



January 2022

CROSSTOWN

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg



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Barney the Camel was a big hit at our first Live Nativity. See [page 4](#) for more details. Photo by HILLARY PEETE

Here's the Latest on Our Plans For Termite Fumigation January 6-10

Michelle Thomas, Cathedral Administrator

The Cathedral will be closed January 6 through 10 while the worship space is fumigated for drywood termites. All services and activities, including Sunday worship at the Cathedral, will be canceled during that time.

The exterminators, Turner Pest Control, will use a procedure called “taped and sealed,” which is safe and effective, without the circus-like bright canvas tents you often see.

All doors will be locked and chained and no one will be able to gain access during the tenting. This includes not only the worship space but also all the office, meeting, and music space, the kitchen, Harvard Hall, youth room, and Children’s Chapel. It also includes the tenants on the second and third floors of the office building.

Here is the timetable:

Wednesday, January 5 – last day in the church. It will be all work after the Wednesday healing service.

Thursday, January 6 – the church building itself will be entirely off-limits. The rest of the rooms around the church campus will be prepped.

Friday and Saturday, January 7 and 8 – The entire building is officially off-limits. No one except the termite company can access the building.

Sunday, January 9 – We will hold an outdoor service at 10 a.m. at the northwest corner of Crescent Lake Park (Crescent Lake Drive/Seventh Street at 22nd Avenue N). We will also offer a prerecorded service of Morning Prayer at 10 a.m. (led by Canon Ethan Cole and Michelle Thomas; no music) on the website (spcathedral.org/worship-live-stream) and Facebook pages. EYSeedlings and EYC events will be off-campus. Our 7 p.m. Chanted Compline will be prerecorded for livestreaming (spcathedral.org/worship-live-stream).

Monday, January 10 – Cathedral Office remains closed.

Tuesday, January 11 – Cathedral building and offices reopen for normal operation. All will be cleaning and putting things back post-fumigation.



We'll gather at Crescent Lake Park for outdoor worship January 9. Photo by HILLARY PEETE (November 2020).

We're This Close to Meeting Our Financial Goal for 2022

Ray McColgan, Stewardship Chair

As of December 21, we had achieved 99 percent of our financial goal of \$840,000 in pledges for 2022.

That breaks down into 208 “pledging units” (individuals or households), a decrease of 16 units from 2021, for a total commitment of \$835,798.

That sum represents an increase of 5 percent in the commitments of those who are pledging for the coming year.

If you have not yet made your faith-filled commitment to the Cathedral for 2022, we invite you to do so. Please contact Michelle Thomas, our Cathedral administrator, at mthomas@spcathedral.com or (727) 822-4173 ext. 114. You can also contact me, Ray McColgan, at RMcColgan@me.com or (727) 864-6259.

Your financial commitment al-

lows us to create a budget for 2022. We welcome all financial gifts, but it is very helpful if we know your intentions in advance. You can do so by filling out a pledge card.

If you fulfill your financial commitment online via automatic withdrawal from your checking account or credit card (and thank you very much for doing so!) please make sure it continues into 2022. These automatic-withdrawal commitments typically expire on December 31 and need to be renewed annually. If you need help doing that, Michelle or I will be happy to assist you.

Thanks so much for your continued support. Your financial commitment matters because St. Peter's matters — to this congregation, to our community ministry partners, and to the wider church.



Christmas Comes Again

Our children and youth retold the Christmas story anew and played and sang music from a variety of traditions on December 12. They'd been rehearsing since October. Thanks to parents and staff who made it all happen! Photo by HILLARY PEETE



A Lively Nativity

Our Live Nativity at the home of Dwight Thomas and Bruce Rice was a wonderful evening of holiday fun and fellowship. We dressed up in costumes for pictures at the manger and with the animals and filled goodie bags for the residents of Peterborough Apartments. The festivities ended as the Cathedral family sang carols around the pool, studded with floating candles, as darkness closed in.



Meet the Chapter Candidates

Four Will Be Approved at Annual Meeting January 30

We will approve by acclamation four new members of the Chapter at the Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, January 30, in Harvard Hall. The 12-member Chapter, or vestry, is the lay board of directors that, with the dean, sets policy, monitors Cathedral finances, and oversees the spiritual welfare of the congregation. Chapter members serve three-year terms.

You will have an opportunity to meet and hear from the candidates at coffee hour on January 16 when we present a Meet the Candidates forum.

At the Annual Meeting we'll hear a "state of the Cathedral" report from the dean and other leaders; see a short budget briefing; and approve the slate of candidates.

Here is the slate of candidates proposed by the current Chapter. We invited them to tell us about themselves: their backgrounds, involvement at St. Peter's and in the community, the gifts and skills they offer; why they feel called to serve; what they

have learned from living through Covid-19; what they do when they're not at church or at work; and when they've seen St. Peter's at its best.

Their responses are also available on our website at spcathedral.org/annual-meeting.

Al Carrico

Member since: 2014. **Occupation:** I'm retired, but I was with State Farm Insurance in Kentucky and Tennessee for 38 years at an agency and in management, where I was responsible for recruiting, hiring, and developing new agents in Kentucky and Tennessee. **Involvement at the Cathedral/other churches:** Usher, member of the Friends of St. Aelred, former coffee hour host. I was active at St. Paul's in Chattanooga. **Community involvement:** For the last 3½ years I was president of the homeowners' association at Signature Place condominiums, involved in budgeting, setting reserves,

staffing, project management, and social activities. I've served on numerous boards in the insurance and health industries. In Chattanooga I volunteered at Metropolitan



Al Carrico

Ministries, which provides financial assistance to those in need. **Called to serve:** I've always felt giving back and paying it forward to be a part of everyone's DNA. My partner, Thomas Foster, and I moved to St. Petersburg in 2013. St. Peter's

was the one and only church we visited. We were welcomed and felt comfortable from the very beginning. Through my partner's illness, and eventually his death, we felt

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Meet the Chapter Candidates

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the community support and the pastoral care were far above anything we ever experienced. It is now my time to pay it back. **Learning through Covid:** It is up to every individual to be responsible for their actions, and to be responsible to protect those around them. Yes, I am fully vaccinated, plus the booster. **Where we'll find you:** Prior to my recent shoulder surgery, I was an avid golfer, and I hope to return to such. I am a Kentucky Wildcat fan. I enjoy travel, dining with friends, and enjoying all that St. Petersburg has to offer. **St. Peter's at its best:** When I needed spiritual help during the illness of my partner, St. Peter's was there. When I needed to feel I was part of a community, St. Peter's was there.

Jennifer Preston

Member since: 2017, when we moved to Florida. **Family at the Cathedral:** Husband Kent, daughter Sophia. **Occupation:** Chief Advancement Officer for Henderson Community College, part of the Kentucky Community and Technical College Sys-

tem. **Involvement at the Cathedral/other churches:** I currently enjoy helping with EYC. I served on the vestry at St. Paul's in Henderson, KY. **Community involvement:** I volunteer with my daughter's school. When I am



Jennifer Preston

in Henderson I still volunteer with several organizations. My most recent role was serving on the Louisville Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). **Called to serve:** I feel it is important to serve the church community and the larger community. I am looking forward to learning more about the mission, goals, programs, services, activities, strengths, and needs of the congregation, the diocese, and the Episcopal Church, and how I can help. **Learning through Covid:** Every aspect of our lives – work, school, health, and travel – continues to change, and we have all had to learn to deal with the unknown. I am thankful to be surrounded by amazing people who are

resilient beyond measure. One thing that has remained the same in a time of disruption: the exceptional support from our community. **Where we'll find you:** When I am not at work I enjoy spending time with my family. I love being outside and I enjoy binge-watching almost anything. **St. Peter's at its best:** I still consider myself a newcomer to the church and in that short time I have seen St. Peter's at its best many times. I am constantly moved by St. Peter's ability to serve the City of St. Petersburg in many ways.

Randy Ramsey

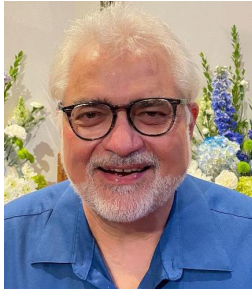
Member since: 1992. **Family at the Cathedral:** Wife Tammy, adult children Alex and Cassie. **Occupation:** I retired in April from Raymond James after 27 years as an Information Technology support tech. **Involvement at the Cathedral/other churches:** I was an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren. At St. Peter's I have been a Sunday School teacher, acolyte, and lay reader. I am currently a verger and eucharistic minister. **Community involve-**

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Meet the Chapter Candidates

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ment: Before the pandemic curtailed things I was active in the Democratic Party and



Randy Ramsey

was a member of the Rainbow Network at Raymond James, a group that supports LG-BTQ rights. **Called to serve:** I want to serve the church that has been so supportive of me. I feel this is a challenging time as we deal with the

pandemic. **Learning through Covid:** I have learned how much we need each other. I am aware of many people who support me at great risk to themselves. I am excited by all the creativity at St. Peter's as we work through this together. **Where we'll find you:** You will find me in my pool. When I have dried off I am discussing fantasy and real football with my son and son-in-law or just being there with Cassie. I imperfectly

follow Tammy's directions in the garden or about picking up groceries. I also inflict viewings of 80- to 100-year-old movies on her. **St. Peter's at its best:** When I first came to St. Peter's, our former associate priest, Father Bill Bosbyshell, led the Cathedral's efforts to provide Thanksgiving dinners for families in need. I know what that means because I was in one of those families. Our outreach work with Campbell Park Elementary, service dogs, diapers for babies and adults, and food for local food banks is the Cathedral at its best.

Beth Snyder

Member since: 2010. **Family at the Cathedral:** Husband Tim Snyder. **Occupation:** Real estate agent, semi-retired. Also many years working in non-profit marketing, PR, and fund development. **Involvement at the Cathedral/other churches:** I'm involved with choir, Festival Choir, Episcopalians Who Lunch, and Friends of St. Aelred's. I am an occasional lector. In my former churches (I am a "cradle" Episcopalian), I have served on parish calling and caring and stewardship committees; established young adult programs; coordinated and led Journey to

Adulthood youth programs/pilgrimages; lector, eucharistic minister, choir member, and general-purpose helper when needed. **Community involvement:** Meals on Wheels, Daystar Community Center. **Called to serve:** I have



Beth Snyder

reached a winding-down point in my career and would like to serve the Cathedral in some ways in addition to music. **Learning through Covid:** Wearing a mask is the easiest way to protect yourself and others. **Where**

we'll find you: On my motorcycle in one of the 49 continental states or traveling to somewhere in Europe. **St. Peter's at its best:** When we allowed the homeless to sleep outside our doors because they said they felt safe there. Also by providing various opportunities to allow people to discover their spiritual gifts and serve in many capacities.

Times Book Editor Will Discuss Pulitzer Winner's Latest Novel

We welcome a longtime friend of our series of book talks on Tuesday, January 11, when *Tampa Bay Times* book editor Colette Bancroft will be with us to discuss Louise Erdrich's new novel, *The Sentence*.

The Sentence is "a rich, moving, hilarious portrait of a group of family and friends living in Minneapolis in 2020 amid the turmoil of the coronavirus pandemic and the protests after the killing of George Floyd," Colette wrote in her review in the *Times*. Read the full review here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8r57a6>

"Few novelists can fuse the comic and the tragic as beautifully as Louise Erdrich does, and she does it again in *The Sentence*," she writes.

Erdrich's last novel, *The Night Watchman*, won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

The novel is set in the real-life Minnesota bookstore that Erdrich owns, against the background of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The world was filling with ghosts. We were a haunted country in a haunted world," the lead character, Tookie, says as she keeps vigil in a hospital parking lot.

The bookstore has to close because of the pandemic but keeps up a busy mail-order business in the wake of Floyd's murder: "Everyone who wasn't out on the streets wanted to read about why everyone else was out on the streets."

And Tookie and her husband, Pollux, have to deal with the ghost who haunts the bookstore: Flora, who stalked the place in life and now won't go away even though she's dead.

"No one escapes heartache in *The*

Sentence, but mysteries old and new are solved, and some of the broken places made stronger," Colette writes in her re-

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Colette Bancroft

January Book Talk

What: *Tampa Bay Times* book editor Colette Bancroft discusses Louise Erdrich's new book, *The Sentence*.

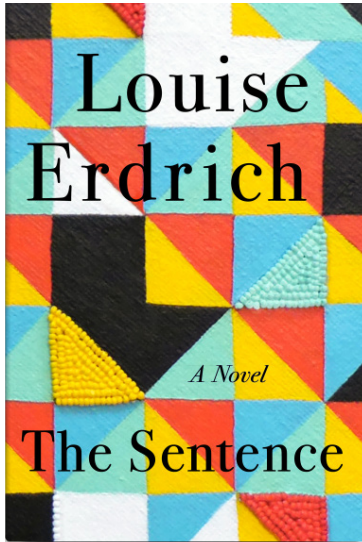
When: Noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, January 11, via Zoom. Register for the link at spcathedral.org/book-talks. Videos of previous book talks are posted at that site.

The Sentence

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view. “*The Sentence*, a book about the healing power of books, makes its own case splendidly.”

Watch Colette’s interview with the author at the recent *Times Festival of Reading* here: <https://tinyurl.com/mudb36nw>



Evensong Returns with 'St. Paul's, Buffalo' Service

The Cathedral Chamber Choir will sing Choral Evensong for the Confession of St. Peter at 5 p.m. Sunday, January 23.

The Gospel reading is John 21:15-22, where Jesus, in one of his post-Easter appearances, questions Peter: “Do you love me?” and Peter, who denied Christ before his crucifixion, assures him that he does.

The Responses are by Margaret Burk. The service is Roland Martin’s “St. Paul’s, Buffalo,” composed for the Cathedral there. Martin teaches at the University at Buffalo and is a prolific organist, accompanist, and composer in Western New York.

An organ prelude at 4:45 p.m. features the music of the French composer and organist

Henri Mulet (1878-1967). Dwight Thomas is director and organist.



St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo.

Music Notes:

Compline, Noonday Prayer, Women's Chorus

The Cathedral will be closed on Sunday, January 9, for termite fumigation, but **our service of Chanted Compline** at 7 p.m. will go on, thanks to the miracle of prerecorded video and livestream. The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams and Michelle Thomas will offer this quiet service that ends the day with confession, psalms, prayers, and the concluding antiphon: "Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace." View our Compline service at spcathedral.org/worship-live-stream.



Our podcast of sung noonday prayer continues. Canon Williams and Michelle Thomas sing the Order of Service for Noonday each Monday through Saturday. The podcasts are posted on Spotify and Apple Podcast each day at 9 a.m. The service lasts between eight and nine minutes, with the sung service lasting six minutes and a spoken meditation two or three minutes.

Coming February 6: The Pinellas County Center for the Arts Women's Chorale will sing at 5 p.m. as part of the Cathedral Arts series. This group has been chosen to perform at the prestigious American Choral Directors Assn. Southern

Conference later that month. The judges analyzed three years of performances from more than 70 submissions. Of those selected to sing, less than half are high-school groups. It's an incredible honor and justly deserved, and we're delighted to welcome the chorale, which is based at Gibbs High School.



The Pinellas County Center for the Arts Women's Chorale.

Sundays at 9 a.m., a Variety of Offerings To Educate, Enlighten, and Invite

Our 9 a.m. formation hour on Sundays this year will focus on three areas: the liturgical calendar, as we move through the seasons of the church year; our ministry partners, whom we support with donations and volunteer time; and our life as a congregation — our physical and spiritual health and our day-to-day priorities, practices, and goals as we live out our faith. All welcome. And yes, there will be coffee.

Shape of the Year: Epiphany (January 16): Canon Ethan Cole will present this session on the new season of Epiphany,



when we see the manifestation of Christ to the world. Learn what to pay attention to during this season between Christmas and Lent, and how we can use the rhythm of time to shape our spirituality.



Healthy Congregations (January 23): Our new faith community nurse, Rita Sewell, R.N., will speak about our new program to address physical, emotional, and spiritual needs within the congregation.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement (February 6):

Current and past Chapter members Karen Torrisi, Anysia McDowall, Lauren Durst, and Kerry Carlisle spent nearly a year crafting a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement that will help shape the life of the

Cathedral in the coming years. Learn more about this statement, how it was crafted, the resources utilized, and how you can expect to see it lived out at the Cathedral.



Strategic Plan (February 13): A group of 10 individuals, including clergy, staff, and lay members, met to articulate the Cathedral's evergreen strategies and strategic priorities over the next three years. Learn more about how this document was creat-

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Formation Opportunities

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ed, the initiatives that will be the focus moving forward, and how various ministries will be impacted and enhanced.

Benison Farm (February 20): As part of a new series during the formation hour focusing on our outreach partners, join us to learn more about Benison Farm, how it began, and how to get involved. Benison Farm is a community garden founded by St.

Augustine's and St. Thomas' Episcopal Churches at 2920 26th Ave. S. But it is about so much more than urban farming. Through mutual work and learning, groups from various ethnicities, religions, and backgrounds learn to respect each other and work together to support our community. You'll hear



from leaders at Benison Farm as well as Cathedral members who have regularly volunteered.



Shape of the Year: Lent (February 27): Dean Stephen Morris will lead this presentation on the upcoming penitential season of Lent (it begins Wednesday, March 2 — Ash Wednesday). Learn about this season in the liturgical year, what to pay attention to, and how we can use the rhythm of time to shape our spirituality.

3-Part Series Explores Native American History

The Episcopal Church is committed to the vital work of remembrance, recognition, and reconciliation in connection with our Indigenous siblings. The Becoming Beloved Community of the Cathedral invites you to explore Indigenous history in a three-part program.

Native Voices. 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, January 29. This program will include videos and discussion of the Episcopal Church's repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's response to the Episcopal Church's history with Indian boarding schools; and an exploration of the Native Land Map. To learn more: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/indigenous-ministries/>

Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories. Sunday, March 6. We'll visit a special exhibit at the James Museum. Historical photographs and objects, interactive timelines, and interviews tell individual stories of pain, heartbreak, and resilience. <https://thejames-museum.org/special-exhibitions/>

Sacred Land Tour. Sunday, March 20. We'll visit an ancient Tocobaga village on Boca Ciega Bay. <https://www.sacredlandspreservation.org/>

This Year the Good Book Club Will Read the Great Stories of Exodus

Start the new year by joining thousands of fellow Episcopalians across the country and around the world in a new round of the Good Book Club. From Epiphany, January 6, through Shrove Tuesday, March 1, we'll read the first 20 chapters of Exodus.

In a series of short daily readings, the Club will work its way through the second book of the Bible. Exodus recounts the journey of the Israelites from slavery to freedom. We hear the great stories of Moses, from his discovery by Pharaoh's daughter on the bank of the river ... to the burning bush ... to his presentation of the Ten Commandments. Along the way, we encounter God's covenant and explore the grand theme of redemption.

The full schedule, including the list of daily readings, is available at goodbookclub.org. Also at that website you'll find a variety of resources to make the most of your daily readings: podcasts, Bible study guides, books, blogs, videos, and more. Many are free; for others there is a charge. It costs nothing to read along with your fellow Episcopalians!

This is the third year that the Good Book Club has encouraged Episcopalians to read their Bibles together. Previous readings have covered the Gospels of John and Mark and Paul's Letter to the Romans. The Good Book Club is sponsored by Forward Movement, publisher of Forward Day by Day and other materials to make disciples and encourage learning, along with other ministry partners in the wider church.

Hunger Persists As We Move into Winter; You Can Help

Cathy Rome, Outreach Committee

Our January outreach opportunity will help feed the hungry in our community through the St. Petersburg Free Clinic's We Help program.

The items we donate are handed out directly at various sites or assembled into boxes for the Free Clinic's partners who operate smaller food pantries throughout the community. We Help assists about 18,000 individuals each month.

We're looking for packaged and canned goods in sizes that you'd buy to feed your family — not giant industrial-size containers. Pop-top cans are preferred, since some of the recipients may not have access to can openers.

Food items most needed are canned pastas (such as SpaghettiOs or ravioli); beef stew; breakfast, protein, and granola bars; trail mix; nuts; instant coffee; protein drinks; tuna or salmon in a pouch; single-serving cereal boxes; individual bags of chips/cookies/crackers; canned fruit; and fruit cups. Shop the BOGOs and make your dollars go even further!

Leave your contributions on the collection cart behind the front desk in the Narthex.

Volunteers will deliver food to the We Help Food Pantry, the #1 emergency food distributor in Pinellas County. Learn more about their work at <https://stpetersburgfreeclinic.org/about/>

Christmas at Campbell Park

We provided lots of sweet treats for the teachers and staff at Campbell Park Elementary last month. Thanks to all who contributed Christmas goodies so we could support these dedicated people who are making a difference in the lives of children. From left, party hosts Shar Nudelman, Doug Hansen, Susan Darrow, Penny Roen, and Mary Howe.



Slate of Bishop Candidates Will Be Announced January 25

The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams

The Bishop Search Committee has invited a number of candidates to a discernment retreat, which will be held at Dayspring. From those candidates we will select a final slate to present to the Standing Committee: Our charge is to present a slate of three to five candidates, any one of whom could be bishop.

The Standing Committee is scheduled to release the names on January 25, at which point a short period for nominations by petition will be open. (The petition process replaces the old practice of accepting nominations from the floor of the electing convention, which did not allow for the required background checks on all candidates.) If there are any petition candidates, their names will be announced on March 14.

Opportunities to meet and talk with the candidates will be held throughout the diocese later in March. The electing convention will be held at the Cathedral on Saturday, April 2.

Please continue to keep the work of the bishop search committee in your prayers:

Almighty God, Giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this diocese, that we may receive faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Our Cathedral Children and Youth, Fun, Faith Formation, and Food

EYSeedlings Epiphany Party

(Faith Formation for 3rd-5th graders)

Sunday, January 9, noon-2 p.m.

Bring a silly, wrapped gift (\$10 max) for a game of white elephant. Hosted by Aksel, Celia, and Elin Erickson and family. RSVP to Michelle Thomas (mthomas@spcathedral.com) for the address.

EYC Bowling Night

5-7 p.m. Sunday, January 9

This evening of fun will be right up your alley. Meet up at Sunrise Lanes (6393 M.L. King Jr. (Ninth) St. N). Bring \$20 to cover bowling, a slice of pizza, and a \$10 arcade card. Invite friends, too! RSVP to Michelle Thomas (mthomas@spcathedral.com) by January 3 so we can reserve lanes. Bring a spare (pair of socks) to get some strikes!

EYC "Holy Friendships"

5-7 p.m. Sundays, January 23 and 30

We will explore pivotal friendships in scripture and what we can learn from them. We will also discuss: What does it mean to be a good friend? How can we maintain relationships with those who may hold different beliefs or values? When is it time to let go of a friendship?

Youth Confirmation

We are in the final stretch of confirmation classes. Confirmands meet from 3:45 to 5 p.m. Sundays. Stay tuned for more details.

January 23: The Book of Common Prayer with mentors

January 30: Scripture: The Bible by Heart

February 6: The Sacraments

February 13: No confirmation class



EYC members wave from the beach at their white-elephant Christmas party in early December. Photo by MICHELLE THOMAS

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Youth Events in Epiphany

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February 20: The Sacraments

February 26: Retreat Day with mentors

Please pray for our confirmands Sophia, Dustin, Ellie, Carter, and Joseph, and our mentors David, Justin, and Lauren.

Sponsor a Dinner for Our EYC!

One way to support our growing youth group is to sponsor a dinner on a Sunday night. The meal can be homemade, store-bought, or delivery. There are usually 12 to 14 people with no known food allergies. Favorites are soup and salad, tacos or nachos, and pasta of any kind. If you'd like more information, or to sign up, please contact Michelle Thomas (mthomas@spcathedral.com).

Invite the Blessing of Christ On Your Home in the New Year

The Epiphany Home Blessing is a way of marking our homes, usually at the front or main entrance. With sacred signs and symbols, we ask God's blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. It is traditional to do this on Epiphany, January 6.

We write this above our doors: 20+C+M+B+22. The first and last numbers refer to the current year.



The letters C M B come from the traditional names for the three kings — Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar — who arrived to see baby Jesus on Epiphany. Some also suggest “Christus Mansionem Benedicat,” which means, “May Christ bless this dwelling!”

You can use chalk or write on paper and hang it above your doorframe.

Bags of chalk will be available at the Cathedral on Sunday, January 2, by the activity bags in the Narthex. Here is the prayer to accompany the chalking:

God of Light, bless our home.

Bless all who come and go through this door, both those who live here and those who visit.

May all who enter through this door come in peace and find love and light.

May the love and joy in this home overflow and spread.

Christ has come to dwell in this home and in these hearts.

Amen.

Around the Cathedral

Merry and Bright

Members of the Friends of St. Aelred enjoyed a Christmas social at Doc Ford's Rum Bar and Grille at the St. Pete Pier on December 8. From lower left: BJ Scarborough, Roberta Poellein, Jack MacInnis, Cliff Lamb, Peter Yelton, Beth Snyder, Al Carrico,



Don Fritz, Phillip Ketchum, Doug Hansen, Tim Snyder, Rob Pinion, Meg Banitch, and Ellen Alexander. The Church remembers St. Aelred (1109-1167) on January 12: abbot of the important Abbey of Rievaulx, scholar, and advocate of the joy of spiritual friendship, human and divine.

February Quiet Day Will Lead Us 'Into the Wilderness'

Feeling caught up in the clamor and haste of life and find yourself breathless and spent? Sensing the need to step away from things for a day? Curious to try on a period of contemplation and reflection? Our Quiet Day will provide an opportunity to stroll in the stillness of God's presence.

The Rev. Canon Richard Norman, our diocesan Canon to the Ordinary, will lead our annual Quiet Day on Saturday, February 5, with the theme, "Into the Wilderness."

During our time together, through art and scripture, we will join Christ during his 40 days in the wilderness. Dwelling in the

wilderness will provide us with the opportunity to refine our own discipleship and discover once again what it means to follow Christ—and in doing so, take our Christian vocation of living in the poem of creation more joyously and generously, as if we have come out of a desert. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for continental breakfast. We'll begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at 2 p.m.

You can sign up at spcathedral.org/quiet-day. There is a \$5 charge, payable at the door, for snacks, lunch, and materials. All are welcome! Please invite your friends from other congregations to join us.



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Around the Cathedral

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Check Your Blood Pressure

Our faith community nurse, Rita Sewell, R.N., will hold her monthly blood pressure clinic from 9 to 10 a.m. Sunday, January 2, in the Library. Come get checked out and ask any other questions you may have about health and well-being. Rita is there the first Sunday of every month. You can also hear her speak on “Healthy Congregations” at the 9 a.m. formation hour on Sunday, January 23, about physical, emotional, and spiritual health at the Cathedral.



Another Very Successful Giving Tree

Your generosity helped make Christmas 2021 brighter for the families at Resurrection House, students at Campbell Park Elementary School, and children served by Brighter Seasons for Children.

With 75 households sponsoring one or more children and the Cathedral Outreach Committee’s contribution, we were able to provide gifts for 88 individuals at our sponsored institutions.

We provided toys, games, clothing, art supplies, dolls, books, learning games, and so much more. Christmas was merrier for many, thanks to your help.

We are blessed to have such a caring and giving congregation!

Dig in the Dirt, Plant a Fruit Forest: Work Days at Benison Farm

9-11 a.m. Saturday, January 22
2920 26th Ave. S

All ages are invited to join us for monthly work days on the farm. Come out to learn more, dig in the dirt and play with the chickens! Visit spcathedral.org/community for details.

There’s a bonus work day on January 8. Come to the farm to help plant a fruit tree forest on the back of the property. Mango, avocado, guava, fig, loquat, and more will be ready for planting. Please come if you are able to help dig a hole and celebrate this long-awaited day.

January Zoom Class: The Patriarchs

Patriarchs: January 4 through February 8
Led by Canon Ethan Cole
6:30 p.m. Tuesdays via Zoom
Register at spcathedral.org/adults

In this second installment of the Genesis Bible study we will read and discuss God’s engagement with the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Stories that we will consider: Abraham’s call, Hagar and Ishmael, and Jacob wrestling with the stranger by the ford of the Jabbok, among others. There will be a two-week study to follow where we read the story of Joseph and his brothers.

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Around the Cathedral

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Our Guide Dog Is Thriving, and Bonding with Her Puppy Raiser

Your Outreach Committee's last "Pup-Date" from Southeastern Guide Dogs on



our sponsored puppy, Faith, focused on the wondrous bond being developed between Faith and her puppy raiser, Rick.

Now we learn that she is living up to her perfect name and is even more attached to Rick.

As reported, "Rick jokes that this growing girl has hundreds of pounds of personality packed into one medium-sized body!" Friendly and curious, she loves playdates with two pups in her puppy-raiser group.

Rick applies the principles of positive reinforcement in helping Faith learn good manners so necessary in the development of a well-behaved future working dog. She is rewarded for her ability to focus and now understands what is allowed and what isn't.

Our reporter says, "Whether walking with a loose leash, carefully navigating stairs, or showing good manners at doorways, this girl's got skills!" She is developing good impulse control or self-control and is said to be a great pupil.

In the final words of this report, "Faith is on top of her game in learning with Rick, and to her, it's fun! Whether she is busy learning, playing, or simply relaxing with her best friend, Faith is on her way to success."

Patronal Festival Marks Confession of St. Peter

We will observe our Patronal Festival on Sunday, January 23 — the Confession of St. Peter.

This is the day we recognize the importance of our namesake, St. Peter. We

read the story of his confession, or acknowledgment, of Jesus as the Messiah and celebrate our community of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter.

The Gospel lesson that day (Matthew 16:13-19) portrays Peter as the first to see who Jesus really is: "You are the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus praises Peter and vows to build his church "on



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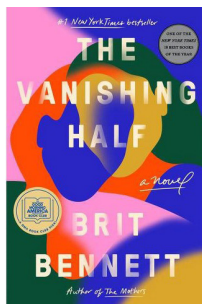
this rock,” a play on words. Peter’s name in Greek is Petros, and the Greek word *petra* means rock.

The Roman Catholic Church interprets this statement as referring to Peter, the individual, as the first pope. The Protestant Church interprets it to mean that God will build Christian community upon the confession, the acknowledgment of Jesus as the Messiah by each member of the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9).

Book Club Will Discuss a Story of Race, Identity, and Family

St. Peter’s Book Club begins the new year with a discussion of *The Vanishing Half* by Britt Bennett. They meet via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 25.

Separated as teenagers, the light-skinned Vignes twins lead different lives. Desiree lives with her dark-skinned husband in the small Southern home town she once tried to escape. Stella lives in Southern California, where she passes for



white and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Their paths and their daughters’ intersect over the years. *The Vanishing Half* explores the intricacies of identity, family, and race in a provocative but compassionate way.

Goodreads, the website for readers and book recommendations, named *The Vanishing Half* its best historical fiction title for 2020. HBO is developing a limited series based on the book.

E-mail Roberta Poellein for the Zoom link (rp1ln37@gmail.com). No need to have read the book; our lively discussion may encourage you to do so!

Diocese Offers Training to Dismantle Racism

The first six-hour session of training to dismantle racism will be held January 15 via Zoom starting at 8:30 a.m., the Diocese of Southwest Florida has announced.

This new program, created by the dioc-

esan Race and Reconciliation Committee, is required for lay and ordained leaders including clergy, staff, vestries, and heads of diocesan committees and boards.

The training covers historical racism and personal racist tendencies and actions. It equips participants to bring about racial healing and to make institutions and cultures less racist.

For more information or to register: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8dy528> Additional training sessions will be scheduled throughout the year.

Ways to Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day in St. Petersburg

Music Festival at Albert Whitted Park at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 15. To meet with others from St. Peter’s, contact Betsy Adams (betsygadams@icloud.com).

Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Service, at 3:30-4:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 16, at St. Jude’s Catholic Cathedral, 5815 Fifth St. N, St. Petersburg. Masks are requested. To join other parishioners from St. Peter’s, contact Karen Amundrud (amundrudk@yahoo.com).

Saints Among Us



First in an occasional series about holy women and holy men who model for us the rich diversity of calling and discipleship within the church.

Deaconess of the Everglades Cared for the Marginalized in Southwest Florida

On January 8 the Church remembers Blessed Harriet Bedell, a modern-day saint who ministered here in Southwest Florida.

Deaconess Bedell (1875-1969) spent the early years of her ministry in Oklahoma and Alaska (where she made her rounds via dog-sled), and the last 30 years near Naples as she worked among the poorest of the poor, the Miccosukee and Seminole Indians.

She focused on restoring respect, dignity, and empowerment to the indigenous people of the Everglades, who had been ignored or exploited by rapacious developers and government officials. The men were reduced to wrestling alligators to amuse tourists for tips. “This is like animals in a zoo,” she told her bishop, appalled.

She revived their native crafts as a source of income. She promoted health, nutrition, and education. And she ministered to them in a way that made sense in the context of their way of life and beliefs. Here is her version of the 23rd Psalm. (A chickee is an open, four-sided structure

covered with a thatched roof of palmetto leaves.)

*The Great Spirit watches over all of us.
He feeds us and leads us to the waters of
comfort.*

*When we walk in the shadow of death,
we need fear no bad things.*

*The love and mercy of the Great Spirit
will be with us all our lives and we
will always be welcome in the Great
Chickee.*

It is no surprise that the Miccosukee came to call her Inkoshopie — woman who prays.

Blessed Harriet was a deaconess, an order of ministry that no longer exists. It was limited to women who made a lifetime commitment and agreed never to marry and to serve without compensation. They were “set apart” rather than ordained, hence neither really laity nor clergy.

She was no fool, this deaconess of the Everglades. When a Collier County developer saw her coming, he’d scoot out the back



Blessed Harriet Bedell. The ministry was Episcopalian; the souvenirs were not!

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Blessed Harriet Bedell

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door because he knew she wouldn't leave until she got what she wanted. At diocesan conventions people would hide behind pillars to avoid her, and no one would escape without an assignment. "People thought I was stubborn and bossy. I was firm and single-minded," Deaconess Bedell said. "Who wouldn't be when you're working for God?"

Today a conference room at diocesan headquarters in Parrish is named for this saint, and a chapel, a mural, and a memorial garden are dedicated to her at St. Mark's in Marco Island, the closest church to where she served.

Blessed Harriet dedicated her life to serving the forgotten and the marginalized, creating a Beloved Community where all are welcomed, respected and loved.

"Put God first," she said. "It's like working the frame of a jigsaw puzzle. Everything else falls into place."

Her biographer says she "played all of life in the key of C Major." May we all sing her song of faith, loving service to others,

and devotion to our God.

Watch a video biography of Blessed Harriet Bedell at <https://vimeo.com/34722844>

New Sacred Ground Circle Is Forming

Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. It is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society.

A new Sacred Ground circle will meet from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. starting January 20, a combination of Zoom and in-person meetings at St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Snell Isle. Additional meeting dates are February 3 and 17, March 3 and 17, April 14 and 28, and May 5 and 19.

To register, or for more information, please contact Bill Barns (williambarns@cox.net) at (757) 646-5146 or Misty Landers (mistylanders@gmail.com) at (479) 445-8052. Visit <https://www.spcathedral.org/beloved-community> for more information about Sacred Ground.

New Book Study Is Forming: When's the Best Time?

The Cathedral will offer a four-week book study and discussion on *The Church Cracked Open* by the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, canon to the Presiding Bishop for evangelism, reconciliation, and creation. We seek your input on when to hold this study. Please e-mail Hillary Peete (hpeete@spcathedral.com) or visit [spcathedral.org/adults](https://www.spcathedral.org/adults) to indicate your interest in a Wednesday evening in-person group (potluck and study from 6 to 7:30 p.m.) or a Thursday afternoon group from noon to 1 p.m. in person.

Sometimes it takes disruption and loss to break us open and call us home to God. In this critical yet loving book, the author explores the American story and the Episcopal story in order to find out how communities steeped in racism, establishment, and privilege can at last fall in love with Jesus, walk humbly with the most vulnerable, and embody beloved community in our own broken but beautiful way. Learn more at <https://churchcrackedopen.com>

January Transitions

Birthdays

1	David Hill	9	Todd Llewellyn
1	Hank Sharp	9	George Gramling III
2	Anslee Long	10	Maggie Burnsed
2	Cameron Katzel	10	Emily Fasan
4	Rick Knight	10	Dana Green
4	David Hanks	11	Camille Knight
6	Addyson Sylvester	12	Keeley Lawner
6	Lucy Bond	14	Betty Shamas
7	Katelyn Hancock	15	Mark Campbell
7	Ellen Alexander	16	Bethia Caffery
7	Jenny Koester	16	Roberta Poellein
7	Banner Clark	16	Milo Burnsed
8	Sarah Howlett	16	Ann Meuse
8	Mike Robbins	16	Caleb Knight
8	Fay Mackey	17	Ginny Rowell
9	Michael Lyons		

If you'd like to receive Crosstown electronically, please send an e-mail to agorton@spcathedral.com asking us to put you on our electronic mailing list.

17	Randy Ramsey
18	Michael Plahs
19	Lacey Hodgson
19	Jillian McCoy
19	Albert Edgemon
19	Kelly Casey
20	Alex Ramsey
21	James Parker
21	Scott Nye
23	Don Wright
24	Jillian Gairing
24	Madison Hancock
25	Jan Strimer
26	Marcy Crosby
26	James Knight
27	George Wilsey
27	Lillyanne Wain-Nye
28	Paul Bonneau
29	Laurel Greene
31	Lela Garnett
31	Liam Dunn
31	Averill Summer

Anniversaries

7	Roger & Sydney Pine	23	Steve Buyns & Lauren Durst
7	Michelle & Shawn Thomas	26	Tom Walker & Wil Laroche
13	Earl & Jean Beshears		
21	Bob & Averill Summer		



Deaths

George Gramling

Jean Macias

St. Peter's: A Guide

At the foot of the cross in downtown St. Petersburg

Our Worship Schedule

CATHEDRAL CLOSED on Sunday, January 9: See [Page 2](#).

Sunday, 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite I and sermon

Sunday, 10:15 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite II and sermon

Wednesday, 12:05 p.m., Holy Eucharist

Second Sunday, 7 p.m., Chanted Compline (through April)

Fourth Sunday, 5 p.m., Choral Evensong (through April;
no Evensong in December)

Masks are encouraged at all worship services and indoor gatherings but are not mandatory.

Sunday services at 10:15 a.m. can be viewed on Facebook or at spcathedral.org/worship-live-stream, where the order of service can be downloaded.

If you have a pastoral emergency after hours, please call (727) 822-4173 ext. 1 to speak to a member of the clergy.

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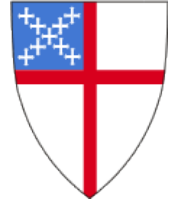
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The Rev. Canon Richard H. Norman, Canon to the Ordinary

Our clergy and senior staff:

The Very Rev. Stephen B. Morris, Dean

The Rev. Canon Ethan J. Cole, Canon for Congregational Life

The Rev. Canon Brandon Peete, Canon for Hospitality

The Rev. Canon Dr. Thomas Williams, Canon Theologian

Mr. Dwight M. Thomas, Canon for Music and Precentor

The Rev. Scott Nonken, Deacon

The Right Rev. Barry R. Howe, Bishop in Residence