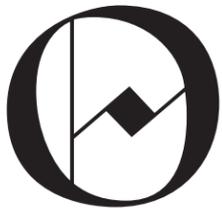




# Spring 2015 at the Cathedral

## All in a Day's Work



One of the pleasures of public spaces is that we don't have to clean them or, generally, offer to help. Yet, of course, somebody has to, and in the case of the Cathedral, those somebodies (14 fulltime workers, plus outside experts and management) have to care for an

almost 12-acre campus, several large, hundred-year-old buildings—and one more precisely described as “gigantic”—as well as help set up and take down events that draw thousands of people, many of which are clustered into the few weeks at the end of the year.

Besides the daily cleaning, facility staff have to worry about snow and ice, drains and gutters, feeding the peacocks, sweeping and washing the steps; painting, repairs and plumbing emergencies; making sure the Cathedral is stocked with candles, postcards and other printed matter; that permanent and temporary signage is where it's supposed to be; and that visiting artists have what they need, from sound and lighting systems to water bottles. There are unique problems, like the time a bat got stuck in the chimney of the Bishop's residence, or the time raccoons invaded the undercroft. And, as Mike Edwards, Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer put it, “There's a river flowing under the Cathedral.” This means sump pumps and constant vigilance. Seasonal jobs include putting up and taking down the Christmas tree and the crèche, scraping candle wax off the floors after the New Year's Eve Concert for Peace, assisting with the animals on St. Francis Day and with the many liturgical items needed for Holy Week. There are ongoing issues like stone repair and leaks, and artworks and instruments sensitive to cold and dust. The Cathedral buildings are a public trust and all who work here, in whatever capacity, are a part of that stewardship.

The longtime Director of Maintenance and Facilities Management, Ray Guyette, died unexpectedly on an ordinary workday last summer at the age of 62. Ray was deeply loved at the Cathedral and is mourned by all. The men and women who worked under him miss him particularly—the feeling many have, that the Cathedral is a family, was especially true in this case. In the late autumn, a new director, Stacey Pedone, came

“[A Cathedral] does not impress the beholder as an inanimate object, but as something that has a vast, quiet, long-enduring life of its own—a creation man did not build, though it some way or other it is connected with him, and kindred to human nature. In short, I fall straightway to talking nonsense, when I try to express my inner sense of this and other cathedrals.”

*from Pilgrimage to Old Boston, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804–1864), inducted into the American Poets Corner in 1986*

on board, eager to meet the challenge. She doesn't (yet) have Ray's institutional knowledge, but she brings enthusiasm, a fresh eye, and a determination to make the Cathedral sparkle—and not just with holiday candles. “This is a gorgeous place, an iconic place, and it should look gorgeous every day.” Her job demands daily attention to a myriad of issues, and perhaps most important, the ability to know when to worry about what's in front of her and when to look ahead. Ms. Pedone comes to the Cathedral from Macy's Herald Square—which, as she notes, is also an aging, landmark building visited by millions from all over the world.

The day begins with each maintenance person unlocking the building he or she is responsible for (the Cathedral itself has three people assigned), mopping and vacuuming floors, cleaning kitchens and bathrooms, and removing trash. The groundskeepers mow lawns, rake leaves, pick up windfalls and sweep the sidewalks around the campus. On a recent morning in early January, while this story was being written, Eddie Ortiz was spreading salt on all the steps and walkways as a light snow fell. Randolph Louisy was feeding the peacocks. Patrick Polias was manning the oil burner, which is showing its age and needs constant monitoring (a system upgrade using natural gas is planned for next year). Ms. Pedone was in her office contemplating a table covered with cleaning soap samples and wondering what color paint was used on the walls in Cathedral House. She is determined to paint more often, to wash windows more often, scrub the unseen parts of the Cathedral, and install water and money-saving sensors in the bathroom faucets. Recently, she purchased radios for each maintenance worker to upgrade and streamline campus communications.

One of the difficulties of coming into a job after the sudden death of a longtime employee is that information gets lost.

One of Ms. Pedone's goals is to create a master file of everything that needs to be done daily, weekly, monthly, yearly, arranged by season and holiday, including such notations as “August 1: order Christmas tree.” This sort of organization was not invented by the computer age, but computers make it easier; we have all become more used to information at our fingertips, from search engines to five-year-old email chats. The Cathedral is moving more slowly than many institutions—mainly due to financial constraints—but last year the website was upgraded, this year a computerized work requisition system is being installed, and perhaps in a few years the Cathedral will be able to live-stream events.

There are many Cathedral events that in other institutions might be handled by dedicated staff—the set up and take down for concerts, tables for the Christmas Crafts Fair and the Cathedral School Book Fair, and the storing and retrieval of liturgical items—that at the Cathedral get a boost from regular maintenance workers. It's an all-hands-on-deck mentality here,

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Evening Prayer

[Cathedral Information](#)

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

## Looking Back



Revelers at the New Year's Eve Concert for Peace.  
Photo: Helena Kubicka de Braganca

Winter at the Cathedral is really two seasons: the holiday season and the quiet season, when the excitement dies down, and thoughts turn to daily life.

The maintenance staff does in January what there is no time to do between St. Francis Day and New Year's Eve—and what there won't be time to do as Holy Week gets closer. Clergy also take a moment to catch their breath, and education and events staff focus on long-range plans. This year the busy season started with the **Cathedral Crafts Fair** and swung into motion on December 13, with the annual **Christmas Concert**, featuring the combined Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra with soloists **Amy Justman** and **Marc Day**. **Paul Winter's Winter Solstice Concert** marked his 35th year at the Cathedral, with a series of rousing, artist-packed evenings, featuring **Danny Rivera**, the “Voice of Puerto Rico” and **The Forces of Nature Dance Company**. **Frederick Renz** and **Early Music New York** played several performances of *A Dutch Christmas*, *the Age of Rembrandt* (produced in

association with The Metropolitan Museum of Art). It featured late Renaissance carols and dances by **Jan Pieterzoon Sweelinck**, **Jacob van Eyck**, **Pierre Phalèse & Tielman Susato**. The year ended, as always, with the **New Year's Eve Concert for Peace**, featuring soloists Jamet Pittman and Gregory Purnhagen, hosted by **Harry Smith**, and including guests **Judy Collins** and **Jason Robert Brown**. Celebrants carried their candles—flickers of hope—out into the January night.

On January 10, families experienced the fun of Adults and Children in Trust's **Winter Festival!**—a great opportunity to meet and greet the friendly staff and educators and learn about ACT's 44 years of service in our community. On January 15, participants in the **Visual Thinking Strategies Salon** were joined by special guest **Amy Chase Gulden**, National Program Director, VTS, for a mind-opening evening of looking at art.

On January 18, the Cathedral's annual **Martin Luther King Choral Eucharist** was led by the **Rev. Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou**, Pastor for Formation and Justice at the First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain, MA. In the afternoon, **Alice Parker**, artistic director of **Melodious Accord**, hosted a community sing honoring Dr. King, and in the evening, visiting singers came together for a performance modeled after Coretta Scott King's Freedom Concerts in response to the events surrounding the deaths of **Michael Brown** and **Eric Garner**. The spirit of Dr. King permeated the Cathedral, reminding us of the terrible costs—and the enormous achievements—of social justice work. This evening of spoken word and music featured performers **Rasaan H. Bourke**, **Joe Damon Chappel**, **Charles Duke**, **Brennan Hall**, **David Hurd**, **Jason Leon Moncrief**, **Korland Simmons** and **Jonathan Woody** sharing personal stories, poetry and prose along with a wide range of classical and contemporary vocal and instrumental music.

On January 24, choristers from around the Diocese of New York assembled for a day of music, Dalcroze Eurythmics workshops, a tour of the Cathedral and fellowship, as part of the **Diocesan Treble Festival**. The festival was led by **Melissa Attebury** (Trinity Church, Wall Street), **Kent Tritle**, **Raymond Nagem** and **Malcolm J. Merriweather**. On February 7, worshippers gathered for the annual Special Eucharist honoring **Absalom Jones**, African-American abolitionist and clergyman. After founding

a black congregation in 1794, he was the first African American ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church of the United States, in 1804.

Visitors to the Cathedral on February 19 were given a unique experience with ***Nightbird: Constellation of the Phoenix***, communing under the illuminated sculptures for an evening of yoga, dance, organ meditations and quiet reflection. On February 24, Great Music in a Great Space presented **Machaut Mass**. This program of a cappella choral works explored the transition between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. **Guillaume de Machaut's** (c. 1300–1377) **Messe de Notre Dame** is the first known setting of the entire Mass Ordinary by a single composer. The performance in the Chapel of St. James also included traditional Gregorian chants, and a selection of motets by **Josquin des Prez** (c. 1450–1521), the towering musical figure of the early Renaissance. On February 25, The Cathedral hosted **Birds of Metal in Flight: An Evening of Poetry with 5+5**, organized by **Lydia Liu**, W.T. Tam Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Chinese and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. The reading featured leading Chinese and American poets reading beneath the wings of the mighty phoenixes. Readers included **Bei Dao**, widely considered one of China's most important contemporary authors; **Ouyang Jianghue**, known as one of the “Five Masters from Sichuan,” whose most recent book is *Phoenix*, inspired by Xu Bing's work; **Zhai Yongming**, a widely published poet; **Xi Chuan**, poet, essayist, translator; **Zhou Zan**, poet, translator and scholar; American poet, essayist, and editor **Charles Bernstein**; American Book Awards winner **Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge**; Luxembourg-American poet **Pierre Joris**; poet and translator **Afaa Weaver**; and the Cathedral's Poet in Residence, **Marilyn Nelson**.



Clergy and singers at the Diocesan Treble Festival.  
Photo: Cathedral Archives

## The Cathedral: Getting Ready for Holy Week

Holy Week is a journey in the steps of Christ, with eight very different services, each of which require its own preparation. As such, it requires theatrical and organizational skills as well as spiritual ones. In late January or February, Director of Music Kent Tritle and the Rev. Julia Whitworth, Canon for Liturgy and the Arts, start choosing hymns for the services as well as poetry to be read alongside music for the Good Friday Choral Lamentations. Kent Tritle decides on the choral selections: a mix of contemporary and traditional composers, chosen to suit the acoustics of the space and the sound of the Great Organ. The chorus and orchestra hold frequent rehearsals—as Mr. Tritle puts it, “From the first rehearsal in the fall, we are in a state of near-perpetual motion until we pass through the month of June.” Professional musicians are booked, and program leaflets are written, edited and sent to printers. Under Canon Whitworth, palms are ordered for Palm Sunday (Amanda Sidebottom, Coordinator for Liturgy & the Arts, spent time this year researching to make sure the palm farmers follow Fair Trade and sustainable practices.) Head acolytes, vergers and ushers plan the volunteer rota. (Holy Week requires forty volunteers.) Volunteers also polish all the silver and brass. “Ideally, it would all be polished in the week before Easter, to mimic the progression of dark to light, but that's not possible,” said Canon Whitworth. Before Palm Sunday, the dozens of crosses in the Cathedral are veiled in deep purple, and the High Altar is covered in a kite-like gauze structure. After the service, maintenance staff burn the palms and save the

ashes for the following year's Ash Wednesday service. Floral designers Chris Jobes and Naomi Martin set up shop in one of the Chapels of the Tongues, spending days bringing in and arranging the glorious spring flowers that will fill the Cathedral on Easter Sunday.

On Thursday, the maintenance staff is called on to bring out the enormous pewter washbasins and pitchers for the Maundy Thursday service, when the clergy wash congregants' feet. During the service on Maundy Thursday, the altars are stripped, hangings taken down, and decorative vestments removed. All the purple is gone and on Friday, the clergy dresses in black. Meanwhile, staff members assist with the reading of Dante's *Inferno*, a Poets Corner tradition. This reading culminates with a roar from the Great Organ by Associate Organist Raymond Nagem, and is always followed by a party in Cathedral House.

On Friday, the noon liturgy at the High Altar is a traditional Good Friday observance, using the Renaissance composer Victoria's setting of the Passion, sung by the Cathedral Choir, to tell the crucifixion story. The Good Friday service requires Maintenance Staff to bring out the big plain wooden cross. Cathedral candles are liquid paraffin, not wax, and Maintenance workers Tony Dancy and Julio Sanches make sure they are always full. At two pm, clergy lead congregants through the weaving dance of the Stations of the Cross, with readings in Spanish and English, chanting and hymns. The participants begin in the Narthex, move through

twelve stations, and end in the Biblical Garden. In the evening, Choral Lamentations features the Cathedral Choir in music of contemplation and deep expression.

On Saturday, the Cathedral is busy with volunteers placing the flowers that will remain shadowed (the Cathedral lit only by candles) until the lights come up, halfway through the Saturday night Great Vigil service. The baptismal font is brought in, and the Easter fire set up in the Narthex to be lit by the Bishop. The service begins, “In the darkness, fire is kindled.” In the Cathedral, this moment is especially beautiful, the stone and vastness recalling the great Cathedrals of Europe, while the service itself dates back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

There is also spiritual preparation going on. The Reverend Victoria Sirota, Canon Pastor and Vicar of the Congregation, teaches a class every year from the first Sunday after Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday for people who are to be baptized, confirmed, or who wish to reaffirm their faith or to learn about the faith of a spouse. Canon Sirota explained that a central feature of the Episcopal faith—that not everyone has to believe the same thing, that questioning and doubt are perfectly okay—often comes as a surprise to new members of the church. The class is a place where they can not only learn Church practices and theology, but share their beliefs and ideas. It ends with the Great Vigil service, when the Bishop performs baptisms and confirmations. The class members are part of the group of volunteers who guard the consecrated

## Dean’s Meditation: Divides

“Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others.”

Jonathan Swift

“We have created characters and animated them in the dimension of depth, revealing through them to our perturbed world that the things we have in common far outnumber and outweigh those that divide us.”

Walt Disney

“There is a divide in America, and in New York City. It is racial, but it is also about poverty and failed social systems and unequal access to the American Dream.”

William J. Bratton,

*Commissioner of the New York City Police Department*

When *The New York Times* reported on the Tamir Rice case (“Many Errors by Cleveland Police, Then a Fatal One,” Jan. 22, 2015), the overview was not surprising. What started out as one boy swapping his mother's cell phone for a friend's replica of a Colt pistol—each to play with the other's “toy”—ended in another shooting of a black male. At a park across the street from his home, Tamir Rice assumed poses like most kids do as he carried on with the lifelike, airsoft-style gun. A security video shows a child with a toy gun at the edge of a gazebo. But when a squad car suddenly barreled across the lawn, it took only two more seconds for that boy to lie dying from a police officer's bullet.

What had transpired was succinctly described as a “series of miscommunications, tactical errors and institutional failures” by the Cleveland police, which the *Times* said “cascaded into one irreversible mistake.” The responding officers had heard a Code 1 call—the highest level of urgency. Multiple layers in Cleveland's 911 systems blocked the complete call-in message, which had stated that there was “a guy in here with a pistol” that was “probably fake” and that the wielder was “probably a juvenile.” In their rush, the shortcut the officers took placed their squad car so close to Tamir that they could not take cover and then speak to him from a distance—the department's use-of-force policy protocol. Two seconds after the police car's arrival the boy was shot. Few believe that the boy could have



Photo: Cathedral Archives

bread and wine overnight after the Maundy Thursday service. They each spend a few hours in the Baptistry. Canon Sirota talked about what it feels like to holding a silent prayer vigil in hearing distance of the Maundy Thursday reading of Dante's *Inferno*. “It's like a spiritual battle.” Yet, she admits, “When everyone leaves,”—decamping to Cathedral House for wine and conversation—“the Cathedral feels so empty.” After the months of classes and the all-night vigil, faith explored and experienced, the students join other congregants for the weekend's services.

For both Canon Sirota and Canon Whitworth, Holy Week, precisely marking the steps of Christ's journey to the cross and up to Heaven, is when God's time–Kairos–merges with the world's time–Chronos. Mystery is right here, right now, ritual bringing the sacred story to life. The behind-the-scenes work makes sure that the Cathedral is ready for the journey and the celebration.

been warned three times to raise his hands, as the police later claimed. Tamir's 14-year-old sister was tackled to the ground and put in handcuffs as she ran to her brother. Tamir's distraught mother was threatened with arrest as she entered the scene. The officers did not check Tamir's vital signs or perform first aid in the minutes after he was shot, even though they requested emergency medical aid at least seven times. Even with a fire station a block away, it took eight minutes before help arrived.

Some call it a “history of dysfunction” at the Cleveland Division of Police, citing the Justice Department report of a pattern of excessive force for which officers were rarely disciplined. A year earlier the Ohio Attorney General found “systemic failure” in the department. The department has had to accept a federal monitor, including review of how recruits are vetted, diminished community policing programs and budget cuts. To me, the ongoing insistence of Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson that there is no “systemic failure” in the department is most troubling.

When Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. went to the St. Louis area last August, he toured another community in turmoil. Less than a year earlier he had visited there to showcase initiatives intended to keep poor black men out of prison. The Ferguson police shooting of an unarmed African American teen refocused the Attorney General's plans to reform our criminal justice system, which he said imposed “shameful” disparities on minority communities. Holder is my age–63. I find his stories of being pulled over and accosted by police while growing up in New York City—and of being skeptical of police even while serving as a federal prosecutor in Washington—poignant and forthright. Holder emphasizes that many underlying issues predate specific incidents and understands better than most that the Justice Department has far to go before the undertones of racial mistrust in the criminal justice system are fully addressed. If the black community yearns to hear President Obama speak with similar force and passion, they also understand how easily his remarks have been politicized and have had the sad effect of hardening the country's racial divide.

Two officers were shot “execution-style” while in a parked patrol car in Brooklyn five days before Christmas. Despite a request from Police Commissioner Bratton that officers not let their anger with the Mayor distract from the funerals and the grieving families, police officers from New York and some others from around the country appeared to turn their backs as Mr. de Blasio spoke at both funerals. The Patrolmen's Benevolent Association leader said that the Mayor has “thrown the city's police force under the bus” after the Staten Island grand jury decision not to indict the police involved in the death of Eric Garner. The Mayor spoke candidly as a member of an inter-racial family:

## Looking Ahead

“A single gentle rain makes the grass many shades greener. So our prospects brighten on the influx of better thoughts. We should be blessed if we lived in the present always, and took advantage of every accident that befell us, like the grass which confesses the influence of the slightest dew that falls on it; and did not spend our time in atoning for the neglect of past opportunities, which we call doing our duty. We loiter in winter while it is already spring.”

*from Walden Pond, by Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862), inducted into the American Poets Corner in 1988*

At the Cathedral, there is little hesitation to welcome the new season. Spring is busy here, as well as beautiful. The gardeners are performing their magic, the birds building their nests, and the idle visitor—the one who never heard of the Cathedral before, who was exploring the neighborhood and wondered what that great mass of stone might be—is becoming more numerous. As is written about elsewhere in this issue, the clergy is wrapped up in preparations for Holy Week. This year, special events include **Dzieci Theatre's** performance of “A Passion According to Matthew,” and two art exhibitions, **Gregory Botts' *The Stations Project*** and **Terry Flaxton's *The Intersection of Dreams*** (see article for more details).

**Flutes of Hope**, the instrumental ensemble led by *shakuhachi* flute player **Ralph Samuelson**, pays tribute to the resilience of the Japanese people following the devastating earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear accident of March 2011 with a performance featuring Samuelson, **Kaoru Watanabe**, **Steve Gorn**, **Sumie Kaneko**, and **Yukio Tsuji**, playing traditional Japanese music as well as compositions by Teiji Ito, Henry Cowell, and Kaoru Watanabe. This year's program at the Cathedral falls on

I spent some time with Ben Garner, Eric's father, who is in unspeakable pain. I couldn't help but immediately think what it would mean to me to lose Dante [de Blasio's son]. Things would never be the same again. Chirlane [de Blasio's wife] and I have had to talk to Dante for years about the danger that he may face ... how to take special care in any encounters he has with the police officers who are there to protect him. This is now a national moment of grief, a national moment of pain and searching for a solution. We are dealing with centuries of racism that have brought us to this day. That is how profound the crisis is. One chapter has closed with the decision of this grand jury. There are more chapters to come.

The Commissioner said the city needs to allow people to demonstrate without letting protests turn violent or anti-police, and expressed his disapproval of the rank-and-file rebuke of the Mayor. “I certainly don't support that action,” Mr. Bratton said. “I think it was very inappropriate at that event.” Mr. Bratton said he would meet with police union leaders as these conflicts arose in light of racial tensions exacerbated by recent high-profile killings. “I think it's probably a rift that is going to go on for a while longer,” Mr. Bratton said, “however, we will be making efforts to sit down and talk with the union leaders in particular to deal with their issues.”

Democratic government will always be messy and never easy. As we aspire to equal justice under the law, our systems of justice will never be perfect. That is why rigorous investigations and truth-telling about our shortcomings are the only chance we have of making a more perfect union. How strange it would be after an airline disaster to respond simply by saying that it happens rarely and does not warrant investigation, or that any investigation would appear to blame the pilots. I fly too often to want to chance the added risk that such dishonesty and ignorance would engender. Maybe that is the problem: we forget that the danger to each of us is made greater if we do not work hard for equal justice. Do we think that criminals or the poor or immigrants, for example, do not deserve better? That a time will come when that same system could unfairly punish us? Of course, those of us with money or status end up in “the other” justice system. But any line that creates a divide can move, and when it redefines a boundary we can awaken to adverse impact on our lives.

Any true moral compass must have respect for the dignity of all at its center. Mother Teresa, when asked how she sustained her ministry among the poor, would explain that she began and ended each day at Eucharist. As the Body of Christ was elevated and then broken, she saw Jesus' face. Sandwiched between those daily markers was the challenge—made easier—to see Christ in everyone, everywhere.

March 19. On March 28, **Karin Coonrod's *Everything That Rises Must Conquer***, an adaption of the famous **Flannery O'Connor story**, will be performed (see article). The ongoing **Great Music in a Great Space** season (see article) continues with **Verdi's *Requiem***, bringing together the power of the Cathedral Choir, the Manhattan School of Music and the Oratorio Society of New York.

Holy Week at the Cathedral is a time of many stirring events and services. On April 2, the Cathedral's annual Maundy Thursday reading of **Dante's *Inferno*** draws poets and friends to hear the unforgettable descriptions of sin, torment, hell and, woven through it all, love. At the midnight reception afterward, we raise a glass to the power of language, sustained through time and translation. April 3 brings the **Good Friday Choral Lamentations**, and the **Easter Day Eucharist** on April 5 rouses the spirit with glorious song and reverent community.

On April 16, the Cathedral partners with Tibet Fund to host the **Venerable Professor Samdhong Rinpoche** in conversation with the Dean. On May 2, **The Blessing of the Bicycles** brings cyclists and their steeds into the Cathedral, asking for safety on city streets in return for their choice of clean transport. The penultimate event of the season is the annual **Memorial Day Concert** on May 25, when The New York Philharmonic Orchestra translates the joys of long days and blossom-fragrant nights into glorious sound. This is a perfect occasion to bring friends and family to the Cathedral, to walk through the gardens and speak to the peacocks, to look carefully at the carvings and the stained glass before settling down to world-class music. On June 1, the Cathedral celebrates the **Spirit of Pride**, reaffirming the commitment to our LGBTQ community and fellowship with all, as spring transforms into the first night of summer. For more upcoming events at the Cathedral, turn to the calendar section.

# Spring events 2015

SERVICE TIMES	
<b>Sunday Services</b>	<b>Daily Services</b>
<b>8 am</b> Morning Prayer & Holy Eucharist	<b>Monday–Saturday 8 am</b> Morning Prayer
<b>9 am</b> Holy Eucharist	<b>8:30 am</b> Holy Eucharist
<b>11 am</b> Choral Eucharist	(Tuesday & Thursday only)
<b>4 pm</b> Choral Evensong	<b>12:15 pm</b> Holy Eucharist
	<b>5 pm</b> Evening Prayer

## TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS

Tickets for all performances other than free or “suggested contribution” events may be purchased directly from the Cathedral’s website, stjohndvine.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, stjohndvine.org or call the Visitor Center (212) 316-7540 for updates and additional event and tour information.

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

## ONGOING PROGRAMS, TOURS, WORKSHOPS

### The Great Organ: Midday Monday

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

### The Great Organ: It’s Sunday

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

### PUBLIC EDUCATION & VISITOR SERVICES TOURS AND CHILDREN’S WORKSHOP

Public Education & Visitor Services offers Cathedral Highlights, Vertical, and Spotlight Tours. All tours meet for registration at the Visitor Center inside the Cathedral entrance, at 112th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Highlights Tours: \$8 per person, \$7 per student/senior. Vertical Tours: \$17 per person, \$15 per student/senior. Spotlight Tours: \$10 per person, \$8 per student/senior.

### Highlights Tours

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

Explore the many highlights of the Cathedral’s history, architecture, and artwork, from the Great Bronze Doors to the seven Chapels of the Tongues. Learn about the Cathedral’s services, events, and programs that welcome and inspire visitors from around the world. \$8 per person, \$7 per student/senior. No prior reservation necessary. Meet at Visitor Center.

### Vertical Tours

*Wednesdays, Noon–1 pm*  
*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. The tour culminates on the roof with a wonderful view of Manhattan. \$17 per person, \$15 per student/senior. All participants must be 12 years of age and older and reservations are recommended. For reservations visit the Cathedral website or call (866) 811-4111. Bring a flashlight and bottle of water. Meet at Visitor Center.

### Spotlight Tours

*Select Saturdays and Sundays*  
Spotlight Tours are specially created by Cathedral Guides to give visitors a closer look at unique aspects of the Cathedral’s extraordinary architecture, artwork, and history. \$10 per person, \$8 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.

### Textile Treasures

*Select Fridays, 2 pm–4 pm*  
Explore the Cathedral’s magnificent textile art collection with a unique tour of the Cathedral’s world-renowned Textile Conservation Lab, which conserves tapestries, needlepoint,

upholstery, costumes, and other textiles. Particular attention will be paid to the Barberini collection of the Life of Christ tapestries, given before there was even a cathedral to display them in, and the Acts of the Apostles tapestries, based on cartoons by Raphael. \$20 per person, \$15 per student/senior. All participants must be 12 years of age or older and reservations are recommended. Visit stjohndvine.org for the tour schedule. Meet at Visitor Center.

### Medieval Birthday Parties

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

### NIGHTWATCH

The Nightwatch program has been updated and expanded with three exciting and innovative offerings: Nightwatch Crossroads, Knightwatch Medieval and Nightwatch Dusk & Dawn. For more information visit stjohndvine.org or contact: (212) 316-5819/nightwatch@stjohndvine.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 stjohndvine.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, Program Manager, (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, Program Manager, (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)  
Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (by appointment only)  
Pre-screening and, if eligible, help with online applications and recertification is available. Contact: Lauren Phillips, Program Manager, (212) 316-7581.

## March

## SELECTED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### Transitional Diaconate Service

*Saturday, March 7, 10:30 am*  
Visit dioceseny.org for information.

### The Great Organ: It’s Sunday

*Sundays, March 8, 15, and 22, 5 pm*  
Renée Anne Louprette presents a three-part series of J.S. Bach’s chorales, on March 8, 15 and 22.

### Nightwatch Dusk & Dawn

*Friday, March 13, 7 pm and Saturday, March 14, 2 pm*  
This Friday evening and Saturday morning urban retreat is designed for adults seeking rest from their busy lives for soul renewal and spiritual direction. The evening’s chanting, meditation and reflection will draw upon the rich tapestry of the world’s faith traditions.

### I Love NY: Spotlight on the City

*Saturday, March 14, 10 am*  
Celebrate New York City and its indomitable spirit with a special tour of the Cathedral. Learn how the Cathedral and City serve as places of diversity, tolerance, and human achievement. Hear stories of New York’s immigrants, inventors, and artists who have helped shape the City and the world. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko.

### Creating and Constructing Children’s Workshop

*Saturday, March 14, 10 am*  
Think like an architect in the world’s largest cathedral! Consider the roles of structure, utility, and beauty as you explore arches, symbols, and stained glass windows. Use the tools of the trade to sketch model elevations, rose windows, and build your own model to take home. Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child, with accompanying adult. Meet at Visitor Center.

### The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

*Saturday, March 14, 1 pm*  
Go back in time on a walking tour of historic Morningside Heights, described as the “Acropolis of Manhattan. The tour begins at the Cathedral and ends at Riverside Church. Led by Cathedral Guide Bill Schneberger. \$15 per person, \$12 per student/senior. All participants must be 12 years of age or older and reservations are recommended. This tour requires extensive outdoor walking and use of stairs. In the event of inclement weather, participants are advised to call in advance to confirm the tour.

### Signs and Symbols: Spotlight on Symbolism

*Saturday, March 14, 1 pm–2 pm*  
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.

### Flutes of Hope

*Thursday, March 19, 7:30 pm*  
Flutes of Hope, an ensemble and music program established in 2012, pays tribute to the resilience and compassion of the Japanese people following the devastating March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in northern Japan.

### Nightwatch Crossroads: Interspiritual

*Friday, March 20, 6:30 pm*  
Nightwatch Crossroads is a Friday evening and overnight spiritual retreat for middle and high school age students, youth groups and their adult chaperones. The Interspiritual retreat is an inclusive program created for youth of all faiths, exploring music, spiritual disciplines, stories and wisdom from a variety of the world’s religious traditions.

### Within the Walls: Exploring Hidden Spaces

*Saturday, March 21, 10 am*  
This extended vertical tour features “behind-the-scenes” climbs in both the eastern and western ends of St. John the Divine. 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. 20 per person, \$15 per student/senior.

### Great Music in a Great Space: Verdi Requiem

*Thursday, March 26, 7:30 pm*  
Join us for the operatic grandeur of Giuseppe Verdi’s Requiem in an equally dramatic setting! Kent Tritle conducts a splendid cast of soloists, leading this first ever collaboration with the Oratorio Society of New York and the Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus and Orchestra.

### With Angels and Archangels: Spotlight on Angelic Imagery

*Saturday, March 28, 10 am*  
Discover images of angels in the Cathedral’s glass and stone. Learn about the role of angels in religious scriptures and international cultures. The tour concludes with an ascent to the triforium for a birds-eye view of the breathtaking Archangels Window. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

### Easter Eggstravaganza Children’s Art Workshop

*Saturday, March 28, 10 am and 2 pm*  
Join us for our popular, annual egg workshop! Children can create colorful patterns on their eggs with tissue paper, glitter, glue, and paint, and build a nest for decorated eggs with twigs, feathers, and clay. Please bring two hard-boiled eggs per child. Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child, with accompanying adult. Purchasing tickets in advance is highly recommended as there is limited space in each workshop.

### Compagnia De’ Colombari: Everything That Rises Must Converge

*Saturday, March 28, 7:30 pm*  
Adapted for the stage by Karin Coonrod, Flannery O’Connor’s classic story touches on the shifting boundaries of class, race and sex in the mid-20th century Deep South. Visit stjohndvine.org for tickets and more information.

## OBSERVING THE SEASON: HOLY WEEK SERVICES

<i>11 am Eucharist</i>
<b>Holy Monday, March 30 and Holy Wednesday, April 1</b>
<i>7 pm Eucharist</i>

<b>Holy Tuesday, March 31</b>
<i>10:30 am Chrism &amp; Collegiality Eucharist (with Diocese of New York)</i>
<i>7 pm Eucharist</i>
<i>8 pm Dzieci’s A Passion</i>
<i>A dramatic choral liturgy not bound by any one religion, offered by the Dzieci Theatre ensemble. Visit dziecitheatre.org for more information.</i>

## Maundy Thursday, April 2

<i>7 pm Eucharist</i>
<i>9 pm The Reading of Dante’s Inferno</i>
<i>Poets, translators and critics present an all-night reading from Dante’s legendary journey.</i>
<i>10 pm All Night Vigil with the Congregation of Saint Saviour</i>

## Good Friday, April 3

<i>12 pm Liturgy with Choir</i>
<i>2 pm Stations of the Cross</i>
<i>7 pm Choral Laments with Music</i>

## Holy Saturday, April 4

## 7 pm Easter Vigil

## Easter Day, April 5

<i>8 am Holy Eucharist</i>
<i>11 am Festival Eucharist</i>
<i>4 pm Evensong</i>

## April

## Glowing Glass Children’s Workshop

*Saturday, April 11, 10 am*  
Children and their families explore the shapes, colors, patterns, and stories in the Cathedral’s beautiful stained glass. The program begins with a tour of the Cathedral’s colorful windows, searching for diamonds and flowers, athletes and knights. Kids will then design their own stained glass windows using colors inspired by the Great Rose Window. Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child, with accompanying adult.

### Within the Walls: Exploring Hidden Spaces

*Saturday, April 11, 10 am*  
Please see description for March 21.

### Unfinished Symphony: Spotlight on Architecture

*Saturday, April 11, 2 pm*  
Learn about the architectural styles within the Cathedral, how it was constructed, who designed it, where it stands within American architectural history, what keeps it standing up, and why it’s still not finished. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

### The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

*Sunday, April 12, 1 pm*  
Please see description for March 15.

### The Great Organ: It’s Sunday

*Sunday, April 12, 5 pm*  
Eugene Lavery, Louisville, KY.

### Enter the Conversation: Samdhong Rinpoche

*Thursday, April 16, 6:30 pm*  
The Venerable Professor Samdhong Rinpoche joins the Dean for a wide-ranging conversation on the nature of the mind.

### Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

*Friday, April 17, 6:30 pm*  
This Christian-oriented evening for middle and high school students focuses on the wisdom teachings of Jesus, giving kids and their chaperones the opportunity to unplug from the distractions and stresses of daily life and connect with God and one another in the sacred space of the Cathedral.

### Taizé In New York

*Saturday, April 18, 9 am*  
Young people (high school age to 35 years old) from all the Christian denominations are invited to meet at the Cathedral for a day organized in the pattern of the Taizé monastery. Following the teachings of Brother Alois, Prior of Taizé, this gathering will emphasize a “new solidarity that can bring together all who are pilgrims of peace, pilgrims of truth, whether believers or non-believers.” Pilgrims will also have the opportunity to participate in Bible study meetings and community service projects in the surrounding neighborhoods of Morningside Heights and Harlem. The 7 pm Evening Prayer is open to all, regardless of registration. For more information and to register, visit taizenyc.org.

### The Great Organ: It’s Sunday

*Sunday, April 19, 5 pm*  
Harold Stover, Portland, ME.

### The Great Organ: Juilliard Organ Department Recital

*Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 pm*  
The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is proud to present the organ department of The Juilliard School as part of the Great Music in a Great Space concert series. The event is open to the public and admission is free. These young rising stars will perform a varied selection of music ranging from the Baroque to the present day.

### Nightwatch Crossroads: Interspiritual

*Friday, April 24, 6:30 pm*  
Please see description for March 20.

### Medieval Arts Children’s Workshop

*Saturday, April 25, 10 am*  
In this signature workshop, children carve a block of limestone, create medieval illuminated letters, design gargoyles, weave, and more! Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$6 per child, with accompanying adult. Meet at the Visitor Center.

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

*Saturday, April 25, 10 am*  
What are a stripper and the signs of the zodiac doing in our stained glass windows? Find out on this tour that puts the spotlight on surprising images in glass and stone. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

### The Great Organ: It’s Sunday

*Sunday, April 26, 5 pm*  
Tate Addis, New Haven, CT.

### The Untold Story of Eleanor Roosevelt

*Thursday, April 30, 7:30 pm*  
She may be the most revered and accomplished First Lady in American history, but Eleanor Roosevelt faced more than her share of detractors. Franklin D. Roosevelt III will moderate a discussion and Q&A featuring Marc Peyser and Timothy Dwyer, authors of *Hissing Cousins: The Untold Story of Eleanor Roosevelt and Alice Roosevelt Longworth* (Doubleday) exploring Eleanor Roosevelt’s quest for dignity, in both the political and personal spheres.

## May

## Blessing of the Bicycles

*Saturday, May 2, 9 am*  
All cyclists are invited to receive a blessing at this special annual service.

### Medieval Games Children’s Workshop

*Saturday, May 2, 10 am*  
What did people do for fun in the Middle Ages? Children will discover where sports are featured in the Cathedral, learn to play games and create toys that were popular in Medieval Europe, as well as create their own heraldic coat of arms. Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child, with accompanying adult. Meet at the Visitor Center.

### The Great Organ: It’s Sunday

*Sunday, May 3, 5 pm*  
Chelsea Barton, Mechanicsburg, PA.

### The Great Organ: Raymond Nagem

*Thursday, May 7, 7:30 pm*  
In the second of this two-part performance series, Raymond Nagem, Associate Organist at St. John the Divine and C. V. Starr Doctoral Fellow at The Juilliard School, presents Olivier Messiaen’s “L’Ascension” and “Messe de la Pentecôte.”

### Medieval 2.0: Spotlight on Traditions Transformed

*Saturday, May 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.

### The Great Organ: It’s Sunday

*Sunday, May 10, 5 pm*  
Jason Roberts, Hartford, CT.

### Revelation Revealed: Spotlight on the Apocalypse

*Saturday, May 9, 2 pm*  
Discover the meaning of mysterious images from the Revelation in the sculpture and stained glass of the cathedral dedicated to its author, St. John the Divine. The tour concludes with an ascent above the High Altar for a birds-eye view of the breathtaking Clerestory Windows. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

### Great Music in a Great Space: The Wingéd Lion

*Thursday, May 14, 7:30 pm*  
The Cathedral Choir and world music ensemble Rose of the Compass reunite for a concert celebrating the culture, music and history of Venice in the Chapel of St. James. With its resonant acoustic and intimate size, St. James is the ideal place to experience the dazzling spatial effects of Venetian music. This performance explores a millennium of cultural exchange between Europe and the Levant with works by composers ranging from Gabrieli to Monteverdi, as well as traditional music from Armenia, Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean.

### Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

*Friday, May 15, 6:30 pm*  
Please see description for April 17.

### Vocational Diaconate Service

*Saturday, May 16, 10:30 am*  
Visit dioceseny.org for more information.

### The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

*Sunday, May 17, 1 pm*  
Please see description for March 15.

### The Great Organ: It’s Sunday

*Sunday, May 17, 5 pm*  
Caroline Robinson, of Rochester, NY, performs music of Jongen and Dupré.

### Memorial Day Concert

*Monday, May 25, 8 pm*  
The New York Philharmonic presents the first in their series of free summer concerts at the Cathedral, one of our most cherished signature events. Visit stjohndvine.org for more information.

### Cathedral Journey Children’s Workshop

*Saturday, May 30, 10 am*  
Discover the arts of the Middle Ages and the building of cathedrals as you travel through time to spend a day as a medieval apprentice. Learn how to carve a block of limestone with a mallet and chisel, design a “stained glass” window, create a gargoyle to protect the Cathedral, and more! Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child, with accompanying adult.

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

*Saturday, May 30, 10 am*  
The west front is the architectural equivalent of an overture, an exposition of the themes developed within the main body of the Cathedral. The tour introduces the interplay of modern and medieval motifs in the sculpture of John Angel and Simon Verity. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek.

### The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

*Sunday, May 31, 1 pm*  
Please see description for March 15.

## The American Poets Corner: Robert Hayden

### MONET'S WATERLILIES

Today as the news from Selma and Saigon poisons the air like fallout, I come again to see the serene, great picture that I love.

Here space and time exist in light the eye like the eye of faith believes. The seen, the known dissolve in iridescence, become illusive flesh of light that was not, was, forever is.

O light beheld as through refracting tears. Here is the aura of that world each of us has lost. Here is the shadow of its joy

*Robert Hayden (1913–1980), inducted into the American Poets Corner in 2004*

Robert Hayden was an essayist and educator as well as a poet, and was appointed Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress in 1976 (the office that is now Poet Laureate of The United States). Raised by foster parents, he had a troubled childhood; his parents fought often, and being slight and extremely nearsighted, he was tormented at school. He turned to books as a refuge. He attended Detroit City College, leaving in 1936 to research Black history and culture for the Federal Writer's Project.

After college, he published his first volume of poetry, *Heart-Shape in the Dust*, and got his master's degree from the University of Michigan, studying under W.H. Auden. He taught at Fisk University for 23 years.

This poem encapsulates what we hold most precious at the Cathedral, the ability to see and bear the sorrows of our times without forgetting the grace of art and the necessity of joy.

*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.*

## Eleanor Roosevelt: The Untold Story

On April 30, the Cathedral will present a discussion of the often-overlooked struggles of Eleanor Roosevelt. She may be the most revered and accomplished First Lady in American history, but Eleanor faced more than her share of detractors—including some in her own family. They mocked her looks, her speaking voice, her intelligence, and even threatened her life. Her response was always the same: the sort of philosophical stoicism—or old-fashioned dignity—that is in short supply in today's world of fire-breathing partisanship. How was she able to persevere amid all the sound and fury that surrounded her barrier-breaking endeavors? Franklin D. Roosevelt III will moderate a discussion and Q&A featuring Marc Peyser and Timothy Dwyer, authors of *Hissing Cousins: The Untold Story of Eleanor Roosevelt* and Alice Roosevelt Longworth (Doubleday), exploring Eleanor's quest for dignity, in both the political and personal spheres. Tim Dwyer is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Media and Communications at the University of Sydney. Marc Peyser is a writer and former deputy editor at *Newsweek*.

## Close Reading: Spotlight on Cathedral Arts



Photo: Courtesy Terry Flaxton

This spring, the Cathedral welcomes back two artists whose work made a tremendous impact on visitors: Gregory Botts and Terry Flaxton. In 2010, the Cathedral exhibited Terry Flaxton's *In Other People's Skins*, an immersive experience inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's fresco, *The Last Supper*. The piece consisted of a table covered with a white tablecloth and surrounded by 12 chairs set inside a lightproof tent. Projected on to the table were images of hands and arms partaking of food, beginning with the bread, cheese, wine, and fruit of the Last Supper, and subtly transforming into other meals shared across time and cultures.

Flaxton's new work, *The Intersection of Dreams*, is a moving-image triptych inspired by Salvador Dalí's "Crucifixion." It offers viewers a Christ who is everyman and everywoman: the image shifts continually to portray one of four figures, mixed-race, male and female. The side panels of the triptych also change, giving Flaxton's Christ a diverse audience of contemporary youth (ages 16–22). In 1987, the Cathedral exhibited Edwina Sandys' "Christa" over the High Altar; at the time, the idea of a female Christ was controversial, even shocking. This artwork will not be over the High Altar—which makes a considerable difference—but also, times have changed, and gender/race questioning of traditional stories has become more familiar. This doesn't make it any less important as a method of inclusion and communication. Flaxton's work speaks to the longing the Cathedral community—all over the world—feels for racial, cultural and gender harmony, the desire to make a reality of our daily lives the recognition that all people are precious, worthy of respect, human rights, justice and opportunity.

Terry Flaxton is Professor of Cinematography and Lens Based Media, Faculty of Arts, Centre for Moving Image Research at the University of the West of England. His work has been widely exhibited and collected. This work has been co-funded by Steve West VC of UWE and by Eric Thomas, VC of the University of Bristol.

The Cathedral was pleased to learn that painter Gregory Botts' 2011 exhibition, *The Stations Project*, was available again. Botts' work is cool and subtle, rich with symbolism, poetry and philosophy, and looks very good indeed against the gray stone of the Cathedral. The idea of The Stations of the Cross as a spiritual path originated in early pilgrimages to Jerusalem.

## Introducing the Curators: The Value of Food

The upcoming Cathedral initiative *The Value of Food* has been in the works since the end of the 2011/2012 *The Value of Water*, which taught and inspired so many of us who work here, worship here or visit. That initiative reminded us that even something we think we know a lot about has layers of connection to culture, justice and faith that we experience and respond to, often without consideration. Food, like water, has always been there in our lives—a grace and a source of pleasure and exploration. It shapes our identities, our relationships, our understanding of the seasons of life and the earth. Beyond that, though, are profound questions about who controls and who benefits from how these resources are used. More importantly, who is being left out?

Late last year, a talented team of curators—Kirby Gookin and Robin Kahn—were chosen to choose and coordinate artworks, performances and other programming related to the Cathedral-wide initiative. Kirby Gookin is an art historian, critic, curator and public artist. He teaches critical theory in the Department of Art at New York University. He also teaches the course

Those literal journeys to the places Jesus lived and died became, for many, inner journeys of meditation and prayer. As a subject for art, The Stations also mark a symbolic journey, but their function is slightly different. It is Christian doctrine that Jesus died so we all may live; it could be said to be the doctrine of art that artists live so we all may know.

The paintings are abstract, but the figure of a man is clearly visible, as are stylized plant forms, which Botts says are reeds. "The reeds are like the tangle at the bottom of the mind. In the *Station* paintings, the figure looks back into this mystery of the reeds as we look back into ourselves for the genesis of ideas." Botts is a full-time artist, working in New York and New Mexico. He has exhibited extensively in both solo and group shows across the United States.



Photo: Cathedral Archives

Avant-Gardening: Art, Food & Agriculture at The School of Visual Arts. Gookin has contributed articles and reviews to *Artforum*, *Artscribe*, *Arts Magazine*, *Interview*, and *Parkett* as well as to museum and gallery publications.

Robin Kahn produces installations, public art projects, art anthologies and artists books, many focused on the role of women in culture. In 2010, she published *Dining in Refugee Camps: The Art of Sahrawi Cooking*, a collage portrait of her experience cooking with Sahrawi women living in refugee camps in Algeria. In 2012, she participated in Documenta (13) in Kassel, Germany, creating a three and a half month long interactive art installation that invited the public to share couscous with women from Western Sahara. In 2011, Gookin and Kahn collaborated on *The Raw & The Cooked*, an exhibition on art, food and agriculture for the United Nations of Geneva to celebrate World Food Day.

There will be more details about the programming and events of *The Value of Food* in the Summer newsletter.

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

“Even the disasters may teach us. The oceans rising may be the wake up call for the whole human race. I think there will be good stories told...how we saved this little stream, how we saved this mountain...how we saved the whole community...”

*Pete Seeger (1919–2014)*  
*The great American folk singer, songwriter and activist was a frequent guest at the Cathedral.*

## Everything That Rises Must Converge



## Great Music in a Great Space

The 2014–2015 season of Great Music in a Great Space continues with more spectacular concerts, encompassing nearly a thousand years of sacred and secular song. From Venice in the Middle Ages to up-and-coming young Juilliard organists, Director of Cathedral Music Kent Tritle presents a selection of performances exploring the vast acoustic range possible only in this magnificent space. On March 26, Verdi's *Requiem*, in the first-ever collaboration with the Oratorio Society of New York and the Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus and Orchestra, brings together nearly 300 singers and a full symphony orchestra. The profound emotional quality of this universally beloved work has found its voice not only in

## All in a Day's Work

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

and the staff are accustomed to helping out where needed, as well as to all-nighters for occasions like the Winter Solstice and New Year's concerts.



Members of the Cathedral's Maintenance and Facilities team.

### The Laymen's Club

The Cathedral Laymen's Club is a necessary and much appreciated partner in Cathedral Maintenance. In the past year, the Laymen's Club has contributed to the restoration work on the Bronze Doors, made a contribution to The American Poets Corner, and subsidized cleaning of the Madeline L'Engle Library, including repair and repainting of the ceiling and walls, which had suffered water damage; removal and dusting of all books; vacuuming of shelves, sconces, carved wood panels and furniture; removal of plastic table covers and finger paint from ACT use; and removal of the Masonite floor covering. The Cathedral has been using the library recently for small gatherings; the beauty & spirit of the room make it a perfect setting for conviviality as well as solitary reading. Come take a look!

### Stonework

In 2013, a design team, led by structural engineer Robert Silman Associates and including Building Conservation Associates and Vertical Access, performed a hands-on investigation of the exterior masonry, interior wall surfaces and ceiling, and an

evaluation of the condition of the exterior and interior materials and structure. The information gained from this study has been used in repair projects over the last couple of years, which includes some of the final work overseen by Mr. Guyette.

### Gardens

Last year, the Cathedral Garden Conservancy hired a new Head Gardener/Horticulturist, Marilyn Budzanoski. She has been working tirelessly, putting in over 50 new rose bushes in the Biblical and Bishops Gardens and manicuring the hedges—have you noticed how neat they look lately? By the time you read this, Ms. Budzanoski and members of the Conservancy will be cleaning up the winter's crop of dead branches, pruning trees and bushes, and augmenting the soil with healthy nutrients. Later in the spring, they will plant annuals, both in urns and around the perennials. Perennials need to die back, in order for the roots to receive nourishment from the sun. This can present a somewhat scruffy appearance, so the gardeners draw the eye instead to the bright new blossoms. Annual herbs are planted in the Biblical Garden. The Conservancy is also planting a new peony garden in the Pulpit Green; the coral-pink blossoms will fill the air with fragrance in June. Late summer is weeding time and in the autumn, bulbs are planted.

The Cathedral grounds also house two beehives, cared for by Nicole Toutounji and fellow New York City beekeepers, and a family of wild hawks that nest among the Cathedral carvings, whose wellbeing is a matter of deep concern. Staff members keep an eye on the birds, noting their comings and goings, and taking them for treatment when illness strikes.

The Cathedral depends on the generosity of donors, the help of volunteers and the respect of visitors to maintain this New York landmark. Vandalism is rare, but happens. Littering, dogs not curbed, and other nuisances of city life are not uncommon. But from most visitors and congregants, the Cathedral expects, and receives, awareness that this is a sacred space, a community space, and an architectural treasure to be loved and stewarded for future generations.

## Canons Abroad

The Reverend Canon Victoria Sirota and her husband, the composer Robert Sirota, have been commissioned by Palladium Musicum to write an anthem for the Yale Camerata (Marguerite L. Brooks, conductor) to be premiered on November 8, 2015 in Greenwich, Connecticut. The anthem is to be based on the stunning Burne-Jones mosaics located in Saint Paul's-Within-the-Walls in Rome. Sir Edward Burne-Jones (1833–1898), associated with the Pre-Raphaelite movement, designed mosaics of the Annunciation, the Tree of Life and Christ Enthroned in this first Protestant Church (Episcopal) allowed within the walls of Rome. The Sirotas plan to visit these extraordinary mosaics in early February, and then fly on to Madrid where they will hear the world premiere of Nico Muhly's new viola concerto performed by their daughter Nadia Sirota and the National Symphony Orchestra of Spain on February 6, 2015.

magnificent venues like La Scala and The Royal Albert Hall, but even among the damp walls of the concentration camp.

On May 14, The Cathedral Choir and world music ensemble Rose of the Compass, led by recorder virtuoso Nina Stern, reunite in the Chapel of St. James for "The Winged Lion." From the early Middle Ages to the end of the 18th century, the Venetian republic was a major center of trade between Europe and the Levant. As a crossroads between the East and West, Venice became an extraordinarily fertile artistic environment. We celebrate that millennium of great cultural exchange with works from Gabrieli to Monteverdi, as well as traditional music from Armenia, Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean.

The Cathedral is proud to present the organ department of The Juilliard School as part of the Great Organ concert series on April 22. These young musicians, from the teaching studio

of Paul Jacobs, are some of the brightest stars among the next generation of organists. They will perform a varied selection of music ranging from the Baroque to the present day. Admission is free.

Raymond Nagem, Associate Organist at St. John the Divine and C. V. Starr Doctoral Fellow at The Juilliard School, rounds out the season with the second of his two-part performance series on May 7. Organist, pianist, composer, and visionary Olivier Messiaen's "L'Ascension" and "Messe de la Pentecôte" find a spectacular power in the Cathedral, as the great space resounds with the power of the Great Organ.



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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.*

# Spring 2015 at the Cathedral

## Thank You, Hugh Trumbull Adams

SALLY BENNER, VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT & STRATEGY



Photo: Cathedral Archives

With a bequest to the Cathedral of \$7 million in 2009, “The Hugh Trumbull Adams Fund” was created. Mr. Adams designated \$6 million to establish an endowment for the preservation of the Cathedral in perpetuity. The remaining \$1 million was given to bolster the Cathedral’s finances at the end of a decade that began with a destructive fire and accompanying smoke damage in the North Transept.

From 1978 until his death in 2009, Mr. Adams was a consistent donor to the Cathedral. Among his areas of interest were lighting, music and architecture. After concluding his term as a trustee in 1996, he remained involved in the life of the Cathedral, suggesting, from time to time, improvements or embellishments that would add to its beauty. For example, in 2002, Mr. Adams made a gift to purchase a new carillon system to be played in the bell tower of the Cathedral. This included 12 “diskettes.” He suggested six melodies he would like to hear played—patriotic songs, likely recalling his service as an officer in the U.S. Navy during World War II. The Cathedral selected the other six songs.

Building preservation was a passion of Mr. Adams. His ancestor, Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., served as an advisor to General George Washington during the Revolutionary War, served as the first comptroller of the U.S. Treasury in the new republic, and was a governor of Connecticut. With Trumbull’s house in Lebanon, Connecticut, facing the wrecking ball in 1977, Mr. Adams gave funds to the town so it could purchase it and restore its Colonial Revival style and décor for public use.

When the carillon calls us to the Cathedral and light dances across the nave in a magical way, we remember Hugh Trumbull Adams. We remain grateful for both his generosity and his appreciation for all things bright and beautiful.

Sally Benner joined the Cathedral this past fall. Ms. Benner was previously Executive Director, New York Regional Office of Development, Northwestern University. She has worked in development and communications at Columbia University Medical Center; Children’s Hospital, Los Angeles; and the University of Pennsylvania, and NYU School of Law. Ms. Benner has a B.A. from Fordham University, an M.A. from the Gallatin School of New York University and an M.S. from Columbia University. This is the debut of a regular column in the newsletter.

Some cathedrals are designed to draw one’s eye upward. When you enter the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine you follow that visual hint naturally, and soon you gush: “Wow!” “I never knew this was here!” “This is huge!”

At the Cathedral, we hear this all the time and join in visitors’ awe of this glorious building, knowing it’s something to treasure and not take for granted.

Hugh Trumbull Adams, a Cathedral Trustee from 1986 to 1996, guaranteed our enjoyment of the special effects the Cathedral delivers year-round.

## Join the Dean’s Pilgrimage to Germany, October 7–17, 2015

Cathedral Dean James Kowalski and his wife, The Rev. Anne Brewer, M.D., will lead a pilgrimage to Germany, including Reformation sites, the National Buchenwald Memorial and the Rhine Valley. This is an ideal time: to explore the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 (before the crowds); to examine aspects of the Two World Wars and the Holocaust; and to travel a gorgeous country with beautiful architecture, countryside, romantic rivers and castles. The food is splendid, too!

Airfare, 4-star hotels, meals (except lunches), and fuel surcharges and taxes (subject to change) are included in the price of \$4,150 per person, double occupancy. “Tour protection plan” insurance, which is recommended, costs \$279. Tips are not included. Registering with a deposit of \$350 by April 3rd provides a \$100 discount. Full payment is due by August 7th. Please note that passports should be valid for at least 6 months following return.

For more information, visit [www.stjohndivine.org/news/articles](http://www.stjohndivine.org/news/articles). To obtain a flyer and to register, please contact Laura Bosley at (212)316-7493 or [lbosley@stjohndivine.org](mailto:lbosley@stjohndivine.org).

## Stay in Touch

We welcome your suggestions and thoughts on the newsletter. Please write us at [editor@stjohndivine.org](mailto:editor@stjohndivine.org).