



CROSSTOWN

January 2024

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg



Three wise ones: the Rev. Mike Alford, Hillary Peete, and the Rev. Ethan Cole with Skipper the Camel at our Live Nativity at St. Bart's. More pictures, [Page 27](#). Photo by CHRIS HAAS.

**Annual Meeting January 28:
A Look at the Future, Page 2**

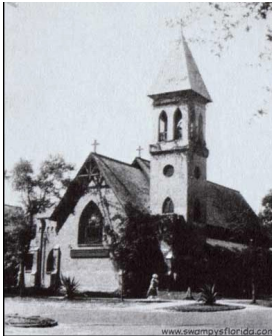
**Great Music Coming in 2024:
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**Dean Search:
Two More Listening Sessions,
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Annual Meeting: Much to Celebrate, Much to Look Forward to

Plan to attend the Cathedral's Annual Meeting after the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, January 28.

We'll have a look back at 2023 and a preview of 2024 from Senior Warden Lucas Fleming. Our treasurer, Mark Myers, will present the 2024 budget. The Search Committee will give us an update on our progress in seeking a new dean. And we'll enjoy a favorite annual feature, a slide show of images from the year just past —



*St. Peter's in
1908*



St. Peter's around 1959

the events, the people, the worship, the celebrations.

We'll also acknowledge 2024 as the 55th anniversary of our designation as the Cathedral for the Diocese of Southwest Florida (1969); our 135th year as a worshiping community (1889); and the 125th anniversary of the completion of our original worship space (1899).

At the request of Bishop Scharf, the sitting members of the Chapter have agreed to extend their terms by one year, so there will be no elections at the Annual Meeting.

More details at spcathedral.org/annual-meeting.

In other Chapter news, we expect that a structural engineer will examine the bell tower in January and offer a proposal on what we need to do to assure its integrity. The weight of the steeple and top story of the tower are causing the walls to bow outward.



*St. Peter's in
2023*

Dean Search: We're Listening to You and We're Starting to Write a Profile

The Search Committee presented the results of the Holy Cow! survey to the congregation in early December and is now conducting listening sessions to hear responses from the Congregation.

The next two sessions:

Sunday, January 7, from noon to 12:45 p.m. in Harvard Hall. No need to register, just come.

Wednesday, January 10, from 6 to 6:45 p.m. in Harvard Hall. Please register for this session at spcathedral.org/dean-search.

The results of the survey are available for everyone to read at spcathedral.org/dean-search.

Our next step is to create a profile of the Cathedral that will be widely publicized to attract candi-

dates interested in being our next dean.

If you have a name you'd like to submit, we ask you to wait to read the profile and see if your candidate matches what we are looking for. Then invite your candidate to read the profile and see if she or he feels a call to St. Peter's.

Under the standard procedures in the Episcopal Church, all names of potential candidates and applications must be submitted directly to Canon Richard Norman, a member of Bishop Scharf's diocesan staff: rnorman@episcopalswfl.org. Bishop Scharf and Canon Norman will review the applications and send the Search Committee those they believe meet the qualifications outlined in the profile.



Search Committee Tentative Timeline

January-February: Search Committee creates profile. Search is publicized widely throughout the Church and applications are accepted.

Late winter-spring: Bishop Scharf and Canon Norman review applications, forward to Search Committee those who meet our requirements. Search Committee interviews candidates, checks references, invites finalists here

Summer: Search Committee forwards one name to Chapter for election as our next dean

Early fall: New dean is in place

Timeline is approximate and subject to change.

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 Grace Lewis, Jonathan Miller, and Kate Munkittrick.

**Choir Member,
Flower Guild Fan,
Toddler Teacher**

Name: Grace Lewis
Age: 45
Member since:
Easter 2019



designing or making something, usually materials for my classroom, although at the moment my focus is on a chicken coop for my girlfriend.

What I'm watching/listening to these days: I love listening to podcasts (*Radiolab*, *Snap Judgment*, *Revisionist History*, etc.) and watching TV shows where people solve murders in the English countryside.

If Presiding Bishop Michael Curry came to town, one thing I'd like to show him is: the painting of Peter and Paul that my daughter and foster daughter made for the Cathedral. It hangs right inside the Youth Room; come take a look!

A time when I saw the Cathedral at its best: I definitely am a (not-so-secret-now) admirer of the Flower Guild. And I thought Father Mike's sermon emphasizing our

shared humanity in response to the October 7 attacks in Israel and subsequent war in Gaza was what we all needed to hear in that moment.

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Hanging in the Youth Room is a drawing of St. Peter and St. Paul made by the daughter and the foster daughter of Grace Lewis.

Involvement at the Cathedral: On Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings I do my best to make a joyful noise unto the Lord with the Cathedral Choir. The rest of the week I find myself accepting various invitations from Hillary to participate in family ministry events with alarming regularity.

Occupation: I am lucky to spend my days with the very best of humanity teaching toddlers at Alegria Montessori School.

In my spare time you'll find me ...

Meet the Search Committee

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Active Dad, Arcade Player, Finance Guy

Name: Jonathan Miller

Age: 39

Member since:
2018



Involvement at the Cathedral: Search Committee, Finance

Committee, former Chapter member, assisted with the nursery, 20s40s group

Occupation: Director of business development & advocacy at Evara Health

In my spare time you'll find me ... Wondering how I have any spare time with two extremely active children. In all honesty, I would just relax and read a book.

What I'm watching/listening to these days: Rebecca and I are currently watching *The Gilded Age*. I enjoy listening to financial podcasts (no judgment, please).

If Presiding Bishop Michael Curry came to town, one thing I'd like to show him is: We just took Aiden and Olivia to Three

Daughters Brewery to see the multiple train sets and Christmas town. We had such a wonderful time there, and I think Bishop Curry would love to play some Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles arcade game with me.

A time when I saw the Cathedral at its best: The Cathedral is a warm and welcoming congregation. The welcome we received when we first arrived as a young couple with a newborn was the kindest and most thoughtful we had received from any other church. However, a specific time was most likely the Christmas pageant on December 17. To see all the young children and families involved in the service was something special. I may be a little biased, but there were the cutest donkey and angel at that service.

Choir Member, Boyd Hill Fan, High School Teacher

Name: Kate Munkittrick

Age: 40

Member since:
the 1980s



Involvement at the Cathedral: member of the choir (off and on) since 1993. Former senior

warden and Chapter member. Was an acolyte as a kid.

Occupation: high school English teacher
In my spare time you'll find me: reading, working in the yard and on my house. There's not a lot of spare time right now!

What I'm watching/listening to these days: The best things I've read recently are Amor Towles's *The Lincoln Highway*, about a pair of brothers on a journey to find their mom, and Lauren Groff's *The Vaster Wilds*, about a young woman who runs away into the wilderness of colonial America. I've been listening to lots of Christmas music (of course) and Jenny Lewis's *Voyager* album.

If Presiding Bishop Michael Curry came to town, one thing I'd like to show him is: Boyd Hill Nature Park. It's beautiful, peaceful, and gives non-Floridians a new perspective on what we are.

A time when I saw the Cathedral at its best: Every Thursday night, at the end of choir practice, we hear from choristers about what's going on in their lives. Sometimes business, sometimes personal; sometimes good, sometimes sad. But always supported and ministered to. It's lovely.

Your Pledge May Be the One That Helps Us Balance the Budget

As 2023 drew to a close, we had received a total of 207 faith filled financial commitments for 2024. This is down 5.5



percent from the previous year's number of 219.

Parishioners have committed \$760,858, which is 80 percent of our \$950,000 goal. That includes commitments from 21 new pledgers — thank you! — but it also tells us that many people who have pledged in the past have not made their commitment for 2024.

Friends, we need to hear from you! As we welcome a new dean and take on some necessary capital improvements and repairs, it's important that we have the financial resources we need to provide the worship, pastoral care, formation, and fellowship that you and your family depend on.

It is never to late to make a commitment! You can pledge online at [spcathedral.org/give-abundance](https://www.spcathedral.org/give-abundance). Or pick up a pledge card at the front desk. Or call the Cathedral 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 commitment, 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.



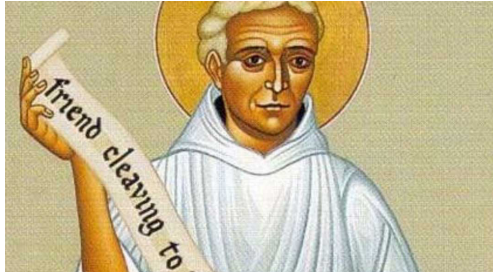
Party Time! St. Aelred's Brunch Starts the New Year Right

The first party of the New Year is on Sunday, January 21, when the Friends of St. Aelred will host their annual brunch after the 10:15 a.m. service.

The Friends will provide pulled pork. You, the congregation, provide everything else — salads, sides, desserts. We'll have aluminum pans available on January 7 and 14 for you to take home and prepare your contribution.

The brunch honors Aelred (1109-1167), whose feast day is January 12, a 12th-century abbot and a significant scholar and leader in the early Church in England. He taught that friendship is a gift from God and allowed his monks to hold hands and give other expressions of friendship.

For a 2021 history of the Friends of St. Aelred at the Cathedral, please visit [www. spcathedral.org/crosstown-blog](http://www.spcathedral.org/crosstown-blog).



St. Pete Baroque Returns with Midwinter Musical Curiosities

One of the Cathedral's favorite musical groups, St. Pete Baroque, will make its fourth appearance this month with a concert titled "Cabinet of Curiosities" at 5 p.m. Sunday, January 21.

The group performed here most recently in December, in concert with the Master Chorale's new chamber ensemble, MC Voices, for an evening of seasonal music.

St. Pete Baroque performs on historical instruments that are set up as they were during the Baroque period (1600-1750): gut strings, baroque bows, and unique instruments that are not found in modern-day musical settings — harpsichord, lute, viola da gamba, viola d'amore, and baroque winds.

"We are dedicated to giving new life to old masterpieces, giving a voice to newly discovered works, and bringing audiences the eccentric and improvisatory nature of baroque music," the group says on its website, stpetebaroque.org.

Their concert will offer works by Buxtehude; Josef Fuchs (a recently discovered work for solo viola d'amore); Biber; Handel; Ortiz; and Rossi Salamone, an Italian Jewish composer who wrote cantatas in Hebrew.

Tickets are \$25, available at the door. A reception follows.



Mentor of Future Superstars Is Composer of January's Evensong Service

Our service of Choral Evensong at 5 p.m. on January 28, the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, will offer the *Evening Service in D* by George Dyson, an English composer (1883-1964) who lived through two world wars and mentored future musical stars.

Dyson served in the Royal Fusiliers in World War I, where he distinguished himself as an expert on grenade warfare and sustained shellshock (an older term for post-traumatic stress disorder).

Returning from the war, he launched his musical career and realized that live performance faced serious competition from first-rate recordings and broadcasts. Young performers needed to attain the highest standards if they were to compete.

He championed such future musical standouts



as the conductor Colin Davis, the classical guitarist and lutenist Julian Bream, and Malcolm Arnold, who went on to write the scores for more than 100 films, including *The Bridge on the River Kwai*.

Dyson's own compositions included works for orchestra, chamber group, and orchestra and chorus, as well as hymns and songs. His traditional style, popular in its day, underwent a period of neglect before being revived in the late 20th century.

The service of Evensong includes the *Truro Responses* by Philip Radcliffe and Halley's anthem, "Bring Us, O Lord God."

An organ prelude, César Franck's *Choral in A minor*, is at 4:45 p.m. The Cathedral Chamber Choir sings; Dwight

Thomas is organist and music director. A reception follows.

THE CATHEDRAL WILL BE CLOSED

Monday, January 1, for the New Year's holiday and Monday, January 15, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. No services, no activities.

For information about MLK Day activities in St. Petersburg, visit <https://mlkdreambig.com>

Acclaimed Tesla Quartet Will Return For a Concert in February

We look forward next month to welcoming back a musical group we've come to feel is part of the Cathedral family: the Tesla Quartet.

The founder of this award-winning group is Ross Snyder, son of our parishioners, Beth and Tim Snyder. They've played here several times before, always to great acclaim. They will return on Friday, February 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door for \$15.

You can meet the quartet and watch videos of their performances at teslaquartet.com.

"The Tesla Quartet has established a great international reputation and we're delighted to welcome them home, so to speak, to the Cathed-



ral," Music Director Dwight Thomas said. "They are always one of the high points of our musical offerings to the wider community, and I'm excited to hear what they'll be playing."

During the pandemic the quartet provided weekly virtual concerts to cheer on the health-care heroes of the New York Presbyterian Hospital network. To support the musical community during the Covid years, they commissioned 12 works by composers from across North America. Now they are focused on inspiring climate action with the commissions of several works for string quartet that touch on different aspects of the climate crisis and recovery.

We delivered more than 115 calendars to our neighbors at Peterborough Apartments. These were **2024 CHARITY CALENDARS** contributed by you, the congregation, along with several dozen Christmas and all-occasion cards. The residents of Peterborough are always delighted with these calendars. Thanks to all for your donations.

What Comes After Christmas: First the Magi, Then the Miracle Worker

This month we end the Twelve Days of Christmas on January 5 and turn to the next season of the Christian year: Epiphany and the Sundays that follow it, when we are introduced to Jesus as the long-expected Messiah with divine powers.

We begin with the Feast of the Epiphany, on Saturday, January 6, when we acknowledge the coming of the Magi to worship Jesus and present him with gifts.

Regardless of what Christmas cards or carols may depict, the Magi were not there at the stable in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. The timeline we can piece together from the Gospels is ambiguous, but the general thinking is that they arrived as long as two years after Jesus's birth.

We don't know how many there were. We assume there were three because they offered three gifts: gold, representing Je-

sus's kingship; frankincense, his future role as religious leader; and myrrh, his future role as prophet.



Gold represented Jesus as king; frankincense, as priest; and myrrh as prophet.

These Magi, who came “from the East,” may have been royalty, or priests, or astrologers, or scientists. Or they may even have been magicians. This word comes from the

Persian *magush*, member of the learned and priestly class. The Greek version of the word, *magos*, meant “magician, learned enchanter.”

By legend the Magi are thought to have been Indian, Persian, and Arab. Again by legend, their names were Balthazar, Melchior, and Caspar, and Caspar is traditionally represented with dark skin.

The word “epiphany” means “appearance” or “manifestation” or “revelation,” and the day marks the revelation of Jesus as the Messiah to the Gentile world represented by the Magi, indicating that in sending the Messiah, God was reaching out to all the peoples of the world, not Israel alone.

The Gospel readings for the Sundays after the Epiphany record the beginning of

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The Magi and the Miraculous [continued from page 10](#)

Jesus's ministry: his baptism by John in the River Jordan; the calling of the disciples; the amazement of those who witnessed his early miracles and healings. (On January 21 we'll interrupt the prescribed readings to observe our patronal festival: See story, [Page 12.](#))

The last Sunday after the Epiphany, February 11, leads us up to Shrove Tuesday, February 13, which is followed by Ash Wednesday, February 14, the beginning of the 40-day penitential season of Lent that culminates in Easter, March 31.

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany is always devoted to the Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-9). Jesus's identity as the Son of God is dramatically revealed atop the Holy Mountain. He speaks with Moses and Elijah; he is dressed in dazzling white; and the voice of God commands Peter, James, and John to listen to Jesus, the Son of God.

We'll Remember Our Local Saint on January 8

On January 8 the Church remembers Deaconess Harriet Bedell, our own saint who hailed from Southwest Florida.

Blessed Harriet Bedell (1875-1969) ministered among the Miccosukee and Seminole Indians in the Naples area, focusing on restoring respect, dignity, and

empowerment to the indigenous people of the Everglades who had been ignored or exploited by government officials and rapacious developers.

Read her story at spcathedral.org/crosstown-blog and give thanks for this extraordinary woman.



We'll Observe Our Patronal Festival, the Confession of Peter

We will observe our Patronal Festival on Sunday, January 21 — the Confession of St. Peter. This is the day we recognize the importance of our namesake, St. Peter. We read the story of his confession, or acknowledgment, of Jesus as the Messiah and celebrate our community of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter.



The Gospel lesson that day (Matthew 16:13-19) portrays Peter as the first to see who Jesus really is: “You are the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Jesus praises Peter and vows to build his church “on this rock,” a play on words. Peter’s name in Greek is Petros, and the Greek word *petra* means rock.

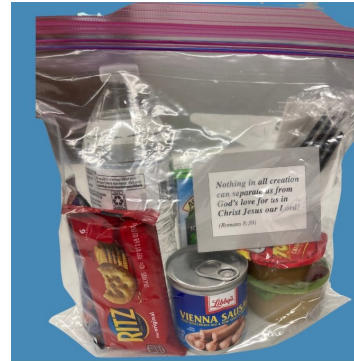
The Roman Catholic Church interprets this statement as referring to Peter, the individual, as the first pope. The Protestant Church interprets it to mean that God will build Christian community upon the confession, the acknowledgment of Jesus as the Messiah, by each member of the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9).

Help Us Fill Manna Bags For People in Need

Our community giving opportunity for January is a new project: We will collect items for Manna Bags. These are large zip-top bags that will be handed out to people in need who approach the Cathedral for help.

Each bag will contain directions to and information about agencies that help those in need (the Free Clinic, Daystar, and so on), as well as a bottle of water, snacks such as peanut-butter crackers, individual packets of fruit snacks or applesauce, and travel-size toiletries (toothpaste, lotion, hand sanitizer, etc.).

Volunteers will be needed to assemble Manna Bags during coffee hour after the 10:15 a.m. service on February 4.



Manna bags have become popular in many faith communities that serve people in need. They typically contain food, travel-size toiletries, directions to local resources, and even quotes from scripture.

Looking Ahead to a Year of Caring and Sharing in Ways Old and New

The Chapter has entrusted the Community Caring and Sharing Committee with the privilege of allocating \$35,000 to organizations that address the goals outlined in our mission statement:

Because we are compelled by Christ to be the healing presence of God's love in the world, we work to transform the lives of the vulnerable through food, health, education, relationship-building, and inclusivity initiatives.

In 2024 we will continue many of the hands-on activities we've sponsored in the past. Later this year we will invite Cathedral members to participate in a new initiative: the Love Quilt Project, which creates handmade quilts for children orphaned by AIDS/HIV in South Africa, using artwork created by children in the United States. We'll offer more information about this in the months to come. If you'd like to "read ahead," visit lovequilt-project.org or speak to Roberta Poellein, whose daughter, Gretchen Ginnerty, is the president of

the Love Quilt Project.

Throughout the year we will ask the Cathedral family to donate supplies to be distributed to the groups we support and, on occasion, we will seek donations of gift cards. The cards expand our budget so that, as in the past few years, we can sponsor all the classrooms at Campbell Park Elementary and provide non-perishable food items for the Thanksgiving bags we fill for needy families at Florida Resurrection House and Campbell Park Elementary School.



The Friends of St. Aelred thank all who helped with the **GIVING TREE** this holiday season. We were able to provide Christmas joy to 85 recipients at Resurrection House, Campbell Park Elementary, and Brighter Seasons for Children. They had a blessed Christmas because of your generosity. Thanks!

Volunteer Opportunity: Help a Third-Grader Learn to Read

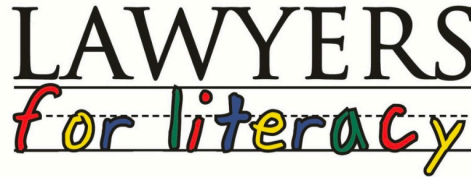
You don't have to be a lawyer, work in the legal field, or even know a lawyer to serve as a volunteer reading tutor for a third-grader at Campbell Park Elementary School or another local elementary school through the Lawyers for Literacy Program, which was founded in 2003 by our senior warden, criminal defense attorney Lucas Fleming.

An excellent description of the program is at <http://lawyersforliteracy.org> but very briefly, it is a program lasting 45 minutes, one day a week, that runs from early February through late April—a total of 11 sessions. Each reading tutor meets with a third-grader to help the student with reading and vocabulary. All materials are supplied.

The program has one goal: helping at-risk third-grade students pass the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) test. Children in grades 3 to 11 must pass this test to be promoted to the next grade. Those who fail a grade are more likely to drop out of school and less likely to succeed in general. And 85 percent of children and teens in the juvenile system have below-average reading and comprehension skills.

Campbell Park Elementary volunteers and students meet on Thursdays from 11:50 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. from February 8 through April 25, excluding March 14 (spring break).

If you'd like to volunteer for the program but aren't available at that time, you might volunteer at another local school. For more information, please speak to Karen Raihill (kraihill@gmail.com), who will volunteer at Campbell Park. To volunteer, email Office@LawyersForLiteracy.org.



Helping Children Read to Succeed

The Cathedral will host a diocesan-wide celebration of the life of **ABSALOM JONES**, the first African-American Episcopal priest, at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 10. An Afro-Centric Liturgical Music Workshop will be led by composer-conductor Carl MaultsBy and vocalist Vanessa Hawkins, and at 2 p.m. Bishop Scharf will lead a Service of Music and Readings in Honor of the Life and Legacy of Absalom Jones. A reception follows. Find more information at: spcathedral.org/absalom-jones

Making Things Merry

With funds from the Community Caring and Sharing Committee, Shar Nudelman and Gail McCoy, both members of the Peterborough Apartments board, provided 25 gift bags to be raffled off during the Peterborough Christmas gathering. We also provided cakes for dessert and four gift cards to be used as prizes for their “Decorate Your Door” Contest. Below, Shar presents a gift bag to Sandy Warfel, service coordinator at Peterborough.



Winter Warmth

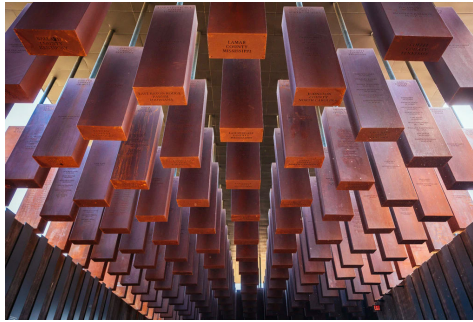
Using committee funds and a grant from Thrivent Financial, we provided winter jackets to Florida Resurrection House residents—mostly children—who had none. The committee voted to send all unspent 2023 funds to Florida Resurrection House to assist their work of ending the generational cycle of poverty. Here Caring and Sharing Committee member Bill Roen and Ellen McDonald, executive director of Florida Resurrection House, shop for winter jackets for residents.

An Immigrant's View of the Civil Rights Sites: Learning the Truth About an Adopted Homeland

This account of a pilgrimage to some of the civil-rights sites in Alabama that we will visit on our pilgrimage in April appeared in a recent edition of Fourth Watch, the newsletter of Province IV of the Episcopal Church, of which our diocese is a member. The author is Hanh Tran, a native of Vietnam who is now a deputy to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church from the Diocese of San Diego. (General Convention is the governing body of the Episcopal Church. Its next meeting is in June in Lexington, KY.)

For three days in October 2023, I toured civil-rights memorials in Alabama with my friend, Jill Showers Chow, a fellow General Convention deputy. I had no agenda but to learn about the legacy of slavery in America, my adopted homeland.

Our first stop was the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, developed by The Equal Justice Initiative, “dedicated to the legacy of Black Americans



At the memorial, each person who was lynched during the Jim Crow era is represented by a steel beam suspended overhead.

who were enslaved, terrorized by lynching, humiliated by racial segregation, and presumed guilty and dangerous.”

On this sacred ground, the names of more than 4,400 Black people who were lynched between 1877 and 1950 are engraved on more than 800 steel monuments hanging from the ceiling. I stood there,

looking at some of the names, the names of the counties and states where the racial terror lynching took place, feeling as if I was surrounded by the presence of all those lost souls. Something eerie permeated this thin place where heaven and earth meet. No words can express how I felt, so I offered a quiet prayer for the repose of those souls as I continued to walk through the monument reflecting on what I saw.

Next I visited the Legacy Museum, built on the site of a cotton warehouse where enslaved Black people were forced to labor in bondage. This truth-telling museum traces the story of the transatlantic slave trade and slavery in America through interactive media, first-person narrative, and exhibits of racial injustice. I felt overwhelmed by the suffering of the enslaved people in their transatlantic journey, the conditions in which they toiled in bondage, and their

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Pilgrimage to Alabama

[continued from page 16](#)

subjection to racial injustice.

Then our pilgrimage led me to Selma, AL, on a quiet Sunday afternoon. There, as I crossed the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge, I felt so humble being able to walk on the sacred ground where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and thousands of activists walked on Bloody Sunday (March 7, 1965) and on subsequent marches.

One of those activists was Viola Liuzzo, 39, a white woman from Detroit, who answered the call from Dr. King. On March 25, 1965, while driving back from a trip shuttling fellow activists to the Montgomery airport, she was gunned down by three Ku Klux Klan members from a pursuing car. She left behind five children. Visiting the place where she was assassinated moved me beyond tears and sorrow.

My pilgrimage called me to “come and see” to witness the historic legacy of slavery, to feel for those who were enslaved, suffered, and affected by the systemic racism of modern time. More importantly

is for me to look within to examine my beliefs, my indoctrination, and my tunnel vision to see where and how I am biased and where I discriminate against others, and to make necessary changes for racial and social justice. I can only change myself internally and let my actions show my effort at reconciliation for the social and racial justice I stand for.

At the end of my pilgrimage, I took an Uber to the Montgomery airport. My driver, a Black man born and raised in Mobile, told me about the *Clotilda*, the last ship carrying slaves to Mobile in 1859-60. Its wreckage was discovered north of Mobile Bay in May 2019. He also told me about Africatown, a city founded by former enslaved people where they spoke the Yoruba language and maintained cultural traditions into the 1950s.

There is so much to learn about the history of slavery in America, the land of freedom that I dreamed of more than 70 years ago. I feel a strange connection to Alabama. In my heart of hearts, I feel a call to share my pilgrimage with others, inviting them to make their own pilgrimage to the Deep South. God’s willing, I shall return.

Last Call to Join the Pilgrimage

All are invited to join the pilgrimage to important civil rights sites in Alabama, April 11-14. If you are interested, **the deadline to register is February 5** so that we can make sure our plane reservations include you.

Here’s where to find details and sign up:

* 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** (betsyadams@icloud.com).

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

Historian Will Share a Shameful Story of St. Petersburg's Racist Past

Local journalist, author, and historian Jon Wilson will speak about his newest book, *Days of Fear: A Lynching in St. Petersburg*, at 4 p.m. Sunday, February 4.

Co-authored with Jane A. McNeil, *Days of Fear* is the story of the gruesome murder of photographer-turned-developer Frank Sherman in 1914 St. Petersburg and the days of terror that followed, leading to the calculated lynching of John Evans, a Black man accused of the murder.

"The book chronicles the evening of November 10, 1914, when a shotgun blast ended Sherman's life, and his wife Mary was brutally assaulted," the *Weekly Challenger* reports. The Shermans were white. "After Mary accused two Black men of the murder and assault, it didn't take long for armed white residents to take to the streets, terrorizing African-

American neighborhoods for three days while searching for the accused. Wilson and McNeil describe St. Petersburg as it was over 100 years ago and detail the event that city leaders swept under the rug for decades."

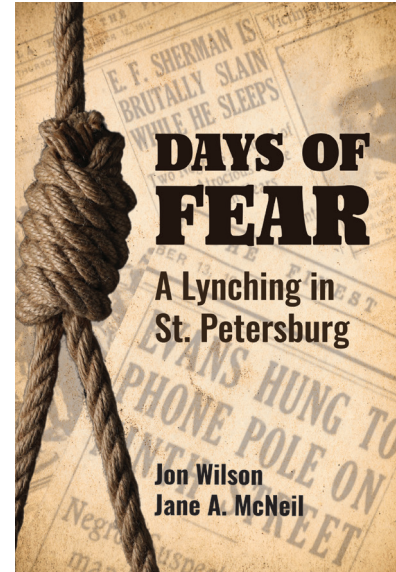
There will be time for questions after Wilson's talk, and a reception follows. Bring your copy for signing if you already have one, or we'll have copies available for purchase. More information is at spcathedral.org/beloved-community.

As a faith community, the Cathedral is committed to continuing our journey towards Becoming Beloved Community: a community in which we strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being. An important step in this journey is learning about and acknowledging past harms that have been done. All are invited

to join us as we peel back the layers of our city and come to a greater understanding of this pivotal time in St. Petersburg history.



Jon Wilson



Genesis Bible Study Begins January 9

This group will meet for five weeks on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. Come and explore the advent of humanity and the relationship of God and humans in this study of the first book of the Bible. We'll see how God was with us in the beginning, today, and always. Visit spcathedral.org/bible-study to register for the Zoom link.



When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.



Two monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery focus on the creation of an intricate sand mandala. Photo by BRIAN JAMES

Sacred Art Mandala at Florida CraftArt Sunday, January 14

Join us at noon to walk over to Florida CraftArt to view a sand mandala created by visiting Tibetan Buddhist Monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in India. These intricate works of art are made with colored sand. Contact Hillary Peete to RSVP (hpeete@spcathedral.com).

Family Ministry in January

EYSeedlings Strike Up Some Fun

2 to 4 p.m.

Sunday, January 7

Let's have some un-bowl-ieveable fun together at Sunrise Lanes (6393 Dr. M.L. King Jr. (Ninth) St. N). We'll bowl a few games (with bumpers if you want 'em) and win as many tickets as we can in the arcade. \$20/child covers bowling, shoes, an arcade card, pizza, and a drink. EYSeedlings are third- through fifth-graders. Please RSVP to Michelle (mthomas@spcathedral.com) by January 4.



EYC Bowling Night

5-7 p.m.

Sunday, January 7

This evening of fun will be right up your alley. Meet up at Sunrise Lanes (6393 Dr.

M.L. King Jr. (Ninth) St. N). Bring \$20 to cover bowling, a slice of pizza, and a \$10 arcade card. Invite friends, too! Please RSVP to Michelle Thomas (mthomas@spcathedral.com) by January 4 so we can reserve lanes. Bring a spare (pair of socks) to get some strikes! EYC members are in sixth through 12th grade.



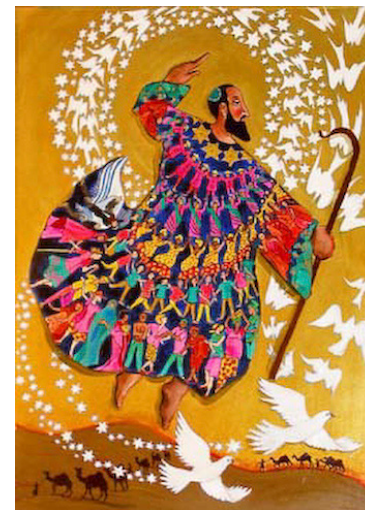
Messy Church for Families

5:30-7:15 p.m.

Thursday, January 18

(note new date — NOT January 11)

Families with kids ages 4 through fifth grade are invited to learn about God through science, scripture, art, movement, and some messy fun. This month we'll hear



the story of Joseph and his brothers, his coat of many colors, and what it means to forgive. Dinner is served from 5:30-6 p.m. (\$10/family) and we close with a prayer at 7:15 p.m.

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Family Ministry

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EYC: Faith Formation for 6th-12th Graders

The Joseph Saga: Family, Betrayal, Forgiveness, and Love

5-7 p.m.

Sundays, January 21 and 28

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 nation, sec-



ond 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

4 to 5 p.m.

Sundays, January 21 and 28

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.

We're Looking for Another Faith Community Nurse

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

This volunteer position is vacant because our most recent nurse, Rita Sewell, has moved to Sebring. Rita developed this ministry of physical, mental, and spiritual health into an important part of our pastoral-care offerings and we are eager to continue and expand it.

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

If you are interested, please speak to Father Alford.

Merry and Bright

At the EYC Christmas party we played three rounds of white elephant, enjoyed a hot cocoa bar, decorated graham-cracker houses, and played a game with marshmallows called Hungry Hungry Rein-

deer. Thanks to the Kahle family for hosting and making the adorable reindeer gifts.

Photos by MICHELLE THOMAS



Connor Kahle shows us that decorating graham cracker houses requires concentration and creativity.



Emma Alexander beside the house she created with Michaella Mackey, shown below.



Hungry, hungry reindeer (right) require tasty, tasty marshmallows, but gifts like the one above are worth it!



Icon of Christ Presents Art As a Spiritual Discipline for Its Maker

Cynthia Garrels and Mary Howe

The beautiful icon of Jesus Christ that hangs in the Chapter Room/Library was created by the Rev. Peter Wallace Fleming Jr., a member of our congregation. This is what he wrote about the piece:

Some years ago, on the cover of *The Living Church* magazine, I saw this picture of an icon. Icons have always interested me, especially their history in the church, so I decided to paint it, except you don't paint an icon. The terminology is that you "write" an icon because the icon is considered to be a form of prayer. That painting is my personal interpretation of that cover of *The Living Church*. It was a process that evolved over three years, and I completed it in 2011.

Some background of icons dovetails with the history of the general councils of the church in Constantinople. The Christian Church was in the process of being formed

and was divided over the issue of Christ's nature and His relationship with the Father. Heterodox understandings remained a battleground in every region of the empire.

The bishops met to decide how the Christian faith was to be expressed and used. They attempted to understand and establish a unified theology. There were movements to make Jesus look more human than Godlike, and Constantine V (718-775 A.D.) led a campaign against icons that had begun with his father, Emperor Leo III. The campaign culminated in the Council of Hieria in 754. This council claimed to be ecumenical and succeeded in establishing Iconoclasm (the rejection and destruction of religious icons) as the orthodox teaching of the church.

However, the holiness of icons was not

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Father Fleming's icon of Jesus Christ Pantocrator, which hangs in the Chapter Room/Library.

Icon of Christ

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to be denied, and in 843 A.D., the church council under Emperor Michael III ruled in favor of the display of religious images.

This particular Icon, dating back to the sixth century, survived the Iconoclastic Controversy and is in St. Catherine's Monastery in Sinai, Egypt. It is the earliest known depiction of Jesus Christ as Pantocrator (literally ruler of all) that survives. It depicts the Christ giving His pontifical blessing while holding the Book of the Gospels. It is richly decorated to emphasize the divine presence of the Christ.

This particular icon is a representation of the dual nature of the Christ, illustrating traits of both God and man, divine and human. Christ's features on his left side (the viewer's right) are supposed to represent the qualities of His human nature, while His right side (the viewer's left) represents His divinity. His right hand is shown opening outward, signifying His gift of Blessing, while the left hand and arm are clutching a thick Gospel Book.

In a conversation with Father Fleming about making his wonderful icon, he said, "Art for me is a spiritual discipline. Every painting [I make] is from the soul, part of my inner life.... Art points to something that is both present and beyond us."

He said further: "We're not trained to think of art as a spiritual practice. The whole Christian year is art." Regarding his painting, he said, "I just love color. I paint to paint. My style is to see what happens ... putting movement and feelings together. Every painting is a part of my life. I remember the feeling."

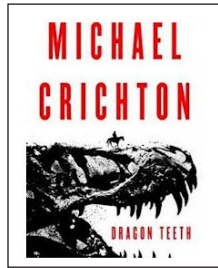
Take a few minutes to study the icon, one of the many beautiful and meaningful pieces of art that the Cathedral is fortunate to display, and see how it can enrich something in your spiritual life.



This portrait of Father Fleming was painted some years ago by well-known artist Marge Andruk, now deceased, who was an active member of St. Peter's Cathedral. It hangs in the Flemings' home.

Book Club Announces Its Reading List: Check Out These Page-Turners

The St. Peter's Book Club starts the new year with Michael Crichton's *Dragon Teeth* (295 pages), an adventure set in the Wild



West in 1876, during the golden age of fossil hunting.

Against a background of warring Indian tribes and the lawlessness of Gold Rush towns, two paleontologists pillage the West for dinosaur fossils. William

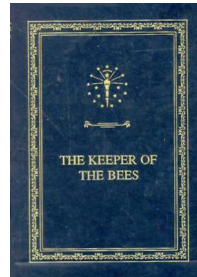
Johnson, a Yale student with more privilege than sense, joins one of them, who quickly becomes convinced that Johnson is spying for his archrival and abandons him in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Johnson joins the archrival and they stumble upon a discovery of historic proportions. But the struggle to protect and preserve their discovery pits Johnson against some of the West's most

dangerous and notorious characters. Presenter: Roberta Poellein.

The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 23. Or join by Zoom: Visit www.spcathedral.org/book-club for details.

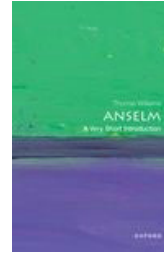
Here's the lineup from February through May:

February 27: The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams will speak about his book, *Anselm: A Very Short Introduction* (134 pages). Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) was the outstanding philosopher-theologian of the Latin West between Augustine and the 13th century.



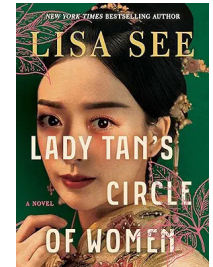
March 26: The

Keeper of the Bees by



Gene Stratton-Porter (528 pages). Set in the author's adopted home of California in the 1920s, this is Gene Stratton-Porter's last novel, a story filled with wisdom, a love of nature, and her own abiding optimism. In it a master beekeeper, his bees, and the natural beauty of California restore a wounded World War I veteran to health. Presenter: To be announced.

April 23: *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See (368 pages). This historical novel was inspired by the true story of a woman physician in 15th-century China. Tan Yunxian learns the pillars of Chinese medicine from her grandmother and partners with a midwife-in-training to care for women's



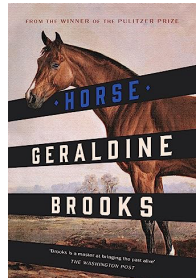
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Book Club

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illnesses, many of which relate to childbearing. The two young women are separated when Yunxian is forced into an arranged marriage. How might a woman like Yunxian break free of restrictive traditions, go on to treat women and girls from every level of society, and lead a life of such importance that many of her remedies are still used five centuries later? **Presenter: Shar Nudelman.**

May 28: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks (401 pages). A sweeping story of the greatest



racehorse in American history, the enslaved groom who protected him, the artist who immortalized him, and the scientist and the art historian who uncovered the history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to the stallion's racing success.

Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington.

Presenter: Susan Darrow.



Celebrating with the Celebrant

Congratulations to the Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams, our canon theologian, who observed the 15th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood by preaching and celebrating at our midweek Eucharist on December 13, St. Lucy's Day.

At the 10:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve the Cathedral Choir sang an offertory anthem, "Christmas: The Shepherds Sing," by Roland Edward Martin, commissioned in celebration of Canon Williams's anniversary. You can listen to it at [spcathedral.org/worship-live-stream](https://www.spcathedral.org/worship-live-stream). Select the 10:30 p.m. service, and the anthem begins at 1:29:10. Photo by MICHELLE THOMAS

Nativity Fun Starts the Season Right

A sudden shower didn't spoil the fun December 3 when we put on our Live Nativity in partnership with St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Animals, costumes, photo opportunities, a saxophone

band, food trucks, crafts, carol singing — it was a great beginning to the holiday season.

Photos by JUDY STARK



Left, a local family dressed up in costumes at the manger.

Above, what's Christmas without a lamb?

Right, Tallulah Taylor is the star of the show.



You're Invited to Match Up with A Prayer Partner from Another Generation

A new ministry will start in the new year: inter-generational prayer partners.

Prayer offers an opportunity for people in all generations to simultaneously connect with God and with others. This is true whether you are in the presence of the person(s) you are praying for, or simply in prayer for them. The idea is to connect



people from different generations who might not normally interact.

If you are interested in being a prayer partner with a younger member of the Cathedral ... or if you are a parent of a child who might like a prayer partner ... or if you are involved in EYC or are a college student who might appreciate having a prayer partner ... please consider signing up at <http://www.spcathedral.org/prayer-partners> by January 21. We will then match those signing up as partners and start the program on February 4.

The only expectation is to pray for your partner and gather once a year at a prayer partner breakfast. But you and your prayer partner may come up with other ideas to stay in touch. You may want to touch base at Coffee Hour or meet your prayer partner to light a candle after Communion. Prayer partners might enjoy sharing a night of Messy Church. You might send each other cards at the start of each liturgical season of the Church year.

Questions? Please contact Susan Darrow at sdarrow99@me.com or co-coordinator Marilyn Vengroff at marilynengroff@gmail.com.



We will host
**DIOCESAN
ORDINATIONS**
at the Cathedral at
11 a.m. on Saturday,
January 20, when
Bishop Scharf will
ordain new deacons.
All are welcome at this
service. A reception
follows. If you'd
like to help, please
speak to Michelle
Thomas ([mthomas@
spcathedral.com](mailto:mthomas@spcathedral.com)).

Off We Went to Shuffle

It was a chilly night but the fellowship kept us warm December 7 when our parishioners met with those from First United Methodist Church and Mount Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

for an evening of shuffleboard at the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club. Who knew we were all such enthusiasts?

Photos by HILLARY PEETE



Above left, Meghann Wu and Susan Regan. Above right, Rich Rome, Katie Reynard of First United Methodist, and Marilyn Bonifer. Left, Kerry and Connor Carlisle and Kerry's mom, Ruth Young.

Around the Cathedral

20s40s Epiphany Party January 6

Join us for a festive party at 6 p.m. hosted by Rebecca and Jonathan Miller. There will be a chili cook-off, and everyone is invited to bring a white elephant gift for a gift exchange game. Child care provided. Contact Hillary Peete to RSVP (hpeete@spcathedral.com).



Pray, Meditate, and Connect Group Welcomes You

This faith-filled group gathers for an hour to share prayer concerns, 20 minutes of silent meditation, and a brief concluding prayer service. Our aim is to deepen our fellowship through prayer.

All are welcome, whether you have experience with silent meditation or are just curious. The group is co-led by Karen Payne-Taylor and Jannie Hume, who have

years of experience with silent meditation groups. You're in good hands!

We will meet from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on January 6 and 20 in the Chapter Room. For more information or to register your interest, please contact Karen Payne-Taylor at kpaynetaylor@outlook.com.

Cathedral Trivia Night Wednesday, January 17

All are invited to join us at Pinellas Ale Works (PAW) for a fun night with Cathedral friends. Trivia starts at 7 p.m. Please RSVP to Hillary Peete (hpeete@spcathedral.com) so we know how many seats to save. It would be great if we had enough people for two competing Cathedral teams! PAW is at 1962 First Ave. S, St. Petersburg.



January Transitions

Birthdays

1	David Hill	9	Todd Llewellyn
1	Hank Sharp	9	George Gramling
1	Timothy Wilmet	10	Maggie Burnsed
2	Anslee Long	10	Emily Fasan
2	Cameron Katzel	10	Leslie Bagli
2	Isabelle Sherry	12	Keeley Pape
4	Rick Knight	14	Betty Shamas
6	Lucy Bond	14	Edward Landers
7	Katelyn Hancock	15	Mark Campbell
7	Ellen Alexander	15	Jeff Werner
7	Banner Clark	16	Bethia Caffery
8	Sarah Howlett	16	Roberta Poellein
8	Mike Robbins	16	Caleb Knight
8	Fay Mackey	17	Ginny Rowell
9	Michael Lyons	17	Randy Ramsey

Anniversaries

1	Ben & Keeley Pape	13	Earl & Jean Beshears
7	Roger & Sydney Pine	21	Bob & Averill Summer
7	Michelle & Shawn Thomas	26	Tom Walker & Wil Laroche

19	Lacey Hodgson
19	Albert Edgemon
19	Iris Juarez
20	Alex Ramsey
21	James Parker
21	Scott Nye
22	Sarah McBride
23	Don Wright
24	Jillian Gairing
24	Madison Hancock
24	Marcel Cisneros Kotte
25	Jan Strimer
26	Marcy Arigo
26	James Knight
27	George Wilsey
27	Lillyanne Wain-Nye
28	Anita Shoby
28	Paul Bonneau
29	Laurel Greene
31	Lela Garnett
31	Averill Summer
31	Liz Snyder



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

**Fourth Sunday in January, February, and April,
5 p.m., Choral Evensong**

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

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

Crosstown is the online newsletter of the people of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter, published monthly for members, friends, and supporters. Editor, Judy Stark (JudyStark@yahoo.com), Associate Editor, Mary W. Matthews (MotherMary@extremelysmart.com). **Next deadline: January 15, 2024.**

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

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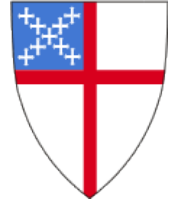
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Diocesan leadership:

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

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

Our clergy and senior staff:

The 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