

2023

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, SEATTLE

**ANNUAL REPORT
PRESENTED AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2024**



SPECIAL DAYS IN THE LIFE OF THE CATHEDRAL

[top row:] The Most Rev. Melissa Skelton, Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Olympia, presided at Cathedral Day, April 22, 2023; *The Pageant of the Nativity*, December 20, 2023.

[middle row:] St. Francis Celebration and Blessing of the Animals, October 7, 2023; Good Friday, April 7, 2023; Dean Steve Thomason at the Great Vigil of Easter, April 8, 2023.

[bottom row:] Ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests (one of three ordination liturgies celebrated at Saint Mark's in 2023), June 21, 2023.



FROM THE DEAN

*So, friends, everyday do something
that won't compute. Love the Lord.
Love the world. [...]
Love someone who does not deserve it. [...]
Ask the questions that have no answers.
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias...*

—from Wendell Berry's poem *Manifesto*



Wisdom and grace flow into the world and into our lives in such beautiful ways, often without our seeing it. This cathedral community exists to help us hone the senses of life so that we can better see, attend to, and delight in these divine gifts, and it is a joy to unfold to such blessings together. Now in my twelfth year as Dean, I am so grateful for the ways this cathedral embodies a charism of mutuality as we make our way. We are pilgrims making our way together. This spiritual journey is arduous at times, always edifying and the source of meaning, and formative in the ways it shapes every aspect of our lives, if we are really honest.

The pages that follow in this booklet bear witness to the ways we unfold to this journey; your lives bear witness to the ways God is working through you, and this community, for good. Bless you in it all! With courageous hope and faithfulness, we “plant sequoias,” as it were, trusting that God is stirring in our midst. We need not see the culminating fruit of our labor to know it as life-giving.

There is much described here for which to be thankful, and drawing inspiration from those who have written these reflections, I'd like to mention a few pieces here at a high level, while also encouraging you to read on...

1. **Worship and Music.** I delight in the work of liturgy at Saint Mark's, in all its manifestations: from chapel services to cathedral Eucharists and Evensong, to

services of Compline and Contemplative Prayer. Worship here lifts our spirits in profound ways and is central to all we do and are.

2. **Spiritual Formation.** The broad base of participants in the Wisdom School, founded in 2016, the Radix Project, founded in 2019, affinity groups, inter-generational ministries in their varied and delightful expressions, all testify to the vibrant life of the community and to the deep hunger for offerings that invite us deeper on the journey. Hybrid offerings extend the reach and accessibility of many offerings to people across the diocese, and across the world.
3. **Creation Care and Carbon Reduction.** This takes shape in so many ways—educationally, organically, and operationally. Since 2022 we have reduced our natural gas usage on the cathedral campus by 11% through a series of actions that move toward our goal of net-zero emissions by 2030.
4. **Restorative Justice and Systemic Change.** Following an organizing retreat with some 60 participants in September, Saint Mark's is taking seriously its commitment to action, contextualized with statements of lament and listening to voices all too often marginalized. Opportunities exist for every person in the community to find your entry points into this important work.

► The Great Vigil of
Easter, April 8, 2023



5. **Stewardship.** There is gratitude for the faithful generosity of the hundreds who support this cathedral and its ministry, while also recognizing that this year's pledge base is fairly flat, which in the face of inflation, means that some tough budget decisions are presenting in 2024. Nevertheless, we lean forward in faith that the Church is needed now as much as ever, and the growth in our attendance in worship and programs bears witness to this.
6. **Strategic Planning.** For most of 2023 the Vestry oversaw a process that plots a course of strategic initiatives, informed by grassroots input from hundreds of stakeholders. The plan that is taking shape will serve to guide us in our common life for the near term. I am grateful for all who have taken part.
7. **Telling our Stories.** We have good news to share, with one another and the world, and the stories of our lives and of our common life are critical in shaping the vocation of parish and cathedral. The warp and weft of such stories are woven through the communal descriptions that follow, and we are the richer for this contour.

Wendell Berry's poem *Manifesto* ends with an exhortation to "practice resurrection." In many ways, this is our core mission, to trust

that God is up to something in our midst, in our lives, even when the facts don't always compute. This community, in all its expressions, embodies such a trust. And so, I encourage you...

- ◆ *Practice presence in the midst of life and discover wisdom and grace there.*
- ◆ *Look for the beauty lithely gliding by you in this community.*
- ◆ *Celebrate the love that melts your heart.*
- ◆ *Look into the eyes of one whom you encounter on the cathedral close—the familiar friend or the stranger—either may be the Christ you need in that moment.*
- ◆ *Long for the peace which surpasses all human understanding.*
- ◆ *Trust that such peace rides on the long arc of the universe that bends toward justice and hitch a ride with it.*
- ◆ *Practice resurrection!*

I give thanks to God for you, and I offer you my heartfelt blessings and peace. I am,
Gratefully yours in Christ,

*The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason
Dean & Rector*

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Service on Vestry is an honor. I am grateful for the health and vitality of the Saint Mark's Vestry and for the opportunity to serve as Senior Warden this year. The Vestry is charged with the important work of supporting the operations of the Cathedral and providing leadership to realize its mission. We strive to serve at the intersection of organizational health and spiritual vitality. This year again I have known the Saint Mark's Vestry to be a cadre of committed followers of Jesus who bring their heads, hands and hearts to invest in this important work.

Each member brings their unique gifts and calling and commits to serve not only on Vestry but also as liaisons to the various committees and councils of the cathedral.

The core operations of Vestry—namely, finance, facilities, and stewardship—function through the leadership of our Junior Wardens: Greg Hamm, Scott Kovacs, and Chris Rigos. Each have brought their focused attention and affection for Saint Mark's.

We are indebted also to the faithful service of Chancellor Re Knack, Treasurer Lynne Cobb, and Clerk Barbara Erickson, all of whom give many hours of their professional skill and heartfelt commitment to Saint Mark's. Along with the Dean, clergy, and staff, we are grateful to serve this vibrant, Christian community.

Here are a few highlights from the year:

RESILIENT LEADERSHIP POST-PANDEMIC

Our work began at a day-long retreat, one week after the Annual Parish Meeting. The Vestry retreat last year had been on Zoom due to the pandemic, but this year we gathered in person. This is worth mentioning, because 2023 was marked by a desire to discern how we “do ministry” post-pandemic, a question that was explored in many

ways. While many churches have still not recovered from the COVID lockdown, Saint Mark's continues to thrive. At the same time, the journey to a “new normal” is not yet complete, and we were required to remain nimble and responsive, as we continued to move forward.

At the retreat, Dean Steve Thomason, in his role as Vestry Chair, focused our discernment with an insightful presentation and discussion titled *The Virtues of the Sustaining Church*. Steve skillfully reflected with us on the characteristics of “resilience in leadership” in a church context. As we continue to explore how our community does ministry in a post-pandemic world, this was a timely and relevant topic to consider.

HEALTHY COMMUNICATION IN COMMUNITY

Early in the year, a work group from Vestry was formed to name the values we strive to follow in communication within our community. The result of their work was a document naming twelve norms for healthy communication, which was then adopted by the Vestry. It is meant to inform both how we speak and how we listen, and we hope it can offer a way forward in the very polarized social and political environment in which we live. It is available for review on the Saint Mark's web page: saintmarks.org/vestryarchives

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Our Mutual Ministry Goals of **Creation Care and Carbon Reduction, Intergenerational and Innovative Community, and Restorative Justice and Systemic Change** continued to bring passion and purpose to guide our ministry. And yet it was also clear that it was time to listen more deeply to how life had changed post-pandemic—it was time to engage in a strategic planning process. To that end, the Vestry established



a Strategic Planning Team. I am grateful to Co-Chairs Alexandra Thompson and Emily Meeks, who coordinated the team's extensive process of strategic conversations with all ministry groups of the cathedral. The data gathered from those conversations, along with the All-Parish Survey and other data gathering activities, is informing a Strategic Plan that will guide us into the next 18–24 months. We anticipate the final plan to be adopted by the Vestry at its retreat on February 10, 2024, and to be shared with the parish shortly thereafter.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

Although the Vestry established the Affordable Housing Exploratory Committee in 2022, the bulk of the work to date was done in 2023. A huge thank you to all committee members, but especially Co-Chairs John Hoerster and Emily Meeks. No decision has been made. This is a complex endeavor that requires very careful, deliberate work. With that said, the Vestry now believes that affordable housing may be the highest and best mission-related use of the aging St. Nicholas building site. The exploratory committee was formed to test that idea, and to investigate the feasibility of such a project. In April 2023, after a careful vetting process, and on the committee's recommendation, the Vestry approved the engagement of an affordable housing consultant, Tory Laughlin Taylor, who is proving to be an excellent resource. She very ably is guiding our exploration. The other good news is that all expenses of the exploratory process to date have been paid from grants received from Enterprise Community Partners and Trinity Wall Street Church.

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE & CARBON REDUCTION

We continued to act to reduce our carbon use while addressing deferred maintenance. Some of the projects completed this year included replacing incandescent lights in the nave with LEDs, replacing eleven windows at the Deanery (begun in 2022), in-

stalling new roofs for Bloedel Hall and Leffler House, and replacing the dishwasher in Bloedel kitchen. The installation of a new heat-pump HVAC system in Thomsen Chapel is ongoing.

REMAIN NIMBLE IN CHANGE

An example of “resilience in leadership” is to discern the lifecycle of a particular ministry and re-vision the use of resources. This year, after careful discernment, a decision was made not to renew the Seattle Service Corps ministry with a new cohort. In June, we celebrated both the service of the 2022/23 cohort, along with the seven years of the Seattle Service Corps at Saint Mark's. Malcom McLaurin, the first Service Corps Director at Saint Mark's, returned to help honor and celebrate this good work.

The departure of the Service Corps opened the possibility of re-visioning the use of Leffler and Carriage House as a **Center for Spirituality and Action**. Building on the good fruit of the Saint Mark's Wisdom School, a vision was formulated for a non-residential, intentional contemplative community that also looks outward in actions of restorative justice. Just as this vision was being formed, the cathedral was approached by Lambert House looking for a place to call home for up to three years, while their Capitol Hill headquarters is undergoing remodeling. Lambert House is a 43-year-old, Seattle-based non-profit with a national prominence, dedicated to supporting LGBTQ+ youth. The Carriage House will be the location of their offices and most of their activities. We envision a productive relationship between Lambert House and the Center for Spirituality and Action.

These are highlights that provide evidence of the vibrant life in our Cathedral community. I am so grateful to serve with you. We may not have yet achieved our “new normal” post-pandemic, but we have witnessed that we are a resilient people. There is still much to do. The more we do together, the more we do to the glory of God.

—R. Scott Hulet



FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Borrowing words from Senior Warden Scott Hulett, the Facilities Committee has been “stewarding Saint Mark’s buildings for the work of Christ in the world.” Our hope is that by attending to the details of the care of our buildings and grounds, we make possible our worship, our response to the call to be a presence of the Gospel in the world, and the cathedral’s role as a place of prayer and hospitality for all people. Ever with a mindful eye toward our Mutual Ministry Goals, the committee regularly discerns how our decisions impact the environment, our intergenerational community, and our work of justice. This year, the committee focused on our safety preparedness, including placing earthquake and other strategic supplies in the cathedral, coordinating safety training for the congregation and

staff, and updating the cathedral’s Emergency Response Plan. We also supported the Dean, Wardens, and staff as they plan upcoming renovations to Bloedel Hall and the continuing repair and maintenance of the St. Nicholas Building, Leffler House, and the Deanery. In addition to taking on long-standing deferred maintenance projects, there have been proactive efforts to get ahead of our list, scheduling projects to be completed before they are needed on an emergency basis. We owe a great deal of thanks to our property management team from Windermere, who have helped us streamline and economize the repair and maintenance of our buildings. None of this is possible without Erik Donner and Chris Brown, who administrate and support our day-to-day operations with care and joy.

—Scott Kovacs

▲ The cathedral’s newest Pride flag, June 4, 2023.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY



The 2023 Stewardship Committee, as head of the Saint Mark's Stewardship Ministry, began its work in April 2023 and completed the annual campaign with the in-gathering in November 2023. We honor and celebrate all those who made contributions in time, talent, and treasure, whose generosity was critical for a successful 2024.

The committee began its work reflecting on spiritual pilgrimage, a journey of transformation in which each person is called to greater realization of God's beloved community. As we begin our pilgrimage of stewardship, we do so in faith, trusting that God provides everything we need for our journey. Based on this truth, the committee chose as theme for 2024 year "*Pilgrims Together—Moving Forward in Faith.*"

Artwork was chosen to illustrate the theme that grateful stewardship is an integral part of our spiritual pilgrimage. Photos of parish pilgrimages from Scotland, the Holy Land, our Saint Mark's labyrinth, and parish processions from Palm Sunday 2023 were chosen to illustrate the broad scope of pilgrimage. Other work included updating some of the language used in past parish stewardship campaigns to make it more inclusive, relevant, and welcoming to all.

Each member of the Stewardship Committee contributed to a series of five written "Gratitude Conversations" in the Cathedral Newsletter, offering personal insights into the meaning of stewardship, gratitude, and sharing our bounty with others. Many thanks for all the hard work of the com-



mittee members, including Vestry member Wayne Duncan, Vestry member Peter Snyder, Amanda Davis, Greg Simon, and Junior Warden Chris Rigos.

Each year during the annual campaign, a series of speakers share their personal reflections on the cathedral, its ministries, and the importance of stewardship, either on video or during the Sunday morning worship services. In 2023 we were thrilled to share reflections from Dean Steve Thomason, Senior Warden Scott Hulet, Vestry member Greg Simon, Clara Berg, Elizabeth Clark-Stern, Lynne Cobb, Kate Halamay, Connor Harrison, Sam and Anneka Herring, Rob and Penny Reid, and Don and Katie Sutkus. Young and old, families and single people, long-time members and relative newcomers—all wove a tapestry of gratitude for Saint Mark's, its ministries, parishioners, and staff. Thank you to all who participated in the 2024 Stewardship Campaign!

—Chris Rigos



◀ The Seattle Martin Luther King, Jr. Day March and Rally, January 15, 2024.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COUNCIL

This year, the Restorative Justice Council wholeheartedly committed to re-visioning our work together. On September 9, over 60 Saint Mark's parishioners gathered for a day-long retreat, coming together with deep gratitude for the long history of striving for justice at and through Saint Mark's, along with the desire to set a vision for our continued action. Dean Steve Thomason focused our attention with this definition: *"Restorative justice is an approach to justice work that seeks to repair harm by providing an opportunity for those harmed and those who take responsibility for the harm to communicate about and address their needs in light of the injustice."*

The Saint Mark's *Statement of Lament and Commitment to Action* gives voice to this longing to heal the hurts of injustice, and

the Restorative Justice Council seeks to integrate the intent of this Statement into our parish life—to inspire, equip, and empower the members of this community to strive for justice, whether by participating in a ministry of the cathedral, or within their family, neighborhood, or workplace. We have come to acknowledge that the Statement, when engaged with prayerfully, is a means the Spirit is using to call us to action.

Work groups are forming around shared interests and calling. These include: Duwamish Tribe Relationship, Racial Justice, Refugees and Immigrants, Creation Care, Homelessness/Hunger Relief, and LGBTQ+ Justice. There is movement of the Spirit among us in the pursuit of justice. It is experienced in a longing, not just to do for others, but to be in relationship with others.

► This photo of the moon rising behind the cathedral just as the sun was setting in front of the cathedral was taken by artist Billy Joe Miller, billyjoemiller.com, and shared on Instagram. (used with permission)



It is experienced in a longing, not just to care for our planet, but to be in relationship with our planet and all who live together on it. It is a longing for the Kingdom of God, “on earth as it is in Heaven.”

—*Scott Hulet*

DUWAMISH WORK GROUP

Saint Mark's Cathedral has had, in its recent history, a strong desire to work with and alongside the Duwamish Tribe. This has led to participation in the Duwamish “Real Rent” Program, where financial contributions to the Tribe are understood to be not donations but an appropriate reimbursement for our presence on what was and is Duwamish land. We underscore our respect for the Duwamish with a Land Acknowledgement—a reminder that those of us who are non-Native remain guests on their ancestral lands—which is spoken at the beginning of cathedral liturgies, forums, committee meetings, and other gatherings.

Members of the parish have extended this connection by paying into the Real Rent program as individuals, visiting the Duwamish Longhouse, and volunteering at or simply showing up to tribal events. The Work Group had a very rich conversation with the Rev. Rachel Tabor-Hamilton, herself a First Nations person, who encouraged our work and gave helpful guidance and support. In 2024, we look forward to renewing our support for the work of the Duwamish Tribe and others on the Duwamish River cleanup project.

—*Doug Thorpe*

RACIAL JUSTICE WORK GROUP

The newly-formed Racial Justice Affinity Group of Saint Mark's Cathedral seeks to deepen our understanding of systemic racism through learning and prayer, to build relationships and advocate for racial justice. We recently joined the Seattle MLK Day March to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of beloved community.

—*Liz Shea & Scott Hulet*

THRESHOLD FUND 2023 REPORT

The Threshold Fund was established in 2018 by St. Mark's Cathedral Parish to assist families and individuals in accessing safe and secure housing. In 2023, the Threshold Fund served **25** families with a total of **\$35,686.57** distributed through our partner agency, Catholic Community Services (CCS). Here are three brief testimonials:

JS was referred by Vine Maple Place in Maple Valley, which works with single mothers. Using the Threshold Fund resource, CCS helped JS and her young son move into an apartment after being homeless for several months. JS was working two jobs, one in a local school, but didn't have funds to pay all the move-in costs associated with a new rental. Thanks to the Threshold Fund, this mother and child are safely housed and thriving.

SH is a single male who was living in a CCS shelter for single adults. After a long wait, he was accepted into a permanent supported housing program with Plymouth Housing. SH needed only \$102 in order to obtain this permanent housing opportunity. Thanks to the Threshold Fund, he is now stably housed with a program that will continue to provide case management for him long term.

CC and her three children were living in a hotel with a voucher due to fleeing domestic violence. The family was supported by the CCS Family Behavior Health team who worked with them to find safe, stable housing. With the assistance of funds from Threshold, this family is now safely housed and receiving continuing care with behavior health providers to help recover from the trauma of the domestic violence.

Since its inception, Saint Mark's Threshold Fund has provided \$127,283 in support of 152 families. To learn more about the Threshold Fund, or to make a donation to support this ministry in 2024, go to saintmarks.org/threshold

—Dean Steve Thomason





INTERGENERATIONAL COUNCIL

In 2023, the Intergenerational Council committed to exploring how “intergenerational” can be understood in the context of church communities, beginning with how it differs from being “multigenerational” and “cross-generational.” Fortunately, the Uniting Church in Australia has developed a set of resource papers to guide us! Our current focus is on developing and nurturing relationships across generations, as we’ve learned that relationships are the starting point from which fully intergenerational ministries will grow and thrive.

Intergenerational service activities at the Sunday 10:10 a.m. hour included making bean soup mix on MLK Sunday to be given to two local food pantries and assembling “care packets” to be given to cathedral visitors in need of basic supplies due to homelessness or other reasons.

The council sponsored a “Not-So-Quiet Day,” inviting all ages to share in a variety of spiritual practices: body, prayer, yoga, drumming, paperless music, and collage.

Noticing and celebrating the holy in nature is something deeply valuable for all ages, and it was a recurring theme for the council in 2023. We collaborated with the Creation Care Ministry on several forums, such as the ever-popular annual Blessing of the Beehives and a tour of the Greenbelt with Urban Forest Ranger Robert Hayden. In July, a group of hikers ranging in age from 4 to 86 spent a glorious day at Mount Rainier National Park. We also sponsored a bike ride to Alki Beach, which happily coincided with the launch of the “Paddle to Muckleshoot” canoe voyage, a gathering of indigenous people from across the Pacific Northwest and beyond. A group gathered for a beautiful evening picnic with lawn

bowling at the Jefferson Park Lawn Bowling Club. A special invitation extended to the Choir School made for a lively all-ages ferry ride and hike to see Pia the Peacekeeper on Bainbridge Island (one of several troll sculptures now inhabiting the greater Seattle area).

Saint Mark’s own summertime intergenerational program of scripture study, creative activities, and meals and worship together, *Eat! Play! Love!*, took place over a single weekend in August and centered on three “Kingdom Parables” of Jesus. It employed the Godly Play tellings of the parables of the Mustard Seed, the Leaven, and the Pearl, along with insights from the book *Short Stories by Jesus: Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi* by New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine. The participants concluded the weekend by preparing and hosting a Sunday night dinner for our guests from Tent City 3.

In the fall of 2023, we began the program year with a Friday evening parish picnic on the lawn, featuring a blessing of backpacks and briefcases. The turnout to this picnic was so great that we plan to move this event to a Sunday afternoon after church in the fall of 2024.

A final highlight of the year was the highly collaborative Alternative Gifts Market in December, organized by Canon Stahlecker and with the participation of multiple ministry groups. We look forward to developing this event further, with even more ministry groups involved, this coming holiday season.

The Intergenerational Council is looking forward to our collective work in 2024, guided by the exciting opportunities and recommendations in the forthcoming Strategic Plan.

◀ [previous page, top row:] Welcoming the newly baptized on the Feast of Pentecost, May 28, 2023; Saint Mark’s confirmands at Cathedral Day, April 22, 2023. [second row:] Lenten Lake Plunge, April 1, 2023; the Intergenerational Hike in Mt. Rainier National Park, July 22, 2023. [third row:] the excursion to Alki, July 30, 2023; one of the canoes at the launch the “Paddle to Muckleshoot” event, which coincided with the Alki meet-up; [bottom row:] Lawn Bowling and Picnic event, August 4, 2023; Hike to the Bainbridge Troll, November 10, 2023.

—Canon Wendy Claire Barrie

AFFORDABLE HOUSING EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

Saint Mark's Cathedral is exploring the redevelopment of the St. Nicholas property for affordable housing as a key strategy in the broader vision of the Cathedral's mission and purpose to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

The Affordable Housing Exploratory (AHE) Committee made key strides this year, in response to the Vestry's September 2022 charge to explore and, if feasible, pursue an affordable housing redevelopment on the St. Nicholas site. With the concurrence of the Vestry, the process has now moved forward to a formal feasibility phase. This process has been guided by a highly skilled development consultant, Tory Laughlin Taylor, along with Dean Steve Thomason, Co-Chairs John Hoerster and Emily Meeks, and the members of the AHE Committee.

Key project milestones in 2023 include:

- ♦ completing initial exploration and feasibility studies, including working with consultants for initial massing scenarios, boundary and topography study, geotech engineering and structural assessments, cost modeling, Phase I environmental study, and sustainability planning.
- ♦ engaging parishioners and the broader community with two parish forums, a neighborhood mailing, website content, and video development.
- ♦ offsetting pre-development costs with grants from Enterprise Community Partners (\$35,000) and Trinity Church Wall Street (\$100,000, with invitation to apply for renewal grant of \$150,000).



► Drone photo of the St. Nicholas building and the cathedral by Brian Smale.

Looking ahead into 2024, the Committee will focus on:

- ♦ understanding how much and what type of housing can be accommodated on the site, and what opportunities may arise for Saint Mark's to engage the residents.
- ♦ determining whether the original building on the St. Nicholas site should undergo historic rehabilitation, be preserved in part, or be demolished.
- ♦ assessing and testing the financial feasibility of redeveloping the St. Nicholas site for affordable housing based on cost modeling.
- ♦ engaging legal representation, and refining the priorities that should guide selection of an appropriate development partner to realize Saint Mark's vision for the potential project.

In it all, the project is guided by the Cathedral's mission to serve Christ in all persons and is informed by Saint Mark's Mutual Ministry Goals:

- ♦ **Restorative Justice & Systemic Change:** It is a foundational human need to have a secure and safe place to call home.
- ♦ **Intergenerational & Innovative Community:** Communities thrive with the opportunity and space for all ages to gather and interact.
- ♦ **Creation Care & Carbon Reduction:** Caring for and stewarding campus buildings and property to minimize carbon impact is a commitment Saint Mark's takes seriously.

Stay updated on the project's progress at: saintmarks.org/affordablehousing

—Emily Meeks & John Hoerster



◀ One of three engagement activities offered by the Strategic Planning in the nave on Sunday mornings was an invitation to parishioners to share pictures, photos or poems about the spiritual practices that they find to be sources of transformation, November 19-26, 2023.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

In April 2023, the Vestry recommended convening a committee to develop a new Strategic Plan for the next 18–24 months, as Saint Mark’s envisions ways of being Church in a post-pandemic world. The Strategic Planning Committee launched in July 2023 and engaged the parish and cathedral community for input. Over the course of five months, the committee gathered data and input in a variety of ways, including interviews with over 70 ministry groups, three engagement activities in between services, and an All-Parish Survey.

The Committee approached this work through the lens of **transformation**, using a model adapted from the College of Congregational Development called *Sources of Transformation*. One of Saint Mark’s guiding principles is “transform”—meaning that we seek to be transformed by the love of Christ and to share this love generously with others. Transformation is the opposite

of “conforming.” It invites each of us to respond to God’s presence in our lives and in our community in ways that are continually renewed, as we seek to follow Jesus Christ.

A parish forum on January 31, 2024, introduced learnings and themes to the parish before the Committee presents the plan at the Vestry Retreat on February 10. Pending Vestry approval, the plan will then be shared with the parish. This collective work is integral to the ways we envision the Cathedral serving as a house of prayer, beacon of hope, and a sacred community engaged in justice and peace in a post-pandemic world.

2023 Strategic Planning Committee members: Seyi Akanni, Canon Wendy Claire Barrie, Elli Howard, Scott Hulet, Canon Michael Kleinschmidt, Julia Logan, Kathy Minsch, Emily Meeks (Co-Chair), Michael Perera, The Rev. Canon Linzi Stahlecker, Dean Steve Thomason, Alexandra Thompson (Co-Chair) and Doug Thorpe

—Emily Meeks & Alexandra Thompson

CREATION CARE MINISTRY

The Creation Care Ministry of Saint Mark's Cathedral strives to help our Saint Mark's community to understand the deep connection between the care for creation and our faith, to overcome our fears about the climate crisis, and to see hope for action. We look for ways to connect the importance of creation care to other social justice issues and to collaborate with other cathedral ministries in this work. We remain committed to the goal of achieving a net-zero carbon footprint—for both the cathedral campus itself and for the congregation as a whole—by 2030.

In 2023, our ministry continued the work already in progress, in addition to launching a few new initiatives, particularly in the areas of raising awareness/education, communication/collaboration, reflections and connections, advocacy, and carbon reduction of the cathedral building.

RAISING AWARENESS & EDUCATION

Throughout the year, we hosted monthly *Climate Conversations* on Zoom about topics ranging from food and fashion, to renewable energy and recycling, to local

advocacy and state legislation. These discussions were attended by many people outside of Saint Mark's and continue to provide valuable information, insight, and discussion.

The Creation Care Ministry produces a quarterly newsletter, with great information and resources.

We initiated a Story Sharing Project, encouraging people to talk about the actions they are taking to reduce their carbon footprint. Watch for more of these stories in 2024. We updated our main fact sheet and created a new document with tips and spiritual practices. The Fall edition of *The Rubric* featured an article on our activities plus the many carbon reduction projects in the Cathedral buildings.

In November, Tyler Morse and Rebekah Gilmore were our hosts for a well-attended visit to Brier Patch Farm to learn about the importance of local organic farming.

We continue to encourage the Saint Mark's Community to make use of the Carbon Offset Fund on Saint Mark's giving page. Funds contributed here are passed through directly to the Carbon Offset Cooperative Mission with the Diocese of Southern Philippines and COTAP.org. In 2023, over \$3,000 was donated to these programs, facilitating tree planting and farm projects in other parts of the world and representing the offset of over 200 tons of carbon.

COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

The Creation Care Ministry publicizes many of its events throughout the Diocese, and had maintained our longstanding relationship with Earth Ministry/WAIP. We partnered with St. James Catholic Cathedral for a Taizé service and look forward to future collaborations with other churches in the future.



In October, many in the Creation Care Ministry participated in events related to a visit from Bishop Ernie Moral of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Philippines. This gave us a greater appreciation of how climate change is affecting people in another part of the world. We heard about the actions taken by the people of the southern Philippines and saw how our donations are supporting the planting of trees there. Several of us also attended workshops at the diocesan gathering Convene, a wonderful day spent in community with others throughout the Diocese of Olympia.

REFLECTIONS & CONNECTIONS

In March, the Ministry gathered for a second retreat to brainstorm and consider future activities. One outcome was the addition of reflections at the beginning of our monthly meetings. We hosted three Sunday forums: *Earth & Spirit* forum with Gordon Miller in March, sharing from his book *Wisdom of the Earth* and other writings; *Finding Hope in the World of Climate Change* in October, led by Elizabeth Clark-Stern, which many found inspiring and uplifting; and, in December, *A Winter Solstice Poetry Reading*, led by Professor Doug Thorpe, a quiet time during the busy holiday season.

ADVOCACY

Our Legislative Advocacy group monitored, tracked, and commented on many bills relating to climate, environmental restoration and protection, and environmental justice during the six-month 2023 state legislative session.

CARBON REDUCTION IN THE CATHEDRAL BUILDINGS

The City of Seattle invited Saint Mark's to participate in the City of Seattle's Clean Buildings Accelerator Program, along with other non-profits and religious institutions. At the request of the Dean, a small team from the Creation Care Ministry participated with cathedral staff in four workshops in the fall of 2023 to learn about city and state



requirements for emissions reductions in existing buildings, with submission of an energy plan and operations and maintenance manual due by July 2026. Fortunately, Saint Mark's is already on its way to compliance through previous efforts to reduce its carbon footprint, but much work remains to be done.

THE SAINT MARK'S GREENBELT

After a long hiatus due to the pandemic, we renewed our partnership with the Saint Mark's Greenbelt's two long-time forest stewards, resulting in two well-attended tours—one on Cathedral Day and one at a Sunday morning forum in September—and four work parties in the fall. A group of parishioners joined with local community members in removing invasive plants in preparation for plantings in the spring. Creation Care member Guy Oram is our liaison to the Greenbelt program.

The Creation Care Ministry meets on the third Tuesday evening of every month, from 7–8:30 p.m. Go to saintmarks.org/creation for more information and resources from past events. If you are interested in learning more about the work of this ministry, please contact co-chairs Marjorie Ringness or Kathy Minsch at creationcare@saintmarks.org

—Kathy Minsch & Marjorie Ringness

▲ Forest Steward Robert Hayden led a tour of the Saint Mark's Greenbelt tour on September 17, 2023.

BEEKEEPING MINISTRY

At the beginning of the year we had two hives on the roof of Bloedel Hall. As the weather got colder, the bee population decreased. I installed foam insulation around the outside of the hives but we eventually lost both hives. Along with beekeepers around the world, we are having difficulty with infestations of the parasitic varroa mites. We also may be affected by pesticides. Even though we lost both hives, the bees left an accumulation of honey. Participants in the *Eat! Play! Love!* event at Saint Mark's assisted in the extraction of the honey, and we sold 60 bottles at \$10 each at the Alternative Gift Market on December 3.

Because of needed repairs to the Bloedel roof, we moved our empty hives to the back of Leffler House. We ordered and installed two "nucs" (a box of approximately 10,000 bees plus a mated queen). The hives were installed behind the Leffler apartment at the edge of the Greenbelt. The bees appeared to be thriving in one hive, but the second hive

▼ Blessing of the
Beehives, June 4, 2024



lost their queen and was not successful in generating a new one. When the downstairs apartment of Leffler was going to be occupied, we had to move the second hive up to the Leffler garden area. Moving the hive is stressful to the bees. Although I installed insulation around the hive, we are not sure whether they have been able to cluster and generate heat to survive the winter, or if the hive is now empty. We don't want to open the hive until the temperature gets greater than 55 degrees, but once we get a warm spell, we will check on them. If necessary, we can use money from selling honey to buy more bees this spring.

—Rob Reid

GARDEN MINISTRY

The Saint Mark's Cathedral Garden Volunteers were organized about twenty-five years ago, and have been caring for the Great Lawn of the cathedral ever since. We meet the second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. to noon, February through November.

The Garden committee was busy during 2023. An irrigation system for the perimeter flower beds was installed. The hedge around the labyrinth has been replaced with daffodils and heath, and beds were mulched using chipped trees from the St. Nicholas property and a "free chips" program. We are exploring ways to better use our abundance of fallen leaves. As we plant, we need to be mindful of the likes and dislikes of rabbits who live in the garden, now joined by deer! The front lawn area continues to evolve, with tree planting and development of conversation areas. Our ongoing work involves the very basics of good gardening: weeding, pruning, watering. The result of these routine chores is the beauty that we see through each season of the year.

We welcome all to join us, green thumb or not. Just bring your gloves and a water bottle. We have extra tools. And there are always fresh cookies to enjoy!

—Norva Osborn & Kathy Sodergren

SAINT MARK'S MEALS MINISTRY

During 2023, the Saint Mark's Cathedral Meals Ministry expanded all its meals programs with new volunteers and increased opportunities to serve hungry neighbors. We continued to provide a monthly hot dinners to the 54 residents of the St. Martin de Porres Shelter on Alaskan Way South in Seattle. Ministry volunteers also served seven dinners at Teen Feed (an organization serving homeless teenagers in the U District), and helped to cook and serve monthly breakfasts to the guests at First Covenant Church, our neighbor on Capitol Hill. While Tent City 3 was in residence at the cathedral, from June until September, we prepared a hot Sunday night dinner for the residents every week. The volunteers joined the Tent City residents at the meal.

The growth of these cathedral meals during 2023 required flexibility and patience on all ministry volunteers and supporters. In particular, the weekly Tent City 3 dinners grew the ministry to over 75 participants. New volunteers of all ages joined in to prepare quality, sit-down meals, and a chance to chat with guests. Special groups “adopted” a Sunday night to cook, serve, and clean up—many thanks to the members of the Vestry, the Creation Care Ministry, Queer in Christ, and the intergenerational participants of *Eat! Play! Love!*

Special thanks are owed to the members of the Meals Ministry coordinating team who planned, purchased supplies, cooked, transported, served, and conversed with our guests in all these programs. Maris Olsen, Deborah Person, Marc Aubertin, Connor Harrison, Barbara Erickson, and Chris Rigos provided leadership and teaching with plenty of smiles and laughter.

The ministry is most grateful for the commitment of the cathedral by providing funding and caring oversight from clergy and staff. The cathedral Meals Ministry ended 2023 under its allotted budget, the result of careful menu planning and whole-



sale purchasing. In 2024, we see the ministry continuing to expand, especially as new programs request our help and provide us new opportunities to serve.

—Chris Rigos

▲ Preparing and serving meals for Tent City 3 (photos by Barbara Erickson)

HUNGER OFFERING

On the second Sunday of each month a special offering is collected to support several food programs in the Seattle area. In 2023, over \$11,000 was collected, and the funds were divided between Ballard Food Bank, Lifelong AIDS Alliance, Pike Market Food Bank, Immanuel Community Services, The Food Bank@St. Mary's, and St. Brigid's Banquet. The Hunger Ministry CAN USE MORE HELPERS to staff our monthly table! Greet passersby and help count funds prior to deposit. Contact Vicky Greenbaum to learn more or to get involved: vgreenbaum1@gmail.com

—Vicky Greenbaum

The Spring 2023
Mideast Focus
Film Series—
***Break the
Silence: Stories
of Occupation***

My Tree
a young Jewish
Canadian
confronts difficult
truths (2021)

**Inside Israeli
Apartheid**
a documentary
exploring the
legal concept
of apartheid, as
applied to Israel/
Palestine (2022)

Tantura
the story of the
struggle to reveal
the truth of a 1948
massacre (2022)

**H2: The
Occupation Lab**
The city of Hebron
as a test site for
new methods of
surveillance and
control (2022)

The First 54 Years
exploring how
occupations works,
through interviews
with Israeli soldiers
(2021)

Boycott
a documentary
about Americans
punished for their
support of justice
in Palestine (2021)



**SAINT MARK'S MIDEAST FOCUS
MINISTRY**

The main news regarding Saint Mark's Mideast Focus Ministry (MEFM) is our decision to merge this cathedral ministry with the Diocese of Olympia's **Bishop's Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land** (the "Bishop's Committee"). Beginning in 2024, programs of education for peace and justice in the Middle East will be presented at the cathedral under the auspices of the Bishop's Committee.

The cathedral's ministry began in the 1980s, led by clergy and laypeople with experience in and concern for the political strife preventing peaceful relations among the inhabitants of Israel-Palestine. Local and national programs for educating the general American public flourished for 40+ years under this ministry's leadership.

In 2000, the Bishop's Committee was formed to carry out a mission very similar to the cathedral's MEFM, but with closer connections to other Episcopal parishes throughout the Diocese of Olympia. The Bishop's Committee has sponsored position statements on Middle East peace and justice that have been adopted by Diocesan and National Church Conventions. In recent years, MEFM and the Bishop's Com-

mittee have jointly sponsored various programs, and several volunteers serve with both ministries.

The Vestry has approved MEFM's request to consolidate our ministry with the Bishop's Committee. We anticipate that the combined ministry will continue to offer local, regional and national educational programs focusing upon the Christian perspective regarding peace and justice in the Middle East, including the popular Film Series each spring. With the recent hostilities in Gaza that began October 7, 2023, we anticipate increased interest among Americans needing to understand the complex history of Israel-Palestine and the Middle East.

MEFM programs in 2023 included:

- ◆ **January 26:** Gaza Mental Health Foundation and MEFM presented Yasser Abu Jamei, M.D., Director-General of Gaza Community Mental Health Programs
- ◆ **April 22:** A presence at Cathedral Day at Saint Mark's
- ◆ **May 20:** Miko Peled, author of *The General's Son*, co-presented with Maya Garner and the Amnesty International Campaign for Palestinian Human Rights—Pacific NW (pictured above)
- ◆ **September 9:** Bill Plitt, founder and long-

time leader of Friends of Tent of Nations North America, was featured at a gathering in Diocesan House, co-sponsored by the Bishop's Committee

◆ **September 10:** A table at Saint Mark's Ministry Fair

As in past years, unused funds from our annual Vestry budget are directed on behalf of Saint Mark's to programs working for peace and justice, this year including: Churches for Middle East Peace, American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, Friends of Tent of Nations North America, Kairos USA, Kairos Puget Sound Coalition, and Friends of Sabeel North America.

—Doug Thorpe & Steve Moen

LOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Saint Mark's found many opportunities throughout the year to support and engage with teachers and students at Lowell Elementary School, our neighbors on Capitol Hill. In the spring, volunteers participated in a gardening and cooking project with the 4th/5th graders. Members of the congregation took the lead in making special things happen throughout Teacher Appreciation Week in May, including baked goods for a special coffee break, notes of appreciation and flowers for faculty and staff, and a catered taco bar lunch. This fall, we were once again able to provide grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving, and we met an urgent request for new socks and underwear. The Alternative Gift Market and Giving Tree were additional ways we could answer Christmas wishes of Lowell children. Cherie Bradshaw, Carol and John Hoerster, and George Fennel are the dedicated leaders of this ministry.

—Cherie Bradshaw

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

In 2023, Saint Mark's members have been working to resettle an Afghan family with two small children. The refugee ministry

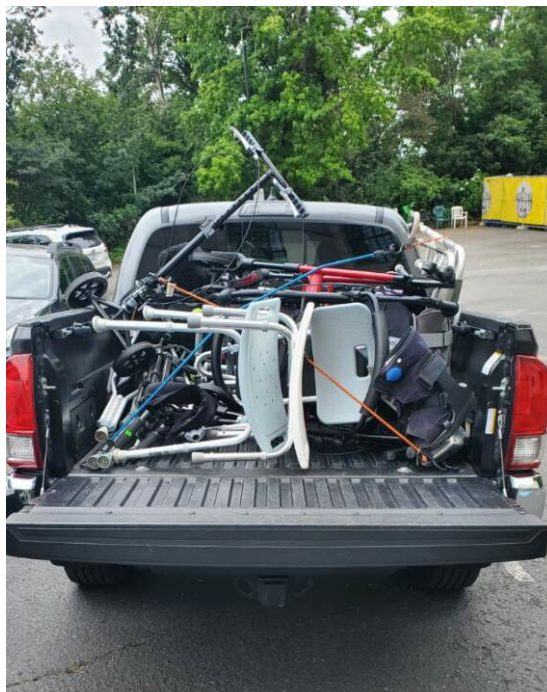
"group" is very ad hoc, rising to assist as the family identifies needs. They currently are in their own two-bedroom apartment. Dad is now employed, and mom is working on English and law credentials, as well as her driver's license. The challenges are mainly financial as their costs rise and assistance reduces.

—Kathy Sodergren

MEDICAL SUPPLY CLOSET

Last July, SCM Medical Missions, which works to provide humanitarian and medical assistance to people affected by conflict and natural disaster in the Middle East, collected most of the contents of our medical supply closet. As we were overloaded, we were delighted to contribute to their container, which was shipped to Lebanon. The supplies will stock their free medical and dental clinic which serve Syrian refugees and the disadvantaged. Thank you to all who have contributed equipment and supplies. We are pleased to accept donations of medical equipment that is clean and in good working condition. To make a donation, contact Nancy Cleminshaw.

—Nancy Cleminshaw



◀ [previous page] On October 10, 2023, in light of the violence and atrocities in Israel and Gaza, the nave was open and available all day for meditation and prayers for peace and an end to violence, war, and suffering in the Holy Land.

▲ [above] The day also included a livestreamed service of Noonday Prayer, officiated by Bishop Provisional Melissa Skelton.

◀ The donation from the Medical Supply Closet, packed for delivery to SCM Medical Missions (photo by Nancy Cleminshaw)

QUILT MINISTRY

The Quilt Ministry continued to meet monthly to sew and tie quilts that can be given to parishioners during illness and transitions, and to departing clergy and parish families as a blessing and farewell. Families welcoming newborns received colorful flannel blankets for the babies—and often for their slightly older siblings as well. In the fall of 2023, we responded to a request from the Mission to Seafarers to sew cloth ditty bags to hold toiletries and other small gifts for Christmas. In December, we participated in the first Alternative Gift Market with baby blankets to sell and a quilt to raffle.

In 2024 we will continue to sew quilts, baby blankets, and ditty bags throughout the year. A new project will be to sew docu-

ment pouches—sturdy pouches can be worn close to the body to protect items of value—which Operation Night Watch will distribute to unsheltered persons.

A treasured part of our time together was sharing a potluck meal as we discussed the news of the day, shared stories, and occasionally offered one another advice. We laughed heartily and often.

A big change for next year is our move from Carriage House back to Cathedral House Room 210. Our meeting time remains unchanged: the third Thursday of the month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All of our projects have essential tasks that can be accomplished by people who “don’t sew.” Please don’t let a lack of skill keep you from seeking out this lively and welcoming ministry! Email quilting@saintmarks.org to contact ministry co-leaders Julia Logan, Sue Tierney and Sandra Piscitello

Given during 2023:

Quilts 3
 Infant/Sibling Blankets . . . 28
 Ditty Bags 126

—Sandra Piscitello

THE MINISTRY OF WORSTED WOOL

The Ministry of Worsted Wool is a ministry of faith enrichment as your knitting and crocheting talents contribute to our parish and the wider community. Our emphasis has been on the creation of handmade watch caps to be included in the “ditty bags” distributed at Christmastime by the Mission to Seafarers, and baby blankets given to families served by the Refugee Resettlement Office of the Diocese of Olympia. In 2023, we added a new dimension—prayer shawls to bring comfort to those in need.

We gather on the first Friday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us! Drop-ins and all skill levels are welcome.

—Barbara Erickson

▼ Julia Cooper, Director of Operations of the Seattle Seafarers’ Center, examines watch caps made by the Ministry of Worsted Wool at the ditty bag making forum on November 12, 2023.





FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY FORUM

In 2023, the Sunday morning forums at 10:10 a.m. included enlightening conversations as part of Dean Thomason's "Friends Talking" series, whose guests were Canon Carla Robinson, Phil Cousineau, Canon Britt Olson, and two remarkable visits, one in person in July and one on Zoom in December, with Father Fadi Diab of St. Andrew's Church in Ramallah, Palestine.

Other offerings in the Sunday morning time slot included *Planning Your Funeral as a Lenten Spiritual Practice* with Dean Steve, a walk through the Greenbelt with Urban Forest Steward Robert Hayden, and a forum on "spiritual companionship," about the experience of sponsoring someone for Baptism, Confirmation, or Reception into the Episcopal Church. There were important opportunities to learn about the possibility of affordable housing on our campus and to participate in the creation of a new strategic plan. The community also benefitted from parishioners sharing their passions, such as Julia Cooper talking about the Mission to Seafarers, and Doug Thorpe offering poetry of the season near the winter solstice.

We have returned to the delicious tradition of offering snacks at Coffee Hour hosted by different ministry groups following the services on the last Sunday of the month. The 2023 Sunday forums were largely in-person only, though some, like the conversation with Fr. Diab or the forum on Baptism/Confirmation sponsors, were recorded and can be watched on demand.

—Wendy Claire Barrie

CATHEDRAL COMMONS

The Wednesday evening programs in 2023 were rich and varied. Dean Steve launched the Wisdom School theme of *A Spirituality of Place* and offered insights and scholarship on the Letters of Paul. Longtime friend of the cathedral Killian Noe of Recovery Café was our guest in January and again in November. Parishioners offered their wisdom and gifts, including reflections on recent pilgrimages to the Holy Land and to Scotland and northern England, a presentation by Sallie Crotty on her book *Out of the Ashes: A Story of Recovery and Hope*, and a discussion of liturgy and storytelling in the

▲ Sunday Forum on *The Pageant of the Nativity* led by Rebekah Gilmore and Dr. James Savage, November 19, 2023



context of role-playing games led by Jeremy Crawford. Parishioner and professor Sarah Elwood and Canon Linzi Stahlecker led the first part of an important conversation on *Rethinking Poverty: Faith, Place and Relationality*, and were joined the following week by parishioner and public health nurse Molly Bosch, the Rev. Christopher Cox of Operation Nightwatch, and the Rev. Kae Eaton of Mental Health Chaplaincy.

We hosted a diocesan forum on the *Racial Justice Audit of the Episcopal Church* with Canon Carla Robinson and parishioner Vinh Do, heard from the Affordable Housing Exploratory Committee about exciting possibilities on the Saint Mark's campus, and watched a documentary about the first women ordained in the Episcopal Church, *The Philadelphia Eleven*, a screening that was followed by an impromptu panel of women clergy led by Canon Jennifer Daugherty. Emily Meeks convened a creative and helpful forum on *Dementia and Spirituality* in collaboration with St. James Cathedral and the University of Washington's Memory and Brain Wellness Center.

Most of these Wednesday evening forums were hybrid, with video recordings now available on the cathedral website. Exceptions to this included a fun intergenerational candle-making event on Candlemas and more liturgically-focused Wednesday evenings such as Rogation Day and All Saints' Day, which were offered only in person.

—Wendy Claire Barrie

WISDOM SCHOOL

The Wisdom School at Saint Mark's continues to enjoy broad interest and participation, engaging hundreds each year who attend the offerings. Most events and workshops are offered in hybrid format, enabling folks from other parts of the nation and world to join virtually. The themes guiding our curriculum last year were *An Embodied*

Spirituality (Fall 2022–Summer 2023), and *A Spirituality of Place* (Fall 2023–Summer 2024). Regular offerings continued, including Cathedral Yoga, Contemplative Prayer, the Daily Office, Taizé services, Quiet Days, and “Not-So-Quiet” Days. In addition, workshop and retreat offerings in 2023 included:

- ♦ *Embodied Spirituality in the Age of A.I.*
- ♦ *Addiction and Love: Reclaiming Our True Identity* with Killian Noe of Recovery Cafe
- ♦ *The Art of Pilgrimage* with Phil Cousineau
- ♦ *Is Christianity Worth Saving?* with Brian McLaren
- ♦ *Sacred Listening as a Transformational Practice*
- ♦ *The Wisdom of Your Body* with Hillary McBride
- ♦ *Mothered by God: Divine Feminine and the Black Madonna* with Christena Cleveland
- ♦ *A Spirituality of Place: the Pilgrim's Journey and Finding Home*
- ♦ *Spirituality of the Meal*
- ♦ *Sacred Stories of Place*
- ♦ *Discovering Call* with Killian Noe
- ♦ *Womanist Midrash & Biblical Interpretation* with the Rev. Wil Gafney, Ph.D.
- ♦ *Isaiah: Prophet of Advent* with The Rev. Hillary Raining, Ph.D.
- ♦ Men's and Women's Spiritual Renewal Retreats
- ♦ Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

2024 will feature several offerings including: Forest Therapy, Celtic Pilgrimage to Ireland and Iona, local justice pilgrimages, a visit by poet and theologian Padraig O'Tuama, and much more. All are welcome to participate.

—Steve Thomason

THE INQUIRERS' CLASS

This year, changes were made to the Inquirers' Class based on feedback from participants, who were eager to spend time in conversation with each other as well as canons and clergy in a less formal, more interactive structure. While we continued a hybrid format, we moved from Bloedel Hall to Leffler House, included a spiritual practice each week, and, in the fall, shortened the series to four weeks, with the intent that people can follow up on their experience by enrolling in a new program, *Contours of the Christian Life*, which will launch in Lent 2024. We also positioned the twice-yearly series in such a way that people who want another small group experience can easily sign up for the next Radix Project, rather than have the two offerings overlap. The gift of each Inquirers' Class continues to be the wonderful people who come to us from diverse perspectives and backgrounds with a willingness to engage in thoughtful and provocative conversations about our images of God, engaging with scripture, how we worship, and the spiritual practices that sustain us.

—Wendy Claire Barrie

TUESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Noon Bible Study continues to meet weekly on Zoom only. About a dozen people attend each week to discuss the coming Sunday's lectionary readings, led by a rotating group of lay and clergy leaders. We now have regular participants from across the greater Seattle area, including a new collaboration with some folks from St. Luke's in Ballard. Come join us once in a while!

—Lynne Cobb

THE RADIX PROJECT

2023 saw three iterations of The Radix Project, Saint Mark's own six-week small group scripture study: *Hope in Hard Times* in winter, *Gratitude* in Eastertide, and *Courageous Ancestors of Faith: Ruth and Esther* in the fall. The deep connections among participants that are forged in Radix groups were something repeatedly named to the Strategic Planning Committee as extremely valued, and as a model for additional small group ministries in the future. Since Radix began in January of 2020, there have been more than 700 registrations.

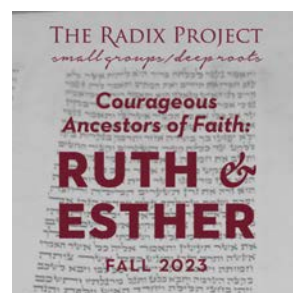
—Wendy Claire Barrie

SACRED GROUND

This past fall, *Sacred Ground* began at Saint Mark's. This film- and readings-based dialogue series is used across the Episcopal Church. Grounded in our call to faith, hope, and love, the *Sacred Ground* program spans 10 months and offers learning on race and racism, as we untangle together the challenges and divides in America's history and present day.

In September 2023, 11 people (2 facilitators and 9 participants) gathered to launch the first Sacred Ground Circle in the Saint Mark's community. Sacred Ground encourages grappling with difficult history, both our own and our society's. *Sacred Ground* provides a forum in which we can work toward a better world. It is deeply transformational by design. Participants find deeper understanding, compassion, and empathy, as they hear experiences of people from diverse racial backgrounds and reflect on (or learn for the first time) our shared history. We also learn to listen and make room for others' stories to be centered in our understanding of our society.

The focus of *Sacred Ground* is primarily spiritual and personal work, though the curriculum does end with a guided, "What do we do now?" session. We believe that



THE SECOND SUNDAY CATHEDRAL BOOK GROUP

A lively discussion of books from a variety of genres is offered on the second Sunday of odd-numbered months. The group is coordinated by Pearl McElheran and Deborah Brown. The books discussed in 2023 were:

Indigenous Theology and the Western Worldview: A Decolonized Approach to Christian Doctrine (2022)
by Randy Woodley

A Thousand Splendid Suns (2007)
by Khaled Hosseini

The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, and a Jew—Three Women Search for Understanding (2006)
by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner

Out of the Ashes: A Story of Recovery and Hope (2022)
by Saint Mark's community member Sallie Crotty

Preparing for War: The Extremist History of White Christian Nationalism—and What Comes Next (2023)
by Bradley Onishi

The Island of Missing Trees (2021)
by Elif Shafak

all the understanding in the world is for naught if it is not followed by action that leads to change. As participants come to the end of their *Sacred Ground* experience, they are encouraged to get involved in specific and direct action that leads to lasting and restorative change.

Moving forward, we plan to continue to grow the *Sacred Ground* program at Saint Mark's and to recruit and train more facilitators. Multiple new circles will be launched in the fall of 2024.

—Heather Millar

CATHEDRAL YOGA

One year ago, the yoga ministry report announced that Cathedral Yoga had experienced amazing growth in 2022, and had just offered a class with more than 100 attendees for the first time in January 2023. For the remainder of 2023, the weekly class on Monday evening very rarely had fewer than 100 participants! Attendance in 2023 peaked at 170 on November 13. (Like last year, that number has already been exceeded in January of 2024.) At every class there are participants who are coming through the doors of Saint Mark's for the first time. There are also regulars who are present almost every Monday without fail. The classes include experts and beginners, young and old, religious and non-religious. It seems clear that Cathedral Yoga is meeting a deeply-felt need for this sort of practice, offered on a pay-what-you-can basis, and experienced in a sacred, inspiring space. One way to evaluate the state of the ministry is by counting attendance numbers and donation amounts, but its success is perhaps better measured by the words of gratitude expressed by participants, often in tears, after almost every class.

This success, however, meant that by January 2023 it was becoming impossible for one person to manage the practical and administrative duties required to make the class happen each week. Early in 2023,

a plan was formulated to place Cathedral Yoga on a more secure and sustainable footing. This plan had three components: (1) recruit a committee of volunteers to take on leadership of the ministry; (2) engage the entire community of attendees in the work of setting up and breaking down the space before and after class; and (3) discontinue the monthly rotation of teachers, and instead have only one instructor teach every Monday. All three of these changes involve trade-offs. But as they were implemented, it became clear that the benefits far outweighed what was lost. The call for volunteers was answered by an enthusiastic team with diverse skills and interests. The participants in the class quickly caught on to the procedure of moving chairs before and after class, and in fact, as they joined together to co-create the space week in and week out, they began to feel less and less like guests, and more and more like members of a community. Finally, the weekly teaching of instructor Luna Miller was a precious gift—it's difficult to imagine a teacher more in tune with the mission of the cathedral and the character of the sacred space, and her classes were consistently accessible, challenging, emotional, spiritual, vulnerable, and filled with wisdom and inspiration. The gratitude everyone involved in Cathedral Yoga feels to her is incalculable.

On September 25, 2023, we marked ten years since Dean Thomason first launched Cathedral Yoga at Saint Mark's, in September of 2013. To celebrate this milestone, a special reception was held after class, featuring as guests of honor Wendy Townsend and Brenna Kramer, the original instructors who founded the ministry a decade ago. Looking out over the nave floor filled with 100+ students, Brenna said, "this is what I always dreamed Cathedral Yoga could become."

In 2022 there was a desire to "lean in" to the special elements that make yoga in the cathedral nave unique, resulting in the monthly "Organ Mediation" on first Mon-

days (30 minutes of drones and improvisations on the Mighty Flentrop before class), and monthly Sound Bath following class on the third Mondays. These offerings continued throughout 2023, although the Sound Bath gradually became more closely integrated into the rest of the yoga class, through a close collaboration between Luna and Sound Bath artist Andrea Suzuki.

One of the changes that came from the Yoga Committee volunteers was the new policy of locking the doors into the cathedral at 6:45 p.m., both for reasons of safety, and to eliminate the need for a doorkeeper who could not participate in the yoga class. Locking the doors is an extremely common policy for yoga classes in many spaces, and in addition, Luna emphasized that it's not a good idea to jump into a yoga class late having skipped the warm-up in any event. Another new initiative that arose from the committee was to offer a designated time for informal tea and conversation after class on the fourth Monday of the month, providing a space where participants can mingle and connect with each other if they want. This was offered monthly starting in June. (The frequency of the tea social may be reduced in 2024.)

As we enter 2024, the Yoga Committee has twelve committed volunteers (two of which are members of Saint Mark's), supported by Canon Linzi Stahlecker and Gregory Bloch. Luna has made the decision that she can no longer teach every Monday, and so the ministry is returning to a monthly rotation of different teachers. (Luna will continue to teach on the third Monday of the month with Sound Bath artist Andrea.)

Cathedral Yoga has become a space that is both vibrant and welcoming, and newcomers are always encouraged to attend. If you've never practiced yoga, or if you've never experienced yoga in the cathedral nave, please give it a try! Just remember to show up early to get a good spot.

—*The Rev. Canon Linzi Stahlecker*
 & *Gregory Bloch*



EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year faith formation program offered for lay people under the auspices of The School of Theology of Sewanee: The University of the South. Participants study the Old Testament, the New Testament, History of the Christian Church, and Theology and Ethics, using college-level textbooks. We also engage in theological reflections on issues of concern. Saint Mark's has two ongoing seminar sections that meet weekly from mid-September through mid-June. Maria Coldwell and Julia Logan are mentors for the Monday morning group, which currently has 12 students, while Tom Hayton and Peter Snyder are mentors for the Monday evening group, which currently has

▲ Cathedral Yoga on
 August 28, 2023

nine students. The Monday morning group has met primarily via Zoom this year, with occasional in-person meetings, while the Monday evening group has met in hybrid mode throughout the year. Discussions are always lively in these two-hour small-group seminars, whose theme this year is *Living as Spiritually Mature Christians*.

—Maria Coldwell

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

In 2023, CFM focused on Sunday mornings. We purchased larger purple worship bags and labeled them for use by toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary-aged children. They are now filled with clipboards holding blank paper and a children's worship bulletin or coloring page that changes each week, along with carefully chosen items to draw children into contemplation and engagement with worship, such as Montessori wooden lacing lambs, felt labyrinths, olivewood comfort crosses, and picture books that reflect the season of the church year. The cathedral carpet began filling up, especially at the 9 a.m. service, which in-

spired a generous gift of new toys from our Buddhist friends at Clear Mountain Monastery, including Magnatiles and a beautiful set of nesting elements blocks with a rainbow, waves, fire, and earth.

Children's Chapel at 9 a.m. follows a pattern of worship that includes candle-lighting, prayers, seasonal songs, and a retelling of the day's Gospel or a picture book that expresses a theme in the day's scriptures. Hannah Hochkeppel, Russ Crosbie, Kristen Kelly, Ralph Ermoian, and Katherine Adams have all provided leadership and support.

Godly Play, our Montessori-based program of Christian formation, continues to grow as families return to church after the pandemic. In 2023, Godly Play activities were offered in the 10 a.m. hour on the first and third Sundays of the month (i.e., the Sundays when the Junior and Senior Choirsters are present in worship). This fall, we opened two classrooms, one for ages 3–7 and another for ages 8–11. Each class has had an average attendance of five children, but on some Sundays we have had as many



► Elora Coble was baptized by Rev. Stahlecker at the Great Vigil of Easter, April 8, 2023

as nine or ten in each of the two classes. The kids are engaged and enjoy the stories, activities (called their “work” in response to the stories), and interactions with each other. The teachers enjoy the children’s questions and are struck by how the kids take in the stories with such openness and curiosity. In the fall, a teacher training offered by Godly Play trainer emeritus and former Saint Mark’s staff member Cindy Spencer strengthened and energized the adults who participate, and we added three new adult volunteers as “door people” who support the circle of children in each room.

—Alicia Goodwin
& Canon Wendy Claire Barrie

YOUTH

In 2023, the Saint Mark’s Youth played, prayed, served... and talked about composting human bodies.

Despite horrendous weather, we emerged without frostbite from our snow play-day in the Cascades last January. Mark Kuiper knows how to build a fire in all conditions and the youth huddled together for hot chocolate and good conversation. In February, the youth again partnered with the Seattle Service Corps, the Vestry, and Chef Marc Aubertin to put on the Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Gumbo Supper with the Closing of the Great Doors liturgy. During Lent, the youth gathered for a chili supper and assembled care packages to send to the recently-graduated members of the cathedral near and far—a wonderful way to send a little Saint Mark’s love across the country and even across the ocean.

In April, six cathedral youth confirmed their faith as part of the Cathedral Day celebration. This completed the year-long program of study and preparation for Confirmation, supported by Clara Berg, David Wagner, Canon Wendy Barrie, and Rebekah Gilmore. Cathedral parishioner Betsy Bell led the youth in the practice of body prayer and delighted the kids with her wit, thoughtfulness, and helpful tools for embodied practice.

Roller skates, bicycles, and unicycles again got our blood pumping on the feast of Pentecost on the annual Ride, Run, Roll around Seward Park, celebrating the moving of the Spirit and the launch into summer.

On a long summer Sunday in June, a “Pie and Compline” event began with the eating of (way too much) delicious pie, before finding a space on the nave floor to experience the Office of Compline—for the first time for many of them.

In the fall, the members of the Schola (youth choir) wanted to discuss together the trial liturgical language in use at the 9 a.m. liturgy throughout the late Pentecost season. They gathered for “text study” to wrestle with what was meant by texts we pray and sing together, to observe how interpretation of texts differs based on life experience, and to explore how they might pray these texts wholeheartedly from their current place in life. Such liturgical text studies were a regular feature of the Schola before the pandemic, and it was wonderful to resume this practice.

On All Saints’ Sunday, the youth traveled to tour the first human composting funeral home, Recompose. The visit sparked thoughtful conversation about common death and burial practices, the implications for creation care, and end of life desires. I believe some parents were told that night that they too should be composted!

As the Christmas season approached, many of our youth were active in *The Pageant of the Nativity* as singers, lectors, stage crew, or assisting with outdoor luminaries. During the Pageant, Schola alumni made guest appearances in the Magi Procession. On New Year’s Eve, Rebekah Gilmore hosted twelve recent Saint Mark’s youth alums wishing to reconnect before they returned to their colleges or post-graduation lives. The impact of the cathedral and the relationships forged continue to be valued by our youth as they stretch their wings.

—Rebekah Gilmore



▲ Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023.



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Each year, the liturgical ministries at Saint Mark's support hundreds of different services at the cathedral, each one unique, and all liturgical ministers deserve gratitude for their work to make each liturgy a sacred and meaningful experience for all. Special thanks go to the ministry leaders: Peter Snyder (Eucharistic Ministers), Erik Donner and Ray Miller (acolytes), Walter Stuteville and Sue Tait (Altar Guild), John Selberg (greeters), Don Sutkus (9 a.m. ushers), Kathy Sodergren (All Saints Guild), Michael Perera (oblation bearers), Emily Meeks (reading ministries), Kevin Johnson (Eucharistic Visitors), Beatrix Roemheld-Hamm (Flower Ministry), and René Marceau (Bread Baker's Guild). The many other liturgical ministries that do not have volunteer leaders are coordinated by Head Verger and Cathedral Sacristan Michael Seewer. All are welcome to explore what liturgical ministry is by speaking to a ministry leader or coming to one of the Liturgical Minister Trainings offered twice each year. Keep an eye out for these!

2023 also saw the creation of a new ministry, the Audio/Visual Ministry, a group of parishioners that meets occasionally to discuss the current state and potential future of the equipment used for the cathedral sound system and the livestream. Though not a liturgical ministry per se, this group works behind the scenes to maintain and improve the technology that has become critical to making worship accessible. We are seeking volunteers to help with the sound system on Sundays, or with the livestream on Sundays or weeknights. Talk to Michael Seewer or Chris Brown to learn more.

There are currently over 200 volunteers who participate in liturgical ministries at Saint Mark's, and abundant gratitude is owed to each one. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

—Michael Seewer

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

We give thanks for the faithful ministry of our licensed Eucharistic Visitors as they take the community's gifts of the Table directly from the Eucharist services, navigating Seattle traffic and parking, to meet the needs of those who cannot attend worship in person. Nearly every Sunday of the year, "Mini Saint Mark's" gatherings are happening all around the city and beyond—in hospitals, care facilities, retirement communities, and private homes. We also give thanks for the gentle shepherding provided by the Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty during her time with us at the cathedral.

The ministry celebrates the many years of service provided by those visitors who have needed to "semi-retire" and step away from maintaining their licensure in the past year. Most have been visitors as long as the Eucharistic Visitor Ministry has existed in The Episcopal Church. Should you have the opportunity, please thank Hisako Beasley, Steve Moen, Kathleen Nyhuis, Sue Tait (who continues to faithfully prepare kits for visits), and Dave and Linda Leisy for their many years of faithful ministry.

If you have any questions about the ministry, want to learn more about becoming a licensed visitor, wish to come along (we travel in pairs!), or have need of a visit, please do not hesitate to contact any of the clergy or ministry leader Kevin Johnson.

—Kevin C. Johnson

EVENING PRAYER

One of the principal Daily Offices, Evening Prayer has been the title for the evening office in Anglican worship since the 1552 revision of *The Book of Common Prayer*. Prior to the pandemic, this liturgy was offered for decades in person at Saint Mark's Cathedral every weekday evening. In 2020, like

◀ [previous page]

A selection of stills from livestream liturgy videos from throughout 2023.

many other services and events, we began to meet on Zoom. We now meet Monday through Friday at 6 p.m. (the Zoom link can be found at saintmarks.org/prayer). The service lasts about 30 minutes. We have attendees from the cathedral and the wider Seattle area, as well as from Eastern Washington and several states in the Midwest. We would love to have you join us.

—Julia Logan, Michael Murphree,
Deborah Person & Sue Tait

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Having restarted in 2022 after a hiatus, the Contemplative Prayer group has continued to gather through the past year on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Compline corner at Saint Mark's—except when there is Taizé or another conflict in the nave, and with a break during the summer. In 2023, the offering's name changed from *Centering Prayer* to *Contemplative Prayer* to make clearer that all exploring contemplative practice are welcome, and potentially to broaden what is offered.

These gatherings offer a place to practice and grow in the contemplative journey together. Each week begins with a period of silent meditation in the form of centering prayer, followed by a discussion of contemplative experiences, practices, and perspectives, often prompted by a brief reading. We've explored teachings from Cynthia Bourgeault, Evelyn Underhill, Thomas Keating, and others. The discussion proceeds at a gentle mindful pace as we share and explore together.

All curious are welcome—to sit together in a powerful space and perhaps to get a little guidance. Regulars this year have included some decades-long practitioners and others brand new to contemplative practice, and the meeting is enriched by occasional visits from the 20s/30s Group. Write to Phil Fox Rose at phil@philfoxrose.com with any questions you may have or visit: saintmarks.org/contemplativeprayer

—Phil Fox Rose

TAIZÉ

In 2022, a group of Saint Mark's parishioners came together to offer prayer liturgies in the style of Taizé a few times a year. In 2023, six such liturgies were offered, mostly on Tuesday evenings. These liturgies attract an intimate but diverse congregation, with a notable presence of visitors and people who are not members of the cathedral community, particularly young adults.

A new initiative in 2023 was planning services around observances in *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* (the resource containing the Episcopal Church's calendar of authorized "saint's days"), which may not otherwise have been celebrated liturgically at the cathedral. The first of these was a Sunday afternoon liturgy, created in collaboration with the Queer in Christ ministry, honoring the Rev. Pauli Murray, who is seen as the first African-American woman ordained a priest in The Episcopal Church, and the first openly queer person added to the calendar of observances.

The liturgy on November 14, 2023, was created in collaboration with the Bishop's Committee on Justice and Peace in the Holy Land and was offered with special intention for the end of war and the relief of suffering in Palestine and Israel.

The most distinctive feature of liturgies in the style of Taizé is the unique music, and each service at Saint Mark's included both well-known and unfamiliar songs. The liturgy in January included the premiere of a new song composed in the style of Taizé by Gregory Bloch, in memory of community member Matthew Briggs. Musical leadership for these services is provided by a group volunteer singers and instrumentalists, and this remains a great way to get involved with music-making at the cathedral with minimal commitment—the only rehearsal is just before each service.

Five services are planned for 2024, beginning in January with a celebration of the 80th anniversary of the ordination of the

Rev. Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first woman ordained a priest in the Anglican communion. The liturgy on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, will be an interfaith service planned in collaboration with Clear Mountain Monastery Buddhist Community. Find more details and learn how to get involved at: saintmarks.org/taize

—Michael Seewer

7 A.M. THURSDAY EUCHARIST/ MORNING PRAYER

The 7 a.m. Thursday morning worship group continued to gather for a rotation of on-site Eucharist (1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays) and Morning Prayer by Zoom (2nd and 4th Thursdays). Morning prayer gatherings are coordinated by a small team of worship leaders (during 2023: Pamela Bradburn, Kathleen Nyhuis, Penny Reid, Deborah Person, Sarah Elwood-Faustino, and Brother Paul Dahlke), with all participants invited to share in offering the readings, prayers, collects or other elements of the service. On-site Eucharists in Thomsen Chapel are followed by a community breakfast and fellowship time in Leffler House. All are warmly welcome to join!

—Sarah Elwood-Faustino

AUDIO/VISUAL MINISTRY

The Audio/Visual (A/V) Ministry at Saint Mark's began reflecting early in 2023 on the remarkable growth and strength of the cathedral's opportunities for community members and visitors near and far to participate in liturgies and activities via our website, livestreams, and hybrid offerings. Upgrades in recent years to the wireless microphones and soundboard in the nave have improved the quality of sound for liturgies and events, and there are a growing number of Zoom-capable meeting spaces on campus.

Having a robust livestream system in place several years prior to the pandemic afforded the cathedral the space and ability to plan for the post-pandemic world we live in now. Hybrid Wisdom School offerings in Bloedel Hall continue to attract participants both regionally and globally, and recordings of these events has gradually created an extensive, accessible online library of classes and forums.

An early focus for ministry leaders (including Michael Seewer, Emily Meeks, Chris Brown, and Gregory Bloch) was articulating how A/V activities, while technical and “behind the scenes,” still constitute a vital ministry to the Saint Mark's community. The concept of “A/V as Ministry” was discussed alongside a need for volunteers to help cover the wide range of activities we currently record or stream. Several community members responded to the call for volunteers, we now have a team of regular livestream operators for the Sunday 11 a.m. and Compline liturgies. We continue to seek people interested in serving the cathedral in this way—in particular, to operate soundboard on Sunday mornings, or the livestream on Sundays or weeknights.

We also took stock of the challenges that our old building and aging A/V systems present, identifying the most critical areas needing repairs and upgrades. Potential improvements to the video booth and upgrades to the sound system in the nave are high on the list. Looking forward, we recognize that our current livestream system is nearly seven years old, and so, on top of regular repairs and maintenance, it is time to plan and budget for upgrades to that system. We are in the process of applying for a grant with that kind of growth in mind, spearheaded by Emily Meeks. We are thankful for all the ways the audio and video ministries have grown and flourished at Saint Mark's, and look forward to seeing where God will lead us next.

—Christopher Brown, Emily Meeks,
& Michael Seewer

SELECTED 2023 GUEST PREACHERS

January 15, 2023: **The Rev. Canon Carla Robinson**, Diocese of Olympia Canon for Multicultural Ministries & Community Transformation

April 4, 2023 (Chrism Mass in Holy Week): **The Rev. Shelley M. Bryan Wee**, Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA

April 22, 2023 (Cathedral Day): **The Rev. Elizabeth Riley**, Rector of Emmanuel, Mercer Island

May 21, 2023: **The Rev. Canon Britt Olson**, Vicar of St. Luke's, Ballard

July 16, 2023: **The Rev. Fadi Diab**, Rector of St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Ramallah, Palestine

September 24, 2023: **The Rt. Rev. Ernie Moral**, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Southern Philippines

October 8, 2023: **The Rev. Danae M. Ashley**, author and licensed therapist

December 3, 2023: **The Rev. Wil Gafney, Ph.D.**, Biblical scholar and theologian

BREAD BAKER'S GUILD

The Bread Bakers' Guild continues to provide Eucharistic bread for the cathedral's services of Holy Eucharist, both on Sundays and for special liturgies throughout the year. We are particularly pleased to use honey from the cathedral's own beehives in the recipe, when possible. A highlight of the past year was providing Eucharistic bread for the hundreds who attended the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

—René Marceau

FLOWER MINISTRY

The Flower Ministry had an exciting year. We are actively engaged in evolving the materials we use, and therefore our style of plant and flower arrangements. We have made a commitment to phase out the use of floral foam (a non-biodegradable and non-recyclable material which creates microplastics in the environment), to use more local and more sustainable materials, and to expand our plant vocabulary.

▼ Displays created by the Flower Ministry from throughout 2023.

A large audience turned up for a major event in the cathedral nave that was co-hosted by the Flower Ministry: Shane Connolly, a well-known British florist who recently designed the floral displays for the coronation of the King of England, spoke about sustainable and local floral practices, and showed those practices in a live demonstration. We learned a lot from him, and we continue to teach each other new techniques.

We hosted several workshops for our new ministry members and for the congregation, and will continue to do so in 2024.

Some flowers used in the altar displays were saved and preserved for second use in dried arrangements, most of which were sold at the Alternative Christmas Gift Market, where we also created and sold fresh flower arrangements.

While the Flower Ministry has grown, with several new members joining in 2023, we very much welcome new members to join us in the joyful ministry!

—Beatrix Roemheld-Hamm



CATHEDRAL MUSIC PROGRAM

In 2023, the singing by Saint Mark's worshipping congregations remained robust in the 11 a.m. service and became ever more so in the 9 a.m. service. Both congregations enjoy singing some service music and hymns without organ accompaniment. Increasingly, they seem to enjoy perceiving their collective voice in the reverberations provided by the cathedral's generous acoustical environment.

Approximately 75 adults and 50 children sang regularly in the cathedral's choirs. Through a modest recruitment campaign, Saint Mark's Singers (a non-auditioned adult choir) grew notably from 16 to 24 members during 2023.

A special highlight was the offering by the Cathedral Choir of Jehan Alain's *Messe modale* for voices, string quartet, and flute at 11 a.m. on the last Sunday of Easter, a presentation made possible by support from the Festival Music Fund,

Under Rebekah Gilmore's inspired leadership, the Choir School continued to share leadership of the 9 a.m. Eucharist with Saint Mark's Singers on most Sundays monthly. A splendid *Pageant of the Nativity* was a high point of the Choir School's calendar year, as were the annual week-long Choir Camps for children and youth in the summer. For more information, please see the report by the Associate Musician & Choir School Director, p. 36.

Combinations of cantors, organists, and Artist-in-Residence Choirs provided musical leadership while the cathedral's choirs were on summer break. This summer, the Mägi Ensemble, Seattle Choral Company, and Choir of the Sound each sang at least one 11 a.m. Eucharist.

A rota of six musicians continued to play or sing in the weekly 7 p.m. Contemplative



Eucharist to frame the intentional periods of silence that characterize that liturgy.

Saint Mark's Music Series continued to draw appreciative audiences of all ages. The Friends of the Music Series continue to sustain it financially, enabling affordable ticket prices and robust publicity of concerts, which in turn enlarges audiences. For more information, please see report by the Music Series Coordinator on p. 38.

In December, technicians from Paul Fritts & Co. Organ Builders removed approximately 20 years' worth of dust and grime from the interior of the Flentrop organ.

Profound thanks to the music staff, all choral singers, Choir School families, cantors, instrumentalists, concert hosts, Friends of the Music Series, and all other volunteers who give generously of their time, talent, and treasure to ensure the vitality of Saint Mark's musical ministries.

—Canon Michael Kleinschmidt

▲ John Stuntebeck on the mighty Flentrop at the concluding Evensong liturgy of the 2023 Choir Camp, July 14, 2023.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL

2023 was a year of Cathedral Choir School collaborations and expanded program offerings.

In the spring of 2023, the Senior Choristers traveled to St. Luke's Episcopal in Tacoma to partner with the St. Luke's choristers for a joint Sunday morning liturgy. These brief visits around the diocese help our singers know that they will be warmly welcomed and find familiar liturgy as visitors in other Episcopal parishes. In March, the high school Schola got dressed up and attended a Saturday evening performance by the excellent UK choral ensemble Tenebrae, and then spent the night together in Leffler House before singing at the 9 a.m. Sunday morning liturgy the next day. In April, the Schola joined with the teen baroque instrumentalists of Seattle Historical Arts for Kids (SHAK) to present a concert performance of Baroque favorites for choir and orchestra including Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Händel's *Messiah*, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, and an excerpt of Bach's Cantata No. 147. The repertoire presented in this performance provided a foundation for the Choir School's liturgical offerings for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter in 2023.

▼ All the participants of *The Pageant of the Nativity*, December 20, 2023.

Choir School Director Rebekah Gilmore, enjoyed a six-week sabbatical in late spring and early summer. Canon Michael Kleinschmidt, Hannah Hochkeppel, Elizabeth Antley, and Cara Peterson ably finished the Choir School year in her absence.

Over the summer, the 2023 Choir Camp, with the theme *Let my heart be good soil*, immersed our Senior Choristers in repertoire of growth, prayer, and self-reflection. Choristers spent mornings in choir rehearsal and afternoons in breakout groups for activities such as hand chimes, drumming, organ class, and a stained-glass art project. Campers traveled to Oxbow Farm for a tour and service project focusing on sustainable farming practices, and they partnered with the Garden Ministry to spruce up flower beds and planters around the cathedral grounds. The week concluded with an Evensong liturgy on Friday and a Sunday morning 11 a.m. Eucharist.

In August, the sopranos of the Schola participated in a three-day "Soprano Intensive" with voice clinician Nancy Zylstra. This included musicianship sessions, sung nightly Compline, Cathedral Yoga, and a fancy dinner out, with participation in a Sunday morning liturgy to finish the week.



As the new program year began in September, choristers saw the return of pre-pandemic programming such as Class Piano and weekly musicianship class tutoring. The St. Nicholas mezzanine is a vibrant place on Wednesday afternoons with over 50 choristers rehearsing each week. The Choir School can boast a fantastic squad of adult volunteers including Cara Peterson, Hannah Hochkeppel, David Portinga, Elizabeth Antley, Emily Riesser, Ted Rosenberger, and Serenna Shock, who tutor music fundamentals, liturgical knowledge, and sight singing. The Schola has been supported by primary vocal mentors Jeremy Mathias and John Garlid. Throughout 2023, choristers were increasingly visible as cantors for Sunday morning services and leaders at Taizé liturgies.

In the fall, the acclaimed UK a cappella ensemble Apollo5, who were in Seattle for a performance on the Saint Mark's Music Series, offered focused workshops to our Choir School ensembles. They led the Senior Choristers in activities including body rhythm, ostinato layering, and vocal improvisation. The Schola experienced a choral masterclass, where the singers of Apollo5 first coached the ensemble on some of their repertoire, then joined to sing together with them.

In late fall, the Senior Choristers joined with the Cathedral Choir and Compline Choir in their annual offering of the beloved "O" Antiphons Advent procession. All choristers joined with the Evensong Choir and instrumental ensemble for the annual *Pag-eant of the Nativity*. The calendar year ended with choristers singing for the 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve liturgies.

Finally, no report is complete without recognizing the parents of our choristers who chauffeur their children up and down I-5, provide snacks, and help to create a spirit of dedication and enthusiasm for all the work our choristers do in the life of our cathedral parish. Choir School parents and children alike are seen and appreciated!

—Rebekah Gilmore



THE COMPLINE CHOIR

Over the course of 2023, the Compline Choir:

- ◆ offered a second performance of *Lord, it is night* by Seattle-based composer Donald Skirvin, a work premiered by the choir in 2022
- ◆ sang a special service on March 19 which borrowed elements from the Office for the Dead to commemorate three years since the first COVID lockdown (the most viewed Compline service last year)
- ◆ completed another exploration of square-note (Gregorian) chant notation
- ◆ premiered a revised version of *Love Never Ends* by Alice Parker, commissioned in 2022 by Paul Johns. (Parker died at the age of 98 on Christmas Eve, 2023, making *Love Never Ends* her final work.)
- ◆ cheered again for the Women's Compline Choir under Rebekah Gilmore's leadership for their midsummer Compline offerings on July 30 and August 6
- ◆ sang in Estonian for the first time
- ◆ premiered *An Hymn for An Anonymous Musician* dedicated to the memory of

▲ The Compline Choir at the "O" Antiphons Advent liturgy, December 3, 2023.

Peter Hallock and written by the Choir’s composer-in-residence Erin Aas

- ♦ participated in the cathedral’s presentation of the 2023 “O” Antiphon Advent Procession
- ♦ chanted Compline as throngs of people walked the labyrinth on New Year’s Eve
- ♦ and delighted in the Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason’s quarterly presence singing with us in the choir.

The Choir’s active membership increased to 25 persons. Current members have amassed a collective 413 years of experience chanting the Office of Compline, with an average term-of-service of 16.5 years.

The board extended the Choir’s current strategic plan through the end of 2024, established a planning and logistic committee in support of the upcoming summer 2024 England pilgrimage, laid the groundwork for a development committee, and bestowed honorary membership upon Katherine Crosier, a long-time friend and business partner of Peter Hallock. The Board of Governors, with the expert facilitation of Scott Kovacs, participated in a joint committee together with the Hallock Institute, which looked at the Director’s compensation and possible funding sources, and extended a new three-year contract to the Director through 2026. The Choir and board will undertake an extensive revision to the member covenant agreement in late

2024 and will formulate a new strategic plan soon thereafter.

The Board of Governors includes Jeffrey Ricco (President), James Wilcox (Vice President), Kenneth Pendergrass (Secretary), Phil Lloyd (Treasurer), Jamie Balducci, Jim Buskirk, René Marceau, Vernon Nicodemus, Josh Sandoz, and ex officio members Jason Anderson (Compline Choir Director), the Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason (Dean), and the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton (Bishop). The ex officio position accorded Classical KING remains vacant. If you have questions about The Compline Choir, please contact Jason Anderson at director@complinechoir.org

—Jason Anderson

SAINT MARK’S MUSIC SERIES

In 2023, Saint Mark’s Music Series returned to its pre-pandemic production, featuring six concerts through the year, utilizing the unique acoustical experiences offered by McCaw and Thomsen Chapels as well as the cathedral nave, and featuring both the Flen-trop and the Marion Camp Oliver Organs. Canon Michael Kleinschmidt conceived and curated the series, inviting local, national, and international musicians to grace Saint Mark’s with their music. Music Series Manager Laura Loge worked hard to make the concerts run smoothly, and in collaboration with Director of Communications Gregory Bloch produced livestreams of

COMPLINE IN 2023, BY THE NUMBERS

Weekly estimated listeners via KING-FM radio or internet stream	814
Weekly in-person attendance (average).	153
Weekly live livestream viewers (watching as the compline service happens)	71
Weekly additional livestream viewers (watching after the livestream has ended) . . .	365
Weekly podcast clicks, interactions, and downloads	1,366
Weekly listeners to the Compline Choir’s commercially-recorded music on Spotify. .	221
Actual weekly streams, downloads, and purchases of digital music.	1,150
Actual weekly Compline Choir website visitors	222
Average weekly reach (sum of above)	15,248
Average annual reach	808,144

most of the concerts. A valued team of volunteers ensured that audiences were given a warm welcome to each event.

We are grateful to the Friends of the Music Series who have been generous in contributing financially to the series, allowing us to keep tickets affordable for all.

These are the concerts that were offered in 2023. All were available in-person, most also available via ticketed livestream.

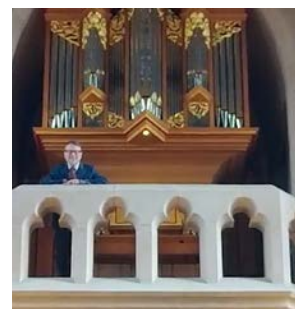
- ◆ **James Falzone's *Sighs Too Deep for Words***, January 27. Clarinetist, penny whistle player, composer/improvisor, and Saint Mark's parishioner James Falzone performed a concert of original music composed specifically for the acoustical environment of the cathedral nave. Joining James was vocalist Johnaye Kendrick; pianist and vocalist Kaley Lane Eaton; and oud player Ronnie Malley.
- ◆ **Biber's *Mystery Sonatas***, March 18 & 19. In two identical performances in the intimacy of Thomsen Chapel during Lent, baroque violinist Tekla Cunningham performed the "Sorrowful" set of Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber's *Mystery Sonatas*. She was joined by Henry Lebedinsky on organ and harpsichord, and David Morris on viola da gamba.
- ◆ **All-Bach on the Flentrop Organ**, May 5. Leading performer, pedagogue, and Associate Professor of Organ at the Eastman School of Music Nathan Laube performed the annual All-Bach offering on the Flentrop Organ, presenting Bach's *Dritter Teil der Klavierübung* (Third Book of Keyboard Practice).
- ◆ **Organ Plus**, September 29 & 30. The 2023–2024 season opened with two identical performances, offered free of charge for all attendees, in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Marion Camp Oliver Organ in Thomsen Chapel, which was installed by Paul Fritts & Co.

in 2003. Organists Michael Kleinschmidt and John Stuntebeck were joined by violist Mel Butler, with remarks by Herb Williams.

- ◆ **Apollo5**, October 28. One of the world's pre-eminent a cappella choral ensembles, Apollo5 filled Saint Mark's with their exquisite one-on-a-part blend. They shared a portion of the program with Seattle Pro Musica and nearly 100 Seattle-area students who had participated in workshops with the singers of Apollo5 in the preceding days. Apollo5 is part of the Voces8 Foundation family, which hopes to establish Seattle, and Saint Mark's in particular, as a regular location for their educational outreach and concerts in the coming years.
- ◆ **The Cathedral Trio**, November 17. The Cathedral Trio, comprised of past and present Saint Mark's Resident Artists Joyce Ramée, viola, Brian Fairbanks, flute, and Naomi Kato, harp, performed a concert juxtaposing traditional styles with new musical ideas in the ethereal acoustical environment of McCaw Chapel. This concert was only offered in-person.

Post-Compline organ recitals are a long-standing tradition at Saint Mark's, and in August of 2021 these recitals were relaunched as "Organ by Night," managed as a branch of Saint Mark's Music Series. These 20-minute recitals on the Flentrop organ are offered immediately after Compline on the third Sunday of every month. Audience growth continued in 2023, expanding from an average of thirty to now more than fifty. Many guests have never heard or seen a real pipe organ in person before, and the Q&A period following the recital is always a highlight. Both staff and visiting organists appreciate their work evangelizing the Flentrop organ specifically, and the witness of Saint Mark's Cathedral generally.

—Laura Loge



► Some of the participants in the 20s/30s Explore West Seattle Day spent time removing invasive plants and little from the West Duwamish Greenbelt, April 15, 2023.

20S/30S GROUP

When the 20s/30s group participated in a recent Strategic Planning conversation, one of the words that repeatedly was mentioned was “community,” reflecting a sense of shared connection and belonging that has developed among many who attend 20s/30s gatherings.

These opportunities of sharing life together in 2023 occurred through a mix of monthly recurring events and pop-up offerings, guided by the 20s/30s Visioning Group* and by Emily Meeks, who began in the role of Interim Staff Support for 20s/30s in July 2023.

Monthly offerings included:

♦ **Questioning Together + Compline:**

A new element this year was a rotating schedule of facilitators, including both Saint Mark’s clergy and faith leaders from outside of the cathedral. Topics for 2023 ranged from “Geography and Faith” to “Gratitude and the Saints.”

- ♦ **“Let’s Taco ’Bout It” and Contemplative Prayer:** This gathering on the first Tuesday of the month begins with a potluck taco bar in Leffler with a rotating 20s/30s dinner host, before joining the regular Contemplative Prayer gathering in nave.

- ♦ **TGIF Fourth Fridays:** This early morning time for coffee, conversation, and reflection at Saint Bread on the Portage Bay waterfront near UW is hosted by Hilary McLeland-Wieser.

Examples of pop-up offerings included: lunches after church, a Cooking Circle with Connor Harrison and Chef Marc Aubertin, journeying through Holy Week together with an Agape Meal and Post-Easter Vigil breakfast, “A Mobile Feast” led by Rose

* 20s/30s Visioning Group included: Molly Bosch, Julia Cooper, Rose Hazard, Adrienne Hubbard, Betsy Heimbürger, Hilary McLeland-Wieser, Bryan Pansing, and Fraser Reach



Hazard and Bryan Pansing, “Behind the Seams” at MOHAI with Clara Berg, a hike to Teneriffe Falls coordinated by Adrienne Hubbard, Explore West Seattle Day with Brian Pansing, and a backpacking trip to Goat Rocks Wilderness.

Out of the Visioning Group came an idea from Betsy Heimbürger for creating a Slack channel. The Saint Mark’s 20s/30s Channel has emerged as a place to extend event invitations, share prayer requests, reflect on God, and connect with each other.

Also meaningful to this year was implementing a series of programs called *Dig Deeper*, supported by a young adult grant received from The Episcopal Church, to explore ways to grow, harvest, share, and repurpose food in community to advocate for a more just food system. The grant created many opportunities, from serving with Seattle U students at Beacon Food Forest to hosting a Composting Workshop in the Leffler Garden. (See a full list ecww.org/dig-deeper) A key partner in the grant was Nurturing Roots, a Black-owned urban farm dedicated to building community through farming and healing community through relationships.

Alongside “community,” a value of this group is an openness to holding and exploring questions. With a range of ages, life points, and faith backgrounds, the 20s/30s Group continues to bring a vibrant energy to the common life of the parish and Cathedral community.

—Emily Meeks

40S/50S GROUP

A new ministry, the 40s/50s Group has gathered throughout the year for fellowship and fun, kicking off with a brunch in Leffler House in March 2023. Since then, the group continues to meet every few months for a potluck after the 11 a.m. service to break bread and discuss various issues—from recent movies, to favorite Christmas hymns and upcoming events. Over the summer, members of the group toured the Saint Mark's Greenbelt in partnership with the Creation Care ministry. In the fall, after snacks and a prayer, a small but mighty crew ventured into the neighborhood for a hike on the Interlaken trail on the other side of Volunteer Park. Upcoming events hosted by the ministry include Jeopardy night (February 8) and a Spiritual Discussion on Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower* (March 2024).

—Kristine Ekman

THIRD ACT-ERS RETIREES GROUP

The Third Act-ers began as a small group of retirees in the fall of 2022. We met monthly for the next six months, discussing topics relevant to our diverse transition needs at this stage of life. In fall 2023, after taking the summer off, we were blessed to have Linzi Stahlecker join our “seed” group. Kathy Minsch and I volunteered to serve as organizers to open participation up to the whole congregation. Someone coined the term “Third Act-ers” to signify this stage in our life cycle and needs. We sent out a communication to the congregation and 51 people responded! In November, this new large group gathered for the first time on Zoom. A follow-up survey received 33 responses.

Looking forward, the plan is to meet at 3 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month on Zoom, starting February 13, 2024, and then

to offer in-person quarterly potlucks in Leffler, with those who do not drive joining via Zoom. In addition, Doug Thorpe will be facilitating a Zoom book group on Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward*.

The survey revealed diverse interests and needs. Kathy, Linzi, and I will look to others in the large group to provide leadership in setting up outings, social events, field trips, and other activities. In sum, we are still in the formation stage of this new ministry, but there seems to be a strong desire for an organized community within Saint Mark's for those of us in the Third Act of our lives.

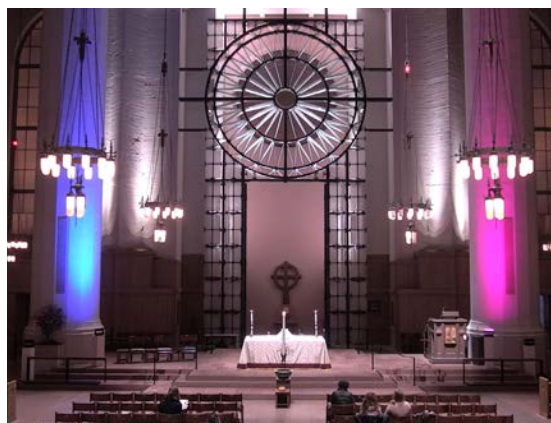
—Elizabeth Clark-Stern

SAINT MARK'S WRITER'S GROUP

Shortly after Maria Coldwell's excellent article on the Writers of Saint Mark's appeared in *The Rubric*, Libby Carr and I decided to offer a Zoom meeting for writers in our community to share ideas, stories, and our creative work. Twenty-two participants have been meeting on Zoom on the fourth Tuesday of every month for several months now. Each meeting has been fruitful, and often inspiring. After each meeting, Libby or I offer a writing prompt related to the writer's own spiritual journey. Most writers respond with their own original work—a poem, or short essay—at the next meeting.

One of us has had the idea of our group putting on a “salon,” in Leffler where we can invite the congregation to come and hear us read our original poems and reflections. This is tentatively planned for after Easter in 2024. It seems to be very important for our writers to be part of a group where we can be open about our faith, and, indeed, explore how our faith informs our creative work. There has been a request for change in meeting time, and once details have been decided, there will be an announcement to the parish inviting new members to join.

—Elizabeth Clark-Stern



QUEER IN CHRIST

The Queer in Christ (QuiC) ministry was officially launched in February 2023, with a Sunday forum led by Michael Seewer and the Rev. Canon Eliacín Rosario-Cruz. The launch was the culmination of over 6 months of discussions, discernment, and prayer by a group of queer people and allies at Saint Mark's, both long-time members and newcomers. In the almost 12 months since QuiC was launched, the ministry has offered events and activities that align with the ministry's mission to invite everyone, whether they identify as part of the queer community or not, to gather in fellowship and friendship while learning more about being queer in the church. Some of the events hosted by QuiC in the last year include: a forum with trans clergy on Transgender Day of Visibility, participation on the Capitol Hill Pride Fest and Seattle Pride Parade, a special forum and Taizé liturgy celebrating the feast of Pauli Murray, a Vigil and Eucharist for Transgender Day of Remembrance, and a series of Queer Conversations on a range of topics.

As we move forward, the Queer in Christ Ministry hopes to be a resource both for those who've been a part of the cathedral community for many years, and for those who may have just walked through the doors. We have received feedback from many new people visiting the cathedral for the first time that they found Saint Mark's while looking for an affirming church that would accept them for who they are. We believe the QuiC ministry has an important role to play in welcoming these newcomers into this community.

—Michael Seewer, Rose Hazard,
& Vicky Greenbaum

► [from top] Michael Seewer presents at the QuiC Ministry Launch Forum, February 19, 2023; a selfie from Dean Steve at the cathedral's booth at the Capitol Hill Pride Fest, June 24, 2023; part of the Saint Mark's contingent at the Seattle Pride Parade, June 25, 2023; the nave lit for the Transgender Day of Remembrance liturgy, November 30, 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS

Consistency and predictability are central to the communications strategy of Saint Mark's Cathedral, and in 2023 many of the standards and conventions established over the course of previous years were maintained or only gradually refined. This includes, for example, the format of the weekly email newsletter, the way liturgy videos are presented and archived on YouTube, Facebook, and the cathedral website, the multiple ways that information about upcoming forums can be predictably found, and the standards of branding and style that allow the cathedral to speak "with one voice" across its enormous range of ministries. In a sense, the single most consistent aspect of cathedral communications would be *The Rubric*, in continual publication since 1890, and the two issues published in 2023 under the leadership of editor Maria Coldwell were extremely well-received.

At the same time, communications must always innovate, explore, and refine its strategies, as mediums, technology, and expectations change. The cathedral's social media accounts experimented with more short video content, and the sermon archive page of the cathedral website now for the first time includes video excerpted from the main liturgy recording. At the suggestion of flower ministry leader Beatrix Roemheld-Hamm, new Facebook and Instagram accounts devoted to flowers in the cathedral were launched. Historic images from throughout the history of Saint Mark's started to be used as the header image of the email newsletter from time to time, and since these header images appear as social media posts automatically, these images have added depth and variety to the main Instagram and Facebook accounts.

A unique challenge this year was communication around the work of Affordable Housing Exploratory Committee, which must be communicated to the parish, to the broader Seattle community, and, crucially, to our north Capitol Hill neighbors, via press re-



◀ The phrases "Protect Trans Kids" and "Protect Trans Lives" were projected on the west façade of the cathedral building, June 20-29, 2023, in the most recent iteration of the *Projecting Justice* project in collaboration with the ACLU of Washington State.

leases, physical mailings, social media video, and more. This important work will only become more important as the exploratory process moves forward.

Saint Mark's collaboration with the ACLU in June 2023, the "Projecting Justice" display in support of transgender rights, occasioned the most coverage of Saint Mark's in local media this year, appearing in both the *Seattle Times* and on KNKX public radio. Other appearances in local media included a story on KING-5 television on the

► The Saint Mark's Cathedral Archives.

funeral of addiction advocate and activist Ricky Klausmeyer-Garcia, coverage of the \$100,000 grant to further the work of the Affordable Housing Exploratory Committee, and inclusion in a Seattle Times feature about how flowers are used in several local churches.

Finally, Saint Mark's received a number of accolades at the 2023 Polly Bond Awards for Excellence in Church Communications, presented at the annual conference of Episcopal Communicators in April 2023. The cathedral was given four awards (more than any other single parish or cathedral): an "award of merit" (i.e. second place) for David Wild's short video featuring Ray Miller ("On Carving the Paschal Candle"), and "awards of excellence" (i.e. first place) for Best Social Media Post (the NYE labyrinth walk on Instagram, featuring music by Deborah Brown), Best Booklet (for the 2021 Annual Report), and Best Print Publication for *The Rubric*. Thanks to all who collaborated on the projects that were cited, along with the many community members who have contributed to the work of communications throughout the last year: Maria Coldwell, who took over the role of Rubric editor, Kevin Johnson for his extraordinary photography, Michael Perera for invaluable social media work, Emily Meeks for guidance and practical assistance with the cathedral website and special projects, and many, many others.

—Gregory Bloch

IN 2023...

New Facebook followers	228
New Instagram followers	231
New sign-ups for cathedral emails . .	514
Unique viewers on Vimeo	5,927
Net new YouTube subscribers . . .	378
Total YouTube views	100,278
Total YouTube watch time . .	11,055.2 hrs



CATHEDRAL ARCHIVES

Work at the Saint Mark's Cathedral Archives continues and would not be possible without the support of the Dean and the Cathedral staff—they have my thanks and appreciation. Since I became Cathedral Archivist at Saint Mark's, over fifteen collections have been arranged and described, along with the creation of finding aids. Saint Mark's records that are being stored at Diocesan House are slowly making their way to Saint Mark's Archives; most recently, the records of Cathedral Associates and the Cathedral Chapter are now housed at the Saint Mark's Archives. Progress has also been made in updating the cathedral's records management program.

The work at Saint Mark's Cathedral could not have been accomplished without the help of two volunteers: Shaye Nadeem Anis, currently at the University of Washington iSchool, and Wesley Sonheim, recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The work that they have accomplished has been tremendous and has helped to expedite the amount of collections being finished. I am grateful for the work Shaye and Wesley have accomplished.

—Erik R. Bauer, MA, MILS

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

CATHEDRAL FOUNDATION

The Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1995. Its mission is to raise and manage capital funds to preserve and enhance the buildings and grounds of Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral.

In 2023, the Foundation disbursed \$76,285 to the cathedral to help cover repairs to the cathedral building and maintenance of the grounds.

In 2024 the Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia will focus on two priorities:

- ◆ Continue to increase resources to help with the Cathedral's buildings and grounds expenses.
- ◆ Help spread the word about FreeWill, a free online tool to help you create or update your Last Will and Testament at no charge.

You can go to the cathedral website to learn more about the relationship between the

Diocese of Olympia, Saint Mark's Cathedral, and the Cathedral Foundation, and to learn how FreeWill can be a gift to you and your family.

—Julia Logan

PETER R. HALLOCK INSTITUTE

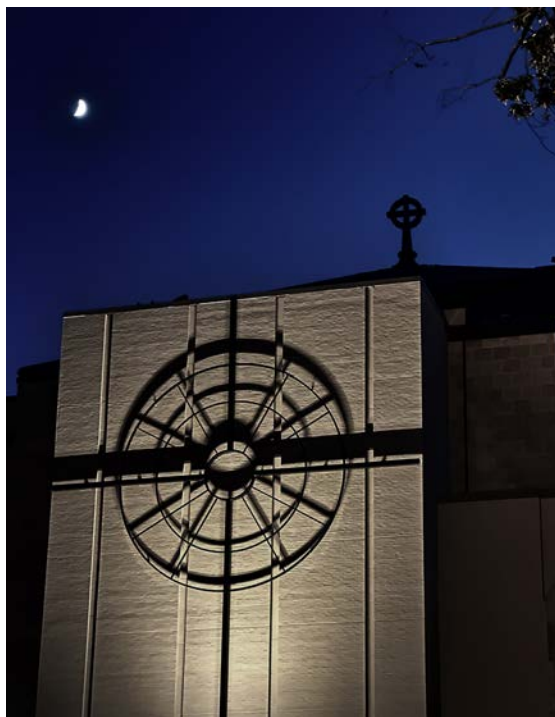
The Hallock Institute, a ministry of the Diocese of Olympia, oversees an archive of the music and papers of Peter R. Hallock and manages the assets of the Institute. The Institute creates editions of Hallock's unpublished works; advocates, publicizes, and broadens the audience for Hallock's music; makes small grants to support the performance of his music; and presents workshops and educational symposia focused on Hallock's music and liturgical innovations and the Compline Choir.

The board met five times in 2023, and accomplishments included:

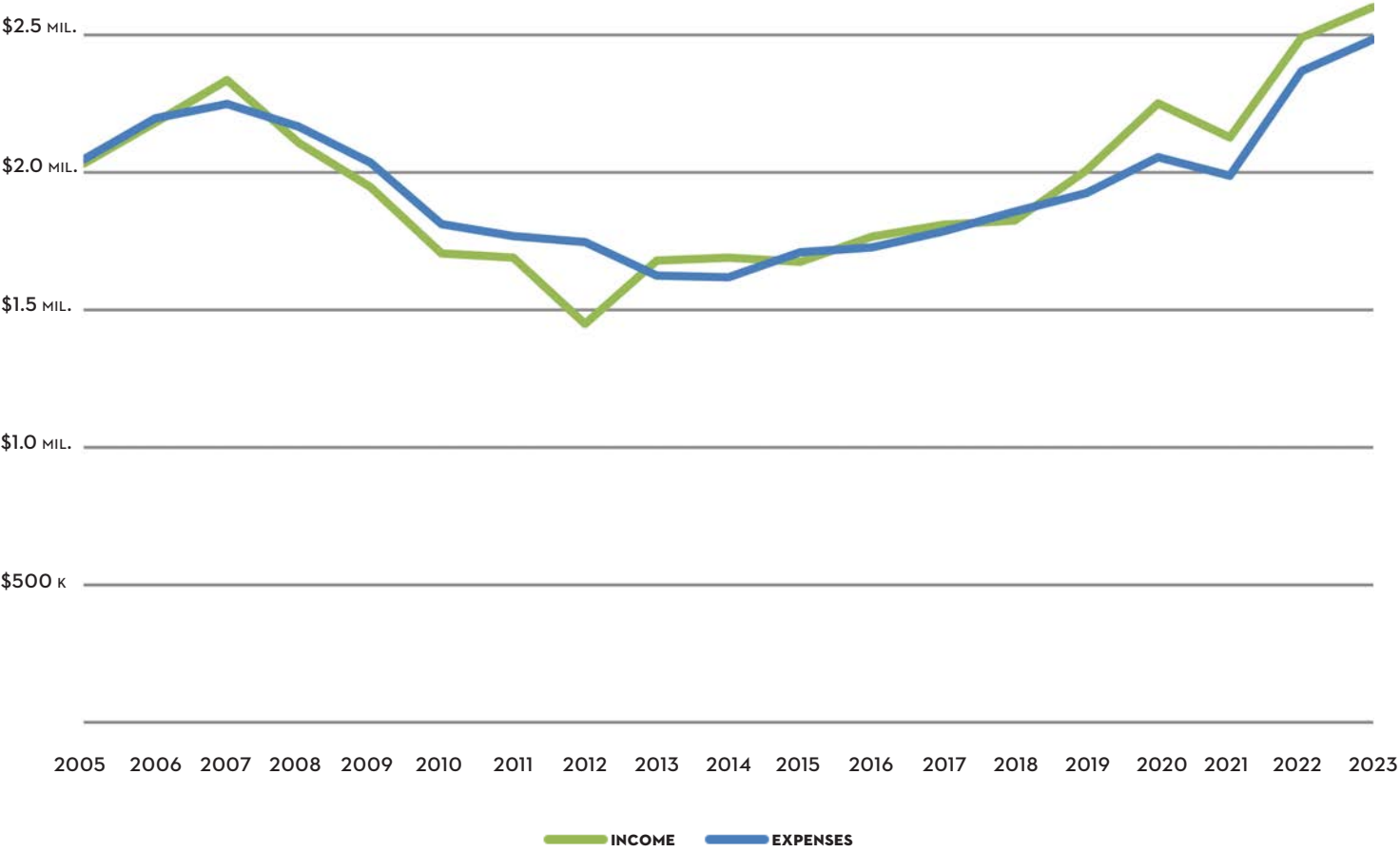
- ◆ an exhibition at the Association of Anglican Musicians conference in Dallas;
- ◆ the planning of the *Hallock at 100* concerts on February 24 & 25, 2024, which will feature The Compline Choir, The Byrd Ensemble, and countertenor José Luis Muñoz,
- ◆ the extension of a new three-year contract to the Director, and the launch of version 2.0 of hallockinstitute.org, anticipated to go live in early 2024.

The Board of Directors includes David Ouzts, Gerard van Wesep, Heather MacLaughlin Garbes, Jason Anderson, Jeff Junkinsmith, Michael Kleinschmidt, Michael Silhavy, Robin Ethridge, the Rev. Stephen Crippen (Bishop's designee), and the Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason. If you have questions about the Hallock Institute, please contact Jason Anderson at director@hallockinstitute.org

—Jason Anderson, DMA



SAINT MARK’S CATHEDRAL
OPERATING BUDGET HISTORY, 2005-2023



SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

CATHEDRAL OPERATING BUDGET, 2014-2024

REVENUES	ACTUALS (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)										2024 BUDGET
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN	1,087	1,116	1,235	1,286	1,341	1,468	1,610	1,729	1,896	1,848	1,834
PLATE OFFERING	117	110	104	106	112	108	62	64	110	116	114
GIFTS & GRANTS	50	98	66	48	48	48	364	100	111	161	64
SPECIAL EVENTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PROGRAM & SERVICE FEES	122	124	138	151	118	118	30	54	140	150	222
DIOCESE OF OLYMPIA	111	65	46	71	68	58	25	25	65	86	40
CATHEDRAL FOUNDATION	127	93	102	106	72	53	67	63	69	70	72
INTERFUND TRANSFERS/ MISC.	76	69	74	42	66	138	93	92	99	170	109
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,690	\$1,675	\$1,765	\$1,810	\$1,825	\$2,008	\$2,251	\$2,127	\$2,490	\$2,601	2,455
EXPENSES											
PERSONNEL	904	965	982	940	1,054	1,025	1,201	1,160	1,389	1,411	1,479
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT	223	238	234	231	235	225	288	266	315	312	315
MISSION DISBURSEMENTS, OTHER	5	39	29	25	24	18	16	16	17	15	12
PROFESSIONAL FEES	50	22	26	52	46	59	55	41	60	113	67
SUPPLIES & MINOR EQUIPMENT	50	42	43	85	60	73	40	58	59	32	50
COMMUNICATIONS	23	29	30	37	37	24	19	25	28	30	24
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	70	88	67	87	46	49	104	99	104	105	75
EQUIPMENT RENTAL & SERVICE	104	103	112	95	76	94	107	64	99	129	130
UTILITIES	91	77	90	105	107	98	81	89	108	106	117
TRAVEL	6	12	4	3	5	2	3	1	1	2	1
HOSPITALITY	15	18	17	13	14	14	3	7	17	15	13
CONFERENCES & TRAINING	14	14	21	19	19	20	20	7	25	22	42
INSURANCE	26	23	27	34	37	26	27	30	33	35	50
DUES, FEES, & LICENSES	17	23	20	21	25	33	37	69	37	52	39
OTHER	20	16	25	38	72	164	54	56	76	105	98
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,618	\$1,709	\$1,727	\$1,785	\$1,857	\$1,924	\$2,055	\$1,988	\$2,368	\$2,484	\$2,512
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$72	(\$34)	\$38	\$20	(\$32)	\$84	\$196	\$139	\$122	\$117	(\$57)

updated 1/31/2024



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