The Cathedral cornerstone was laid on St. John's Day, December 27, 1892, just over 125 years ago. We’ve celebrated our 125th anniversary with special events, tours, and programs over the past year; this fall, we invite you—our community members, our sustainers, and our life force—to join us as we look ahead towards the next 125 years and beyond and rededicate to the work required to make this vibrant space a flourishing spiritual home for all.

The Right Reverend Clifton Daniel III will be installed as Dean of the Cathedral on October 20, the first of two fall events centered on our core commitments to one another. The Dean has spearheaded a number of projects, both material and more ineffable, to reinvigorate the Cathedral’s mission as a house of prayer for all people: efforts are again underway in Synod Hall, making that space usable as a reception and event space; renovation and renewal in the North Transept is in early planning, with the intention of turning that space—once the location of the Cathedral gift shop, destroyed in the fire of 2001—back into a bustling hub of activity; and the discovery of an alcove below the floor of the Chapel of St. Saviour has inspired the dedication of a new Chapel of Joseph of Arimathea, to be used as a resting place for the cremated remains of those unknown but to God. A pet columbarium is under consideration as well.

All of these projects will take time to come to fruition, of course: just as Rome wasn’t built in a day, neither was the Cathedral.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)
The American Poets Corner: Carl Sandburg

Carl Sandburg (1878—1967), during his lifetime, was one of the most popular American poets and essayists. In his words, Lord Byrons "more than the poet of its strength and genius. He was America." Our Poet in Residence, Marnie Weir, was attracted to that fact that a "divine image stamped upon us," the yearning for hope in the midst of creation put here for our use and misuse.

Carl Sandburg, poet laureate of the United States, was born on January 6, 1878, in Galesburg, Illinois. He was the eldest of three children born to a Norwegian father and an American mother. His father, who had worked as a farmhand and in a railroad-laying crew, ran a small grocery store and farm in Galesburg. Carl attended the University of Chicago from 1900 to 1904 and began to publish his poems in the university's literary magazine. In 1908, he moved to New York City, where he worked as a proofreader and typesetter for a printing company. He later became a journalist and editor at the Chicago Daily News, where he worked until 1912.

Sandburg's poems often addressed social and political issues, such as the struggle for workers' rights, the effects of industrialization on the American landscape, and the impact of technology on society. He was particularly interested in the life of the American working class, and his works often featured the voices of ordinary people. In addition to his poetry, Sandburg wrote numerous works of non-fiction, including biographies of Abraham Lincoln and Mark Twain, and a series of books on Chicago history.

In 1958, Sandburg was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for his collection "Chicago Poems." He served as poet laureate of the United States from 1946 to 1951 and was awarded the National Medal of Art in 1963. Sandburg died on July 23, 1967, and his ashes were interred at the United States Naval Academy Cemetery in Annapolis, Maryland.

Marnie Weir, Cathedral Colleague

Marnie Weir, who has worked at the Cathedral for more than 15 years, is serving her post as Director, Public Education & Visitor Services. She recently completed the final projects involved in coordinating the installation of engravings on November 11. Marnie has made her own offerings to the Cathedral. One of her first projects involved obtaining a grant and seeing through a program that allowed the department to provide free and discounted programs to struggling NYC public school students. She helped initiate the choir singing initiative, where school choirs from across the country come and sing in the Cathedral. She also managed the 2016 pouring of the quill which is a program involving students from across the United States and Canada. Marnie, who is the daughter of an Episcopal priest, has been a Cathedral in Foytik from 2003 on a part-time basis while working on her graduate degree at Bank Street College of Education. "In my interviews for admission into the program, I came up with a list of a lot of people on the Cathedral already, so after I moved into the city I was looking for a bank, Sandburg contacted me and said he had opened in the education department. "She now runs the education department, and while she and her students worldwide and I didn't know the extent to which people who work here offer their time, talent, and treasure, and how much they value the institutions."
CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY CARES (CCC)

All programs meet in the CCC Office, the Sunday Soup Kitchen is located in the Amazing ACT gym on the 3rd floor of the Cathedral. For information on CCC programs, please visit stjohndivine.org or call (212) 316-7579.

Nutrition, Health and Clothing Center

The center houses a month-long internship program with two hours of supervision per workday on the health and nutrition field, as well as the Cindy Bregos Bose to the scene of her successful American architectural history, what impacts it is standing up, and why it is in their place. For more information, call St John’s Cathedral Tom Fedorke. Tickets are $18 per person, $5 per student/teacher.

Vertical Tours

Student and youth, and children’s clothing can be donated to the CCC office Monday through Friday 10 am–5 pm.

SMASH/Stampa Program

It is partnering with the Human Resources Administration, The Franklin Bank for New York City, National Coalition Against Hunger, and Columbia University (GS/ST).

Tuesdays and Wednesdays (by appointment only). Please call (212) 763-9011 or contact (212) 316-7579.

Sunday Soup Kitchen

Every Sunday in the ACT gym.

Breakfast: 12 am to 12:30 pm.

Contact: Robert Pino, Food Program Manager, (212) 316-7579 (7/9/7 after 12 pm).

Closing Ceremonies: Over The Out of the Shadows

Wednesday, September 26, 6:30 pm

Closing Ceremonies, sponsored by the Cathedral’s Congregation of Saints, invites you to join a series of discussions on contemporary society, culture and spirituality.

Saturday, September 22, 11 am–Noon & 2–3 pm

Ongoing Tours & Visitor Services

Guides take visitors on a walk through the cathedral, highlighting its architectural features and its role in the local community. All tours are free and open to the public.

Visit stjohndivine.org for tickets and more information.

The installation of the Right Reverend Clifton Daniel III

Sunday, October 21, 2 pm

The Right Rev. Andrew M. Dietsche, Bishop of New York, will open a series of discussions on the relationship between social justice and the church.

Sunday, October 21, 2 pm

For tickets and more information, visit stjohndivine.org.

White Mass

Saturday, October 27, 4 – 5 pm

Shake your lights loose this Halloween! Hear the stories of New York's immigrants, inventors, and artists. The Cathedral's annual Halloween celebration returns! Following the screening of a classic silent movie with live organ accompaniment, audience members will be delightedly led by Ralph Lee and the Methodist River Theater Company's procession of larger-than-life guests.

Cathedral Through Time: Celebrating 125 Years!

Saturday, October 27, 7:30 pm

Join us as we celebrate the publication of the Library of America’s two-volume set of works by beloved author Madeleine L'Engle, who will be our special guest. The event will feature a reading of her most iconic and original classics, as well as an homage to the actor who brought Madeleine L'Engle to life. Come and celebrate as we pay homage to the author at the St John the Divine. For tickets, call (212) 316-7579 (7/9/7 after 12 pm).

Nightwatch

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, November 9, 6:30 pm

Join us for an evening of storytelling and a performance by a lively local artist. This month's event focuses on the diverse, non-Western Christian traditions of Brazil and Africa, which are a rich source of inspiration for many people.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Halloween

Sunday, October 21, 2 pm

Please see September 9 for details.

Nightwatch

Nightwatch Through Time: Celebrating 125 Years!

Saturday, October 27, 7:30 pm

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Halloween

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For tickets and more information, visit stjohndivine.org.

Cathedral Through Time: Celebrating 125 Years!

Tuesday, October 16, 7:30 pm

For his work, he was awarded the MacArthur Fellowship, the Aspen Institute Fellowship. He also established her as a global cultural force. The Cathedral is a community of believers who are committed to understanding and sharing the Christian faith with others around the world. Visit stjohndivine.org for tickets and this year's film selection.

Gotham Gargoyles: A Halloween Workshop

Saturday, October 27, 10 am

For tickets and more information, visit stjohndivine.org.

Within the Walls: Exploring Hidden Spaces

Saturday, November 10, 10 am & 12 pm

Saturday, December 2, 1 – 6 pm

Join us for our annual craft fair, sponsored by the Congregation of Saints, for children ages 8-12. Please call (212) 316-7579 (7/9/7 after 12 pm) to register.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, November 9, 6:30 pm

Join us for an evening of storytelling and a performance by a lively local artist. This month's event focuses on the diverse, non-Western Christian traditions of Brazil and Africa, which are a rich source of inspiration for many people.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Halloween

Sunday, October 21, 2 pm

Please see September 9 for details.

Friday, October 26, 4 – 5pm, 5 – 6pm

Crypt Crawl: Spotlight on Halloween

Friday, October 26, 4 – 5 pm

Nightwatch

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Friday, November 9, 6:30 pm

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A Celebration of Madeleine L'Engle

Tuesday, October 16, 7:30 pm

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Sunday, October 21, 2 pm

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Looking Back

Summer on the Cathedral Close is, paradoxically, both a lively time, full of kids activities and visiting shoppers, and a quiet season, when many of our programs are on hiatus as we prepare for the busy autumn months to come. Before we settle into our action-packed fall season, we pause for a look back at the longer days and warmer weather just past.

Summer at the Cathedral traditionally begins with the annual Memorial Day concert brought to us by the New York Philharmonic, this year, Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music, led his considerable talents to a performed on the Great Organ. Only a few days later, the Cathedral was again filled with music, as we hosted the Young People's Chorus of N.Y.C for their sold-out summer concert. On June 11, the New York Choral Consortium returned for the summer Big Sing, bringing musicians both amateur and professional together in song.

The Cathedral School Graduates, celebrated in the Cathedral on June 15 this year, is a time of anticipation and hope. The young graduates, versed in the arts, sciences and humanities, with an emphasis on responsibility and character, are prepared to be engaged citizens, thoughtful parents and perhaps change the world. We are very proud of them.

In the early hours of June 15, The Paul Winter Consort returned to the Cathedral for the 23rd Annual Summer Solstice Concert, a celebration of the sun and a reminder that we all travel from the earth, and cultural inclusion, including the late David Amram, who lent his considerable talents to a performed on the Great Organ.

Summer at the Cathedral means ACT sea in back is season! This year, we welcomed Joe Greenspan as Director of Arts and Children in the World. The campers were treated to all sorts of fun ACT activities, including an overnight in the Cathedral on July 12, and the always highly-anticipated canoe rally on July 25 and 26, with their related tree-planting, canoeing, and fishing activities.

The Harlem Harves Music & Cathedral Festival, now in its third year, is a weeklong celebration of the artists, musicians, dancers, fashion designers, chefs and more of the neighborhood we call home and of our friends to the south. This year, the Cathedral participated by hosting a performance by One Day, an Afro-Cuban experimental dance ensemble from Santiago de Cuba. On August 11, the Cathedral hosted the world premiere of John Luther Adams in ‘In the Name of the Earth’, part of the Mostly Mozart Festival. Though the day was rainy and muddy, over 2,500 listeners came to experience this innovative performance under the Cathedral’s encompassing roof.

Looking Ahead

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

All creatures of our God and King,
A voice that speaks and e'er is new,
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Let all things their Creator bless

The words to this hymn are taken from “The Caritile of the Sun” by St. Francis of Assisi, purchased by William H. Draper sometime between 1889 and 1919. St. Francis, patron of animals and the environment, is honored each October at the Cathedral’s Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals.

In fall when Cathedral programs return in full force after the summer break. Many of our best-loved traditions and signature events are coming up on the horizon: read on for more information, and make sure to check out the calendar in this issue for details on more services, workshops, and special tours.

On September 15, the Diocese organizes a new group of priests, among them are our Rev. Reverend Steven Lee. Congratulated this fall features the inauguration of Close Conversations, a series of discussions organized by the Congregation on a range of thought-provoking topics. The first, on September 28, welcomes Iñaki Vinaixa from the world of immigration and human rights. (See BBD)

The Cathedral also launches a new tour this season. On September 15, 2019, prepare to explore new spiritual dimensions with Divine Grace: Elements of Christian Mysticism at the Cathedral. From the beginning of time, people have tried to connect with the divine. In what ways do the Christian faith itself have been expressed? This guided tour explores the foundation in the Jewish tradition, Christian mysticism, and how it translates to the 21st century.

On September 23 is U.N. Sunday, when the Cathedral honors the mission of the United Nations. For Excellence Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa García, President Elect of the General Assembly of the U.N., will offer the sermon.

On September 29, we welcome Egyptian maestro Oyu Oro I Guillari Di tarantula. Filtered through Belloni and her ensemble the Feast of St. Paul in the small church of San Paolo di Erminio. This hotly-anticipated event is a time of anticipation and hope. The young graduates, versed in the arts, sciences and humanities, with an emphasis on responsibility and character, are prepared to be engaged citizens, thoughtful parents and perhaps change the world. We are very proud of them.

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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.

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

Great Music in a Great Space
A Preview of Next Season's Highlights

Tickets are now available for the eighth season of Great Music in a Great Space, led by Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music!

This season begins on October 16 with a dramatic and passionate performance of works by Marcel Dupré and Sigfrid Karg-Elert by the Cathedral's Associate Director of Music, Raymond Nagem. On October 23, we welcome back Musica Sacra to our Great Choir series with works by Bach, Buxtehude, and Scarlatti, preceded by a recital by the young singers of the Newark Boys Chorus.

On November 5, we again join forces with Rose of the Compass, this time celebrating the music of Armenia on the centennial of the armistice that ended World War I. The musical repertoire features colorful and exciting folk songs, as well as original compositions by Gomidas, the father of the Armenian national school of music. In addition to our regular ticket options, concertgoers will also find a special ticket that includes special access to a pre-concert tour exploring areas of the Cathedral constructed during the Great War and its aftermath.

On November 13, Artist in Residence David Briggs returns to our Great Organ recital series with an extraordinary transcription of Mahler’s Sixth Symphony. The It’s Sunday organ recital series also continues this season, featuring both established and up-and-coming performers on our Great Organ.

Music is part of the fabric of Cathedral life: integral to our worship services, and vital for our public offerings throughout the year. GMGS is made possible in large part to the generosity of our Friends of Music. For more information, please contact Priscilla Bayley at pbayley@stjohndivine.org or (212) 316-7570.

Staff Spotlight on Jen Gowers

The following is excerpted from an interview published on the Cathedral’s website. To read the full article, visit stjohndivine.org/blog.

Name: Jen Gowers
Title: Executive Director, ACT Program
Neighborhood/Town you live in: Harlem
Length of time you’ve worked at the Cathedral: About three months
What is your origin story?
I had the pleasure of receiving my doctoral hood from Teachers College on this beautiful campus, and that particular encounter with this holy and magnificent space has long stayed with me. Believing deeply in young people and in their endless potential, having worked in a variety of roles in both NYC public and NYC public charter education, and living for about 15 years in the neighborhood, I was delighted to encounter the Cathedral’s ACT program (Adults and Children in Trust), which has been enriching and developing young people in Harlem for over 40 years. I was captivated by the opportunity to use my educational leadership skillset specifically here, in service of toddlers to teens at a place I believe in so deeply: the Cathedral’s inclusivity, beauty and core values set a strong foundation for this diverse, nurturing educational organization, and it’s an honor to be here.

What is a typical work day?
As a brand new Executive Director, I can definitely say there is no typical day: I am constantly growing, giving and grateful. ACT has eight incredible programs (summer camp, preschool, nursery school, one-to-one toddler classes, afterschool, parties, indoor play, and holiday/vacation camp) and working with the ACT program is a wonderful mix of interacting with young people of all ages, connecting with their families, supporting our diverse and exceptional full time staff, finding awesome part time and seasonal staff, and collaborating with ACT folks, Cathedral folks, community folks and the geniuses I have been lucky enough to know over the course of my educational career to dream up ways to make these strong youth programs even more awesome. (The only “typical” moment is typical just because of its consistency: it is the daily morning visit from Phil, resident white peacock, which is nothing less than magical.)