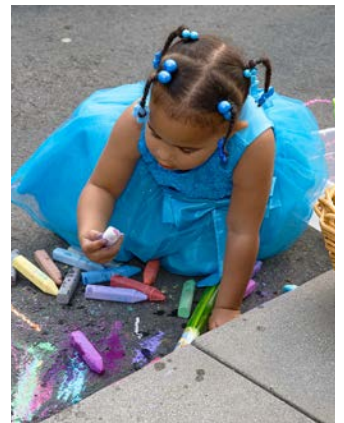


2024

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, SEATTLE



**REPORT PRESENTED AT
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL PARISH
JANUARY 26, 2025**



FROM THE DEAN

A FRIEND and former hospice colleague Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D., wrote *Kitchen Table Wisdom* and *My Grandfather's Blessings* (two books I'd recommend to anyone). Rachel said we need stories to make sense of life—they hold the key to so much wisdom—that beneath the layers of what we do lies the bedrock wisdom of who we are, who we were created to be. The stories may change with time; they may mix facts with meaning. As people of faith, we are a story-formed people seeking wisdom.

This Annual Report is more than a simple catalog of ministries that took shape at Saint Mark's in the past year; this report is designed to provide glimpses into the stories that find their origin, characters, plot twists, and meaning here in this place, in this community that has, for 135 years now (1889–2024), been about the faithful work of serving as God's people with a mission. This common work finds expression in myriad ways, and the community that gathers is richer for the diversity of ministries that are described in the pages that follow. It is my

hope that, upon reading these summaries, you will be intrigued to learn more, curious about the people involved, and emboldened to fresh ways of finding your place in the story, which is, of course, grounded in God's story which infuses each of our stories.

I also know that we are not reporting just a year's worth of story here, because our stories are always situated in the chronicles of those who have gone before us in this cathedral community, and leaves space for those who will come after us to write their own narratives. The tapestry we weave for a time is part of a larger cloth, with brilliant threads thrown across warp and weft of community to create something beautiful,



▲ [cover] Bishop LaBelle knocks on the cathedral doors with his crozier during the liturgy of Welcoming and Seating of the new Bishop, September 14, 2024.

◀ [previous page] Views from the life of the cathedral community (including Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and the Parish Picnic on Homecoming Sunday) by photographer Kevin Johnson.

▼ [left to right] Welcoming and Seating of Bishop LaBelle, September 14, 2024; *The Pageant of the Nativity*, December 18, 2024; The Feast of Pentecost, May 19, 2025.





▲ All Saints'
Pedestrian Pathway.

good, and true. It is a sacred story, and you are in it, and for that I give thanks to God, and I give thanks for you, for your presence and faithfulness.

So read on, and locate yourself in the story. As we say, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!

There are many aspects of our last year together that warm my heart; too many to share here, but one I will claim with special delight is the new All Saints' Pedestrian Pathway on the south lawn, installed last fall with a new "pad" around the picnic table there that resonates with the labyrinth nearby. The pathway serves to enhance safer access to the campus, but we named it "for all the saints" who have claimed this cathedral as their spiritual home—those known to us, and those unknown. Their stories are part of the sacred tome that is Saint Mark's, and I am grateful for that. Every time I walk on that pathway, I remember them, and give thanks for them, and for their welcome. With that sense of connection, I share a poem here by present-day poet M. Dickerson entitled "They Chose Me."

They Chose Me

*They chose me.
My ancestors
chose me to
tell their stories,
unravel their truths,
and learn from their hardships.
They chose me
to inspire and encourage
others with their stories.
They chose me
to keep their possessions,
handle them with respect,
and share them with family.
My ancestors chose me.*

May the blessings of our ancestors of faith in this place be a source of inspiration for our own story-telling, as we seek to serve the mission of Saint Mark's with grace and truth.

Blessings and peace,

The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason
Dean & Rector

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

I RECENTLY learned that the term “vestry” in the Anglican tradition originally denoted the room used by clergy and other liturgical ministers to store and change into their vestments for worship services. Since space in many churches was limited, this room was often repurposed during the week for meetings of church leaders, including those that came to be known as the Vestry. I love this bit of church lore because it represents something we continually must do as a church: make use of limited resources in new and creative ways to adapt to the changing needs of the day. Working with clergy, staff, and parish volunteers, the Vestry is charged with balancing change and constancy, and with stewarding financial, physical, and personal resources for the best interests of the Cathedral community.

Vestry service is an honor and a responsibility—but it is also a fascinating opportunity to see and help shape the full sweep of activities that make up our common life at the Cathedral. Vestry members arrive with different interests, experiences, and gifts, and focus on different areas of parish life. But at every meeting, I am struck by the profound sincerity and good intentions for a better Cathedral—and world—that unite the group.

I am grateful to be joined in leadership by our three junior wardens who chair the core operating committees of the Vestry (Finance, Facilities, and Stewardship): Phil Haas, Julia Logan, and Peter Snyder. Their wisdom and experience inform all that we do on Vestry. The wardens are joined in service by Treasurer Lynne Cobb, Chancellor Re Knack, and Clerk Barbara Erickson, each of whom contributes many hours of their time and expertise to Saint Mark’s Vestry and parish. All of us are thankful for this Cathedral, and for the clergy and staff who serve this community with immense talent and dedication.



2024 has been a year of considerable change and challenge in our world and community, but I believe that the people of Saint Mark’s, guided as we are by Spirit, continue to adapt while retaining our core identity and values. The Cathedral completes the year with solid finances, excellent staff and clergy, and a vital parish. These are no small achievements, and everyone at the Cathedral contributes to them.

Here are some highlights from the year:

STRATEGIC PLAN & MUTUAL MINISTRY GOALS

In early 2024, the Vestry adopted the Strategic Plan that was developed by the Strategic Planning Team from all-Parish interviews conducted during 2023. The plan incorporates and expands our previous Mutual Ministry Goals, and elaborates six themes to guide our common life at the Cathedral for the next few years: *Being Rooted in Spiritual Practices*; *Empowering the Call to Action and Service*; *Cultivating Diverse Community*; *Stewarding our Resources*; *Expanding Regional Reach and Welcome*; and *Connecting and Telling our Stories*. These themes are broadly applicable to any of the Cathedral’s numerous ministries and activities, and are worth contemplation for identifying and developing new needs for ministry and personal development.

With the Strategic Plan providing overall guidance, the Vestry adopted Mutual Ministry Goals for 2024 that reflect specific aims

for the year. The three goals are: (1) cast a fresh vision for our work of stewardship as a year-round spiritual practice; (2) lay the groundwork for a successful capital campaign to be launched in 2025; 3) engage the ongoing exploration of Affordable Housing on the cathedral campus. This Annual Report describes progress on each of these goals among others.

CATHEDRAL STAFF

During 2024, the Cathedral was able to fill out its staff complement with several significant additions. In mid-year, Reverend Canon Richard Weyls was called as Canon for Community Life & Senior Associate Rector. Reverend Canon Emily Griffin joined later in the year as Canon Vicar. Together with Dean Thomason, several Priest Associates, and Deacon Earl Grout, these new clergy complete a strong clerical team that is already working together effectively to provide spiritual and organizational leadership for our complex and vibrant church community.

▼ The Great Vigil of Easter, March 30, 2024.



In July, Marc Aubertin took up his new position as Cathedral Subdean, responsible for facilities, finance, I.T., purchasing, and project management for the Cathedral's plans for carbon neutrality on our campus. In August, Elizabeth Antley joined the staff as Climate Justice Coordinator & Cathedral Grant Writer.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Part of our Cathedral life is our care and stewardship of its physical campus, both to support current worship and parish activities and to pass a sustainable Cathedral on to future generations. Early in the year, the Vestry determined that growing needs and new opportunities for improvements to our facilities would require a new capital campaign, following the Living Stones campaign a decade ago. The timing for this effort is largely driven by our commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, which cannot be accomplished without major infrastructure improvements. Accordingly, a feasibility study was conducted in late 2024 that surveyed more than 80 households to gain a sense of parish support and priorities for a campaign. In parallel, a pre-design committee was tasked with evaluating and prioritizing project components that could be supported by a successful campaign. Results and detailed plans for the campaign will be announced in early 2025.

PARISH LIFE

Saint Mark's continues to be the center of a vibrant and growing church community. At last count, more than 80 ministries are listed in our Ministry Guide. Attendance at worship services and other parish gatherings has recovered nicely following the pandemic. A complete list of activities this year would fill several pages, but here is a brief sampling:

- ◆ **Gratitude Dinner:** In September, An All-Parish Gratitude Dinner was enthusiastically attended by more than 140

parish members. Great fun and good food were complemented by speaker Reverend Timothy Dombeck.

- ◆ **Wisdom School:** More than 400 people attended the various Wisdom School offerings, and a robust program is planned for 2025.
- ◆ **Thomason Ordination Anniversary:** In June, the parish gathered following worship to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Dean Steve Thomason's ordination, and to express our gratitude for his ministry at Saint Mark's.
- ◆ **Choir School:** Music continues to have a huge presence at Saint Mark's, with its several choirs and well attended music series. Of particular note, the Choir School continues to grow, with more than 50 choristers registered in Fall 2024.
- ◆ **Center for Spirituality and Action:** 14 people formed the inaugural cohort of this intentional community at Saint Mark's.

JUSTICE & COMMUNITY

Restorative justice has been a focus of activity at Saint Mark's for many years, and 2024 was no exception. The Cathedral hosted Tent City 3 for the 17th time during the summer months, with parishioners and staff contributing time, food, and supplies to its success. Donna Jean's Place, a new women's emergency shelter being constructed in collaboration with Operation Nightwatch, will begin operations in the St. Nicholas building soon. In recognition of the substantial tension and anxiety associated with this year's election, Saint Mark's hosted a pre-election Interreligious Prayer Vigil that included speakers and hundreds of attendees from several local faith communities.

Exploratory planning for Affordable Housing in the St. Nicholas space progressed to the point that the Vestry approved engagement of a development partner. All



potential partners were enthusiastic about the project, but their current project slates dictate a longer timeline than originally anticipated—which will afford the Cathedral more time to pursue deeper community engagement for the project.

▲ The formal entrance of Bishop LaBelle into the cathedral at the liturgy of Welcoming and Seating of a Bishop, September 14, 2024.

CHURCH & DIOCESE

In May, Saint Mark's hosted the election of our new Bishop, Phil LaBelle, and his seating in September. Saint Mark's continues to be a source of new vitality for the church at large, raising up two new priests (Robert Stevens and Phillip Lienau), three new transitional deacons (Lynne Markova, Kelly Moody, Adam Conley), and a new seminarian (Emily Meeks).

All of these activities testify to the spiritual vitality, enthusiasm, and creativity of the Saint Mark's community. At a time when we read many articles about the decline of churches, Saint Mark's is a robust example of what can be. As Dean Thomason often says, we are all in ministry together, and I believe this is the source of Saint Mark's strength—the people who are here, and who continue to join us. I am profoundly grateful to be in ministry with all of you.

—Greg Hamm, Senior Warden

FINANCE COMMITTEE

▼ *Waters of Baptism*, one of the three installations by community member Sandy Nelson installed in the nave as part of the *Sacred Spaces* offerings in summer 2024, supported by a grant from the Calvin Institute.

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to provide support, advice, and guidance that assists the Vestry in maintaining effective administration of the accounting and financial operations of the Cathedral. The committee monitors and maintains accounting systems to assure the Vestry and the Parish that the funds and designated gifts, collected and disbursed, are appropriate to and in accordance with the policies of the Vestry, standard accounting practices, and gift restrictions. The Finance Committee is advisory only and does not exercise the authority of the Vestry in the management of the Cathedral or Cathedral funds.

The Finance Committee's functions include:

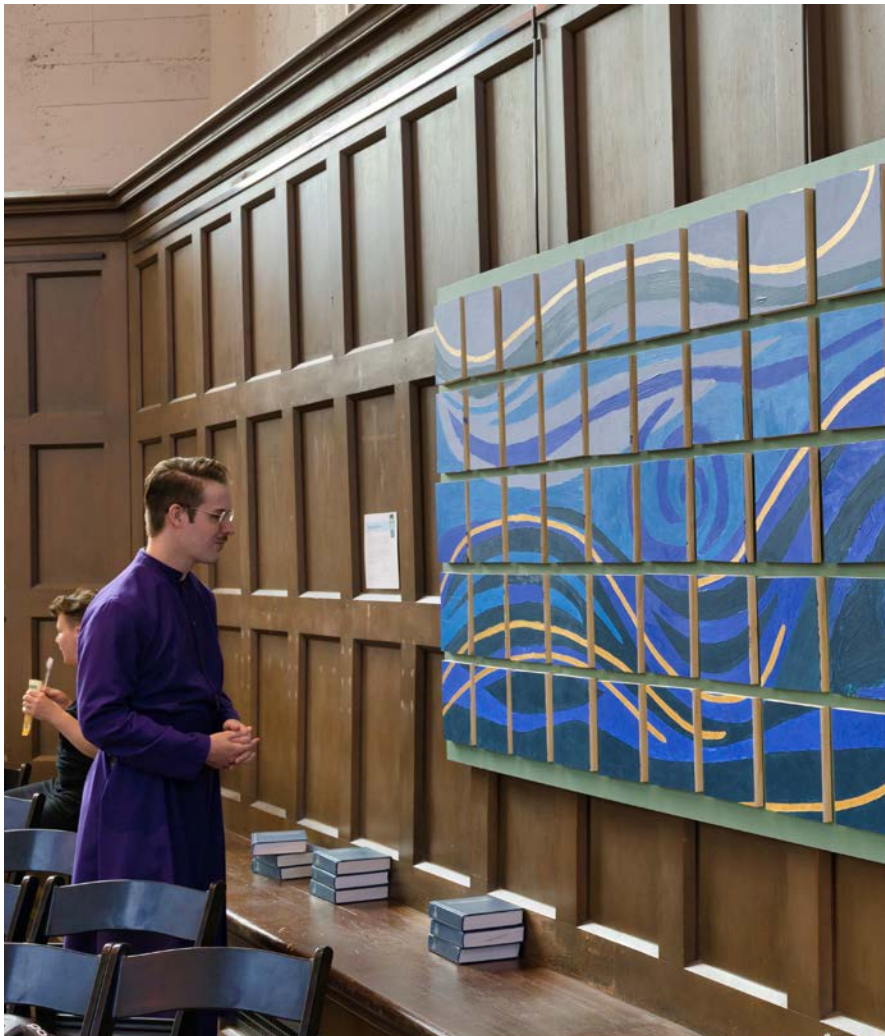
BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

The Finance Committee exercises oversight of the budget process but does not provide day-to-day management of the accounts as that is the responsibility of Cathedral staff. The committee makes budget recommendations to the Vestry to enable it to perform its fiduciary responsibilities. In practice, this is carried out by performing the following functions:

- ◆ Present monthly financial statements to the Vestry
- ◆ Serve as a resource to the Vestry on finance issues
- ◆ Recommend an annual budget for approval by the Vestry before the start of the upcoming program year
- ◆ Present a summary of the previous year's spending and revenue at the Annual Meeting of the Cathedral Parish
- ◆ Maintain regular communication with the Vestry about the committee's activities by providing meeting minutes and financial statements

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

The investment portfolio consists of contributions from donors including restricted gifts, Vestry-designated funds and endowments, and operating funds not needed for current operations. Restricted, designated, and endowed funds are managed by a professional financial management group (currently the Hodges Diocesan Investment Fund). Short-term investing of funds not needed for current operations is the responsibility of the committee. The committee is responsible for managing both investment portfolios in a manner that supports the budget goals of the Vestry while insuring future financial resources and honoring the intentions of donors.



ANNUAL AUDIT OR REVIEW

The Finance Committee is responsible for ensuring that proper accounting procedures have been followed. This is accomplished by:

- ◆ Consulting with an external agency to conduct an annual audit or review
- ◆ Responding with recommendations to audit or review findings if necessary
- ◆ Recommending auditor directed actions consistent with Vestry policies.

The Finance Committee consists of up to 12 pledging members including the Dean of the Cathedral, the Chair of the Finance Committee, the Treasurer, the Senior Warden, the Treasurer of the Cathedral Foundation, two or more additional Vestry members, and up to six members of the Parish.

During 2024 the Finance Committee has supported achievement of the cathedral's

three mutual ministry goals:

1. Cast a fresh vision for our work of stewardship as a year-round spiritual practice
2. Lay the groundwork for a successful capital campaign to be launched in 2025
 - ◆ *Meet our creation care goal for all Cathedral properties to be net carbon zero by 2030*
 - ◆ *Enhance worship experiences by addressing long-deferred aesthetic and infrastructure aspects in the nave and narthex*
 - ◆ *Endow gifts to support the ministry of Cathedral music*
3. Engage the ongoing exploration of Affordable Housing on the Cathedral campus

—Phillip Haas, Junior Warden for Finance

2024 GRANTS

During 2024, Saint Mark's Cathedral applied for and received grant funding from the following:

- ◆ **Episcopal Church in Western Washington (ECWW):** Partnership Fund grant for updated mic equipment for the Cathedral—\$7,238
- ◆ **Church Periodical Club (CPC):** National Books Fund grant which has funded books for study relating to affordable housing, restorative justice, and intergenerational ministries. The book discussions for Matthew Desmond's *Evicted and Poverty*, by America taking place in 2025.—\$2,238
- ◆ **Safeway:** Nourishing Neighbors grant awarded gift cards to support food insecurity with the Cathedral's community partnerships.—\$2,000

- ◆ **WA Commerce:** Nonprofit Security Grant Program awarded funds to improve facilities and grounds security around campus.—\$9,228

Additionally, a \$25,000 "Vital Worship, Vital Preaching" grant was awarded to Saint Mark's by the **Calvin Institute for Christian Worship** in 2023, with the funds disbursed in 2024. This grant supported:

- ◆ "Sacred Spaces" intergenerational art and music activities and cathedral tours over the summer,
- ◆ Special liturgies including a baptismal pilgrimage, Blessing of the Animals, and Cozy Compline events during the fall
- ◆ An Afternoon of Service on Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday weekend, Sunday, January 19, 2025

—Elizabeth Antley & Canon Emily Griffin

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

ONE BODY



SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL STEWARDSHIP 2025

Over the past year, the Stewardship Ministry has taken our lead from the 2024 Strategic Plan, which identifies Stewarding Our Resources as one of six focus areas. The plan describes this focus as follows: “We give generously of our time, talent, finances, and property, and care for the Earth as we respond to the world’s needs.” We saw this as a mandate to talk about stewardship as encompassing more than the annual commitment campaign: we sought to communicate that stewardship is a spiritual practice that we strive to live out every day.

In order to help us put this vision into effect, Dean Steve secured a stewardship consultant, the Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek, who met with the Stewardship Ministry team and the Vestry during the spring. Canon Timothy encouraged us to keep a conversation about stewardship going year-round. To implement this, we put in place

a multi-channel communication strategy that included:

- ◆ A Wednesday night forum on stewardship in early May, focusing on stewardship as a spiritual practice in response to God’s generous gifts to us, and highlighting proportional giving as an expression of our gratitude.
- ◆ Monthly stewardship reflections published in the parish newsletter and monthly reflections from parishioners during the 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday Eucharists. These reflections were designed to remind us of the many good things that happen when we give of our time, talent, and treasure.
- ◆ An article published in the September edition of the Rubric on “Stewardship as a Spiritual Practice.”

Building on this year-round communication plan, the Fall Commitment Campaign kicked off on Saturday, September 28 with an all-parish Gratitude Dinner. About 150 attendees enjoyed a catered taco bar dinner, lively audience participation games, musical entertainment from the Saint Mark’s staff, and a keynote address from our consultant, the Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek. The event was a joyful celebration of our life together! We encouraged attendees to fill out cards briefly indicating what they are thankful for about Saint Mark’s. Over 100 completed cards were displayed in the nave for the duration of the campaign.

The following morning, Canon Timothy preached at the 9 and 11 a.m. Eucharists, speaking about the “Power of One.” He challenged us to begin a practice of proportional giving by setting aside one hour per week for worship, one hour per week for ministry, and one hour of wages per week for the work of the church. On subsequent

Sundays, parishioners offered gratitude reflections at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, speaking about why Saint Mark's is important to them and why they support it financially. Video reflections from Dean Steve and Greg Simon were also sent out to the parish during the course of the campaign.

The results of the Fall Campaign have been very encouraging. As of December 13, we have received 419 commitments for a total of \$1,837,524. This represents approximately a 3% increase in giving over last year. The

results include 40 new commitments for 2025, and 175 households who increased their commitment over 2024.

Many thanks are due to the Stewardship Ministry for its hard work and dedication over the past year: Amanda Davis, Sr. Warden Greg Hamm, Kristen Kelly, Hilary McLeland-Wieser, Greg Simon, Dean Steve Thomason, and Alexandra Thompson.

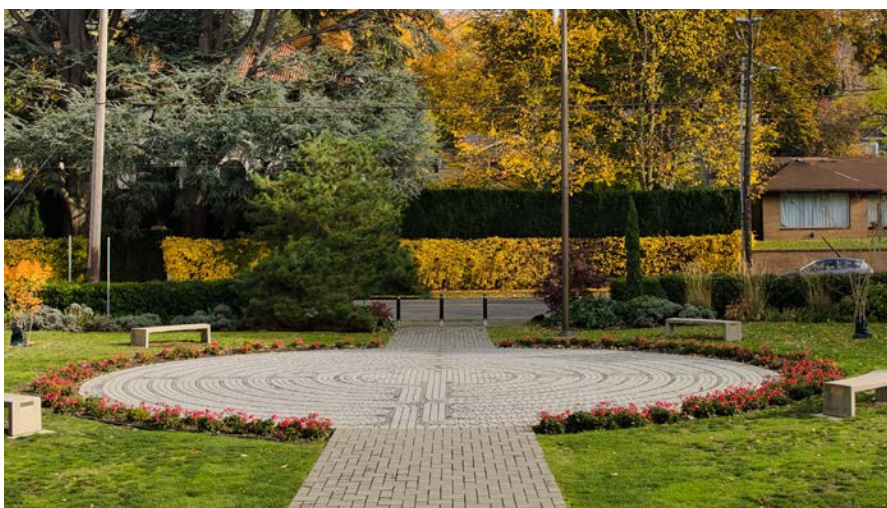
—Peter Snyder,
Junior Warden for Stewardship

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

The Facilities Committee meets monthly with the Dean, Subdean and Cathedral staff on matters of repair, restoration and preservation of the Cathedral, Cathedral House, Leffler House, the Carriage House, the Deanery and the Cathedral grounds. We report to Vestry and, when necessary, make recommendations to the Vestry on project funding. Our focus is not just on repair and maintenance, but it is also centered on helping us achieve our goal of making all Cathedral property net carbon zero by 2030.

A few highlights from 2024: the new HVAC system in Thomsen Chapel; the All Saints' Path leading from 10th Ave. onto campus (including improved hardscaping under the picnic table), a new hot water heater in the Bloedel kitchen, replacement of other gas hot water heaters on campus and at the Deanery, restoration of the Thomsen Chapel doors, the installation of a safety system to allow attic access, tree removal and pruning, and the installation of Julie Speidel's sculpture on the front lawn. An important ongoing project is the replacement of the windows in Bloedel and Cathedral House.

—Julia Logan, *Junior Warden for Facilities*



INTERGENERATIONAL COUNCIL

The Intergenerational Council began 2024 with the return of the exuberant Twelfth Night celebration (which had been cancelled in 2023 because due to the rescheduled 2022 *Pageant of the Nativity*). After a lovely candlelight liturgy using the Epiphany readings, we processed to the lower parking lot for the Burning of the Greens. Once the flames died down, we roasted marshmallows and enjoyed s'mores, hot cider, and each other's company—a joyful end to the Christmas season and a wonderful beginning to the New Year.

Our focus this past year has been on collaboration: with each other, with other ministries and outside organizations, and with the wider network of churches and leaders exploring what it means to be intergenerational communities of faith where all ages are intentionally invited into meaningful engagement and deeper relationships with God and with one another through worship, prayer and spiritual practices, education, fellowship, and service.

Highlights from the first half of the year included attending a play at ACT about climate change that two members of Scho-la were involved in, a Not-So-Quiet Afternoon following the Lenten Quiet Morning featuring a drum circle and sound bath,

▼ Maundy Thursday,
March 28, 2024.

and co-sponsoring with Creation Care an Urban Birding Day funded by a grant from the City of Seattle in the Leffler Garden and Greenbelt. With Creation Care, we developed a Seed Library inspired by one Dean Steve discovered on a trip to California. Scores of packets of sunflower seeds were given away at Cathedral Day. This initiative makes it easy to collect, share and grow herbs, vegetables and flowers that thrive locally.

In May, we convened a weekday workshop on Intergenerational Ministry for ministry leaders featuring Chris Barnett of InterGen Australia, Dr. Valerie Grissom, a leader of intergenerational worship in the Northwest Coast Presbytery, and Canon Barrie. This hybrid offering attracted participants from across the United States as well as Mexico and the United Kingdom. Building upon the learnings from that event, the Intergenerational Council presented a Cathedral Commons forum to help ministry leaders at Saint Mark's become intentionally intergenerational. An outcome of that was a ministry planning guide created by Emily Meeks now posted at saintmarks.org/learn/intergenerational-ministries along with the Thursday workshop and Wednesday forum videos

A "Vital Worship, Vital Preaching" grant from the Calvin Institute of Worship in Grand Rapids, Michigan with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc. allowed the cathedral to offer Sacred Spaces: multiple opportunities to experience and encounter the sacred spaces of Saint Mark's through art, music, journey and story. Launching with Cathedral Day in late April, guided and self-guided tours were offered, a coloring book and family guide were created, and Intergenerational Council member Sandy Nelson was our artist-in residence. She designed three large-scale art installa-



tions which were created in collaboration with congregants ranging in age from 3 to 90: *Communion of Saints*, *Waters of Baptism*, and *Hands of Pilgrimage*. These stunning installations were on display in the cathedral nave all summer, and over the course of special open hours Sunday afternoons, Monday evenings and Wednesdays all day in July and August, hundreds of people enjoyed live music of many styles, walked the labyrinths inside and out, spent time in the garden and grounds, and took part in pop-up art workshops. In early September, *Remember your Baptism! A Pilgrimage for All Ages* was a wonderful way to reflect on and explore the promises we make in baptism.

The program year began in September with the Ministry Fair and a parish picnic on the lawn featuring hot dogs and hamburgers. Backpacks and briefcases were blessed, and we look forward to this being a new tradition, a way of celebrating that's inclusive of the larger Saint Mark's community. Another new and robustly attended intergenerational offering this fall was the moving liturgy for All Hallow's Eve in collaboration with the 20s/30s Ministry. The Calvin Institute grant allowed us to advertise to Capitol Hill and Greater Seattle two other special fall liturgies. The Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals this year featured a pet photographer and attracted many first-time participants, and, for the first time, we offered **Cozy Compline**, a Friday 7 p.m. liturgy to which folks were invited to come in pjs for milk and cookies and a picture book about Compline, *Candle Walk*, and concluded with Saint Mark's high school Schola chanting the office by lantern-light.

Intergenerational Council took the lead on this year's Alternative Gift Market. Wonderful contributions were made by Godly Play children who crafted Christmas cards, the Quilt Ministry, the Ministry of Worsted Wool, and dozens of congregants who donated handicrafts, treasures of many kinds, and delicious baked goods. Many others helped price the items, set up the market



and take it down again, for which we are so grateful! Between the gift market and the Giving Tree, more than \$6000 was raised for our community partner ministries and for Saint Mark's Threshold Fund.

Our year concluded with the formation of an Accessibility Task Force that will be made up of members of the council, vestry, and congregation. The task force will identify short term, medium term, and long-term opportunities to improve accessibility at Saint Mark's. The work of the task force will take place over the first six months of 2025. Recommendations based on the work of the task force will be made to the vestry next June. In speaking about how we'll begin to assess needs, newly named chair of the task force Michael Garrett notes that first there is "a discovery process where we are exploring some best practices in how the cathedral community can optimize the accessibility for all people, with a focus on people with a range of disabilities." First, we will learn about best practices in meeting the needs of people with disabilities and solicit feedback from members of the cathedral community with disabilities to understand how best to meet their needs. This is an exciting undertaking, and we're honored to join Michael, Vestry member Alexandra Thompson, and many others in this important work.

—Canon Wendy Claire Barrie

▲ The kids' carpet in the cathedral nave during the 9 a.m. service on November 10, 2024.

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, overcome our fears about the climate crisis, and 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 Saint Mark's ministries in this work. Our goal is for the congregation and the buildings to reach net zero carbon by 2030.

The Creation Care Ministry is looking for new leadership in 2025. Anyone interested in leading any parts of this ministry—whether ongoing activities or new initiatives—please email creationcare@saintmarks.org.

RAISING AWARENESS & EDUCATION

Throughout the year, we continued to host very informative monthly **Climate Conversations** on Zoom about practical ways

to reduce our impact on the environment. These presentations were attended by many people, including from outside of Saint Mark's, and provided good information, a chance for discussion, and hope for change. Richard Hartung will continue to host these in 2025. Video and resources from Climate Conversations dating back to June 2022 can be seen at: saintmarks.org/2022/08/climate-conversations

The Creation Care Ministry produced a spring and autumn **ministry newsletter**, with helpful information and resources, as well as thought-provoking reflections. Links to past issues may be found at: saintmarks.org/creation

In January, we hosted a fascinating debrief on **COP28** (the international annual Conference of the Parties on Climate Change) with the Rev. Lisa Graumlich, Ph.D., who gave us her insights on the outcomes and discussions, including reasons for hope. In February Andrew Himes gave us a



► The cathedral with Julie Speidel's recently-installed sculpture, *Otemma 3*.

presentation on his work with the Carbon Leadership Forum at the UW, including innovations in embodied carbon in buildings. Both presentations were recorded.

We hosted a **book discussion** in January/February on John Philip Newell's *Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation*.

We continue to encourage the Saint Mark's Community to make use of the **Carbon Offset Fund** on Saint Mark's giving page, saintmarks.org/give. Funds contributed here are passed through directly to the Carbon Offset Cooperative Mission with the Diocese of Southern Philippines and CO-TAP.org. In 2024, over \$3,900 was donated to these programs, representing the offset of over 260 tons of carbon. These programs facilitate tree planting and farm projects in other parts of the world and raise awareness of the global impacts of the social injustice of climate change. Learn more at: ecww.org/about-the-diocese-of-olympia/departments/stewardship-and-development/carbon-offset-cooperative-mission

COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

The Creation Care Ministry publicizes many of its events throughout the Diocese. We collaborated with First United Methodist Church and Third Act WA to promote an evening with **Bill McKibben** in July on an in-depth look at the impacts and future of climate change. We collaborated with the City of Seattle and Recology to host a **community recycling event** in October for difficult to recycle items. 284 households participated.

In May, in collaboration with the Intergenerational Council, we hosted **bird walks** for families and adults to learn more about birds living in the Greenbelt, led by Saint Mark's members, plus activities for families in Leffler Garden. In collaboration with staff, a **seed library** is now an ongoing opportunity for the community to share and exchange seeds. In gratitude to Dean Steve for the idea.



◀ The Saint Mark's Seed Library in the cathedral nave.

REFLECTIONS & CONNECTIONS

We spent significant time in the spring reviewing Saint Mark's Strategic Plan, its many intersections with Creation Care, and ideas for actions. We hosted a **Deep Time Walk** in September, which provided a unique opportunity while walking through the Saint Mark's neighborhood to learn about and reflect on our planet Earth's geological, chemical, and biological history and our place in it. We hope to host more Deep Time Walks in 2025.

We hosted three **Sunday forums**: In April with Eliza Davidson, to learn more about the history of Saint Mark's Greenbelt; In October with Recology, to learn more about recycling in the City of Seattle; and in December a Winter Solstice Poetry Reading, led by Professor Doug Thorpe.

ADVOCACY

Creation Care Ministry members continued the work of commenting on numerous environmental and climate bills in the state legislative session. The threat of **Initiative 2117**, an effort to repeal Washington state's Climate Commitment Act, was discussed to a great degree, and we were relieved when I-2117 was soundly defeated in November.

CARBON REDUCTION IN THE CATHEDRAL BUILDINGS

Work continued on researching and preparing to report on how Saint Mark's will meet its **carbon emissions reduction goals** with assistance from the City of



Seattle's Clean Buildings Accelerator Program (seattlebuildingsaccelerator.com). This project is now being led by Saint Mark's new Climate Justice Coordinator and Grant Writer Elizabeth Antley. Fortunately, Saint Mark's is already on its way to compliance through numerous projects related to reducing its carbon footprint, but much work remains to be done and funded.

— Marjorie Ringness & Kathy Minsch

THE SAINT MARK'S GREENBELT

In 2024, the Greenbelt Ministry focused on increasing the usability of the Greenbelt. We trimmed back overgrowth of both natives and invasives to widen the parking lot loop trail to 1.5 meters, which makes it much more comfortable to walk along the trail. People no longer need to worry about their hair or clothes being snagged by thorns as they walk, or a wayward fern shoving them off the trail!

We also increased our coordination with the Seattle Green Partnership to help manage volunteering events in the Greenbelt. In conjunction with GSP, we hosted more than 10 events with about half a dozen volunteers per event to remove invasives across the Greenbelt. We have also begun coordinating with Seattle Parks and Recreation to do a walkthrough of the trails and bridges,

to see if there are any improvements that need to be done.

As the year wrapped up, we began planning our goals for 2025, with a particular focus to getting more people out using the Greenbelt. We have started planning some work to restore the spike trail down to Lakeview Boulevard, and new events in the Greenbelt such as regular Liturgical walks. We are also planning to strengthen our communication with GSP and Seattle Parks, and ensure the historical Greenbelt is preserved and accessible to all!

— Elli Howard

BEEKEEPING MINISTRY

For several years, Saint Mark's has kept honeybees on the rooftop of the Cathedral House. In 2024, we had two active hives from which we harvested 25+ pounds of honey to sell at our alternative market and to supply to those who bake our Communion bread. The bees can be observed from the choir rehearsal room during the warmer months but during the winter, they cluster inside the hives to create warmth. Our volunteer apiarists have obtained apprentice certification from the Washington State Master Beekeepers Association. We are ready to educate any interested community members who wish to participate. For more information contact, Rob Reid: robreid62@gmail.com

—Rob Reid



▲ The Saint Mark's Garden Ministry work party, February 10, 2024.

► Cathedral Beekeeping Ministry leader Rob Reid.



◀ [left] Easter Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt,
March 31, 2024.

◀ ▼ [right and below]:
The Saint Mark's Garden
Ministry work party,
February 10, 2024.

GARDEN MINISTRY

The Saint Mark's Cathedral Garden Volunteers have been caring for the Great Lawn of the Cathedral for years, organized about 25 years ago. We meet the second Saturday of the month, February through November, 9 a.m. to noon.

The Garden committee was busy during 2024. A glorious ring of daffodils around the labyrinth welcomed us in late winter, followed by vibrant geraniums through the summer and fall. Work parties included twenty-five hardy souls, even drawing from the neighborhood. On two occasions, we enjoyed breakfast on the porch before beginning our pruning and weeding tasks. The installation of a Julie Speidel sculpture includes a ground cover of woolly thyme and small pebbles around the artwork. People of all ages are enjoying this addition to the Great Lawn. The "All Saints' Pathway," created in the south section, provides pedestrians safer access to the cathedral buildings from 10th Avenue. The cathedral management arranged to remove four diseased trees, and this has offered the garden committee exciting possibilities of new trees to replace the old. The piles of chips from the downed trees provided mulch along

the bank and on the perimeter of the Great Lawn.

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



AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE



Based on a very detailed, year-long study, the Affordable Housing Committee and Vestry concluded in March 2024 that it is feasible to develop a 110–140 unit affordable housing project on the St. Nicholas site and that in all likelihood this is the highest and best missional use of the site. Accordingly, the Vestry approved the Committee’s recommendation to move forward to the stage of selecting a development partner that would bring expertise, credibility, and financial strength to the project while being aligned missionally with Saint Mark’s and supportive of our project criteria. In April, we sought expressions of interest from potential development partners; at that stage, though, we learned of a “perfect storm” of systemic and economic challenges facing affordable housing developers that discourages them from undertaking additional projects over the next 2–3 years even though they are quite positive about the St. Nicholas site. Despite this timeline extension, the Vestry directed our Committee to continue exploring an affordable housing development.

During this “pause” the Committee has been and will continue to be quite active. In addition to maintaining ongoing contact with potential developers, our Committee has been stressing community engagement. We are poised to adopt a detailed Community Engagement Roadmap on

January 8, 2025 and to actively implement the Roadmap throughout 2025. The Roadmap includes several specific programs and projects by which the Affordable Housing Committee will engage with the parish, the neighbors, and the communities harmed by housing inequities that we seek to serve.

A highlight of 2024 was our Committee’s participation in the December 4 Housing and Hunger Summit, which highlighted that the affordable housing project is only one piece of a multi-faceted engagement in issues of housing justice at Saint Mark’s. Looking long term, we are committed to a housing project that is designed to connect with the Cathedral’s other housing and hunger ministries and that has a “third place” where residents, parishioners, and community members can interact as part of daily life.

You can stay updated on the progress of the affordable housing project at saintmarks.org/affordablehousing.

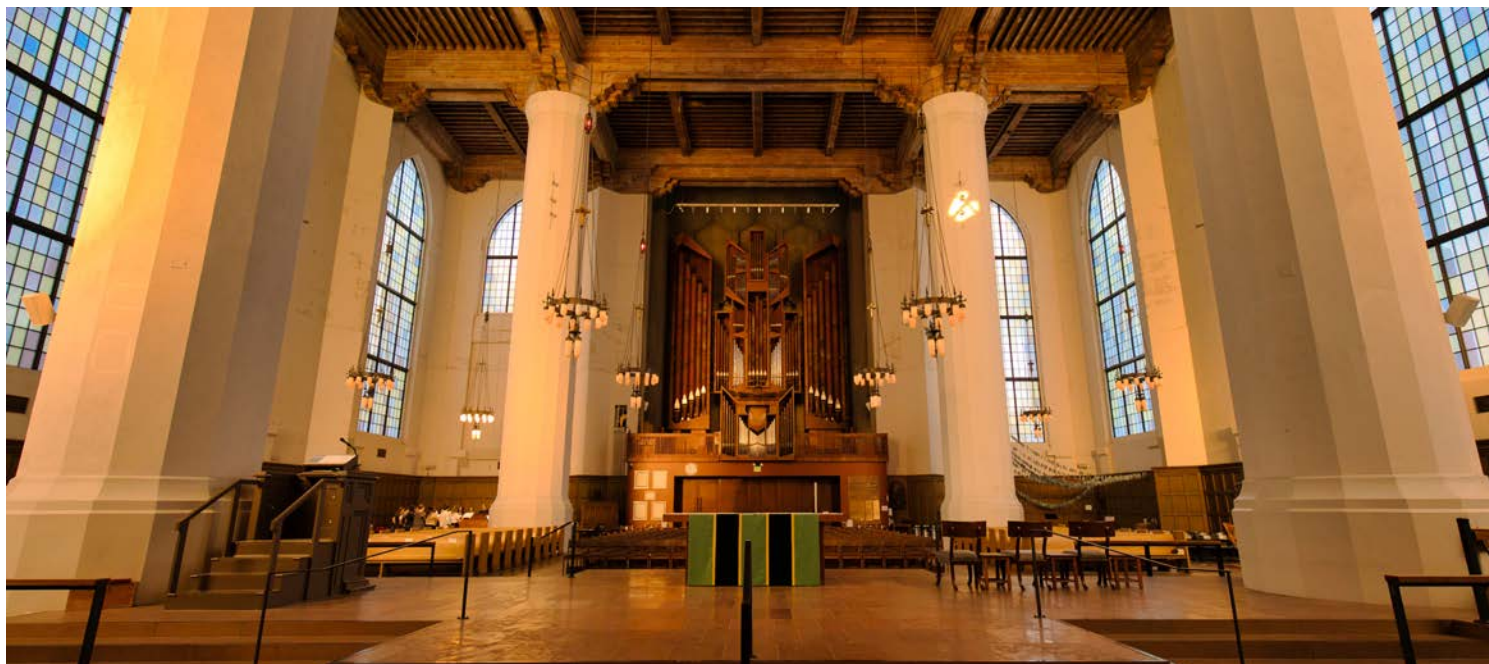
If you have questions, comments and suggestions, please email affordablehousing@saintmarks.org or chat with a member of the Affordable Housing Committee: Karen Maeda Allman, Carmen Brady, Maria Do, Stone Fennell, Greg Hamm, John Hoerster (Chair), Bethany Hoy, Re Knack, Scott Kovacs, Bryan Pansing, and Dean Steve Thomason.

—John Hoerster

▲ Architects atelierjones, llc, created these conceptual renderings showing possibilities for what the housing development on the Saint Mark’s property could potentially look like.

► drone photograph by Brian Smale.





THE THRESHOLD FUND ♦ 2024 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 2024, the Threshold Fund served 13 families with a total of \$13,449 distributed through our partner agency, Catholic Community Services (CCS). This is a smaller amount than prior years due to the fund being depleted for part of the year. An appeal in November has helped replenish that for the coming year, and gifts are always appreciated. Here are two brief testimonials:

KT was referred from Katherine's House, a women's only recovery program run by CCS. KT is a single parent to three boys and she is also pregnant. She has worked hard during her time at Katherine's House and was excited to be able to finally move into a home with her family, where she can continue her clean and sober life while raising her children in a safe environment.

GH was referred to CCS by a new community partner, Lowell Elementary School. The School was working with a family of 5 who had been homeless and with the help of staff and social workers from the school found an apartment large enough for this family that was affordable with the new work they also helped the mother obtain. The family was able to move into an apartment just before summer break, which was the first time the family had housing all school year long. These young children now have a stable home to go to after school every day.

Since its inception, the Threshold Fund has supported more than 150 households with some \$200,000 of financial assistance. To learn more about the Threshold Fund, or to make a donation to support this ministry in 2025, go to saintmarks.org/threshold

—Dean Steve Thomason

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COUNCIL

The Restorative Justice Council began 2024 by adopting a new mission statement to focus our work. A task force gave careful attention, at the end of 2023, to prepare a draft that was unanimously endorsed at the January meeting of the Council and affirmed by the Vestry.

Saint Mark's *Statement of Lament and Commitment to Action* is foundational to the Restorative Justice Council Mission. Early in the year we identified the need to continually and creatively invite parish members to engage the Statement as a part of their spiritual practice. We identified the need to better understand the practice of lament. We are grateful to the Wisdom School and Dean Steve Thomason for bringing author Debie Thomas to Saint Mark's for a weekend seminar in November on the subject, "From Lament to Hope." Lament can open doors to restorative action.

▼ The Restorative Justice Council's voter registration drive, June 16, 2024.



Our mission statement further calls us "to inspire, equip and empower the members" ... "to support and advocate for restorative justice in all Cathedral ministries..." and "to collaborate with Vestry, councils and committee ..."

Some notable ways we sought to fulfill these missional actions this year are as follows:

COMMUNITY BOOK STUDY

This year as our parish continues to actively do the work of exploring the feasibility of an affordable housing project at the St. Nicholas building, we are, in collaboration with the Intergenerational Council and the Affordable Housing Exploratory Committee, coordinating a Community-Wide Book Study of two books by Matthew Desmond: *Evicted* and *Poverty, by America*. Both books expose the issues of housing and poverty in America and offer challenging, possible remedies. Discussion groups begin in January 2025. We were awarded a grant from Church Periodical Club to purchase the books.

HOUSING & HUNGER SUMMIT

In December, we hosted representatives from 7 different ministries who are actively involved in service to the unhoused for an evening summit that focused on practical ways parish members can be involved in ministry to form relationship with those living unhoused and serve them. Ministries represented were Operation Nightwatch, Habitat for Humanity, Lowell Elementary, Meals Sharing, Tent City 3, Saint Mark's Affordable Housing Committee and The Threshold Fund.

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

Another effort was a Voter Registration Drive. During the Drive, volunteers were available after Sunday Morning worship services, Compline and Monday evening Yoga. The Drive was effective not only to register voters and update voter information, but also to raise awareness of the importance for every eligible person to vote.

2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

Finally it is important to note that, the Council dedicated time throughout the year to reflect on the Saint Mark's 2024 Strategic Plan and envision ways we will continue to help realize the vision of the plan.

The Restorative Justice Council is grateful for the opportunity to serve together in this very important work as we strive to be honest in our lament of complicity in injustice and seek justice through restored relationship with those harmed. 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. 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

▲ Maundy Thursday,
March 28, 2024.

OPERATION NIGHTWATCH MINISTRY

In 2024, we officially launched the Saint Mark's Operation Nightwatch Ministry, which is a partnership between Saint Mark's and Operation Nightwatch. This organization is a nonprofit based in the International District that is volunteer-led and seeks to serve neighbors living unhoused. They provide shelter, supportive housing options, nightly meals, and street ministry. This year, we launched a partnership to bring Saint Mark's volunteers out with the Rev. Michael Cox from Nightwatch for Tuesday night Broadway Street Ministry. The intention behind this was helping to bring Saint Mark's parishoners out to experience neighbors who might not feel comfortable experiencing church inside the walls of an institution or who may need spiritual care exactly where they are. The goal is to increase our community knowledge of homelessness in our area and seek Christ in the very spaces that Jesus would have sought out. Each Tuesday, 1–2 volunteers have joined Michael Cox to engage in relationship building and visitation to individuals sleeping outside on Broadway. This partnership continues to grow, as Nightwatch will be opening Donna Jean's shelter on Saint Mark's campus in this upcoming year. There will be multiple opportunities for volunteers for various roles once the shelter is opened. We have received wonderful feedback from volunteers. Here are two testimonies:

"It was a deeply moving and a raw/blunt experience for me—and I mean that in a good way. It felt right to be out there in service to our homeless sisters and brothers, but also tough at times to witness... I also like the just 'being there' in community style of the ministry which allows agency for those we serve, but also the space for the Spirit to be at work in the conversations, interactions, and relationship building when it occurs—and even when it doesn't."

"I find the work very moving, and mutually spiritual. I hope the folks we talk

with get as much out of it as I do. Last week the dinner was still going on when we got back from Pioneer Square. Michael introduced me to the people there. Such amazing work Nightwatch is doing. I am so honored to be a part of it."

The year-end appeal for the shelter totalled \$28,696.50 in contributions.

—Molly Bosch

MEAL SHARING MINISTRY

Saint Mark's Meal Sharing Ministry seeks to provide meals to those experiencing food insecurity in our community. We recognize that ministry happens best in the context of relationship; therefore, our goal is to serve a filling and nutritious meal, along with a smile and an opportunity for human contact.

In 2024, over 175 volunteers spent more than 500 hours serving more than 1800 meals in support of several feeding programs:

- ♦ **St. Martin de Porres Men's Shelter:** The shelter, run by Catholic Community Services of Western Washington, provides safe and dignified shelter for 52 homeless men ages 50 and older. On the third Sunday of each month, SMC volunteers prepared and served a hot dinner to the shelter residents.
- ♦ **First Covenant Church:** The church, located on Pike St., serves a hot breakfast every Saturday to those in need in the community. On the first Saturday of the month, SMC volunteers helped prepare and serve the meal.
- ♦ **Tent City 3:** As in previous years, we provided meals to TC3 during their summer stay on the cathedral campus. This year, at their request, we shifted from Sunday dinner to Sunday breakfast. Each Sunday morning, we provided a 'grab-and-go' breakfast, typically including a warm breakfast sandwich and fresh fruit.
- ♦ **Teen Feed:** Every other month we prepared and served a meal on a Friday eve-

ning for vulnerable youth in the University District. Due to difficulties finding volunteers for this time slot, we discontinued this program mid-year. Thankfully, Teen Feed was able to find another organization to take our place.

- ♦ **Lowell Elementary:** In May, Lowell Elementary hosted dozens of students and their families for a math-themed after school event. SMC volunteers prepared an epic dinner of chili, cornbread, salad, and cookies for the event.

Thank you to the Saint Mark's community for continuing to support this work, and to our wonderful volunteers who make it happen!

—Peter Snyder

HUNGER OFFERING

This year, we continued our support for a number of food banks in Ballard and throughout Seattle, providing funds for food purchase for the hungry folks of Seattle who rely on these resources to keep hunger at bay.

The Hunger ministry put forth improved and awesome trifold depictions of the hunger offering recipients, namely the food banks in the U district which serve those who lack stable sources of meals. We collected offerings in second Sundays of each month and sent the funds to support ministries serving those experiencing food insecurity.

—Vicky Greenbaum

LOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

March: Partnered with Solid Ground to assist their cooking classes for students

May: Stocked their fridge and donated baked goods as a part of Staff Appreciation Week

June: Supported the Math Night event, with dinner prepared at Saint Mark's

September: Supported "Welcome Back" event, provided donuts for staff orientation and lunch for teachers as they prepped

November: Saint Mark's community members participated in a sock and underwear drive Giving Tree and Alternative Gift Market to support Lowell. Clergy Discretionary Fund donated \$1000 in grocery store gift cards to families

December: Deliveries of sleeping bags, gift cards, books, pajamas, and mattresses.

Parishioners have supported Lowell's online wishlist throughout the year. Parishioners have volunteered as tutors and to support the library throughout the year, but there has been no coordination of those individual efforts. There is interest in starting regular meetings for the ministry.

—Stone Fennell & Cherie Bradshaw



◀ [top] Staff of Lowell Elementary School at their Sunday Morning Forum presentation, October 20, 2024.

[bottom] a thank-you note to the Saint Mark's community from the kids of Lowell.



▲ The Saint Mark's Habitat for Humanity crew constructing a tiny house in the cathedral parking lot, June 8, 2024.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

During 2024 the Saint Mark's Habitat crew completed various projects serving both the Saint Mark's community and the larger Seattle community. In February, we took the lead in building two large picnic tables and accompanying benches for the Leffler Garden area. In April and May we created new office spaces in the Carriage House to accommodate the staff of Lambert House, the LGBTQ+ community center that is temporarily occupying Carriage House and Leffler House while their home building is undergoing renovation. This work continued intermittently in June, as well as in August when we installed a set of double doors in Leffler to better accommodate their youth activities. During the first two weeks of June we tackled the long-anticipated project of building a Tiny House in the lower portion of the cathedral parking lot. Thanks to a dedicated crew totaling about a dozen volunteers, we finally waved goodbye to it, somewhat behind schedule but just in time for Tent City's arrival in that space, as the truck from the Low Income Housing Institute picked it up for placement in one of their Tiny House Villages. In the fall,

we completed a few other small projects around the cathedral campus.

With regard to working with our local Habitat for Humanity affiliate, Jacquelyn served this summer on the Coordinating Committee for the annual Interfaith Build, and several Saint Mark's parishioners participated in the build in September. Also, this fall we were able to resolve some longstanding kinks in the logistics of volunteering with the affiliate, so in 2025 we're looking forward to restoring somewhat of a regular rhythm of volunteering as a group for ongoing Seattle-area construction projects, as Saint Mark's parishioners had done previously for many years.

— Gordon & Jacquelyn Miller

2024 GIVING TREE

My task this year involved making the gift tags, adding the sparkly pipe cleaner hangers and decorating the tree. In addition to our ongoing community partners Mary's Place, Casa Latina and Lowell School, we added Lambert House to our list of recipients. Lambert House is a teen center for LGBTQ+ kids who are currently in residence in Carriage House and Leffler House.

The tree with 160 colored tags went up in the Nave the last Sunday in November in conjunction with the wonderful Alternative Gifts Market downstairs in Bloedel Hall. We contacted all four organizations to learn what their wishes were. Mary's Place gave us a list of specific toys and games, Casa Latina asked for gift cards (Target, Fred Meyer, or QFC) Lowell asked for gift cards (Safeway, Fred Meyer, QFC), sleeping bags and pajamas, and Lambert House asked for gift cards (Target, Fred Meyer or Amazon). We also provided Amazon Wish Lists for Mary's Place and Lowell to make it easy for those who prefer to shop online.

All gift tags were taken, and additional \$1500 for the Giving Tree was raised through the Alternative Gift Market and online giving. Gifts were blessed at the altar on Sunday,

December 8 and distributed to the organizations in the following week. Praise the Lord!

—Nancy Valaas

SEATTLE SEAFARERS CENTER

The mission of the Seattle Seafarers Center is to welcome and care for seafarers who visit Puget Sound. This year, we have had the pleasure of meeting and serving seafarers from all over the world: the Philippines, India, China, Ukraine, Indonesia, Myanmar, Croatia, Papua New Guinea, Greece, and more. While 98% of seafarers worldwide are men, we have seen an increase in female seafarers this year, and have provided care packages especially made for women. We have served seafarers on cargo vessels, cruise ships, fishing vessels, and tugboats. We have a growing team of volunteers, which has allowed us to visit ships regularly in Seattle and Everett, and to begin expanding into the Port of Tacoma.

In 2024, the Seattle Seafarers Center team went on 568 ship visits in Puget Sound to check in on the wellbeing of the crew. We transported 1160 merchant crewmembers to places like Downtown Seattle and local shopping malls during their shore leave. We operate a hospitality center on Harbor Island which offers free WiFi, clothing, toiletries, and a place to rest, and we hosted 287 seafarers here this year. We received a grant this Fall from the ITF Seafarers' Trust which has allowed us to purchase new furniture and a foosball table for our Center to make it more hospitable for seafarers. From May through October, we run a shuttle service for crewmembers of cruise ships at Pier 91 to take them downtown. We restarted this service in 2022 after two years off during Covid, and in 2024 we finally reached our pre-Covid levels of service, transporting 8637 crewmembers. This year we went on 47 shopping trips to provide personal necessities for seafarers without visas who were unable to get off their ships. We also provided hundreds of low-cost SIM cards

for crew, enabling them to contact friends and family back home during their time in US ports. Upon captains' requests, we led 14 religious services onboard ships this year, including communion, memorial services, ship blessings, and Ash Wednesday services. This year, we also provided over 1350 "ditty bag" care packages to seafarers during the holidays, which include toiletries, candy, and a hand-knit hat (many of the bags and hats were made by Saint Mark's knitters and sewers).

We have also advocated for many seafarers experiencing welfare issues, such as inadequate or delayed payment, harassment, lack of provisions onboard, or lack of access to medical care. We work closely with the International Transport Workers' Federation

▼ The "O" Antiphons
Advent liturgy,
December 1, 2024.



(ITF) to advocate for seafarers' rights on-board their ships. We have also met with the offices of both our Washington State senators to advocate for the US to sign the Maritime Labor Convention of 2006 (which protects the rights of seafarers) and to raise awareness about labor trafficking in the local fishing industry.

—Julia Cooper

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, baby blankets given to families served by the Refugee Resettlement Office of the Diocese of Olympia and 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

▼ The Quilt Ministry display at the 2024 Minsitry Fair, September 8, 2024.

QUILT MINISTRY

Saint Mark's Quilt Ministry continued to provide handmade quilts to be given by

clergy to parishioners during times of illness, grief and/or transition. Brightly colored quilts also accompanied parishioners who left Saint Mark's for life's next steps. Newborns received warm flannel blankets as a welcome to Saint Mark's. Their slightly older siblings could have a blanket as well. We continued sewing ditty bags for the Mission to Seafarers to fill and distribute during the Christmas holidays.

We participated in the Alternative Holiday Market again this year. Better organized, we were pleased to sell baby blankets, bowl cozies (in two sizes), wine bottle gift bags, and mini-wallets as our contribution to the Threshold Fund.

We will continue all these activities and add two more: pillowcases for Ronald McDonald House and quilts as a cheery welcome for the emergency women's shelter, Donna Jean's Place, in the Saint Nicholas building. The Quilt Ministry is excited to expand our mission. To meet these new challenges we welcome people who sew (you don't have to be a quilter), and people who don't sew. There are essential elements of each project that can be done easily by people who don't sew. While our projects can be worked on at home and finished during meetings, it is our time together that brings us joy as we share what's on our minds and in our hearts over a potluck lunch.

With year's end Julia Logan steps away from her leadership role. We are grateful to Julia for all her work to support and lead Quilt Ministry.

Given in 2024:

Adult Comfort/Send-off Quilts: 3
 Infant/Sibling Blankets: 16
 Seafarer Ditty Bags :126

Sold at the 2024 Holiday Gift Market

Infant blankets: 4
 Wine bottle Bags: 3
 Bowl Cozies (lg.): 21
 Bowl cozies (sm.): 5
 Mini Wallets: 3

—Sandra Piscitello



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT RESOURCE CENTER

The Medical Equipment Resource Center has items such as wheelchairs, walkers (two and four-wheeled), crutches, canes, etc., available for use at no cost. We welcome donations of clean equipment in good working order. The group also restocks first aid boxes located throughout the campus.

—Nancy Cleminshaw

VISUAL ARTS MINISTRY

The Visual Arts Ministry continues to provide the Saint Mark's community with artworks that inspire and stimulate spiritual life.

During Lent 2024 Visual Arts Ministry featured the sculptural reliefs of the Stations of the Cross by Virginia Maksymowicz. This is now a permanent part of Saint Mark's collection, thanks to the gift of former Bishop Greg Rickel and his wife Marti, in honor of his father.

We Walk Together: Reflections on Pilgrimage now hangs in the Hallway Gallery in Cathedral House. This is a community exhibit of photography and accompanying musings from recent pilgrimages to Celtic Ireland and to the Holy Land.

The continuing development of an art display in Room 210 now includes two special items: a Coast Salish medallion by Joseph Illg, given by Kathleen Nyhuis in honor of former Bishop Greg Rickel, and a stunning eight foot section of the Baptism panel that was part of this summer's *Sacred Spaces* project, designed and created by Seattle artist Sandy Nelson who involved many in the community in the actual painting of this inspired project.

In the fall Visual Arts Ministry hosted a Sunday Forum, *Contemplating Angels in Art*, a beautiful slide show selected and narrated by Victoria Scarlett of the Center for Sacred Art in Seattle.



The Visual Arts Ministry read the informative and stimulating book *Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transform Us* by Susan Magamen and Ivy Ross. The book discussion was co-sponsored by the Second Sunday Book Group.

The Visual Arts Ministry has begun leading group visits to Seattle Art Museum. In May we viewed the works of Jaune Quick-to-See Smith. In January we will see a major retrospective exhibit of Joyce J. Scott.

Julie Speidel has gifted Saint Mark's with a stunning set of three sculptures, *Otemma 3*, inspired by glaciers and the "erratic" boulders they leave behind after they have vanished. *Otemma 3* is now permanently installed in our front garden to the delight of many, especially the children.

Plans are progressing for an exhibit of sacred icons by Peter Pearson, to be hung in the nave in January 2025. Planning is also underway for a major exhibit in 2025 of a very large Earthball to be hung in the nave from the ceiling. Many special events will accompany this.

We encourage art lovers to join the Visual Arts Ministry. Come and participate in the development and presentation of beautiful, inspiring art projects that enhance spiritual and worshipful experiences for our community and for our many guests and visitors.

—Deborah Brown & Wayne Duncan

▲ *Hands of Pilgrimage*, one of the three installations by community member Sandy Nelson installed in the nave as part of the *Sacred Spaces* offerings in summer 2024.

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

Saint Mark's parishioners and ministry groups took leadership for many Sunday forums in 2024, engaging us with their passions and expertise on topics such as an introduction to Ignatian spirituality, spiritual practices for Lent and Eastertide (which included cold-water swimming, photography, and birdwatching), and the vital importance of trees. We learned how we can meaningfully connect to ministries within Saint Mark's, such as Taizé and Communications, as well as ministries beyond our walls like Operation Nightwatch, Lowell

Elementary School, and Lambert House. Via Zoom, we had the opportunity to hear Father Fadi Diab of St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Ramallah offer an update on daily life in the West Bank in a deeply challenging time, and Sisters Miriam Elizabeth and Ellen Francis of the Order of Saint Helena spoke about the development of the inclusive-language psalter we've been using in worship. Among the clergy who joined Dean Steve in person for "Friends Talking" were the Rev. Carla Robinson, Canon of Multicultural Ministries and Community Transformation in the Diocese of Olympia, the Rev. Erin Jean Warde, author of *Sober Spirituality*, and the Very Reverend Michale Delashmutt, Dean of the Chapel at General Theological Seminary. Artist and congregation member Sandy Nelson gave us opportunities to create and later shared her process as the artist-in-residence for our summer installations as part of Sacred Spaces. In June, we celebrated the vibrant ministry of Dean Steve and Kathy Thomason on the 20th anniversary of the Dean's ordination to the priesthood.

—Wendy Claire Barrie

CATHEDRAL COMMONS (WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM)

In our Wednesday evening forums, we come together to share, learn, and grow for 90 minutes following a community meal. 2024 saw a resurgence in attendance for both the meals and in-person forum participation. The year began with an exploration of the Book of Common Prayer in which both staff and congregants shared what they appreciate most about it. Responding to broad interest from the community, Dean Steve took us through some of the important letters of the Apostle Paul and why they challenge and enrich us still. We learned about the recommendations made in the Strategic

▼ [top] Sunday morning forum with Father Fadi Diab of St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Ramallah, Palestine, June 30, 2024.

[bottom] "Friends Talking" forum with the Rev. Erin Jean Warde, May 5, 2024.



Plan, how to practice the daily *Examen* of St. Ignatius, and considered ways that all ministries can become more intentionally intergenerational. With the help of the Rev. Canon Carla Robinson, Sophie Betz (University of Washington Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project), and E.N. West (Lead Organizer, Faith Land Initiative of the Church Council of Greater Seattle), we reflected on the history of North Capitol Hill in which racial redlining and restrictive covenants discriminated against people of color. Mid-year from the Affordable Housing Exploratory Committee, we received updates on options for Affordable Housing on the cathedral campus, and in December, The Restorative Justice Council, the Affordable Housing Exploratory Committee and the Intergenerational Council collaborated to bring together ministry leaders at Saint Mark's and from the broader Seattle community to learn very practical ways we can be with our neighbors in need. Pilgrims shared their experiences of holy journeys in Ireland and Scotland; representatives from Recology, the cathedral's recycling provider, helped us identify what to recycle, what to compost, and what to throw away; and we reflected on the transformative leadership of outgoing Presiding Bishop Michael Curry with a screening of the documentary *A Case for Love*. We got to know our new Bishop of Olympia Phil LaBelle better in his offering, *Meeting God In Our Busy Lives: The Theology and Practice of Zimzum*, and our new Canon Vicar Emily Griffin shared her expertise with us in *Where Spirituality Starts*. Dean Thomason was joined by Canon Musician Michael Kleinschmidt and Director of the Compline Choir Dr. Jason Anderson for an exploration of the "O" Antiphons Procession, a signature liturgy at Saint Mark's. We also gathered for two in-person only liturgies, one on Rogation Day in May and another in observance of All Hallow's Eve. The variety and vibrancy of these offerings is emblematic of the variety and vibrancy of our communal life.

—Wendy Claire Barrie

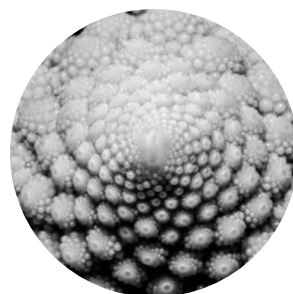
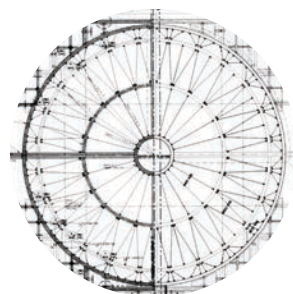
THE WISDOM SCHOOL

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 A Spirituality of Place (Fall 2023–Summer 2024), and A Spirituality of Healing and Hope (Fall 2024–Summer 2025). Regular offerings continued, including Cathedral Yoga, Contemplative Prayer, the Daily Office, Taizé services, Quiet Days, and starting in Fall 2024 Wisdom Practice Days. In addition, workshop, retreat and pilgrimage offerings in 2024 included:

- ◆ *Heal Thyself: Spiritual Practices that Lead to Joy*, with the Rev. Erin Jean Warde
- ◆ *Wisdom School Plenary: A Spirituality of Healing and Hope*, with Dean Steve Thomason
- ◆ *Meeting God in our Busy Lives: The Theology and Practice of Zimzum*, with Bishop Phil LaBelle
- ◆ *Walking the Emmaus Road: From Lament to Hope*, with Debie Thomas
- ◆ *Silence, Stillness, and Solitude: Ancient Monastic Practices for Bearing Advent Hope in a Modern World*, with The Rev. Sr. Miriam Elizabeth Bledsoe, OSH
- ◆ Men's and Women's Spiritual Renewal Retreats
- ◆ Celtic Spirituality Pilgrimage to Ireland and Scotland

Wisdom School programming in Winter/Spring 2025 will include:

- ◆ *The Spiritual Approach to the Enneagram: A Map to Inner Wisdom*, with Dr. Joseph Benton Howell
- ◆ *A Brush With God: An Icon-writing Workshop*, with Fr. Peter Pearson
- ◆ *Wisdom Practice Day in Lent: A Different Kind of Fast*, with The Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining and Dr. Darlene Franz



THE SECOND SUNDAY CATHEDRAL BOOK GROUP

Anyone who is interested is invited to join us in a thoughtful discussion of issues past and current as depicted in the books we choose to read.

This past year we read:

Demon Copperhead
(2022)
by Barbara Kingsolver

Yet in the Dark Streets Shining
(2022)
by Bishara Ahmad & Mercy Aiken

The Worst Hard Time (2007)
by Timothy Egan

My Name is Asher Lev (1972)
by Chaim Potok

Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transform Us
(2023)
by Sherman Magsamen & Ivy Ross

There There (2018)
by Tony Orange

- ♦ *Padraig O'Tuama: The Better Angels of Our Nature*
- ♦ *Ellen Bass: The Intimate Web of Humanity, Healing and Hope*
- ♦ *Forest Therapy: Sitting Under the Tree of Life*, with the Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining

Information about all these offerings, and registration links, can be found at: saintmarks.org/wisdomschool. The next spiritual pilgrimage abroad will occur either Fall 2025 or early 2026, and we will share more information about that in the coming months.

—Steve Thomason

CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY AND ACTION

Saint Mark's Cathedral launched a new ministry in Fall 2024—The Center for Spirituality and Action, an intentional Christian community for individuals who seek to order their lives by a contemplative spirituality and regularly gather for prayer, formation, retreats, spiritual direction and service. In the monastic tradition, this “prayer and work” model serves as a way of life even as we remain grounded “in the world.”

Who might be called into this way of being? We seek to gather and equip individuals who have the courage to embrace:

- ♦ **Spiritual Renewal.** Embody the wisdom of the Christian contemplative traditions as a source of transformation.
- ♦ **A Rule of Life.** Develop a rhythm of daily contemplative practices, regular study, service and action that open us to the experience of union with the Divine.
- ♦ **Mutual Accountability.** Commit to forming intentional community with others, gathering regularly for worship, spiritual formation and occasional retreats, and engaging regular spiritual direction.
- ♦ **Prophetic Witness.** Embody the Spirit of Christ in compassionate action in the

world in this critical moment in human history.

Guided by the broad capacity of the Christian mystic tradition to hold tension and honor all people, the CSA is designed to welcome a diversity of age, gender, orientation, race, wealth, religious belief, and cultural and political perspectives.

The first cohort/community of thirteen people formed in September, and have committed to these rhythms of prayer through Spring 2025. Additional groups will form across the summer and launch in the fall.

To learn more, go to: saintmarks.org/csa

—Steve Thomason

THE INQUIRERS' CLASS

2024 was the first full year of this iteration of the Inquirers' Class that was redesigned following feedback from prior classes to allow participants to spend more time in conversation with each other as well as with canons and clergy in a less didactic, more experiential setting. Our 90-minute gatherings over 4 weeks in Leffler House intentionally included spiritual practices connected to each theme. One series each year is hybrid, to allow folks who may need to join remotely the opportunity to do so. As always, the gift of this series is the diversity of backgrounds and perspectives that the Inquirers each bring, and their openness to engage in thought-provoking and enriching conversations about images of God, reading scripture, how and why we worship, and the spiritual practices that nourish us.

—Wendy Claire Barrie

CONTOURS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

A new faith formation opportunity offered in Lent 2024 was Contours of the Christian Life. Building on the foundation of the Inquirers' Class, this series was offered over seven Wednesday evenings in Lent to provide further preparation for baptism, con-

firmation and reception into the Episcopal Church. Inspired by ancient patterns of Christian formation going back to the early church, Contours focused on what it means to deepen our faith, our practices, and our relationships as Episcopalians. More than fifty people registered to participate in the first cohort. While it is on hiatus during Lent 2025, it will certainly return in the future—please stay tuned!

—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 and even from California! Join us once in a while—you do not have to commit to attending each week.

—Lynne Cobb

SACRED GROUND

Sacred Ground is an intense, small-group learning cohort which meets over several sessions, built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. It is part of the national Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to heal racism, encourage reconciliation and create justice.

The Saint Mark's community concluded its first cohort of participants in 2024. We will launch our second cohort in late January 2025.

The series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with white people about race. While learning history that is often hidden from plain view, attendees are invited to share personal stories about race, in order to peel away the layers

that have contributed to the divides of the present day.

—Hannah Hochkeppel, Penny Reid,
& Heather Millar

THE RADIX PROJECT

Radix 12: Holy Movement: Exploring Journey and Pilgrimage in Scripture convened in Spring 2024, and the 13th iteration of Radix, *The Shalom of God: Towards a True and Lasting Peace* met this fall. Since it began in January 2020, more than 800 registrations have been received for Radix groups. In this program unique to Saint Mark's, small groups of 6–12 people gather to reflect on Holy Scripture and sacred art, share personal stories, and pray for one another with intention in 90-minute facilitated sessions. The rich and timely themes are introduced in an online plenary, and a planning team selects the readings and creates the discussion guide.

—Wendy Claire Barrie

CATHEDRAL YOGA

The 2023 Yoga Ministry report included the statement “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 teacher teach every Monday.”

The new Saint Mark's Cathedral Yoga Ministry committee consisting of eight volunteers celebrated its first anniversary in September 2024. All committee members have completed the Safe Church training and background checks. During the first year we have worked together to bring about some significant changes, including a calendar to schedule the teachers, special events such





▲ Cathedral Yoga with instructor Andrew Ragan on December 2, 2024.

as the monthly sound bath and tea social, and the committee members responsible for opening and closing. Most significantly we have established an account in Constant Contact which allows us to send news and updates to well over 700 past and present participants. Our monthly newsletter includes the weekly schedule, info about our teachers, and yoga related topics. The newsletter has an open rate of 72%.

The community of yoga participants has indeed become an important part of each Monday's practice. As participants come into the nave and select their space they begin helping to set up; after class people begin to break down the chairs and many times offer to help with other duties. We are extremely grateful that these participants have engaged in helping the committee without being prompted.

Because of the lead teacher's change in her work schedule, we have returned to a rotating schedule of 5 teachers, each with a unique approach and practice. Each week we see yoga participants meet with the teachers after class to express their gratitude for an amazing class. Students have shared with committee members how much they appreciate how impactful these practices have been.

We post a message each week on MeetUp announcing the name of the teacher and any events (such as a sound bath or tea

social) with over 1168 people receiving the message. Readers can respond to both the MeetUp and newsletter messages with questions or comments.

Because of the increasing number of participants each week and the poor acoustics of the large nave space, we have begun using a sound system that a committee member helped to set up. This allows for participants who are in the back or sides of the nave to more reliably hear the teacher's instructions rather than relying on the yoga movements or those in their vicinity.

We are currently working with several yoga participants to become new committee members. A list of committee responsibilities has been sent to each person as well as a suggestion that they individually shadow a current committee member before taking on committee responsibilities.

The committee has a group of five regular yoga instructors who rotate through the month. There is also an instructor who serves as a general substitute. Instructors are being highlighted each month in our yoga newsletter. In the future we will also interview Wendy Townsend, the founding member of the yoga ministry, and Greg Bloch, who for several years single handedly coordinated the program. The committee is grateful for Greg's continued help and support.

The number of participants each week has continued to grow, with at least 125 and as many as 175 (12/09/24) people attending. Participants tell us that they appreciate the unique and sacred space within which to practice yoga as a community. Committee members are currently working to create a survey that will be included in the March newsletter. We hope to learn more about additional offerings that participants may want, such as meditation, breathwork, yin, or trauma-informed yoga, and how the overall experience can be improved.

—Peg Balachowski & Christopher Breunig

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year faith formation program offered for lay people under the auspices of The University of the South in Sewanee, TN. 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 Wayne Duncan and Peter Snyder are mentors for the Monday evening group, which currently has 10 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 into the Journey with God*.

—Maria Coldwell

DISCERNMENT GROUPS

Mutual ministry discernment groups can be formed at any time for parishioners who would like to explore life questions with a prayerful group of peers. The group process is rooted in the Quaker "Clearness Committee" tradition as advanced by Parker Palmer. Our groups follow the format set forth by Susanne Farnham in *Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community*. All participants are invited to do deep listening with each other as each member poses their life question to the group.

Appropriate life questions might be, "When should I retire?" "Am I being called to marriage?" "Should I make a career change?" "Should I relocate?" "Am I being called to ministry in the church?" These mutual ministry discernment groups also serve as

the Phase I discernment process for those discerning a call to Holy Orders.

Several groups completed their work in 2024. New groups are forming in 2025. Canon Rich Weyls is the coordinator for discernment groups at Saint Mark's. If you are grappling with a life question and would like to engage this process of group discernment, please contact any of the parish clergy for more information. You can also contact Canon Rich directly at rweyls@saintmarks.org

—Canon Rich Weyls

▼ [top] Recognition of the 2024 graduates of the four-year *Education for Ministry* program, June 9, 2024.

[bottom] Rite of enrollment for participants in the special formation offering *Contours of the Christian Life*, February 11, 2024.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

In January, we needed to double the size of the carpet area on Sunday mornings to accommodate the growing number of infants, toddlers, and small children at the 9 am service! We added a small table and chairs as well as additional shelving for appropriate materials including a rotating selection of children's books reflecting the liturgical season, sensory play, and finger labyrinths. We were gifted an additional rocking chair by the Moss family, and we rejoice in the regular and active engagement by our youngest congregants.

▼ [top] Cooling off with the splash pad, July 14, 2024.

[bottom] children in Godly Play with a Bible story interpretation they created using the classroom's "desert."



- ♦ **Children's Chapel** during the sermon and prayers at 9 am 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 provided strong leadership and support, particularly while Canon Barrie was away in the spring.
- ♦ **Godly Play**, our program of Christian formation for children, is growing and thriving with many new children and families involved this year, particularly at the younger ages. We also celebrate the good fortune of Canon Emily's arrival at Saint Mark's. Canon Emily is the president of the Godly Play Foundation Board and brings renewed vigor to our program to keep it up to date theologically and in practice. We are thrilled that Canon Emily is committed to teaching and being a part of our classrooms when she is able. How special it is for our children to have an ordained priest as their Godly Play teacher on occasion!

The Diocese of Olympia Faith Formation Department underwrote the refurbishment of one of our Godly Play spaces and helped us prepare it as a model classroom that can be used in trainings. Artist Pegge Ashcroft designed a mural of the Parable of the Mustard Seed and she and Canon Missioner Valerie Reinke spent many hours painting the now beautiful space.

Godly Play is a robust, well-developed, Montessori-based curriculum designed to give children the language of faith and knowledge of the Bible in a way that will equip them for life. Our sessions also develop relationships between the children and with the adult leaders. We offer Godly Play classes in the 10 a.m. hour usually on the first and third Sundays of the month. We have two classes, one for

ages 3–7 and another for ages 8–11. We hosted a diocesan-wide workshop in the fall for other Godly Play teachers, and are planning a more in-depth training for 2025.

— Wendy Claire Barrie, Alicia Goodwin,
& Rebecca Engrav.

YOUTH

One week in February showed the full range of experience for youth at Saint Mark's. The youth partnered with the Vestry supported by Chef Marc Aubertin in the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Gumbo Supper with the Closing of the Great Doors. The next night, the high school Schola led the Ash Wednesday liturgy with earnest presence and hauntingly beautiful singing. The next day, 14 youth headed over the Cascade mountains for a Lenten retreat at Holden Village. This was a full week of service, liturgical leadership, and bonding for our teens.

Numerous gatherings throughout the year have allowed for meaningful conversation and relationship building including text studies in staff homes (including the Deanery hosted by the Thomasons) and monthly high school and middle school gatherings between services ably led by Hannah Hochkeppel, Katie Russell, and Stone Fennell. The middle schoolers even hit the lanes at West Seattle Bowl for a fun afternoon in April.

In October, ten youth spent the weekend at Camp Huston hiking, playing, and praying together as we explored the topic of Vocation led by Rebekah Gilmore and Canon Wendy Barrie. We stacked wood and other chores as a service project, hiked Wallace Falls, ate too many carbs, and enjoyed a visit from Dean Thomason and Kathy who led our candlelit Eucharist in the Long House.

Our youth engaged with the service of Compline at many levels this year. On a long summer Sunday in June, Pie and Compline invited the eating of way too much good

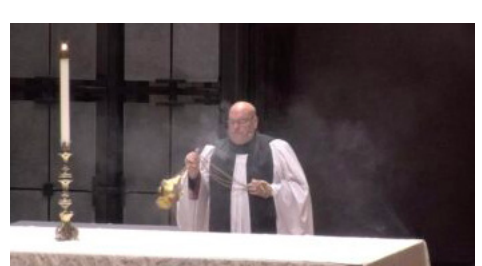
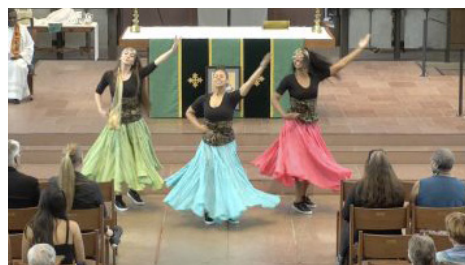
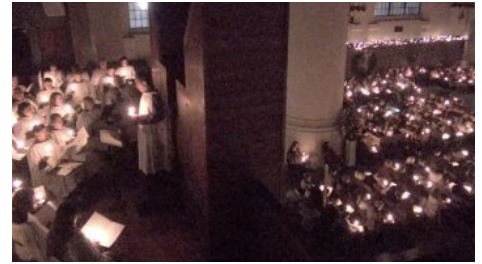


pie before the youth took their places on the floor of the nave to experience the service of Compline. During the summer teen choir camp, the singers prayed Compline at the end of each camp day including a poignant evening of prayer when the liturgy was sung in a tight circle around the altar in the nave while a huge thunderstorm lit the cathedral with a holy presence. In November, the members of the Schola sang the service of Compline for “Cozy Compline”, an evening designed to welcome younger children into the practice of praying the Office. Our youth then stayed all night in the cathedral for a youth lock-in.

This fall, we have welcomed eight youth into the next Saint Mark's Youth Confirmation cohort, preparing for confirmation at Cathedral Day 2025. Their conversations are rich and respectful and a model for our whole community. The Saint Mark's youth continue to enrich the liturgies and life of this cathedral while growing in their faith and community.

—Rebekah Gilmore

▲ *The Pageant of the Nativity*,
December 18, 2024.



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

The liturgical ministries of Saint Mark's support the wide variety of liturgies and other worship/prayer offerings in the cathedral week to week throughout the year. From a ministry as straightforward as the oblation bearer ministry (bringing the bread and wine to the altar during services of Holy Eucharist) to more involved ministries like the Vergers or Altar Guild, there are opportunities for everyone to be involved in contributing to the various ministries that make worship possible.

We continue to use the Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) scheduling system for our liturgical ministries, and the success and ease of the program has caused other non-liturgical ministries to begin using it as well. The program, powered by Rotunda Software, allows volunteers and liturgical ministers to see schedules, request swaps, volunteer for open spots, self-manage availability, and much more, all through a mobile app or web terminal online.

Those interested in serving in a liturgical ministry are invited to reach out to one of our ministry leaders, and also to consider attending one of the Liturgical Ministry Training days (offered twice a year: in Eastertide, and in late summer after Labor Day). Our liturgical ministry leaders include: Hannah Hochkeppel (Eucharistic Ministers), Alexandra Thompson (Acolytes), James Davidson (Altar Guild), John Selberg (Greeters), Don Sutkus (9 a.m. Ushers), Hilary McLeland-Wieser (11 a.m. Ushers), Kathy Sodergren (All Saints Guild), Michael Perera (Oblation Bearers), Carrie Kahler (Reading Ministry), Kevin Johnson (Eucharistic Visitors), Beatrix Roemheld-Hamm (Flower Ministry), and Rene Marceau (Bread Bakers).

Other liturgical ministries are led by me as Cathedral Sacristan and Head Verger, including: Vergers, Audio/Visual Ministry,

Evensong Ushers, and Compline Hospitality Ministers.

If you are interested in learning more about being involved in a liturgical ministry, don't hesitate to talk to one of these ministry leaders! The worship life of Saint Mark's is only possible because of all of the dedication and time of our talented and passionate liturgical ministers, and all are welcome!

—Michael Seewer

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

"Your visit to a person is never merely your own visit. In a symbolic way, you carry the parish with you as a sign of the whole community's care, support and concern for its sick and infirm. The eucharist is the work of the whole Christian community. You are its representative; you are the Body of Christ moving outward to include all its members"

—from Beth Wickenberg Ely, *A Manual for Lay Eucharistic Ministers* (1991)

In 2024, the cathedral parish, in spirit, along with our 12 licensed Eucharistic Visitors (Deborah Anderson, Carolyn Blount, Russ Campbell, Lynne Cobb, Martha Craig, Sarah Elwood-Faustino, Julia Logan, Steve Moen, Adam Reiser, and Nancy and Andy Valaas) shared in 95 Eucharistic visits throughout the greater Seattle area. Time and time again, a mutual blessing is known as the gifts of the table are shared with those unable to join us at the Cathedral, and that is in no small part due to the prayers of the people that travel with us.

We give thanks for Emily Meeks' ministry among us. She served as a Eucharistic Visitor for many years, and is now discerning her call to Holy Orders and attending seminary. Thank you, Emily!

Should you have any questions about the

◀ [previous page]

A selection of stills from livestream liturgy videos from throughout 2024.



SELECTED 2024 GUEST PREACHERS

The Rev. Erin Jean Warde, author and addiction recovery coach (May 5)

The Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek, Stewardship consultant (September 29)

Debie Thomas, author and teacher (November 10)

The Very Rev. Michael W. DeLashmutt, Dean of the Chapel, General Theological Seminary, New York City (December 8)

The Rev. Sr. Miriam Elizabeth Bledsoe of the Order of St. Helena (December 15)

Jon Achée, seminarian (December 29)

ministry, want to learn more about becoming a licensed visitor, wish to come along for (We travel in pairs!) or have need of a visit, please do not hesitate to contact any of the clergy or Kevin Johnson (Contact info in the Cathedral Directory).

“One body are we. For though many, we share one bread and one cup.”

—Kevin C. Johnson

MORNING PRAYER

One of the Daily Office offerings at the cathedral expanded this year. Beginning in Lent 2024, the community gathered via Zoom every weekday morning at 7:30 a.m. Licensed lay readers led the service found in the Book of Common Prayer with participants volunteering to read the scripture lessons. We average 10 of us in the virtual circle, across the country and denominations too. In late spring a workshop was held so that interested folks could begin learning to chant the office, an ancient practice that now often happens on Fridays. The group has also discerned a path to combine forces with the longstanding Thursday morning prayer group, staying after the service on this day for conversation and forging of deeper relationships. Contact Deborah Person deborah.person@gmail.com and Penny Reid rkpc Reid@comcast.net

—Penny Reid & Deborah Person

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 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 who come regularly and attendees who come occasionally; some are members of the cathedral, some are from the wider Seattle area, some from eastern Washington, some from out of state. All are welcome, and we would love to have you join us.

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

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

The Contemplative Prayer group at Saint Mark's has continued to gather throughout 2024 most Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Compline corner—or somewhere else when there is Taizé or another conflict in the nave—with a break during the summer. Our core group includes Saint Mark's congregants and others who seek a centering prayer or contemplative sitting group that meets in person.

Each week begins with a period of silent meditation in the form of centering prayer (or whatever practice folks choose to do in the silence), followed by a reading and then discussion of contemplative experiences, practices and perspectives. This year, we've reflected on teachings from Cynthia Bourgeault, Evelyn Underhill, the Cloud of Unknowing and the Bhagavad Gita. We are not a study group; the discussion proceeds at a mindful pace and serves as mutual support for our practices. The point of this group activity is not for the 20 minutes of serenity and 40 minutes of community—as

precious as those are—it's about cultivating this radical form of presence and acceptance to bring into the other 6 days and 23 hours of the week.

All are welcome—to sit together in a powerful space and perhaps gain a little support and course correction. As always, we include decades-long practitioners, those brand new to contemplative practice, and everything in between. During the year, we've had regular participation by the 20s/30s Group and crossover with Taizé. In the coming year, Taizé is increasing in frequency to monthly (the second week of each month), and this contemplative prayer group will not meet on those weeks, continuing the mutual support of these complementary ministries. Write to Phil Fox Rose at phil@philfoxrose.com with any questions you may have about the group, about centering prayer, or about the contemplative journey in general, or visit:

saintmarks.org/contemplativeprayer

—Phil Fox Rose

TAIZÉ

In 2024, five liturgies of prayer in the style of Taizé were offered seasonally on Tuesday evenings. These liturgies drew a congregation with a notable presence of visitors to the cathedral. We continued the practice begun the prior year of observing feast days that might not otherwise be liturgically celebrated at the cathedral. The January service commemorated the 80th anniversary of the ordination of Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first woman ordained a priest in the Anglican Communion. Our other services marked the feast days of St. Joseph, St. Michael and All Angels, and Kamehameha and Emma of Hawaii.

The highlight of 2024 was an interfaith prayer service held in May in collaboration with Clear Mountain Monastery, a Buddhist group that meets on the Saint Mark's campus. This service's theme was *Living Buddha, Living Christ, Living Spirit* and focused on



the fruits of the Spirit, with Scripture readings and chants from both the Buddhist and Christian traditions. This liturgy was very well-attended and provided an excellent opportunity to pray together with our Buddhist neighbors. Further collaborations are being planned for the future.

Many people have expressed interest in more regular Taizé offerings at Saint Mark's, and the decision was made to offer these services on the second Tuesday of each month during the cathedral's regular program year beginning in 2025. We always welcome additional musicians, both singers and instrumentalists, especially with the increased number of services. This is a great way to participate in making music at the cathedral with minimal commitment. Rehearsals take place immediately before each service. If you would like to get involved with Taizé in any way or have any questions about the ministry, just send an email to: taize@saintmarks.org

—David Poortinga

▲ *Living Buddha, Living Christ, Living Spirit*—An Interfaith Prayer Service in the Style of Taizé, offered in collaboration with Clear Mountain Monastery Buddhist community, May 21, 2024.

THURSDAY MORNING EUCHARIST

Thursday Morning Eucharist continued on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays, in Thomsen Chapel and followed by a community breakfast and fellowship time in Leffler House. This service is supported by a rotating group of parishioners who help set up for the service

► The Bread Bakers' Guild in Bloedel Kitchen, December 8, 2024 (photo by Steve Erickson).



and prepare the breakfast (during 2024: Penny Reid, Sarah Elwood-Faustino, Brother Paul Dahlke, Mary Mullen, and Susan Folk). All are warmly welcome to join!

—Sarah Elwood-Faustino

BREAD BAKERS' GUILD

The Bread Baker's Guild has provided bread for the many and varied Services of the Cathedral in the past year. During the past year, we have baked close to 800 loaves! Those of us who bake find it an absolute joy in this community effort. We look forward to 2025 with anticipation and excitement!

—René Marceau

SENIOR LIVING CENTER EUCHARIST CELEBRATIONS

Your Cathedral priests work with a team of clergy from other parishes to offer a monthly Eucharistic liturgy at several senior living communities in our area. The cooperating

parishes are Saint Mark's Cathedral, Epiphany, St. Paul's, St. Clement's and Trinity. Services are offered at the following facilities:

- ♦ **Skyline:** first Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm
- ♦ **Horizon House:** second Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m.
- ♦ **Mirabella:** first Thursday of the month at 2:30 p.m.

These services are popular among the Episcopalian residents, but they are open to all. The clergy interface with the spiritual care providers (chaplains) at the senior living centers to coordinate care. Canon Rich Weyls is the coordinator for this regional ministry effort.

—Canon Rich Weyls

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is a group of Saint Mark's community members who receive the names of those for whom prayers have

▼ Displays created by
the Flower Ministry from
throughout 2024.

been requested, as they are submitted. Each member prays in their own way. Prayer requests may come because of a death, illness, job loss, military service, or struggles with children or parents. Prayers of thanksgiving for joyous events like births and marriages are also submitted. The Prayer Chain is here for any and all who desire or need the support of a praying community.

Prayer Chain membership has grown this year to 127 faithful and committed souls. To be added to the Prayer Chain list, contact Erik Donner: edonner@saintmarks.org or 206.323.0300 x217. Canon Rich Weyls is the coordinator of this ministry. For more information, please contact Rich at rweyls@saintmarks.org. You may submit a prayer request anytime at prayers@saintmarks.org.

—Canon Rich Weyls

THE FLOWER MINISTRY



CATHEDRAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Saint Mark's is a singing community. The Sunday 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Eucharistic assemblies continued to sing robustly in 2024 as they have for many years. While showing signs in 2024 of increased confidence and zeal, the 9 a.m. assembly tends to be more reticent than the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. assemblies, not only in singing, but also in the spoken portions of the liturgy. This may have to do with the relatively early hour, or the more sparsely populated space than is typically experienced at 11 a.m. Staff organists noticed this year that singing confidence increased greatly in the 9am assemblies when the organ sounded louder. So, the organists ended 2024 playing in a less reserved way in the 9 a.m. Eucharist than they have in the last several years. The 11 a.m. assemblies continue to enjoy singing some service music and hymns without organ accompaniment. 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 begun in 2023, Saint Mark's Singers (non-auditioned, adult choir) continued

▼ The Saint Mark's
Singers,
October 20, 2024.



growing in 2024, increasing from 24 to 28 members.

With support from the Festival Music Fund, the Cathedral Choir offered Peter Hallock's Phoenix with harp and cello on May 12, and Mozart's *Missa brevis in F*, K.192 with two violins, cello, and bass on October 6.

Saint Mark's music program commissioned B. E. (Brittney) Boykin to compose a new anthem for the 2024 "O" Antiphons liturgy. The Cathedral Choir sang the premiere of her new work, *In the stillness*, in that liturgy on December 1.

The Evensong Choir led the cathedral parish in a Hymnathon on November 23 to raise funds for that choir's pilgrimage to the United Kingdom in August 2025, where they will serve as choir-in-residence for one week each in Lincoln and Durham cathedrals. Singing at least one stanza of all 720 hymns in *The Hymnal 1982* from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., participants raised over \$12,000.

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 summer choir camp weeks for children and youth. For more information, please see the following report by the Associate Musician & Cathedral Choir School Director.

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

A rota of seven musicians continued to take turns singing or playing 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 page 46.

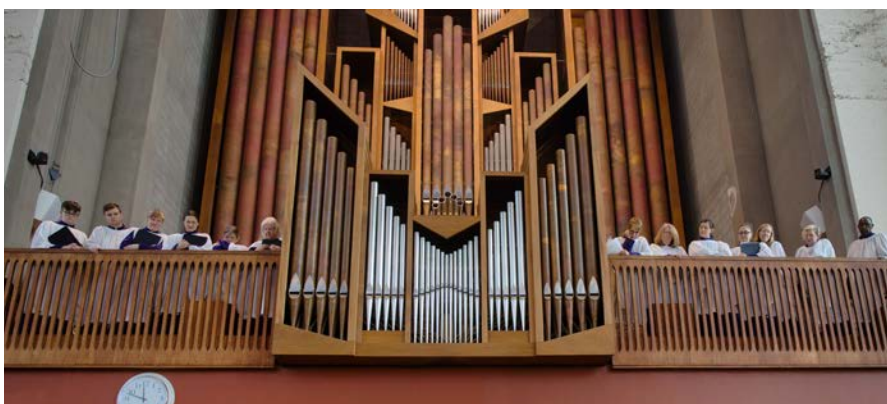
Profound thanks to the music staff, choral singers, Choir School families, cantors, vestment curators, instrumentalists, concert hosts, Friends of the Music Series, and all other volunteers and donors who give generously of their time, talent, and treasure to ensure the vitality of Saint Mark's musical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

—Canon Michael Kleinschmidt

CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL

Many choristers of the Choir School hit the road or traveled by plane in an exciting year of pilgrimage. The high school Schola traveled to Holden Village, the remote mountain retreat at the top of Lake Chelan. During their long weekend, the choir led worship services, ate with the community, and enjoyed snowshoeing, cross country skiing, sledding, and daily trips to the sauna. The Senior Choristers and many parents flew to the San Francisco Bay area in March to attend a choir festival with the choristers of Trinity Cathedral, Portland and hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal in Burlingame, CA. In addition to the Sunday Eucharist and Evensong services, the choristers premiered a commissioned work for the festival by Erollyn Wallen. It is likely they would all report their favorite part of the trip was playing together in the hotel pool!

In July, a robust group of Junior and Senior Choristers gathered for *Choir Camp 2024: Holy Ground*. Part of the camper experience was visiting other sacred spaces such as Temple De Hirsch Sinai, First African Methodist Episcopal Church, and St. James Roman Catholic Cathedral. We also explored the theme of Holy Ground be-



ing within each one of us. The teens of the Schola gathered in August for Schola Camp culminating in a jaunt up to Whidbey Island to sing the opening set for a Whidbey Island Music Festival performance. Every evening of camp, the singers closed with sung Compline. The singers received a basic introduction to Alexander technique to improve their body alignment while singing.

The new programmatic year came roaring in with the Bishop's Consecration liturgy in September at the Meydenbauer Center

▲ [top] Choir members in the organ loft, May 19, 2024

[middle] Choristers rehearsing before the "O" Antiphons Advent liturgy, December 1, 2024.

[bottom] Rebekah Gilmore chants the *Exsultet* at the Great Vigil of Easter, March 30, 2024.



▲ The Cathedral Choir
at the “O” Antiphons
Advent liturgy,
December 1, 2024.

in Bellevue. Our choristers represented the cathedral in this grand event and provided an important presence of children and youth at the liturgy. The regular weekly programming for the Choir School again includes Class Piano as an elective for Junior Choristers and weekly musicianship class tutoring for Senior Choristers. Many choristers took advantage of summer individual tutoring appointments with Ms. Gilmore and Cara Peterson so start the year off with new Royal School of Church Music ribbon level achievements. The Junior Choristers have more than doubled in the number of singers this year, making the St. Nicholas

mezzanine a vibrant place on Wednesday afternoons with 55+ choristers rehearsing each week. The Choir School can boast a fantastic squad of adult volunteers including Cara Peterson, Hannah Hochkoppel, David Poortinga, Joey Blundell, Robin Ethridge, and Emily Riesser who tutor music fundamentals, liturgical knowledge, and sight singing. Throughout the year, our choristers lead liturgies in additional way as psalmists, cantors, and lectors.

This fall, the high school Schola sang Cozy Compline, a Compline offering for anyone who doesn’t want to be out quite so late—children and adults alike! The liturgy was familiar to and attended by our Senior Choristers who had joined with the Compline Choir in January 2024 to sing the Sunday evening service way past their bedtime. In late fall, the Senior Choristers joined with the Cathedral Choir and Compline Choir in their annual offering of the “O” Antiphons Advent liturgy. All choristers joined with the Evensong Choir and instrumental ensemble for the annual *Pageant of the Nativity*, and then finished the calendar year by singing for the 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve liturgies. As always, resounding recognition must go to the parents and guardians of our choristers whose dedication and enthusiasm for the work our choristers do in



► *The Pageant of the
Nativity*,
December 18, 2024.

the life of our cathedral parish is evident as they make multiple trips a week to Capitol Hill and do their best to keep their kids in appropriately sized black dress shoes!

—Rebekah Gilmore

THE COMPLINE CHOIR

Over the course of 2024, The Compline Choir:

- ◆ shared in celebrations the centenary of Peter Hallock's birth (in 1924) and the 10th anniversary of his death (in 2014),
- ◆ sang the office of Compline with the Senior Choristers of the Saint Mark's Cathedral Choir School,
- ◆ completed two more explorations of square-note (Gregorian) chant notation,
- ◆ sang at the burial rite for Doreen Tudor,
- ◆ offered concerts in February and April,
- ◆ gave the U.S. premiere of *Abendgebet* by composer Jacob Beranek (b.1998) and the world premiere of *The Saint Mark's Service* by Jessica French (b. 1984),
- ◆ made a pilgrimage to England and served residencies at the cathedrals of St Albans, St Paul's, and Canterbury cathedrals,
- ◆ relished again in hearing the sublime Women's Compline Choir under Rebekah Gilmore's leadership chant the office of Compline while we were on pilgrimage,
- ◆ sang for the liturgy of Welcome and Seating of Bishop LaBelle in September,
- ◆ celebrated member Ken Peterson's 60th anniversary singing with the Choir in October,
- ◆ resurrected *The Altar*, a 2002 work composed for the Choir by Compline alumnus Jeff Junkinsmith (b.1956)
- ◆ participated in the cathedral's annual presentation of the "O" Antiphons Advent Procession
- ◆ and delighted in the Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason's quarterly presence with us.



The Choir's active membership has held steady at 25 persons, who have cumulatively amassed **452 years** of experience singing the office of compline, with an average term of service per member of 18 years. This will change in 2025.

The Compline Choir Board helped plan the *Hallock at 100* celebrations, assisted in planning and fundraising for the England pilgrimage, named the Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason, the Very Rev. Jo Kelly-Moore, and Mr. Ian Roberts as honorary members of the Choir, agreed to enter into a discernment process regarding possible shared governance with the Peter R. Hallock Institute, and began development of a multiyear strategic plan.

The Board of Governors includes James Wilcox (President), Kenneth Pendergrass (Vice President), Josh Sandoz (Secretary), Phil Lloyd (Treasurer), Jamie Balducci, Carl Bolstad, Jim Buskirk, Estephen Meza, Vernon Nicodemus, and *ex officio* members Dr. Jason Anderson (Compline Choir Director), the Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason (Dean), and the Rt. Rev. Phil LaBelle (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

—Dr. Jason Anderson

▲ The Compline Choir at the "O" Antiphons Advent liturgy, December 1, 2024.



▲ Three events on the Saint Mark's Music Series:
[top] The Compline Choir
with Page Smith, cello—
Hallock at 100,
February 25, 2024.

[middle] Doug Fullington
conducts The Tudor
Choir and The Women's
Compline Choir—
Shaker Harmonies,
November 10, 2024.

► [bottom] Kimberley
Marshall, organ—
All-Bach on the Flentrop,
May 3, 2024.



SAINT MARK'S MUSIC SERIES

In 2024, Saint Mark's Music Series continued its full season, presenting six concerts throughout the year, in the unique acoustical ambiance of McCaw and Thomsen Chapels and the Nave, and featuring both the Flentrop and the Marion Camp Oliver Organs. Canon Michael Kleinschmidt conceived and curated the series, inviting local, national, and international musicians to share their music Saint Mark's community. Music Series Manager Laura Loge, facilitated the background work to make the concerts run smoothly, working with Director of Communications, Gregory Bloch, to produce livestreams of the concerts. With the assistance of volunteers, audiences were given a warm welcome to each of the concerts. 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, as well as the Seattle chapter of the American Guild of Organists for their support of publicity through KING-FM underwriting spots.

These are the concerts that were offered in 2024. All were available in-person and via ticketed live-stream.

- ◆ **Flentrop Organ Concert** featuring organist James Kealey, Friday, February 2. Organist James Kealey returned to play the Flentrop Organ, the instrument on which he competed in the final round and won the American Guild of Organists' National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance in July 2022. His performance included works by J. S. Bach, Percy Whitlock, Cecilia McDowall, Herber Howells, Rachel Laurin, Florence Price, David Hurd, and Maurice Duruflé.
- ◆ ***Hallock at 100***, Saturday and Sunday, February 24 and 25. A collaboration with the Peter Hallock Institute, these concerts featured The Compline Choir, the Byrd Ensemble, countertenor José Luis Muñoz, and a parley of instruments, launching the centenary year of Peter Hallock's birth.

The program included music spanning the Renaissance to the present day, along with a selection of Hallock's own compositions, and a song cycle for countertenor.

- ◆ ***Quartet for the End of Time***, Sunday, March 24. This masterwork examining the spirituality of the Book of Revelation, composed by Olivier Messiaen while imprisoned in a German prisoner-of-war camp during WWII, was performed in the nave in contemplation of Palm Sunday and the coming Holy Week, featuring Rachel Yoder, clarinet, Luke Fitzpatrick, violin, Rose Bellini, cello, and Jesse Myers, piano.

- ◆ **All-Bach on the Flentrop Organ** featuring organist Kimberley Marshall, Friday, May 3. Kimberly Marshall performed Saint Mark's annual All-Bach concert. This multi-faceted musician is known for pushing the organ to its limits with her virtuosic playing. Combining her artistry on the Flentrop with Bach's genius was truly awe-inspiring. Her program focused on J. S. Bach's time in Weimar, from 1708 to 1717, as a court organist and included one work by Johann Ernst in addition to Bach.

- ◆ ***Shaker Harmonies: Celebrating 250 Years of Shakers in America***, Sunday, November 10. This celebration featured the Tudor Choir, directed by Doug Fullington, and the Women's Compline Choir, directed by Rebekah Gilmore, performing arrangements of Shaker hymns spanning the last 250 years in acclaimed, sensitive arrangements by Compline Choir alumnus Kevin Siegfried. It was a celebration of the Shakers' music, and their continuing peaceful, artistic, and all-welcoming movement. A pre-concert talk was led by scholar of the Shakers, Dr. Carol Medlicott and composer Kevin Siegfried.

Organ by Night, established in August, 2021, is a series of 20-minute recitals on the Flentrop organ offered immediately after Compline on the third Sunday of every month. Audience growth has continued, expanding

from an average of thirty to now more than seventy. Many guests had never heard nor seen a pipe organ in person. The brief Q & A period following the recital is a highlight of *Organ by Night*. Both staff and visiting organists appreciate their work evangelizing the Flentrop organ specifically, and the witness of Saint Mark's Cathedral generally. This series continues to be managed as a branch of Saint Mark's Music Series.

—Laura Loge

▼ [top] The Super-Krewe once again provided music for the outdoor Palm Sunday procession, March 24, 2024.

[bottom] Community member Julia Cooper, banjo, and friends provided festive music at the Parish Picnic on Homecoming Sunday, September 8, 2024.





▲ 20s/30s Group members, including those just confirmed/received and their sponsors, on Cathedral Day, April 27, 2024.

NEWCOMERS MINISTRY

We continued monthly newcomers' coffees with email followups and referrals to staffers relative to attendees' stated interests. Average attendance was 4-8 newcomers plus senior warden, clergy and occasional staff. As in the recent past, most attendees were young adults. In addition email responses were made within a week to all online inquiries and visitor cards. Inquirers and visitors were always invited to the next coffee. Clergy and staff met personally with newcomers upon their request.

—Deacon Earl Grout

20S/30S GROUP

The 20s/30s group at Saint Mark's has experienced sustained growth throughout 2024, continuing to offer consistent opportunities for young adults to connect and share in ministry. A visioning group meets quarterly to brainstorm event ideas. This group included: Adrienne Hubbard, David Poortinga, Hilary McLeland-Wieser, Julia Cooper, Stone Fennell, Else Trygstad-Burke, Kellie Roberts, Molly Bosch, Bryan Pansing, Jordan Roberts, and Elli Howard with staff support from Canon Wendy Claire Barrie.

The group has also continued to utilize Slack as a communication tool, currently connecting 77 members, and has been fostering relationships with young adults from other parishes across the diocese to create

wider opportunities for collaboration and engagement.

With Emily Meeks' departure this summer for seminary in Virginia, we have missed her leadership and energy but trust that the 20s/30s ministry has a strong momentum and renewed spirit.

The ministry's focus has been on community and relationship building, as well as service projects through involvement with organizations such as Operation Nightwatch and Recovery Cafe. This year, we have offered a variety of events, including the Questioning Together monthly series. Topics explored in this series included: Exploring the Mystics, How Much is Enough?, What is Anglo-Catholicism?, What Does It Mean to Practice Evangelism as Episcopalians?, Poetry and Spirituality, Eucharistic Theology, 50 Years of Women's Ordination, The War in Gaza, and Christian Identity in Secular Cities and Institutions. Questioning Together is routinely well attended and attracts young adults from across the diocese. There is a space of trust and honesty facilitated that allows for robust and nuanced discussion, acknowledging the varied spiritual and life experiences of young adults in the Episcopal church.

Additionally, 20s/30s has hosted various other gatherings, including monthly Tacos & Contemplative Prayer, Hygge Night, and a Sober Spirituality forum with Rev. Erin Jean Warde. There were also events such as an Easter brunch, a car camping trip, and a field trip to the St. Demetrios Greek Festival. We look forward to 2025 and how this ministry will continue to grow.

—Adrienne Hubbard

40S/50S GROUP

It was a fairly quiet year for our ministry, but we did pack in fun and fellowship and added some new members through the ministry fair in the fall.

In February just before Lent, we hosted a Jeopardy night and potluck—with our own

local version of the popular TV game show. The first round focused on Seattle area answers and questions and the Double Jeopardy round was all about our congregation and diocese. Many laughs were had and we hope to put on Jeopardy 2.0 sometime in 2025.

In late June, members of the ministry gathered for a Midsommer brunch with many fresh fruits and even a traditional Swedish Västerbottensost pie. We enjoyed good food and conversation and were happy that Rev. Rich Weyls could join us for the gathering.

In August, several of us joined the Feeding ministry on Sunday afternoon to prepare and deliver a freshly cooked meal for St. Martin de Porres and our guests at Tent City. With the expert guidance of Peter Snyder, we made a complete meal while sharing stories of food and travel.

In October, Theresa Barker invited members of the ministry and the congregation to learn traditional English country dancing with her group in the University district. A few brave souls attempted to learn, and the more advanced dancers were very patient with those of us with two left feet. There were many smiles, and some laughter among the bruised toes.

We look forward to planning more opportunities for fellowship in 2025!

—Kristine Ekman

THIRD ACTERS (RETIREES GROUP)

We now have 82 Third Actors (folks 60 and above) on our email list, an increase of 6 folks from last year. We have met every second Tuesday at 3 p.m. on Zoom. The attendance has been variable, with 8–15 Third Actors showing up each time. We check in, then are working our way through the book *The Gift of Years* by Joan Chittister. Kathy Minsch and I choose a chapter, or, sometimes, a theme unrelated to the book. Our group is has evolved into a community replete with trust, humor, deep questioning, exploration of our faith, and deep sharing

of our personal lives. We have dealt with topics such as grief and loss, the challenges of aging, the mixed emotions of moving to assisted living, the disappointing results of the 2024 election, and much more. We support one another in dealing with health issues, and an all-hands-on-deck email was sent when one of us needed a ride to a medical procedure. We also do an in-person potluck at Leffler House after the 11:00 service on whatever Sunday of the month we can secure the venue. The potlucks are purely for social time, sharing food together, with the goal of good sharing and joy. Rich Weyls joined us in October as our new clergy of record. He is a great addition. We look forward to a good year ahead in 2025.

—Elizabeth Clark-Stern

▼ [top] The Rev. Edie Weller was named an Honorary Canon of Saint Mark's Cathedral on June 9, 2024.

[bottom] Canon Rich Weyls officiates at the blessing of the Leffler House vegetable gardens, July 14, 2024.



SAINT MARK'S WRITER'S GROUP

We have 36 Writers on our email list, an increase of 11 from the previous year. We had a booth this year at the Ministry Fair, and that bumped up our numbers. We meet on Zoom at 4:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month. We check in, then share whatever writing we would like to offer the group. We are not a critique group. We offer support, encouragement, and share resources such as writing classes or conferences. It is a warm, creative, highly engaged group of folks. We held an in-person salon in September in Leffler House. It was attended by 23 people, some of them from the congregation at large. What a grand afternoon! We went around the circle and read our work, circling twice as the afternoon wore on. The

▼ The Saint Mark's Cathedral booth at Capitol Hill PrideFest, June 29, 2024.



event doubled as a birthday celebration for one of our members who came all the way from Bellingham. We intend to hold another salon in 2025, and to continue to support each other at our monthly zoom meetings.

—Elizabeth Clark-Stern

QUEER IN CHRIST

The Queer in Christ (QuiC) ministry has continued to grow and flourish in 2024 after having been officially launched nearly two years ago in February 2023. The ministry offered “Queer Conversations” throughout the year, inviting members of QuiC to go deeper in their knowledge and support of topics and issues of interest to queer people, both within Saint Mark's community and beyond. During Lent, James Davidson and Michael Seewer offered a Lenten scripture series called “Clearing Space for God: A Lenten Conversation Series”, inviting participants to go deeper into scriptural stories that celebrate otherness, and how they and we celebrate our special gifts as queer people. QuiC also celebrated Transgender Day of Visibility with a brunch (on Easter Day this year!), and then later in the year observed Transgender Day of Remembrance with a special forum, holding space for the community to ask how we might do more to protect and celebrate the transgender community in this shifting political season. Pride Month was also celebrated by the community, with Queer in Christ taking a special leadership role this year, offering a Pride Month Parish Forum led by Michael Garrett, Rose Hazard, Michael Seewer and others in the community, discussing why Pride is important to the Queer community, and to provide an opportunity to learn with each other in the midst of fellowship. The Queer in Christ ministry offers information on the Saint Mark's website at: saintmarks.org/queer. For more information, please visit the webpage, or email QueerInChrist@saintmarks.org

—Michael Seewer

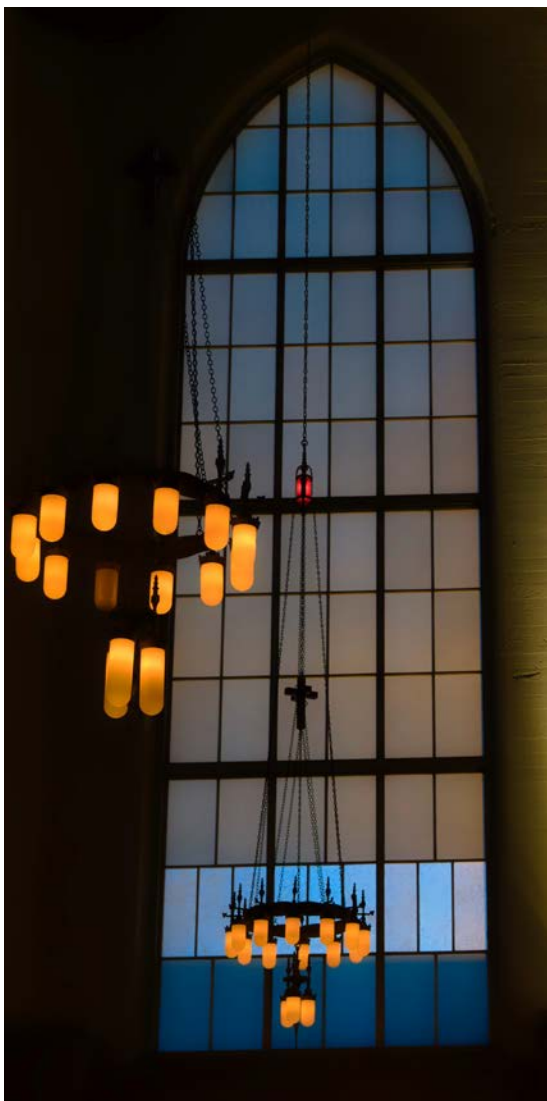
COMMUNICATIONS

The last of the six themes which organize the Strategic Plan adopted by the Vestry in February of 2024 is “Connecting and Telling Our Stories,” and under this heading the Plan emphasized the centrality of communications to the mission and ministry of this vibrant institution. The plan declares that “we offer ways to connect with one another, navigate ministry resources, and tell our stories as a Parish and Cathedral.”

The office of the Director of Communications plays a critical role in enacting this strategic goal, via the weekly email newsletter and other special emails, the cathedral’s website, social media, printed material, *The Rubric* magazine, livestream and hybrid events, special videos, interior and exterior signage, advertising, press relations, and more.

Given the sheer number of ministry groups, meetings, special events, classes, and liturgies offered by the cathedral community week in and week out—as this very Annual Report makes abundantly obvious!—consistency and predictability are key. When cathedral communications are at their best, everything should “feel like Saint Mark’s,” including the style of prose, photo and graphic design elements, typography, and web functionality. Both longtime community members and relative newcomers should be able to sense this unity almost subliminally, even if they can’t articulate what technical elements are creating this feeling.

At the same time, however, when it comes to communications support, one size does not fit all. Different events require different promotion strategies to spread the word beforehand, different needs during the event, and different ways to share what happened after the fact. And sometimes, breaking with established conventions or doing something different than what is expected is exactly the right strategy. Cathedral communications is always walking this tight-



rope—striving for consistent application of standards of language and design, while-making creative, unexpected choices and ad hoc solutions to unique circumstances.

These dynamics were explored at a special Sunday morning forum organized by the Communications Committee of the Vestry and Communications Director Gregory Bloch, “Cathedral Communications: How To Get the Word Out!” on September 22. At this forum, presenters discussed the role of communications in the life of the cathedral, guided by the 2024 Strategic Plan, then introduced specific tools and procedures available to parishioners to promote events and tell their stories. This included the official launch of the “Communications Toolkit.” The creation of this collection of resources



▲ The Diocese of
Olympia Electing
Convention for the Ninth
Bishop Diocesan,
May 18, 2024.

and instructions is specifically mandated in the Strategic Plan, and can be found at saintmarks.org/communicationstoolkit

It remains a source of pride for Saint Mark's that robust professional livestreams of liturgies began in 2017, years before the pandemic. Although the equipment is now nearing eight years old and some elements will need to be replaced soon, the quality of the videos created at this cathedral remain second to none. This is true of the continual weekly, monthly, and annual rhythm of liturgies, but perhaps even more true of the special events requiring bespoke solutions.

The most challenging livestream of 2024 was the Electing Convention, at which hundreds of delegates voted for the ninth Bishop of Olympia, while hundreds from across the Episcopal Church tuned in live to the four-and-a-half-hour livestream. The Communications Director, the cathedral's A/V Coordinator Chris Brown, Sacristan Michael Seewer, and members of the diocesan staff including Josh Hornbeck and Kerry Allman all worked together to find solutions to multiple complex technical challenges, while strictly upholding the integrity and canonical legitimacy of the election process. The results of each round of voting were revealed simultaneously to the delegates in the room and to the viewers

of the livestream, using a set-up involving PowerPoint, screen-mirroring, and auxiliary camera inputs. The event concluded with a live Zoom call between Bishop Skelton in the nave, and then-future Bishop LaBelle in Massachusetts, which needed to be clearly seen and heard by all in the room and those watching at home. To achieve this culminating moment of the entire convention, we were able to apply lessons learned from many years of hybrid Zoom events in Bloedel Hall, and the call went off without a hitch.

As always, enormous thanks are due to many individuals who each play a role in making the communications out of Saint Mark's effective, consistent, and beautiful: Kevin Johnson for his incredible photography, Michael Perera for invaluable assistance with social media, Maria Coldwell who edits *The Rubric*, Emily Meeks for more contributions than I can name, and many more. Staff members Chris Brown and Michael Seewer were both critical to the work of communications, and in the fall of 2024 we were delighted to welcome Samantha Clare, a freelance communications professional who has helped with numerous special projects, not least this Annual Report. Heartfelt thanks to all.

—Gregory Bloch

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

CATHEDRAL FOUNDATION OF THE DIOCESE OF OLYMPIA

The Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia was incorporated 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 2024, the Foundation gave over \$76,000.00 to the Cathedral to help cover repairs to the Cathedral and maintenance of the buildings and grounds.

In 2025 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 the importance of creating or updating a will.

While the Diocese is no longer subscribing to the FreeWill plan, the Foundation will be looking at updating the Life Planning document, as well as looking at other ways we can support the Cathedral and other congregations in these conversations.

—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 four times in 2024. Board accomplishments included:

- ◆ producing the *Hallock at 100* concerts on February 24 & 25, featuring The Compline Choir, The Byrd Ensemble, and countertenor José Luis Muñoz;
- ◆ launching version 2.0 of the Institute's website at hallockinstitute.org which now includes the entire catalog of Hallock's works, published and unpublished;
- ◆ entering into conversations with cathedral leadership about inclusion in the upcoming capital campaign;
- ◆ and agreeing to begin a discernment process regarding possible shared governance with the Compline Choir.

The Institute's primary goal in the coming year is to build the core endowment.

The board of directors includes Katherine Crosier, Robin Ethridge, Michael Kleinschmidt, Scott Kovacs, Heather MacLaughlin Garbes, David Ouzts, Michael Silhavy, Gerard van Wesep, Jason Anderson, 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

▼ The Rev. Canon Emily Griffin, November 3, 2024.



SAINT MARK’S CATHEDRAL
OPERATING BUDGET HISTORY, 2005-2024



SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

CATHEDRAL OPERATING BUDGET, 2015-2025

REVENUES	ACTUALS (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)										2025 BUDGET
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN	1,116	1,235	1,286	1,341	1,468	1,610	1,729	1,896	1,848	1,790	1,983
PLATE OFFERING	110	104	106	112	108	62	64	110	116	113	118
GIFTS & GRANTS	98	66	48	48	48	364	100	111	161	162	141
SPECIAL EVENTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PROGRAM & SERVICE FEES	124	138	151	118	118	30	54	140	150	193	255
DIOCESE OF OLYMPIA	65	46	71	68	58	25	25	65	86	40	35
CATHEDRAL FOUNDATION	93	102	106	72	53	67	63	69	70	59	72
INTERFUND TRANSFERS/ MISC.	69	74	42	66	138	93	92	99	170	113	113
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,675	\$1,765	\$1,810	\$1,825	\$2,008	\$2,251	\$2,127	\$2,490	\$2,601	\$2,470	\$2,717
EXPENSES											
PERSONNEL	965	982	940	1,054	1,025	1,201	1,160	1,389	1,411	1,361	1,659
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT	238	234	231	235	225	288	266	315	312	261	358
MISSION DISBURSEMENTS, OTHER	39	29	25	24	18	16	16	17	15	12	12
PROFESSIONAL FEES	22	26	52	46	59	55	41	60	113	60	66
SUPPLIES & MINOR EQUIPMENT	42	43	85	60	73	40	58	59	32	60	48
COMMUNICATIONS	29	30	37	37	24	19	25	28	30	37	26
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	88	67	87	46	49	104	99	104	105	117	85
EQUIPMENT RENTAL & SERVICE	103	112	95	76	94	107	64	99	129	144	152
UTILITIES	77	90	105	107	98	81	89	108	106	117	125
TRAVEL	12	4	3	5	2	3	1	1	2	16	3
HOSPITALITY	18	17	13	14	14	3	7	17	15	18	17
CONFERENCES & TRAINING	14	21	19	19	20	20	7	25	22	20	32
INSURANCE	23	27	34	37	26	27	30	33	35	45	60
DUES, FEES, & LICENSES	23	20	21	25	33	37	69	37	52	49	48
OTHER	16	25	38	72	164	54	56	76	105	78	75
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,709	\$1,727	\$1,785	\$1,857	\$1,924	\$2,055	\$1,988	\$2,368	\$2,484	\$2,395	\$2,766
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(\$34)	\$38	\$20	(\$32)	\$84	\$196	\$139	\$122	\$117	\$75	(\$49)



The Welcoming and Seating of a Bishop in the Cathedral, September 14, 2024.



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

1245 Tenth Avenue East

Seattle, WA 98102

206.323.0300

WWW.SAINTMARKS.ORG