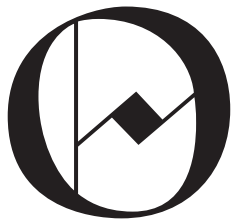


Spring 2016 at the Cathedral

The Value of Food: Education



One of the Cathedral's most valuable roles, in addition to providing a spiritual home for congregants and visitors alike, is that of educator. Education takes many forms: services, performances, forums and talks, congregational activities and volunteering are all learning experiences. *The Value of Food: Sustaining a Green Planet* has been prominent in these areas of Cathedral life over the last several months, and written about in recent issues of this newsletter. *The Value of Food* has also had a powerful effect on the Cathedral's dedicated educational arms, Public Education and Visitor Services (PEVS), The

Cathedral School, and Adults and Children in Trust (ACT). Staff are engaged not only with transmitting a wide range of information, and techniques of critical thinking and values, but also strive to alert children and adults to the specific challenges of our era.

Among those challenges are climate change, food security and sustainability, poverty and hunger. *The Value of Food* is a focus for this kind of learning, bringing attention to what we all know—some more consciously than others—is important and will become more important in coming decades.

Cathedral educators were incorporating lessons about soil, seed, water, market and waste long before this exhibition opened. Every fall, ACT has a unit on apples. Kids go apple-picking, learn about the different varieties of apple, how the trees grow and reproduce, and how the fruit is harvested. This year they were excited to see the Cathedral's own apple saplings newly planted in the soil of the Close: the work of Fallen Fruit artists David Burns and Austin Young. They also observed Claire Pentecost's *Growing Pillar*—a tall column of vegetables perfectly suited to tight urban spaces (as well as being quite lovely)—and compared it to the small gardens they plant every year.

The Cathedral School, as well, has long included lessons on plants and food in the curriculum. The early grades learn about photosynthesis, pollination, bulbs, and the cycle of the seasons, while older students study biology and earth science. Kindergarteners who came to look at the exhibition were especially fascinated by Suzanne Anker's *Astroculture*—trays of peas, beans, strawberries, tomatoes, and lettuce bathed in the purple light of LED strips as well as the sunlight that filters through the stained glass of the Chapel of St. Boniface. If this is how we grow food in the future, these students will be prepared for it.

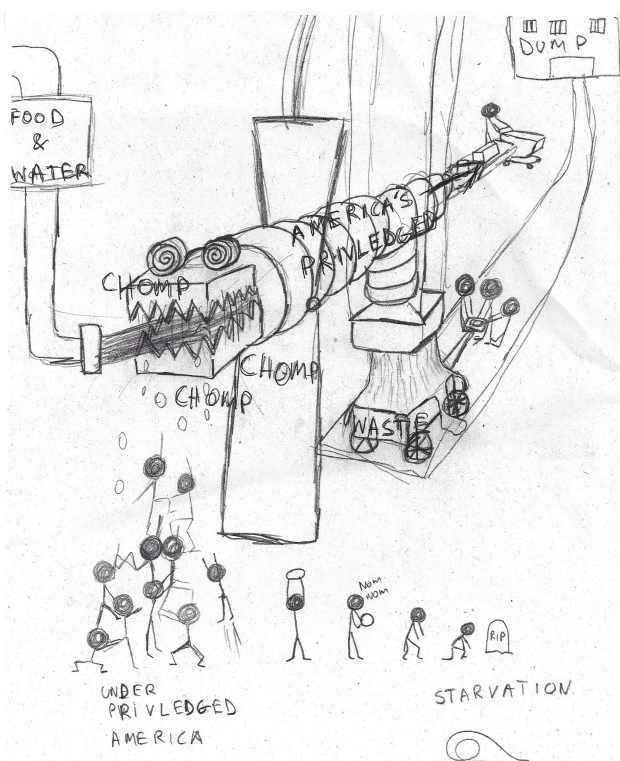
During a map skills unit, second graders helped to map edible fruits found on the Cathedral Close. The students have also been helping to water the new apple trees on the Pulpit Green. Hannah Stebbins, Sustainability Coordinator at the school, took the Food Justice class (fifth graders) to the exhibit twice and reports that the exhibit sparked fascinating dialogue and questions about genetically modified food, pesticides, and factory farming. The interactive nature of the exhibit was especially compelling.

Seventh graders do a section on nutrition, including meal planning and shopping lists. Mia Michelson-Bartlett, who coordinates education and public programs for *The Value of Food*, is impressed by the school's family-style meals and the tradition of students serving their classmates lunch (fourth graders serve the lower grades, eighth graders the upper grades). She said, "I was struck by the very real human value of being both in a position of authority and serving their fellow students; it illustrates the balance that we all have to strike in our lives."

The Value of Food has built on this foundation, using the artists' work, various events and performances, and the information booth as critical resources. The social, political and spiritual questions that the fall and winter's guests have explored are also of great interest to children, who have a natural inclination to ask questions about values.

Ms. Michelson-Bartlett has organized a number of events with the School at Columbia Bank Street School, De La Salle Academy and The Calhoun School. A significant amount of her time has been spent strengthening these alliances and planning future collaborations. One goal of *The Value of Food*, as with previous exhibitions, is to widen the Cathedral network in order to share strategies, resources and audiences: to build community. Referring to the Calhoun students, she said, "They were especially interested in hunger. In the couple of weeks I was with them, we talked about poverty, discussed the Matt Black photos, and art as activism. When it came time to do a project, the kids were given a choice: write a letter or make a

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



"This piece depicts class struggle and hunger in America. Healthful food often is priced to be rather expensive when compared to non-healthful food, making it virtually impossible for those who cannot afford it to get access to it. The only amount they can access is often really low, which ends up being one of the problems of those who do not make up the privileged Americans."

ART AND CAPTION: Courtesy Javay Fraser, student at The Calhoun School

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The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine

The Right Reverend
Andrew ML Dietsche
Bishop of New York

The Very Reverend
Dr. James A. Kowalski
Dean of the Cathedral

Pentagram
Graphic Design

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Writer

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Editor

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of Saint John the Divine

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Schedule of Daily Liturgical Services

Sunday

8 am
Morning Prayer
& Holy Eucharist
9 am
Holy Eucharist
11 am
Choral Eucharist
4 pm
Choral Evensong

Monday through Saturday

8 am
Morning Prayer
8:30 am
Holy Eucharist
(Tuesday & Thursday)
12:15 pm
Holy Eucharist
5 pm
Evening Prayer

Cathedral Information

The Cathedral is open daily
from 7:30 am–6 pm
For information:
(212) 316-7540
stjohndivine.org

Reaching the Cathedral

The Cathedral is located at
1047 Amsterdam Avenue,
at 112th Street.

By Subway:
#1 Train to 110th Street

By Bus:
#M4 to Amsterdam
& 110th Street
#M11 to Amsterdam
& 112th Street
#M104 to Broadway
& 112th Street

American History: Black & White

The Cathedral holds a Martin Luther King Choral Eucharist every year on the Sunday of Martin Luther King weekend, and specific programming celebrating Black history and culture is often scheduled for the late January-February season (marking Black History Month). This year, Dr. Bob Carey, Professor of Historical Studies at Empire State College/SUNY, who worked with Dr. King in the 1960s, preached the sermon at the Martin Luther King Sunday service. He gave a lucid explanation of why Black history is not an adjunct or sidebar to what is called “American” history.

Eight Presidents owned slaves while living in the executive mansion—for 50 of the first 60 years of the republic, the president was a slaveholder...

The nation that was being born was nurtured and growing rapidly because of slavery and cotton. By focusing on the founding fathers and the writing of the Constitution, it is easy to overlook the fact that the nation was taking wing politically and economically because of the work of slaves and the commodities they produced—tobacco, rice and then the demon: Cotton...

The slave trade and ongoing exploitation of Black labor, as well as the moral, philosophical and scientific gyrations necessary to justify violence, segregation and denial of opportunity based on race, are thoroughly entwined in the economic, political and cultural history of the United States. There has been no decade since 1619 (when slaves were first brought to Virginia) that has not included crucial events, legal decisions, and artistic expressions. To list but a few of these indelible years: 1772, the publication of the first book by a Black American (Phillis Wheatley, 1753–1784, inducted into the Poets Corner in 2008); 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation; the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s; and the work of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and so many others in the Civil Rights era of the late 1950s and '60s.

Our time is also significant: most obviously for the administration of President Obama, but also for the Black Lives Matter movement and the heart-breaking police killings that triggered it. The 2015 National Book Awards celebrated two books, *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehesi Coates and *Voyage of the Sable Venus* by Robin Coste Lewis, which are

“To accept one’s past—one’s history—is not the same thing as drowning in it; it is learning how to use it. An invented past can never be used; it cracks and crumbles under the pressures of life like clay in a season of drought.”

James Baldwin (1924–1987)
inducted into the American Poets Corner in 2011

not only brilliant examples of literary craft but explore the contradictions of race with fierce intelligence and passion. It seems not unlikely that the early 21st century will be considered a second Harlem Renaissance—though no longer one centered on one neighborhood in one city.

In January and February (four Thursdays), the Congregation of Saint Saviour offered an interactive workshop, “Confronting the Demon: Racism, Power & Privilege in America.” The workshop, with roughly forty participants per session, focused on how we can actively confront and become allies against racism in our lives and communities, asking such questions as: How did we get here? What is the history of racism in America? What does racism look like in our personal lives? How do we experience it? What is involved in creating antiracist institutional change? What are our personal and collective next steps? The workshops were led by Dr. Carey; Joan Adams, MSW, LCSW-R, who trains and consults on racial equity and cultural competency for individuals, groups and organizations; Randy Clancy, an educational consultant who partners with schools, community advocacy, and faith-based organizations to address manifestations of white supremacy within individuals and institutions; and

Sonia Omulepu, a professor at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and a Warden of the Congregation of Saint Saviour at the Cathedral.

Though it was clear early on in Barack Obama’s presidency that the idea of a “post-racial” America was wildly premature, recent activity by intellectuals and poets, protesters and students, faith leaders and our own congregation holds out hope that the “conversation” about race and between races that many have called for may actually be happening now—in our living rooms, in our schools and churches, on film and TV, on social media.

Dr. Carey ended his sermon for the Martin Luther King Choral Eucharist with these words:

This day is not an occasion for despair.... For Dr. King, the full measure of community was that it invited in—it did not exclude; it celebrated.... I would suggest, in closing, that we scrap the old metaphor of a city on a hill. On close inspection, the city turns out to be a gated community, with gatekeepers who are packing too many guns, who are too ready to shoot anyone who approaches who looks different. I suggest rather that we use the metaphor of a feast—all are welcome, all can come to the table.

The Value of Food: Education

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

visual statement.” Many of these letters and artworks have been displayed on the art wall in the ambulatory (one is reproduced here), as has the art of Cathedral School Students.

PEVS runs ongoing tours and workshops for school groups and visitors, spotlighting aspects of the Cathedral (such as gargoyles and medieval arts, or the vertical tour that showcases the building itself), and celebrating holidays—Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. This year a new pilot program, Cathedral Explorers (Saturday workshops of 10 kids or less, open to the public), was adapted to take advantage of *The Value of Food*. PEVS Director Marnie Weir discussed how this experience has opened conversations among staffers about how to fit ongoing programs under the umbrella of big exhibitions, a recent Cathedral development (since the 2011 *The Value of Water*) they are very much in favor of. “Big exhibitions capture the imaginations of kids.” The September program about bees and honey making, led by Cathedral beekeepers, was extremely popular, enhanced by the beehive set up next to the altar in the Chapel of St. Ambrose. Children are not the only ones fascinated by bees, but as pollinators worldwide are threatened, and the accumulated learning of generations of farm families is passed down to a smaller slice of the population, such early exposure and understanding is crucial.

The Cathedral Explorer groups were also intrigued by Tom Otterness’ artwork, *The Tables*, with its collection of mysterious creatures and relationships. They explored the three tables at ground level, then climbed up the inner walls of the Cathedral to look at the sculpture from above. It was hard to pull the children



PHOTO: The Cathedral School

away from the art at the end of the two-hour program; they kept finding things they hadn’t noticed before. “It was one of the most magical experiences in programming here,” said PEVS staffer Teresa French.

Another hit among children, both those attending the PEVS workshops and Cathedral School third graders, was the sculpture by Christy Rupp, *Two Moas*, from the series *Extinct Birds Previously Consumed by Humans: From The Brink of Extinction to the Supermarket*, placed on either side of the High Altar. The artist reconstructed the skeletons of the moas (large, flightless birds native to New Zealand which

went extinct in the 15th century) from the discarded chicken bones of fast food restaurants and markets. As the recreated skeletons take their place among the carvings, artworks, stained glass and granite pillars of the Cathedral interior, they testify to the enduring mystery of the animal kingdom as well as our grief and worry about the phenomenon of extinction, which has sped up dramatically in our time.

There have been four Evensongs created and performed by Cathedral School students on *The Value of Food*. Third graders put together an evensong focused on endangered species, with particular emphasis on the moa. The moa’s only animal predator, the Haast eagle, also went extinct when its main food source was killed off. Students learned how the disappearance of one species has multiple cascading effects. The fourth grade led an evensong on food deserts, interviewing The Cathedral School’s Diversity Director, Dr. Worokya Duncan, about growing up in a neighborhood with few food choices. The sixth grade’s evensong took the form of a dialogue about GMOs, with the help of Upper School science teachers, Shawna Altdorf and Jonathan Pirnia. Music included “Blue Green Hills of Earth.” The seventh grade invited the artists of Fallen Fruit to speak about their installation and work.

The effects of the exhibition will be long lasting, as Cathedral educators incorporate kids’ interest in food, farms, animals and social justice into future lessons and workshops. Though the overall importance and relevance of food systems was not news to any of us, the exhibition has shown, once again, that the level of detail and imagination artists bring to familiar issues engenders surprise, delight, outrage and action.

Dean's Meditation: Divides

“It is impossible to struggle for civil rights, equal rights for blacks, without including whites. Because equal rights, fair play, justice, are all like the air: we all have it, or none of us has it. That is the truth of it.”

Maya Angelou

“The civil rights movement was based on faith. Many of us who were participants in this movement saw our involvement as an extension of our faith. We saw ourselves doing the work of the Almighty. Segregation and racial discrimination were not in keeping with our faith, so we had to do something.”

John Lewis

“You could not help but be heartbroken by their worries and their anxieties. Some of them are parents, and they talked about how their children were asking, ‘Are we going to be forced out of the country? Are we going to be rounded up? Why do people treat us like this?’ Conversations you shouldn't have to have with children. Not in this country.”

President Barack Obama, after a conversation with young Muslim community leaders

When National Public Radio's Arun Rath sat down with author Denise Spellberg to discuss her book *Thomas Jefferson's Quran: Islam and the Founders*, they began the conversation recalling that Jefferson's vast personal library reflected his genuine curiosity about the world. As a bibliophile, Jefferson ordered his Quran in 1765, when he was a law student, eleven years before he wrote the Declaration of Independence. Spellberg argues that Jefferson's Quran informed his ideas about plurality and religious freedom in the founding of America:

Europeans, and Americans after them, in this period tended to be quite hostile toward Islam. And yet Jefferson was curious about the religion and law of Muslims, and that's probably why he bought the Quran...Jefferson was unique in many ways. He criticized Islam as he did Christianity and Judaism. He talked about Islam as a religion that repressed scientific inquiry—a strange idea he got from Voltaire that wasn't right—but ... was able to separate his principles about Muslim religious liberty and civil rights from these inherited European prejudices about Islam.

In the interview, Spellberg drew parallels between the beliefs of that founding father and the religious tolerance that is foundational to the United States. Somehow Jefferson's conviction about universal civil rights would trump any anxiety about the specifics of the Muslim faith and would imagine the inclusion of Muslims:

He did the same thing when arguing for the inclusion of Catholics and Jews, actually. He had not very good things to say about either Catholicism or Judaism, but he insisted that these individual practitioners should have equal civil rights. ... [Jefferson] resisted the notion, for example, that Catholics were a threat to the United States because of their allegiance to the pope as a foreign power. There were many Protestants who would have disagreed with him about Catholics, and many who would have disagreed with him about Muslims.

To Jefferson, all these others were the outsiders, but including them was an expression of the depth of the new nation's commitment to toleration and rights. To include Muslims meant liberty to people of every faith, and to exclude them meant there would be no universal principle of civil rights for all believers in America. Ironically, Jefferson and Washington theorized about such a diverse population, but seemed not to realize that Muslims were already in America—slaves brought from West Africa:

We don't know how many were the first American Muslims; we think they numbered in the thousands or tens of thousands. And it's not impossible that Jefferson actually owned Muslim slaves from Africa, but there's no direct evidence of it. That's not the case for George Washington, his neighbor in Virginia...someone on his plantation listed the names of Fatimer and Little Fatimer. And despite being spelled with an 'er' at the end, this is clearly the name of the prophet's daughter Fatima. So there were Muslim women working on Washington's plantation at the same time he was inviting people of all faiths to a protected religious liberty and rights in the United States.

American Muslim history spans more than 400 years, with their first documented arrival in the 17th century as slaves from Africa. Some scholars estimate that as many as one third of those slaves were Muslims. Muslims of Spain and Portugal came to the Spanish colonies that are now part of this country, with another wave of Muslim immigrants beginning in the mid-19th century. From the late 19th century until the 1920s, mostly Arab Christians from Lebanon and Greater Syria arrived in the United States, but there were also some clusters of Muslims who settled in the Midwest. African-Americans reclaimed their African Islamic roots after the Great Migration to the North after World Wars I and II, and that re-emergence of African-American Islam continues to where African-American Muslims constitute roughly a third of the American Muslim population. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 brought a greater migration of Muslims, allowing highly-skilled professionals to enter the U.S, especially from the Middle East and South Asia, including India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

When President Barack Obama visited a mosque in Baltimore the first week of February, his objective was to recast what he said was a “warped image of Islam.” The President made his first visit to a United States mosque as, what he described as “inexcusable political rhetoric against Muslim-Americans” continued. Make no mistake about it: A 2016 Pew study found that some 3.3 million Muslim live in the United States and comprise about one percent of the total U.S. population. The President argued that they are essential to the fabric of America, warning again that focusing extra scrutiny on them serves only to amplify the messages used by terrorist groups to promote the idea that the U.S. is at war with the Muslim faith. Sounding a different note, he said:

Let me say as clearly as I can as President of the United States: you fit right here. You're right where you belong. You're part of America too. You're not Muslim or American. You're Muslim and American.

Obama is also a constitutional lawyer. So his demand that people of all faiths be accepted without bias into the United States is rooted in our founding document and based on careful study of this nation's laws. The President happens also to be a Christian. How odd that he continues to be described by some Americans as a Muslim—as recently as last September a CNN/ORC poll found that 29 percent of Americans still believed that Obama is a Muslim, including 43 percent of Republicans. As CNN reported on the day of that visit to the mosque, the President alluded to the conspiracy theories and rumors that plagued Thomas Jefferson, retorting, “I am not the first. I am in good company.” Obama argued that Americans should not be “bystanders to bigotry.” His argument went on to make the case that only by showing that America truly protects all faiths would we actually protect our country from terrorism. The trip coincided with an increase in vandalism at mosques and violence against Muslims entering and leaving their places of worship.

We should not forget Matt Apuzzo's co-authored series for the Associated Press, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 2012 for documenting how the New York City Police Department had spied on Muslims throughout the eastern United States. The NYPD monitored Muslim neighborhoods after the 9/11 attacks, including hundreds of mosques, businesses and Muslim student groups, which were not only investigated but also infiltrated. They deployed what were called “mosque crawlers,” as informants who monitored sermons. The NYPD scrutinized Imams, cab drivers and street vendors, with the help of the CIA—which is prohibited by law from spying on Americans. Apuzzo, speaking to Amy Goodman of *Democracy Now* said,

And remember, the recriminations and finger-pointing of 9/11 were really starting to happen. Everybody, rightly, was focused on how to prevent another attack. And the CIA didn't want to say no to New York, and they dispatched a senior officer to New York to basically be the NYPD's private liaison with the CIA. That opened the door to a relationship in which the CIA officer who was working there helped set up a lot of these programs, helped set up programs to be the eyes and—to have eyes and ears inside every Muslim community in the city.

What makes us safer: a diverse community that stands up for and respects each other, or a fragmented society of distrust and easily rationalized violence and oppression? In the Poets Corner, Langston Hughes, a great American artist, is memorialized in this Cathedral, with this vision:

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
“Eat in the kitchen,”
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—

I, too, am America.

Holy Week



PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

Every year, Holy Week reminds us of the most profound mystery of the Christian tradition. The Cathedral offers a journey in the steps of Christ, with eight very different services. Before Palm Sunday, the dozens of crosses in the Cathedral are veiled in deep burgundy. After the service, floral designers Chris Jobes

and Naomi Martin set up shop in one of the Chapels of the Tongues, spending days bringing in and arranging the glorious spring flowers that will fill the Cathedral on Easter Sunday.

Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the Holy Triduum, the three-day liturgical sequence that recalls the passion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the evening service clergy ceremonially wash congregants' feet and the altars are stripped, all the burgundy removed. When the lights come up, some worshippers remain for the annual reading of *The Inferno*, by Dante Alighieri, introduced by Poet in Residence Marilyn Nelson. This is a Poets Corner tradition that reminds us of what true darkness is, as well as, implicitly, in its glorious language, the light of creation. The reading goes late and is followed by a party in Cathedral House.

On Friday, the noon liturgy at the High Altar is a traditional Good Friday observance, using Victoria's Passion, sung by the Cathedral Choir, to tell the crucifixion story. At two pm, clergy

lead congregants through the weaving dance of the Stations of the Cross, with readings in Spanish and English, chanting and hymns. The participants begin in the narthex, move through twelve stations, and end in the Biblical Garden. In the evening, Choral Lamentations features the Cathedral Choir.

On Saturday, the Cathedral is busy with volunteers placing the flowers that will remain shadowed (the Cathedral lit only by candles) until the lights come up, halfway through the Saturday night Great Vigil service. The service begins, “In the darkness, fire is kindled.” In the Cathedral, this moment is especially beautiful, the stone and vastness recalling the great European churches, while the service itself dates back to the 4th century. The Very Reverend James A. Kowalski, Dean of the Cathedral, preaches.

On Sunday between 11am and 1pm, for the Festal Eucharist of Easter Day, the Cathedral is full of celebrants singing hymns and joining in prayer. The Right Reverend Andrew ML Dietsche, Bishop of New York, preaches.

Spring events 2016

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Services

8 am Morning Prayer & Holy Eucharist
9 am Holy Eucharist
11 am Choral Eucharist
4 pm Choral Evensong

Daily Services

Monday–Saturday
8 am Morning Prayer
8:30 am Holy Eucharist (Tuesday & Thursday only)
12:15 pm Holy Eucharist
5 pm Evening Prayer

TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS

Tickets for all performances other than free or “suggested contribution” events may be purchased directly from the Cathedral’s website, stjohndivine.org, or by calling (866) 811-4111.

Your contributions make it possible for the Cathedral to offer the many programs listed below. Please fill out the enclosed envelope.

Please visit the Cathedral’s website, stjohndivine.org or call the Visitor Center (212) 316-7540 for updates and additional event and tour information.

Don’t forget to follow the Cathedral on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

ONGOING PROGRAMS, TOURS, WORKSHOPS

The Great Organ: Midday Monday

Cathedral organists provide a 30-minute break for mind, body and spirit at 1:00 pm with an entertaining and informative demonstration of the Cathedral’s unparalleled Great Organ.

The Great Organ: It’s Sunday

The Great Organ: It’s Sunday invites established and emerging organists from across the U.S. and around the world to take their turn at the Great Organ and present a free 5:15 pm concert.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & VISITOR SERVICES TOURS AND CHILDREN’S WORKSHOP

Public Education & Visitor Services offers Cathedral Highlights, Vertical, and Spotlight Tours. All tours meet for registration at the Visitor Center inside the Cathedral entrance, at 112th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Highlights Tours: \$12 per person, \$10 per student/senior. Vertical Tours: \$20 per person, \$18 per student/senior. Spotlight Tours: \$15 per person, \$12 per student/senior.

Highlights Tours

Mondays, 11 am–Noon & 2–3 pm
Tuesdays–Saturdays, 11 am–Noon & 1 pm–2 pm
Select Sundays, 1 pm–2 pm

Explore the many highlights of the Cathedral’s history, architecture, and artwork, from the Great Bronze Doors to the seven Chapels of the Tongues. Learn about the Cathedral’s services, events, and programs that welcome and inspire visitors from around the world. \$12 per person, \$10 per student/senior. No prior reservation necessary. Meet at Visitor Center.

Vertical Tours

Wednesdays & Fridays, Noon–1pm;
Saturdays, Noon–1 pm & 2 pm–3 pm

On this adventurous, “behind-the-scenes” tour, climb more than 124 feet through spiral staircases to the top of the world’s largest cathedral. The tour culminates on the roof with a wonderful view of Manhattan. \$17 per person, \$15 per student/senior. All participants must be 12 years of age and older and reservations are recommended. For reservations visit the Cathedral website or call (866) 811-4111. Bring a flashlight and bottle of water. Meet at Visitor Center.

Spotlight Tours

Select Saturdays and Sundays

Spotlight Tours are specially created by Cathedral Guides to give visitors a closer look at unique aspects of the Cathedral’s extraordinary architecture, artwork, and history. \$15 per person, \$12 per student/senior, unless otherwise noted. Space is limited and reservations are recommended. Meet at Visitor Center.

Textile Treasures

Select Fridays, 2 pm–4 pm

Explore the Cathedral’s magnificent art collection with a special focus on textiles! \$20 per person, \$15 per student/senior. Space is limited to 20 people 12 years of age and older. Meet at Visitor Center.

Medieval Birthday Parties

Saturdays & Sundays, by availability

Celebrate your child’s birthday with a two-hour party in the Medieval Arts Workshop, where children sculpt gargoyles, weave, make brass rubbings, carve a block of limestone, and much more! For children ages 5 & up. Call the Public Education & Visitor Services Department at (212) 932-7347 for more information and reservations.

NIGHTWATCH

Knightwatch Medieval, the Cathedral’s exciting and imaginative sleepover for kids ages 6–12 and their adult chaperones, returns this season! In addition, the Knightwatch Crossroads series offers two exciting and innovative programs, a Christian-themed and Interspiritual overnight for youths exploring their spirituality. For more information visit stjohndivine.org or contact: (212) 316-7518 / nightwatch@stjohndivine.org.

ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN TRUST (A.C.T.)

To learn about the many nurturing year-round programs for young people offered by A.C.T., please call (212) 316-7530 or visit www.actprograms.org.

Children’s Quest Fund

Help us to invite children from many countries, religions and economic levels under the shadow of the beloved Cathedral. Please send donations to the Cathedral, designated “A.C.T.’s Children’s Quest Fund.”

Divine Saturday Celebrations

Celebrate good times with ACT’s new and improved Divine Saturday Celebrations, with a variety of birthday activities for kids to enjoy! It’s a great time for parents and children alike. Speak to a party manager for details at (212) 316-7530.

CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY CARES (CCC)

All programs meet in the CCC office, the Sunday Soup Kitchen or the Cathedral A.C.T. gym unless otherwise specified. Please visit stjohndivine.org for more information on CCC programs.

Nutrition, Health and Clothing Center

The Center hosts monthly HIV testing (in partnership with Care for the Homeless), as well as blood pressure, heart health, diabetes, and other screenings throughout the course of the year. Please visit our website for upcoming screening dates. Contact: Lauren Phillips, Director, (212) 316-7581.

Clothing Closet

Gently used men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing can be donated to the CCC office Monday through Friday 10am–5pm. Tax receipts available upon request. Contact: Lauren Phillips, Director, (212) 316-7581.

Sunday Soup Kitchen

Every Sunday in the A.C.T. gym.
Breakfast, 10 am; Lunch, 12:30 pm
Contact: Thomas Perry, Food Program Manager,
(212) 316-7579 (T/W/Th after 12 noon)

SNAP/Food Stamps Program

(in partnership with the Human Resources Administration, The Food Bank for New York City, New York City Coalition Against Hunger, and Columbia University-SHOUT) Tuesdays and Wednesdays (by appointment only) Pre-screening and, if eligible, help with online applications and recertification is available. Contact: Lauren Phillips, Director, (212) 316-7581.

March

SELECTED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, March 4, 6:30 pm

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian is a Friday evening and overnight spiritual retreat for middle and high school age students, youth groups and their adult chaperones. Your group will have the opportunity to unplug from the distractions and stresses of daily life and connect with the wisdom teachings of Jesus in this Christian-focused program. Tickets are \$85.00 per person. For more information call (212) 316-7518 or email nightwatch@stjohndivine.org.

Transitional Deaconate Ordinations

Saturday, March 5, 10:30 am

Visit dioceseny.org for information.

Cathedral Explorers: Food’s Footprints

Saturday, March 5, 2 pm

Think creatively about small steps to cut down on food waste. View artwork in *The Value of Food* to see how artists conserve resources. Open to participants ages 7–12. \$10 per child with accompanying adult.

Working Theater: To The Bone

Monday, March 7, 7:30 pm

Working Theater presents a reading of Lisa Ramirez’s *To The Bone*, a contemporary drama providing a close-up look into the lives of Central American food workers.

The Value of Food: Fred Bahnson

Thursday, March 10, 7 pm

Theologian Fred Bahnson, author of *Soil and Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith*, speaks about finding God in food, gardening and community agriculture. Bahnson will be joined in dialogue with Shamu Sadeh, Director of Adamah, a Jewish educational farm.

Super Seeds Children’s Workshop

Saturday, March 12, 10 am

Get ready for spring as we investigate how tiny seeds grow into the food we eat. See the artwork in *The Value of Food* and be inspired to create your own seed collages, decorate seed packets, design a garden plant matching game, and more! Recommended for children ages 4–8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival.

Brilliant Walls of Light

Saturday, March 12, 10:30 am

Ascend over 100 feet of spiral stairs for a closer look at the Cathedral’s beautiful narrative and geometric windows. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko. Participants must be 12 years of age and older.

Food and Culture: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Saturday, March 12, 11 am

Spend some time inside focusing on *The Value of Food* exhibit and the Chapels of the Tongues, each dedicated to one of New York City’s major immigrant groups at the time of the Cathedral’s construction. Then venture into the neighborhood, exploring examples of the different cultural communities that have made Morningside Heights their home. The tour will conclude at a local eatery. \$15 per adult. \$12 per senior/student.

With Angels and Archangels: Spotlight on Angelic Images

Saturday, March 12, 2:30 pm

Discover images of angels in the Cathedral’s glass and stone. The tour concludes with an ascent to the triforium for a birds-eye view of the breathtaking Archangels Window. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek. \$15 per person, \$12 per senior/student.

Great Choir: Bach, Vivaldi, and Schütz

Tuesday, March 15, 7:30 pm

Great Music in a Great Space presents three heart-wrenching pieces of Lenten music from the Baroque, conducted by Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music.

Celebrating Nowruz: An Evening of Spiritual Nourishment

Wednesday, March 16, 7 pm

Amir Vahab & Ensemble return to the Cathedral with a performance in celebration of Nowruz. Nowruz, a New Year tradition celebrated for over 3,000 years, includes the setting of a symbolic table for a spiritual meal, and touches on many of the themes explored in *The Value of Food*.

An Evening with Catherine Flowers and Karenna Gore

Thursday, March 17, 7 pm

Join activists Catherine Flowers and Karenna Gore for a stirring discussion of the impact of waste on rural and urban communities.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Interspiritual

Friday, March 18, 6:30 pm

This Interspiritual retreat is an inclusive program created for middle and high school age youths of all faiths, exploring music, spiritual disciplines, stories and wisdom from a variety of the world’s religious traditions, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity. Tickets are \$85.00 per person. For more information call (212) 316-7518 or email nightwatch@stjohndivine.org.

May

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Saturday, May 1, 1 pm

Please see details for March 19.

Creating and Constructing Children's Workshop

Saturday, May 7, 10 am

Think like an architect in the world's largest cathedral! Consider the roles of structure, utility, and beauty as you explore arches, symbols, and stained glass windows. Recommended for children ages 4–8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival.

Within the Walls: Exploring Hidden Spaces

Saturday, May 7, 10:30 am and 1 pm

This extended vertical tour features “behind-the-scenes” climbs in both the eastern and western ends of the Cathedral. Participants are responsible for carrying all belongings throughout the tour. Photography is welcome, though tripod use during the tour is prohibited. If you have concerns regarding claustrophobia, vertigo, or a medical condition, please call (212) 932-7347 before purchasing tickets. Must be 12 years of age or older. Flashlight and bottle of water recommended. \$25 per person, \$20 per student/senior.

Secrets of St. John the Divine: Spotlight on Hidden Images

Saturday, May 7, 2:30 pm

What are a stripper and the signs of the zodiac doing in our stained glass windows? Find out on this tour that puts the spotlight on surprising images in glass and stone. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

Enter the Conversation: The Dawning Moon of the Mind

Tuesday, May 10, 7 pm

Dean Kowalski welcomes Professor Robert Thurman, renowned authority on world religions and Tibetan Buddhist philosophy, and author Susan Brind Morrow, for an in-depth exploration of Morrow's radical new translation of the 4,000 year old Pyramid Texts, *The Dawning Moon of the Mind*.

Diocesan Confirmations

Saturday, May 14, 10:30 am

Visit diocesenyc.org for information.

Gateway to the New Jerusalem: Spotlight on the Iconography of the West Front

Saturday, May 14, 10:30 am

This tour introduces the interplay of modern and medieval motifs in the sculpture of John Angel and Simon Verity. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, May 20, 6:30 pm

Please see details for March 2.

Medieval Arts Children's Workshop

Saturday, May 21, 10 am

In this signature workshop, children carve a block of limestone, create medieval illuminated letters, design gargoyles, weave, and more! Recommended for children ages 4–8 years old. \$8 per child, with accompanying adult. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday, May 29, 1 pm

Please see details for March 19.

Memorial Day Concert

Monday, May 30, 8 pm

The New York Philharmonic presents the first in their series of free summer concerts at the Cathedral, one of our most cherished signature events. Tickets for seating are provided on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the performance. The audio of the performance will also be broadcast onto the adjacent Pulpit Green, weather permitting.

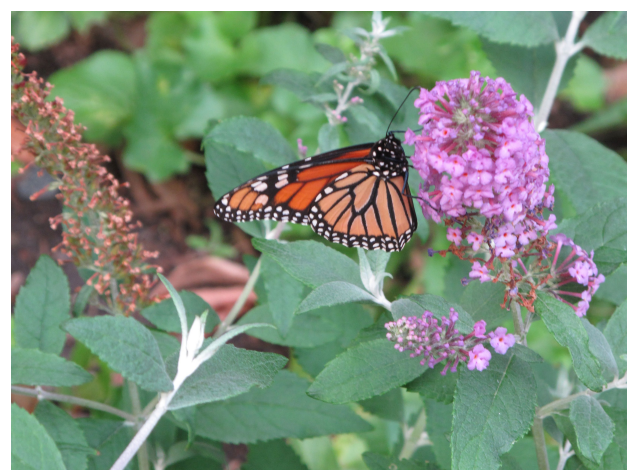


PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Saturday, March 19, 1 pm

Go back in time on an illustrated walking tour of Morningside Heights and its historic architecture and institutions. The tour begins at the Cathedral and ends at Riverside Church. Led by Cathedral Guide Bill Schneberger. \$25 per person, \$20 per student/senior. All participants must be 12 years of age or older and reservations are recommended. This tour requires extensive outdoor walking and use of stairs.

Easter Eggstravaganza Children's Workshop

Saturday, March 19, 10 am and 2 pm

Join us for our popular, annual egg workshop! Children can create colorful patterns on their eggs with tissue paper, glitter, glue, and paint, and build a nest for decorated eggs with twigs, feathers, and clay. Please bring two hard-boiled eggs per child. Recommended for children ages 4–8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult.

OBSERVING THE SEASON: HOLY WEEK SERVICES Palm Sunday, March 20

9 am Blessing of the Palms & Eucharist

11 am Blessing of the Palms & Eucharist

4 pm Choral Evensong

Holy Monday, March 21

7 pm Eucharist

Holy Tuesday, March 23

10:30 am Chrism & Collegiality Eucharist

(with Diocese of New York)

7 pm Eucharist

Holy Wednesday, March 23

7 pm Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, March 24

7 pm Eucharist

9 pm The Reading of Dante's Inferno

Poets, translators and critics present an all-night reading from Dante's legendary journey.

10 pm All Night Vigil with the Congregation of Saint Saviour

Good Friday, March 25

12 pm Liturgy with Choir

2 pm Stations of the Cross

7 pm Choral Laments with Music

Holy Saturday, March 26

7 pm Easter Vigil

Easter Day, March 27

8 am Holy Eucharist

11 am Festal Eucharist

4 pm Evensong

Evening of Witness

Thursday, March 31, 7 pm

The closing event of *The Value of Food* will feature authors and activists Raj Patel, Anna Lappé, Lucas Benitez, Greg Asbed, Bill Ayers, and more, plus jazz composer David Amram and other musical guests.

April

Textile Treasures Tour

Friday, April 1, 2 pm

Go behind the scenes at the Cathedral's world-renowned Textile Conservation Lab. Particular attention will be paid to the Acts of the Apostles tapestries, based on cartoons by Raphael, and the Barberini collection of the Life of Christ tapestries. \$20 per person, \$15 per student/senior. Space is limited to 20 people 12 years of age or older.

Unfinished Symphony: Spotlight on Architecture

Saturday, April 2, 10:30 am

Explore the architectural styles within the Cathedral and the saga of its still-unfinished construction. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

Food and Culture: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Saturday, April 2, 11 am

Please see details for March 12.

Focus on Food Family Festival

Saturday, April 2, 1 pm

Join us for a family-friendly afternoon of crafts and special events to celebrate the conclusion of *The Value of Food*!

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday, April 3, 1 pm

Please see details for March 19.

Great Organ: Mahler's 8th Symphony

Thursday, April 7, 7:30 pm

In the place of an orchestra, this reprise of Mahler's astounding 8th Symphony from earlier in the 2015-16 season of Great Music in a Great Space will feature the world premiere of a new organ transcription by David Briggs. Conducted by Kent Tritle, the Cathedral Choristers will be joined by the Manhattan School of Music Symphony and Symphonic Chorus and the Oratorio Society of New York in a breathtaking collaboration.

Wonderful Weavings Children's Workshop

Saturday, April 9, 10 am

Learn how to craft a handmade loom, then make your own tapestry using medieval weaving techniques! Recommended for children ages 4–8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival.

I Love NY: Spotlight on the City

Saturday, April 9, 10:30 am

Celebrate New York City and its indomitable spirit with a special tour of the Cathedral. Learn how the Cathedral and City serve as places of diversity, tolerance, and human achievement. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko. \$15 per person, \$12 per senior/student.

Enter the Conversation: Krista Tippett

Wednesday, April 13, 7 pm

Krista Tippett, Peabody Award-winning broadcaster and host of NPR's *On Being*, will join the Very Reverend Dr. James A. Kowalski for a talk and conversation based on her new book, *Being Wise*.

Knightwatch Medieval

Friday, April 15, 6:30 pm

Knightwatch returns! Guests will be transported back in time to the age of medieval storybook kings, jesters, princesses and knights in this imaginative overnight experience, designed for children ages 6–12 and their adult chaperones. For pricing, FAQs and more information, visit stjohndivine.org.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday, April 17, 1 pm

Please see details for March 19.

Great Organ: Raymond Nagem

Tuesday, April 19, 7:30 pm

Raymond Nagem, Associate Organist of St. John the Divine, showcases organ music from Germany in a program ranging from J.S. Bach's fiery Toccata in F Major to Paul Hindemith's elegiac Third Sonata. The second half of the program is devoted to Sigfrid Karg-Elert's magnificent—and rarely played—Organ Symphony.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Interspiritual

Friday, April 22, 6:30 pm

Please see details for March 18.

Medieval Games Children's Workshop

Saturday, April 23, 10 am

What did people do for fun in the Middle Ages? Children will discover where sports are featured in the Cathedral, learn to play games, and create toys that were popular in Medieval Europe, as well as create their own heraldic coat of arms. Recommended for children ages 4–8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival.

Textile Treasures Tour

Friday, April 29, 2 pm

Please see details for April 1.

Knightwatch Medieval

Friday, April 29, 6:30 pm

Please see details for April 15.

Blessing of the Bicycles

Saturday, April 30, 9:30 am

A Cathedral tradition, this special blessing ceremony, open to all, celebrates the lives of bike riders and cycling in its many forms.

The American Poets Corner: Edna St. Vincent Millay

SONG OF A SECOND APRIL

April this year, not otherwise
Than April of a year ago,
Is full of whispers, full of sighs,
Of dazzling mud and dingy snow;
Hepaticas that pleased you so
Are here again, and butterflies.

There rings a hammering all day,
And shingles lie about the doors;
In orchards near and far away
The grey wood-pecker taps and bores;
The men are merry at their chores,
And children earnest at their play.

The larger streams run still and deep,
Noisy and swift the small brooks run
Among the mullein stalks the sheep
Go up the hillside in the sun,
Pensively,—only you are gone,
You that alone I cared to keep.

Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892–1950),
inducted into The American Poets Corner in 2000

The Cathedral appreciates the generosity of the Drue Heinz Trust and Mrs. Edward T. Chase, whose support ensures that poetry continues to be an important part of arts at the Cathedral.



PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

Evening of Witness

The closing event of the exhibition *The Value of Food: Sustaining a Green Planet*, on March 31, will be a tour de force of performance, music and dialogue, rousing us to action in behalf of one of the most important issues of our time: nutritious food, sustainably and equitably produced, distributed, cooked and shared. The evening is being curated by Anna Lappé, founding principal of the Small Planet Institute, current head of the Real Food Media Project, and author of many books, including *Diet for a Hot Planet: The Climate Crisis at the End of Your Fork and What You Can Do About It* (Bloomsbury 2010). Joining Anna Lappé will be author and activist Raj Patel; co-founders of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Lucas Benitez and Greg Asbed; musical guests including David Amram and Kewulay Kamara; and many more thinkers, organizers and food advocates. Please check our website for details.

Looking Back



The Cathedral's Christmas crèche greets seasonal visitors.
PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

After an unseasonably warm December (no jacket needed for the Christmas Eve Festal Eucharist!), winter settled in with a snowy vengeance, bidding us take shelter indoors, hold off the dark with art and music, and share meals newly inspired by *The Value of Food* exhibition and ancillary programming.

The weekend of December 4–6, the annual **Cathedral Craft Fair** was exceptionally stunning this year; we are sure there were many happy people opening Christmas and Hanukkah gifts, courtesy of the Fair's fine crafters. On December 5, Public Education and Visitor Services (PEVS) offered **Made with Love: A Children's Holiday Workshop** and **Table Talk**, an opportunity for children to observe **Tom Otterness'** sculpture, *The Tables* (see EDUCATION).

From Paris to New York: A People's Vigil for Preventing Climate Change with **Food & Water Watch**, on December 9, was a rousing, eloquent evening, with representatives from many organizations offering crucial information and inspiring continued activism. **Wenonah Hauser**, Director, Food and Water Watch, who spoke to assembled guests from Paris, was recently praised by Ralph Nader as one of "12 People Who Made a Difference" (*Huffington Post*, January 8, 2016).

Early Music New York, with **Frederick Renz**, December 5, 6, 20, and 25, presented **New World Christmas, Navidad en Latinoamérica**. Religious songs for Spain and Mexico's cathedrals were interspersed with instrumental and vocal chanzonetas, vilancicos, coloquios and andensaladas, with guitar tablatures of indigenous dances by **Santiago de Murcia**.

The annual **Cathedral Christmas Concert**, December 12, put us all in the festive spirit. The combined Cathedral Choirs, Orchestra and soloists **Amy Justman**, **Jamet Pittman**, **Michele Kennedy**, **Katie Geissinger**, **Kirsten Sollek**, **Marc Day**, and **Hans Tashjian** performed **J.S. Bach's** beloved *Magnificat* and carols by **Benjamin Britten**, **John Rutter** and **Gregg Smith**. Cathedral Director of Music **Kent Tritle** conducted.

While the weather was closer to May than December, the 36th annual **Winter Solstice Celebration** was celebrated December 17–19. The concert featured the **Paul Winter Consort** with special guests Brazilian singer/guitarist **Renato Braz** and gospel singer **Theresa Thomason**.

The **New Year's Eve Concert for Peace**, founded by Leonard Bernstein in 1984, gathered old friends and new. **The Reverend Canon Victoria Sirota** wrote the text and her husband **Robert Sirota** composed and performed the piano part for a beautiful new work, **Prelude and Spiritual for Mother Emanuel**, honoring those who were murdered at the Emanuel African Methodist Church in Charleston, SC, June 17, 2015. The concert, hosted by **Harry Smith**, featured guest **Judy Collins**. **Jamet Pittman** and **Gregory Purnhagen** were soloists and Kent Tritle conducted the orchestra and choir.



The New Year's Eve Concert for Peace rang in 2016 with a bevy of special guests, including Jason Robert Brown on piano.
PHOTO: Helena Kubicka de Bragança

On January 6, Adults and Children in Trust (A.C.T.) held their 45th annual **Winter Family Festival!** The afternoon featured games, crafts, giveaways, and tours of the A.C.T. facilities for parents interested in enrolling their children.

On January 13, a **Visual Thinking Strategies Salon** offered a chance to look at selected artworks from *The Value of Food* exhibition with new eyes, hosted by VTS National Program Director **Amy Chase Gulden**.

On Martin Luther King Sunday, January 17, the **Martin Luther King Choral Eucharist** included readings from Dr. King's speeches and other writings as well as musical selections curated by Director of Music Kent Tritle. **Dr. Robert Carey** preached. Dr. Carey, graduate of Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University, Professor of Historical Studies, SUNY/Empire State College, worked in Dr. King's Ebenezer Baptist Church as an assistant pastor from 1963–1965 (see AMERICAN HISTORY: BLACK & WHITE). **A Spiritual Sing with Alice Parker**, choral conductor, educator and Artistic Director, **Melodious Accord**, took place that afternoon in the Chapel of St. James.

On January 24, **The Diocesan Treble Choir Festival**, under the combined direction of Kent Tritle, Malcolm J. Merriweather, Melissa Attebury and Raymond Nagem, filled the Cathedral with joyous music. The Choir performed **C.S. Lang's Evening Canticles "Canon Service"**; **Maurice Greene's "O Praise the Lord"**; **C.V. Stanford's "Psalm 150"**; and **Bob Chilcott's "Mid-Winter."**

In January and February, The Congregation of Saint Saviour offered a four-session interactive workshop, **Confronting the Demon: Racism, Power & Privilege** in America in January and February (see AMERICAN HISTORY: BLACK & WHITE).

On January 28, urban farmer **Karen Washington** and a diverse panel of gardeners, agriculturalists, and heirloom horticulturists (**Owen Taylor**, **Ken Greene**, **Onika Abraham**, **Chris Bolden Newsome**, **Kirrina Baxter**) presented **Cultivating Tradition: A Seed Saving Workshop**. Seed saving is a traditional method of harvesting seeds for the next growing season, retaining biodiversity and protecting plant variety.



Karen Washington and a panel of farming educators made the Cultivating Tradition workshop a rousing success.
PHOTO: Valeria Jara

January 30 brought a special children's event: **The Art of the Pie: Scott's Pizza Workshop**, offered by **Scott Wiener**, founder and owner of **Scott's Pizza Tours**. Scott gave a short introduction to the history of pizza, including a slideshow of pizza box designs from his own *Guinness Book of World Records* title-holding collection. Then it was into the kitchen for all participants to make individual pizzas and design their own pizza box. Much fun was had by all!



Led by Scott Wiener, the Art of the Pie Workshop participants turned out a huge variety of delicious pizzas.
PHOTO: Valeria Jara

On February 13, the Cathedral community and the Diocese of New York celebrated a special Eucharist commemorating **Absalom Jones**, abolitionist and the first African-American ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church of the United States.

Finally, the clients, volunteers, and staff at **Cathedral Community Cares** thank the Congregation of Saint Savior, the Laymen's Club, Close staff, Morningside Heights neighbors, Federation for Protestant Welfare Agencies, Columbia Community Service, the students and parents at Trinity School, New York Cares, and Young and Rubicam Group for their donations over the winter season, which enabled CCC to give away more than 300 toys, 200 coats, and countless clothing items to our neighbors. Special thanks are given to the students and parents from the Cathedral School, whose Thanksgiving canned food drive and winter donations made the holiday seasons special for the families visiting CCC.

Looking Ahead

In winter, bright color on the Close is confined to peacocks' tails, children's faces and the occasional visitor or staff member in a striking coat. In spring, the whites, grays and browns give way to a riot of tulips and daffodils, the pastels of flowering trees and the vivid green of new leaves. The warm days make us linger outdoors as the **Cathedral Gardens Conservancy**, under the guidance of Cathedral gardener Marilyn Budzanofski, plant, water and weed; maintenance gets out its mowers; and the returning birds build nests for the year's crop of fledglings. Humans and animals have been sharing this dance for tens of thousands of years: very little that we value (food, faith, clothing, beauty, buildings, companionship) is new. Yet spring and the miracle of Holy Week remind us that it is always new for us; that our precious lives pass all too quickly, and the first thing on our calendar, to-do list, or internal monologue should be celebration for what we have been given.

On March 4, **Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian** begins its spring season. Particularly suitable for this time of year, the Friday evening and overnight spiritual retreat for middle and high school age students, youth groups and their adult chaperones, focuses primarily on the wisdom teachings of Jesus.

Working Theater will present a reading of **Lisa Ramirez's *To The Bone***, a contemporary drama providing a close-up look into the lives of Central American food workers, on March 7. The play asks questions about equality and justice through five female characters whose migration to the U.S. brings hardship and struggle. Researching the play, Ramirez spent six months interviewing immigrant poultry workers in the Catskills.

On March 15, Great Music in a Great Space presents **Great Choir: Bach, Vivaldi, and Schütz**. The program includes *Musikalische Exequien* by **Heinrich Schütz**; *Stabat Mater* by **Antonio Vivaldi**; and *Bach's Christ lag in Todesbanden, BWV 4*. Soloists: **Amy Justman** and **Michele Kennedy**, sopranos; **Katie Geissinger** and **Kirsten Sollek**, mezzo-sopranos; **Michael Steinberger** and **Marc Day**, tenors; **Malcolm J. Merriweather** and **Peter Stewart**, baritones. Kent Tritle conducts.

On March 16, **Amir Vahab & Ensemble** will return to the Cathedral (after 2014's very successful concert) with **Celebrating Nowruz: An Evening of Spiritual Nourishment**. Vahab, an acclaimed composer/singer of Sufi and folk music (who sings in eleven languages), weaves the poetry of Hafiz and Rumi with lyrics and melodies from a number of Middle Eastern countries and traditions. "Sufism mostly focuses on global and universal ethics. It is not limited to one religion or one faith... that's the beauty of it," said the composer. Nowruz, which falls on the spring solstice, is the Iranian New Year, which has been celebrated for 3,000 years. Nowruz originated in the rituals of the Zoroastrian religion, but today is celebrated by a number of faiths, as well as secular society, in Iran, Iraq, India, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. The Ensemble, which features a rotating group of over 40 people from musicians of diverse national and ethnic backgrounds, was formed in 1981, when Amir moved to New York from Paris. His first concert in NYC was at the Cathedral that same year.

March 18, **Nightwatch Crossroads: Interspiritual** offers an overnight spiritual retreat for middle and high school age students, youth groups and their adult chaperones. The Interspiritual retreat is an inclusive program created for youth of all faiths. It explores music, spiritual disciplines, stories and wisdom from a variety of the world's religious traditions, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity.



Poet in Residence Marilyn Nelson at the reading of Dante's *Inferno*.
PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld

Holy Week starts March 20 with three Palm Sunday services, the **Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist** at 9 and 11 am and a **Palm Sunday Evensong** at 4 pm. On the 21st, 22nd and 23rd, the Cathedral offers a meditative spoken Eucharist at 7 pm in the Chapel of St. Martin. **The Maundy Thursday**

Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar takes place at 7 pm, and is followed by the annual reading of selections from **The Inferno** of **Dante Alighieri**. This annual event gathers old friends and new to be dazzled by the vivid imagery and unforgettable stories of one of the great poems of the Western tradition. Selected cantos are read by guests, distinguished poets, eminent translators, visiting scholars and Dante enthusiasts in the Crossing. After the reading, participants raise a glass to literature and fellowship. **Good Friday** offers the **Good Friday Liturgy** and **Choral Lamentations** (see HOLY WEEK article) in preparation for the **Great Vigil of Easter** on Saturday and the **Easter Sunday** morning service.

On March 31, **Evening of Witness** will be the closing event of **The Value of Food: Sustaining a Green Planet** (see EVENING OF WITNESS box). The exhibition has been a rousing success, bringing visitors of all ages, sparking questions, raising awareness, and fulfilling the mission of the Cathedral: to bring the important conversations of our time under its roof.



Great Music in a Great Space raises the roof with the reprise of Mahler's *Symphony No. 8*.
PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld

On April 7, Great Music in a Great Space reprises **Mahler's *Symphony No. 8*** from February. In the place of an orchestra, this performance will feature the world premiere of a new organ transcription by **David Briggs** with the choruses of **Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus**; **Oratorio Society of New York**; **The Cathedral Choristers of St. John the Divine**; and the **Manhattan School of Music Symphony**. Soloists: **Sara Murphy**, mezzo-soprano; **Adam Lau**, bass; **John Tiranno**, tenor; **Angel Azzarra**, soprano; **Bryn Holdsworth**, soprano; **Jana McIntyre**, soprano; **Noragh Devlin**, mezzo-soprano; and **Tim Murray**, baritone. Kent Tritle conducts.

On April 13th, **Krista Tippet**, the host of PRI's "On Being," will join the Dean for an evening conversation. Tippet is a Peabody Award-winning broadcaster and *New York Times* bestselling author. In 2014, she received the National Humanities Medal at the White House for "thoughtfully delving into the mysteries of human existence." The West Coast-based Tippet's new book is ***Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*** (Penguin Press, 2016) and this event is one of only two New York appearances she'll make this spring.

Knightwatch Medieval returns on April 15 (see box). This imaginative overnight experience, designed for children ages 6–12 and their adult chaperones, takes guests back in time to the age of medieval storybook kings, jesters, princesses and knights, a fitting time period for the delightfully gothic setting of the Cathedral.

Cathedral assistant organist **Raymond Nagem** performs on the Great Organ, showcasing organ music from Germany, on April 19. The program includes **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**, *Overture to *Die Zauberflöte**; **Paul Hindemith**, *Sonata III*; **Johann Sebastian Bach**, *Toccatto in F Major*; and **Sigfrid Karg-Elert**, *Symphony for Organ in F-sharp Minor, Op. 143*.

Earth Day, April 22, is especially hopeful this year, with the successful **2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris** behind us. Our vision of the future is one of renewable energy, innovation, more equitable economic systems, and redoubled efforts to make global agriculture both sustainable for the planet and sustaining to a growing population.

On May 10, the Dean welcomes author **Susan Brind Morrow** and **Robert Thurman**, world renowned authority on religion, for an exploration of Morrow's new translation of one of the world's earliest, most complex bodies of writing, *The Dawning Moon of Mind: Unlocking the Pyramid Texts*.

On May 30, the annual **Memorial Day Concert** brings the glorious sounds of the **Philharmonic Orchestra** to the Cathedral—inside and outside—with a program of **Sibelius, *Symphony No. 7*** and **Brahms, *Symphony No. 2***. **Alan Gilbert** conducts. This cherished annual event, with music flowing through the Cathedral and out onto the newly-verdant Pulpit Green, heralds the beginning of long, warm evenings spent out of doors, enjoying the best the Cathedral and city have to offer.

Knightwatch Medieval Returns

Knightwatch Medieval is a series of imaginative overnight experiences designed for children ages 6–12 and their adult chaperones. This sleepover program offers a unique blend of education, fun and fantasy. Guests are transported back in time to the age of medieval storybook kings, jesters, princesses and knights. Within the walls of the candlelit Cathedral, participants engage in an interactive play and scavenger hunt, learn period dances and make clay gargoyles. A swordplay workshop (with safe foam swords) introduces young knights and warrior maidens to the fun of conquering foes. At the close of the evening, the whole group rolls out their sleeping bags on comfortable cots and falls asleep to the tales told by our resident storyteller under the protective arches of the Nave.

The Blessing of the Bicycles

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Every spring, the Cathedral holds its annual Blessing of the Bicycles. The tradition started in 1999, and has since spread to many other cities, including Los Angeles, Toronto and Melbourne, Australia. According to *The New York Times* (May 16, 1999), the first ceremony "was organized jointly by two rival bike clubs, the Five-Borough Bike Club and the New York Cycle Club, as a kind of good will gesture." The Very Reverend Harry S. Pritchett, Dean of the Cathedral, read Ezekiel 1:21: "When the living creatures moved, the wheels moved beside them; and when the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose. Wherever the spirit would go, they went and the wheels rose along with them; for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels."

In recent years Glen Goldstein, owner of Bike Shows USA, has done more than anyone to promote and organize the event. "It's the one day where we don't protest, we don't sign petitions," said Goldstein in an interview with Leslie Albrecht of DNAinfo. "I'm in favor of that stuff, but not on this day. It's a day to be together, then we'll go back to fighting the fights."

The bicycle has inspired many encomiums, including this one by Susan B. Anthony (whose likeness is carved into the Historic Parapet inside the Cathedral), "Let me tell you what I think of bicycling. I think it has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. It gives women a feeling of freedom and self-reliance. I stand and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel...the picture of free, untrammelled womanhood."

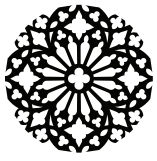
We forget what a difference it made in the 19th century for a woman to have her own transportation. Working women did not earn very much, certainly not enough to keep a horse or ride a train very often, and walking any distance was time-consuming and often dangerous. But Anthony is also talking about how it feels to ride a bike, and how that translates into a sense of expanding potential—something anyone who remembers a first bicycle in the days when children were allowed to explore their neighborhoods without oversight will understand.



PHOTO: Hal Weiner

Riding a bike in 21st century New York City doesn't produce quite the same effect. Yet bicycles are becoming more integrated into city life, with more bike lanes and the triumph of Citi Bikes, the world largest bike-sharing program, whose bikes were rented more than 10 million times in 2015.

At the Cathedral, we love the environmental gentleness of bicycles, their fitness benefits, relative safety and how they balance the need for speed and the thrill of being directly in the world. Ernest Hemingway (1899–1961), inducted into the American Poets Corner in 1996, wrote, "It is by riding a bicycle that you learn the contours of a country best, since you have to sweat up the hills and coast down them. Thus you remember them as they actually are, while in a motor car only a high hill impresses you, and you have no such accurate remembrance of country you have driven through as you gain by riding a bicycle."



The Cathedral
Church of **Saint John**
the **Divine**

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Spring 2016 at the Cathedral

Why Do We Have Cathedrals?

SALLY BENNER, VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT & STRATEGY

It's not easy to describe the Cathedral to someone who's never been here. I suspect that, like me, you struggle to put its vastness and variety into words. My fallback is to say, "You have to experience it for yourself; come see it."

In this issue you've read about the Cathedral's heritage as a stage for performing arts. Going back many centuries, it would be common for a Cathedral—the central place of a town's gathering—to be a place where allegories were dramatized and music performed.

Reading *The Canterbury Tales* in college inspired my pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral five years after graduating. Sitting on an ancient stone wall outside the Cathedral I closed my eyes to conjure the cackling loudness of the Wife of Bath and the song of Chanticleer. I opened them to survey the terrain that inspired Chaucer to spin such saucy and timeless tales.

The next time you visit the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, try it yourself: imagine the echo of tambourine trills and the electricity that thrummed in the Cathedral during performances by our first Artists in Residence, whose wide-ranging talents and diverse voices continue to inspire events here to this day.

Fostering an environment that helps our community and visitors come close to the divine is the mission of the Cathedral; it's why we do what we do. Through performances, service, liturgy, outreach and beauty, we hope you'll see this cathedral as a central place for New York's town gatherings.

In May, we'll honor a revered New Yorker, the enormously talented performer Patti LuPone, at the annual Spirit of the City Gala. The prospect of Ms. LuPone in the Cathedral is an exciting one for us. She has established herself as an artist important in the history of performing arts and definitive in each role she plays. She is of our time while also timeless. The Spirit of the City Gala is a celebration for the Cathedral community and invites attendees to donate support to allow us to fulfill our mission. We hope you will join us and support the Cathedral in this way.

Why do we need cathedrals? It's still hard to put into words. But when we enter them we know we're experiencing something transcendent. Because of the generosity of so many donors to the Cathedral, we are here and will be here for as long as the storied European cathedrals have lasted.

On behalf of all of us involved with the Cathedral, thank you for your abundant support of our mission.

Stay in Touch

We welcome your suggestions and thoughts on the newsletter. Please write us at editor@stjohndivine.org.

Spirit of the City Gala, May 23, Honors Patti LuPone

Renowned actress and singer and Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle award winner Patti LuPone will appear at the Cathedral's 35th Annual Spirit of the City Awards Gala, May 23, 2016. The Spirit of the City celebrates New Yorkers whose energy, vision and creativity keep this city great. LuPone's illustrious career includes a Tony for her portrayal of Evita Perón in *Evita* (1979) and one for her portrayal of Mama Rose in the 2007 revival of *Gypsy*. She is currently starring in the Showtime series *Penny Dreadful*.

To learn about sponsorship opportunities or to purchase tickets in advance, email the Cathedral's Development Department at spiritofthecity@stjohndivine.org or call us at (212) 316-7570.

Symphony of a Thousand: Mahler's 8th

On February 24 and 25, Great Music in a Great Space collaborated with the **Manhattan School of Music and Oratorio Society of New York** in two performances of **Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 8***, which the composer called "The grandest thing I have ever done...Try to imagine the whole universe beginning to ring and resound. There are no longer human voices, but planets and suns revolving." The symphony was first performed in 1910 to an audience including composers Robert Strauss, Camille Saint-Saens and Anton Webern, and the writer Thomas Mann. Often referred to as "The Symphony of a Thousand," the

symphony calls for a gargantuan orchestra, an off-stage brass ensemble, two SATB choirs, a children's choir, and eight soloists. In this production, over 350 voices contributed, including soloists **Sara Murphy**, mezzo-soprano; **Rachel Rosales**, soprano; **Bryn Holdsworth**, soprano; **Janet Todd** and **Jana McIntyre**, sopranos (taking the role of Mater Glorioso on February 24 and February 25 respectively); **Lisa Barone** and **Noragh Devlin**, mezzo-sopranos (taking the role of Maria Aegyptiaca on February 24 and February 25 respectively); **John Tiranno**, tenor; **Jesse Blumberg**, baritone; and **Adam Lau**, bass. **Kent Tritle** conducted.

In Memoriam

Joan Cupo
1930–2016,
Cathedral Trustee
1987–1999

Robin Chandler Duke
1923–2016,
Cathedral Trustee
1995–1998