stjohndivine.org





In Sickness and Health: Cathedral Community Cares

with the prospect of the Ebola virus loose in the city—a situation that the Dean addresses in his Meditation this issue—and the headlines remind many of us, and the Cathedral as an institution, of what it was like during the last frightening (and continuing) epidemic: HIV/AIDS. There are many differences between the two viruses. What is the same is the human suffering that affects individuals, families and communities. In the 80s, concern was slow to spread among those not immediately affected; the New York Times recently noted that its own first front-page story about HIV didn't come until May 1983, when over 550 people had died in this country, half in NYC alone.

ew Yorkers have recently been faced

The Cathedral was among a number of organizations that made a difference in those days. Many of these organizations—Gay Men's Health Crisis; Housing Works; God's Love, We Deliver; and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS—sprang up in response to HIV and are still going strong. The Cathedral began offering direct aid and counseling to HIV-positive people in the early 1980s. The AIDS memorial in the Medicine Bay (consisting of an altar with a book inscribed with the names of those who have died) was set up in 1987. "It will be witness to the city and community that we hold close in our love and care those persons who have AIDS or have died from AIDS," said The Right Reverent Paul Moore, Bishop of New York (quoted in the New York Times). "It will dignify this tragedy as much as possible." Cathedral Community Cares, the social service arm of the Cathedral, grew out of those early efforts and was formally established by the Congregation of St Savior in the early 90s. HIV-positive men and women—struggling with the diagnosis and day-to-day management of a then-terminal disease—were welcomed, counseled and fed, as were others fighting poverty, homelessness, hunger and illness.

In the decades since, the CCC program has become more comprehensive. In 2012, staffers launched the first public health initiative to address systemic gaps in healthcare and health education for low-income clients. CCC has developed partnerships with hospitals, clinics, and community organizations; offers free on-site screenings (for HIV, diabetes and other conditions) and workshops; and presents an annual Summer Health Fair in partnership with Mount Sinai-St. Luke's Hospital and the NYC Sigma Gamma Rho sorority alumni group. The Sunday Soup Kitchen serves roughly 25,000 meals a year, offering a diverse and healthy menu. This summer, CCC hosted a cooking class for low-income people, sponsored by Cornell University Cooperative Extension. Clients learned how to shop for and prepare inexpensive nutritional meals, and were taught safe food-handling practices. As the Cathedral gears up for its next initiative, The Value of Food, which will address everything from sustainable agriculture to the use of food in cultural and sacred ritual, CCC staff and clients remind us that this complex subject is, to the hungry, very simple indeed.

CCC also operates the Clothing Closet, where clients can choose gently-used, job interview-appropriate clothing at no charge. CCC staff and volunteers offer a personalized shopping experience to each client. CCC also offers referrals for career counseling and job finding programs to those clients who are not already enrolled. (Most clients are referred from training programs and the New York City Human Resources Administration.) Many city businesses and organizations have donated clothing or organized clothing drives to support the Clothing Closet (see Spirit of the Season).

Beyond the immediate help it offers, CCC serves as a voice for those who struggle with poverty, homelessness, and hunger in West Harlem and Morningside Heights, and citywide. Its role is not only to spotlight need, but to reinforce the social links between the more and less advantaged, and keep our nation's foundational commitment to all citizens up to date and inclusive. CCC is a member of the New York City Coalition Against Hunger, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, and Food Bank for New York City, and has participated in events and campaigns to advocate for policies that protect and support clients. The recent cut to the SNAP (food stamps) program is a reminder of how important such advocacy is. The number of those seeking food at the Cathedral Soup Kitchen and other food banks around the country has been going up since 2008. It is instructive to remember at this time how the AIDS crisis galvanized an entire generation of gay men, playing a significant role in the gay rights movement that is today enjoying great success, as more states legalize gay marriage. Trauma reveals its merciful side when it leads to action.

"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men."

Herman Melville (1819–1891), inducted into the American Poets Corner in 1985

This fall, CCC Program Manager Lauren Phillips attended a weeklong professional workshop in Bolinas, California, sponsored by Commonweal Advanced Cancer Support Training. CCC intends to use what she learned to support people with other long-term illnesses, including HIV/AIDS. Lauren explained that she and another woman were the only participants who work with people in poverty, and so as well as learning techniques and methods, she was able to offer a new perspective to other health professionals. Important work is being done in a number of fields on the effect of combined simultaneous stressors—in elder care, in chronic illness and in the life trajectories of the disadvantaged. The Cathedral has considerable experience with this—and with the kind of care and counsel that can make a difference—and will continue to participate in the national conversation.

Whatever the future may bring in regard to deadly epidemics and New Yorkers in need, the Cathedral can rely on its history of service and on the message of the gospels to provide a template for response.

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The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine

The Right Reverend Andrew ML Dietsche Bishop of New York

The Very Reverend Dr. James A. Kowalski Dean of the Cathedral

Pentagram Graphic Design

Margaret Diehl

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Schedule of Daily Liturgical Services

Sunday Morning Prayer & Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist 4 pm

Choral Evensong

Monday through Saturday

Morning Prayer 8:30 am Holy Eucharist (Tuesday & Thursday) 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 5 pm **Evening Prayer**

Cathedral Information

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

Reaching the Cathedral The Cathedral is located at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue, at 112th Street.

By Subway: #1 Train to 110th Street

By Bus: #M4 to Amsterdam & 110th Street #M11 to Amsterdam & 112th Street #M104 to Broadway & 112th Street

Keeping Time

THE CATHEDRAL CELEBRATES FORTY YEARS OF EARLY MUSIC NEW YORK

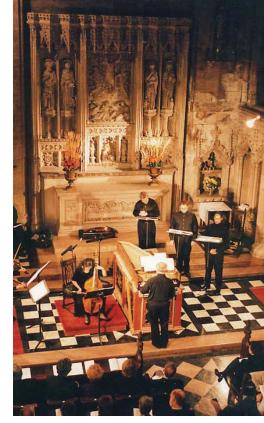


Photo: Courtesy EM/NY

Frederick Renz, founder and maestro of Early Music New York, which has earned accolades worldwide, describes a lifetime of playing early music (11th to 18th century) as akin to being an anthropologist, a detective, or Columbus sailing for the new world. "I love the Eureka moment," he says, when, by dint of scholarship and experience, he realizes how something must have sounded hundreds of

The idea behind the revival of early music is to step back from the conventions of the 19th-century concert hall and play the music as it was originally performed, with the same kinds of instruments and number of players. This requires considerable research. Without recordings, early musicians are dependent on musical treatises and books to understand how the instruments were made, how they sounded, and what happened between the notes on the page and the notes in the air.

Renz, as leader of the ensemble, has been an Artist in Residence in the Cathedral since shortly after the group formed. The anniversary celebration falls on November 22, St. Cecilia Day—Cecilia is the patron saint of music—a windfall of scheduling that pleases Mr. Renz enormously. The concert, "Cathedral Flourishes," will feature works written in honor of St. Cecilia by Johann Sebastian Bach and his contemporaries: George Frederick Handel and William Boyce and Henry Purcell.

The Early Music New York holiday concert this year is "A Dutch Christmas, the Age of Rembrandt." (A CD of this program was produced in association with The Metropolitan Museum of Art). It features late Renaissance carols and dances by Jan Pieterzoon

Sweelinck, Jacob van Eyck, Pierre Phalèse & Tielman Susato. Early Music New York's men's choir will be joined by a consort of recorders. Christmas concerts, held this year on December 6, 7, 13 and 25, typically sell out early, so order your tickets now.

Renz and the other original EM/NY members were alumni of Pro Musica, the famous early music ensemble that disbanded in 1974. Early Music New York was originally based in Renz's W. 71st St. studio. They put out a press release about the new group, the New York Times wrote an article and The Very Reverend James Parks Morton, then Dean of the Cathedral, called them up to offer any assistance they might need. Renz allowed as how they were a bit strapped for space, and the next week the group was rehearsing at the Cathedral. Over the years they occupied different rooms, but ended up in the crypt, in a 1000-square foot space. "It was great," he said. "In those days, things were a bit looser, and I was often the one who voluntarily turned out the Cathedral lights at night. I explored every inch of the Cathedral, the triforum, out on the buttresses.... It was like a fantasyland."

n those early days, the group only rehearsed at the Cathedral; they played at Tully Hall. "But then became disillusioned with the acoustics there and rental costs were rising." One of the earliest performances at the Cathedral was the medieval drama, "Daniel at the Lion's Den." Dean Morton's daughter was a chorister for that performance.

Like so many cultural movements, contemporary interest in early music came out of the sixties. That's when musicians started trying to figure out what medieval, renaissance and baroque music sounded like originally, and when craftsmen started making authentic replicas of old instruments. "The real old instruments are museum pieces," said Renz. "You don't want to risk them on everyday practice

He explains that early music is similar to jazz in that improvisation was expected. There are period treatises for musicians that explain and give examples of how to "ornament," as they called it, the melody. Renz talked about how many contemporary musicians, such as Philip Glass, were influenced by the resurgence of early music. "Music is generally something you change and vary...taking it forward. Early music is just the opposite. It's like taking the varnish off an old painting. All the colors become vibrant again."

Renz fell in love with early music as a freshman in college, when a faculty concert at the State University of NY, Fredonia, featured a number of teachers who had come back from European sabbaticals with the baroque versions of the instruments they played. Fascinated, Renz spent a semester abroad in his junior year, studying in Antwerp, Belgium, and the Netherlands, where he bought a harpsichord. In college, Renz studied harpsichord and choral conducting, receiving master's degrees in both. He then studied

"When I hear music I fear no danger, I am invulnerable, I see no foe. am related to the earliest times and to the latest times."

Henry David Thoreau (1818–1862), inducted into the American Poets Corner in 1988

harpsichord with Gustav Leonhardt in Holland as a Fulbright Scholar and spent six seasons with Pro Musica as a keyboard soloist.

Renz has given numerous solo recitals, appeared with orchestras and chamber groups in New York, and has recorded for Lyrichord, Foné, Decca, Vanguard, Musical Heritage Society, Musicmasters and Nonesuch, as well as Early Music's own label, Ex Cathedra. Renz has received numerous accolades including commissions from The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Spoleto Festival USA. He has also received two Producers Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts' Opera/ Musical Theater Program and a grant from the Ingram Merrill Foundation.

The Cathedral means many things to many people, but to Frederick Renz it is not only a performance space he is grateful for and an organization whose values and programs he cherishes, but a reminder of the period he loves most, when music was intertwined with the church, and cathedrals were centers of communal activity, administrative, artistic, and commercial as well as spiritual. Early Music New York lost their space at the Cathedral in 2008 when plans were afoot to substantially renovate the crypt. (Those plans are in abeyance for the moment.) He now rehearses and has his office in The First Church of Christ, Scientist. The new digs are right around the corner from his apartment. which is convenient. Asked what he misses most about being housed at the Cathedral, he says, "I'm not as aware of what's going on there now, which is too bad. I also miss being able to call a rehearsal at

Cathedral Christmas

Though it's hard to pick a favorite holiday from the many celebrated here—from Easter, festival of hope and regeneration, to the Feast of St. Francis, when furred and feathered creatures have their chance to be blessed, all have their special significance— Christmas at the Cathedral holds a special place of honor, evoking memories of cherished childhood moments and the joy of coming together with our fellow community members for celebration and stately services on the Close.

The specific pleasures of Christmas at the Cathedral include the Cathedral Crafts Fair, the Christmas Concert, The Winter Solstice Concerts, Early Music New York concerts, the Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols and Festal Eucharist, the Christmas Day Eucharist, and the New Year's Eve Concert for Peace—all planned and rehearsed for months beforehand. There are many special musical offerings at the Christmas Eve services, including the talents of Susanna Phillips, an acclaimed soprano from the Met. The Crafts Fair, held on the first

weekend in December, features handmade jewelry, textiles, wood and glasswork, as well as other surprises that make unique gifts and honor the tradition of handicrafts, which is an integral part of the Cathedral. For those who prefer to give a special experience, a Vertical Tour of the Cathedral is an unforgettable gift, as is a Knightwatch Medieval sleepover at the Cathedral—for children ages 6–12 and their adult companions.

In this issue, the newsletter profiles Frederick Renz of Early Music New York, celebrating forty years of music at the Cathedral. Paul Winter's Solstice Concerts are celebrating their 35th year. The Christmas Choral Concert, in Kent Tritle's fourth season as Director of Music, promises to be better than ever. As the season winds down, the New Year's Eve Concert for Peace reminds us of the deeper meaning of the holiday. All of these concerts make great gifts. Or browse the Pop-Up shop for a tee shirt, handsome black tote bag, or delightful

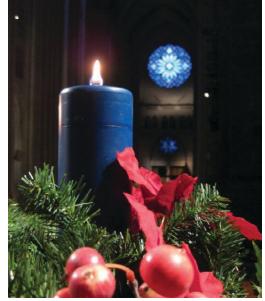


Photo: Susan Cannon

Dean's Meditation: Fear

"We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark: the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light."

"It is a fire straight from the pit of hell... We cannot fool ourselves into thinking that the vast moat of the Atlantic Ocean will protect us from the flames of this fire."

Dr. Kent Brantly, US medical missionary, director of Monrovia's only Ebola treatment center and disease survivor, speaking to Congress

"Information travels faster than viruses do now. This is why we are afraid. But this is also why we are safe."

Steven Johnson, "Ebola's Information Paradox" NY Times op-ed, October 24, 2014

"It is a scary time to be a doctor or nurse. Medicine has always depended on providers putting themselves at some risk. We aim to minimize these dangers, but they often persist."

Robert Klitzman, professor of psychiatry and Director of the Masters of Bioethics Program at Columbia University.

"Fears are educated into us, and can, if we wish, be educated out."

Karl Augustus Menninger, American psychiatrist and a member of the Menninger family of psychiatrists who founded the Menninger Foundation and the Menninger Clinic

We have known for decades that the resource-poor countries of Africa need front-line doctors and nurses and basic resources. Clean water and sanitation are essential to life. They also are necessary to stop the spread of disease. We have also known about the dangers of pandemic, especially in resource-poor countries. By definition, pandemics occur over wide geographic areas and affect an exceptionally high proportion of a population, spreading quickly even throughout the world. The Greek derivative, pandemos, means all the people.

Developing countries encounter unique and difficult issues and challenges in preparing for a pandemic. Deaths attributable to an influenza pandemic, for example, would likely be substantially higher in developing countries than in industrialized countries. Pharmaceutical interventions such as vaccines and antiviral agents are less available in developing countries. The public health and clinical infrastructures of developing countries are often inadequate to deal with such widespread health crises. Such events inevitably have a global effect. That is why improving pandemic preparedness in every country, particularly developing ones, is an urgent need about which all citizens of this planet should care, as articulated by Oshitani, Kamigaki, and Suzuki, in "Major issues and challenges of influenza pandemic preparedness in developing countries" (www.cdc.gov/EID/content/14/6/875.htm).

Scott Simon is one of America's most admired writers and broadcasters and has reported from all fifty states, and from five continents. He has covered ten wars, from El Salvador to Sarajevo to Afghanistan and Iraq. When Simon, who has won every major award in broadcasting, addressed the "out-ofcontrol, almost biblically tragic outbreak that's going on in West Africa right now" on NPR, people listened. On the program, Simon pondered the issues with physician and infectious disease specialist and deputy physician-in-chief at Memorial



Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Kent Sepkowitz: How was the CDC handling Ebola and how in danger are Americans? Sepkowitz explained:

We have health care here. We have the CDC. We have health care infrastructure. We have all those things that tax dollars have been supporting all this time, but more than anything else, we have a tradition of getting supplies to and from places. We have enough rooms. We have enough beds. We have enough gloves. We can afford the type of over-the-top waste creation that taking care of an infectious patient can make...What we're seeing in West Africa now is over an eight-month period somewhere in the order of seven to 15,000 cases. That's a very slow-motion outbreak. It's certainly an epidemic, but it demonstrates how much more difficult it is to transmit this infection.

The fact that Americans are in little danger was hard to keep in focus. The death of Thomas Duncan in Dallas raised questions about the readiness of hospitals and the truthfulness of selfreporting. Some people, including political leaders, called for travel from affected countries to be banned—or at least quarantined. Even though we know that most flights from Africa go through other airports outside of the U.S and that tracking every person leaving Africa through those airports is an impossible task, another politically polarizing debate ensued. They were not persuaded by humanitarian arguments, and proponents of clampdowns refused to accept the fact that such an approach would not increase our safety. Experts made clear that its effect would be to prevent us from combating the disease at the source—the only effective way to combat the disease—and we would be more at risk

What happened in Dallas illustrates that it is usual with any outbreak or with any infectious disease that the first case is missed. Sepkowitz confessed to Scott Simon that "...even when there's an outbreak you know, across the Atlantic. It's almost axiomatic that somehow the light bulb is just not going to go on." Steven Johnson, author of the book and host of the PBS series How We Got to Now, wrote an op-ed in the NY Times, "Ebola's Information Paradox," on October 24, 2014. In it he reminded us that how disease and information spread affects us in different ways:

... the 19th century ... cholera bacterium ...spread through a [London] neighborhood with terrifying speed, while the information about that terror moved more slowly. This was good news for the mental well-being of England's wider population, which was spared the anxiety of following the death count as if it were a stock ticker. But it was terrible from a public health standpoint; the epidemic had largely faded before the official institutions of public health even realized the magnitude of the outbreak.

Johnson explained that our global connectedness, technology and institutions such as the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention enhance the speed of information, which is both our greatest defense against a true epidemic in a city like New York and the catalyst for ungrounded fears that we live in "perilous times." As he wrote, "A New Yorker or Londoner is far less likely to perish from an epidemic disease than he or she would have been 150 years ago...vastly less at risk and ... more worried—for the same reason. Information travels faster than viruses do now. This is why we are afraid. But this is also why we are safe."

Robert Klitzman, professor of psychiatry and the Director of the Masters of Bioethics Program at Columbia University,

The Ebola crisis has revealed serious gaps in our health care system, and we need to think broadly how to deal more effectively with future epidemics [but] doctors and nurses have rallied to care for our sickest patients, sometimes placing themselves at significant risk. In the upcoming months, these professionals will be among our greatest weapons against [any] modern plague.'

In fact, to achieve and to sustain meaningful health security, we must defeat such diseases where they erupt. To do so is humane, but it is also our only defense. In our global society, we will discover again and again that we are only as safe as our least healthy global citizens. Healthcare professionals willing to show up and to risk their own safety on the front lines of such battles have always been our health security warriors. Are they heroes? Oddly, it may be easier to be a hero when you remain at a distance. To return home with the possibility of bringing a disease back with you may quickly get you labeled a threat. Even with the means to prevent the spread of such diseases, our fears get the best of us and we turn on the ones who put themselves in harm's way to protect us. Those who inspired us and endeavored to make our lives better are rejected and vilified as they try to reenter their home communities.

I wonder whether angels in the Bible had the same problem. The word angel comes from the Greek meaning messen They worked overtime, especially that First Christmas. As they were wont to do, they would utter words of encouragement, "Do not be afraid." Such words, however, can be heard as threats, as the challenge of engagement of the hearers sinks in: an older man, ready to divorce the pregnant teen to whom he was betrothed, knowing he was not the father. The Christmas Story would have changed if Mary, also told not to be afraid, or Joseph had refused to take that risk. Do we put one foot in front of the other because we are freed from fear? More likely, the heroic comes in the midst of the ordinary fears that could undermine us and God's plan. To dispel the darkness someone must dare to carry the light into the dark places. Every time fear is cast out in that way, we become our truer selves. Then Christmas breaks into our daily lives again.

Winter events 2014–15

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Services

8 am Morning Prayer & Holy Eucharist9 am Holy Eucharist11 am Choral Eucharist4 pm Choral Evensong

Monday – Saturday 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Holy Eucharist (Tuesday & Thursday only)

12:15 pm Holy Eucharist

5 pm Evening Prayer

Daily Services

TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS

Unless otherwise noted events do not require tickets or reservations. Tickets for all performances other than free or "suggested contribution" events may be purchased directly from the Cathedral's website, stjohndivine.org, or by calling (866) 811-4111.

Your contributions make it possible for the Cathedral to offer the many programs listed below. Please fill out the enclosed envelope

Please visit the Cathedral's website, stjohndivine.org or call the Visitor Center (212) 316-7540 for updates and additional event and tour information.

Don't forget to become a fan of the Cathedral on Facebook, where previews of events are listed and the adventures of resident peacocks Phil, Jim, and Harry can be followed in detail!

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. Learn stories through stained glass windows and sculpture and study the grand architecture of the Cathedral while standing on a buttress. The tour culminates on the roof with a wonderful view of Manhattan. \$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

Spotlight Tours

Select Saturdays and Sundays

bottle of water. Meet at Visitor Center.

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.

Phoenix: Spotlight on the Exhibition

Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 3 pm–4 pm
Climb through the Cathedral's walls and walk along its corridors for an exclusive look at the contemporary art exhibition, Phoenix: Xu Bing at the Cathedral. Visitors will participate in a lively discussion about the exhibition's artworks, and their themes of urbanization, migration, and renewal. This tour explores the monumental Phoenix, two twelve-ton sculptures suspended in flight from the Cathedral's 124-foot vaulting, and Background Story, a lightbox "painting" crafted from natural debris. \$20 per person, \$15 per student/senior. 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 art collection with a special focus on textiles! This unique opportunity includes a behind-thescenes visit to 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 stjohndivine.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 stjohndivine.org or contact: (212) 316-5819/nightwatch@stjohndivine.org.

ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN TRUST (A.C.T.)

To learn about the many nurturing year-round programs for young people offered by A.C.T., please call (212) 316-7530 or visit www.actprograms.org.

Indoor Playstation

Playtime doesn't freeze in the winter at ACT! Our indoor playstation opens December 1, Mondays through Thursdays from noon to 2:45 pm for children ages 5 and under. Admission is \$6.00 per child. Cash only. Valid picture ID is required for admission.

Children's Quest Fund

Help us to invite children from many countries, religions and economic levels under the shadow of the beloved Cathedral. While any amount will help, \$1,000 enables a child from a low-income family to participate in a premiere summer camp experience. Please send donations to the Cathedral, designated "A.C.T.'s Children's Quest Fund."

Divine Saturday Celebrations

Celebrate good times with ACT's new and improved Divine Saturday Celebrations, with a variety of birthday activities for kids to enjoy! It's a great time for parents and children alike. Speak to a party manager for details at (212) 316-7530.

CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY CARES (CCC)

All programs meet in the CCC office, the Sunday Soup Kitchen or the Cathedral A.C.T gym unless otherwise specified. Please visit stjohndivine.org for more information on CCC programs.

Nutrition, Health and Clothing Center

The Center hosts monthly HIV testing (in partnership with Care for the Homeless), as well as blood pressure, heart health, diabetes, and other screenings throughout the course of the year. Please visit our website for upcoming screening dates. Contact: Lauren Phillips, Program Manager, (212) 316-7581.

lothing 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.

DECEMBER

SELECTED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Great Music in a Great Space: Raymond Nagem Organ Recital

Tuesday, December 2, 7:30 pm

In the first 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 "Apparition de l'Église éternelle" and "La Nativité du Seigneur." Organist, pianist, composer, and visionary, Messiaen wrote music of vivid color and intense contrasts, ranging from delirious joy to profound stillness.

Crafts at the Cathedral

Friday, December 5–Sunday, December 7
The 19th annual Cathedral craft fair presents exquisite, one-of-a-kind offerings from a wide array of far-flung artisans. For hours and more information, visit craftsatthecathedral.com.

Fantastical Creatures Children's Workshop

Saturday, December 6, 10 am

Explore the many real and mythical creatures portrayed around the Cathedral and then head down to the arts workshop to create fantastical beasts with clay, paper bag puppets, flip books, and more! Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child, with accompanying adult. Meet at Visitor Center.

Early Music New York: Dutch Christmas

Saturday, December 6, 7:30 pm; Sunday, December 7, 2 pm; Sunday, December 21, 2 pm; Thursday, December 25, 2 and 7:30 pm

Early Music New York's men's choir is joined by a consort of recorders to perform late Renaissance selections from A Dutch Christmas. Featuring carols and dances by Jan Pieterzoon Sweelinck, Jacob van Eyck, Pierre Phalèse & Tielman Susato. Visit earlymusicny.org for tickets and more information.

Annual Saint Nicholas Celebration and Toy Collection

Monday, December 8, 6 pm
Join The Laymen's Club for an evening of fellowship and holiday cheer, and enjoy a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception in Cathedral House followed by the singing of Christmas carols. In keeping with the mission of The Laymen's Club, which includes supporting the Cathedral and its programs, each year's Saint Nicholas celebration donates toys to benefit the children of clients of Cathedral Community Cares. For more info, go to

Nightwatch Dusk & Dawn

Friday, December 12, 7 pm and Saturday, December 13, 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 workshop will draw upon the rich tapestry of the world's faith traditions. For more information, please call (212) 316-7518.

Season of Lights: A Winter Workshop

Saturday. December 13. 10 am

In this special workshop, children and their families brighten up their winter with a reading of Nancy Luenn's Celebrations of Light, learning about winter festivities from around the world. After exploring the many sources of light in the Cathedral, including stained glass windows, families are then off to the workshop. Activities include rolling beeswax candles; cutting Chinese and Taiwanese paper lanterns; sculpting clay candelabras inspired by Hindu floating lamps, Jewish menorahs, and Kwanzaa kinaras; and more! Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child, with accompanying adult.

Spotlight Tour: Brilliant Walls of Light

Saturday December 13, 10 am

Each window contains a unique style of stained glass drawn from the English, French, and German traditions. Explore the beautiful narrative and geometric windows by modern English and American firms and view the memorial to a stained glass artist. Ascend over 100 feet of spiral stairs for a closer look at windows dedicated to medical and communications achievements. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko. Participants must be 12 years of age and older for the ascent.

Adults and Children in Trust Open House

Saturday, December 13, 10 and 11 am

Interested in seeing where all the ACTion takes place? Register your child for one of ACT's Parent-Toddler, Nursery, Preschool or Afterschool programs and contact us to schedule a tour at (212) 316-7530 or act@stjohndivine.org.

Spotlight Tour: With Angels and Archangels

Saturday December 13, 2 pm

Discover images of angels in the Cathedral's glass and stone. Learn about the role of angels in the Hebrew, Christian and Islamic scriptures, the angelic hierarchy and how to identify angels by their field marks. The tour concludes with an ascent to the triforium for a birds-eye view of the breathtaking Archangels Window. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek. \$10 per person. \$8 per student/senior.

Cathedral Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 13, 7 pm

The annual Christmas Concert at St. John the Divine features *Gloria in excelsis Deo*, J.S. Bach's Christmas Cantata from 1745. This music, later incorporated into his *Mass in B minor*, sets a joyful, triumphant text not only in tribute to the birth of Jesus, but also in commemoration of the Peace of Dresden, signed on Christmas Day in 1745. Alongside splendid a cappella motets and beloved Christmas carols, this program will also feature the New York premiere of "Monday's Child" by James Adler, performed by the Cathedral Choristers under the direction of Malcolm Merriweather.

Paul Winter's 35th Annual Winter Solstice Celebration

Thursday, December 18 and Friday, December 19, 8pm; Saturday, December 20, 2 pm and 7:30pm This non-denominational event is a modern interpretation of ancient solstice rituals, which brought people together on the shortest day and longest night of the year to celebrate new beginnings. This year's show features the Paul Winter Consort,

vocalist Theresa Thomason, Forces of Nature Dance Theatre,

Dzieci Theatre: Fools Mass

Sunday, December 21, 5:15 pm Visit dziecitheatre.org for information.

and other special guests to be announced.

CELEBRATING THE SEASON: SERVICES

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols Wednesday, December 24, 4 pm

Christmas Eve Festal Eucharist of Christmas Wednesday, December 24, 10:30 pm

Christmas Day Choral Eucharist

Thursday, December 25, 10:30 am (only service of the day)

New Year's Eve Watchnight Service Wednesday, December 31, 11 pm

New Year's Day Eucharist
Thursday, January 1, 10:30 am (only service of the day)

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday December 28, 1 pm

The Cathedral spurred the growth of Morningside Heights into becoming one of Manhattan's most unique neighborhoods. Go back in time on an illustrated walking tour of the neighborhood and its historic architecture and institutions, and learn about its development into the "Acropolis of Manhattan." The tour begins at the Cathedral and ends at Riverside Church. Led by Cathedral Guide Bill Schneberger. \$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.

New Year's Eve Concert for Peace

Wednesday, December 31, 7 pm

Founded by Leonard Bernstein in 1984, the annual New Year's Eve Concert for Peace is a signature Cathedral event, gathering old friends and new for over a quarter of a century. The music, the candles, and the spirit of peace send audiences out into the chill January night feeling connected, uplifted, and ready to communicate and uphold that spirit. Tickets available at stjohndivine.org.

JANUARY

Camels and Kings: A Gift-Giving Workshop

Saturday, January 3, 10 am
Children and their families gather to explore the story surrounding the famous journey of the three wise men, celebrated around the world. The two-hour workshop begins with a story and then children make gift boxes, costumes and sparkling crowns.

Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child, with

Medieval Arts Children's Workshop

accompanying adult. Meet at Visitor Center.

Saturday, January 10, 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 Visitor Center.

Spotlight Tour: Medieval 2.0

Saturday January 10, 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. \$10 per person, \$8 per student/senior.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday January 11, 1 pm
Please see description for December 28.

Visual Thinking Strategies: A Salon

Thursday, January 15, 6 pm

In this informal gathering, guests consider the Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) discussion model and together explore new ways in which it can be used to support open and meaningful group conversations. VTS is utilized in classrooms, museums, hospitals, and boardrooms across the United States to support open and meaningful group discussions. Refreshments will be served. RSVP to education@stjohndivine.org or (212) 932-7347.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

Sunday, January 18, 11 am

Spotlight Tour: Secrets of St. John the Divine

Sunday, January 18, 1 pm

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. \$10 per person, \$8 per student/senior

Spiritual Sing with Alice Parker

Sunday, January 18, 2 pm Join Alice Parker, Artistic Director of Melodious Accord, for this community sing.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Interspiritual

Friday, January 23, 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. Visit stjohndivine.org for more information and to register.

Diocesan Treble Choir Festival Evensong

Saturday, January 24, 5 pm
The Cathedral hosts a special Evensong with choristers from all across the Diocese of New York.

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday January 25, 1 pm

Please see description for December 28.

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, January 30, 6:30 pm

The 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. Visit stjohndivine.org for more information and to register.

FEBRUARY

Weaving Stories: A Textile Workshop

Saturday, February 7, 10 am
Exploring the Cathedral's tapestries and the stories they tell, children will learn about the medieval craft of weaving. Families will then weave on looms they have crafted from cardboard and paper before taking home their own textile creations.

Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child, with

Absalom Jones Eucharist & Celebration

accompanying adult. Meet at Visitor Center.

Saturday, February 7, 10:30 am

Absalom Jones, born a slave in Delaware in 1746, was the first African-American ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church. Join the Cathedral community, together with the New York Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians, the Anti-Racism Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, and

congregations from around New York for a celebration of the

Flying Phoenixes Children's Workshop

life and work of Blessed Absalom Jones

Saturday, February 14, 10 am

Experience Phoenix: Xu Bing at the Cathedral and get a peek at these majestic sculptures, while learning about traditional Phoenix stories from around the world. Then, participants will use their artistic talents to create their own phoenix masks, bird collages, calligraphy letters, and more! Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$8 per child with accompanying adult.

Meet at Visitor Center.

Within the Walls: Exploring Hidden Spaces

Saturday, February 14, 10 am
This extended tour features "behind-the-scenes" climbs in both the eastern and western ends of St. John the Divine. In the East, descend into the unfinished crypt and then ascend Rafael Guastavino's beautiful spiral staircase to incredible views high above the altar. The western climb presents an amazing view down the entire length of the world's largest cathedral. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide John Simko. \$20 per person, \$15 per

student/senior. All participants must be 12 years of age and older

The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

Sunday February 15, 1 pm

and reservations are recommended

Please see description for December 28.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18
7:30 & 8:30 am
Spoken Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
12:15 & 7 pm

Choral Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, February 20, 6:30 pm See description for January 30.

Great Music in a Great Space: Machaut Mass

Tuesday, February 24, 7:30 pm

This program of a cappella choral works explores the transition between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Ranging from the powerful, declamatory "Kyrie" to the tender "Agnus Dei," Guillaume de Machaut's Messe de Nostre Dame is perhaps the greatest masterpiece of medieval music. This performance in the Chapel of St. James also includes traditional Gregorian chants, and a selection of motets by Josquin des Prez, the towering musical figure of the early Renaissance. Visit stjohndivine.org for

Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

Friday, February 27, 6:30 pm See description for January 30.

Transitional Diaconate Ordinations

Saturday, February 28, 10:30 am Visit dioceseny.org for information.

stjohndivine.org Winter 2014–15

The American Poets Corner: Robinson Jeffers



Photo: Courtesy Tor House Foundation

To feel and speak the astonishing beauty of things—earth, stone and water,

Beast, man and woman, sun, moon and stars—

The blood-shot beauty of human nature, its thoughts, frenzies and passions,

And unhuman nature its towering reality—

For man's half dream; man, you might say, is nature dreaming, but rock

And water and sky are constant—to feel

Greatly, and understand greatly, and express greatly, the natural

Beauty, is the sole business of poetry.

The rest's diversion: those holy or noble sentiments, the intricate ideas.

The love, lust, longing: reasons, but not the reason.

Robinson Jeffers (1887–1962), inducted into the American Poets Corner in 2007

John Robinson Jeffers was born near Pittsburgh, but moved with his family to Los Angeles when he was sixteen. After college, he lived in a small cabin in the Big Sur region of California, very wild and untamed then, with the love of his life, Una. "For the first time in my life," he later wrote of this first encounter, "I could see people living—amid magnificent unspoiled scenery—essentially as they did in the ldyls or the Sagas, or in Homer's Ithaca. Here was life purged of its ephemeral accretions. Men were riding after cattle, or plowing the headland, hovered by white sea-gulls, as they have done for thousands of years, and will for thousands of years to come. Here was contemporary life that was also permanent life...."

Jeffers spent his time writing, building a house by hand out of local granite (Tor House) and raising a family. In 1924 Jeffers published his third book, *Tamar and Other Poems*, which went into multiple printings. Jeffers was compared to Sophocles and Shakespeare and was on the cover of Time magazine in 1932. His reputation faltered in later years, and Jeffers died in his sleep a few days after his seventy-fifth birthday, in his beloved Tor House.

Jeffers was, and has remained, an influential figure in the environmental movement. In 1969, The Sierra Club published *Not Man Apart: Photographs of the Big Sur Coast*, which combined lines from Jeffers's poetry with photographs by Ansel Adams, Edward Weston and others in a work that substantially aided efforts to preserve that iconic coastline.

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.

Looking Back

AUTUMN LEAVES



Photo: Helena Kubicka de Bragano

It was a glorious autumn in New York, colorful, and full of important, moving and entertaining events. **Ralph Lee** and **the Mettawee Theatre Company** opened the season, offering audiences a marvelous weekend of performances September 5–7 with *The Dancing Fox: Wisdom Tales of the Middle East*.

In September, the Cathedral hosted the Episcopal Relief & Development 75th Anniversary Celebration Art Exhibition, with photographs of their programs from around the world. On September 21, the Cathedral hosted **Religions for the Earth:** a Multifaith Service, the culmination of the hugely successful People's Climate March, when an estimated 300,000 people marched through the streets of Manhattan. At the service, activists and spiritual leaders of many traditions sang, prayed, chanted and spoke, creating a passionate, collective voice for change, including **Chief Arvol Looking Horse**, Lakota spiritual leader; Indian activist Dr. Vandana Shiva; Al and Karenna Gore; Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change; and the Reverend Serene Jones of Union Theological Seminary, who summed up the problem by saying, "We have a soul-sized work before us." The Cathedral will continue to be involved in this work, and we hope you, too, will become involved in what is now affecting—and will continue to affect—people in every country. The young, especially, deserve our attention to this danger.

The Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals reminded us of those who are entirely innocent and who rarely benefit from what we do to the earth. But St. Francis Day is a time of celebration, and as such was as joyous as ever, beasts great and small processing down the aisle of the Cathedral to be blessed by clergy with smiles on their faces. The Paul Winter Consort and The Forces of Nature Dance Theater performed.

On September 28, the Cathedral honored the mission of the United Nations. **His Excellency Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa**, President-Elect of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, gave the sermon at the 11 am service. Mr. Kutesa is a Member of Parliament in Uganda and a former Minster of Foreign Affairs.

On October 8, Enter the Conversation welcomed Maude **Barlow and Wenonah Hauter** for a wide-ranging conversation with Dean Kowalski. Barlow, bestselling author and activist, is the National Chairwoman of the Council of Canadians, a citizens advocacy group; co-founder of The Blue Planet Project; one of the "1000 Women for Peace" nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize; and 2009 winner of the prestigious Lannan Cultural Freedom Fellowship, known as the "Alternative Nobel." Hauter, Founder and Executive Director of Food & Water Watch, has worked extensively on energy, food, water and environmental issues at the national, state and local level. Author of the critically acclaimed book, Foodopoly: The Future of Food and Farming in America, Hauter is currently writing **Frackopoly**, due for publication in 2015. The conversation focused on the need to organize, to work on a local level and speak to people about issues immediately affecting their lives.

On display from October 12 through November, Amen: a Prayer for the World, an exhibition of fiberglass figures in poses of prayer or meditation, was sponsored by CARAVAN, a nonprofit focused on interfaith and arts; and co-curated by CARAVAN founder and president Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler, and renowned Egyptian artist Reda Abdel Rahman, who also designed and sculpted the statues. The artworks were very popular among Cathedral visitors. On October 22, a concert in the Chapel of St. James, celebrating the exhibition, featured Amir Vahab & Ensemble. An accomplished composer and

vocalist of Sufi and folk music, Vahab's musical selections for the evening were inspired by the poetry of Rumi, Hafiz, and Yunus

On October 14, "Come Share My Meal: Poets From the Arabic Diaspora" brought poets Deema Shehabi, Lawrence Joseph and Sinan Antoon; poet and translator Marilyn Hacker; and the Cathedral's Poet in Residence Marilyn Nelson to the Cathedral for an evening of contemporary poetry from the Middle Eastern diaspora. Nelson also read poems by Palestinian poet Nathalie Handel, and Pittsburgh poet and poetry educator Samuel Hazo. The intimate reading/book signing was enjoyed by all. "When I wrote this poem," Antoon said of one of the final poems he read, "I thought: this should only be read in a cathedral. And then two days later, I got the invitation."

The 2014/15 season of **Great Music in a Great Space** opened on October 15, with **Arvo Pärt's** rarely performed **Te Deum**, combining the influences of medieval music and chant to transcendent effect; **Mendelssohn's** jubilant **Heilig**, **Tavener's Svyati** for choir and cello; and other works. **Kent Tritle**, **Director of Cathedral Music**, conducted; **Patrick Jee**, cello, and **Peter Stewart**, baritone, soloed.

The weekend of October 30, Synod House hosted *Curlew River*, a highly acclaimed production of **Benjamin Britten's** Nohinspired church parable. Tenor **Ian Bostridge** delivered a stunning portrayal of a madwoman tortured by the loss of her child. The performances were part of **Lincoln Center's White Lights Festival**, inaugurated in 2010 by the Center Artistic Director **Jane Moss**, to offer a "spectrum of artistic expression that moves us inward and expands our spirit."

Halloween—prelude to the dark days of winter—is always an excuse for fun and hijinks at the Cathedral. The **Crypt Crawl** offered a venture into the Cathedral's crypt for spooky stories and a history of this treasured holiday. **The Annual Cathedral Halloween Extravaganza**, with **Ralph Lee's Procession of the Ghouls**, always one of the Cathedral's most magical evenings, was a high-spirited (and multi-spirited) spectacle for kids of all ages. The film this year was the silent classic *The Phantom of the Opera*.

November opened with the induction of **Flannery O'Connor** into the American Poets Corner, at the November 2 Evensong, and an event honoring the writer the following evening. Writers, scholars and family members celebrated the genius of this American original, who said, "Writing a novel is a terrible experience, during which the hair often falls out and the teeth decay. I'm always irritated by people who imply that writing fiction is an escape from reality. It is a plunge into reality and it's very shocking to the system."

The Cathedral was honored to welcome three great artists on November 17, when **Vanessa Redgrave** and trumpet-flugelhorn master **Jimmy Owens** performed **Joan Didion's** *Blue Nights*, a meditation on grief and memory. It was a spellbinding performance of haunting—and haunted—text.

On November 18, The Great Organ: A Recital Series featured a concert by the Cathedral's own Kent Tritle, performing two late preludes and fugues of Bach; Duruflé's Suite, Op. 5 and Magnificat octavi toni by Heinrich Scheidemann.

On November 22, Cathedral Artist in Residence Frederick Renz and Early Music New York (see article) opened their 40th anniversary season on St. Cecelia Day (patron saint of musicians). The celebratory evening featured works for natural trumpets and timpani by Johann Sebastian Bach and contemporaries Georg Philip Teleman, George Frederick Handel and William Boyce.



Dr. Vandana Shiva and Rabbi Ellen Bernste

A Life of Achievement



Photo: Courtesy Vivian Hewitt

The Cathedral, anchoring the neighborhood for over a century, has inspired deep loyalty in friends, neighbors and congregants. If you have followed our newsletter over the years, you will have heard stories of clergy, staff, volunteers, artists and activists who have gone above and beyond for this institution. You will also know how many rare souls have worked and performed here, adding their voices to the one voice that is our Cathedral, our city, our time.

Vivian Hewitt, congregant since the origin of the Congregation of Saint Saviour and a volunteer for the past 25 years, is one of these. The 94-year old retired librarian and renowned art collector (The Hewitt collection of African American art is now the heart of the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts+Culture in Charlotte, N.C.) can be found in a pew every Sunday with a group of friends. "We look out for each other," she says. "If one of us doesn't show up, we check to see what's wrong." Mrs. Hewitt lives in the brownstone on West End Avenue that she and her husband John purchased fifty years ago, making her a longtime observer of the neighborhood, and of the city and nation for much longer. Asked about how the nation has changed over her lifetime, Mrs. Hewitt replied, "There are so many more opportunities now for young black people. I never thought I'd see an African American president. Barack and Michelle are a wonderful couple, the most intelligent presidential couple since Franklin and Eleanor."

Mrs. Hewitt is fiercely devoted to the Cathedral. "The Cathedral is so spiritually satisfying...so intellectually and culturally imbued in the life of the city...I tell people, if you can only visit two places in NYC, visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Cathedral." On the day in October this writer spoke with her, the petite dynamo with the soft nimbus of gray hair was getting ready to be honored at a Friday evening ceremony for Jack and Jill of America. Mrs. Hewitt was President of the New York Chapter in the late '60s

I asked her how she came to volunteer at the Cathedral. "I was at a library meeting and I said to my friend [Columbia librarian]
Richard Logsdon, 'Tell me, now that you're retired, how are you squandering your time?' His face lit up. 'I'm a tour guide at the Cathedral.' I said, 'You know, I think I might like to do that.'
And I did, for 25 years. I loved it. She confesses to being nervous when she began giving tours, but loved doing it. The stained glass windows were particular favorites, especially the Sports and Communications windows. She remembers giving joyful Christmas parties for the other volunteers and members of the Laymen's Club, "singing around the piano."

Born in New Castle, Pennsylvania, in 1920, Mrs. Hewitt became Pittsburgh's first African American librarian. "I had no role models [in the library world]," she said, adding in the next breath that the Pittsburgh black professional community doctors, nurses, teachers and lawyers and social workers—"looked after me 24/7 because my success meant that others coming after me could succeed." Mrs. Hewitt got her master's in library science at Carnegie Tech, and worked as a librarian in Pittsburgh and Atlanta before moving to NYC in 1952 to work for the Rockefeller Foundation, where she was the first black professional on staff. "Rockefeller prepared me for an international life," she said, mentioning that she has visited every continent except Australia and Antarctica, traveling for library conferences, to visit family and for adventure. For the last 20 years of her career, Mrs. Hewitt was the librarian at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and then worked for two and a half years in retirement as Assistant Chief Librarian at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mrs. Hewitt's sisters-in-law had been members of the Harlem Renaissance, and the couple's move to New York put them in the midst of the black cultural scene. "We knew everybody...we heard Billie Holliday sing, went to Ethical Culture lectures...my husband's sister Adele was Langston Hughes' secretary and we became very friendly with him." Having a particular interest in Cathedral American Poets Corner inductee Hughes, I asked her more about him. "Langston was a gentle, caring man...very encouraging to young writers. People loved him. I remember many nights sitting around the dining room table with him, talking and laughing."

The Hewitts collected Haitian and African American art. John Hewitt's sister, Adele Glasgow, owned the Market Place Gallery, a legendary African American meeting place and salon, and that was one of their points of intersection with artists. They bought works by Romare Bearden, Henry Ossawa Tanner, Al Hollingsworth, Elizabeth Catlett, Ernest Critchlow, J. Eugene Grigsby, Jacob Lawrence, Ann Tanksley and Hale Woodruff, among others. In the 1970s, Hollingsworth convinced the Hewitts to offer their home for selected artists to show their work. "Hale Woodruff told me he sold more paintings in one afternoon from my house than he did in a year from a gallery." Bank of America bought their collection in 1998 for the Gantt Center; there have also been gifts and sales to Geneva College, Hewitt's alma mater; and The Brooklyn Museum. Even so, dozens of paintings line the walls of Mrs. Hewitt's home, which she is renovating to share with her physician son, who

Mrs. Hewitt still has deep roots in the Pittsburgh area, where one of her granddaughters lives. She is a member of that city's Aurora Reading Club, one of the nation's oldest African-American book groups, founded in 1864, and attends their anniversary celebrations every year. Books have anchored her life, and she has contributed to one herself: an autobiography, written with Ann Rothstein Segan. Titled The One and Only, and available on amazon.com, the book tells engrossing stories about her family, her path-breaking career, and African American culture in the second half of the 20th century the artists, writers, intellectuals, activists and unsung but remarkable people she has worked with, befriended and mentored. She has wonderful stories about her travels, from Club Med beaches in Martinique to Moscow in 1991 during the Soviet coup d'etat attempt. After she was widowed, Mrs. Hewitt visited China [a library trip], South Africa and Cuba [The Havana Biennial]. As her 95th birthday approaches, she remains in close touch with Cathedral clergy, staff and volunteers, and we look forward to her optimistic and steadfast presence for many Sundays to come. "It's been a wonderful

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

"I believe [faith] is a call to commitment, and I believe we saw an inkling of what that looks like and the power that can ensue when the community of faith joins the river."

Terry Tempest Williams
The acclaimed writer and activist visited the Cathedral most recently for Religions for the Earth: a Multifaith Service on September 21, 2014

Looking Ahead

'TIS THE SEASON

December opens with the annual **Cathedral Crafts Fair**, always laden with beautiful handmade gifts for all the people on your list. If you dread the crowds and traffic of holiday shopping, come to the Cathedral where strolling is still a pleasure, where peacocks may greet you as you arrive, and where you can linger after shopping to look at **Xu Bing's** mighty phoenixes (not here for much longer, so please visit!).

The holidays are stressful for many people. **Nightwatch Dusk & Dawn** urban retreat (December 12 & 13) is designed for adults seeking rest from their busy lives for soul renewal and spiritual direction. The Friday evening and Saturday afternoon of chanting, meditation and reflection draws upon the rich tapestry of the world's faith traditions, preparing you for the swirl of social and family events and helping you tap into the joy of the season.

This year is **The Paul Winter Consort's** 35th year at the Cathedral. Come celebrate with Paul and his friends, including special guest **Danny Rivera**, at the **Winter Solstice Concert**, held on December 18–20th. This year's Solstice promises to be a landmark in the show's tradition of interweaving diverse performers of the world.

The annual Christmas Concert, December 13, will take place in the Great Crossing and will feature the combined Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra with soloists Amy Justman and Marc Day, conducted by Kent Tritle. This year, the concert includes Gloria in excelsis Deo, J.S. Bach's Christmas Cantata from 1745. This music, later incorporated into his Mass in B minor, sets a joyful, triumphant text not only in tribute to the birth of Jesus, but also in commemoration of the Peace of Dresden, signed on Christmas Day in 1745. Alongside splendid a cappella motets and beloved Christmas carols, this program will also feature the New York premiere of "Monday's Child" by James Adler, performed by the Cathedral Choristers under the direction of Malcolm Merriweather. Don't miss this joyous occasion when friends, family and neighbors come together to celebrate the Christmas story. While you're here, take a look at the Peace Tree, in the front of the Cathedral, decorated with hand-folded paper cranes.

Early Music New York with Fred Renz (see article) presents "A Dutch Christmas, the Age of Rembrandt" (produced in association with The Metropolitan Museum of Art), featuring late Renaissance carols and dances by Jan Pieterzoon Sweelinck, Jacob van Eyck, Pierre Phalèse and Tielman Susato, on December 6, 7, 13, and 25.

For those of you who want a festive yet reflective end to the year—and to be part of a larger community—the **New Year's Eve Concert for Peace**, featuring soloists **Jamet Pittman** and **Gregory Purnhagen** is an inspiring choice. Concertgoers, leaving the cathedral with candles in hand, the exquisite music still echoing in their thoughts, feel a little more hopeful about our beautiful and troubled world. This year's concert, hosted by **Harry Smith**, features guests **Judy Collins** and **Jason Robert Brown**.



Photo: Isadora Wilkenfeld



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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.

The Spirit of the Season

The year that is now ending has had its share of terrible news. Yet in spite of all that is wrong with the world, we greet the holiday season with joy. This is our time to celebrate what we have—a category that expands the more it is paid attention to.

Sharing love, good food, music and worship with friends and family brings light to the darkening days. Sharing with those we don't know so well (or at all)—neighbors or congregants, our troops posted abroad, hungry children and stressed parents—brings a different kind of pleasure, one many have claimed is the greatest of all. To give is to create a bridge between yourself and the other person; all of a sudden, you know in your deepest being that you are not alone; that humanity is a shared condition. Giving reminds us of all that we have been given—life, breath, sunlight, memory, hope.

The Cathedral, of course, is in the business of giving. From blessings to Sunday meals, concerts to counseling, Cathedral clergy, staff and volunteers devote themselves to the well being and happiness of others, and as such are among the luckiest workers in the city. This doesn't mean the work is easy. There are shortages of funds, time and space; there are differing opinions on methods and priorities. A wealth of experience—over a century's worth—and the input of countless numbers of exceptionally talented people helps us find our way, keeping in touch with community needs and Cathedral tradition.

after-school programs; Friends of Music, which contributions this December, please take a Gardens Conservancy. Join us in supporting the and thought-provoking programs; and our 2001 fire; Public Education and Visitor Services including Cathedral tapestries damaged in the concerts; the American Poets Corner, celebrating supports the Cathedral choral and organ (ACT) with its myriad of summer, pre-school and Clothes Closet; Adults and Children in Trust services, including the Sunday Soup Kitchen & Cares (CCC), which offers social and medical moment to think about Cathedral Community If you are thinking of making charitable convenience. For further information, please December 31! An envelope is enclosed for your Cathedral's Annual Fund and make a gift by beautiful gardens, managed by the Cathedral (PEVS), offering daily tours, frequent workshops Conservation Lab, conserving precious textiles, the best of our nation's literature; the Textile

its share of contact contact Priscilla Bayley in the is wrong Development Department at (212)-316-7570 season with or pbayley@stjohndivine.org at we Of course, there are many ways to give beyond

office work, donated by Career Gear in August thank the volunteers from Barnard Reach Out for Children in November. clothing, all new, suitable for interviews and indomitable Vivian Hewitt) and working in the CCC, and The Cathedral School, leading guided for assistance with the liturgy, pitching in at ACT helping with the soup kitchen reorganization and grateful for their support. CCC would also like to Parents Association at October; and the clothing drive run by The Midtown advertising agency, in September and the clothing drive organized by Digitas LGI, a garden. The Clothing Closet appreciates money. The Cathedral donations, such as the twenty bags of men's visits (see this issue's article about the always needs volunteers, The Cathedral is very Bank Street School for

CCC welcomes toys for its annual toy drive. The Cathedral School, Trinity School, The Laymen's Club, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, and the NBC Today Show Toy Drive all donate toys for children, which are then given out by CCC staff the week before Christmas. CCC expects to offer gifts to about 150 children this year. You, too, can donate toys: new, unwrapped delivered to CCC by December 17. Food for the annual Christmas dinner is also welcomed: cooked turkeys, chickens and hams, pies and other desserts must be delivered to the ACT gym between 8:30 and 9:00 the morning of December 22.

Whatever your interests and skills, there is room and a warm welcome for you here. Also consider joining the Society of Regents, an association of men and women who provide annual unrestricted leadership gifts of \$1,000 or more to support the preservation and maintenance of the Cathedral architecture, as well as its educational, outreach and artistic programs. Members of the Society of Regents are invited to special events throughout the year.

Whether or not you choose to give to the Cathedral, your presence here is a gift. The liturgy, music, dances, forums, workshops and other special events are half the conversation—all of you are the other half. The Cathedral needs your voices and ideas, your enthusiasm and compassion. Join us.



Photo: Helena Kubicka de Bragança

Close Friends and New Arrivals

the staff at The Colbert Report for their shift in

the soup kitchen this

September.

Sally Benner, Vice President,
Development & Strategy
Jason Boyce, Officer, Security
Valeria Jara, Webmaster
and Manager, Communications

Stacey Pedone, Director, Facilities Management John Tiebout, Manager, Visitor Services

Anna Lenti, Administrative Assistant, Music

Alexis James Waggoner, Nightwatch Coordinator Michael Yearwood, Assistant Director, Security

Barry Cloud, Officer, Security, went from full time to event coverage, and we bid adieu to Avery Griffin, Administrative Assistant for Music.

Stay in Touch

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

In Memoriam

Dorothy Jackson (1930-2014)