



May 2023

CROSSTOWN

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg



**We'll Welcome a New Curate,
Prepare for a New Roof, Page 8**

**Microgrants Support Food Pantry,
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Elise Chandler walks across a swinging beam in the treetops, the culmination of preparation for confirmation. Story, [Page 4](#). Photo by MICHELLE THOMAS

Another Round of Microgrants Offers Support to Groups That Support Those in Need

The latest allocation of Cathedral microgrants to nonprofit organizations will provide food, appliances, and education to children and families in our community and beyond.

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

Twelve non-profit organizations applied for grants from the \$2,500 available from the Spring 2023 awards.

The microgrant subcommittee, directed by Hillary Peete, met on March 28 to consider the difficult questions of which organizations we could support and the level of support we could provide. The subcom-

mittee members — Cynthia Garrels, Shar Nudelman, Al Phillips, Karen Raihill, Penny Roen, and Cathy Rome—voted to award grants to the following organizations:

\$700 to Mercy Keepers

Mercy Keepers operates an outdoor food pantry through which they distribute refrigerated foods including meats and milk, canned goods, and other household and hygiene items as available.

Their project:

The microgrant will be used to help purchase a refrigerator for drive-through food pickup. The board of Mercy Keepers had agreed to supplement the

grant for the purchase of the refrigerator unit. Learn more at mercykeepersinc.com.

\$600 to Starting Right, Now

This organization offers care and support to unaccompanied youth attending high school in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. The goal is to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty.

Their project: The grant is to be used to provide weekend dinners for the 20 youths currently residing at their Pinellas transitional housing facility, which costs \$4 per dinner per youth. Learn more about this program at startingrightnow.org.

\$400 to NicerFL/Southwest Florida Newcomer Immigrant Educational Center, Inc.

NicerFL is a welcoming and supportive educational center for new immigrants who

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May Microgrants

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are looking to adjust and be successful in a new social, educational and work environment in Pinellas and Manatee counties.

Their project: The grant will be used to support their “Refugee and New Immigrant Support Teams,” which deliver in-person and online program services, including job search and career coaching, newcomer



NicerFL offers small-group English conversation classes and life-skills training to new immigrants.

immigrant-youth tutoring programs, and small-group English conversation and life skills. Learn more at nicerfl.org.

\$400 to Foyer de Sara Children’s Home

The Children’s Home in Haiti provides food, shelter, health care, and Christian education and skills to successfully transition to living independently. The school is currently fighting outbreaks of cholera, skyrocketing prices for food, and threats from armed gangs that have essentially overtaken Haiti.

Their project: The Haitian government provides zero assistance for schools. The Children’s Home must cover the funds to send their children to school by providing tuition fees, teaching staff, books, uniforms, school supplies, and other fees. They currently have 32 children in school. It

costs an average of \$800 per child per year. The grant will pay for one child for one-half year. We support Foyer de Sara through Skyline Church of Christ in Jackson, TN.

\$400 to Bridge of Hope Kitchen

Bridge of Hope Kitchen provides hot dinner meals for school-age children and their parents/guardians in south St. Petersburg. Their facility is equipped with a computer lab and a certified teacher (STEM qualified) who is available to assist students, and parents can use job-search services.

Their project: Funds will be used to purchase food and amenities. Learn more at thehopekitchen.com.

The fall round of applications for microgrants will open in August for awards in October. If you know of any non-profit organization that would be eligible for a microgrant, please encourage them to apply. Details at spcathedral.org/grant.



Confirmation Class Teaches Importance of Community

Then We Climb to the Treetops to Step Out in Faith

Hillary Peete, Director of Christian Formation

The Cathedral's youth confirmation class met weekly over the course of eight months. During that time, we covered some of the basics of our faith, such as the Book of Common Prayer, worship, the creeds, prayer, and of course, our baptismal vows.

Youth and their confirmation mentors had opportunities to meet one-on-one to share about

Chloe McBaen and Chloe Gaddis, harnessed up for safety.



their faith journey and learn together.

Those many months together culminated in confirmations (as well as receptions and renewals of baptismal vows) at the Great Vigil of Easter ([photo, Page 13](#)).

The emphasis in our time together was the importance of being a part of Christian community as we continue to grow in our faith. As we discussed what it means to renew our commitment to Christ, strive to love and serve all persons, and strive for justice and peace, we saw that it would be very hard (and not very fun!) to do any of those things alone. We need the support of friends, family, and our church community. And, importantly, our community needs the active presence of youth too.

To celebrate the commitment of the youth and their mentors throughout this process, we took on a huge challenge that definitely required fervent prayer and en-

couragement: the TreeUmph Adventure Course in Bradenton. We flew across the zipline, balanced our way across swinging logs high in the treetops, and challenged ourselves to do something that was a little scary but also showed that we're always capable of way more than we think we are.

Photos by MICHELLE THOMAS



Katherine Knippen, waving, and Elise Chandler.

Months of Hard Work Prevail: FAST Wins Promises of Change from Public Officials

Thirty-eight members of St. Peter's congregation were among nearly 1,000 participants who gathered at Indian Rocks Beach Church on March 27 to press public officials on initiatives to improve the lives of Pinellas County residents.



Helen O. Hall, president of Mercy Keepers, and Misty Landers.

And they prevailed.

The members of FAST — Faith and Action for Strength Together — obtained promises from public officials to work on license suspension reforms, water quality, and affordable housing.

“Often, I feel there is nothing I can do individually to help create change,” said participant Fay Mackey. Now, “I understand that joining together with groups and organizing for change is the way to go.”

FAST's priorities were generated through cottage meetings around the county in late 2022 and through research and expert consultations. FAST comprises participants from more than 50 congregations in Pinellas County representing many religions and



denominations.

Every spring FAST holds what it calls a Nehemiah Action, named after the prophet Nehemiah, who stood in a large assembly before the nobles and officials of his community and challenged them to stop charging unjust

and unfair interest, and gained a promise from the nobles to stop. (Read the full story in Nehemiah 5:1-13.) That was the purpose of the March 27 gathering, where FAST achieved these results:

- * St. Petersburg City Council members Richie Floyd and John Muhammad agreed to support an ordinance to decriminalize

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FAST

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non-dangerous driving offenses, such as driving with a suspended license because of unpaid fines or driving with expired plates.



“It’s just amazing to be with over 1,000 people, from diverse backgrounds, all speaking with one voice,” Betsy Adams said, pictured with her husband Mike. “I’m thankful for what has been accomplished and excited about moving forward with these and other community issues.”

Those arrests are often the result of economic inequities, and the arrests disproportionately affect Black people.

* Clearwater Vice Mayor Kathleen Beckman agreed to draft a policy requiring developers to include rain gardens to manage runoff. That would filter out chemicals such as nitrogen, one of the causes of red tide.

* FAST members will flood St. Petersburg Mayor Ken Welch’s office with postcards telling personal stories about their inability to find affordable housing. The group is urg-



Jan Strimer and Rita Sewell. “To be part of a social-justice event is to be connected to the will of God,” Rita said. “The power of love and perseverance can create change.”

ing Welch to create 5,000 units of affordable housing for families making 80 percent of the area median income or less by the end of his first term.

“The Nehemiah Action was a great opportunity to see the power of people of many faiths come together to advocate for change that will help those who need it most,” said parishioner Rebecca Lyons.

FAST meets on May 8 to share progress reports.

Information from the Tampa Bay Times was used in this report.

Photos by HILLARY PEETE

What Is FAST?

Faith and Action for Strength Together (FAST) is a justice-ministry organization of 50 religious congregations throughout Pinellas County. Learn more at fast-pinellas.org. For current information and regular updates, visit spcathedral.org/fast.

Just Awaiting the Font

Our new baptistry is all but complete, ready for the installation of the font itself. This new dedicated area is finished with the same rich materials -- marble and oak -- as the altar. This reflects the equal importance of the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. Notice how the stained-glass image of the Transfiguration is reflected in the marble tile. Cost of the work has been

covered by a generous donation from a parishioner. Photo by JUDY STARK



Our Faith
Community Nurse,
Rita Sewell, continues
to offer these services:
**BLOOD-PRESSURE
CLINIC**, 9-10 a.m.
the first Sunday of
the month in the
Bishop's Parlor.
CONSULTATIONS
on health matters
or mind-body-spirit
issues by appointment.
E-mail her at [nurse@
spcathedral.com](mailto:nurse@spcathedral.com) to
make an appointment
to meet on Sundays or
by phone, Zoom, or in
person at your home.

Get Ready to Welcome a New Curate And Prepare for New Roof, Other Improvements

At its April meeting the Chapter looked forward to welcoming the Rev. Michael Alford to the Cathedral. He will join the staff as a curate on June 12; we anticipate that Deacon Alford will be ordained to the priesthood before then. He expects to graduate May 11 from Virginia Theological Seminary. A graduate of the University of Florida and its law school, he formerly was general counsel at Raymond James Financial in St. Petersburg and at Bank United in Miami.

In the weeks and months ahead you can expect to see significant repairs and improvements around our campus. Thanks to Al Carrico, who heads our Buildings and Grounds Committee, for leading these initiatives.

Most immediately, new carpeting will be installed in the Cathedral, replacing the current carpet, which is about 17 years old. It will take six to eight weeks for delivery, then five to seven days to install it. The color is red, similar to what we have now.

The Chapter reviewed a recently-completed Reserve Study, done by Association Reserves of Fort

Lauderdale, that gives us a good picture of our physical plant, suggests the big-ticket repairs and capital improvements that will be needed in the years

ahead, and offers guidance on costs we need to anticipate. The Chapter will dig deeper into this detailed report in the months ahead.

The Chapter also received a report from All Trades Historical Restoration of St. Petersburg for some work that should start soon:

* The roof of the Cathedral will be replaced — ideally by September, the high point of the hurricane season.

A new roof is expected to lower our

insurance costs substantially.

* Rotting wood on the doors on the Second Avenue side will be replaced.

In the longer term, we expect to do major repairs to the steeple/bell tower on the northeast corner of the property. The bricks are deteriorating badly and need to be repointed and cleaned. This work may not start until late this year or early 2024.



The Rev. Michael Alford

BOOK COLLECTION RESULTS

Thanks to the generosity of Cathedral members, 165 books for children and youth were donated in March. The books for elementary school-age children were taken to Campbell Park Elementary. Books for older children were given to the teen volunteers at the St. Petersburg Youth Farm, which we supported with a microgrant in 2022. (Story, [Page 13](#)).

A Joyous Easter Season, 50 Days Long, Leads Us to Ascension Day and Pentecost

Easter Sunday is one day, but Easter *season* lasts a full 50 days — this year from April 9 until the Day of Pentecost on May 28.

Look around the Cathedral for the signs and symbols of the season. The Paschal Candle burns at the altar during services to symbolize the risen Christ, the fire of the Holy Spirit, and the pillar of fire that led the Israelites out of bondage. More on the Paschal Candle: spcathedral.org/crosstown-blog.

We say “Alleluia” once again. Joyful music and colorful flowers have returned, and the altar hangings and vestments are white.

During Easter Season we read from the Book of Acts rather than from the Old Testament. We hear the stories of Jesus’s appearances to his disciples and others and of the start of the spread

of what became known as Christianity throughout the world.

Easter Season includes the major feast of Ascension Day, on May 18, when Jesus ascended into heaven. This day is set in scripture: Acts 1:1-5, 10-11. On this day we acknowledge that Jesus is no longer here, bodily, on earth, limited to one place or one time. We recognize him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, seated in glory with the Father, and accessible everywhere, all the time, to everyone.

The season ends on May 28 with Pentecost (“50th Day”), regarded as the birthday of the church. That’s the day we hear about the mighty wind and the tongues of flame as the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples.

The color of the day is red. Look for the gorgeous needlepoint frontal on the altar in St. Mary’s Chapel, and the Jacobean bro-



The altar in St. Mary’s Chapel, Pentecost 2021. The scarlet frontal was worked over five years by the late Mafalda Gray.

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Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost *continued from page 9*

cade frontal on the high altar. At the pulpit, you'll see a fall in red silk with a flame motif, and the presider will wear a red silk chasuble with an image of a descending dove on the back. (You're invited to wear red too to show your celebratory spirit.)

In Jewish tradition this festival marks the day that the Law was given to Moses, seven weeks — 50 days — after Passover. The disciples were gathered in Jerusalem for that celebration, the Feast of Weeks, or Shavuot. It was customary for Jews from all over the world to gather in Jerusalem for this celebration. That is why, as Acts 2:5 puts it, "there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout people from every nation under heaven."

To the surprise of Jesus's disciples (and, indeed, everyone present), they received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit as tongues of flame appeared above their heads and the rush of a mighty wind filled the house where they were gathered. They found themselves able to speak in many languages, therefore able to take the Good



The pulpit on Pentecost 2021. The fall, with its flame motif, is red silk.

News of Jesus into all the world.

The Holy Spirit, then, is a community-creator that brought together as followers of Jesus people from disparate lands — "Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents

of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs."

All were able to hear the disciples speaking about God's deeds of power in their own languages. This is why we often read the story of Pentecost in multiple languages from the lectern.

This message of inclusivity is emphasized in Peter's words: God will pour out God's spirit on "all flesh ... your sons and your daughters ... young men ... and your old men ... even upon my slaves, both men and women ... everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Pentecost is a single day, not a season. The following Sunday, the First Sunday After Pentecost, is celebrated as Trinity Sunday, when we acknowledge "the three in one, the one in three." From then until November — 26 more Sundays! — we are in the Season After Pentecost, the "long green season" of the ordered life of the church. We'll say more about that next month.

Photos by JUDY STARK

Moving Up, Moving On: Pride Family Day, Vacation Bible School

EYSeedlings

11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sunday, May 7

Have you ever been afraid to try something new? Or you wanted start a new hobby but were worried you wouldn't be any good at it? This month we'll hear a few stories from the Bible about people who bravely went ahead anyway! EYSeedlings will have a chance to make their own stretchy thinking putty and put themselves to the test in trying something new.

Moving-Up Sunday

10:15 a.m.

Sunday, May 21

We want to recognize and celebrate faith milestones for our children and youth: four-year-olds moving up to Children's Cha-

Penny Roen hands out swag to a family who stopped by our booth last year at Pride Family and Youth Day.

pel from the nursery; rising third-graders joining EYSeedlings, rising sixth-graders coming into EYC; and our high school and college graduates! Please confirm with Hill-



ary Peete (hpeete@spcathedral.com) and join us in worship.

Nursery Refresh

Our nursery has many well-loved and well-worn items. We have created a wish list of things that need to be replaced as well as some fun new toys for the kids to enjoy. We appreciate your support in creating a welcoming space for children and families. If you have gently used version of any of these items, please let us know. Visit the wish list at spcathedral.org/children.

Summer Save the Dates:

St. Pete Pride LGBTQ+

Family and Youth Day

Saturday, June 10

8 a.m.-5 p.m.

This joy-filled event welcomes LGBTQ+ youth, queer families, and allies to North

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Family Ministry

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and South Straub Park for a fun day. The day is a reflection of St. Petersburg's diverse and open-minded community, with many of the attendees being ally families.



Brett and Marilyn Vengroff and son Morgan at last year's Pride booth.

The Cathedral will have a booth and we welcome children and families to join us. We'll have fun swag to hand out. We want to let others know that the Cathedral is a safe and welcoming space for those looking for a church home. A sign-up for volunteers and donations is at spccathedral.org/youth.

Contact Director of Christian Formation Hillary Peete (hpeete@spccathedral.com) with any questions or to join our planning team.

God's Garden, God's City VBS
Thursday and Friday, July 20-21
5:30-8 p.m.

Saturday, July 22
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, July 22
Musical performance at
the 10:15 a.m. service

Kids ages 4 through fifth grade are invited to explore stories in the Bible from the desert and mountains, land, city, and gardens to learn about the journey of God's people, creation care, justice, and God's love. More details to come soon!

Photos by HILLARY PEETE



The Cathedral and offices will be closed Monday, May 29, for Memorial Day. No services, no activities. We will reopen at 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 30, when we switch to a summer schedule. We will be open Monday through Thursday during the summer until September. We return to winter hours (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday) on Tuesday, September 5.

Parsley, Sage, Rosemary ...

Check out the St. Pete Youth Farm's newly painted Sidewalk Community Gardens! Local and international multimedia artist ZuluPainter created the vibrant murals on the eight-foot planter boxes, each representing an important theme: driver safety, education, and nutrition. The Youth Farm works to remove barriers to food access, which is why the boxes are lined up along the street where our neighbors can drive or walk up to them to harvest herbs planted by youth participants: rosemary, cilantro, parsley, mint, Thai basil, German thyme, and garden sage. A grant from St. Peter's and support from Lowe's helped to make the idea a reality. Learn more at stpeteyouthfarm.org or see the planters at 1664 12th St. S.



During the Easter Vigil, nine people were confirmed by Bishop Scharf and two others reaffirmed their faith in the Episcopal tradition. We welcome Joy Malecki, Katherine Knippen, Chloe McBaen, Gabriel Woods, Joel Burnsed, Timothy Wilmet, Ashley Workman, and Judy Fiedler. Not pictured: Elise Chandler, Greg Caiazzo, and Jim Rothe. Photo by HILLARY PEETE

How our youth prepared for confirmation, [Page 4](#)

Freedom Rides Museum Is on the Itinerary For Pilgrimage to Civil-Rights Sites

Our Civil Rights Pilgrimage, planned for April 2024 to several cities in Alabama, includes stops at the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, and the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, where marchers were beaten and fire-hosed on Bloody Sunday in 1965.

But there's more. Our itinerary includes other significant sites in the story of the civil-rights movement. In this and further stories we'll highlight some of those stops on the freedom trail.

Civil Rights Pilgrimage Informational Zoom

If you are interested in the April 2024 pilgrimage to significant civil-rights sites in Alabama, please register to attend an information Zoom meeting with the group leader at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 7. All are invited. To register, or for more information, visit spcathedral.org/beloved-community.



One of them is the Freedom Rides Museum, in the former Greyhound bus station in Montgomery.

In 1961 groups of volunteers made history by challenging the practice of segregated travel in the South. These Freedom Riders risked their lives at the hands of angry white mobs, some of them led by the Ku Klux Klan.

Read the dramatic — and shameful — story of how our nation was forced to confront segregation and enforce its own laws by sending federal troops to Alabama to ensure the safety of riders. **The full story:** spcathedral.org/beloved-community.

How to Join the Pilgrimage

All are invited to join the pilgrimage to Alabama, April 11-14, 2024, both those well versed in justice issues and those just beginning the journey. Here are some ways to learn more about the pilgrimage:

* **Watch a video** made especially for St. Peter's showing what we'll see on the pilgrimage to Alabama at <https://youtu.be/d4WyaiHaKwo>

* For more information **contact coordinator Betsy Adams** (betsygadams@icloud.com).

* **Visit our Beloved Community website**, spcathedral.org/beloved-community, and click on "Pilgrimage dates and details" for a brochure.

* At that same website you'll find specifics on **how to reserve your spot**. We need at least 20 pilgrims to sign up for the trip by July 31.

Bring Your Favorite Dish to Our Pre-Pentecost Picnic

We'll celebrate Pentecost a week early, end the program year, and look ahead to summer on May 21 with our annual picnic, served in air-conditioned comfort in Harvard Hall after the 10:15 a.m. service.

The Cathedral provides fried chicken. You provide everything else: sides, salads, desserts. We'll have aluminum pans in the Narthex on May 7 and 14 for you to take home and bring back with your contribution.

Usually the picnic is on Pentecost, 50 days after Easter, the birthday of the Church. This year Pentecost falls on May 28, which is part of Memorial Day weekend, when many people are away. We wanted to celebrate when everyone can enjoy the party.

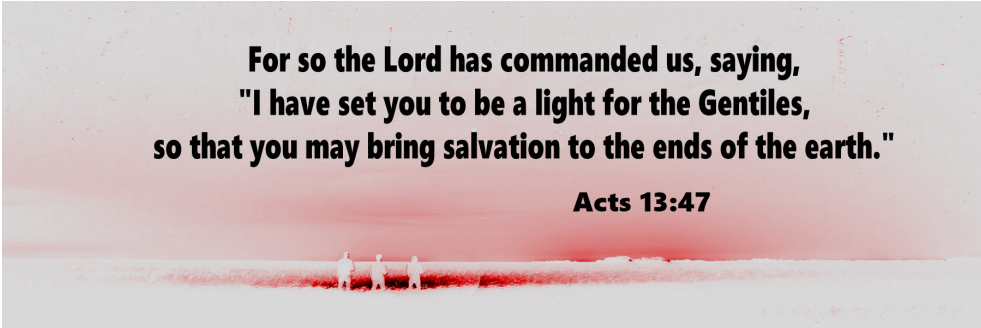
This is always a festive occasion with plenty of good food. We'll have games and fun for the kids. Don't miss it!

How the Church Became the Church: Our Bible Study of Acts Tells the Story

Acts Bible Study
Tuesdays through May 16
6:30-7:30 p.m. via Zoom
Registration, reading guide, and prayer practices can be found at spcathedral.org/bible-studies

Our six-week study of the Book of Acts continues through May 23 during Easter Season — Eastertide — which encompasses the 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, May 28.

Why Acts? We read the Acts of the Apostles together because Acts is about how the church became the church in an unprecedented and unpredictable time. Even more importantly, Acts is about how the Holy Spirit shows up for a group of scared and uncertain disciples. The Holy Spirit is showing up, even now. By attending to how the Spirit has worked in the past, we can better discern the Spirit's comforting and life-giving presence in the present.



**For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,
"I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles,
so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."**

Acts 13:47

Get Your Tickets Now for Spiritual Pride

Tickets are now on sale for Spiritual Pride, our evening to celebrate the importance of a supportive faith community to LGBTQ+ Episcopalians. The dinner, sponsored by the Friends of St. Aelred, returns for the first time since 2019 on Saturday, June 10, at 6 p.m. in Harvard Hall.

Tickets are \$35, which includes a choice of entree and beer or wine. Because alcohol is being served, this event is open only to those 21 and older.

You can buy tickets on Sundays at coffee hour; or buy online at <https://tinyurl.com/ymcr76uh>; or scan the QR code on this page. Visit spcathedral.org/spiritual-pride for information.

Our speaker is The Rev. Andy Oliver, pastor of Allendale United Methodist Church, a longtime supporter of the LGBTQ+ community, an advocate for issues of racial and social justice, and a supporter of gun



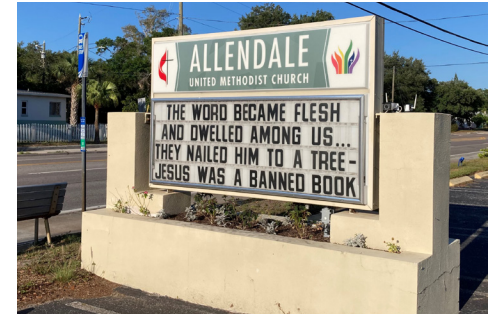
control and immigration reform. Oliver is president of Methodist Federation for Social Action, a national justice-seeking organization. He is a graduate of the University of Florida and Duke Divinity School. He previously served congregations in Lakeland, Fort Lauderdale, and outside Gainesville.

Recently a former mayoral candidate, Vincent Nowicki, filed an IRS complaint asking whether the church should have its tax-exempt status investigated because of its political stances. Oliver has responded that



The Rev. Andy Oliver

this isn't the first time Allendale has been the subject of an IRS complaint and dismissed the filing as just another in a series of attacks against the church.



Joyous Eastertide

Thanks to all whose time and talent made this a memorable Easter. Bishop Scharf was with us for services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Vigil, and Easter Sunday, and the Cathedral

Choir presented glorious music throughout.

Photos by LINDSEY NICKEL, SHAR NUDELMAN, and JUDY STARK



Bishop Scharf with Amelia Nickel-de la O



Bishop Scharf with Rex Cain



Altar Guild creating palm crosses



Joseph Shideler was Jesus in the Way of the Cross for the third consecutive year.

Easter Egg Hunt Results

The Outreach Committee allocated \$250 in Easter Egg Grants to Campbell Park Elementary, Florida Resurrection House, and Peterborough Apartments, based on the distribution wishes of the children who participated in the egg hunt on Easter.

The children collected 797 eggs and deposited 333 in the Campbell Park Elementary bucket; 179 in the Florida Resurrection House bucket; and 285 in the Peterborough Apartments bucket. The \$250 was allocated based on those deposits. Great job, egg hunters!

This Month We're Seeking Underwear and Socks for Kids

The Outreach Committee will collect new underwear and socks for Clothes to Kids in May. This nonprofit organization operates “stores” in St. Petersburg, Tampa, and Clearwater, providing new and gently-used school clothing in a bright and cheerful department-store environment for at-risk children and families.

Our contributions will go to students from kindergarten through high school, so all sizes are welcome. Please bring your contributions to church on Sunday, or drop them off during weekday office hours

Last summer the Cathedral awarded Clothes to Kids a \$500 microgrant to purchase 285 pairs of new underwear—five new pairs for 57 children.

Each year Clothes to Kids provides more than \$65,000 worth of underwear. For more information about their work, please see their website, <http://www.clothestokids.org>.



*Clothes to Kids' goal: providing confidence and self-esteem so children can achieve academic success.
Photo courtesy of CLOTHES TO KIDS*

Five Easy Ways We're Supporting Students and Staff at Campbell Park Elementary

For Teacher Appreciation Week, May 1 through 5, the Outreach Committee will create gift baskets for teachers and staff at Campbell Park, using a grant from Thrivent Financial.

The encouragement cards and the "You Can Do It" poster that many Cathedral members wrote and signed for students taking standardized tests in March were so appreciated that we have been asked to make cards to hand out to the students when they return to school on August 9. Look for a table in Harvard Hall in June to write and sign back-to-school cards.

We have been asked to help in the school Resource Room in June as the Campbell Park staff prepares for the 2023-24 school year. And, of course, we'll have our usual uniform/backpack/school supplies collection in July. There will be information about all this in the June and July issues of *Crosstown*.

In the more distant future, the Outreach Committee will coordinate Cathedral mem-

bers' participation in the Great American Teach-In in November.



In March, parishioners signed cards of encouragement for Campbell Park students. We'll do it again for back-to-school. Photo by PENNY ROEN.

Food, Flowers, Fellowship for Peterborough and Resurrection House

We've been busy the last few months strengthening our relationship with our neighbors at Peterborough Apartments and Florida Resurrection House, two of the Cathedral's ministry partners.

* On St. Patrick's Day we provided 40



Bill Roen and Shar Nudelman deliver flowers to Jean Curtis, center, in her role as a Resurrection House volunteer. Photo by PENNY ROEN.

pounds of corned beef for Peterborough residents. Staff and residents did the cooking and the staff served the meal. One of the residents recycled leftover vegetables into soup, which the residents also enjoyed. Staff members Karen and Sandy created a gift basket (with all green items) that was raffled off.

* Flowers from a March 25 wedding at the Cathedral were delivered to residents of Peterborough and Florida Resurrection House. Bill and Penny Roen and Shar Nudelman delivered five buckets of flowers to Peterborough and four buckets to Resurrection House.

* The Peterborough Board will host an ice-cream social for residents on May 21. Bill Harvard and Herb Polson, Cathedral members who sit on the board, will distribute frozen treats provided by the Outreach Committee: ice-cream sandwiches, cones, and fudgsicles.



The lucky winner of the Peterborough gift-basket raffle.

Peter Yelton Is Outstanding Senior Volunteer

Congratulations to St. Peter's parishioner Peter Yelton, who has been named Outstanding Senior Volunteer of the Year at Northeast High School, where he has worked for the last five years with special-needs students.

Peter is one of three outstanding volunteers from Pinellas County who now move on to the statewide Outstanding Volunteer of the Year competition. The others are Alexandra Miller, youth volunteer (through age 20) at Forest Lakes Elementary in Olds-mar, and Brenda George, adult volunteer (ages 21-61) at Osceola Fundamental in Seminole.

Let's listen to Peter describe his work with the students:

"We use a social-emotional approach to help the students understand how to become more adept at self-care and improve their social skills. One example is the hygiene program. We provided each student with a Dopp kit — a toiletry bag — and

each week supplied materials and let them demonstrate tooth brushing, flossing, etc. Then we moved on to hair and skin care. We brought in a barber who showed them



Peter with fellow winners Alexandra Miller, left, and Brenda George.

all how to use combs and hair picks. The kids got a big kick out of it when I showed them how I buff my bald head with a sponge!

"We also do team-building exercises. With help from a private foundation we're

able to get them hoodies and T-shirts with the school logo. Now we are implementing a program of job readiness where they are launching small 'businesses,' such as car washing and snack sales."

At the Cathedral Peter serves on the Stewardship Committee and is a eucharistic visitor. He is a member of the board at Florida Resurrection House, where he has facilitated seminars on complex trauma.

Previously he worked as supervising social worker for the Bellmore-Merrick school system on Long Island. In 2002 he led a trauma recovery program for survivors of 9/11 and still has a contract with the Fire Department of

New York to work with firefighters and families who have been traumatized. Earlier he worked in a volunteer capacity in New York and Massachusetts for AIDS service agencies, serving as vice president of the AIDS Association of Cape Cod for nine years.

Gifts from Your IRA Benefit the Cathedral, Lower Your Tax Burden

Ray McColgan, Stewardship Chair

Part 2 of 3

This month we continue our series of articles dealing with methods of giving to the Cathedral that may have tax advantages for you. Last month we discussed Donor Advised Funds. (Read that article at [LINK FROM HP](#).) This month we will provide information on the use of IRA Required Minimum Distributions for charitable giving.

Although some of the rules concerning Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) have changed, the benefits of contributing to the Cathedral directly from your IRA remain intact. The RMD is the amount federal tax law requires you to withdraw from your IRA if you are age 73 or older.

Giving some or all of your RMD to the Cathedral is a tax-advantaged way to contribute. By donating directly to the Cathedral from your IRA, you may reduce

your tax liability. You must be age 70½ or older to qualify for this tax benefit. A total



of \$100,000 per year can be transferred directly from your IRA to the Cathedral (or other charity) without creating a taxable event.

If you normally take distributions from your IRA, those distributions create a taxable event and they must be included in your taxable income. If instead you give some of that money to the Cathedral, the amount you direct to the Cathedral from your IRA is not included in your taxable income.

You cannot take a deduction on your income-tax return for your gift of the RMD to the Cathedral, but because that amount is not part of your reportable income, you still save on taxes. For example, if you give \$4,000 in this way, your taxable income will be reduced by \$4,000 and you will pay no taxes on that amount.

Donors who have inherited an IRA from someone other than their spouse must withdraw all funds from the IRA within 10 years of the original owner's death. All amounts withdrawn from an inherited IRA create a taxable event, usually considered ordinary income subject to federal income tax. Therefore, a gift to the Cathedral directly from this type of IRA can provide a win/win opportunity for the donor and the Cathedral. And, like an RMD gift to charity

[continued on page 23](#)

Gifts from Your IRA

[continued from page 22](#)

by the IRA owner, the beneficiary of an inherited IRA must be at least age 70½ at the time of the distribution to get this special tax treatment.

You can name the Cathedral as the entire or partial beneficiary of your IRA. The Cathedral can then withdraw from the IRA tax-free and you become a member of our Legacy Society.

An increasing number of our members have discovered the benefits of contributing to the Cathedral directly from their IRA accounts and the financial advantages of this form of giving.

It could be very beneficial for you to check with your financial advisor about giving directly from your IRA. If you would like more information, please contact Ray McColgan (RMcColgan@me.com). If enough people are interested, an informational meeting can be planned.

Information from horizons.net and their 2022 Horizons Stewardship articles was included in this report.

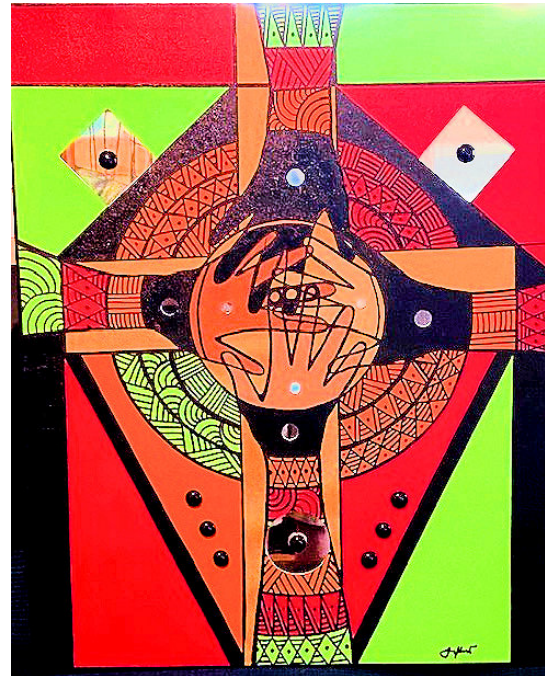
New Painting Lets Us See Ourselves in Love

Our newest painting has found a home! Dr. Gary Lemon's painting, "Touch

in the Spirit of Love," hangs in the hallway entrance to the Children's Chapel and Youth Room. Be sure to stop by to view it or to spend some time in contemplation of its message.

The artist offers the following comment on the intention of his work: "Always remember that the mirrors in my paintings invite the viewers to see themselves in love as artwork. The painting you chose for your Church ministry is a representation of hands reaching out to touch each other in the Spirit of love in front of the cross upon which Jesus sacrificed His life for us to live in faith aligned with God's love for His own foundation of creative power!"

The artwork was donated by Betsy and Michael Adams in thanksgiving for the ministry of our Becoming Beloved Community team.



A Boy, a Dog, a Horse, and a Story of Friendship in Paris

St. Peter's Book Club takes a trip to Paris this month as they read *Perestroika in Paris* by Jane Smiley (248 pages), in which several extraordinary animals and a young boy forge an unlikely friendship. Sydni Shollenberger is the presenter.

Paras, short for "Perestroika," is a spirited racehorse at a racetrack west of Paris. One afternoon at dusk, she finds the door of her stall open and wanders all the way to the City of Light.

Soon she meets an elegant dog, a German shorthaired pointer named Frida, who knows how to get by without attracting the attention of suspicious Parisians. Paras and Frida coexist for a time in the city's lush green spaces, nourished by Frida's strategic trips to the vegetable market. They keep company with two irrepressible ducks and an opinionated raven.

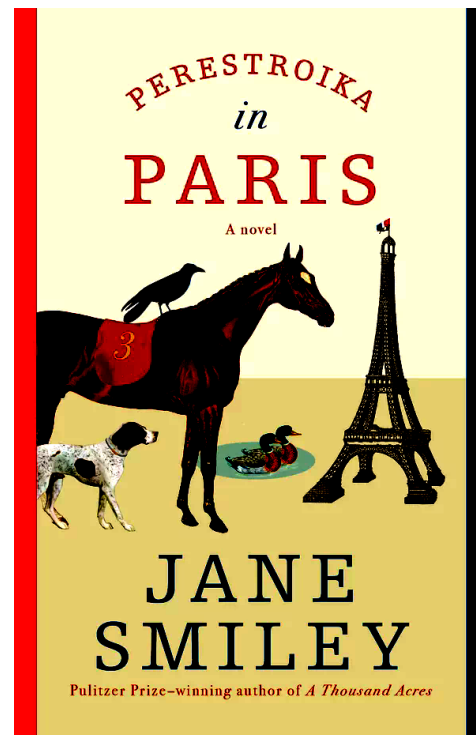
Then Paras meets a human boy, Etienne, and discovers a new, otherworldly part of Paris: the ivy-walled house where the eight-year-old boy and his 97-year-old great-

grandmother live in seclusion. But how long can a runaway horse stay undiscovered in Paris? How long can a boy keep her hidden and all to himself?

Smiley is the author of *A Thousand Acres*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and of the best-selling *Last Hundred Years* trilogy.

The book club will meet at 6:30 p.m. May 30 in the Chapter Room. Visit spcathedral.org/book-club for details of our Zoom option and information about our June book selection.

At this meeting the book club will receive suggestions of books to read from July through November. Bring your ideas, or e-mail them to Roberta Poellein (rplln37@gmail.com).



Rebecca Heads to Rhode Island

Our hospitality associate, Rebecca Davis, will leave us on May 20 to accept a position as an environmental educator/park naturalist in Rhode Island. She will be living on Prudence Island in Narragansett Bay, which is accessible only by ferry, where she will facilitate and develop educational programs about the island's estuarine environment for the state Department of Environmental Management.



Rebecca, a 2021 FSU graduate, has been working as an intern at Tampa Bay Watch, where she has been an eco-vessel environmental educator, leading tours of the bay from The Pier, educating tourgoers about the Tampa Bay ecosys-

tem, and participating in live research demonstrations. The Rhode Island position, a six-month commitment, is the next step as she builds a career as an environmental scientist.

"I've enjoyed getting to know everyone at St. Peter's," Rebecca said, "and I'm grateful for your hospitality. My family lives here in Tampa Bay, so I'll be back. This isn't goodbye forever."



Spirituality and Aging Group Takes Up Healthy Living

Our Spirituality and Aging gatherings continue from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursdays in May at the Masonic Home, 3201 First St. NE. Here's the schedule:

May 4: Model for Healthy Living: an Overview

May 11: My Medical

May 18: My Faith Life

May 25: My Movement

No need to register; just come. If you have questions, email our Faith Community Nurse, Rita Sewell, at nurse@spcathedral.com, or visit our page spcathedral.org/faith-nurse.

With Wax and Candlelight, Take Time To Learn the Ukrainian Art of Pysanky

There's still time to register for the workshop on May 20 to create pysanky, the elaborately decorated eggs that are an ancient tradition from Ukraine.



In a mindful, meditative process of creation with candlelight and wax, you'll be guided in how to create a personal work of art and enjoy a time of relaxation and healing.

The workshop leader is Johanna Krynytzky of Gulfport. Born in America, she grew up speaking Ukrainian and learned this folk art from her grandmother.

This age-old tradition was banned in Ukraine by the USSR (as were Ukrainian language, religion, and other traditions). Today it thrives, in and out of Ukraine, as a national symbol of resilience and rebirth.

All materials are included. A donation of \$20 to \$50 is suggested. A percentage of proceeds goes towards humanitarian aid for Ukraine. Learn more at <http://www.pysankyforpeace.com>. All welcome! Please bring your friends.

Pysanky: The Art of Ukrainian Egg Design

Workshop led by
Johanna Krynytzky

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday,
May 20

Harvard Hall

Register at [spcathedral.org/
easter-eggs](http://spcathedral.org/easter-eggs)

Suggested donation: \$20-\$50

May Transitions

Birthdays

2	Rhody Gecan	9	Mark Myers
2	Robbie Hasbrouck	11	Thomas Williams
3	Melissa Barlow	11	Elin Erickson
3	Anniston Pozo	12	Jack Clarke
4	Bill Harvard	12	Camilla Kilgroe
4	BJ Scarborough	12	Eden Jacobson
4	Carolyn Randall	13	Darrell Menscer
4	Stephen Morris	13	Rich Kral
4	Julius Durphey	13	Matthew McCue
6	Tim Lanz	13	Reid Carlisle
6	Lillian Lopez	13	Emily Bardell
6	Robert Doyle	13	Brady Clifton
6	Joseph Kiefer	14	Gail MacAulay
7	Douglas Hansen	15	Donna Southard
8	Bennett Flint	15	Katherine Knippen
9	Will Hollingsworth	16	Huston Babcock

16	Samuel Albert
17	Suzanne Love
17	Franco Soto Cruz
17	Michelle Plichta
18	Kelly Grimshaw
20	Lee Morris
20	Bill Madison
21	Mary Jo Mastry
21	Andrea Gramling
22	Ben Pape
22	Jeffrey Saut
22	Aletta Adams
23	Donald Skinner
24	Kit Clarke
25	John Meros
25	Rashid Mehmood
26	Fred Waters
27	Louise Garrigues
27	Tim Holly
28	Ellie Curtis
28	Ken Wolfe
29	Suzanne Earle

29	Carol Ellis
29	Kerry Carlisle

31	Noah Pozo
31	Valerie Avrutis

Anniversaries

2	Rick & Gail MacAulay	19	Spencer & Jessica Curtis
2	Fred & Phyllis Waters	24	Mary Jo Mastry & Tracy Crow
3	Fred & Lydia Behnke	25	Len & Patricia Calone
5	George & Andrea Gramling	25	Katy & John Frederick
5	Martin McKinney & Leslie Bagli	27	Liz & Eric Snyder
6	Alfred & Connie Phillips	27	John & Mary K Wilson
7	Ray & Rosemary Benoit	29	Mary & Rich Kral
8	Danie & Matt Dahm	29	Richard Norman & Adrienne McKee
17	Charlie & Ellen Rodgers		

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.



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

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

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

Crosstown is the online newsletter of the people of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter, published monthly for members, friends, and supporters. Editor, Judy Stark (JudyStark@yahoo.com), Associate Editor, Mary W. Matthews (MotherMary@extremelysmart.com). **Next deadline: May 15, 2023.**

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

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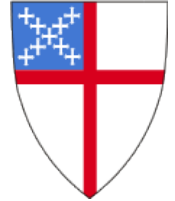
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Diocesan leadership:

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

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

Our clergy and senior staff:

The Very Rev. Stephen B. Morris, Dean

The Rev. Canon Brandon Peete, Canon for Hospitality

The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams, Canon Theologian

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

The Rev. Samuel V. Tallman, Assisting Priest

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