As the calendar turns from one year to another, we are again asked to look back at our accomplishments over the past year and our goals for the next. The task can be both daunting—there is so much to be done—and uplifting—look how far we have come. Here at the Cathedral, we’re greeting these New Year tasks with familiarity after spending the past year celebrating and acknowledging the 125th anniversary of the laying of the Cathedral’s cornerstone.

We used this anniversary not just to celebrate where we have been, but to explore where we are going. What does it mean to be a Cathedral for the 21st century? What do we want for the Cathedral and what do others need from it? What are the questions that we are best suited to address? How do we take our current programs and strengths and adapt, adjust, and grow into new areas?

Time and time again, we found ourselves coming back to our mission. Those aspirational words—to be a house of prayer for all people and a center of unifying light and leadership—have informed our past, make up our present, and will guide our future, if we let them.

As we installed and instituted our 10th Dean on October 20th, the staff, volunteers, and congregation also participated in a recommitment to Cathedral ministries as a reminder that everything we do here, from Sunday liturgies to education workshops for school children to modern art exhibitions, are all ways in which we serve our mission.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)
The Community of St. Anselm

This is the time of year when the Cathedral has its doors open to the public, and it's a time to reflect on what we are grateful for. The Cathedral is a place of peace and tranquility, where we can gather to pray and to learn from one another. The Community of St. Anselm is a group of people who come together to share in this spiritual experience. They meet every Sunday at 10 am in the Chapel of St. Anselm, and they are always welcome to join in. If you are interested in learning more about the Community of St. Anselm, please feel free to contact us at 212-316-7540.

Cathedral Christmas

Christmas at the Cathedral is a time of joy and pageantry, and there is no better place to celebrate the holiday season than in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The Cathedral is a place of wonder and awe, and it is a reminder of the love and kindness that we can find in each other. This year, the Cathedral is hosting a series of events that are sure to delight and inspire. From the Christmas Market to the Christmas Carol Concert, there is something for everyone. For more information, please visit our website at stjohnndivine.org.

The American Poets Corner: Carl Sandburg

This year, the American Poets Corner at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine is celebrating its tenth anniversary. The corner is a place where poets from all over the world come together to share their work and to connect with others who love poetry. The corner is open every Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm, and it is a great place to spend an afternoon. If you are interested in learning more about the American Poets Corner, please feel free to contact us at 212-316-7540.
December
Cathedral Through Time: Celebrating 125 Years!
Saturday, December 2, 20:30 pm
Come learn about ACT’s 2 and 3 Day Nursing Program and Preschool program! Children are welcome to join their families for this 2-hour tour adults attend.

Cathedral Through Time: The Dawning Moon of the Mind
Thursday, December 19, 7:30 pm
Eiko Otake is a Japanese dancer and multimedia artist who has been performing and touring since the late 1970s. In her career, she has created hundreds of works that explore the intersection of dance and visual media. Otake has been a pioneer in the field of dance and performance art, and her work has been presented in numerous venues around the world. In this presentation, we will explore Otake’s work and its impact on the field of dance.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
Monday, December 24, 4 pm
This family-friendly event features worship,liturgy, readings from the Bible, and Christmas carols in the setting of the historic Cathedral. The event is free and open to all. Doors open at 3:30 pm.

Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols
Monday, December 24, 7 pm
St. John’s historic Festival of Lessons and Carols returns this year to celebrate the joy and wonder of the Christmas season. This event is free and open to all.

Cathedral Monday
Wednesday, January 2, 12:30 pm
Join us for lunch and a series of talks about the history of the Cathedral and its role in New York City’s cultural and architectural heritage.

January
Cathedral Through Time: Medieval 2.0: Spotlight on Traditions Transformed
Saturday, January 5, 10:30 am
This year, Cathedral Through Time looks at the most recent architectural influence of the building, one that is prohibited. If you have concerns regarding claustrophobia, we ask that you please call (212) 316-7530 before purchasing tickets.

Cathedral Through Time: With Angels and Archangels: Spotlight on Angelic Images
Saturday, January 5, 10:30 am
This is the fifth in our series of Cathedral Through Time programs. Visit stjohndivine.org for more information and to register.

Cathedral Through Time: The Dawning Moon of the Mind
Thursday, January 31, 4:30 pm
This year, the Right Reverend Clifton Daniel III, Dean of the Cathedral, has appointed two scholars to the Cathedral’s Artist in Residence program. The program features acclaimed artists from around the world who will be invited to work with their work with the public on the night of the show. To purchase reserved tickets, visit stjohndivine.org for more information.

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The Value of Sanctuary: Building a House

Looking Back

What can we say about the past ewn months? Malicious deeds and violence swept across the country, in wars almost as feloniously as regularly as they were frightfully painful to witness and experience. Jewish people and houses of worship were violently attacked, most infamously at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, but here in New York City as well. African-Americans, too, were targeted by hate. Peoples of Central and South American descent, both inside and outside of the United States, were slandered andầm by those who hold the highest office in this land.

Yet great good came to the Cathedral community as well. We continued to stand for what is right, for justice, for equality.

We reaffirmed our belief in this institution and more and more strengthened the bond that ties us as a place of worship, culture, and healing. As has been our custom for over 325 years, we welcome you—of all you—into this sacred space. To recognize and celebrate our similarities and our differences and, together, strive to realize our highest callings.

The Congregation of St. Saviour’s Close Conversation continues this fall, a series of discussions on a range of thought-provoking topics, from climate change to poetry. The series continues into December with a conversation on the longest night of the year to welcome the return of the light.

The Annual Halloween Extravaganza, on October 26, was a celebratory day at the Cathedral: congregants and musical selections curated by Director of Music Kent Tritle. This year’s service saw the addition of a number of new technological features: large screens enabled more of the approximately 5,000 congregants to see the service, and a rangefinder comprised a short video that we showed on our Facebook page as viewers far away could celebrate the natural world with us. We also had a live feed from the BBC during the year—more information on the program they’re currently editing will be available on our website!

Raymond Hagin, Associate Director of Music, presented the first Great Magic in a Great Space concert of the 2018-19 season on October 15. The series continued that month with a performance by Monica Sacca, featuring the choral repertoire of Bach, Brahms, and Scarlatti.

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Crafts at the Cathedral, in the holiday season each year, bridge it as does the end of November and beginning of December. Christmas follows quickly on its heels: this year’s annual Christmas Concert falls on December 8 and features music by Giovanni Gabrieli as well as Daniel Pinkins’s incredible Christmas Carolata performed by the combined Choirs, Orchestra, and Soloists under the direction of Kevin Toller and Bryan Zoro. The whole audience is invited to join in singing-favorite Christmas carols, led by the choirs and orchestras.

The Choir of St. Saviour’s Close Conversation continues this fall, a series of discussions on a range of thought-provoking topics, from climate change to poetry. The series continues into December with “Race, Inequality, and Education.”

On October 20, all who consider the Cathedral their spiritual home were invited to attend the solemn and joyous ceremony marking the installation of the Right Reverend Dietsche. The ceremony also recognized Cathedral staff and volunteers, the people who make this thing go in this joyful busy place, and reaffirmed our commitments to one another.

The services continue into December with a concert of the New York Philharmonic and special guests throughout the evening. And of course, the Cathedral’s Choir’s own Justin Pittin leads the audience and invites them to join in with this little light of love as we light candles to welcome the new year with hope, joy, and affirmation.

The Looking Ahead feature continues into December with a conversation on “Race, Inequality, and Education.”

Looking Ahead

The Christmas Eve Eucharist begins with a musical prelude at 10:30 pm and service at 11:30 pm. The Bishop of New York, The Right Reverend Andrew M. Dietsche, celebrates the Eucharist and preachs. This service is open to all, and space is not needed to attend—there is plenty of seating available! Founded by Leonard Bernstein in 1984, the annual New Year’s Evensong for Peace, December 31, is a signature Cathedral event, gathering old friends and new for more than 30 years. Led by Toller, this year’s concert includes William Byrd’s Symphony No. 1 in B-flat. Salima Sawimby Outlaw joins the choir for Robert Convery’s powerful setting of Martin Luther King, Jr. I have a dream, followed by the New York premiere of Wayne Dupree’s Alleluia. There is also music by Missa, J.S. Bach, and special guests throughout the evening. And of course, the Cathedral’s Choir’s own Justin Pittin leads the audience and invites them to join in with this little light of love as we light candles to welcome the new year with hope, joy, and affirmation.

Dr. Dietsche’s installation as the tenth Dean of the Cathedral.

The 62nd Annual Christmas Cantata performed by the Musica Sacra, featuring the choral repertoire of Alice Parker, director of Melodious Accord. Parker frequently provided music for the Cathedral in commemoration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, December 31, is a signature Cathedral event, gathering old friends and new for more than 30 years. The performance of Powell’s Carols, led by the choirs and orchestra. Following the service, join us for a celebratory day at the Cathedral: congregants and musical selections curated by Director of Music Kent Tritle.

The exhibition will include works by over 40 artists, including Academy Award-winner, James Ivory. Influenced by his own hardscrabble roots, by the boldly American lyricism of Whitman, and, indeed, into all of the events, programs, services, tours, and training programs for composers, teachers, and conductors. Founded by Leonard Bernstein in 1984, the annual New Year’s Evensong for Peace, December 31, is a signature Cathedral event, gathering old friends and new for more than 30 years. The performance of Powell’s Carols, led by the choirs and orchestra. Following the service, join us for a celebratory day at the Cathedral: congregants and musical selections curated by Director of Music Kent Tritle.

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The Cathedral Invites You to Take a Pause to Consider Families in Need of Sanctuary

Once upon a time there was a girl named Dulce. She had a mom who was going to get deported. Because of Mr. Trump. He doesn’t want people who don’t have papers for the United States. So on August 17, the mom was going to go to New York City to go to the court. But she didn’t go, because she knew she was going to get sent to Guatemala.

So she decided to go to a church on August 17 with her three kids named Dulce, Daniela, and David.

...Dulce hopes there is great news that her mom gets her papers for the United States. If her mom gets her papers for the United States, Dulce wants to travel everywhere. She wants to travel to Florida to go to Disneyland and she wants more places to go to.

Dulce Carvajal is a 10-year-old whose family spent six months living in sanctuary at Holyrood Church after Dulce’s mother, Amanda Morales, was told she was going to be deported to Guatemala. All three of her children—Dulce, Daniela, and David—are US citizens. Rather than leave them at home while fighting the Trump administration’s deportation efforts, Amanda, who did not want to be separated from her children, decided to bring them into sanctuary with her. Carvajal and her family worked closely with artist Cinthya Santos-Briones, whose photography will be installed in the Cathedral’s upcoming art exhibition, The Value of Sanctuary: Building a House without Walls.

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

Winter at the Cathedral 2018

The Clothing Closet Gets a Makeover: Thank You, California Closets!

Many of our visitors are familiar with the Sunday Soup Kitchen operated by Cathedral Community Cares, providing healthy breakfasts and lunches to individuals, children, and families in our community. However, you may not know about our equally important Clothing Closet, which distributes emergency clothing to those in need as well as professional garments for individuals returning to the workforce. This year, CCC received generous donations from two companies that have enabled us to expand our outreach through this program.

The Clothing Closet space itself underwent a new phase of significant renovation recently, courtesy of California Closets, the premium space-management service. The California Closets credo is “Designing Better Lives,” a motto that extends not only to their products, but to the level of community outreach and service they give back each year. The newly refurbished Clothing Closet is a sight to behold, and we thank our friends for helping make it a more inviting, intuitively laid-out space.

We’d also like to thank Bombas, a company that matches each sale of its high-quality socks to an equivalent donation to homeless shelters, for providing us with comfortable, warm socks for all of the Clothing Closet clients. The little luxuries and necessities—like a comfy pair of socks—can make all the difference when it comes to uplifting someone’s day, week, or even month.

Donations to the Clothing Closet are always welcomed! The Closet is staffed solely by volunteers and stocked entirely with donated clothing. The Clothing Closet serves more than 4,500 clients per year, and need is steadily increasing. Gently used casual and business attire can be dropped off at the CCC office Monday through Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. For more information about CCC services, visit stjohndivine.org/social or email ccc@stjohndivine.org.