



CROSSTOWN

December 2023

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg



LIVE NATIVITY: This year it's your turn to pet the camel! [Details, Page 8.](#)

Photo by JUDY STARK.

THE RESULTS ARE IN!
**Come Hear the Results of the
Parish Survey, Page 3**

**Advent and Christmas:
All the Details, Pages 8-13**

**Help Us End the Year
In the Black, Page 6**

Engineer Will Assess Work Needed on Bell Tower

The Chapter continues its work to prepare for repairs to the bell tower and the roof of the Cathedral.

We are hiring a structural engineer, Biller Reinhart Engineering Group of Tampa, to assess the work necessary on the bell tower. The weight of the third story of the tower, added in 1925, is causing the second story to bow outward.

That work, and a new roof on the nave, will be completed before we begin work to restore the carillon bells, which have been inactive since 2015.

Bishop Scharf has reviewed the plan to date. After we receive the structural engineer's proposal, the bishop will be provided a final project description for the diocese's approval.

At its November meeting the Chapter approved the 2024 budget, which

will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 28.

At the request of Bishop Scharf, Chapter members earlier this fall agreed to extend their terms by one year during this time of transition, so there will be no elections at the meeting.

In this drone image, taken in mid-November, the 1925 extension of the bell tower, directly under the steeple, is weighing down on the original 1899 tower, causing it to bow outward.



The Survey Results Are In!

Come to Two Gatherings to Hear What You Said

We now have the results from the parish survey, to which 304 members of our congregation responded. Thank you for this overwhelming response. We hoped for 250 participants. KitKats for all!

The results of the survey have now been turned over to us by Holy Cow! Consulting. Here's where you can hear what you said:

* **Sunday, December 3**, at 9 a.m. and again at 12 noon, we will hold gatherings in Harvard Hall to report what we've learned.

The results, and a recording of a Zoom presentation by our consultant at Holy Cow! Consulting, will be available at www.spcathedral.org/dean-search after the presentations on December 3.

We have scheduled three listening sessions to hear more from you. These will be structured conversations in which we invite you to share your thoughts about what you would like to see in our next dean, your response to the survey findings, and your stories about how our history and your own

experiences at the Cathedral shape our needs and expectations for the future.

Here's the schedule:

Sunday, December 10, 9 to 9:45 a.m. in Harvard Hall. No need to sign up, just come.

Sunday, January 7, 12 noon to 12:45 in Harvard Hall. Again, no need to sign up.



Wednesday, January 10, from 6 to 7 p.m. Please sign up for this one at <http://www.spcathedral.org/dean-search>.

If there is demand for more listening sessions we will schedule those.

Meanwhile, the Search Committee is gathering information for our parish profile. We have reviewed profiles from past Cathedral searches and looked at profiles from other churches and are determining how best to tell the story of our historic, resilient Cathedral.

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.

We'll introduce the members of the committee in Crosstown over the next few months. You can find more information about members of the Search Committee



and about the search for our new dean at spcathedral.org/dean-search. This month, meet Sarah Albert and Jacob Browne Perry.

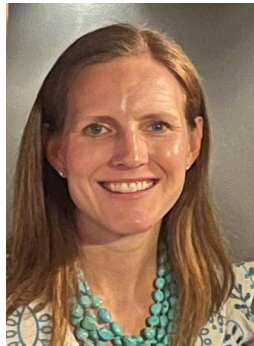
Involved in Youth Ministry, Endowment, and Finance

Name: Sarah Albert
Age: 44
Member since: 2011

Involvement at the Cathedral: Endowment Committee chair, Finance Committee member, chauffeur to youth, EYSeedlings, and EYC Events.

Occupation: Former management consultant and later part-time recruiter; current stay-at-home mom to my four kids.

In my spare time you'll find me: Walking, reading a novel, or working



on a crossword puzzle.

What I'm watching/listening to these days: I haven't watched much TV since the last season of *Ted Lasso* ended; we occasionally watch *Shark Tank* as a family.

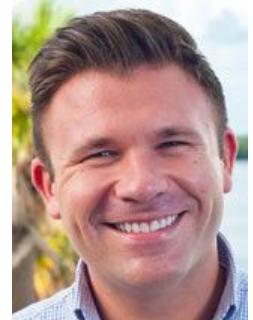
If Presiding Bishop Michael Curry came to town, one thing I'd like to show him is: Pass-a-Grille at sunset.

A time when I saw the Cathedral at its best: I especially love the Christmas Eve service, but honestly the Cathedral is great every Sunday— it's such a warm and welcoming place.

New to the Cathedral, Young Dad, Social-Justice Supporter

Name: Jacob Browne Perry — Jake is fine!
Age: 40
Member since: 2022

Involvement at the Cathedral: Being a newcomer, I'm still finding my way around the Cathedral and its vibrant ministries. You may see me at



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Meet the Search Committee

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a 20s-40s get-together; my husband, Andy, or me at a FAST meeting; or, very likely, walking our three-year-old, Clark, down the hallway to and from Nursery. I am honored and completely humbled to have my service on this Search Committee be my first deep dive into work at the Cathedral.

Occupation: I am the Dean of Admission at Eckerd College.

In my spare time you'll find me: Spending time with our toddler son: taking day trips to Disney World, wading at Spa Beach at the St. Pete Pier, or playing at a neighborhood park. At home, I like to be in the kitchen creating a meal or treat — it helps me unwind.

What I'm watching/listening to these days: *Fellow Travelers* on Showtime/Paramount+. The miniseries chronicles characters' lives from the Lavender Scare to the AIDS epidemic. I'm also listening on Audible to Rachel Maddow's new book *Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism*.

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

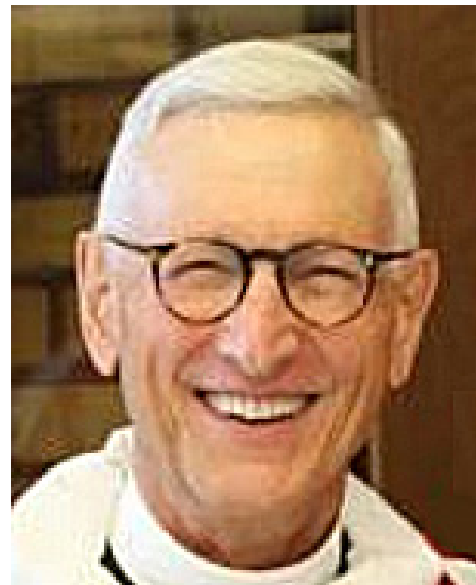
would like to show him a tale of two cities. Perhaps we would start off at the LGBTQ+ Youth Pride & Family Day at Straub Park to participate in an event that is just one example of our dynamic, open, and inclusive community. But then we would also head to South St. Pete to witness the work that

still needs to be done in reckoning racial health, economic, and education equity.

A time when I saw the Cathedral at its best: The spirit of hospitality that drew me and my family into the Cathedral community — it happens every day.

Father Sam Returns

Please welcome back the Rev. Sam Tallman. Sam retired as a priest at the Cathedral several years ago and now spends half the year in Blowing Rock, NC, and half the year in St. Petersburg. He will be assisting with services and with pastoral care for the next several months. We're always glad to welcome Sam and his husband Mike Zuravel back to their Cathedral home.



Your Pledge Matters: Help Us End 2023 in the Black, Balance Our Budget for 2024

Ray McColgan, Stewardship Chair

Friends, it's time to step up.

As we prepare to close the books on 2023, we see that we have received only 80 percent of the pledges committed for this year. At this rate we anticipate that by year's end we will receive only 89 percent. We have a long track record of what we call a "fulfillment rate" — parishioners completing their pledges — of 95 percent.

So we turn to you to say: If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge for the year, please do so. We have had extraordinary expenses this year connected to the dean's departure and some major repairs to our building. Help us end this

year in the black. Your pledge matters.

If you're not sure where you stand on paying your pledge, there are a couple of ways to check:

* You received a third-quarter statement in October showing what you pledge and what you've paid so far. Need an updated statement? Please contact Cathedral Administrator Michelle Thomas (mthomas@spcathedral.com) and she'll be glad to send you an updated statement.

* If you give online via Realm, you can check your balance any time by signing into your account on your device or via the Realm Connect app on your cell phone.



Checks need to be received by the Cathedral by December 29 to be posted and considered tax-deductible for 2023. If you pay online, you have until December 31.

If you pay by automatic deduction from your bank account or credit card, please remember to update these accounts before the end of the year. Many of these accounts automatically expire on December 31 and you must re-set them with a new expiration date, e.g., December 31, 2024.

As for the 2024 Faith Filled Financial Commitment Campaign:

As of November 28, we have received 186 pledges. Those commitments total \$690,178 or almost 73% of our goal.

You can do the math. We need your commitment for 2024 to maintain the personnel, the programs, the ministries,

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Your Pledge Matters

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and the missions that you have told us you value.

You can make a pledge online at spcathedral.org/give-abundance. Or pick up a pledge card at the front desk. Or call us at (727) 822-4173 and we'll be glad to put a card in the mail.

We want all this to be as easy for you as possible. If you would like assistance in making a pledge, or in updating or setting up a new online giving account, please contact Cathedral Administrator Michelle Thomas at (727) 822-4173, ext. 114, mthomas@spcathedral.com.

To all of you who pay your pledge online, thank you. It makes our job much easier. We are so grateful for your Faith Filled Financial Commitment.

New Officers for St. Aelred's and A Festive Brunch in January

Please congratulate Steve Willis, who has been elected convener of the Friends of St. Aelred.

Also elected was Rodney Kayton as secretary.

Mark your 2024 calendars for the annual St. Aelred's Brunch, after the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, January 21. The Friends will provide pulled pork. You, the congregation, provide everything else — salads, sides, desserts. We'll have aluminum pans available earlier in January for you to take home and bring back with your contribution.

Aelred (1109-1167) was a Cistercian monk, author, and a major figure in English church life. He taught that friendship

is a gift from God and allowed his monks to hold hands and give other expressions of friendship.

The Friends of St. Aelred are LGBTQI+ Episcopalians and their friends and supporters. Since 2009 they have sponsored the Giving Tree, providing Christmas gifts for children in need. Other outreach efforts include donations and programs at Florida Resurrection House and the delivery of poinsettias at Christmas and lilies at Easter to our homebound members. They are enthusiastic supporters of our Pride Month

activities every June and sponsor our annual Spiritual Pride banquet.



Steve Willis



Animals, Music, Food and Fun: The Live Nativity Returns

This year's Live Nativity — from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, December 3 — will be bigger and better than ever. We'll gather on the lawn at St. Bartholomew's (3747 34th St. S), where the stable will be set up and we'll have costumes so you can re-create the nativity scene for photographs.

There will be stations where you can make a keepsake ornament.

And of course, the animals! Sheep, a donkey, a mini-cow, and — yes! — a camel.

We'll enjoy music by the St. Pete Sax Quartet and we'll sing carols. Food trucks will be on site.

Volunteers are needed to make all this happen, so please speak to Hillary Peete (hpeete@spcathedral.com).



Live Nativity 2021: Total photo op! Or dress up like kings. Photos by JUDY STARK



‘Longest Night’ Service Acknowledges Sadness and Loss Amidst the Holiday Joy

Our Longest Night service, at 7 p.m. Thursday, December 21, is a time of prayer and mindfulness for those dealing with loss of all kinds.

We traditionally think of the holiday season as a time of joy and abundance, but for some the pressure to celebrate can be overwhelming. Life situations and loss can heighten feelings of worry and grief.

The service is scheduled for the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. We recognize that there is darkness in all our lives. Through music, silent meditation, scripture, and healing prayer, we reach out



Jazz pianist Judi Glover

to acknowledge sadness with comfort and quiet remembrance, to reflect on the losses we have experienced, and to remember together the real reason for the season: The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. God is with us. This is a service of light in the midst of darkness.

Our guest musician will be jazz pianist Judi Glover. Whether you are having a difficult time this holiday season or just want a moment of quiet, please come. If you know someone who is sad, struggling, or alone, please invite them to attend. Everyone is welcome.

The service is also available online at spcathedral.org/worship-live-stream if you can't join us in person.

St. Pete Crosstown Shuffle

**Thursday, December 7
from 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

www.stpetefirst.org/shuffle

All ages are invited to come out for an evening of fellowship and fun at the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club, 559 Mirror Lake Drive N. We're partnering with First Methodist and Mount Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist. The cost is \$5/ adults; youth and children are free. Food trucks will be on site. You are encouraged to bring an unwrapped gift for a child that will be donated to the Salvation Army. Please register by December 4 at spcathedral.org/shuffle.

This Advent, Tune Out the Noise and Contemplate the Wonder of God's Love

The Rev. Mike Alford, Curate

It came without warning this year. On All Hallows' Eve, as I contemplated my unfinished All Saints' Day sermon, I sat down to a quiet dinner and a little bit of ESPN SportsCenter. And then it happened. The first Christmas-themed commercial of the year. On Halloween! There on my TV screen was Santa Claus, hair slicked back, red velvet pants, disco boots, dancing to the Bee Gees' tune "Stayin' Alive" and flashing his credit card bringing "joy" to the world with whatever money could buy.

In retrospect, I shouldn't have been surprised. Modern society has long since shed any pretense that the focal point of the Christmas season is religious in nature. For many, this time of year is about finding the perfect gift, planning holiday meals, and steeling themselves for

potentially fraught family reunions. Ah, the stress! We worship at the altar of consumerism and dream that something new and shiny will make us feel better.

The miraculous and hope-filled story of God reaching down to become one of us — Immanuel — can seem a minor chord in the symphony of marketing and commerce. And yet ... that star in the East still shines brightly. And the song of angels announcing the birth of Jesus still echoes from the heavens for those with ears to hear. "To you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

There is quiet wonder and deep-seated joy in knowing that the God who created the universe, and all that is in it, loved us so much that he sent His Son to come and live

among us. To take on our burdens, fears, and failings, so that through him we might be united and reconciled as children of the living God.

This Advent, I invite you to slow down, find a quiet place, and take time to contemplate that wonder. Experience the joy that comes with the knowledge of God's boundless love for us. It is a joy that money cannot buy.

At the same time, for many, this time of year can be painful and lonely. We extend our love and support to you in our Longest Night service on December 21 ([story, Page 9](#)). You are not alone.

And should you need to speak with someone, know that I am available for a pastoral call or visit any time. No exceptions.

Have a blessed Advent and a Happy Christmastide!



Christmas Notes

Christmas Pageant December 17

Our children and youth will present the annual Christmas pageant during the 10:15 a.m. service.

Worship Schedule for the Holidays

Here's our worship schedule for Christmas and New Year's weekends:

- **Sunday, December 24, Advent 4:** Worship at 8 and 10:15 a.m.
- **Christmas Eve:** Family-friendly service at 5 p.m. with Cathedral Choir and Brass; 10 p.m., music prelude; 10:30 p.m., service with Cathedral Choir and incense. Bishop Scharf will preach at both services.
- **Monday, December 25, Christmas Day:** Worship with organ and congregational carols at 10 a.m.
- **Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve:** Worship as usual at 8 and 10:15 a.m.

Christmas Flower and Music Memorials

If you would like to make a donation for Christmas flowers and/or music, fill out the form at spcathedral.org/christmas-memo-

[rials](#). Your gift supports the Flower Guild's special arrangements and decorations for the season as well as outstanding music in our worship services. Deadline is Sunday, December 10.

Closed for the Holidays

The Cathedral will be closed December 26 through January 1, except for services on Sunday, December 31, at 8 and 10:15 a.m. No 12:05 p.m. service on Wednesday, December 27. We'll return from our Christmas break on Tuesday, January 2.

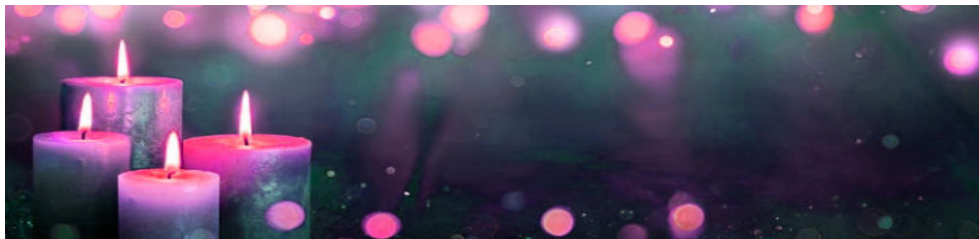
Advent Creche Display

Do you have a creche (nativity set) that you'd like to share? During the season of

Advent, we'll have a display of creches in Harvard Hall along with the Cathedral's stained-glass windows that depict the Holy Family around the manger. If you have a creche you'd like to display for one week or all four, please contact Cynthia Garrels (c-garrels@kellogg.northwestern.edu) so we can ensure enough table space.

Bring in Those Calendars

We're still collecting 2024 charity calendars that are filling up your mailbox. Please turn them in by December 15 at the front desk and we'll deliver them to the Peterborough Apartments, where they are greatly appreciated year after year.



Holiday Concert Will Offer Music of the Baroque

Start the Christmas season at 7 p.m. December 2 at when the Master Chorale's new chamber ensemble, MC Voices, joins St. Pete Baroque in a concert called "Candlelight Baroque," when they will sing and play music of the season on period instruments at the Cathedral.



This is a first-time outing for MC Voices, and its first time rendering early music with authentic instruments. St. Pete Baroque won an enthusiastic following at its January concert at the Cathedral (and they'll be back on January 21 for another performance). They play the music of the period (1600-1750) on instruments including harpsichord, lute, viola da gamba, viola d'amore, and baroque winds.

The program includes *Sussex Carol*, arranged by John Rutter; Bach's *Nun komm der heiden Heiland* (BWV 61); Praetorius's *Lo how a rose*; *Coventry Carol*, arranged by Burke; *Infant holy, infant lowly*; Vivaldi's *Magnificat*; and Gruber's *Silent Night*.

Tickets (\$30) are available at masterchorale.com or at the door.



Sharing Songs of Good News: Our Advent Bible Study Continues

Our Advent Bible study, "Songs of Good News," continues on December 5 and 12. In partnership with our friends at St. Bartholomew's, we'll enjoy a potluck supper followed by discussion led by staff of the two churches. Here's the schedule:

December 5, at the Cathedral: the Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:67-80).

December 12, at St. Bart's: Song of the Angels (Luke 2:13-15) and the Song of Simeon (Luke 2:27-35).

Please bring a dish to share. Dinner is from 6 to 6:30 p.m. and the discussion follows. St. Bart's is at 3747 34th St. S.



A New Christian Year Begins: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

The long green season after Pentecost finally came to an end on November 26, the 26th Sunday after Pentecost, a day observed as Christ the King Sunday, when we acknowledge Jesus's messianic kingship and sovereign rule over all creation.

Pentecost this year was May 28 — 50 days after Easter. The season after Pentecost is a time when we observe the ordered life of the church and explore what it means to live daily in faith and observe everyday sacredness.

Now we begin the season of Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas.

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

The clergy vestments and altar hangings are blue, the color of hope, expectation, and heaven. It is also the color associated

with Mary, the mother of Jesus, in iconography and art.

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

In the fourth and fifth centuries, Advent was observed for 40 days, often as a time of severe fasting, and was thought of as a "little Lent" without an explicit link to Christmas. In later centuries the deeply penitential aspect of Advent was set aside and the season was reduced to four weeks with a specific tie to the celebration of Christ's birth.

Starting on December 3 — Advent 1 — and continuing throughout the liturgi-

cal year, we will read from the Gospel of Mark. (In the Christian year that has just ended we've been reading from the Gospel of Matthew.) Mark's was the first canonical Gospel, thought to have been written about

70 A.D. The shortest Gospel, it constantly implores us to "Keep awake! Be alert!" in anticipation of Jesus's imminent return. Mark uses the word "immediately" 40 times in 16 chapters. This gospel contains no birth narrative; it jumps right in with John the Baptizer performing baptisms at the Jordan and recognizing Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.

Mark's is "the most studied and influential Gospel," says scholar Gary Wills. Its source and audience, he says, are "a persecuted community with internal divisions and conflict."



Our Microgrants Support Hot Showers, Girls' Empowerment, and Much More

In our second round of microgrants to be awarded in 2023, the Caring and Sharing Committee allocated a total of \$2,500 to six of 12 nonprofit applicants seeking assistants. The recipients are:

* **\$500 to Mrbubblez**, which provides mobile hot showers, hygiene kits, and clean clothes to the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless in the Tampa Bay area. Mrbubblez partners with Trinity Café and Metropolitan Ministries in this work. (<http://mrbubblezshowers4thehomeless.org>)

* **\$200 to the Jill Kelley Foundation, Heart 4 the Homeless**. This will purchase a Zoom membership to allow tutors to spend more time teaching and instructing homeless children than the 40-minute free Zoom sessions. www.heart4thehomeless.org

* **\$500 to Golden Generations, My Sistah's Place**, which helps young women, especially those aging out of foster care,

by providing stable housing, life skills, academic and career support, and mentorship services. <http://www.goldengenerations.org/my-sistahs-place>

* **\$400 to Girls on the Run**. This is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program designed to help girls cultivate specific, fundamental life skills. The grant will provide entry fees, snacks, and water for hydration stations for their end-of season-Celebration 5K on December 2, which is open to all genders, ages, and abilities. (www.gotramp.org)

* **\$400 to S.T.O.R.Y. 727**. This relatively new group will use the grant to help purchase items to be used for distribution and storage when they distribute food to areas in St. Petersburg where quality food is hard to acquire. (On Facebook: [S.T.O.R.Y. 727](https://www.facebook.com/S.T.O.R.Y.727))

* **\$500 to Project Prosper** for their work in teaching financial literacy to refugees and immigrants (www.projectprosper.org).



A Mrbubblez volunteer hooks up the water lines so homeless people can enjoy hot showers and then change into clean clothes. Photo courtesy of Mrbubblez.

This Is How We Gave Thanks

One of the major Fall outreach projects each year is packing and delivering Thanksgiving dinner bags. This year we donated 46 bags— 35 to families at Campbell Park Elementary and 11 to Florida Resurrection House families. Each bag contained a \$35 gift card for the purchase of meat and other perishable supplies, along with a can of green beans, a can of cranberry sauce, instant potatoes, gravy, and a box of dressing mix (or, depending on where you are from, stuffing). We spent only \$241.69 of the \$250 Action Team Grant provided by Thrivent Financial. Everything else — all the gift cards and non-perishable food items — was donated by Cathedral members.



Community Coordinator Carlos Childs, at Campbell Park Elementary, with Kathy Michaels and Ellen Alexander as they delivered Thanksgiving bags. Photo by PENNY ROEN.



Let There Be Pies!

Shar Nudelman, right, and a volunteer from Peterborough display the pies donated by the Cathedral for the Thanksgiving dinner at Peterborough Apartments, one of our ministry partners. The Cathedral, through our Caring and Sharing Committee, provided the pies with the assistance of a grant from Thrivent Financial.

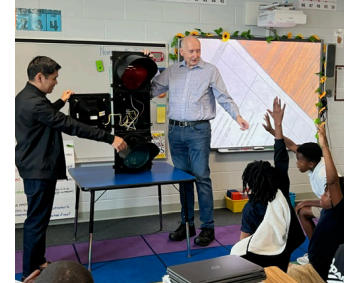
Classroom Fun at the Teach-In

Thanks to Karen Amundrud, Doug Hansen, and Penny Roen for participating on behalf of the Cathedral in the Great American Teach-In at Campbell Park Elementary School on November 15.

Fifth-grade girls did some flower arranging with Karen; Doug got fifth-grade boys thinking about how traffic signals operate; and Penny did a spirited reading for a special-needs class. Each session was great!

Thanks to Michael Ricciardi and Karen Raihill for their work behind the scenes to make the day happen.

Photos by KAREN RAIHILL



Family Ministry in December and January

Christmas Party

Sunday, December 10, from 5 to 7 p.m.

**Hosted by Connor Kahle and family
(RSVP for address)**

One of our favorite events of the year! Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater and bring a tacky gift for a White Elephant gift exchange. We'll also have a gingerbread

house contest and a hot cocoa bar! RSVP to Hillary Peete (hpeete@spcathedral.com).

Finals Care Packages

Sunday, December 10

Need a little love and encouragement before finals? We'll give out care packages full of tasty and relaxing gifts to get you

through the end of the semester. Be sure to join us at the Christmas Party to receive yours!

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 17, at 10:15 a.m.

Don't miss out on the pageant! There are still costume roles like shepherds, wise men, the star, and angels. Interested? Please let Hillary know (email her at hpeete@spcathedral.com). We have a rehearsal Sunday, December 10, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the dress rehearsal is Saturday, December 16, at 10 a.m.

EYSeedlings (3rd-5th graders):

Bowling + Arcade

Sunday, January 7, from 2 to 4 p.m.

**Meet at Sunrise Lanes,
6393 M. L. King (Ninth) St. N**

This afternoon for 3rd-5th graders is right up your alley. Bring \$20 to cover bowling, pizza, and a \$10 arcade card. Friends



Our 2019 Christmas Pageant featured performers who ranged from cute and talented to talented and cute.

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Family Ministry Notes

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are invited, too. Bring a spare (pair of socks) to get some strikes! Please RSVP to Michelle Thomas (mthomas@spcathedral.com) by January 3 so we can reserve lanes.

EYC (6th-12th grade) Bowling + Arcade Night

Sunday, January 7, from 5 to 7 p.m.

**Meet at Sunrise Lanes,
6393 M. L. King (Ninth) St. N**

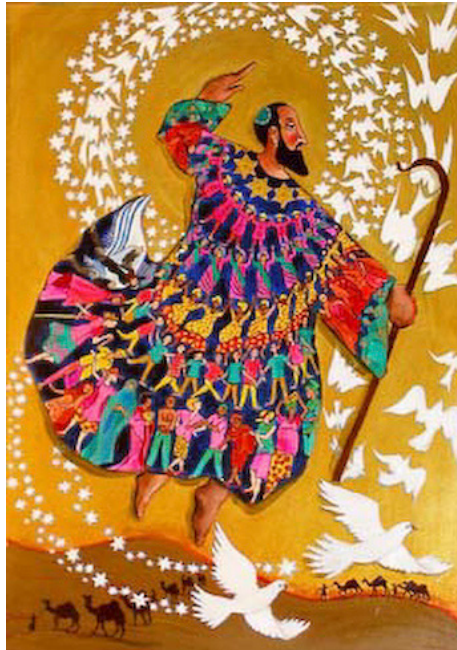
This evening of fun will be right up your alley. Bring \$20 to cover bowling, pizza, and a \$10 arcade card. Friends are invited, too. Please RSVP to Michelle Thomas (email mthomas@spcathedral.com) by January 3 so we can reserve lanes. Bring a spare (pair of socks) to get some strikes!

Messy Church for Families: Joseph and His Coat

**Thursday, January 11,
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! This month we'll learn about Joseph and his amazing coat of many colors. Dinner is served from 5:30 to 6 p.m. (\$10/family) and we close with a prayer at 7:15 p.m.



EYC – The Joseph Saga: Family, Betrayal, Forgiveness, and Love Sundays, January 21 and 28, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Joseph was the “righteous one,” favored by his father, who gave him a gorgeous coat of many colors. His jealous brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt, where he ultimately became ruler of the land, second only to the King. But when a famine swept the land, an unexpected twist required Joseph and his brothers to face the consequences. We’ll dig into this story and explore dreams, deceit, and what it means to forgive.

Youth Confirmation Sundays, January 21 and 28, from 4 to 5 p.m.

In January, we’ll talk about the basics of Episcopal worship — what are the parts of our liturgy and what do they mean? What is the liturgical calendar and why are certain colors linked to particular seasons? Mentors will join us on January 28. Pray for our confirmands Connor, Luke, and Ronan and their mentors, Cory, Randy, and Michelle.

Reader, Pet-Lover, Swiftie, Pasta Fan: Meet Nora

Please welcome our new nursery child-care worker, Nora Colussy-Estes.



About Nora: I grew up in Decatur, GA, which is just outside of Atlanta. I am a junior at Eckerd College, majoring in Literature and Anthropology. I absolutely love my college experience and

the communities I've found. My experience in child care is a mix of classic babysitting experience and also working in children's camps. I worked at both the Georgia Aquarium and Little Shop of Stories (an indie bookstore) as a camp aide/counselor.

Activities, hobbies: I have always loved to read, and clearly that bleeds through to my education, but I also like to do it for fun (when I can). I am also absolutely obsessed with mysteries, so mystery games, shows, movies, you name it, that's what I do as my hobby!

Favorite band: I have two favorite artists, Taylor Swift and Noah Kahan. I love

their lyrics so much, they're absolutely some of the best lyricists I've ever heard.

Favorite movie: I also have two favorites movies: *Pride & Prejudice* (2005) and *Dead Poets Society* (1989), because I will always be the stereotype of a literature major.

Favorite food: Pasta is my absolute favorite food, and it's so versatile.

(Non-alcoholic) drink of choice: Dr. Pepper, all day, every day.

Pets: I have a sweet dog named Mellie

and two adorable cats — one grumpy old man named Ash, one "feral fail" named Chani (after the character in *Dune*).

Most surprising thing about me: I'm a pretty open book, so I don't know that there's a lot that's surprising about me, but I did mention I love mysteries and I also really love horror, mainly slashers and the supernatural. I am absolutely the bright-colored peppy person you see; I just also have some different interests.



We honored our acolytes on Acolyte Recognition Sunday last month, thanking them for faithful service Sunday after Sunday, with reverent hearts and steady hands. Photo by HILLARY PEETE.

Abolitionists' Bazaars Helped Create The Modern Idea of Christmas

It's the Christmas shopping season, a time of commercial extravagance we all take for granted now. But the idea of buying gifts rather than exchanging homemade items developed only in the 1820s and '30s — and is linked to the efforts to abolish slavery in the United States.

Abolitionist organizations and local vigilance committees were always desperate for funds, both to support individual enslaved persons who were escaping to the North with train tickets, lodging, and food; and to achieve the political goal of general emancipation.

Charity fairs, or bazaars, sprang up on both sides of

the Atlantic to raise these necessary funds and to channel the energies of female anti-slavery activists, Eric Foner writes in *Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad*.

The fairs were typically held just before Christmas, and “abolitionists helped to establish the practice of a Christmas ‘shopping season’ when people exchanged presents bought at commercial venues,” Foner says.

The bazaars sold dolls, toys, needlework, pies and cakes, pickles and jams, poultry and hams. Gradually abolitionists in England became involved, and the fairs became lucrative extravaganzas “focused

on selling ‘fancy’ goods from around the world,” including blankets and cushions, silks and lace, perfume, porcelain, jewelry, and works of art. By the end of the 1830s they were the major source of abolitionist fundraising.

Recall that Charles Dickens wrote *Christmas Carol* in 1843, essentially inventing the modern idea of Christmas with carols, trees, cards, decorations, and exchanges of gifts. The abolitionist bazaars would have fit right in.

So as you shop this Christmas season, know that you are doing so in the spirit of consumer activism: “Buy for the Sake of the Slave” was the slogan of the bazaars. You are supporting the breakdown of gender norms as women exercised their skill as excellent fund-raisers and political activists. And you are carrying on the Dickensian tradition of generosity and seasonal cheer. God bless us, every one!



A Gift That Keeps on Giving: Pilgrimage to Alabama Civil-Rights Sites

There's still time to join our pilgrimage to significant civil-rights sites in Alabama next April.

If you're thinking of going, please do sign up as soon as possible. We will soon make our plane reservations and want to make sure everyone who wants to fly with the group is included. See the box for details about where to find more information and how to sign up.

What a great Christmas present it would make to pay for someone's participation in this life-changing trip!



How to Join the Pilgrimage

All are invited to join the pilgrimage to Alabama, April 11-14, 2024. Here are some ways to learn more about the pilgrimage:

* At 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).

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

Coming in January

Genesis Bible Study

<https://www.goodbookclub.org/>

You are encouraged to read the book of Genesis during the season of Epiphany, which starts January 6. On Tuesdays from January 9 through February 6, Hillary Peete will lead a Bible study by Zoom from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. focusing on pivotal stories in Genesis. For the complete reading list, and which scriptures we’ll discuss more in-depth, visit spcathedral.org/bible-study.

Tibetan Monk Sacred Art Tour: Sunday, January 14, at noon

<https://www.tampabay.com/life-culture/arts/visual-arts/2023/11/13/st-petersburg-tibetan-buddhist-monks-florida-craft-art-mandala/>

After the 10:15 a.m. service and coffee hour, we’ll walk over to Florida Craft Art at 501 Central Ave. to view a sand mandala created by visiting Buddhist monks. Contact Hillary Peete to RSVP (hpeete@spcathedral.com).

Around the Cathedral



Fair Winds and Following Seas

Our annual Canoeucharist in the water off Fort DeSoto, where Tampa Bay meets the Gulf of Mexico, attracted enthusiastic canoeists and kayakers November 5. Above, Michelle Thomas shares the wet and wild fun with Michaela Mackey.

Photo by HILLARY PEETE

Owls

The next meeting of the Owls, our senior ministry, will be after the 10:15 a.m. service on December 10 in the Chapter Room. The Rev. Mike Alford will continue our discussion of the evolution of the Episcopal Church.



Farewell, Rita

We say farewell to Rita Sewell, our faith community nurse, who is moving to Sebring in January. Rita has done a wonderful job of offering health care and the mind-body-spirit connection. She and her ministry will be missed.



Queens for a Day

Susan Regan, Karen Olson, Roberta Poellein, and Shar Nudelman model the paper crowns they received in their “crackers” at a breakfast November 19 thanking members of the Altar and Flower Guilds, lectors, vergers, ushers, choir, and eucharistic ministers who make our worship services unroll seamlessly. “We can never thank people enough, but we can make a start,” said Jean Beshears, who heads the Lectors’ Guild and hosted the breakfast.

December Transitions

Birthdays

2	Deborah Abraham	8	Blake Bardell	16	Tim Snyder
3	Cary Gums	9	Alice Putman	16	Phillip Ketchum
3	Theresa Holly	9	Terry Llewellyn	17	Don Fritz
3	John Di Pietro	9	Cory Alexander	17	Ellen Methvin
3	Chas Wain-Nye	11	Rick Neefe	19	Tatum Denson
4	Carmen Moore	11	Mary Whitson	20	Christy Dunn
5	Tom Southard	11	Judy Sallows	20	Lydia Behnke
5	Nancy Lurker	12	Maggie Moore	20	Janey Venable
5	Gidget DiRienz	12	Marshall Moyle	21	Mark Ferreira
6	Meg Banitch	13	John McCoy	23	Joel Giles
6	David Schenck	13	Claudia Botero	23	Gail McCoy
7	Dabney Smith	14	Henry Folkersen	23	Jean Curtis
7	John Palen	15	Aksel Erickson	23	Campbell Foster
8	Ron Gallucci	16	Tim Shoby	23	Mike Kahle
		16	Luke Goodwill	24	Carole Cowan
				24	Michelle Thomas
				25	Wil Laroche
				27	Tony Gecan
				27	Melanie Moore
				28	Sarah Gecan
				28	Luke Brousal
				29	Joy Malecki

30	Nancy Thomas	31	Hillary Peete
30	Connor Crosby		

Anniversaries

9	Gaby & Scott Gramling	29	Cory Alexander & Bethany McKee-Alexander
17	Amanda & Camilo Cotrino	29	Bill & Elaine Clark
18	Banner & Haley Clark	29	David & Nancy Kramer
23	Deborah & Bob Abraham	30	Ralph & Kathy Hancock
27	Bill & Kally Harvard	30	Tom & Donna Southard
27	Maggie & Haig Mardirosian	31	Brandon & Tatum Denson



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

Those Who Have Died

Dorothy Longstaff

St. Peter's: A Guide

Our Worship Schedule

Sunday, 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite I and sermon

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

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

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

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.**

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At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

Getting in Touch:

Office: 140 Fourth St. N, 33701

Mailing address:

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

Telephone:

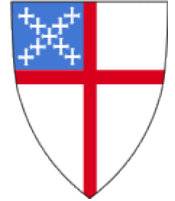
(727) 822-4173

E-mail:

spcathedral@spcathedral.com

Web site:

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. 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