

2025

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, SEATTLE



ANNUAL REPORT
PRESENTED AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2026



FROM THE DEAN

DEAR friends in Christ, Brother David Steindl-Rast says that “gratitude makes us joyful.” I believe that to be true, even if the two often blend together in the experience of those things that make life so meaningful. Such is the case in my ministry here at Saint Mark’s, now in its fourteenth year, with a deep sense of gratitude for the privilege of serving, and sheer joy in the experience. I thank God for you, this community, into which I have been called to serve. There is a texture to this community that invites a certain passion in the work at hand, never a dull moment, always leaning into newfoundland on this journey we make together. And that, at once, makes me grateful and joyful.

2025 saw so many exciting developments in the life of this community of faith, several of which are exposted here in this annual report of the parish. I commend the entire report to your reading, that you might also celebrate the life we share as the Body of Christ here, and that you may know that you are an important part of that Body. We are the richer for engaging this all together.

There is much described here for which to be thankful, and drawing inspiration from those who have written these reflections, I’d like to mention a few pieces here, which bring me special joy. There is a certain “arc” or trajectory to the ways we form our common life, and it is a delight to see it unfold over time. These aspects which I mention here are in no particular order and infer no diminution of significance and appreciation for those not mentioned by me specifically:

1. Worship and Music. I delight in the work of liturgy at Saint Mark’s, in all its manifestations. Indeed, it is at the heart of all we do and are here. There is an abiding sense of the Spirit’s movement in our midst, and (for my part) I enjoy preaching and presiding, to officiate at



Evensong and for the occasions when I sing with the Compline Choir on Sunday nights. Music lifts my spirit in profound ways that open me into the experience of gratitude and joy...

2. Spiritual Formation. Ten years ago, we launched the Wisdom School at Saint Mark’s with a wonderful response that demonstrates the hunger for such offerings. Several hundred souls participate in the offerings each year. In 2019, we began the Radix Project, small groups in short-term commitment reflecting on scriptures, sharing together, and praying for one another. I cannot overstate the impact those Radix relationships have brought to bear on the entire

▲ [cover] TERRA globe during Sunday worship, November 2, 2025.

◀ [previous page] Views from the life of the cathedral community, including TERRA concert, St. Francis celebration, youth outings, Pride, and more.

▼ Presentation of Baptismal candidates at the Easter Vigil, April 19, 2025.





▲ “The Abandoned Table.”
Photo by Kevin Johnson
on Maundy Thursday,
April 17, 2025.

organization. And then the Center for Spirituality and Action was launched in 2024, affording folks an opportunity to go even deeper. The arc here is one of invitation to deepening spirituality, and I am so grateful for the ways this community has embraced such offerings. Of course, the forums, book studies, EFM, and Cathedral Commons ground us in the journey.

3. **Stewardship—Capital Campaign, Annual Appeal, and a Balanced Budget.** At the Vestry’s direction, we launched the Living Stones II capital campaign in early 2025 to address needs related to the nave and narthex, building systems, and music ministry. The response has been nothing short of overwhelming! More than \$8 million pledged and given so far, with more to come. And then, in the fall, this faithful and generous community delivered pledges in support of cathedral annual operations that grew by more than 7% from the prior year. We live in an era of inflationary pressures, but your support, paired with fiscal discipline on the expense

side, means we have balanced the budget once more. Thank you!

4. **Baptisms and Funerals.** I know this seems an odd item on a list of gratitude, but we had 26 baptisms in 2025, the most in any year in my time here, and I count that as a sign of health for the community. Folks are finding their way to Saint Mark’s, and they want to be a part of the Jesus Movement in this place. We also buried more people in 2025 than in any year in my time--31 people buried from this cathedral. This cathedral was built to serve as a place where families can come and grieve, say goodbye, and mark the moment as liminal time. We do so immersed in our Christian narrative that declares nothing in all the world, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. And the people who wrap around these families—All Saints’ Guild ushers, Virginia Lenker and the receptions committee, clergy, musicians and staff—seeing this sort of care amidst life’s hardest moments is indeed a source of gratitude and joy for me.

5. **TERRA.** In November 2025 we hosted TERRA, a 24-foot globe in the nave, to the delight of thousands who came to experience the installation, not just as art, but as theological and prayerful consideration of our connections with creation, with one another, and this fragile earth, our island home.

Gratitude and joy... I could go on, but suffice at this point to say simply that I am deeply grateful to be here, and it is with a profound sense of joy that I am as convinced as ever of the vocation to be your dean and rector

at this time. To all who join me in this work, to those who will find their way into this community in this new year, to all whom we serve in Christ's name, I give thanks to God for you, and I offer you my heartfelt

Blessings and peace,



The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason
Dean & Rector

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

WHEN I joined the vestry 3 years ago, I had very little idea what to expect, and I certainly never expected to serve as Senior Warden for 2 years. Serving in these roles is a bit like old-fashioned photographic darkroom work – at first, only the broad outlines of the image are visible, but slowly the details and true beauty emerge. Setting vestry terms at 3 years was surely an act of wisdom – short enough to ensure renewal of vision for the Parish while long enough to allow experience, detail, and appreciation to emerge. I am so grateful for the opportunity to engage life and people at Saint Mark's more broadly and deeply. It has given me a glimpse of what early Christians must have felt – the times are often difficult, but we are in this together, and we have a wonderful community of people who work in different ways to make life better for each other and for our broader community. Service on Vestry affords a real-time overview and

the opportunity to help shape this work.

I am deeply grateful to all the vestry members I have served with, and I have been especially fortunate to share lay leadership this past year with Junior Wardens Peter Snyder (Stewardship), Phil Haas (Finance), and Julia Logan (Facilities), along with Chancellor Re Knack, Treasurer Lynne Cobb, and Clerk Barbara Erickson. We have all been substantially supported in our work by the cathedral Clergy and Staff, and especially by Cathedral Administrator Erik Donner, who quietly ensures that we have a place to meet each month, with all the right technology and materials in place.

Finally, one of the special privileges of the Senior Warden role is the opportunity to work closely with Cathedral Dean Steve Thomason, whose thoughtful guidance of the Vestry matches his outstanding leadership and dedication for the cathedral and Parish at large.



A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

2025 has seen enormous progress on some major ministry projects the cathedral has undertaken, while continuing our steadfast engagement with ongoing ministries. All of these reflect the vitality of our Parish, both in numbers and in Spirit. The cathedral completes 2025 with solid finances, creative and engaged staff and clergy, and generous, engaged Parish members who contribute to our more than 80 ministries. We have seen growth in membership and attendance as well. (As one example, more than 3000 people attended services on Christmas Eve!) Some highlights follow here and in the rest of this Annual Report.

MUTUAL MINISTRY GOALS

Progress on the four Mutual Ministry Goals has been outstanding:

1. ***Execute a successful capital campaign in 2025*** – The “Living Stones II – Building a Sound Future” campaign was led by a team of more than 30 parishioners and staff, and comprised a range of activities including campaign material, a well-attended parish dinner, and a series of small home gatherings for discussion and questions. To date, all of this has

▼ Giving Tree gifts
blessed during worship,
December 7, 2025.



culminated in more than 500 pledges totaling some \$8.2 million, with further outreach activities to the diocese and wider community. Beyond this financial success, these results amply demonstrate the vitality and generosity of the Saint Mark's parish, and our commitment to preserving and enhancing the cathedral for generations to come.

2. ***Continue the development of Affordable Housing on the cathedral campus*** – During the second half of 2025, years of effort on this project to create affordable housing from the St. Nicholas property next to the cathedral culminated in the signing of a joint development agreement with Redwood Housing. Since then, the pace of activities has accelerated with the selection of an architect (Perkins Eastman) and a contractor (RAFN). Importantly, almost all project costs to date have been covered by a series of grants totaling \$435,000, and the substantial development costs going forward will be met by Redwood Housing. Efforts are also underway to create a Community Based Organization (CBO) that will serve to encourage community engagement and as a focus for some of Saint Mark's other restorative justice efforts. It will be a few years before the project yields visible results, but 2025 has seen very substantial progress.
3. ***Strengthen stewardship as a year-round activity*** – On recommendation of the Stewardship Committee, the vestry rescheduled several activities (including annual campaign, Ministry Fair, and parish picnic) to allow their different emphases to unfold separately. This was done to encourage recognition of parishioners' rich contributions of time and talent in addition to their financial support. As part of this, the Annual Campaign was shortened to 3 weeks. This change in focus appears to have been successful; individual minis-

tries are attracting new members, and, to date, the Annual Campaign has resulted in 442 pledges totaling more than \$2 million.

4. **Explore an appropriate role for Saint Mark's in migrant justice** – The cathedral has been very active this year in response to the rapidly changing social, political, and legal context in which we find ourselves. Some examples include several interfaith gatherings to foster community connections, special parish contribution drives to support immigrant communities, some teaching in the Wisdom School, and the formation of a migrant accompaniment team. These and many other activities speak to the compassion, energy, and engagement of our parish and our commitment as a church to social justice in our community.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mutual Ministry Goals provide important focus, but they can never capture the full range of our cathedral life. Here are a few other notable activities and events during 2025:

- In collaboration with Operation Nightwatch, Saint Mark's opened **Donna Jean's Place**, a shelter providing safe, hygienic overnight facilities for 20 homeless women each night.
- The **Saint Mark's Music Series** continued to thrive, with compelling offerings that were well attended (including by many people from the wider community). Music continues to be a vital doorway into cathedral life.
- In July, the Vestry set apart a portion of the cathedral's south churchyard to become the **Cathedral Memorial Garden**, centered on the beautiful Deodar Cedar. The Garden now provides a way for ashes to be placed directly into the ground and for that ground to be consecrated in perpetuity.



- The **Center for Spirituality and Action** accepted its second year of cohorts following the first cohort in 2024.
- In November, Dean Thomason appealed to the parish help to address **food insecurity for students at Lowell Elementary School** as a response to the planned cancellation of SNAP benefits. The parish response was overwhelming, with **contributions of more than \$40,000**.
- In November, the Saint Mark's hosted the **Terra Exhibit**, a monumental Earth globe suspended in the cathedral nave. This was viewed by thousands of visitors over 3 weeks and served as a reminder of our commitment to creation care and our common home in the universe. And it was beautiful!

▲ Bishop LaBelle preaching on Christmas Eve at the 7:30 p.m. service, December 24, 2025.

These examples are by no means exhaustive, but may serve to illustrate the range and complexity of life at Saint Mark's, as will the rest of this Annual Report.

Saint Mark's is a wonderful presence in our community and in our lives. Our cathedral provides an ever-emerging image of what is possible when people care, and every clergy or staff member, every person who enters the doors or attends services via livestream contributes to that image. I am grateful, above all, for the People of Saint Mark's.

—Greg Hamm, Senior Warden

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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.

—Phillip Haas, *Junior Warden for Finance*

2025 GRANTS

GRANTS can play a vital role in providing funding for initiatives that may not be able to be covered by the operating budget. Saint Mark's received three grants for ministry initiatives that spanned across three mutual ministry areas: Intergenerational Ministry, Creation Care and Carbon Reduction, and Restorative Justice and Systemic Change. In addition, as Saint Mark's began its Living Stones II Capital Campaign, the cathedral received two key grants that support renewing sacred space and deepening mission. Looking ahead, Saint Mark's will continue to seek grant opportunities that help expand ministry capacity and cultivating community relationships.

MINISTRY GRANTS

- **"Miles of Pennies" (MOP) grant from Church Periodical Club (CPC)** - For more than 120 years, CPC has participated in the Church's mission to spread the Gospel by providing printed materials to support formation and learning. In 2025, Saint Mark's was awarded an MOP grant of \$742.05 to build and curate a library of picture books and Bibles that will engage children through sacred story and imagery.
- **FEMA grant via the National Security Supplemental (NSGP-NSS) Program** awarded Saint Mark's \$152,477 to implement strategic campus security enhancements. The grant supports Saint Mark's commitment for all to feel safe to explore this sacred space. Guided by Facilities and Vestry leadership, the cathedral continues to refine its emergency management and strategic campus plans to invest in infrastructure initiatives that promote safety and wellbeing.



- **Renewal grant from Trinity Church NYC** - Saint Mark's received a \$150,000 renewal grant from Trinity Church NYC to focus on designing an innovative community-based organization (CBO) model that other faith organizations may use in stewarding land use for affordable housing. A third award from Trinity Church NYC (\$450,000 to date), the grant will support the emerging CBO to play a crucial role in addressing Seattle's housing crisis while working to ensure Communities Harmed, specifically the Black Community (multigenerational families, leaders, elders, and youth), are represented in the affordable housing redevelopment on campus.

▲ Living Stones II
All-Parish Banquet,
announcing the
commitment total
to-date, June 6, 2025

LIVING STONES II CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In addition to the generosity of the cathedral parish, grants play an important role in meeting campaign goals.

- **The Chisholm Foundation** nurtures and supports meaningful endeavors in education, the arts, and religion. The Foundation awarded \$120,000 to Saint Mark's, supporting the cathedral's work to ensure a gathering space for these important cultural endeavors.
- **The Joshua Green Family Foundation** supports organizations with transformational capital campaign projects. In 2025, the Foundation awarded Saint Mark's \$25,000 to support the work of Living Stones II.

—Emily Meeks & Dean Steve Thomason

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY



SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL STEWARDSHIP 2026

2025 PRESENTED a particularly challenging year for the Stewardship Ministry. Because the Living Stones II: Building a Sound Future capital campaign was a major focus in the spring, we decided to shorten our annual fall commitment campaign by one week, launching on Sunday, October 5th and having the ingathering just three weeks later, on Sunday, October 26th. This meant that all of our activities would need to be streamlined relative to prior years.

We selected for our theme for this year's campaign "Choose Generosity," and we worked with Greg Bloch to generate a pledge card and visuals that supported the theme. We also invited members of the community to provide reflections at the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM services on October 12th and 19th, asking them to speak briefly about what Saint Mark's means to them and why they choose generosity.

This year as last, the Stewardship Ministry also engaged a consultant to bring some new approaches to our work. The Rev. Julia McCray-Goldsmith serves Trinity Cathedral in San Jose, California as Priest in Charge. Previously, she was Canon for Cathedral Liwfe at Trinity Cathedral in Portland, Oregon. She is also a member of the board of directors of The Episcopal Network

for Stewardship (TENS). In the leadup to the fall campaign, The Rev. McCray-Goldsmith met virtually with the Junior Warden for Stewardship, the Stewardship Ministry team, and the Vestry. She encouraged us to get to know our community better so as to personalize our approach to fundraising, and also to be creative in new ways of expressing gratitude for the generosity of our membership. On launch Sunday, she was visiting preacher at all three morning services, and also participated in a "Friends Talking" forum with Dean Steve.

Commitments continue to come in as I prepare this report. However, as of December 5th, we had received 430 commitments totaling \$2,040,472. This already represents more than commitment income from the current year. When all is said and done, we anticipate about a 7% increase year over year. This is truly remarkable coming on top of the capital campaign. Indeed, the people of Saint Mark's did choose generosity!

Many thanks are due to the Stewardship Ministry for its hard work and dedication over the year: Sr. Warden Greg Hamm, Deborah Person, Greg Simon, The Very Rev. Dean Steve Thomason, and Alexandra Thompson. Also, special thanks for the excellent staff support we received from Erik Donner and Greg Bloch.

—Peter Snyder, Junior Warden for Stewardship

► [left] Cathedral shaped cake at the Living Stones II All-parish banquet, June 6, 2025

[right top] Consecration of the new Memorial Garden on the front lawn, August 24, 2025

[right middle] Cathedral pride flag, June 29, 2025

[right bottom] Garden work party, July 12, 2025

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 2025: the remaining old windows at the Deanery have been replaced with more energy efficient ones, as well as the replacement of the old windows in both Bloedel and the offices in Cathedral House; the new prayer space in the Nave; collaboration with the Accessibility Committee; ongoing repairs to the parking lot, as well as ongoing maintenance of the gardens and buildings. A project we hope to have completed by early 2026 is a lighted stop sign at the south driveway exit, which will enhance safety for cars, pedestrians and bicyclists.

—Julia Logan, Junior Warden for Facilities



INTERGENERATIONAL COUNCIL

INTERGENERATIONAL COUNCIL benefited greatly from the commitment, enthusiasm, and energy of three vestry members in 2025: Martha Craig, Sarah McCord, and Mark Lundquist. We restructured our meetings to be on a weeknight over Zoom, which increased participation, and had more robust and regular attendance from representatives of different age and affinity groups, which significantly enhanced our collaborative efforts and opportunities.

The rhythms of the calendar and the seasons and celebrations of the church year provide many rich opportunities to develop positive interactions and deepen connectedness among parishioners of all ages, and the Intergenerational Council has in its fourth year returned to some occasions and practices that really seem to work well in our community, while also embracing new opportunities.

January began with our third Twelfth Night observance that coincided with Evensong, which allowed for a beautiful liturgy with the Epiphany readings and an already strong intergenerational element, as the choir spans at least six decades. Following the procession to the bonfire for the Burning of the Greens, more than 100 folks sat down to a chili supper in Bloedel Hall, and

once the flames died down, we roasted marshmallows and enjoyed s'mores along with each other's company in the final festive celebration of the Christmas season.

Something new was honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday with an Afternoon of Service on the Sunday of his holiday weekend, this year January 19. 80 people of all ages and abilities came together to make a difference in our community. We made 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Operation Nightwatch, and inventoried hygiene supplies and filled 20 shower caddies for Donna Jean's Shelter. We decorated cards to welcome the shelter residents and thank teachers at Lowell Elementary School. We painted a new outdoor sign for Lowell, "Home of the Dragons", and made two knotted fleece blankets for children there. We prepared a delicious meal for a Saint Mark's family. A team went to a nearby L'Arche residence for yard work, and another team went to Volunteer Park to pick up trash.

In late winter, we matched parishioners who signed up with a prayer partner in a different age group, someone with whom and for whom they intentionally prayed through the weeks of Lent and Eastertide, yet another way to cultivate and strengthen intergenerational relationships among Saint Markians. On Palm Saturday, we offered another experience for all ages with a new, brief liturgy, *The Questions Easter Asks Us*. Canon Emily Griffin and pianist David Poortinga led us in story, art, and song through the life of Jesus as we prepared to enter Holy Week. The Godly Play story usually shared over the weeks of Lent, *The Faces of Easter*, was told in large scale, with familiar hymns and tunes woven through opportunities to sing, wonder, and pray together as we reflected on the journey to the cross and the mystery of the Resurrection.

▼ Intergenerational hike
to Oxbow Loop Trail,
October 19, 2025.



Through the summer, we partnered with other Saint Mark's ministries on three Open Days at the cathedral. In June, we hosted with Queer in Christ "Quiet Pride," while the Capitol Hill PrideFest was going on just a few blocks away. More than 100 folks came to the cathedral for contemplative and creative community-led activities including rainbow crafts and a space to learn about and reflect on our queer ancestors of faith. In July, we collaborated with the Visual Arts Ministry on "Hopeful Arts," the centerpiece of which was the exhibit *Healing & Hope in War Zones: Children's Art from Gaza and Ukraine*. The final event was Celebrating Creation, and highlights included forest bathing on the Greenbelt with Brian-Seller-Petersen and making seed balls. Artist Sandy Nelson and the Quilting Ministry lent their gifts to two of these Open Days, and live music was a wonderful component of each.

In addition to taking on strong support for the Parish Picnic and Blessing of Backpacks and Briefcases in September and the Blessing of the Animals in early October, 2025 marked our second liturgy of All Hallows Eve. By candlelight we told the ancient stories of Saul and the Witch of Endor and Ezekiel in the Valley of Dry Bones and reflected on the deeper meaning of the Triduum of All Hallows, All Saints, and All Souls with Saint Mark's curate, Adam Conley.

The presence of the Terra Ball in November gave us two unique opportunities. While it was our second Crafternoon (on Veterans' Day, in preparation for the Alternative Gift Market), we concluded that time by gathering under the giant globe with Terra production lead Ben Browner who told us about how Terra came to be and lowered the globe so we could touch it, and our own Elizabeth Antley who led us in songs about creation, connection, and peace. Later that week, we collaborated with the Visual Arts Ministry and Creation Care supporters in presenting *Thin Places: Climate Change & Seeing the Earth Whole*, a public conversa-



tion with the Rev. Lisa Graumlich, Ph.D., a climate scientist and Episcopal deacon. We also provided intergenerational resources exploring this theme at the community resource fair surrounding this event.

▲ Parish Picnic on
September 7, 2025.

Our final "all hands on deck" collaborative effort was the Alternative Gift Market, now in its third year. An initiative of Dean Steve Thomason, the Intergenerational Council has taken the lead on the AGM. With the Giving Tree, the 2025 AGM raised an amazing combined total of over \$12,900 in cash and gift cards for the Threshold Fund and our community partners: Casa Latina, Lambert House, Lowell Elementary, L'Arche Seattle, L'Honey Tacoma, Operation Nightwatch, and Seattle Seafarers, as well as a sleigh full of toys for Mary's Place, eleven warm and colorful outfits for Lowell students, and twenty filled Christmas stockings for the women at Donna Jean's Place.

A team of more than forty people made the 2025 Alternative Gift Market a resounding success, and countless parishioners made, donated, and purchased items. Erik Donner is the financial wizard whose expertise and attention to detail makes sure the money goes exactly where it's supposed to go. We relish these varied and enriching opportunities throughout the year to make a difference, draw attention to what really matters, deepen our faith, and strengthen our relationships with one another.

—Canon Wendy Claire Barrie

CREATION CARE MINISTRY

THE CREATION Care Ministry of Saint Mark's Cathedral strives to help our Saint Mark's community 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 have benefited from strong leadership and vision in our Creation Care Ministry, and thanks to that leadership, Creation Care has become a central focus in so many of our ministries.

LIVING STONES II CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GOAL ROOTED IN CREATION CARE

This year we launched our Capital Campaign that focuses on our goal to become net carbon zero on campus by 2030. The first phase of fundraising was very successful, and we are on our way to continuing the work of improving energy efficiency on the cathedral campus, including replacing the nave's gas boiler heat system and the dual hot water radiant system in the Cathedral House with energy-efficient electrical heat pump systems.

CONTINUED STEWARDSHIP OF OUR BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

As we launched our campaign that included future major projects, we continued our work to improve our buildings and our grounds, mindful of our Creation Care goals with each step. This year we:

- Worked with Solarc (our carbon reduction consultants) to develop our Energy Management Plan (EMP).
- Continued fine-tuning boiler controls and timers to improve efficiency in heating systems.
- Secured approval as a Clean Buildings "Early Adopter" by the State of Washington and City of Seattle, making us eligible for additional rebates and grants to continue carbon reduction work on campus.
- Replaced windows in Cathedral House with energy-efficient window systems.
- Worked with arborists in the care of our trees on campus and in the Greenbelt.



► A view of the cathedral from Spire, April 18, 2025.

EDUCATION THROUGH CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS

The Creation Care Ministry at Saint Mark's continued its Climate Conversations on Zoom this year, with conversations every month except during summertime in July and August. Discussions focused on how we can care for creation in our daily lives, with topics ranging from energy and planting around Earth Day to managing money with a Creation Care mindset and the Season of Creation. Participants had lively discussions and shared insights about what they do in their own lives. Recordings of the Conversations as well as the presentation decks that were used are available on the Saint Mark's website.

GREENBELT LITURGICAL HIKE

Saint Mark's Greenbelt Ministry leader Elli Howard led 30-minute Liturgical Hikes through the Greenbelt every month until the summer. The hike consisted of walking the parking lot trail loop, accompanied by a simple hymn and a psalm.

FOREST BATHING

Brian Sellers-Petersen, a former member and longtime friend of the cathedral, led a Forest Bathing (Shinrin Yoku) experience in the Saint Mark's Greenbelt as part of our "Celebrating Creation" on September 1st. Brian offered an introduction to the Greenbelt and to the concept of Forest Bathing—a practice that encourages people to connect with the sensations of being immersed in nature. This practice offers an opportunity for moments of reprieve, introspection or to simply experience the benefits of engaging with the outdoor world.

INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY GOALS IN THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

As part of our Affordable Housing Project, its Committee and Vestry envision the



◀ Dean Thomason giving a homily under the TERRA globe on Sunday, November 2, 2025.

design would fit architecturally with the campus, including initiatives to minimize carbon impact, and create opportunity for meaningful connection for residents, parishioners, and community members to interact as part of daily life including the intentional use of greenspace.

COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER MINISTRIES

Creation Care collaborated with other parish ministries to offer formational experiences to people of all ages. The "Celebrating Creation" Open Day was offered in collaboration with Intergenerational Council and the *Thin Places: Climate Change & Seeing the Earth Whole* event was co-sponsored by Creation Care, Visual Arts Ministry, and Intergenerational Council.



TERRA EXHIBIT

Finally, at the end of the year we were honored to partner with Revival Gatherings and Orbis Globes on the TERRA exhibit. During three weeks in November, a 24-foot museum-grade Earth globe was suspended from the central beam in the cathedral Nave. The power of the TERRA Exhibition was in the opportunity to experience the “overview effect,” a profound shift in human consciousness previously only made possible by viewing the earth from outer space. When Commander Frank Borman first glimpsed the blue-green marble from Apollo 8, he exclaimed, “This must be what God sees.”

The exhibit was open and accessible to the public from noon to five pm daily, and it formed a moving backdrop to weekly offerings—like Cathedral Yoga, Contemplative Prayer, and Sunday services including Compline—as well as special events like the United We Stand Prayer Vigil, a Creation-themed Taizé liturgy, and the Skyros Quartet concert.

We were particularly proud to host a keynote presentation by Reverend Lisa Graulich titled *Thin Places: Climate Change & Seeing the Earth Whole*. Reverend Graulich is a distinguished climate scientist and Episcopal deacon who bridges the worlds of scientific inquiry and faith leadership. She discussed the “thin places” where science and faith converge, showing us that our climate crisis demands not just new technology, but new eyes to see the Earth whole. The event included a Community Resource Fair, with representatives of a dozen community, government, and faith-based groups focused on Creation care and climate justice.

Currently, the Creation Care Ministry is looking for new leadership. Anyone interested in participating in ongoing activities or leading new initiatives are encouraged to email creationcare@saintmarks.org.

—Canon Rich Weyls
and Deborah Person

▲ Reflection of the TERRA globe in the baptismal font.
Photo by Canon Wendy,
November 18, 2025.

► Families inspecting the TERRA globe following worship,
November 16, 2025.



BEEKEEPING MINISTRY

2025 was a hard year for honeybees in general and St Mark's bee hives were not spared. The two resident hives died over the winter and the decision was made to let things rest. In late spring, several other experienced beekeepers expressed interest in the ministry and a new energy has been infused to the ministry. Kelly Canaday, with three years of apprenticeship in beekeeping over 50 hives, is now guiding the ministry through this new phase. She is collaborating with St Leo's Tacoma's L'Honey Hives whose director, Rick Samyn, offers mentorship and guidance. Cathedral Beekeeper Emeritus Rob Reid and his Queen Bee Penny write, *"After 8+ years of learning about bees and the marvelous ecosystem still in place after millions of years, albeit tenuously, we witnessed God's direct hand in helping us find Kelly. With great pleasure, we express our full support and gratitude for her leadership and enthusiasm at this special time."*

The fall was spent gathering dispersed equipment, assessing the stock, cleaning and sanitizing old equipment and working to standardize things to make beekeeping more manageable, efficient, and logical. A work party was held to gather newly interested volunteers and work on frame cleaning. The Beekeeping Ministry sold honey from the hives during the Alternative Gift Market in November, and twice provided honey to the Bread Bakers Guild, who make bread for the cathedral Eucharists. St Leo's L'Honey provided material and labor support for the sanitizing process which requires specialized equipment and extensive volunteer time (20 hours+). The Beekeeping Ministry looks forward to building community with volunteers, offering educational opportunities, and collaborating with the cathedral's Habitat for Humanity team on resizing large frames and bee boxes to make them more manageable in anticipation of new bees who will make their home here in April 2026.

—Kelly Canaday & Rob Reid



GARDEN COMMITTEE

The Saint Mark's Cathedral Garden Volunteers have been caring for the Great Lawn of the cathedral for years, organized nearly thirty years ago. We meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month, February through November, 9 a.m.-noon.

2025 saw the removal of diseased trees and the planting of replacements. A memorial tree was planted near the bus stop, accompanied with prayers and singing. The memorial garden came into being under the large Huston cedar in the south lawn area. Two benches mirroring those around the labyrinth delineate the area from the lawn. Behind the bus stop, we reclaimed the area where mahonia had taken over, resulting in an open view from the sidewalk to the cathedral lawn. The exit curve has a newly created bed of rhododendrons and blueberry bushes, and we extended the automatic watering system to irrigate the bed.

Future projects are in the works as we continue caring for the cathedral grounds, creating space for walking, playing, and enjoying the outdoors. 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,
Kelly Lundquist, Krista Olson

▲ Watering the hydrangeas at the Saint Mark's Garden Ministry work party, July 12, 2025.



THE THRESHOLD FUND ♦ 2025 REPORT

The Threshold Fund was established in 2018 by Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish to assist families and individuals in accessing safe and secure housing. Since its inception, the Threshold Fund has supported more than 150 households with over \$200,000 of financial assistance. In 2025, a total of **18 families were served**, and **total funding provided was \$16,805**. A few stories of clients served with the Threshold Fund this year:

LF is a family also being by the Lowell Elementary. The family had been homeless, staying in car and motel, but was able to secure housing with SHA way faster than anticipated. Mom is working but had recently separated from her husband who is not working and providing no financial support. Thanks to the support from the Threshold Fund, this family is now housed in a subsidized unit that will make maintain housing much easier for this family.

JK was referred to the Threshold Fund by the Kinship Program at CCS. This program works with family members who are caring for grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or other family member children. JK was caring for a family member's child and needed to move into a large apartment to better care for the child. Thanks to the Threshold Fund, this amazing Kinship Caregiver is now able to provide a safe, loving home for this child.

GD was referred to Threshold by a school in Everett. This family was finally able to find appropriate housing and by using Threshold funds, this family is now stable in housing, which has allowed the children to attend school more regularly and to sleep better at night.

To learn more about the Threshold Fund, or to make a donation to support this ministry in 2026, go to saintmarks.org/threshold

—Dean Steve Thomason

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COUNCIL

RESTORATIVE Justice this year has focused efforts on Migrant Justice and Hunger and Housing Insecurity. Hunger efforts will be addressed in a different report. Our work involves partnering with other existing organizations to provide ministry alongside others doing our common work of justice.

On February 10 we hosted and facilitated the *Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly* interfaith gathering to affirm our shared values. We co-sponsored with Seattle University a Property Justice law training event to allow unhoused individuals to document their belongings to strengthen claims and recovery in the event of sweeps that take away individuals' belongings. We connected Operation Nightwatch with this training to allow expanded service to individuals. In December, Stone Fennell joined the Restorative Justice Council to provide a liaison with the Affordable Housing Committee which is expected to be a critical area of ministry as the Affordable Housing work unfolds.

In terms of migrant justice, we marked the private areas of the Saint Mark's Cathedral campus where judicial warrants would be required for entry. We trained staff and ushers and connected with Lambert House, Amistad, and Operation Nightwatch on how to respond if ICE comes to the Saint Mark's campus.

Canon Emily has joined a group of ecumenical leaders from the Archdiocese of Seattle, First Covenant, Riverton Park UMC, and others for monthly information sharing. We are also partnering with St. Joseph's Church and St. James' Cathedral to sponsor a showing in March 2026 of a play entitled *The Detention Lottery* to benefit Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (AIDNW). AIDNW provides support to asylum seekers at the Tacoma

Northwest ICE Processing Center. Meetings with Erika DeKlerk, Director of Immigrant Assistance at St. James' Cathedral have led to shared volunteer opportunities, including English tutoring. A renewed relationship with Casa Latina has blossomed through meeting with their Volunteer Coordinator and Education Director. We have shared volunteer opportunities with those who've expressed interest in migrant justice and opportunities to hire their workers and have partnered on efforts to advocate for workplace rights for domestic workers. Saint Mark's Cathedral was also a sponsor for and members attended Casa Latina's annual Gala.

An Advent book discussion of *The Asylum Seekers* deepened our understanding of the situation at the southern border with Mexico and offered a deeper theological framework for our approach to migrant justice. Partnering with the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network, 20 individuals were trained on Rapid Response techniques. Another 14 individuals were trained in Accompaniment. We have since formed an accompaniment team that offers to go with community members to ICE check-ins, immigration court hearings, or other legal appointments that heighten their vulnerability.

We look forward to new ways of deepening our faith and understanding by coming alongside others in our community.

—Christopher Breunig

◀ [opposite] Backlit
Senior Chorister,
July 20, 2025

OPERATION NIGHTWATCH MINISTRY

This past year was a big year for the Operation Nightwatch Ministry. What initially started as having volunteers from Saint Mark's join the Rev. Michael Cox from Nightwatch on Street Ministry every Tuesday evening has evolved into a very rich partnership with the organization as a whole. This past year, we welcomed Operation Nightwatch onto our Saint Mark's campus with Donna Jean's Women's Shelter. This 20-bed shelter serves women every night, who are brought from the Dispatch Center from Operation Nightwatch to Saint Mark's for a warm space to sleep, a meal provided by Nightwatch, and a warm shower. Many Saint Mark's parishioners have played a role in supporting these women; we have received bountiful donations of clothing, bedding, toiletries, and quilts to make the space feel like home. Parishioner Liz Shea led an effort this Christmas season to prepare stockings for the women with donations of needed items and self care items. Sharon, a Chaplain volunteer with Operation Nightwatch spends time with the women at the shelter, and has helped shelter participants join Compline and Saint Mark's services.

We have seen an increase in volunteers at Operation Nightwatch in all of its ministries. Although we are no longer operating a Saint Mark's night with the Street Ministers specifically, we have 9 volunteers currently walking the streets at night with the Rev. Michael Cox to be in kinship with our neighbors living homeless on Broadway and downtown. We have also seen an increase in volunteers with the meal program at Dispatch and with the van driving ministry, helping individuals safely arrive at shelter each evening from Dispatch. Saint Mark's Parishioners Cinda Madonna and Molly Bosch have helped Operation Nightwatch as a pilot group of healthcare workers supporting Nightwatch's first ever Free Clinic.

Operation Nightwatch staff now manage all volunteers, so the purpose of our Min-

istry has shifted to help individuals connect to Nightwatch through storytelling, engagement with Saint Mark's forums and the Alternative Gift Market and opportunities for Saint Mark's parishioners to join the various vacant volunteer opportunities at Nightwatch. Many Saint Mark's parishioners have shown support through presence at the annual fundraiser, at the annual Lunch & Learn, and donations to the annual sock drive.

The partnership between Operation Nightwatch and Saint Mark's has grown immensely and the sacred connections through the Operation Nightwatch Ministry have helped create meaningful engagements with our neighbors experiencing homelessness and our greater community.

—Molly Bosch

MEAL SHARING MINISTRY

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

In 2025 we contracted our footprint relative to previous years. Our work with Teen Feed ended in August 2024, and Tent City 3 did not take up residence on our campus last summer as it has in the past. Nevertheless, we concentrated on two core 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 prepare and serve a hot dinner to the shelter residents.
- First Covenant Church: The church, located on Pike St., serves a hot breakfast

every Saturday to any in need in the community. On the first Saturday of the month, SMC volunteers help prepare and serve the meal.

Over the course of the year, volunteers spent approximately 350 hours preparing and serving around 1100 meals to our neighbors.

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

In a year that saw increasing pressure on our food insecure neighbors, the Hunger Offering has provided an opportunity to share our abundance with the Seattle community. Every Second Sunday at the 9:00

and 11:00 services the Hunger Offering collects contributions for the Ballard Food Bank, the Food Bank @ St. Mary's, Immanuel Community Services, Lifelong Aids Alliance, Pike Market Senior Center and Food Bank and St. Bridget's Banquet which supports ministries at St. Martin de Porres, Teen Feed and other local food programs.

From offering wrap-around housing and employment services, to specializing in baby food, to providing hot meals to seniors, to providing medically restricted diets – each of these organizations fills a special need in our community. In addition to collecting money monthly, we encourage people to give on the Saint Mark's website under the heading "Hunger Offering." Along with other Justice Ministries at the cathedral, we seek to feed the hungry as Jesus bids us.

—Liz Shea & Nancy Valaas

▼ [top left] Operation Nightwatch at the Saint Mark's Ministry Fair, May 4, 2025.

[top right] Shepherds at the Pageant of the Nativity, December 17, 2026

[bottom left] Deacon Earl Grout giving the dismissal, August 17, 2025.

[bottom right] The newly baptized and their families on All Saints' Sunday, November 2, 2025



LOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This year has seen an amazing outpouring of support for the children and families of Lowell Elementary School!

The year began with an MLK Afternoon of Service, in which an outdoor sign for the school, cards for teachers, and two fleece blankets for students were made.

In the spring, baked goods, flowers, and financial support were presented during Staff Appreciation Week.

In the fall, volunteers helped during the “Welcome Back” event for Lowell School families and Saint Mark’s provided a staff brunch during the teachers’ first week back at school.

On November 1, in response to Dean Thomason’s appeal to address hunger experienced by children attending Lowell Elementary, and as a response to SNAP benefits being suspended, over \$40,000 was given to provide families with grocery gift cards, and groceries were donated to supplement food supplies in the school pantry..

The Giving Tree and the Alternative Gift Market, provided additional gift and grocery cards for Lowell families during the holiday season., as well as warm and colorful clothing for students.

Online giving towards school supplies and other needs occur throughout the year.

Finally, individual members of Saint Mark’s provide tutoring and in-class support as requested by staff.

— *Cherie Johnson Bradshaw*

SEATTLE SEAFARERS CENTER

In 2025, staff and volunteers of the Seattle Seafarers Center went on 648 ship visits to provide services to international seafarers. It is our goal to visit every cargo ship that berths in the Port of Seattle, as well as some in Everett and Tacoma. On ship visits, we check in on the welfare of the crew and offer transportation, shopping services, and SIM cards. We transported 1141 merchant crew this year who had shore leave. During the summer, we also transported 9756 cruise ship crew members to downtown Seattle. We hosted 330 crew at our hospitality center, where we offer free WiFi, snacks, and a place to rest. Over the winter, we delivered 2170 “ditty bag” care packages, which contain a hand-knit hat, toiletries, and candy. We also brought over 1500 clothing items (sweatshirts, T-shirts...) on our ship visits. We went on 67 shopping trips to purchase items requested by seafarers. On Ash Wednesday, Bishop LaBelle led an Ash Wednesday service on a bulk carrier ship. We facilitated 8 religious services in total this year per request of the crew. Finally, we advocated for several crews experiencing welfare issues, such as lack of payment, inadequate provisions, or lack of access to medical care.

—*Julia Cooper*

ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

The Accessibility Task Force was formed the last quarter of 2024 and did its work from January to June of 2025. To fulfill its mission to make improvements in accessibility to the Saint Mark’s Cathedral community, we undertook several actions to better understand both strengths and opportunities for improvement, including:

- The development of a webpage with resources on disabilities
- A presentation to the cathedral community entitled “Enhancing Accessibility at Saint Mark’s Cathedral”

▼ Table in the cathedral nave to make cards for Lowell teachers during the Ministry Fair on May 4, 2025.



- The development and implementation of accessibility audit tools in four categories including attitude and culture, physical environment, worship services, classes and events, and communications with the participation of clergy and staff
- Three listening sessions (as well as informal discussions) with the members of the cathedral community to learn about the needs of parishioners with disabilities
- A table at the ministry fair with information and resources

From the audits, listening sessions, research and review of resources, and numerous conversations with interested individuals, the task force crafted three sets of opportunities for improvement to enhance the accessibility for people with disabilities at the cathedral:

- Intermediate opportunities for improvement as part of the Living Stones II Capital Campaign
- First phase of recommendations for improving accessibility within the framework of each of the four audit categories
- Second phase of recommendations for improving accessibility within the framework of each of the four audit categories

In September, the Vestry voted to accept our recommendations as a master plan. This will provide a strategic roadmap for improving accessibility for people with disabilities at the cathedral. Additionally, we requested that the Vestry create a structure for implementing the Accessibility Strategic Plan: The task force recommends that the Vestry create an Accessibility Committee that serves as an on-going committee (rather than a time-limited task force) to work with existing committees, parishioners with disabilities, clergy, staff, and the congregation at large in implementing this plan as appropriate and in light of budgetary considerations and other resources.

We also requested clear communication with the cathedral community going forward. The task force recommends periodic communication (e.g., forums, announcements, reports, etc.) with the cathedral community regarding the accessibility initiatives and progress as well as continuing to listen to the needs of parishioners with disabilities.

The full final recommendations, and numerous resources and worksheets are available online at saintmarks.org/accessibility.

It was a privilege for us to serve in this way, and we look forward to the next steps in 2026 and whatever further support we can offer as the process moves forward.

Michael Garrett, Chair
Alexandra Thompson, Vestry Liaison
Canon Wendy Claire Barrie, Staff Liaison
Don Argus, Task Force Member

▼ Contemplative Prayer
 under the TERRA globe,
 November 4, 2025.



FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

GUESTS in Dean Thomason's popular "Friends Talking" forum series in 2025 were Bishop Phil LaBelle at his first official Sunday visitation in January, iconographer Father Peter Pearson at the conclusion of his three-day Wisdom School icon-writing workshop, and two dear friends and guest preachers who are or have been fellow cathedral deans, the Very Reverend Julia McCray Goldsmith and the Very Reverend Kate Moorhead Carroll. Two spring offerings highlighted important aspects of the Capital Campaign, and this

▼ [top] Sunday morning Lent forum with Canon Wendy, March 2, 2025.

[bottom] Canon Griffin leading Godly Play in Bloedel Hall, May 18, 2025.



fall Dean Thomason led a three-part series, "Reclaiming the Book of Revelation in the Face of Current Events: A Critique of Empire and Christian Nationalism Run Amok" to crowds of over 100 people in Bloedel Hall.

Some forums focused on spiritual practices such as non-violence, prayer, and hospitality. Another highlighted the cathedral's exhibit of seven paintings, "And I. Francis..." with artist Kathleen Frugé-Brown who drew inspiration not only from the life of St Francis of Assisi but from the frescoes of Giotto and Cimabue. There was a special emphasis on connecting with our neighbors, including a tour and blessing of the on-campus women's shelter Donna Jean's Place with Operation Nightwatch leadership, preparation for our interfaith Taizé service with our friends from Clear Mountain Monastery Buddhist Community, and an introduction to the work and ministry of nearby L'Arche Seattle. There were also four opportunities in the spring and summer for all ages to experience Godly Play stories, thanks to our Canon Vicar Emily Griffin, a gifted storyteller, trainer, and chair of the Godly Play Foundation Board of Directors.

—Canon Wendy Claire Barrie

CATHEDRAL COMMONS (WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM)

In-person attendance at Cathedral Commons forums (usually following our Wednesday community suppers) continued to grow in 2025. An important theme throughout the year was how we as Christians can and should respond to the present moment. Dean Thomason and Canon Griffin presented on the theological foundations for migrant justice, Dean Thomason in a two-part series addressed the need for paradigm shifts to overcome oppression and injustice, and a large forum with the organization Braver Angels co-led by parish-

ioner Debra Waddell prepared us to have meaningful conversations across lines of political division. Queer in Christ leaders Chloe Jett and Rose Hazard gave us invaluable information about how we can mobilize to help support and protect those in the transgender and gender non-conforming community. We drew hope and encouragement from two reports of the Affordable Housing Committee, one in May and One in December, on the progress being made to develop the St. Nicholas property into apartment units for various income levels, aiming for long-term affordability. Capital Campaign Committee members Peter Snyder, James Davidson, and Greg Simon invited us to consider generosity as resistance, and a community book study on Matthew Desmond's *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* and *Poverty, by America* led us to a serious conversation led by parishioners Scott Hulet, Wayne Duncan, Christopher Breunig, and Molly Bosch among others about becoming a poverty abolitionist.

Other forums also highlighted counter-cultural practices. Generosity as Resistance, we explored Sabbath using the resources developed by Bishop Phil LaBelle, local author Shemiah Gonzalez read from her book *Undaunted Joy: The Revolutionary Act of Cultivating Delight* and parishioners Molly Bosch and James Davidson discussed the gifts of reading, presence, supporting our community partners.

Saint Mark's Cathedral canons and clergy presented on topics such as the Creeds, the Council of Nicaea, and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Dean Thomason introduced the 2025-26 Wisdom School theme of crossing thresholds, and Canon Griffin helped us identify and explore thresholds in our daily lives. We heard wonderful stories from participants in pilgrimages to the Camino de Santiago and to Lincoln and Durham cathedrals by members of the Evensong Choir.

Our continuing commitment to creation care was represented by Canon Rich Weyls' teaching on Eco-spirituality and leading

the annual Rogation Day procession, and Tacoma beekeeper and former Capuchin Franciscan Brother Rick Samyn speaking on what we can learn from Francis and honeybees.

We are deeply nourished by the content and the conversations around the tables or in Zoom rooms on Wednesday nights, and we learn from and are strengthened by both the wisdom in the room and those who lead us in these forums from within and outside the cathedral community.

— Canon Wendy Claire Barrie

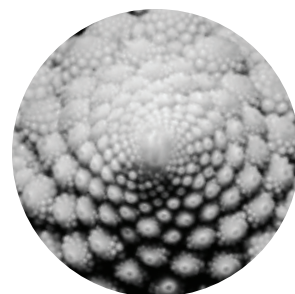
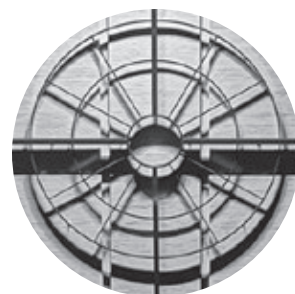
THE WISDOM SCHOOL

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 in recent years were: "A Spirituality of Place" (Fall 2023–Summer 2024), "A Spirituality of Healing and Hope" (Fall 2024–Summer 2025), and "Crossing Thresholds" (Fall 2025–Summer 2026). Regular offerings continued, including Cathedral Yoga, Contemplative Prayer, the Daily Office, Taizé services, Quiet Days, and Wisdom Practice Days. The Center for Spirituality and Action, an outgrowth of Wisdom School for folks wanting to go deeper, currently has two cohorts in intentional community.

Workshops and retreats in 2025 included:

- ♦ *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
- ♦ Padraig O'Tuama: *The Better Angels of Our Nature*



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:

Orbital (2023)
by Samantha Harvey

Foster (2022)
by Claire Keegan

Wandering Stars
(2023) by Tony Orange

Crossing Waiyaki Way: A True Story of Poverty, Prayer, and Politics in Kenya (2024)
by Robin and Gordon Okumu

Evicted and Poverty in America
(2016) by Matthew Desmond

- ♦ Ellen Bass: *The Intimate Web of Humanity, Healing and Hope*
- ♦ *How We Learn to Be Brave: A Women's Retreat* at Hood Canal
- ♦ Wisdom School Plenary: *Crossing Thresholds as Sacred Journey*, with Dean Steve Thomason
- ♦ *Naming Our Thresholds*, with Canon Emily Griffin
- ♦ *The Somatic Enneagram: Listening to the Wisdom of the Body*, with Alicia Divers
- ♦ *Between Two Worlds: Mary's Journey from Oppression to Hope*, with Dean Kate Moorehead Carroll
- ♦ *Wilderness Spirituality*, with Bishop Phil LaBelle

The next spiritual pilgrimage—In the Footsteps of Paul: Greece and Turkey—will occur in October 2026. The group is at capacity, but we maintain a waitlist. We are anticipating a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in Lent 2027, led by Dean Thomason, but timing of the trip is dependent on the status of things in Palestine and Israel.

Information about all these offerings, and registration links, can be found at: saintmarks.org/wisdomschool.

—Dean Steve Thomason

CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY AND ACTION

Launched in Fall 2024, The Center for Spirituality and Action at Saint Mark's is 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 ancient tradition of monastic rhythms, 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.

After an inaugural cohort formed in 2024, two cohorts totaling 18 persons formed in September 2025, and have committed to these rhythms of prayer through Spring 2026. Additional groups will form across the summer and launch in the fall.

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

—Dean Steve Thomason

THE INQUIRERS' CLASS

The twice-yearly offering of the Inquirers' Class is one in which people of varied backgrounds, experiences, and ages come together with cathedral clergy and canons to explore through an Episcopal lens four topics central to our faith: *How We Worship, Images of God, How We Read Scripture, and Prayer and Spiritual Practices*. Questioning is invited and encouraged! What we have increasingly found is that many participants are then drawn to baptism, confirmation, or reception, and to becoming more

actively involved in the life of the cathedral community. The Fall 2025 class had a record number attending: 25!

—Wendy Claire Barrie

TUESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Noon Bible Study continues to meet weekly on Zoom. 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 with biblical training. In 2025, we welcomed several new regular participants to this long-standing cathedral ministry. Join us as you can—you do not have to commit to attending each week.

—Lynne Cobb

SACRED GROUND

Saint Mark's is in the midst of our 3rd cohort of Sacred Ground participants, which kicked off in October 2025. As we continue to grow this ministry we hold gratitude for all who are stepping into this learning together. The current cohort meets every 3-4 weeks through June 2026.

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 series is open to all, and is 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

2025 saw the 14th and 15th iterations of the Radix Project, Saint Mark's own six-week small group experience focused on scripture and prayer. "Radix 14—Health, Healing, and Shalom: Stories in Scripture" was held in Eastertide and Saint Mark's parishioner Dr. Jen Younggren offered the theological reflection for the opening plenary. This fall our Radix 15 offering was "I have called you by name, and you are mine: Stories of Recognition in Scripture."

The Radix Planning Team is comprised of people who prayerfully and thoughtfully select scripture passages and accompanying art, and who carefully craft open-ended questions to guide participants into making connections with their own stories and life experiences. A 2025 participant offered this reflection: *"Reading, reflecting and discussing scripture passages and art helps me dig deeper, to explore new perspectives on familiar scripture passages and discover the meaning of scripture for our lives today. Radix helps me find a meaningful connection to our parish community by introducing me to parishioners I have not met before and by encouraging me to get to know them better. As we share stories of our lives, engage in earnest conversation about scripture, and pray for each other over six successive weeks and beyond, we build a small community of friends in Christ, grounded in mutual trust, confidentiality, and prayer. My encounters in Radix with parishioners who are active in various ministries inspire and encourage me to become more active in ministry at Saint Mark's."*

—Canon Wendy Claire Barrie





▲ Cathedral Yoga under the TERRA globe.

CATHEDRAL YOGA

All are welcome at cathedral yoga, regardless of yoga experience, ability to pay, or religious affiliation.

In fall 2025 the Cathedral Yoga Ministry celebrated its 12th anniversary (with a break during Covid). What began as a Sunday evening practice with an average of about 10 people each week (with as few as 3, all participants fitting on the altar), has blossomed over the years to a weekly Monday night practice with as many as 200 people participating. The cathedral nave vibrates with yogis chanting “om” in sync with the evening’s instructor.

In 2025 the recently formed yoga committee (2023) decided to reach out to our participants to learn how we could improve their experience. We are dedicated to creating an

inclusive, supportive, and enjoyable experience for all levels of yogis, to ensure our classes meet their needs and expectations, and to create a welcoming and uplifting environment for all. A survey was developed and released in early 2025, with a total of 106 responses. The committee reviewed the submissions and learned that for many of the participating yogis, Cathedral Yoga provides a safe space and is part of their self care program, helping them feel grounded in their body. People find it a “soul building experience,” “a moment to connect with the present,” a “nonjudgmental environment,” helping to find “a sense of peace,” and they love the “balance of teaching styles.” We asked, “*What do you love about Cathedral yoga?*” Responses included the space, the monthly sound bath, that it’s open to all, that it’s free (donation based) and accessible, and the community that the committee is building.

In just the past few weeks the committee has begun asking a community building question as class is about to begin. This list was developed by committee member Emilie Hall, and questions include:

- ◆ What’s a small act of kindness you’ve experienced lately?
- ◆ What’s one thing you’re grateful for right now?
- ◆ Who inspires you to take care of yourself?
- ◆ How did you first get into yoga?

We ask participants to turn to someone they don’t know and share their response. The conversation is kept brief but it has kindled that sense of community that we are hoping for.

The cathedral nave is for many participants - at least 30% according to our survey - a reason to come to Saint Marks to practice. It is so beautiful and special to participants that they frequently comment on it, especially in the winter months when the lighting provides a warm glow in the nave. More

than 50% of the survey respondents attend cathedral yoga at least 2-3 times a month.

In November of 2025 the cathedral hosted the Terra Exhibit, and from the first Monday of the sphere's presence in the nave yogis shared images on social media, practicing yoga under the rotating earth. Word spread on Facebook, Instagram, and other social media about the amazing experience, and by the last yoga class with the sphere in the nave there were 317 participants in the class.

—Peg Balachowski, Christopher Breunig,
Sophia Presutti

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 Ethics and Spirituality, 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 participants, while Wayne Duncan and Peter Snyder are mentors for the Monday evening group. 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 *The Journey with God*.

—Maria Coldwell

DISCERNMENT GROUPS

Saint Mark's offer small groups to help parishioners discern life questions in community. The group process is rooted in the

Quaker "Clearness Committee" tradition as advanced by Parker Palmer. Our groups are informed by a process set forth by Susanne Farnham in *Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community*. Appropriate life questions might be, "When should I retire?" "Am I being called to marriage?" "Should I make a career change?" "Am I being called to ministry in the church?" Nine people participated in mutual discernment groups 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] Bishop LaBelle presiding, Thanksgiving over the Water, January 12, 2025

[bottom] Dean Thomason and Bishop LaBelle in a 'Friends Talking' forum, January 12, 2025.



CHILDREN'S FORMATION

In January 2025, we doubled the carpet area available to children and their adults due to the increased numbers of little ones in attendance on Sunday mornings. In September, we introduced a simple guide with photographs of worship at Saint Mark's to help children notice what's happening at key moments of the liturgy. Research tells us that meaningful participation in worship is a key element for children who later grow into an adult faith, and we want to equip adults to support their children as full members of the Body of Christ from the very beginning.

▼ [top] Children's Chapel on July 27, 2025.

[bottom] Children gathered around the deacon for the Gospel reading on June 15, 2025.



♦ **Children's Chapel** Children's Chapel is a lively and joyful time of singing, praying, and Gospel-based storytelling with the youngest members of our congregation at the 9 am service that takes place in Thomsen Chapel immediately following the Gospel. Participation surged during 2025 with attendance upwards of 30 children and their adults participating some weeks.

♦ **Godly Play**, Godly Play, our Montessori-based program of Christian formation, is growing and thriving with many new children and families involved this year, particularly in the younger age group. We offer a 10 am class on the first and third Sundays of the month hour when the Junior and Senior Choristers are helping to lead worship. During the school-year months we host two classrooms, one for ages 3–7 and another for ages 8–11. This year, eight adults trained to become either storytellers or door people.

Our Godly Play classrooms received beautiful upgrades in the past 18 months. The classroom for younger children has a grass-green rug for our storytelling and wondering time. The walls are painted with tree branches and birds so it's like we are outside just like so many of the stories in the bible that we tell. Handcrafted materials representing Bible stories line the walls. This summer, the classroom for older children was substantially refreshed and made larger by incorporating a windowed area that had previously been used as storage. The rooms look like a sacred space for children.

The Godly Play curriculum and classroom create a welcoming space for children to experience God through listening to biblical stories and wondering about them with their peers. The job of the storyteller and door person is to hold the space so the children develop their own connection to God and the stories.

We are especially grateful that the Diocese of Olympia has committed to supporting training for Godly Play, and that Canon Emily Griffin has made it so easy for adults at Saint Mark's to be trained.

—Wendy Claire Barrie & Alicia Goodwin

YOUTH

How does it feel to sleep under the earth? The youth of the cathedral can tell you after an autumn lock-in under the Terra Ball. A crew of 21 youth gathered for a pizza party and conversation with climatologist, Rev. Lisa Graumlich, Ph.D. and then enjoyed late night snacking, conversation, games, and finally some sleep in the cathedral nave under the glowing and rotating orb.

Youth engaged in challenging conversation and experiences during the spring Youth Justice Pilgrimage last March visiting the Japanese Exclusion Memorial on Bainbridge Island. After staying the night at Grace Episcopal, Bainbridge, we traveled to St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Seattle to trace the steps of those Episcopalians who had to leave their homes for Japanese Internment Camps.

The middle schoolers and high schoolers gave their time and enthusiasm to the MLK Afternoon of Service and hosting the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner.

Our cathedral liturgies are regularly led by 20 high school youth and 11 middle school youth as members of the Choir School. Last summer, many of those same youth enjoyed just sitting and listening to the service of Compline during the annual Pie and Compline gathering. In August of 2025, 5 middle school students and 13 high school students traveled with the Evensong Choir to the United Kingdom for week-long residencies at both Lincoln and Durham Cathedrals.

In May, six of our high school students were confirmed their faith at Cathedral Day surrounded by the members of the High

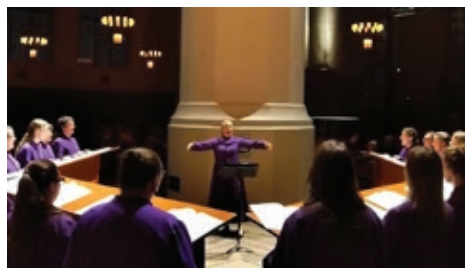


School Schola. Clara Berg, Elea Ingman, Canon Wendy Barrie and Rebekah Gilmore served as confirmation instructors for this cohort. Many thanks to Hannah Hochkeppel, Stone Fennell, Katie Russell, and Callie Davis for their monthly leadership of High School Coffee and Conversation and Middle School Donuts and Discussion.

Many youth jumped on bikes and skates to get their blood pumping during the Pentecost Ride, Run, Roll at Seward Park last spring. Ending the calendar year, middle school and high school kids gathered for a Christmas party and carol sing crammed into Rebekah's living room.

—Rebekah Gilmore

▲ [top] Youth Group getting ice cream with Dean Thomason at Molly Moon's.
[bottom] Youth gathering on the floor of the nave.



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

THE WORD liturgy means “the work of the people,” and as such, it involves all who gather to worship God. There are specific roles that some of us take, based on our skills, gifts and interests, but all exist for the glory of God. Over 200 of us at Saint Mark’s are engaged in at least one of our liturgical ministries. Opportunities to serve abound for children, youth and adults – everything from bringing the bread and wine to the altar as oblation bearers, to reading Scriptures and prayers as lectors, to greeting and guiding the congregation as ushers.

A few things have shifted in the past year. We bid farewell to our Cathedral Sacristan and Head Verger, Michael Seewer, over the summer as he became the Executive Assistant to the Bishop. Over the fall, we redistributed his responsibilities, and two new part-time roles have been established as a result. After an interim period, we welcomed Hannah Hochkeppel officially on staff as our Wedding and Funeral Coordinator to assist the clergy and walk alongside couples and families in their planning. In December, David Poortinga was called as Cathedral Worship Coordinator. This involves support not only for Sunday liturgies, but for the full range of our seasonal, Diocesan, and interfaith services. David will also lead our vergers and support other liturgical leaders in their recruitment, scheduling and training efforts. In addition, Facilities staff have taken on care of the Nave in enhanced ways, Canon Emily Griffin now leads the Worship and Prayer Committee and oversees the licensure process, and the staff clergy now rotate as “priest on deck” to support our Worship Coordinator and ensure that services proceed smoothly.

We have also stabilized leadership of our A/V ministry by bringing on as part-time staff Seth Thomsen as our Livestream Coordinator and Media Specialist, and Michael

Perera as our Sound Board Technician. Many thanks to Greg Bloch for coordinating our livestream efforts in 2025 following the loss of our beloved parishioner and staff member Chris Brown. Looking ahead, we hope to expand the base of volunteers who can share and grow their audio/visual skills – not only to supplement staff efforts but to give as many people as possible the opportunity to share their gifts in community.

While we continue to use Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) for most of our liturgical ministries, more of our lay ministry leaders have taken on more active roles with scheduling for 2026. By decentralizing things a bit on the front end, we are trying to strike the right balance between fostering relationships within ministries and maximizing communication when role swaps are needed. We appreciate your patience as we live into this more collaborative process.

In the meantime, we are deeply grateful for all our continuing leaders: 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), Evensong Ushers (Jen van Wesep), Compline Hospitality Ministers (John Gulaugen), Michael Perera (Oblation Bearers), Carrie Kahler (Readers), Kevin Johnson (Eucharistic Visitors), Batrix Roemheld-Hamm (Flower Ministry), and Rene Marceau (Bread Bakers). Deep thanks as well to Hannah Hochkeppel and Alexandra Thompson for their leadership as they have passed their batons to Karen Petersen (Eucharistic Ministers) and Krista Olson (Acolytes), respectively.

Interested in learning more about any of these roles and/or ministering in new ways? Feel free to reach out to any of these leaders directly – or to the clergy, if we can assist in your discernment. Liturgical Ministry Training is offered twice a year, typically

◀ [previous page]

A selection of stills from livestream liturgy videos from throughout 2025.



SELECTED 2025 GUEST PREACHERS

The Rev. Dr. Carey Anderson, Senior Pastor, First AME Church, Seattle
[pictured top left]

The Very Rev. Julia McCray Goldsmith, Stewardship Consultant
[top right]

The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll, Dean, St. John's Cathedral, Jacksonville
[bottom left]

The Rev. Richard Jaech, Bishop Emeritus, ELCA Lutheran Synod, Southwest Washington
[bottom right]

The Rev. Alison Leary, seminarian intern

in Eastertide and late September, as a way both to ground our shared work theologically and to build community among and within our ministry groups. Worship is at the center of our common life here at Saint Mark's, and it remains a deep privilege to serve alongside you.

—*The Rev. Canon Emily Griffin*

MORNING PRAYER

In 2024, we began meeting for Morning Prayer at 7:30 a.m. on Zoom Monday through Friday, and our commitment to pray the Daily Office five days a week in 2025 was still going strong. 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. We invite you to join us for this deeply Anglican spiritual practice. We find it's a wonderful way to ground ourselves for the day, praying and hearing scripture together in community. The Zoom link can be found at saintmarks.org/prayer.

—*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 and some are international. All are welcome, and we would love to have you join us.

—*Julia Logan, Juan Gardner, Michael Murphree, & Sue Tait*

WEDNESDAY IN-PERSON EVENING PRAYER

This year, the cathedral expanded its offering of the Daily Office with the return of an in-person service of Evening Prayer. Initially planned just for Lent, this offering was so well-received that a decision was made to continue. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 in McCaw Chapel to pray and sing together. Following the service, many head downstairs for the Community Dinner. Whatever your experience with the Daily Office, come pray in community with us.

—*David Poortinga*

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Most Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. an intrepid band of spiritual seekers gathers in the Compline corner at Saint Mark's Cathedral for something both ancient and radically transformative: silent meditation and contemplative prayer. (We take breaks for Taizé gatherings and summer rest.)

Our participants arrive at various points on different spiritual journeys. For some, meditation is a first tentative step into religious exploration. For others, it's the latest chapter in decades of liturgy and tradition. For yet others, it's the part they've retained. What unites this diverse group is a hunger for the mystical dimension of faith and a desire to share it in community. Some attend for a few months as they pass through a phase on their journey. Others have been involved since we restarted the group after the pandemic 3-1/2 years ago. Average attendance in 2025 has been up a bit from previous years.

Each gathering follows a rhythm: twenty minutes of centering prayer (or whatever practice each chooses in the silence), then a reading that sparks our souls, followed by unhurried conversation. This isn't a study group — it's a mindful exploration where discussion flows, sometimes engaging deeply with our readings, sometimes offering mutual support for the challenges of contemplative practice. This year, we've journeyed with wisdom from Cynthia Bourgeault, Evelyn Underhill, Pema Chödrön, Richard Rohr, the Cloud of Unknowing, Anthony de Mello, the Bhagavad Gita, Thomas Merton, Basil Pennington, David Frenette and Thomas Keating.

Here's the most important thing: those precious 20 minutes of serenity and 40 minutes of community are not the point. What we're doing is cultivating a radical form of presence and acceptance to carry into the other 6 days and 23 hours of each week — into our workplaces, our homes, our moments of joy and struggle.

All are welcome to sit with us in this powerful sacred space, to find support and perhaps a little course correction on the contemplative journey.

With questions about the group, centering prayer, or the contemplative path, visit saintmarks.org/contemplativeprayer

—Phil Fox Rose



TAIZÉ

In 2025, nine services of Taizé Prayer were offered on Tuesday evenings. These candlelit services feature repetitive chants, sung and spoken prayers, and a large amount of silence and stillness, making for a calm and meditative environment.

We commemorated the feast days of several saints, such as Brigid of Kildare, Julian of Norwich, and Teresa of Avila. In June, we again collaborated with our Buddhist neighbors from Clear Mountain Monastery for a well-received interfaith prayer service. Another highlight of the year was a service featuring creation care themes held under the TERRA globe exhibition.

A new leadership team is taking over this ministry in 2026, with the next offering on February 10. Watch out for further updates, and email taize@saintmarks.org to get involved!

—David Poortinga

OBLATION BEARERS

During Sunday morning Eucharists, members of the community or an entire family present the gifts of bread and wine that we offer to God at the Offertory. Even very young children can, and often do, help with this important, and simple, liturgical role.

—Michael Perera

▲ An Interfaith Prayer Service in the Style of Taizé, offered in collaboration with Clear Mountain Monastery Buddhist community, June 10, 2025.

► [left] Bread bakers preparing and baking bread for Sunday Eucharist.
[right] Eucharistic visitors leading a simple worship & eucharist, December 28, 2025



BREAD BAKERS' GUILD

The Eucharistic Bread Bakers continue to provide communion for all Services held in the cathedral. We gather as a community about once a month in Bloedel kitchen to prepare enough bread to last for the next month. This group is a multi-generational mix that look forward to the art of baking bread in a very supportive and satisfying setting. We are gratified that our efforts are a prominent part of those who partake of both elements.

—René Marceau

ALTAR GUILD

Each Sunday, and on other occasions of worship in the life of Saint Mark's, the Altar Guild continues to serve and support the liturgical ministers in the celebration of the sacrament of Holy Eucharist. If certain of the liturgical ministers can be thought of as "waiting tables for the Lord", then I like to think that we are called to the high and holy task of "bussing tables and washing dishes for the Lord". It is no surprise that Saint Martha is our patron saint. This year, we have welcomed several new members, growing our active and vested Altar Guild to a biblically resonant number of twelve. And for that I am most deeply grateful!

—James Davidson



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Hello, my name is Karen Petersen, and I am the newly appointed lay lead for the Eucharistic Ministers at Saint Mark's Cathedral. I joined Saint Mark's parish in July of 2025, so I cannot give you a report of the full year, however, I wanted to relate to you, my parish family, the great joy I feel and see from your Eucharistic Minister family in serving our parish during the Holy Eucharist. According to the Catechism, found on page 855 in The Book of Common Prayer, "The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons." And "The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church."

All lay and ordained members take part in the corporate worship of the Church. At Saint Mark's Cathedral, Eucharistic Ministers take their place in the corporate worship by serving as chalice bearers and assisting lay ministers during the Holy Eucharist. It is a blessing to be able to serve in this way and we are all grateful for the myriad expressions of worship that take place at our cathedral. There are at least 4 worship services every week plus regular additions of special services at which you see Eucharistic Ministers. For example, we just completed three beautiful Christmas

Eve services that required 21 lay Eucharistic Ministers serving over 3000 congregants.

It is important to our clergy and lay people to have all our baptized orders of ministers represented at the Altar during the Holy Eucharist, hence the cohort of Eucharistic Ministers. I am deeply grateful for the over 40 lay people who faithfully serve in this ministry. I also want to extend a welcome to anyone who wishes to explore joining in this vital part of our corporate worship. It is a licensed ministry and requires baptism and confirmation. Should you be interested in those sacraments, please consider signing up to participate in the Contours of the Christian Life series that will run during Lent 2026 on Wednesday evenings. Should you have interest in any of these subjects, please contact me or find me before or after church; I am very happy to answer (or find answers to) any questions you might have. I offer my thanksgiving for this beautiful parish family and offer my hopes for a blessed 2026 for all.

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 2025, the cathedral parish, in spirit, along with our 10 licensed Eucharistic Visitors (Deborah Anderson, Russ Campbell, Lynne Cobb, Martha Craig, Sarah Elwood-Faustino, Kevin Johnson, 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 un-

able 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 the faithful ministry of Steve Moen and Carolyn Blount now transitioning into "semi-retirement" as Eucharistic visitors. They have both served as Eucharistic Visitors for many years. In fact, Steve has been a licensed Eucharistic Visitor since the ministry came into being at the 1985 Convention of the Episcopal Church.

We also give thanks to Sue Tait and the entire Altar Guild who faithfully, and with great flexibility, prepare the communion kits used during visits.

Should you have any questions about the 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

▼ Communion kit blessed and sent out during worship, July 20, 2025.



SENIOR LIVING CENTER EUCHARIST CELEBRATIONS

Saint Mark's Cathedral partners with Seattle Episcopal Churches Trinity Parish, Epiphany Parish, St. Paul's, and St. Clements, to provide Episcopal services at several senior living communities in the city. We are glad that this ministry serves not only many of our parishioners and those of the partner parishes, but also other residents who are welcome to attend services. One special aspect of this ministry is that it serves Saint Markans who are unable or less able to come to church in person, as well as many who still do so. The clergy Rota, maintained by Saint Mark's, serves the following senior living communities:

- ♦ **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.

The clergy interface with the chaplains or spiritual care providers at the facilities to coordinate the services.

—*The Rev. Adam Conley, Curate*

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is a group of 135+ community members who commit to praying regularly for our world, its people, and their intentions. Specific prayer requests can be sent to prayers@saintmarks.org or the "prayer line" at 206-323-0300 option 314. Prayer requests may be requested for any need such as illness, death, job loss, military service, or struggles with children or parents. Prayers of thanksgiving for joyous events like births and marriages are also welcomed. The Prayer Chain is here for all who desire the support of a praying community.

To become a Prayer Chain member, please contact Erik Donner at edonner@saintmarks.org or 206.323.0300 x217. Canon

Rich Weyls is the coordinator of this ministry. For more information about this important ministry, please contact Rich at rweyls@saintmarks.org.

—*The Rev. Canon Rich Weyls*

ALL SAINTS GUILD

'Sadly' this year was a very busy year with over 25 funerals/celebrations of life.

The guild is a small group of St Mark's people who usher and provide hospitality for these services where the congregation is 15-450. If possible, people with a connection to the deceased or family help.

—*Kathy Sodergren*

COMPLINE HOSPITALITY MINISTERS

Compline Hospitality Ministers serve as hosts at every Compline service. There are at least two hosts at each service welcoming guests, answering questions and helping to ensure all who are attending feel welcome. The hosts are made up of individuals who are members of Saint Mark's and from the community of guests who regularly attend Compline and serves. Each host serves least one Sunday a month. The Ministry currently has enough volunteers to support the four regular Sundays and is looking for additional individuals who would support the rare fifth Sunday and occasionally substitute when necessary. If you're interested in participating, please reach out to John Gulhaugen at jgulhaugen@comcast.net

This year, long-time serving host Jim Buskirk, decided to retire from this Ministry. Jim has been faithfully hosting for several years and concluded his service on December 28, 2025. We thank Jim for his generous spirit and dedication to the ministry.

—*John Gulhaugen*

THE FLOWER MINISTRY

The flower ministry creates floral art for the cathedral for all services and events. We create weekly flower arrangements for the nave, narthex and chapel for all services and throughout the week.

Our ministry members contribute to our worship experience in multiple ways: we might bring materials from their gardens, our plant and floral love knowledge, our artistic eye and flower arrangement skills.

This past year we gathered weekly in our four teams, creating one or two large arrangements for the nave, two corresponding smaller arrangements in the back of the nave, two altar arrangements for the chapel, and two planted pieces for the narthex and dried floral pieces for other spaces. For Christmas and Easter, we created multiple very large floral pieces, gathering many hands and minds.

We were involved in the planning and preparation for other events in the church, such as the gratitude dinner held during our Living Stones II campaign. We created many arrangements in memory of loved ones, living and passed.

We learned to create all our offerings, even our very large arrangements, with only natural materials, avoiding non-recyclable foams.

During the past few months, we created several video clips on various technical aspects of our ministry (collecting and prepping materials, creating arrangement bases, flower arranging). We hope to expand this to include more flower arranging content, especially for smaller home arrangements, discussions on flower arranging as a spiritual discipline, and more detailed descriptions on how botanicals can enrich our lives and our weekly worship.

—*Beatrix Roemheld-Hamm*

► Displays created by the Flower Ministry from throughout 2025.



CATHEDRAL MUSIC PROGRAM

SAIN'T MARK'S is a singing community. The Sunday 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Eucharistic assemblies continued to sing robustly in 2025 as they have for many years. The 9am assembly, while historically tending to be quieter participants in worship, showed signs of significant growth in confidence and zeal in 2025. The 11 a.m. assembly continues 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.

On pilgrimage in Northern England, the Evensong Choir sang daily services in Lincoln and Durham Cathedrals, August 4-17. The traveling party of 52 people included the Dean, his wife, and some choristers' parents, all of whom together with adult singers and their significant others took turns serving as chaperones of the younger members of the choir. The choir is very grateful to the cathedral community for their spiritual and financial support of their pilgrimage.

▼ Evensong Choir
Pilgrimage,
August 6, 2025.

The Associate Organist, John Stuntebeck, played the organ with great style and steady-

ness throughout the year, and served brilliantly as pilgrimage organist for the Evensong Choir. Mr. Stuntebeck continued to introduce new and interesting organ repertory with which to adorn the cathedral liturgies.

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. 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 report by the Associate Musician & Choir School Director on page 41.

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, Choral Arts Northwest, and the Mägi Ensemble all took turns as guest choirs in the 11am Eucharists.

A rota of seven musicians continued to take turns singing or playing in the weekly 7pm 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. The Music Series Coordinator, Laura Loge, expertly publicized the Music Series concerts and successfully led a switch of ticketing platform from Eventbrite to EvolvArts – a new platform made by a musician specifically for concert series such as Saint Mark's. For more information, please see report by the Music Series Coordinator on page 44.

The Music Librarian, Jim Van Horn, continued to transform the cathedral's former-



ly chaotic roomful of choral music in the crypt into a beautifully organized library. His system for tracking the many copies of each anthem has proven to be a gentle but effective way of preventing copies from being lost as they flow in and out of singers' music folders. It is a model of good stewardship.

In June, the Canon for Cathedral Music began a two-year term as President of the Association of Anglican Musicians. From October 10 through November 5, he took a mini-sabbatical to join fellow Mountaineers members in trekking the Three Passes Loop in the Khumbu Region of Nepal. In very different ways, both of those features of his life in 2025 afforded the Canon Musician fresh and nourishing perspectives on his profession as a liturgical musician in the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. For this he is very grateful.

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

The offerings of the Saint Mark's Choir School expanded this year with the launch of the Joyful Noise program of early childhood music classes for infants through preschoolers, ably led by Elizabeth Antley. With guitar or egg shakers in hand, Elizabeth exposes our youngest children to new sounds, the joy of making music together, and the self-expression of each child of God through singing. These caregiver and child classes occurred on Wednesday afternoons concurrent with other Choir School offerings and have welcomed a new group of families to the Wednesday evening community.



Other continued offerings of the Choir School include weekly rehearsals for the 50+ students enrolled in the Jr. Chorister training choir (K-2nd), the Sr. Choristers (3rd – 8th), and the Schola (teens and changed voice tenors/basses). Musicianship tutoring is offered by cathedral volunteer tutors who assist choristers in music theory, ear training, and liturgical knowledge. Class piano, taught by Hannah Hochkeppel, is offered to Jr. Choristers to root them in keyboard fundamentals for their future musicianship work. Musicianship tutoring toward the Royal School of Church Music ribbon levels continues over the summer with individual testing sessions offered to choristers.

▲ [top] Evensong Choir Pilgrimage to England, August 2025.

[middle] Canon Kleinschmidt crashing the cymbals and Rebekah Gilmore proclaiming the Exultet at the Easter Vigil, April 19, 2025

[bottom] The Cathedral Choir and the Flentrop Organ on Sunday, June 8, 2025 during 11 a.m. worship.



▲ *Silent Night* by candlelight at the Pageant of the Nativity, December 17, 2025.

The Choir School Summer Camp with theme “Let All Creation Sing” welcomed 24 campers in July. The repertoire and enrichment sessions were shaped by the work of St. Francis and even the art project appeared again in the Blessing of the Animals service for the Feast of St. Francis in October.

In the winter of 2025, Sr. Choristers and Schola traveled to Trinity Cathedral in Portland, Oregon for a West Coast Choir Festival where they joined with Trinity Cathedral choristers and the choristers of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Burlingame, California. Ice skating and the hotel pool

were favorite memories beyond the hours of singing and new friendships.

In August, the Evensong Choir embarked on a two-week choral pilgrimage to Lincoln and Durham Cathedrals, traveling with 21 choristers from the Choir School. The choristers sang daily liturgies in the cathedrals, visited castles, museums, and ancient sites while enjoying meals together, ice cream shops, carousels, boating and many other adventures under the watchful eyes of adult chaperones. At the end of the trip, we said a tear-full goodbye to four of our high school seniors who returned to the states just in time for the start of their college classes.

In the 2024-25 programmatic year, the average 11-year-old Sr. Chorister gave roughly 116 hours toward preparing for and singing liturgies at Saint Mark’s Cathedral. This is a significant commitment to the worship life of the cathedral with mutual benefit for the chorister. The training and care of these children and youth wouldn’t be possible without the enthusiasm and commitment of cathedral volunteers who support the program in a whole host of ways knowing the lifelong skills and faith formation being offered each week. We give thanks for their commitment to our choristers!

—Rebekah Gilmore



► Schola choristers at Durham Cathedral, in the cloister, Aug 2025.

THE COMPLINE CHOIR

Over the course of the year, we transferred two long-time members, Vern Nicodemus and Ken Peterson, to inactive status at their request, and welcomed two new members, William Hawley and David Boeckh near summer's end; relished in hearing the sublime Women's Compline Choir under Rebekah Gilmore's leadership sing the office of Compline twice in summer; recorded 18 psalm settings by Peter Hallock for commercial release in mid-February 2026; participated in the cathedral's presentation of the Advent Procession: O Antiphon service; was featured on The Episcopal Church's social media during Advent; and delighted in the Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason's quarterly presence with us. The Choir's active membership has held steady at 25 people, who have amassed 340 years of experience singing the office of compline, with an average term-of-service of 13.6 years.

The board adopted a new three-year strategic plan, continued walking alongside the Hallock Institute as both boards discern a possible shared governance structure, and laid the groundwork for celebration of The Compline Choir's 70th anniversary and Women's Compline Choir's 7th anniversary from August 14-16, 2026, which will culminate in a Compline service sung by both choirs combined on Sunday, August 16, at 9:30 PM.

The board of governors includes James Wilcox (President), Carl Bolstad (Vice President), Josh Sandoz (Secretary), Phil Lloyd (Treasurer), Jamie Balducci, Joel Bevington, Joey Blundell, Jim Buskirk, Estephen Meza, Vernon Nicodemus, and ex officio members Jason Anderson (Compline Choir Director), the Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason (Dean), and the Rt. Rev. Phil LaBelle (Bishop). 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, November 30, 2025.



◀ The Women's Compline Choir, August 24, 2025.

Compline 2025 by the numbers:

- ◆ Weekly in-person attendees: 187[^]
- ◆ Weekly Classical KING live radio broadcast & internet stream listeners: 13,000⁼
- ◆ Weekly livestream viewers (during the service): 100[^]
- ◆ Weekly additional livestream viewers (after the service): 399[^]
- ◆ Weekly podcast listeners: 779[^]
- ◆ Weekly Spotify listeners: 387[^]
- ◆ Weekly audio streams and downloads: 2,237[^]
- ◆ Weekly website visitors: 249+
- ◆ Total weekly reach (sum of above): 17,338[^]

[^] means the number is an increase over 2025
⁼ means it's equal to 2024 numbers



▲ (left to right) Luke Fitzpatrick, Alex Guy, James Falzone, Rose Bellini, and Erin Wright, *Mystery of the Winter Skies*, March 7, 2025.

SAINT MARK'S MUSIC SERIES

In 2025, Saint Mark's Music Series presented a full season, with seven concerts throughout the year, in the unique acoustical ambience of Thomsen Chapel 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 Coordinator, Laura Loge, facilitated the background work to make the concerts run smoothly, working with Director of Communications, Greg Bloch, to produce live-streams 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 2025. Except for Mass Appeal, they were available in-person and via ticketed live-stream.

- ◆ **Organ Plus in Thomsen Chapel** concert featuring soprano Laura Loge and

organist John Stuntebeck, Friday, January 17 and Sunday, January 19, 2025. The duo performed Scandinavian church music, exploring Norwegian stevtoner, Danish organ works, Swedish church arias, folksongs and hymns, and settings of religious texts up to the present.

- ◆ **Flentrop Organ Concert** featuring Isabelle Demers on the Flentrop organ, Friday, February 7. French-Canadian organist Isabelle Demers, described as playing with "precision and flair..." with "unalloyed musical joy" offered a varied program, uniting her virtuosity and musicality with the power and versatility of the Flentrop organ, including works by Mendelssohn, Brahms, Rachel Laurin, and her own transcription of Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*.
- ◆ **Mystery of Winter Skies** with James Falzone, clarinet & penny whistles, Luke Fitzpatrick and Alex Guy, violins, Erin Wight, viola, and Rose Bellini, cello, Friday, March 7. James Falzone brought his unique style back to Saint Mark's with a sonic exploration of the expansive beauty of creation, through James' own new musical composition for penny whistles and string quartet.
- ◆ **Seven Last Words of Christ** featuring Skyros Quartet, Palm Sunday, April 13. Sarah Pizzichemi and Brandon Vance, violins, Justin Kurys, viola, and Timothy Pizzichemi, cello performed Joseph Haydn's own arrangement for string quartet of his *Seven Last Words of Christ* – a meditation on Jesus' utterances from the cross, excerpted from each of the four gospels – in observance of the coming Holy Week.
- ◆ **All Bach on the Flentrop Organ** with organist Jonathan Moyer, Friday, May 9. The 2025 installment of this annual Saint Mark's tradition was presented by Jonathan Moyer, whose playing has been described as "ever expressive, stylish, and riveting." Moyer's innumera-

ble performances on historical organs across Europe give him distinctive insight into Bach's music.

- ♦ **Mass Appeal with Cappella Romana** and members of the Portland Youth Philharmonic conducted by David Hatter, Friday, October 24. This was a sonic experience that stirred the soul and lifted the roof. Stravinsky's *Mass* is bold, modern, cool—utterly mesmerizing. Bruckner's *Mass* answers with lush, soaring harmonies and awe-inspiring grandeur, featuring double choir, reeds, and brass. Performed in collaboration with the Portland Youth Philharmonic's chamber orchestra, Camerata PYP. This wasn't just a concert—it was a cathedral of sound.
- ♦ **Peace & Thanksgiving** with the Skyros Quartet, Sunday, November 23. Skyros Quartet returned to Saint Mark's Music Series presenting music contemplating peace and thanksgiving through string quartets by Ludwig van Beethoven and living Latvian composer Pēteris Vasks. Violinists Sarah Pizzichemi and Brandon Vance, violist Justin Kurys, and cellist Timothy Pizzichemi filled Saint Mark's nave with exquisite string music in anticipation of Advent.

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

JOYFUL NOISE EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC

Joyful Noise (JN) is a new, play-based musical offering as part of the Saint Mark's Cathedral Choir School for children from birth to 5yo, alongside their chosen adults. All participants get to explore sound and movement, become rooted in the foundations of music theory, and develop key physical and social-emotional skills while in Beloved community.

JN began with a short pilot season in late spring 2025 and completed a successful first term between September and December, with booking for the Winter/Spring 2026 underway. Two classes run on Wednesday afternoons to align with the logistic and ministerial objectives of the Choir School and to coincide with the community meal at 6pm.

JOYFUL NOISE lives up to its name!

—Elizabeth Antley



◀ Rebekah Gilmore and students at the 2025 Choir Camp, July 20, 2025

▼ Setting up for the festive Palm Procession on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025.



COMMUNITY LIFE

NEWCOMERS MINISTRY

The Newcomers Ministry responded to over 150 inquiries made online and on visitors' cards with letters addressing the situation and needs of each inquirer. The team also hosted newcomers' coffee receptions on the first Sunday of each month during the year. An average of 6-8 visitors per month were welcomed in person at these events to share refreshments and conversation. Attendees were invited to share their stories, reasons for coming to Saint Mark's and questions they have about Saint Mark's and the Church. We explain ways to be involved and offer information on Saint Mark's and its various ministries. This year more than previously, attendees and inquirers have returned to participate in worship and parish life.

—Deacon Earl Grout

20S/30S GROUP

The 20s/30s group at Saint Mark's has continued to offer consistent opportunities for young adults to connect and share in ministry. The group has also continued to utilize Slack as a communication tool and has been fostering relationships with young adults

▼ 20s/30s Group members enjoying an Easter brunch, April 20, 2025.



from other parishes across the diocese to create wider opportunities for collaboration and engagement, especially through our Questioning Together offerings. This year, topics for Questioning Together have included prayer, discernment and vocation, digging deeper into Lent, the gospel of Mark, the kenosis of Jesus, and "Why do we suffer?". Questioning Together is routinely well attended and attracts young adults from across the diocese. We are committed to facilitating spaces of trust and honesty that foster 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, a run group, and 4th Sunday brunches. Additional events have included a *Braiding Sweetgrass* book group, hosting in person daily office during Lent, tea after Tenebrae, and Easter brunch.

—Hilary McLeland-Wieser & Julia Cooper

40S/50S GROUP

After a dormant period this spring and summer, the 40s and 50s group kicked off again with a potluck brunch to celebrate autumn and to discuss future plans for the group. The brunch was well attended with both old and new friends gathering together for good food, fellowship, and a rich and entertaining discussion. Under the sage guidance of the Rev. Canon Emily Griffin (who is now our clergy liaison) we had a fruitful conversation regarding our hopes for the group and the direction we would like to go over the next year or so.

Plans for 2026 include quarterly brunches after the 11 am service (mark your calendars for the spring gatherings on March 8 and June 14). We are also working on connecting

the group via a social media/messaging app (such as Whats App or Slack) so any member can post group related news, updates, or events that members might be interested in attending together (such as concerts, talks, etc). Stay tuned for more details in January! We hope that over time we will gradually be able to expand our offerings as membership and leadership grows.

We warmly welcome anyone who is in their 40s or 50s (or those who identify with many of the issues of midlife such as searching for or deepening their spirituality, mid-career growth and/or changes, parenting, caring for elderly relatives, other big life transitions, etc) We are also always looking for more people who are interested in planning events or helping out with the general organization of the group. Current leadership includes Kristine Ekman, Kelly and Mark Lundquist, Jen Younggren, and Kate Halamay. Please reach out to khalamay@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the list serve and/or messaging group or would like to join our leadership team. We look forward to continuing to grow and gather in 2026!

—Kate Halamay

THIRD ACTERS (60+)

This was a wonderful year for the Third Actors, that is, those of us 60 or older, celebrating the Third Act of our lives. We met every second Tuesday on Zoom, where we checked in and then discussed a theme, sometimes taken from Joan Chittister's *The Gift of Years*. No required readings for this group. The main thing is to show up and bring an open heart and mind. On the third Sunday of every month we have a potluck in Leffler House after the 11:00 a.m. service. While this affair is, by request, purely social, we do end up discussing many juicy topics. Our clergy-of-record, Rich Weyls, often attends both Zoom and potlucks, and we are always happy to see him. New members are always welcome. While we often share news

of our aging bodies, we are equally interested in the health of our souls, and our ability to bring love to each other and our world.

—Elizabeth Clark-Stern & Kathy Minsch

SAINT MARK'S WRITER'S GROUP

This was a good year for the members of the Saint Mark's Writer's Group, which is open to all ages, all kinds of writers—even those who are interested in writing but have yet to put pen to paper. We meet every month on the last Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. on Zoom. We check in, introduce new members, and give updates on our writing projects. This year we were graced by two wonderful interactive workshops offered by Sallie Crotty, author of the stunning memoir *Out of the Ashes*. We hope she will give us more workshops in 2026. When we are not writing to Sallie's prompts, we read our work in progress, or respond to a prompt sent out monthly by Elizabeth. These prompts are of a spiritual nature, inviting our writers, whatever their genre, to reflect in poetry or prose an experience or longing or dream, or revelation of faith. We also laugh a lot and enjoy each other's work. We are not a critique group, but give support and reflection on each other's work.

—Elizabeth Clark-Stern & Libby Carr

▼ 40s/50s group members along with the Rev. Canon Emily Griffin at their fall brunch, October 26, 2025.



QUEER IN CHRIST

Now in its second year, Queer in Christ (QuiC) seeks (1) to connect queer people, allies, and families at Saint Mark's with each other and with resources both inside and outside the church, (2) to increase the visibility of queer people in all areas of ministry at the cathedral, (3) to create opportunities to explore and learn together in ways that are intergenerational, intersectional, and theologically grounded, including special liturgical offerings, and (4) to honor the unity and diversity of the Body of Christ in the hope of continuing to heal its wounds.

In 2025, we leaned further into these ministry commitments in several ways. In the spring, two of our members hosted a Ca-

thedral Commons, and speaking from their personal experiences, invited the wider cathedral community into ways of increasing allyship and support for our Trans and Non-Binary siblings. One of our members also facilitated a theologically rich Lenten QuiC Conversation Series on "Clearing Space for God." In the fall, we hosted an engaging discussion about the ways in which the fundamental sacramental theologies of baptism and Eucharist uniquely celebrates human difference, especially for Queer people. More recently, we offered a combined event with Saint Mark's 20s/30s ministry in which we explored the Queer and young adult experience in Episcopal liturgies. For more information, please visit saintmarks.org/queer, or email lay leaders Colton Carothers and Rose Hazard at QueerInChrist@saintmarks.org.

—Colton Carothers, Rose Hazard,
The Rev. Adam Conley

COMMUNICATIONS

The office of the Director of Communications has overseen the cathedral website, social media accounts, weekly email and print newsletters, special email messages and ministry newsletters, mass mailings, printed material including brochures and flyers, The Rubric magazine, livestream liturgies and hybrid events, special videos, interior and exterior signage, advertising, press releases and media relations.

In 2025, established routines and procedures were maintained, with a continuing emphasis on thoughtful redundancy – creating multiple pathways to the same content. For example, the weekly newsletter was distributed as an email each Friday morning, then also shared on Instagram and Facebook, posted as a link on the cathedral website, and then adapted into the version in the back of Sunday morning bulletins. Even considering the website on its own, information about a particular weekday forum might be findable on the events

▼ [top] The Saint Mark's
Cathedral booth at
Capitol Hill PrideFest,
June 28, 2025

[bottom] The Saint Mark's
Cathedral pride flag,
June 29, 2025.



calendar, the cathedral commons page, the Wisdom School page, and its own dedicated page. The same approach was expressed in the cathedral's practice of multi-platform streaming, with live streamed liturgies appearing simultaneously on the cathedral's website, YouTube channel, and Facebook page (and, for Compline liturgies, also on the Compline Choir's website and on their Facebook page). Different people find different approaches intuitive and convenient, and the goal is for as many people as possible to find content in whichever place makes sense to them to look first.

Early in 2025, the Communications Standing Committee of the Vestry, chaired by Vestry Communications Liaison Alexandra Thompson created a social media survey for the cathedral community, to inform where energy should be focused and to anticipate upcoming trends. The survey garnered about 100 responses, and the result, very broadly speaking, endorsed the cathedral's current focus on Facebook and Instagram, and a majority of respondents did not expect their social media habits to change significantly in the near future. However, the respondents also offered a wealth of suggestions for new or expanded use of existing platforms, which could inform new initiatives in 2026.

The Communications Committee was also involved in the 2025 accessibility audit, which included communications as one of its main areas of focus (along with "physical environment," "attitudes and culture," and "worship services and events"). The final report of the audit likewise presented a number of actionable items and general issues that to address in the future to enhance the welcome and inclusion of the cathedral and its ministries.

Social media followers continued to increase steadily across platforms in 2025. Instagram saw 547 new followers, bringing the total to 1,829. The Facebook account gained 268 new followers, bringing the total to 4,362. And YouTube saw a net gain of 457



◀ The contemplation of the cross on Good Friday, April 18, 2025.

subscribers, bringing our total subscribers to 4,589. Saint Mark's YouTube videos garnered 100,924 views in 2025. The cathedral's most-viewed video, the introduction to the Flentrop organ with Canon Kleinschmidt filmed by David Wild in 2019, passed the quarter-million views threshold in November 2025, with its total views at 260,872 as of December 30. The second most-clicked-on video in 2025 was the November 2 morning Eucharist, with 1,417 views; these excess views were entirely attributable to the striking and intriguing image of the TERRA Globe in the thumbnail image.



▲ Dean Thomason giving welcoming remarks at the Living Stones II banquet, June 6, 2025..

The Living Stones II: Building a Sound Future capital campaign had particularly important communications needs, beginning with overall branding and visual identity for the campaign as a whole. In this the Communications Director collaborated with community member and eminent graphic artist Sandy Nelson. The campaign then used this branding in the materials such as the campaign brochure, campaign webpage, mailings, event collateral, and in the campaign video shot and edited by parishioner David Wild.

Saint Mark's appeared in local and national media in stories about Donna Jean's Place Emergency Women's Shelter, the Affordable Housing Development project, and the TERRA globe exhibition. There were also substantial feature articles written on *Compline* (in *Seattle Met* magazine) and *Cathedral Yoga* (on the KUOW Public Radio website).

In previous years, we had been curious about the potential of A.I. tools to automate and enrich various aspects of cathedral communications. But in 2025 we came to the firm conclusion that, at least at this moment in time, there are essentially no

circumstances where A.I.-generated content is appropriate for outward-facing communications. A.I. tools can aid with certain behind-the-scenes tasks, but based on our experience in 2025, texts or images created by A.I. are not yet of sufficient quality to appear as part of official Saint Mark's messaging.

I submitted my resignation as Communications Director on November 26, and my time on the cathedral staff ended December 31, but the cathedral's communications remain in the capable hands of Canon Emily Griffin, Joshua Judd-Herzfeldt (who has already been serving as part-time Communications Assistant since March 2025), independent contractor Samatha Clare, Worship Coordinator David Poortinga, and Livestream Coordinator Seth Thomsen. Kevin Johnson's photography and Michael Perera's social media assistance have been consistently invaluable to me every year since I began in this role in 2019. I would also like to extend special thanks to Alexandra Thompson and to Sandy Nelson for their support and encouragement throughout the year.

—Gregory Bloch

QUILT MINISTRY

Saint Mark's Quilt Ministry, a small, dedicated community of volunteers, enjoyed a successful year making quilts for comfort and welcome, ditty bags for the Mission to Seafarers and pillowcases for Ronald McDonald House while sharing food and fellowship. Our table of quilted items (bowl and ice cream cozies, bottle bags, infant blankets and casserole "kimonos") was almost empty by the end of this year's Alternative Gift Market, our third year of participation. We welcomed new opportunities to support cathedral life as we made bed quilts and holiday bags for Donna Jean's Place, miniature quilts as pocket prayers given out at Cathedral Day and quilted squares in seasonal liturgical colors for children's worship. It was our participation in Sacred Spaces and "Crafternoon" that brought us unexpected joy. We had lots of fabric squares and offered participants the opportunity to put squares together to make a nine patch block that would be sewn with many other blocks into a quilt for Donna Jean's Place. People were so engaged they often made more than one block, chatting with others, making new friends. There were enough blocks to sew into a truly "community" quilt. We also asked people to "tie one on with a prayer", that is, tie a knot in a completed quilt to hold the layers together and offer a prayer for the person who would sleep beneath that quilt. We are encouraged by the enthusiasm of parishioners and visitors for these two activities and welcome the opportunity to offer them again.

We meet the third Thursday of the month. You don't need to be a quilter to participate in this ministry for there are several non-sewing tasks to complete our projects.

Sandra Piscitello

MINISTRY OF THE 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. We create 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 also contribute to the Alternative Gift Market.

We gather on the first Friday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us! Drop-ins and all skill levels are welcome. We have patterns we will gladly share if you prefer to work at home; contributions can always be dropped at the cathedral office.

—Julia Logan

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

▼ Paschal Candle and sunlight on McCaw Chapel, May 4, 2025.





▲ D'Vorah Kost at the opening Reception for "Healing & Hope in War Zones: Children's Art from Gaza and Ukraine," July 13, 2025

VISUAL ARTS MINISTRY

2025 was a highly productive and exhibit-filled year for the Visual Arts Ministry (VAM). With our goal of encouraging Saint Mark's members to explore the connections between their faith and the visual arts, multiple opportunities were presented throughout the year to do that, several of which included active collaborations with other ministry groups. Highlights of the year included the following:

- ◆ **VAM to SAM:** In January, a Saint Mark's group viewed Joyce J. Scott's *Walk a Mile in My Dreams* exhibit at the Seattle Art Museum and enjoyed an hour of discussion over lunch afterwards.
- ◆ **Sacred Icon Exhibit.** In February, eighteen sacred icons painted by iconographer and priest Peter Pearson were exhibited in the nave. The exhibit was in conjunction with Fr. Peter's Sunday Forum and his icon workshop presented by the Wisdom School.
- ◆ **Stations of the Cross.** During Lent, Virginia Maksymowicz's fourteen sculptures were installed in the cathedral nave and were used for reflection and guided liturgies.
- ◆ **Sacred Beauty: Images of the Holy.** Episcopal priest and photographer Jim Friedrich's photographs from churches

in England, Italy, and France were exhibited in the nave to encourage viewers to consider how holiness is expressed in sacred spaces. An opening reception and talk by the artist were held on June 22nd.

- ◆ **Healing & Hope in War Zones: Children's Art from Gaza and Ukraine.** A summer exhibit of children's art from Gaza and Ukraine opened on July 13th with support from Sacred Spaces. The opening reception was sponsored by the Bishop's Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land.
- ◆ **The Life of Francis of Assisi.** Artist Kathleen Fruge' Brown's seven oil paintings were exhibited in the nave in October and November. She gave a Sunday Forum on the exhibit on October 12th and the exhibit was part of the Saint Mark's observance of the Season of Creation in early fall.
- ◆ **Exhibition.** VAM was deeply involved in the planning of the Terra Exhibition from November 2-23, where a twenty-four-foot rotating Earth was suspended in the cathedral nave. VAM members created ten reflection kiosks with climate change themes for the exhibit. Climate scientist and Episcopal deacon Lisa Graumlich, Ph.D., gave a public talk on November 14th, "Thin Places: Climate Change & Seeing Earth Whole." Thirteen faith and community groups working in the faith and climate justice areas participated in a community resource fair as part of the evening.

Several exciting exhibits and programs are in the works for 2026. This active ministry is always happy to welcome new members.

*-Deborah Brown & Wayne Duncan,
Co-Chairs*

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 2025, the Foundation gave over \$65,000 to help with the cathedral's general buildings and grounds expenses.

Our exciting news is that we were able to donate over \$600,000 to the Living Stones II Capital Campaign.

Many thanks to the Board for all their work this year, as well as to our generous donors who make these contributions possible.

In 2026, we will continue to increase resources to help with the cathedral's buildings and grounds expenses.

—Julia Logan

PETER R. HALLOCK INSTITUTE

The Hallock Institute preserves, promotes, and manages the music of Peter R. Hallock and supports the ministry of the Compline

Choir, founded by Peter R. Hallock. The Hallock Institute envisions a future where the music and legacy of Peter R. Hallock, including the Compline Choir, are well-known and accessible throughout liturgical traditions worldwide.

The board met four times in 2025. Board accomplishments included adoption of a new, multi-year strategic plan; exhibition at both the Association of Anglican Musicians and Association of Lutheran Church Musicians conferences; made personal commitments to the cathedral's capital campaign; and continued walking alongside the Compline Choir as both boards discern a possible shared governance structure.

The board of directors includes Joey Blundell, Katherine Crosier, Robin Ethridge, Rebekah Gilmore, Scott Kovacs, Heather MacLaughlin Garbes, Ken Pendergrass, Page Smith, Gerard van Wesep, Jason Anderson, the Very Rev. Steven L. Thoma-son, and the Rt. Rev. Phil LaBelle. If you have questions about the Hallock Institute, please contact Jason Anderson at director@hallockinstitute.org

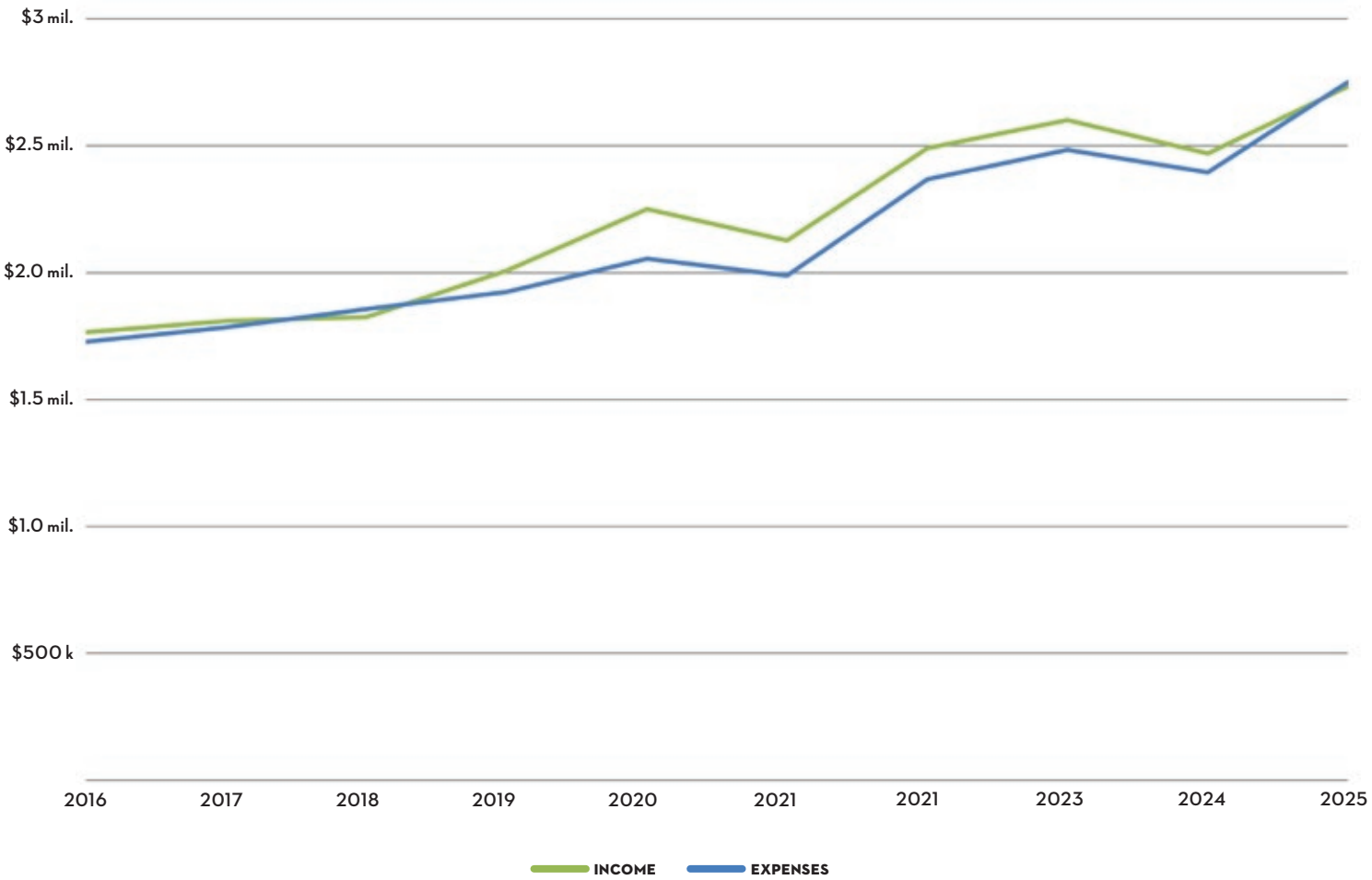
—Jason Anderson



◀ [left] Thanksgiving over the water at the Easter Vigil, April 19, 2025.

[right] New Prayer Space in the cathedral nave, October 12, 2025.

SAINT MARK’S CATHEDRAL OPERATING BUDGET HISTORY, 2016-2025



SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

CATHEDRAL OPERATING BUDGET, 2016-2026

REVENUES	ACTUALS (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)										2026 BUDGET
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN	1,235	1,286	1,341	1,468	1,610	1,729	1,896	1,848	1,790	1,965	2,125
PLATE OFFERING	104	106	112	108	62	64	110	116	113	131	119
GIFTS & GRANTS	66	48	48	65	364	100	111	161	162	122	97
SPECIAL EVENTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	7
PROGRAM & SERVICE FEES	138	151	118	118	30	54	140	150	193	240	291
DIOCESE OF OLYMPIA	46	71	68	58	25	25	65	86	40	85	45
CATHEDRAL FOUNDATION	102	106	72	53	67	63	69	70	59	60	72
INTERFUND TRANSFERS / MISC.	74	42	66	138	93	92	99	170	113	122	161
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,765	\$1,810	\$1,825	\$2,008	\$2,251	\$2,127	\$2,490	\$2,601	\$2,470	\$2,733	\$2,917
EXPENSES											
PERSONNEL	982	940	1,054	1,025	1,201	1,160	1,389	1,411	1,361	1,656	1,821
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT	234	231	235	225	288	266	315	312	261	312	360
MISSION DISBURSEMENTS, OTHER	29	25	24	18	16	16	17	15	12	15	12
PROFESSIONAL FEES	26	52	46	59	55	41	60	113	60	65	43
SUPPLIES & MINOR EQUIPMENT	43	85	60	73	40	58	59	32	60	67	48
COMMUNICATIONS	30	37	37	24	19	25	28	30	37	34	28
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	67	87	46	49	104	99	104	105	117	85	89
EQUIPMENT RENTAL & SERVICE	112	95	76	94	107	64	99	129	144	168	124
UTILITIES	90	105	107	98	81	89	108	106	117	132	125
TRAVEL	4	3	5	2	3	1	1	2	16	1	1
HOSPITALITY	17	13	14	14	3	7	17	15	18	14	21
CONFERENCES & TRAINING	21	19	19	20	20	7	25	22	20	22	31
INSURANCE	27	34	37	26	27	30	33	35	45	52	53
DUES, FEES, & LICENSES	20	21	25	33	37	69	37	52	49	69	72
OTHER	25	38	72	164	54	56	76	105	78	58	76
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,727	\$1,785	\$1,857	\$1,924	\$2,055	\$1,988	\$2,368	\$2,484	\$2,395	\$2,750	\$2,904
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$38	\$20	(\$32)	\$84	\$196	\$139	\$122	\$117	\$75	(\$17)	\$13



The lighting of the new candle at the Easter Vigil, April 19, 2025.



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

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206.323.0300

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