

Fall 2019 at the Cathedral

A New Leaf: Cleaning and Conservation in the Cathedral

When visitors first arrive inside the Cathedral, one of the initial things almost everyone does is take a long look up at the soaring arches and vaulted ceilings of the Nave. This summer and fall, there's been even more reason than usual for this awestruck glance upwards toward the Heavens. An intensive regime of cleaning and restoration work has filled the Cathedral with immense lifts and towering scaffolds, with protective materials that draw the eye to the Cathedral's exquisite Gothic architecture even as it partially obscures it.

On Palm Sunday 2019, a fire in the Cathedral's Crypt filled the building with smoke. In the immediate aftermath, workers cleaned everything in the Cathedral below ten feet. This summer, workers undertook an extensive project to clean and conserve everything above ten feet. This work has required a great deal of flexibility, cooperation, and patience on the part of staff, visitors, worshipers, and the cleaning crews, as we moved services and adjusted public events to accommodate the needs of such an undertaking.

Our longtime friends, including regular readers of this newsletter, will surely be reminded of the last time the Cathedral was so abuzz with the machinery and staff required for cleaning on this grand a scale. After the major fire in 2001, it took several years before the full length of the Nave could be reopened for worship, programs, and events. Fortunately, this time around we're looking at a much briefer (but no less bustling) schedule, and are currently on

track to finish up the present cleaning cycle around the end of November.

Of course, the Cathedral being what it is—a joyfully busy place, full of the unexpected—we anticipate some hiccups before we're able to once again make full use of the entirety of the space. The Great Organ, a delicate instrument for all its size and might, will need to be disassembled, assessed, and thoroughly cleaned before it can again be played at services and concerts—a lengthy process that will again require patience and good humor on the part of our community and staff. Some of our most beloved events, like the Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals, will be reworked this year to accommodate the very limited access we currently have in the Nave and Crossing (See *pg.6 box*).

But we continue to be deeply thankful: that no one was injured in the Palm Sunday fire; that the vast majority of our priceless artworks, tapestries, and architectural features were spared; that we will, God willing, be able to bounce back from this period of conservation fully restored and able to offer the complete St. Francis Day experience once again in 2020.

All of this would be impossible without the support and kinship of our community and friends. We thank you for taking these changes to our typical seasonal offerings in stride. And we look forward to welcoming you to all our programs and services this fall—with some modifications from the usual, perhaps, but presented with all the warmth and hospitality we have to offer.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Dean's Meditation:
From the Shadow to the Light

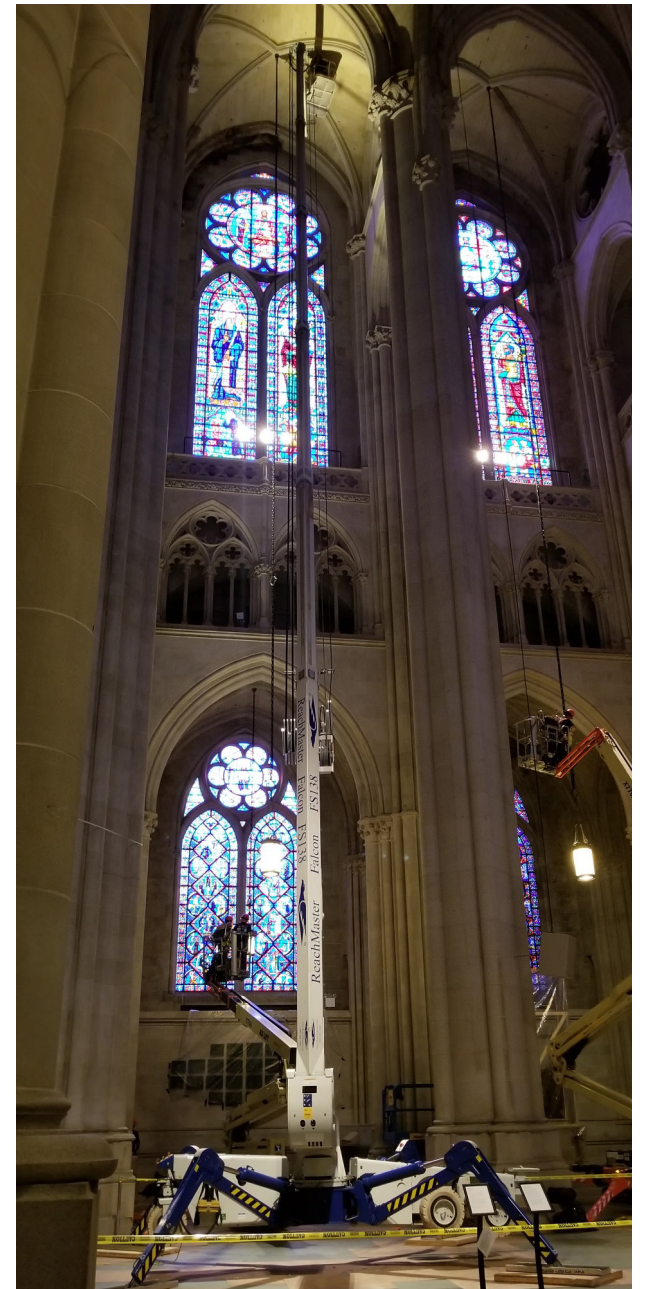
The American Poets Corner:
Induction of Harriet Jacobs and Ralph Ellison

The Cathedral School:
Celebrating the Individual

Looking Ahead

Looking Back

From the Archives:
A Cathedral for the 21st Century



Cathedral Cleaning. PHOTO: Maxons Restoration

A non-profit institution;
contributions and gifts are
tax deductible to the extent
permitted by law.

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

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

Dean's Meditation: From the Shadow to the Light

THE RIGHT REVEREND CLIFTON DANIEL III



PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

As many of those reading this letter may be aware, the President of the United States held a rally in Greenville, North Carolina on July 17 of this year. Some of those reading this letter may also know that I am myself a native of North Carolina.

I was born and reared in a town near Greenville, about 40 miles away, and I lived in Greenville, North Carolina, for 21 years. These are my people. And I watched that rally in horror back in July. I recognized some of the people who were there and saw them chanting, "Send her back. Send her back," directed at four Democratic congresswomen of color.

I am so ashamed. And I must apologize. Not everybody in Eastern North Carolina is that way. But there are enough to cast a pall of shame by their behavior. Mr. Trump later disclaimed any racist remarks made at that rally, saying, "I didn't start the chant, not me. In fact, I stopped it." Baloney!

He encouraged it, he set the climate for it to happen, he let it happen. And when he got tired of it, he stopped it. He ran and he hid in the shadows after the event was over. Now, as we know, evil works in the shadows because evil has something to hide. Evil has something that can't stand the light of day, much less the light of the Gospel.

Evil lurks in the shadows of life, in the dim recesses around the edges, until it feels confident enough to come out into the daylight and do its really evil work. So it is today, when our leader, the man who occupies the highest office in this land, disgraces the office and our nation by encouraging racism and sexism and inviting evil to rear its ugly head toward these marginalized people and groups with the consent and encouragement of those who lurk in the shadows.

Finally, finally they have the permission to come forth and spread their ugly wings and share their infection

to tear down this nation and all the great good that has been accomplished. Evil always lurks in the shadows. It just takes a little encouragement. And our president knows just how to offer that encouragement to let it come out, and then to step away and say, "I didn't say that. Oh no." As the poetic words of Psalm 52 tell us, "You tyrant, why do you boast of wickedness against the Godly all day long? You plot ruin, your tongue is like a sharpened razor, a worker of deception."

It's disgraceful. And again I apologize to you for my people.

But love is different. Love doesn't work in the shadows. Love seeks the sunshine. Love takes its actions in the light of day. Love creates. Love builds up—and evil tears down. Love creates, hatred destroys. Love gives freely. Evil hoards and denies. Love feeds neighbor and stranger. Hatred starves by denying food and denying shelter. Love brings freedom. Evil creates detention camps, proclaims a crisis where there is no crisis, separates families and sends children off to places that have no beds apart from their families.

Love welcomes the stranger. Hatred persecutes the stranger.

What do loving deeds look like? We know what hatred and evil looks like. That's the question that Jesus asked of Mary and Martha, about the way of evil and the way of love. Sometimes love takes action, and sometimes the most loving thing is to be still.

We're here to celebrate the light that shines in the darkness, that the darkness cannot overcome, as John says in his Gospel. What is the most loving thing you can do today?

Let's start with the person sitting next to you, because love cares for those who are nearby and for those who are far away. An embrace, perhaps, a

handshake, a smile, a kind word, an action that shows care and love, a reconciliation with someone with whom you have differences. What is the most loving thing you can do for those who are farther away—for refugees, for children in detention, for those who seek asylum in this nation, for the homeless in the city and the lonely in this vast city and the hungry?

Maybe the most loving thing you could do is support kind of programs our Cathedral Community Cares and Congregation of St. Saviour offer: programs that help provide backpacks for children returning to school this season, programs that help us provide clothing and food for our neighbors. There are thousands and thousands and thousands of ways to express love—and evil only has one way to express its dirty work.

The good news of Jesus is that while hatred entices us into the shadows of human division and separation, love invites us into the sunshine of service to others, the bright daylight of finding and celebrating the One who gave everything to be present here with you and with me, with all the people of this city and of the whole world.

And He paid the price at the hands of the evil that was done by the political and religious leaders of His day, all in order that we might gather around this table, bask in His love, receive His life into ours and be empowered to go forth and spread His love—not the hatred that our president preaches. We must take strength from this. For the love that Jesus has proclaimed for 2,000 years will never die away. Amen.

The American Poets Corner: Induction of Harriet Jacobs and Ralph Ellison

This November, the American Poets Corner at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine will induct two legendary authors into its company of literary lions. Harriet Jacobs and Ralph Ellison's lives and work were separated by almost a hundred years—together, these two writers frame part of the vast spectrum of African-American literature of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Harriet Jacobs was born into slavery in 1813, and her early life was marked by the deep trauma and violence—social, physical, and sexual—of slavery and racism. The degradation and fear of these early years galvanized Jacobs' desire for freedom, and in 1835 she managed to escape from her captors, taking refuge in a variety of safe-houses until she was able to make her way to her grandmother's shack. She lived for seven years in a crawlspace above the ceiling there before she was finally able to complete the arduous journey to the north, where she was reunited with her daughter and joined the American Anti-Slavery Society, the beginning of her campaign for manumission on a larger scale.

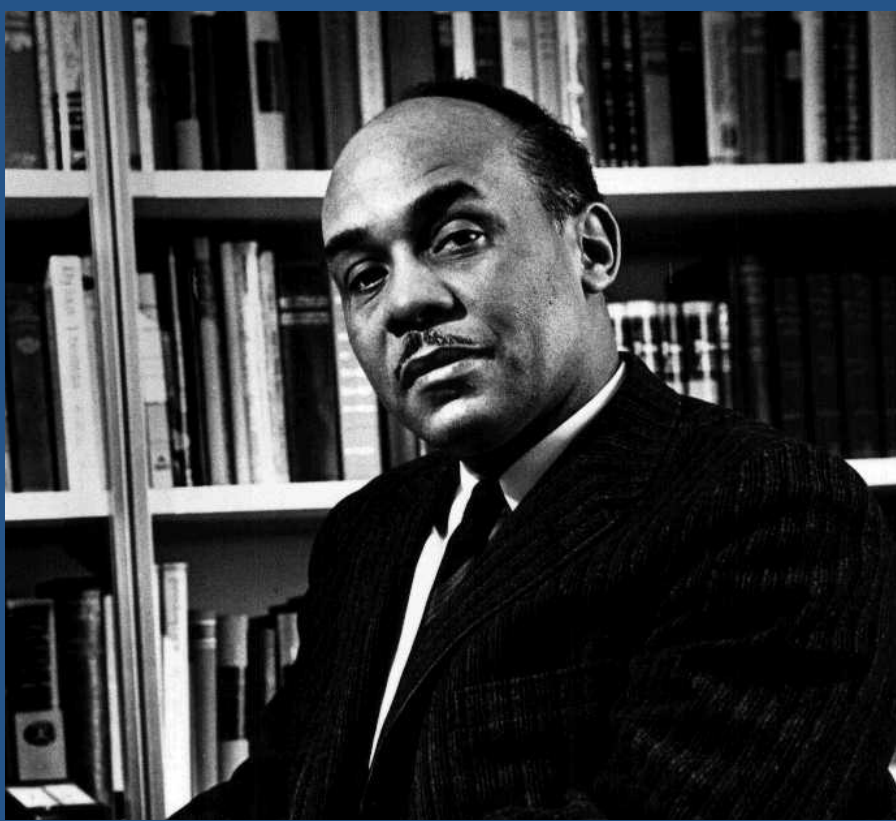
After coming into contact with Harriet Beecher Stowe and Frederick Douglass, Jacobs decided to write her memoirs. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Jacobs' autobiography, exposes the particular cruelty and hypocrisy Black women faced as slaves. Predominantly addressed to a

white female audience, Jacobs' narrative directly appealed to both the rising tide of abolitionism and to the contemporary "cult of domesticity," using experiences from her own life to illustrate the ways in which white men preyed upon Black women and, in so doing, robbed them of their humanity and their ability to protect their children and families.

Ellison is best known for his landmark 1952 novel *Invisible Man*, which explores the crises of mid-20th century identity through the lens of Marxism and Black existentialism. Born in Oklahoma City in 1914, Ellison found artistic and literary fellowship in Harlem in the 1930s, where he became friends with luminaries like Romare Bearden and Richard Wright. He began work on *Invisible Man* in the mid-1940s, after becoming disillusioned with Marxist party leaders' disinterest in racial politics and the widening social divide between white and Black communities.

Invisible Man was an immediate sensation and won the 1953 US National Book Award for Fiction. Apart from his career as a novelist, Ellison is also lauded as a cultural critic, penning essays on jazz and literature from the '30s through to his death in 1994.

Join us on November 10 and 11 for an Evensong service and celebration honoring both of these powerful authors.



TOP: Harriet Jacobs BOTTOM: Ralph Ellison

The Cathedral School: Celebrating the Individual

HANNAH EISNER AND SHIRLEY PAXTON-FOFANG



PHOTO: The Cathedral School

Walking past the iconic Cathedral of St. John the Divine, visitors will find The Cathedral School tucked away in the idyllic 11.5 acre grounds of the church. Founded in 1901 to educate boys in the Cathedral's choir, this independent school has since grown to serve K-8 students of all genders. Over the past century, The Cathedral School has drawn on the Episcopal tenet of inclusion to expand its commitment to academic excellence, character education, and curricula that foster respect for all individuals.

The School's mission and programs have evolved over the past hundred years, to better reflect the needs and diversity of its larger community. Still, tradition plays an integral role at The Cathedral School, from religious celebrations to creative projects that become memorable rites of passage. As graduates of the Cathedral School, we have carried these values into our adult lives, forging connections between tradition, progress, and innovation.

In the words of the Rev. Canon Patti Welch,

School Chaplain, "There are many ways to understand self in the world, self in relation to God, self in community. The school really delves into that, without apology, and develops opportunities for students to go inward and ask those important questions of purpose, of meaning."

This past spring, the School community buried a time capsule on the grounds of the new School expansion. As this issue of the Cathedral newsletter goes to press, the students of the School are returning to campus, ready to begin another year of growth together. In another hundred years, long after the current students have graduated and begun adult lives with the benefit of all that their years at the School have brought out in their developing minds and psyches, uncovering the early-21st century treasure trove of objects and memories buried on the grounds will surely provide another opportunity to reflect on changing lives and times at the School—and on the traditions that continue to endure.

Great Music in a Great Space 2019-20 Season

The 2019-2020 season of Great Music in a Great Space kicks off on October 21 with Musica Sacra's performance of *Music for a Gothic Space: Machaut's Messe de Nostre Dame, Motets of Josquin and Gregorian Chant*. The following week on October 29, Artist in Residence David Briggs presents the first of two organ recitals, featuring music of Bach, Franck, Dupré, and Liszt, and the world premiere of his own *Variations on "Take the A Train."*

On November 5, we welcome the Oratorio Society of New York for a concert

featuring two extraordinary 20th-century pieces: excerpts from Sergei Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*, and Maurice Duruflé's ethereal *Requiem*. Join us again on November 20, when the Cathedral Choir presents the U.S. premiere of Patrick Zimmerli's *Instrument of Destiny*, an oratorio on poetry by Alan Seeger.

Visit stjohndivine.org for information on all upcoming choral and organ performances. As always, we welcome you to become a Friend of Music by contacting Priscilla Bayley, Director of Development, at pbayley@stjohndivine.org.

Fall events 2019

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
12:15 pm Holy Eucharist
5 pm Evening Prayer

Columbarium Open Hours

12–1 pm Tuesday & Thursday
2–4 pm Saturday

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: 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 ONGOING TOURS & EVENTS

Highlights Tours

Mondays, 11 am–Noon & 2–3 pm

Tuesdays–Saturdays, 11 am–Noon & 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. \$14 per person, \$12 per student/senior. No prior reservation necessary. Meet at Visitor Center.

Vertical Tours

Mondays, 10–11 am

Wednesdays & Fridays, Noon–1 pm

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. Learn stories through stained glass windows and sculpture and study the grand architecture of the Cathedral while standing on a buttress. 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.

NIGHTWATCH

The Nightwatch series offers two exciting and innovative programs: Nightwatch Crossroads Christian and Nightwatch Crossroads Interspiritual. For more information visit stjohndivine.org or contact: (212) 316-7518 / nightwatch@stjohndivine.org.

ADVANCING THE COMMUNITY OF TOMORROW (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 (C.C.C.)

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 or contact (212) 316-7581, ccc@stjohndivine.org.

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: (212) 316-7581, ccc@stjohndivine.org.

Sunday Soup Kitchen

Every Sunday in the ACT gym.

Breakfast, 10 am; Lunch, 12:30 pm.

Contact: Robert Finn, Food Program Manager, (212) 316-7579 (T/W/Th after 12 pm).

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: (212) 316-7581, ccc@stjohndivine.org.

September

The Ripple Effects of Compassion— A Come From Away 9/11 Story

Thursday, September 5, 7 pm

In his memoir, *Channel of Peace: Stranded in Gander on 9/11*, Kevin Tuerff tells the story of how the small Newfoundland town of Gander welcomed 7,000 strangers from 90 countries on September 11, 2001, an action that inspired the hit Broadway musical *Come From Away*. The lessons of compassion and kindness to strangers transformed Tuerff’s life. Join us for a conversation about compassionate action and community action. Books will be available for purchase.

Mettawee River Theatre Company: The Ringdove

Friday – Sunday, September 6 – 8, 7:30 pm

Mettawee River Theatre Company returns to the Cathedral to present *The Ringdove*, first produced in 1988. *The Ringdove* is drawn from *The Panchatantra*, a collection of allegorical tales whose origins reach back over 2,000 years, to ancient India. The central characters are a crow, a rat, a turtle and a gazelle, whose adventures, behavior and relationships reflect many aspects of human nature. The production tells the story of the creatures’ growth in friendship with each other, as they achieve strength and harmony through cooperation and understanding.

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

Saturday, September 7, 10:30 am

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. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek. Tickets are \$18 per adult and \$15 for students and seniors.

Transformed Overnight: The Impact of 9/11

Wednesday, September 11, 7 am – 7 pm

Countless New Yorkers witnessed the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center as they were unfolding. *2001*, a video work by pioneering internet artist Wolfgang Staehle, documents the New York skyline on that fateful September day, chronicling the transformation of a routine workday into a city under siege. In collaboration with the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, the Cathedral will screen this work in real-time throughout the day, free to the public. Presentation of this program is made

possible through the generous support of 9/11 Memorial Museum Presenting Sustainer Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund. Visitor discretion is advised.

Ordination of Priests

Saturday, September 14, 10:30 am

Visit dioceseny.org for more information.

ACT Movie Night

Saturday, September 14, 5 pm

Advancing the Community of Tomorrow (ACT) invites you to view “The Secret Life of Pets” under the stars! This event is free and open to the public. Snacks will be available for purchase. The Pulpit Green opens at 5 pm for seating, and the movie will begin at sundown. For more information about ACT, visit actprograms.org.

Congregation Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, September 15, 12:45 pm

Join the members of the Congregation of Saint Saviour for the Annual Homecoming Lunch in the Nave of the Cathedral. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new members as well as find out how to join this Cathedral congregation and receive information about fall programming and volunteer opportunities year-round.

Brilliant Walls of Light: Spotlight on Stained Glass

Saturday, September 21, 10 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. 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. Tickets are \$18 per person, \$15 per student/senior.

Signs and Symbols: Spotlight on Symbolism

Saturday, September 21, 11 am

Explore the signs and symbols in the Cathedral and discover the unique attributes that characterize saints. Learn what role animals and Greek letters play in the iconography of the paintings, glass and stone, and how these legends have inspired artists through the centuries. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Becca Earley. Tickets are \$18 per adult and \$15 for students and seniors..

Textile Treasures: Spotlight on the Textile Conservation Lab

Friday, September 27, 1 pm

This unique guided tour includes a “behind-the-scenes” visit to the Cathedral’s world-renowned Textile Conservation Lab, which conserves tapestries, needlepoint, upholstery, costumes, and other textiles. Particular focus will be the Barberini collection of the Life of Christ tapestries and the Acts of the Apostles tapestries, based on cartoons by Raphael. Must be 12 years of age or older. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$20 per student/senior.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday, September 29, 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. All participants must be 12 years of age or older and reservations are recommended. This tour requires extensive outdoor walking and use of stairs. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$20 per student/senior.

October

St. Francis Day Fair with Pet Blessings and Animal Costume Parade

Sunday, October 6, 12:30 pm

Join us for a full afternoon of fun and festivities to celebrate Saint Francis, the patron saint of animals and the environment! All people and pets are encouraged to dress as their favorite animal in honor of Saint Francis. The day will feature activities for kids of all ages, appearances by the Mettawee River Theatre Company, food trucks, pet adoption agencies, and more! Priests will be available to bless pets for the duration of the Fair. All are invited to join us for the 11 am Holy Eucharist service prior to the start of the fair; no passes or reservations are required.



PHOTO: Anthony Gjolaj

Stained Glass Menagerie

Sunday, October 6, 1 pm

Lions, dragons, and whales, oh my! Examine unlikely and fun images in stained glass on this special St. Francis Day tour. Why do these animals appear, and what is their relationship with people, who are often charged with being stewards of the earth? Join Senior Guide John Simko for this lively tour. Families welcome.

Signs and Symbols: Spotlight on Symbolism

Saturday, October 12, 1 pm

Please see details for September 21.

Textile Treasures: Spotlight on the Textile Conservation Lab

Friday, October 18, 1 pm

Please see details for September 27.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Saturday, October 19, 1 pm

Please see details for September 29.

Sunday Organ Recital: David Briggs

Sunday, October 20, 4:45 pm

Artist in Residence David Briggs presents a free performance following Choral Evensong. Visit stjohndivine.org for the full schedule of post-Evensong recitals.

Musica Sacra - Music for a Gothic Space: Machaut, Josquin, and Gregorian Chant

Monday, October 21, 7:30 pm; pre-concert recital by the Newark Boys Chorus at 7 pm

The 2019-20 season of Great Music in a Great Space kicks off with a performance by Musica Sacra of Guillaume de Machaut's majestic *Messe de Notre Dame*. Visit stjohndivine.org for tickets and more information.

Crypt Crawls: Spotlight on Halloween

Friday, October 25, 4 – 5 pm, 5 – 6 pm

Saturday, October 26, 1 – 2pm, 2 – 3pm, 3 – 4pm, and 4 – 5pm

Shake your spirits loose this Halloween season! Hear the stories of the entombed, learn the origins of Halloween as a Celtic New Year celebration that later transformed into All Hallows Eve, and creep into the Cathedral's crypt. Space is limited and participants must be 12 years of age or older. Tickets are \$25 per adult, \$20 per student/senior.

Halloween Extravaganza and Procession of the Ghouls

Friday, October 25, 7 and 10 pm

The Cathedral's annual Halloween celebration returns! Join us for the screening of a silent movie classic with live organ accompaniment, followed by the tricks and treats of Artist in Residence Ralph Lee's ghoulish Mettawee River Theater Company. Visit stjohndivine.org for tickets and more information.

Gotham Gargoyles: A Halloween Workshop

Saturday, October 26, 10 am – Noon

The morning begins with a reading of Eve Bunting's *Night of the Gargoyles*, then down to the workshop to create Halloween related artwork. Assemble gargling, grimacing clay gargoyles, dancing skeleton creatures, paint pumpkin rocks, and more! Recommended for children ages 4 – 8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday, October 27, 1 pm

Please see details for September 29.

Great Organ: David Briggs

Tuesday, October 29, 7:30 pm

Artist in Residence David Briggs presents the music of J. S. Bach, César Franck, Marcel Dupré, and Franz Liszt, and the world premiere of his own variations on "Take the A Train." Visit stjohndivine.org for tickets.

November

Textile Treasures: Spotlight on the Textile Conservation Lab

Friday, November 1, 1 pm

Please see details for September 27.

Oratorio Society of New York: Duruflé Requiem and Rachmaninoff Vespers

Tuesday, November 5, 7:30 pm

Great Music in a Great Space continues with a performance by OSNY. Visit stjohndivine.org for tickets and more information.

Medieval 2.0: Spotlight on Traditions Transformed

Saturday, November 9, 10 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. Tickets are \$18 per person, \$15 per student/senior.

The Thanksgiving Table Children's Workshop

Saturday, November 9, 10 am – Noon

Children celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving in this special workshop as they draw inspiration from a Thanksgiving tale and their own personal experiences to create cornhusk dolls, clay pinch pots, stylish turkey hats, and more. Recommended for children ages 4 – 8 years old. \$10 per child with accompanying adult. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival.

The American Poets Corner: Induction of Ralph Ellison and Harriet Jacobs

Sunday, November 10, 4 pm

Join authors, critics, and lovers of American literature at this special Choral Evensong as we celebrate novelist Ralph Ellison and memoirist and reformer Harriet Jacobs, the 2019 inductees to the American Poets Corner.

Instrument of Destiny

Wednesday, November 20, 7:30 pm

The Cathedral Choir and Orchestra presents the U.S. premiere of Patrick Zimmerli's oratorio, based on the poetry of Alan Seeger. Visit stjohndivine.org for tickets and more information.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday, November 23, 1 pm

Please see details for September 29.

Looking Ahead



Celebrating St. Francis Day

Due to a fire in the crypt on Palm Sunday, the Cathedral is in the midst of an extensive cleaning and conservation project that limits access to many areas of the building and makes it impossible to host the 2,000+ people and pets who typically attend the St. Francis Day Festal Eucharist. Instead, we invite you to join us on October 6 for a fair on the grounds from 12:30 – 3:30 pm in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment.

Priests will be available during the fair to bless companion animals, and we'll have plenty of activities for children and people of all ages. Everyone is invited to dress as their favorite animal and participate in a costumed parade of animals at 2 pm.

Join us again in 2020, when we'll once again hold our full festal service and procession of the animals!

Crafts at the Cathedral

The Cathedral's beloved annual craft fair returns to the Nave on December 6 – 8! In medieval Europe, cathedrals served as the center of not just religious life in a town, but often the civic and commercial life, too. Guilds met, degrees were bestowed, craftsmen sought employment, and commerce was conducted in the naves of many great Cathedrals. Some cathedrals even had different sections of their naves set aside for different types of merchants — textiles in one corner, food in another, etc.

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is pleased to honor that tradition once again with our 23rd Annual Crafts at the Cathedral. Visit craftsatthecathedral.org for more information (or look for the postcard included with this newsletter!).



Fall is a busy time, full of annual events and services and the return of staff, students, residents, and colleagues to the Cathedral Close. This year, however, is a little different from most. Many readers of this newsletter may recall with clarity the months and years after the devastating 2001 Cathedral fire, which required great flexibility and accommodation on the part of our community as the building was cleaned and repaired. Fortunately, the Palm Sunday 2019 fire was much less extreme—yet the measures required to clean all traces of smoke and soot from the masonry will mean continued changes to public access and adjustments to many of our beloved seasonal programs. Read on below for more, and make sure to check out the calendar in this issue for details on more services, workshops, and special tours!

On September 14, the Cathedral and Diocese celebrate the ordination of a new group of priests. Later that evening, **the ACT program** offers a **free family movie night**, featuring "The Secret Life of Pets."

Beginning this September, join the **Congregation of St. Saviour for Unburdening Meditations**. This series explores the ancient tradition of contemplation used in all major faith traditions to build a deeper relationship with the Divine, explore our innate spirituality, and sense life's flow all around us. Each session will feature gentle body movement, silent meditation, discussion, and practicing prayer forms that respect each participant's faith and beliefs.

September 22 is **U.N. Sunday**, and the Cathedral is pleased to welcome **His Excellency Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande of Nigeria, President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**.

The first Sunday of October is typically the date of our Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals. This year, due to the fire in the crypt on Palm Sunday and the intensive cleaning it has necessitated, the traditional offerings will be adjusted to accommodate changes in access. Following the 11 am service, our annual St. Francis Day Fair will take place on the Pulpit Green featuring pet blessings, children's activities, and more. We invite you to mark your calendars for the first Sunday in October 2020, when **St. Francis Day** will be back and better than ever inside the Cathedral.

Great Music in a Great Space returns in the autumn with a full season of choral and organ performances. The season begins October 21 with **Music for a Gothic Space: Machaut's Messe de Nostre Dame, Motets of Josquin and Gregorian Chant**, performed by **Musica Sacra**. Join us on October 29 for an organ recital by **Artist in Residence David Briggs**, performing works of **J.S. Bach, César Franck, Marcel Dupré, and Franz Liszt**, and the world premiere of his own **Variations on "Take the A Train"**.

The creatures of the night, in a playful incarnation crafted by master puppeteer **Ralph Lee**, will enchant children and adults alike at our **Annual Halloween Extravaganza** on October 25. Throughout the weekend, Public Education and Visitor Services' beloved **Crypt Crawls** invite children 12 and over into the Cathedral's crypt to hear the stories of the entombed, and learn the origins of Halloween as a Celtic New Year celebration.

Another special treat at this time of year is **Gotham Gargoyles**, a workshop run by PEVS where children can assemble grimacing clay gargoyles, skeleton creatures and paper gargoyle masks (check the calendar for details).

November 5 brings another GMGS concert to the Close, as we welcome the **Oratorio Society of New York** for a concert featuring two extraordinary 20th-century pieces: excerpts from **Sergei Rachmaninoff's All-Night Vigil**, and **Maurice Duruflé's** ethereal **Requiem**. On November 20, the Cathedral Choir presents the U.S. premiere of **Patrick Zimmerli's Instrument of Destiny**, an oratorio on poetry by **Alan Seeger**.

November 10 is the annual American Poets Corner induction, and this year the Cathedral is proud to usher two American authors into this hallowed space: **Ralph Ellison**, novelist and critic, and **Harriet Jacobs**, memoirist and abolitionist.

Crafts at the Cathedral, now in its third year inside the Nave, brings together artisans from around the country to display their hand-crafted wares. This year's fair, from December 6 – 8, features items ranging from hand-thrown ceramics to alpaca weavings to unique blown glass, and proudly rings the start of winter and the Advent season.



Kent Tittle. PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld
Crafts at the Cathedral. PHOTO: Alicia Benoist Ceramics
Halloween Extravaganza. PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

Looking Back



Summer on the Cathedral typically translates to quiet nights and long days full of the joyful sound of kids at our **ACT summer programs**. This year—as all who have joined us at services and events since June can attest—was certainly outside the norm.

Following the Palm Sunday fire in the Cathedral crypt this past spring, the Cathedral has embarked upon a necessarily intensive and far-reaching cleaning and restoration schedule (See *pg.1 article*). The requirements of the cleaning work, in addition to construction work on the Crossing dome, meant that visitors, worshipers, and staff all had to embrace change on a regular basis. Daily services moved from bay to bay in the Nave to accommodate large lifts and cherrypickers; annual events were reconfigured to work in different Cathedral spaces; and many discussions were held to plan for the even-busier fall season.

Despite all the challenges, the summer was packed with exciting programs and community offerings for all, and everyone rose to the occasion in a spirit of cooperation and flexibility. Such is our joyfully busy life!

Summer at the Cathedral traditionally begins with the annual **Memorial Day** concert brought

to us by the **New York Philharmonic**. On June 10, the **New York Choral Consortium** returned for the summer **Big Sing**, bringing musicians both amateur and professional together in song.

The 2019 senior class of **The Cathedral School** graduated on June 14. This was an exciting year for the School, with a **new expansion** ready to accept fresh-faced students this semester (See *pg.3 article*).

This year's **Summer Solstice Concert**, the 24th annual, took place on the actual evening of the solstice itself, a perfect conjunction of seasonal observation and beautiful music. The Paul Winter Consort, led by Artist in Residence Paul Winter, made the most of the early hours of June 22, serenading the dawning sun as it first peeked in through the Rose Window.

June is **LGBTQ Pride Month**, and this year was particularly special: New York City hosted WorldPride, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, a rebellion often heralded as one of the flashpoints of the fight for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender rights. The Cathedral celebrated our LGBTQ community and history of inclusion with a **Choral Evensong** service on June 23, which included music by **Meredith Monk** and **Benjamin Britten**.

Working Theater joined us on June 24 and 25 with a reprise of their site-specific theatrical experience **Sanctuary**, created by **Michael Premo** and **Rachel Falcone**. This unique project draws from the Cathedral archives and interviews with members of the **Congregation of St. Saviour** to explore the meaning of faith and belonging.

The Value of Sanctuary: Building a House Without Walls exhibition closed at the end of June with an evening of discussion and performance. Artists Gabriel Garcia Roman and Arlene Mejorado joined lead curator **Isadora Wilkenfeld** for a conversation about community, visibility, and resilience. The dialogue was followed by a hauntingly beautiful performance by bagpiper **David Watson** and cellist **Alex Waterman** on artist **Francis Cape's** *Gathering of Utopian Benches* in the Chapel of St. Columba.

The **Cathedral Choristers**, accompanied by **Dean Daniel**, **Director of Music Kent Tritle**, **Associate Director of Music Raymond Nagem**, and **Choirmaster Bryan Zaros**, were off on a transatlantic adventure this summer! From August 16 to 23, they sang at **St. Paul's Cathedral**, London, then at **Canterbury Cathedral**, making memories sure to last a lifetime.

The Cathedral was pleased to once again host the opening of the **Harlem/Havana Music & Cultural Festival**, now in its fourth year. This weeklong celebration of the artists, musicians, and dancers of our New York City neighborhood and our friends to the south kicked off at the Cathedral on August 3 with a rousing performance by **Oyu Oro**, an Afro-Cuban experimental dance ensemble from Santiago de Cuba, joined by Harlem artists **Keith "The Captain" Gamble** and **The Nu Gypsies**.

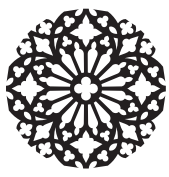
The Cathedral observed 9/11 this year with two programs. On September 5, author and activist **Kevin Tuerff** joined us for a conversation about his experiences as one of the airline passengers stranded in the small town of **Gander, Newfoundland**, on 9/11, and the lessons of compassion and welcoming the stranger he learned during his brief time there.

On September 11 itself, in collaboration with the **9/11 Memorial & Museum**, the Cathedral was the Manhattan site of a full-day screening of **Wolfgang Staehle's 2001**, a time-lapse compilation of video footage, extracted at four-second intervals on the day of the attacks. The original concept for Staehle's film was to convey the predictable normalcy of life at the start of the 21st century. In a sequence of twelve-seconds yielding three images, those mundane rhythms were ruptured as Staehle's cameras chronicled the transformation of a routine workday into a city under siege.

The Mettawee River Theatre Company returned to the Close on September 6, 7, and 8 with performances of **The Ring-Dove**, first produced in 1988. The story is drawn from the **Panchatantra**, a collection of allegorical tales whose origins reach back over 2,000 years to ancient India.

Cleaning work continued in the Cathedral through the summer and is projected to wrap up around the end of November. Read on in this issue for more information on upcoming fall programs, services, and events!

Spirit of Pride. PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld.
Chorister Trip. PHOTO: Cathedral Archives.
Cathedral Cleaning. PHOTO: Maxons Restoration.
Author Kevin Tuerff. PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld.
Harlem Havana. PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld



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

125
YEARS

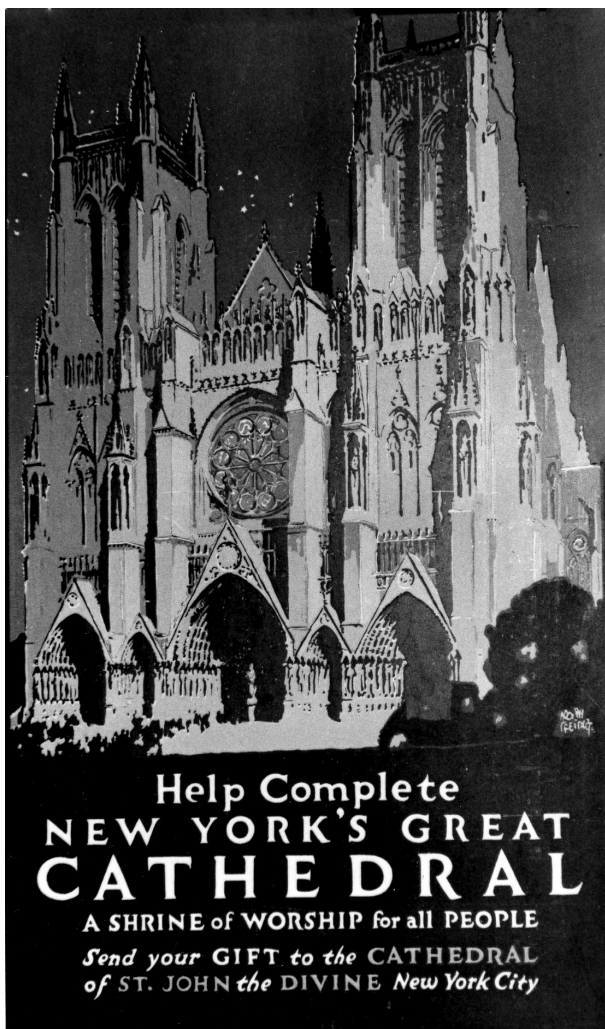
1047 Amsterdam Avenue
at 112th Street
New York, NY 10025

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Bellmawr, N.J.
Permit No. 1239

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.

Fall 2019 at the Cathedral

From the Archives:
A Cathedral for the 21st Century



The following excerpts are from *A Cathedral for the 21st Century: An Oral Biography of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine*, compiled by Bill Smith and Wayne Pearson, due to be published in fall 2019.

THE REV. TOM PIKE In 1828, the Episcopal Bishop of New York, John Henry Hobart met with the city's mayor. Bishop Hobart proposed building a cathedral in the center of the city near Washington Square. But the American revolt and wars against the British were still fresh in the minds of New Yorkers. Mayor Paulding objected, "The people of New York will riot in the streets." Gradually, over many years, people came to embrace the idea of a cathedral for New York.

HANNAH WOLFE EISNER The idea that the Cathedral was conceived as a truly American Cathedral even predates the charter. In the early 19th century, when more than half of New York's population was foreign born, St. John the Divine was conceived as an American Cathedral, affirming common ground between political ideals and the Gospel message.

THE VERY REV. JAMES A. KOWALSKI In the 1920s, the war was over and the new Bishop, William T. Manning, was eager to resume building the Cathedral. Bishop Manning made the claim that \$15 million would "Complete the Cathedral." Franklin Delano Roosevelt led the Building Campaign—it was national news and widely followed across the country.

WAYNE KEMPTON Bishop Manning wanted to finish the Nave and he was providing jobs during the Depression. He used employment for continued fundraising so that the Cathedral could continue to build.

THE VERY REV. JAMES PARKS MORTON In 1976, the Trustees made the decision to continue building the Cathedral

and to train young people to be apprentice stonecutters and carvers—particularly young minority women and men from our community. Over the next three years enough stone had been cut and carved to begin the construction of the southwest Tower of St. Paul.

BRUCE MACLEOD That the Cathedral is not finished, it's not buffed up and shined, it is vulnerable and needs the care of human hands. That gives it a special character, a kind of human frailty.

THE RIGHT REV. CLIFTON DANIEL III This place is meant to be overwhelming, it is meant to be grand. But in the end, what the grandeur encases is the heart of love that yearns to touch human life. That's what it's all about. God calls us to work together to create a just society, where all are fed, all are clothed, all are educated and respected in order that all may flourish. That's what the Cathedral was called to do 125 years ago, and it's what we will be called to do 125 years from now.

Stay in Touch

We welcome your suggestions and thoughts on the newsletter.

Please write us at editor@stjohndivine.org.