev. Canon Paige Hanks, canon missionary and
priest-in-charge, St. Bede's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Canon Brandon Peete, canon for hospitality
The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams, precentor and canon theologian
The Rev. Ethan Cole, priest associate
The Rev. Scott Nonken, deacon
The Right Rev. Barry R. Howe, bishop in residence
Dwight Thomas, director of music ministries and organist