

Summer 2016 at the Cathedral

ACT Turns 45

When Adults and Children in Trust (ACT) started, 45 years ago, the guiding philosophy was “We learn best that which we enjoy doing,” or as one staff member put it, “Freedom without chaos.” This is still the core of ACT. The summer campers play sports, experiment in arts and crafts, and visit out-of-town spots. They go camping at Stokes State Forest, always accompanied by Jose V. Torres, ACT Executive Director, who says he can’t imagine his summer without those nights under the stars with the kids. During the school year, toddlers and young children play outside or use the gym, sing, dance, and tell stories. They learn about nature on Cathedral grounds, conversing with the resident peacocks, and exploring the world of plants, insects, squirrels and birds in its nature garden center.



Thunder and Sunshine. PHOTO: Anna Ablogina

Yet there have been welcome changes in the last few years. ACT has a new PlayStation gym, open for six hours a day all winter at a cost to families of \$6 per day. It’s something that makes a big difference to urban parents who would otherwise have nowhere to take their kids for exercise and fun during inclement weather. There is a new class, Minnows, for 9-to 18-month-olds, and their parents, a development initiated by both parents and staff members. The Minnows join the Guppy, Caterpillar and Butterfly league. The Mommy and Me toddler classes have had record-breaking enrollment this year, and the pre-kindergarten classes are holding steady, in spite of the fact that, starting in 2015, city public schools offer free pre-kindergarten. Considering the effect of school costs on family

“Month after month, we watched [our daughter] thrive emotionally, socially, and intellectually. She was challenged at her level and encouraged to go beyond. Her passions grew, as did her confidence.”

Ethan and Lori Kent, ACT parents

budgets, this is a solid thumbs-up from satisfied parents. Recent praise includes this from Ethan and Lori Kent: “Month after month, we watched [our daughter] thrive emotionally, socially, and intellectually. She was challenged at her level and encouraged to go beyond. Her passions grew, as did her confidence.” ACT has also been making much greater use of social media and new technology in the last several years, including a camp mobile app to communicate with parents instantly. Closer communication means more emotional investment, more understanding and collaboration.

Mr. Torres emphasized how important parents have always been in the development of ACT—offering ideas, volunteering, acting as ambassadors to their kids’ schools or to neighborhood parents programs, like Morningside Heights/Harlem’s Mocha Moms. “It’s wonderful to see our staff work so closely with parents to form long-lasting relationships.” He went on to talk about how many children grow up to send their own children to ACT (or come to work as staff members), further cementing the family feeling of the program. In fact, this summer, an ‘80s ACT alumna, actor/musician/mom Esther Crow (Silverstein), is bringing her band, Thunder and Sunshine, to play ‘70s funk rock for the kids.

To commemorate the opening of ACT in 1971, the theme during the first week of July will be “How I Love my Hippie Life,” celebrating the earth awareness, playfulness and spontaneity reminiscent of the best of that gone-but-never-forgotten era. Body painting, flower art, gardening, a Block Party and a Disco Party are just a few of the ways Generation Z will get their groove on. Many people lament that childhood today doesn’t have the freedom and magic that they remember from their own years growing up in the ‘60s, ‘70s or ‘80s. At ACT, this

has never been an issue. Creativity and free spirits are nurtured without sacrificing safety or risking boredom. Arts, crafts, drama, dancing, tumbling, sports, and the great outdoors make for spectacular summers.

There will also be a lot of medieval-themed activities: a “Carnival in the Olde Square” on July 21 and 22, featuring jugglers, puppet shows, game booths and more. In August, sculpture classes will be making gargoyles and jousting shields, a comic book class will be guided by medieval illumination, and special courses, in partnership with Public Education and Visitor Services (PEVS), include “A Knight’s Tale,” a drama that takes children on a quest for the Holy Grail, both on campus and at Stokes State Park. Other new courses this summer include Claymation, Sports League Tournaments, Video Production and Mosaic Tiles Design.

The recent exhibition *The Value of Food*, October 2015–March 2016, was a natural fit for ACT. The kids have learned lessons

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The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine

The Right Reverend
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Bishop of New York

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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

Celebrating America: Stained Glass

With the Fourth of July approaching, it's appropriate to remember the many ways in which the Cathedral celebrates American life and history. This is a huge subject, of course; programming, liturgy, music, and the American Poets Corner are, in whole or in part, celebrations of American culture. But since the stained glass of the Cathedral continues a tradition much older than the United States—and since, in this election year, our thoughts are more than usual on the future of “the home of the brave”—we thought it would be interesting to take a look at the specifically American images in the windows.

The desire for religious freedom was a major force in the European settlement of North America. The Anglican History Bay shows the beginnings of what became the Episcopal Church. The major medallions of the right lancet depict two New World sites where church services were held—Drakes Bay, California, and Jamestown, Virginia. Take a moment to imagine America as it was then: great forests full of game, no cities or automobiles, skies cleaner than you have ever known them.

In the American History Bay, the medallions in the arcade level contain images of the Declaration of Independence (1776), the inauguration of George Washington (1789), and Thomas Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase (1803). They also depict the Battle of Lake Erie (War of 1812), Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (1863), the return of soldiers from the Spanish American War (1898), and the signing of the armistice after World War I (1918). The four corners at the base of the two lancets offer portraits of Henry Hudson, explorer; Betsy Ross, credited with sewing the first American flag; Francis Scott Key, who wrote the “Star Spangled Banner”; and the sinking of the Titanic (1912). The ubiquity of war is no reason to stop fighting for peace; and the inevitability of disaster reminds us to beware nature's surprises and human error.

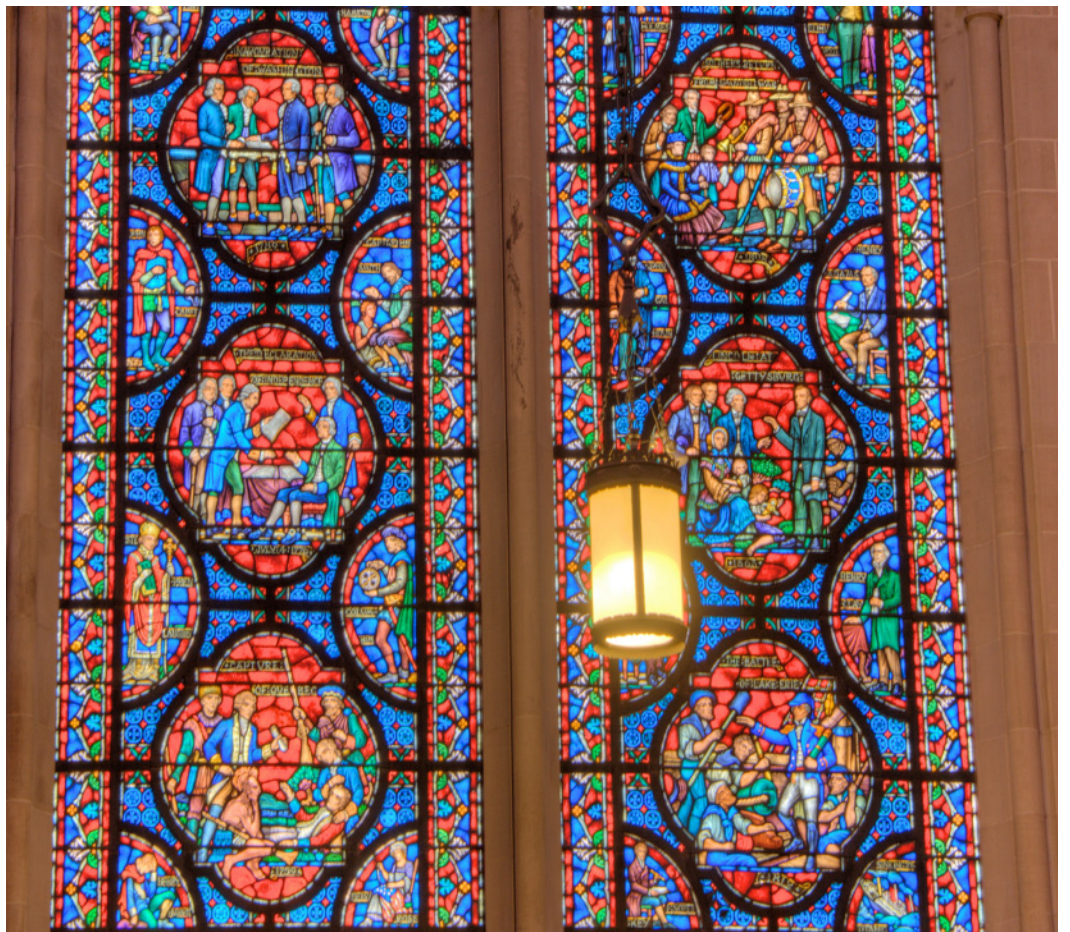


PHOTO: Brian Kutner

Other American images in the Bay windows include the Constitution in the Law Bay; Native American cultivating corn in the Labor Bay; Samuel Morse sending his first telegraph in the Communications Bay; and American military history in the Armed Forces Bay, including George Washington at Valley Forge at Christmas time, and U.S. Civil War generals Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. The Motherhood Window depicts George Washington and Abraham Lincoln kneeling in front of their mothers.

There are many more fascinating images tucked away in the windows and interior and exterior carvings of the Cathedral. Tours are offered frequently by the Department of Public Education & Visitor Services. Check the calendar for details, but note especially June 18, “Brilliant Walls of Light: Spotlight on Stained Glass,” led by senior Cathedral guide John Simko.

Looking Ahead



PHOTO: Helena Kubicka de Bragança

Summer is here again, bringing the scent of roses, peonies and herbs; children's laughter and the humming of bees; and staff news of weeks and weekends at the beach, the mountains, and other near and far-flung places.

Summer is especially important for Cathedral staff to prepare the many programs that take place between September and May. Hard-working teams in all the departments that make up this bustling Cathedral use these summer months to prep and refocus, working on new ways to bring our plethora of events, daily services, art exhibitions, and much more to the many and varied audiences who will fill this immense space come autumn. Visitors may see the first iterations of new signage, as **Public Education & Visitor Services** roll out new ways of connecting with Cathedral guests. Our dedicated **Facilities & Maintenance** staff and the green thumbs of the **Cathedral Gardens Conservancy** will be refreshing and renewing the grounds, keeping our lawns, gardens, and buildings in top condition for next season's slate of special programs.

The current season has its own joys; although long

summer days see a lightened roster of events, our annual programs shine all the brighter. The annual **Spirit of Pride Evensong** begins the season on a musical note on June 5. This special choral evensong, featuring the works of LGBTQ composers, celebrates community and the Cathedral's historic legacy in the LGBTQ rights movement (SEE BOX).

The following week (June 9–19), a **Sing for Hope** piano will return to the Close (directly behind the Peace Fountain), kicking off the summer with impromptu concerts. The Sing for Hope Piano Project brings upright, artist-and student-painted pianos to New York's iconic public spaces for all to play and enjoy. Once the pianos are in place, professional musicians may stop by and offer a song, but the most fun comes from watching and listening as ordinary people, with or without training, sit down and pick out a tune. In previous years, the Close piano has brightened the days of staff and clergy, brought strangers together, and given children a first opportunity to explore a professional instrument.

The 21st annual **Summer Solstice Concert** is on June 18, featuring the **Paul Winter Consort**. For those willing to get up early for a rare experience,

this is a magical event, with the first sunrise of the summer lighting Cathedral windows as sweet music bids the long days welcome. The concert will feature **Eugene Friesen**, cello; **Paul McCandless**, English horn and oboe; **Jeff Holmes**, piano; **Ray Nagem**, pipe organ; **Paul Winter** on soprano sax; and multiple percussionists. The concert is followed by a tea and coffee reception, to which all are invited.

Also on June 18, **Cathedral Community Cares** (CCC) offers its summer Resource Fair, sponsored by CCC in partnership with Brightpoint Health. Free health screenings for many conditions, including hypertension and diabetes, plus nutrition, health, and wellness information, will be available for all, as well as music and games.

June 29, singer, dancer and percussionist **Alessandra Belloni** and her company **I Giullari Di Piazza** return to the Cathedral, inviting you to celebrate the ancient night of the tarantula, featuring excerpts from the musical **Tarantella: Spider Dance** about the myth of the spider and ecstatic rites of Dionysus. Performers include Alessandra Belloni, lead vocals, ritual dance, tambourines, frame drums; **Joe Deninzon**, electric and acoustic violin; Wilson Montuori, electric & acoustic guitar; **Susan Eberenz**, flute, piccolo, recorders; **Peter Abazia**, drum set, percussion; **Giuseppe de Falco**, Neapolitan singer and dancers; **Peter de Geronimo** in the role of Dionysus; **Francesca Silvano** in the role of the tarantata; and **Greta Campo Amara** in the role of Aracne Stilt dancer. For the first time the Company reenacts the authentic trance dance and healing ceremony as it was done for many centuries in Apulia for the feast of St. Paul.

The **ACT 45th Anniversary** (SEE ARTICLE) will enliven Cathedral life all this summer, campers laughing, playing, competing and learning on the Close and indoors (when they aren't roughing it in the mountains with Jose V. Torres, Executive Director, ACT). Like the peacocks, the hawks, the bees and the summer flowers, ACT kids remind us of pleasures of the earth's fecund season.

Dean's Meditation: Citizenship

"I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education. This is the true corrective of abuses of constitutional power."

Thomas Jefferson

"As soon as any man says of the affairs of the State 'What does it matter to me?' the State may be given up for lost."

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*

"Citizenship is more than an individual exchange of freedoms for rights; it is also membership in a body politic, a nation, and a community. To be deemed fair, a system must offer its citizens equal opportunities for public recognition, and groups cannot systematically suffer from misrecognition in the form of stereotype and stigma."

Melissa V. Harris-Perry, *Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America*

Political slogans come and go. One of this year's slogans—"Make America Great Again"—triggered an article in the *New York Times* by Margot Sanger-Katz (April 26, 2016).

Sanger-Katz posed the question, "When Was America Greatest?" Even the supporters of the candidate espousing the slogan disagreed about when that was. Some people yearned for a pre- 9/11 America. For others, the slogan evoked a time when America was stronger and more prosperous. When asked to select America's greatest year, supporters of the candidate offered "a wide range of answers, with no distinct pattern." The most popular choice was the year 2000.

When other polls asked Americans whether life was better, say, 50 years ago, a majority of Republicans answered yes. Forty-eight percent of Democrats said life was better now than it was 50 years ago. Sanger-Katz says that political science research

suggests that Americans' optimism can be influenced by whether or not the interviewee's political party is in the White House.

Russell Berman, senior associate editor at *The Atlantic*, offered an interesting question and answer format (March 6, 2016) to pose "What's the Answer to Political Polarization in the U.S.?" It is actually not true that political polarization is worse now than ever before. Berman makes clear that we often forget that American history is filled with episodes of "debilitating polarization" and that some of them "make the partisan battles of today pale by comparison." What seems clear is that our present polarization neither arose overnight nor will dissipate quickly. Berman offers hope because he found that "many voters are drawn to particular solutions, which could mean that actually solving some of our problems could make at least an incremental difference."

When President Obama made a kind of homecoming return to the Illinois State House Chamber on February 10, 2016, he said:

I care about fixing our politics not only because I'm the President today, or because some of my initiatives have been blocked by Congress—The reason this is important to me is, next year I'll still hold the most important title of all, and that's the title of citizen. And as an American citizen, I understand that our progress is not inevitable—our progress has never been inevitable. It must be fought for, and won by all of us...It requires citizenship and a sense that we are one. And today that kind of citizenship is threatened by a poisonous political climate that pushes people away from participating in our public life. It turns folks off. It discourages them, makes them cynical.

More than a decade ago, I had a conversation with Vartan Gregorian, formerly the president of Brown University and head of the New York Public Library and now leading the Carnegie Corporation of New York. I was discussing with him what I saw as an overarching theme of the Cathedral's long commitment to put great conversations under its roof—the theme of "kinship." The Cathedral had been working on strategic planning and branding, and the theme of kinship seemed to capture a trajectory the Cathedral has engaged since its founding. As Dr. Gregorian commented he became very passionate and said, "No, I think in our times the big issue will be the meaning of citizenship." The Carnegie Corporation of New York is America's oldest grant-making foundation, having been established in 1911 by Andrew Carnegie to promote the advancement of knowledge and understanding. The Corporation focuses on international peace, the advancement of education and knowledge, and the strength of our democracy. In that post-9/11 time of anger and grief, its Board had been funding efforts to educate Americans about Islam. Over the years, I have returned often to Dr. Gregorian's profound insight. I often lament that we need a course on citizenship.

I was formed by my involvement in the Connecticut Boys' State program. I was a delegate in 1968—the year I was also sent off to Washington as a Boys' Nation senator (yes, think of young Bill Clinton shaking JFK's hand—LBJ was not in the

White House when we visited). I would serve as a counselor and eventually program director over a span of two decades. On the delegates' schedule I had printed the following quote from Edmund Burke:

To make a government requires no great prudence. Settle the seat of power, teach obedience; and the work is done. To give freedom is still more easy. It is not necessary to guide; it only requires to let go the rein. But to form a free government, that is, to temper together these opposite elements of liberty and restraint in one consistent work, requires much thought, deep reflection, a sagacious, powerful, and combining mind.

Burke's treatise, written in 1790, was titled *Freedom, Restraint, Moderation—Reflections on the Revolution in France*. We will always get the government and other institutions that we deserve, determined mostly by the extent to which we continue to dream about what could be and engage directly to make that happen. How strange that so many of our most frustrated and vulnerable citizens do not even vote.

Some speculate that fear produces certain political cycles. Others say that vacuums are created when people pull away in frustration and that vacuums always get filled. We can know for certain that to live in community at any given time means facing complex problems that require serious people engaging in emerging, complex solutions. Of course there will be disagreements and conflicts, but to excuse tyranny or chaos as outcomes of human nature is akin to saying knee-jerk responses or disengagement are inevitable human emotions that cannot be tempered by education and self-awareness. As expressed in Galatians 5:13-14, Life in the Spirit means being called not to use our freedom to be indulgent, but to "serve one another humbly in love."

Or, as Jelani Cobb, associate professor of history and director of the Institute for African-American Studies at the University of Connecticut, wrote in "America's Greatness Is Hard Won, Not Inevitable," *New York Times* Opinion Pages, updated on April 22, 2014:

Read backward into history, American exceptionalism bestows a kind of inevitability upon the hard-won victories for individual rights and freedoms. Seneca Falls, Gettysburg, Selma and Stonewall look less like heroic instances in which huge moral questions were advanced by people willing to risk their own well-being and more like dime-store dramas in which the outcome is assured because good always triumphs. Lulled into that conception of progress we look at the United States as, if not infallible, then certainly less fallible than all other regular nations. This country's greatest virtues stem from understanding its own flawed human normalcy, not its alleged superiority.

That sounds to me like a gateway to a citizenship which serves others humbly and with love.

The Cathedral Invites You to Take a Pause to Consider Climate Change

"Instead of the old mentality of "getting bigger," there is another way and it is working for millions more farmers every year. It is called agroecology and it combines the best of the new agricultural science with traditional farming methods. It is not just an agricultural method but a way of life that respects the people, land, the water and the farm communities. It depends on community, people helping each other. ...With very little resources these farmers are doing what industrial farming can never do, not only grow more food in the long run but improve the land, water and air and respect the local people and their communities."

Bill Ayres, co-founder of WhyHunger, most recently spoke at the Cathedral on March 30, 2016 at the closing of *Value of Food: Sustaining a Green Planet*.

The excerpt above is taken from "Agroecology: Growing Food From the Grassroots Up," originally published May 7, 2015.

ACT Turns 45

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

on waste, and will continue to recycle snack containers into art projects. Gardening—always a part of the program—now means a little more. Campers grow radishes, tomatoes, zucchini, peas and herbs (just to mention a few). This year, in honor of the medieval theme, time-tested herbal potions will be explored in the ACT Apothecary. Another summer addition will be a worm pit: a squared-off area full of wriggles where kids can learn what phylum Annelida does for the soil and the food we eat—and presumably carefully transport individuals to the parts of their gardens that need their expert assistance.

ACT has sent out a fundraising appeal, hoping to raise \$20,000 dollars for scholarships. If you are in a position to help, consider that \$450 provides one child with a weeklong, life-changing experience at ACT summer camp. There are many children who want and need our program but can't afford it. Although we have always offered financial aid, this year the demand far outweighs what we can offer. That child will form indelible memories of freedom, creativity, and camaraderie to sustain him or her throughout the challenges to come. At ACT, friendships made are often for life. And if you want to see ACT in action, put July 22, Camp Visiting Day, on your calendar. Families from the community are welcome to bring the kids and share in the fun on enormous blow-up water rides. To reserve your spot, please RSVP to act@stjohndivine.org by July 13th so we can reserve tickets for our games and rides.

Summer 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

Unless otherwise noted events do not require tickets or 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 become a fan of 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 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 (except where noted).

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. \$20 per person, \$18 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. For reservations visit the Cathedral website or call (866) 811-4111. 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 more!

For children ages 5 & up. Call the Public Education & Visitor Services Department at (212) 932-7347 for more information and reservations.

NIGHTWATCH

The Nightwatch series offers two exciting and innovative programs: Nightwatch Crossroads and Knightwatch Medieval, overnight adventures designed to bring people from throughout the world together in this great Cathedral. 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. While any amount will help, \$1,000 enables a child from a low-income family to participate in a premiere summer camp experience. 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.



PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

June

SELECTED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Glowing Glass Children’s Workshop

Saturday, June 4, 10 am

Children and their families explore the shapes, colors, patterns, and stories in the Cathedral’s beautiful stained glass. After searching these colorful windows for shapes, patterns, and objects, children will design their own windows with shapes and colors, create picture stories, and mix paint to create the colors of their own rose window. Recommended for children ages 4–8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult.

With Angels and Archangels: Spotlight on Angelic Images

Saturday, June 4, 10:30 am

Discover images of angels in the Cathedral’s glass and stone. Learn about the role of angels in the Hebrew, Christian and Islamic scriptures, the angelic hierarchy and how to identify angels by their field marks. The tour concludes with an ascent to the triforium for a birds-eye view of the breathtaking Archangels Window. \$12/person, \$10/student or senior. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

Spirit of Pride Choral Evensong

Sunday, June 5, 4 pm

This annual Choral Evensong service, open to all, celebrates our LGBTQ community and the Cathedral’s historic legacy in the LGBTQ rights movement.

Sing For Hope Pianos

Thursday, June 9 – Sunday, June 19

Sing for Hope Pianos places artist-designed pianos throughout NYC’s parks and communities, an open festival of art for all. The Cathedral’s piano will be placed next to the Peace Fountain for anyone and everyone to play.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, June 10, 6:30 pm

This Christian-oriented evening and overnight program for teens and their chaperones will focus primarily on the wisdom teachings of Jesus. Tickets are \$85.00 per person. Maximum capacity for this program is 100. Ask about our discounts for groups of 15 or more! For more information call (212) 316-7518 or email nightwatch@stjohndivine.org.

Signs of Summer Children’s Workshop

Saturday, June 11, 10 am

Children and their families can celebrate the return of summer with a special tour of the Cathedral examining plants in glass and stone. They will then head to the workshop to sculpt plants out of clay, create seed superheroes, and illustrate their own book of plants, all the while learning about the basic needs of fauna. Recommended for children ages 4–8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival.

New York Choral Consortium Big Sing

Monday, June 13, 7:30 pm

Join the New York Choral Consortium and the Cathedral for the annual Big Sing! All singers are invited to take part; no auditions or reservations are needed. Visit NYCC’s website for the full repertoire and more information.

21st Annual Summer Solstice Celebration

Saturday, June 18, 4:30 am

Join Cathedral Artist in Residence Paul Winter for an epic sunrise concert as musicians and audience share the experience of the journey from total darkness into the dawn of this longest day of the year. The full glory of sight and sound will come alive with the light of this first sunrise of the summer.

Brilliant Walls of Light: Spotlight on Stained Glass

Saturday, June 18, 10:30 am

Each window contains a unique style of stained glass drawn from the English, French, and German traditions. Explore the beautiful narrative and geometric windows by modern English and American firms and view the memorial to a stained glass artist. Ascend over 100 feet of spiral stairs for a closer look at windows dedicated to medical and communications achievements. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko.



PHOTO: Helena Kubicka de Bragança

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

Saturday, June 18, 2 pm

The Cathedral's western façade provokes much comment and curiosity as well as the occasional conspiracy theory. This stimulating one-hour tour decodes the thematic programs underlying its art and architecture. \$12/person, \$10/student or senior. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

Cathedral Community Cares Resource Fair

Saturday, June 18, 11 am

Cathedral Community Cares (CCC) offers its summer Resource Fair, sponsored by CCC in partnership with Brightpoint Health. Free health screenings for many conditions, including hypertension and diabetes, as well as nutrition, health, and wellness information, music and games, will be available for all.

Adults and Children in Trust Summer Camp: Session 1

Monday, June 27–Friday, July 29

Adults and Children in Trust's 45th day camp season! Programs are available for toddlers through teenagers. Come and explore the outdoor magic and fun offered under the shadow of the world's largest gothic Cathedral. For more information, visit actprograms.org.

Tarantata: Spider Dance

Wednesday, June 29, 8 pm

Cathedral Artist in Residence Alessandra Belloni returns with her company I Giullari Di Piazza for "Tarantata: Spider Dance," a sensual and mystical show about the healing power of the Tarantella trance dance. Visit stjohndivine.org for more information.

July

An American Cathedral: Spotlight on American History

Saturday, July 2, 10:30 am

Celebrate Independence Day at the Cathedral! This tour considers the Cathedral as a nexus of medieval traditions and democratic values. Discover celebrated Americans who appear in the art in the Cathedral along with the traditional saints and apostles. The tour will discuss the Cathedral's history and architecture within the context of American history, beginning with a vivid description of the Battle of Harlem Heights, fought on and around the Cathedral's site in 1776. Conducted since 1990 by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday, July 3, 1 pm

The Cathedral spurred the growth of Morningside Heights into becoming one of Manhattan's most unique neighborhoods. Go back in time on an illustrated walking tour of the neighborhood

and its historic architecture and institutions, and learn about its development into the "Acropolis of Manhattan." The tour begins at the Cathedral and ends at Riverside Church. Led by Cathedral Guide Bill Schneberger. Must be 12 years of age or older. This tour requires extensive outdoor walking and use of stairs. Bottle of water recommended.

Within the Walls: Exploring Hidden Spaces

Saturday, July 9, 10:30 am and 1 pm

This extended vertical tour features "behind-the-scenes" climbs in both the eastern and western ends of St. John the Divine. In the east, descend into the unfinished crypt and then ascend Rafael Guastavino's beautiful spiral staircase to incredible views high above the altar. The western climb presents an amazing view down the entire length of the world's largest 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. \$25 per adult and \$20 per senior/student.

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

Saturday, July 16, 10:30 am

Please see details for June 18.

August

Medieval 2.0: Spotlight on Traditions Transformed

Saturday, August 6, 10:30 am

What does New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine share with the great medieval cathedrals of Europe? How does it depart from that tradition? Join Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko for a tour of architecture and stained glass that focuses on St. John's unique blend of modern New York and medieval Europe.

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

Saturday, August 6, 2 pm

Please see details for June 18.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday, August 28, 1 pm

Please see details for July 3.



PHOTO: Helena Kubicka de Bragança

Great Music in a Great Space

A Preview of Next Season's Highlights

Great Music in a Great Space is looking forward to an exciting sixth season under Kent Tritle. Highlights of the schedule so far include Rose of the Compass returning to the Cathedral to collaborate with the Cathedral Choir on October 25 in a program of Middle Eastern repertoire. About an earlier collaboration, the *New York Times* (May 6, 2013) wrote that Rose of the Compass "displayed impeccable early-and world-music credentials." On November 15, Great Music in a Great Space will present the U.S. premiere of *Vigilia*, by Einojuhani Rautavaara, Finland's preeminent composer, known for his symphonic and choral music. This exquisite piece, devoted to St. John the Baptist, uses a unique harmonic language to convey its spiritual message, and stands with Rachmaninoff's All-Night Vigil as one of the finest settings of the Orthodox service. In February, the Manhattan School of Music



Einojuhani Rautavaara and Kent Tritle in Helsinki. PHOTO: Leland Hoch

Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Choir join forces with our own Cathedral Choir and Associate Organist Raymond Nagem for a performance of Maurice Durufle's *Requiem*. And on April 6 and 7, the third collaborative venture with the Manhattan School of Music Symphony and Symphonic Chorus and the Oratorio Society of New York, combined with our own Cathedral Choristers, presents Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*. Check our website soon for tickets and more details! the Cathedral.

The American Poets Corner: Emma Lazarus

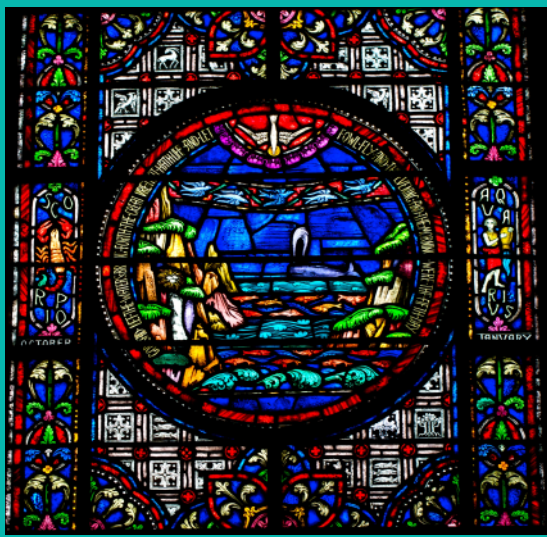


PHOTO: Helena Kubicka de Bragança

LONG ISLAND SOUND

I see it as it looked one afternoon
In August,— by a fresh soft breeze o'erblown.
The swiftness of the tide, the light thereon,
A far-off sail, white as a crescent moon.
The shining waters with pale currents strewn,
The quiet fishing-smacks, the Eastern cove,
The semi-circle of its dark, green grove.
The luminous grasses, and the merry sun
In the grave sky; the sparkle far and wide,
Laughter of unseen children, cheerful chirp
Of crickets, and low lisp of rippling tide,
Light summer clouds fantastical as sleep
Changing unnoted while I gazed thereon.
All these fair sounds and sights I made my own.

Emma Lazarus (1849–1887) was inducted into the American Poets Corner in 2006.

Lazarus was born into a large Sephardic-Ashkenazi Jewish family, the fourth of seven children. She began writing poetry as a teenager. After hearing about anti-Semitic violence in Russia after the assassination of Tsar Alexander II in 1861, she began to write and advocate on behalf of indigent Jewish refugees. Lines from her sonnet “The New Colossus” were engraved on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in 1903, memorializing the famous lines, “Give me your tired, your poor, / Your huddled masses....”

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.

Spirit of Pride Evensong

The Cathedral has organized Spirit of Pride events, ranging from concerts, to readings, to round-table discussions and more, for over thirty years, as part of our commitment to our own LGBTQ community and the New York community at large. This year's celebration centers around a Choral Evensong on June 5, incorporating the music of several contemporary composers: Lembit Beecher's *The New Amorous World*, Nico Muhly's *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis*, and responses by Hilary Campbell. The service will also include the voices of a number of young authors, contributors to the recently published *Anthology of Fiction by Trans Women of Color*, edited by Elyn Peña and Jamie Berrout.

Looking Back

Spring brought its perennial showers and flowers and, at the Cathedral, an array of diverse events. On March 7, **Working Theater** presented **To the Bone**, by **Lisa Ramirez**, a close-up look into the lives of Central American food workers through the experience of five female characters, presented as part of The Value of Food.

On March 10, another Value of Food program, **Soil and Sacrament: Fred Bahnson in Conversation** offered a fascinating dialogue about finding God in food, gardening and community agriculture. Theologian **Fred Bahnson**, author of *Soil and Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith*, was joined by **Shamu Sadeh**, Director of the Adamah Fellowship, a three-month leadership training program for Jewish young adults that integrates organic farming, sustainable living, community building and contemplative spiritual practice, and **The Reverend Canon Julia E. Whitworth**, Canon for Liturgy & the Arts at the Cathedral. Public Education and Visitor Services offered **Super Seeds Children's Workshop** on March 12, a chance for kids to create art from seeds, decorate seed packets, and design a garden plant matching game.

On March 15, **Great Choir: Bach, Vivaldi, and Schütz** ended the Lenten season with three pieces from the Baroque: the moving *Musikalische Exequien* of Heinrich Schütz; the *Stabat Mater* of Antonio Vivaldi; and one of J.S. Bach's greatest cantatas, *Christ lag in Todesbanden*. The concert featured soloists **Amy Justman** and **Michele Kennedy**, sopranos; **Katie Geissinger** and **Kirsten Sollek**, mezzo-sopranos; **Michael Steinberger** and **Marc Day**, tenors; and **Malcolm J. Merriweather** and **Peter Stewart**, baritones. **Kent Tritle**, Director of Cathedral Music, conducted.

On Wednesday, March 16, **Amir Vahab & Ensemble** returned to the Cathedral with **An Evening of Spiritual Music and Nourishment** in celebration of Nowruz, with melodies drawn from a number of Middle Eastern countries and traditions, interwoven with the poetry of Hafiz and Rumi. Nowruz, a New Year tradition celebrated for over 3,000 years, includes the setting of a symbolic table, known as the Haft Sin, a spiritual meal that touched on many of the themes being explored in The Value of Food.

On Thursday, March 17, **Karenna Gore**, director of the **Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary**, and **Catherine Flowers**, an activist from Lowndes County, Alabama, discussed how our waste impacts the planet: the intersection of morality, climate, environmental and social justice with special attention to the spiritual implications of this issue.

Holy Week brought its many unique services, including the Maundy Thursday **Inferno of Dante Alighieri: A Reading**, where poets, scholars, translators and friends read selected cantos in several languages to an audience of hundreds who stayed up very late to reflect on the joys and challenges this side of the grave. **Raymond Nagem**, Associate Organist, closed the evening just after midnight with a moving organ meditation. The following night visitors came for **Choral Lamentations**, the drama of Good Friday relived through music across centuries and traditions, featuring the stellar Cathedral Choir directed by Kent Tritle. On Saturday, **The Great Vigil of Easter & Holy Eucharist** began in total darkness as the congregation joined the clergy in illuminating the Cathedral by candlelight to observe the Paschal mystery—the passage from darkness into light, from death into life—told through scriptural readings and chanted psalms. **Easter Day** found the Cathedral brimming with joy, as the great hymns were sung with glorious brass accompaniment.



PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld

The Value of Food: Evening of Witness, the concluding event of the exhibition, was a fascinating amalgam of inspiring conversation, music, food and celebration. The evening, moderated by **Anna Lappé**, founding principal of the Small Planet Institute and founder and director of Real Food Media, featured **Greg Asbed** and **Lucas Benitez**, Founders of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers; **Raj Patel**, award-winning journalist and author; **Bill Ayres**, co-founder and ambassador of WhyHunger; **Elizabeth Ryan**, New York State farmer; **Demetris Giovanni Edwards**, Youthmarket farm stand organizer; **Wenonah Hauter**, Executive Director of Food & Water Watch; **Carolyn Mugar** and **Glenda Yoder** from **Farm Aid**; **David Amram**, composer, conductor, instrumentalist, and author; Kewulay Kamara, poet and storyteller; and musical guests **Salieu Suso**, **Kevin Nathaniel Hylton**, **René McLean**, **Abdoulaye Diabaté**, **Missia Saran**, **Hasan Bakr**, **Ibrahim Camara**, and **Evan Worldwind**.

On April 7, the Cathedral under the baton of Kent Tritle welcomed back the Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus, the Manhattan School of Music Women's Chorus, the Oratorio Society of New York and the Cathedral Choristers for an adaptation of the February 2016 orchestral performance of “The Symphony of A Thousand,” Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 8. In the place of an orchestra, this performance featured the world premiere of a new organ transcription by **David Briggs**, who performed on the Great Organ. The choruses were joined by soloists **Rachel Rosales**, soprano; **Bryn Holdsworth**, soprano; **Jana McIntyre**, soprano; **Noragh Devlin**, mezzo-soprano; **Sara Murphy**, mezzo-soprano; **John Tiranno**, tenor; **Tim Murray**, baritone; and **Adam Lau**, bass.

On April 12 and April 19, the **Congregation of Saint Saviour** offered a two-part adult education seminar on Christian mysticism. Students discussed assumptions about what we mean when we talk about “mysticism” and looked at some examples from authors who wrote about their own experiences, including Origen of Alexandria, the first Christian author to use the kind of language that is now familiar from the writings of Christian mystics; Thomas Merton; Howard Thurman; and Dorothee Söelle. The course was led by **Professor Celia Deutsch**, a Catholic nun and scholar who taught at Barnard College from 1985 to 2012, and is now a Research Scholar in Barnard's Religion Department.



PHOTO: Bruce Gilbert

On April 13, **Krista Tippett** was Dean Kowalski's guest for the Cathedral series, Enter the Conversation. Tippett, a Peabody Award-winning broadcaster and host of NPR's *On Being*, discussed the evolution of her new book **Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living**. The book, a fiercely hopeful vision of humanity for this century, has been lauded by *Publishers Weekly* as “...an incantatory trip into the paradoxical and profound.”

On April 19, Raymond Nagem, Associate Organist at the Cathedral, showcased organ music from Germany and France. The program included Johann Sebastian Bach's Prelude and Fugue in D Major, BWV 532; Paul Hindemith's *Sonata III*; Dieterich Buxtehude's Praeludium in G Minor, BuxWV 149; and Charles-Marie Widor's *Symphonie Gothique*, Op. 70.

April 30 brought the beloved annual **Blessing of the Bicycles**, a special ceremony, officiated by Canon Whitworth, that celebrates the lives and journeys of the city's intrepid bike riders, whose emissions-free, fitness-building transportation is ever more praiseworthy. After the blessing, a rider-less bicycle was brought forward during a moment of silence in remembrance of those who passed away in cycling accidents during the past year. The morning closed with a raucous ringing of bicycle bells in celebration of the cycling season to come.

On May 10, Dean Kowalski welcomed **Professor Robert Thurman**, world-renowned authority on religion and specifically Tibetan Buddhist philosophy, and author **Susan Brind Morrow**, for **Enter the Conversation: The Dawning Moon of the Mind**, an exploration of Morrow's radical new translation of one of the world's earliest and most complex bodies of writing, the 4,000 year old Pyramid Texts.

On May 23, the **Spirit of the City Gala** honored renowned actress, singer and Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle award winner **Patti LuPone**. 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*.

On May 30, the annual **Memorial Day Concert** brought the glorious sounds of the **New York Philharmonic Orchestra** to the Cathedral—inside and outside—with a program that included a New Orleans funeral march with **Wynton Marsalis** and the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** followed by Mendelssohn's “Lord God of Israel” from *Elijah* and Brahms' Symphony No. 2. The great baritone **Thomas Hampson** took part in the evening, which was conducted by **Alan Gilbert**.

Cathedral Community Cares wishes to acknowledge the generosity and support of all those who made the winter and spring seasons a success for CCC clients, particularly the Congregation, Columbia Community Service, and students from Florida Gulf Coast University.

100 Years Ago

A CENTURY OF EVENTS IN THE NAVE

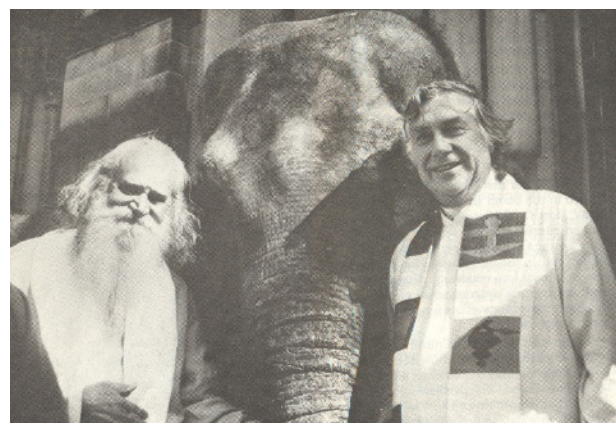
On May 8, 1916, The Right Reverend David H. Greer, Bishop of New York (1908–1919) and Ralph Adams Cram, Cathedral architect, broke ground for the nave with a silver shovel "...at the end of a procession so resplendent in color of robe and uniform and yet so solemn that it seemed to have walked out of a medieval romance" in the words of the *New York Times* (May 9, 1916). A crowd of three thousand, including bishops, other clergy and luminaries from many walks of life, attended. Charles S. Whitman, Governor of New York, remarked, "However vast may be this structure there will be no room here for narrowness or selfishness or bigotry or sectarian prejudices, jealousy or hatred... the noble building shall stand for the things 'that are true and honest and just and lovely and of good report.'"

After many delays due to cost and after unparalleled fundraising efforts organized by a successor of Bishop Greer's, The Right Reverend William T. Manning (1921–1946), and spearheaded by Cathedral trustee Franklin D. Roosevelt in the late 1920s,

the nave was finally completed and consecrated on November 30, 1941, a week before Pearl Harbor.

As we make daily use of this magnificent space, beloved by architecture buffs as well as visitors, congregants and friends, we remain grateful to the men and women who had the vision, designed the building, raised the money and laid stone upon stone to ensure that, as Bishop Greer said on that momentous occasion 100 years ago, "If anything in this city of constant change is destined to endure, then this cathedral church will ever stand."

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: Artist in Residence Paul Winter; The Very Reverend Dr. James A. Kowalski joined by Hillary Clinton (PHOTO: Kara Flannery); His Holiness Vasken I at a 1989 service in honor of Armenian earthquake victims; the installation of The Right Reverend Andrew ML Dietsche (PHOTO: Kara Flannery); The Very Reverend James Parks Morton, Sri Swami Satchidananda, and a friend; His Holiness the Dalai Lama in conversation (PHOTO: Helena Kubicka de Bragança); Phoenix: Xu Bing at the Cathedral. All photos Cathedral Archives, except where noted.



Voices of the Cathedral

While the Cathedral certainly impresses with its soaring architecture, carvings, tapestries, grounds and artworks, the heart of any church is the people involved in it—the stories they share with one another and the stories they carry with them of the moments that shaped their lives. Early this year, the Cathedral joined forces with Bill Smith, oral historian, to put together a book of the voices involved in the Cathedral from its beginning until now.

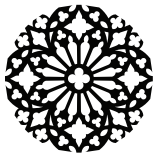
There are, undoubtedly, more voices with something to say about the Cathedral than can be accommodated in one book. Many of the people we would like to speak to are no longer with us. And in the course of putting together words and pictures, some themes may be more fully explored than others. But the intention is to reveal what it is that defines the Cathedral; to sketch its role as a sacred space in Morningside Heights, New York City and the world through its liturgy, education, arts and activism; and to celebrate a venue that has hosted some of the most important conversations of the last century. Cathedral clergy and staff expect this project to inform their thinking as the course is set for the coming decades.

“A story is a way to say something that can't be said any other way, and it takes every word in the story to say what the meaning is.”

Flannery O'Connor (1925–1964), inducted into the American Poets Corner in 2014.

Share Your Stories

We are seeking anyone who had a parent, grandparent or other family member who worked building the Cathedral in the early part of the 20th century. If you know any stories, have any photographs, or know of someone who does, please get in touch with us at info@stjohndivine.org. Many famous people have spoken and performed here; there have been many remarkable clergy and staff. But the Cathedral is composed of all who played a part in its making—and all who play a part today, whether or not their names appear in this newsletter or other Cathedral publications.



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

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Gifts from Cathedral friends and supporters allow the Cathedral to plan for the future. Please take the time to fill out the contribution envelope in the pages of the newsletter. Your generosity is needed and is always appreciated.

Summer 2016 at the Cathedral

Development: Spring Flowers

SALLY BENNER, VICE PRESIDENT, DEVELOPMENT & STRATEGY

The tradition of making floral donations to honor or remember someone at Easter and Christmas extends personal and family love to the wider Cathedral community. This Easter, the floral bouquets and abundant palms on the altar and decorating the Cathedral were especially glorious.

Spring is always welcomed happily on the Cathedral Close. Students from the Cathedral School and ACT frolicked in the playground and chased each other joyfully around the lawn as the brown grass of winter gave way to April's green.

Amid this energy, the Cathedral's three resident peacocks strutted calmly, admiring the spans of their new feathers that reach lengths of three and four feet. The peacocks' cries, the songs of sparrows, the star magnolia trees in full bloom, the yellow daffodils that replaced the early forsythia greeted visitors to the Cathedral, school children and their parents, staff and clergy.

The generous donations by many of our visitors and community members allow the Cathedral to maintain this pastoral landscape in Manhattan. We also benefit from the gifts in-kind of individuals who garden and labor on the grounds year-round.

Your donations for general support provide the tools so they may serve in this way.

When you visit, watch for Marilyn Budzanoski. She'll be wearing a wide-brimmed gardening hat as she tills the soil and rotates the flowerbeds. In the autumn, she rakes the lawns and prepares the grounds for winter hibernation. A congregant and former member of the Vestry of The Church of the Heavenly Rest, in her retirement Marilyn dedicates herself to the care of the Cathedral Close's beauty.

In addition to your giving, the Cathedral Gardens Conservancy helps make all this happen. Their leadership and generosity over decades has been vital to the health and beauty of our lawns and gardens. Our Facilities & Maintenance crew also work to keep the grounds orderly and welcoming.

The Cathedral Close is a respite from urban Morningside Heights. Surrounding the soaring stone, this quiet greenery is shared with the public. Neighbors walk their dogs here or cut through the Close for moments of peace between job, school, home, and other commitments. City children discover nature.

We extend our gratitude to those who give their work and gifts so we may offer this to all to enjoy this summer and year-round. Visit the Cathedral's website to donate for the care of the Cathedral. A gift for general support will make this happen.

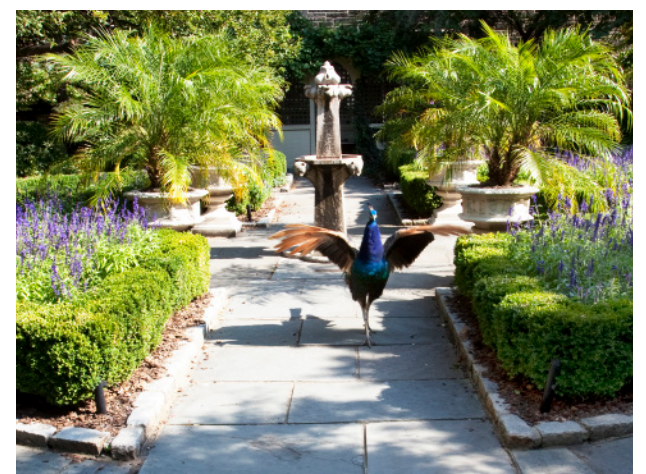


PHOTO: Helena Kubicka de Bragança

The West Staircase: Restored

One of the great pleasures of the summer season will be walking up the newly cleaned and restored front steps of the Cathedral. Age, ice, and the feet (shoes, boots, sandals) of millions had taken a toll on the Grand Staircase until Cathedral Capital Projects Manager John MacKay decided something needed to be done. Bids were taken, The Laymen's Club raised \$116,000 for the project, and after Holy Week, the steps were scrubbed, stones out of position were reset, and the risers and tread joints were cleaned and caulked. New steps were also added to the staircase to extend it around the north side to allow access to the cloister between the Cathedral and the new apartment building, the Enclave, whose lease payments will do much to sustain Cathedral finances, and whose residents are warmly invited to join our audiences, congregation, educational programs

and organizations. The cleaning of the staircase is just one of many recent projects to keep the Cathedral buildings in good repair, protected from the weather, conserved for the future, and welcoming to all.

The Laymen's Club, founded in 1908, has been a continuing and significant source of support for the Cathedral. Through member contributions, legacy gifts, and targeted fundraising, the Club has come to the aid of the Cathedral on many projects, including repairing the Great Bronze Doors in 2014, contributing railings to the Great Choir in 2012, and creating the stunning Pilgrim's Pavement in the Nave in 1934. If you wish to know more about the Laymen's Club, please visit thelaymensclub.org.

Stay in Touch

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

In Memoriam

John R. "Jack" Miller, 1946–April 25, 2016

Mr. Miller served as a member of the Cathedral's Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2014.