Since moving to the Pacific Northwest five years ago, I hear from a lot of people that the turn to darker days at this time of year is especially difficult. The rain returns, the dappled trees of autumn yield their vibrancy to gray skies, and the hours of daylight ebb into dark nights when our souls tenderly seek lightness of being wherever we might find it. We wait and watch for the sun to shine still, as it inevitably will. But marking time in the darkness can be challenging; it certainly is for me.

The young chorister whose sweet face graces the cover of this issue of The Rubric presents a gift to us all as she strikes her pose of watchful waiting—in the dark, yes—but her countenance embraces a hopeful, expectant presence. She anticipates what is on her horizon, not yet there, but soon, and she seems confident of what may yet come. She's rehearsed her part and knows it well, because she is a participant in the turn, not an observer. She readies herself to step into the story. It is our story, and she is inviting us into it once more.

The Church calls this time of waiting the season of Advent, and dances with themes of light and darkness, hope and expectation, and rich anticipation that God is up to something, here and now. God comes among us once again, even in the darkest night, and only when we are ready, when we've rehearsed the story in ways that we can know it as our own, will the light break in once more and enliven us to be community that bears Christ's name in this broken, hurting world.

In the pages that follow you'll find descriptions of a number of ways we mark time in this cathedral community, with special intention at this time of year, inviting one another to take our places in the rich pageantry that is God's gift of Christmas. In the next several weeks, several thousand people will find their way into this cathedral, to participate in the work at hand. It is important work of anticipation and preparation and purpose as we encourage one another to step into the story, and to revel in the brilliant light of God's love. You are most welcome to come and take part. We will be the richer if you do.

It seems fitting that we approach the end of the cathedral renovations at this time of year, when we are reminded that its mission and purpose is to be a beacon of hope and a gathering place for good. I am grateful for all of you who support Saint Mark's Cathedral. Let me extend special thanks to those who have supported this Living Stones project, or who may yet do so. I'm keenly aware of your presence and participation in the rich story of God's love that is embodied here in this place, and emanates bright rays of hope and mercy in our world. I am,

Yours in Christ,

The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason
Dean and Rector
### SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>Eucharist</td>
<td>Thomsen Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 AM</td>
<td>Eucharist</td>
<td>Nave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>Eucharist</td>
<td>Nave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Choral Evensong</td>
<td>Nave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Contemplative Eucharist</td>
<td>Thomsen Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 PM</td>
<td>Compline</td>
<td>Cathedral Nave, chanted by the Compline Choir and broadcast live on KING 98.1 FM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WEEKDAY SERVICE TIMES

**Monday through Friday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Evening Prayer</td>
<td>McCaw or Thomsen Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>7:15 PM</td>
<td>Centering Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>12 NOON</td>
<td>Holy Eucharist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>7 AM</td>
<td>Holy Eucharist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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For more information about Worship and Prayer at Saint Mark’s visit saintmarks.org.

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**ON THE COVER:** A chorister holds a candle during the 2016 Pageant of the Nativity. Photo by Kevin Johnson.  
**ABOVE:** A Turner Construction worker works on installing one of Saint Mark’s new windows. Photo courtesy of Turner Construction.
Advent & Christmas
AT SAINT MARK’S

**An Advent Quiet Morning**
Saturday, December 2
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at St. Andrew’s, Green Lake,
111 NE 80th St., Seattle, WA 98115
A morning of silence, prayer, and reflection, co-sponsored by Saint Mark’s

**FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**

**Sunday, December 3**
8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
7 p.m. The O Antiphons Service of Advent Lessons and Carols
Procession with music, banners, candles and incense
9:30 p.m. Compline, Ancient nighttime prayers, sung by the Compline Choir. A Seattle tradition since 1956.

**SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT**

**Sunday, December 10**
8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist
9:30 p.m. Compline

**THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT**

**Sunday, December 17**
8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist
9:30 p.m. Compline

**Monday, December 18**
7 p.m. Pageant of the Nativity
Choir School choristers, Evensong Choir and young children of Saint Mark’s join forces in this dramatic telling of the nativity story.

**Thursday, December 21**
7 p.m. Blue Christmas Service
A special Eucharist in Thomsen Chapel for those who find the holiday season a difficult or painful time.

**FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT**

**Sunday, December 24**
8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
3:45 p.m. Festive gathering with Music and Carols
4 p.m. Holy Eucharist
With the Junior and Senior Choristers
A service especially suitable for children and families
7 p.m. Festive gathering with Music and Carols
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist* With the Evensong Choir and Schola
10:15 p.m. Festive Gathering with Music and Carols
11 p.m. Holy Eucharist* With the Cathedral Choir
*Incense will be used at 7:30 & 11 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Monday, December 25**
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols
With music by the Saint Mark’s Singers

**THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

**Tuesday, December 26**
7 p.m. The Feast of St. Stephen, Holy Eucharist, Thomsen Chapel

**Wednesday, December 27**
7 p.m. The Feast of St. John, Thomsen Chapel

**Thursday, December 28**
7 p.m. The Feast of The Holy Innocents, Holy Eucharist,
Thomsen Chapel

**Sunday, December 31**
Holy Eucharist, 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m.,
6 p.m. -12 p.m. New Year’s Eve Labyrinth Walk with Midnight Eucharist
As the Labyrinth Walk concludes, and as the new year begins, we will ring bells and celebrate Eucharist commemorating the Feast of the Holy Name.
9:30 p.m. Compline

**Saturday, January 6**
The Feast of the Epiphany
6 p.m Worship in the Cathedral Nave
7 p.m. Intergenerational fun and activities

**Sunday, January 7**
The Baptism of Our Lord
8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Baptisms
4:30 p.m. Choral Evensong
7 p.m. Holy Eucharist
9:30 p.m. Compline

**ON THE WEB**
Find and share this schedule on Saint Mark’s website at www.saintmarks.org/adventchristmas
Come home to Saint Mark’s Cathedral as you prepare for Christmas. The music of the choirs, organ, and guest musicians will help prepare you to welcome the Christ Child.

The O Antiphons Service of Advent Lessons and Carols
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 7 P.M.
Waiting in the darkness of winter, we prepare our hearts during the season of Advent. To mark the beginning of this season of preparation, The Compline Choir, the Cathedral Choir, and the Senior Choristers of the Cathedral Choir School join forces in this beloved annual service. The choristers are busy studying their German pronunciation for a selection from Johann Sebastian Bach’s Cantata Wachet Auf and they will then join both adult choirs in Dale Adelman’s setting of Lo, How a Rose. The Cathedral Choir’s selections will also include Leo Nestor’s Rorate coeli desuper giving a contemporary treatment to the traditional Advent introit text. The Compline Choir will sing Creator of the stars of night in a setting arranged by Michael Burkhardt for men’s choir, hand bells, viola, and a hint of organ. Canon Musician Emeritus Mel Butler will play the plainsong Of the Father’s love begotten on viola; the highlight is a shimmering cascade of handbells for the final stanza. The work was featured on the Compline Choir’s 2015 recording What Hand Divine by Ola Gjeilo featuring Page Smith, cello. Pietro Yon’s classic Gesù Bambino and Leo Sowerby’s Manger Carol will highlight the Jr. Choristers. The Sr. Choristers and Evensong Choir together present Z. Randall Stroope’s lush There is no rose with oboist Karen Lynch Gheorghiu, Jonathan Dove’s sparkling setting of the Gloria from his Missa Brevis and George Fredrich Händel’s And the Glory of the Lord, a chorus from The Messiah.

Light in the Darkness: Bach Cantatas for Advent
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2 P.M.
Resident ensemble, Pacific Music Works and Artistic Director, Stephen Stubbs present four dramatic Advent cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach tracing the journey to Christmas through prophecy, anticipation, and ultimately, hope. The program features the voices of Tess Altverson, soprano; Laura Pudwell, alto; Zachary Finkelstein, tenor; and Zachary Lennox, baritone. This concert is part of the Arts at Saint Mark’s Music Series. Passes are available at pacificmusicworks.org.

The Pageant of the Nativity
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 7 P.M.
The Saint Mark’s Choir School, Cathedral Evensong Choir, chamber orchestra, and young children of Saint Marks join forces in this dramatic telling of the nativity story. Costumes of cathedral finery, visual art displayed within cathedral architecture and over 70 singers bring to life the story of the birth of Christ. Setting a tone of awe and wonder, the Evensong Choir will open the Pageant with the haunting piece entitled Serenity by Ola Gjeilo featuring Page Smith, cello. Come early to get a seat and to enjoy the choirs of the cathedral before each Christmas Eve liturgy. At 3:45 p.m., The Junior and Senior Choristers of the Choir School offer music and lead carol singing prior to the 4 p.m. Holy Eucharist. At 7 p.m. The Evensong Choir and the high school Schola will sing Will Todd’s My Lord Has Come, John Tavener’s Today the Virgin, Joubert’s Torches among other works during the festive gathering of anthems and carols before the 7:30 p.m. liturgy. Then at 10:15 p.m., The Cathedral Choir will set the tone for our final 11 p.m. service of Christmas Eve with selections from Benjamin Britten’s Ceremony of Carols showcasing Naomi Kato, harp.
The windows are in! It’s so exciting to have the beautiful new subtly colored glass installed in the windows. And the heat is staying in the building (how much money will we save on energy bills?), while the white noise of the freeway is staying outside. We are so grateful.

The Celtic cross is up on the east façade, and looks magnificent. Thanks to CREO for fabricating such a stunning piece of work. Now the general public can see from Tenth Avenue East that we are a church, not a fortress. Hallelujah!

Limestone installation on the north and east walls is complete, and the scaffolding has started to come down. We’ve also painted the interior walls of the nave, to freshen and brighten the interior. So we’re almost there—the end of construction is in sight. “Substantial completion” is expected in early December.

The elevator is currently being installed, but it may not be operational until after Christmas, because of all the safety protocols and testing that needs to occur.

The north half of the patio is now complete, with outdoor entry to Thomsen Chapel possible once again. The south half of the patio and stairs are being finished in December. The new south patio will include a wheelchair ramp that leads down to a drop-off turnaround in the parking lot. We plan to close off the driveway in front of the cathedral semi-permanently with bollards; it will become a pedestrian-only zone. And we plan to open both the entrance and exit driveways eventually to two-way car traffic. All exciting changes, designed to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility to the cathedral!

And in Capital Campaign news: we have now raised over $9 million for this $10.35 million project.

If you haven’t yet made a pledge to the Capital Campaign, and would like to, please visit saintmarks.org/livingstones.
Two summers ago my family stood together on the toe of the Athabasca Glacier in the Canadian Rockies. From this glorious point on the Continental Divide, we could see the meeting of three continental watersheds whose melting ice carved its way through the mountains and eventually spilled into the Arctic, Pacific, and Atlantic Oceans. I reflect on this scene with you as your new Director of Children’s and Family ministries because I think of our Cathedral as a marvelous convergence of watersheds, and we are integral members of the gathered community that forms our communal Christian path in the world.

Children’s and family ministries are not truly separate from the rest of our ministries here at Saint Mark’s. Justice ministries, liturgy and music, and children’s formation are all deeply connected and interdependent. Though they may seem to run in different directions, they are gathered and formed from a shared communal purpose to honor God, like those glacial rivers in the Rockies.

Just as land is formed by water, we are formed at every age by the experiences that wash over us, and the meaning we make of them. Our identities are formed in relation to others, as are our habits and hopes for our lives. The children who enter Saint Mark’s each Sunday are forming their spiritual identities in relation to you! They are watching as we worship and greet one another. They are learning about God by our prayers, and are being formed by this community through its way of being together. What they learn in Sunday School and Children’s Chapel are secondary to what they learn among us in worship (and afterward in the cookie line), on Wednesday nights at Cathedral Commons, and out in the community. So, I’m inviting everyone to use their influence with intention, and to catch the vision we long to share with these little ones in this cathedral. Here are some of the particular hopes that guide us in children’s and family ministries at Saint Mark’s:

- To affirm each child’s belovedness and creation in the image of God through Christ.
- To counter superficial belonging with a deep sense of connectedness to the beloved community as made known in Jesus.
- To support and equip families as the primary pastors of children’s spiritual lives.
- To inspire in children a desire to know and love God, to seek God’s dream for the world, and to give thanks for all God has done through Christ in communion with others.
- To connect children’s individual spiritual journeys to the collective experiences of people of God in the past and present through biblical stories and liturgical worship.
- To assure them they are always welcome at God’s house.

This is an ambitious list of guiding hopes, but this is a watershed Christian community! We are the gathered body of Christ and the communion of Saints through which these lessons are lived out in fullness. I’m honored to stand in the convergence with you in this cathedral, and to see our baptismal promises lead us in all directions as we live more deeply into our Christian identity as beloved children of God.
“Live long and prosper.”

Leonard Nimoy first spoke those words as Spock on an episode in the original television series Star Trek that aired fifty years ago this month, but years later, in his autobiography, he revealed the origins of this gesture.

He recalls as a child his grandfather taking him to the synagogue where he saw the rabbi make a double-handed gesture while offering a blessing in God’s name. In the Hebrew alphabet, three upstrokes at angles represents the letter “Shin” which binds together a name for God, El Shaddai, and Shekinah, God’s spiritual presence, and shalom, God’s peace.

Live long and prosper is meant to be a blessing, echoing the shalom aloykum, and saalam alaykum…and by extension, our offering the peace of Christ to one another. And the open palm is a universal gesture of peace. But what does it mean to prosper? What does it mean to enjoy prosperity?

Sadly, the term as often used in our modern American culture has come to mean an accumulation of wealth or acquiring material goods, but it is more appropriately meant to describe human flourishing, which comes as an expression of life filled with joy and meaning and purpose. Indeed, we speak of enjoying prosperity—it evokes joy.

Theologian Matthew Fox contends that to experience this prosperity, we must distinguish between jobs we hold and work. A job may pay the bills, may even make you a lot of money, but it will not bring the prosperous sense of joy and meaning unless it is work. A job is transactional, paid to do
a task or provide a service—nothing wrong with that in and of itself, but it will not nourish our spirit unless we translate meaning and purpose onto the job, which is when it becomes work.

We were created to work on behalf of something larger than ourselves. We can even speak of everything in the universe working—planets, stars, animals, plants—all works in the course of connection that serves a purpose in the whole. Everything is at work being what it is created to be. Humans are no different.

Unemployment is a human invention tied to lack of job, not work. In this way, it is a justice issue—it is incongruent with the design of creation and its inclination toward prosperous joy.

Even in childhood or retirement, we can speak of the work that brings joy—we play hard, we work at our hobbies, we work as volunteers, we can enjoy the satisfying exhaustion of physical labor in the garden or on the mountain climb. In the monastic tradition, the invitation is to find meaning even in the drudgery of dish washing or sweeping or other menial tasks. Work becomes a spiritual discipline.

Some of the laborers in this parable we just heard Jesus tell couldn’t quite see that they’d been invited into deeply meaningful work—the work of harvesting in the vineyard—proverbially the work of God’s kingdom, or creations consummate design—they couldn’t see their place in that because they saw it as a job, a transaction of money exchanged for performing the task.

Again, nothing wrong with that, but they stifled any potential joy when their envy demanded that their world be built upon a myth of scarcity, that if others were paid the same even while doing less.

We all can go there in a heartbeat. I’ve been known to calculate how much a baseball pitcher makes per pitch when he’s paid $25 million a year. One pitch brings him as much as I earn in six months. That’s not fair!

As a family doctor, when a plumber charged more for an hour’s work to fix my kitchen sink than I earned in an hour practicing medicine, with all my professional education under my belt, I would sneer as I paid the bill. But in truth, I never felt I was underpaid as a doctor. Not once. It just wasn’t fair that he got paid as much.

It’s hard not to go to that dark place when it comes to money and the power we give over to it.

But then Jesus comes along and invites us to let that green-eyed myth of scarcity go, untie the leash that tethers us to it, and relax our grips into an open palmed sense of peace and joy and meaning and purpose.

Jesus speaks a lot about money, more than anything else really, because he knows just how much power it can have in our lives. He speaks of letting go our tight grip on it, to be free. That is our work. That is our path to living long and prosper, if by living long we are speaking of eternal life to be experienced right here and now, as union with the spiritual *shalom*, *salaam* of God’s design for all creation. If by prospering, we are speaking of our own flourishing and that of others who benefit from our work.

Of course, we must all earn a living, but our work is to keep a loose hold on the money and all it represents for us, as laborers in the vineyard.

I’m mindful that these are troubled times, what with devastating storms, earthquakes, wars and rumors of wars pricking our ears about every day. I’m mindful that a half century ago, when Leonard Nimoy landed on that blessing, this nation and the world were in troubled times also.

We need more blessings in the world, as antidotes to the bellicose energies that abound, and I believe the Church, and specifically this community of Saint Mark’s Cathedral, are primed to lead the way. You could say the Church was created for times such as this. The work we are about in this place is seated on that firm conviction.

We launch our annual appeal for financial commitments today, to support the work this community, this church, does in God’s name. I believe wholeheartedly it is our work to support this community of which we are a part, it is our work, not our job, not a duty, and when we see it in that light, we find it to be deeply meaningful, a source of great joy, and an inspiring center of connection. I invite you into it once more with renewed resolve. Know that I am recommitting to that today also.

I am utterly convinced we were created to give, to steward what we have as gifts meant to be shared, not in some transactional quid pro quo, but because in giving we find connection, we find meaning, we find joy, and ultimately, it is the path along which we find God in our lives.

I pray you: Let the envious heart of competition and comparison over money melt away;
I pray you: let the gripping fear of scarcity be released from your life;
I pray you: be open to the work into which God is inviting you in these troubled times, and know that you need not engage it alone. You are welcome here. We are glad you are here, and this church is the richer for your presence.

For you, I give thanks to God.
Feast of Saint Francis & Blessing of the Animals. On October 1, 2017, Saint Mark’s honored Francis of Assisi, the 13th-century saint known for his love of God’s creation and animals. Pets were welcomed to come to church for a special blessing that day.

The Rev. Pat Taylor named Honorary Cathedral Canon. On Sunday October 29, 2017, the Rev. Pat Taylor was appointed as an Honorary Canon of Saint Mark’s Cathedral. Pat’s ministry has been an inspiration, and a blessing, to so many here at Saint Mark’s and in the Diocese as a whole.

Construction through the months at Saint Mark’s. Saint Mark’s campus has been alive with construction activity since April of this year! At right, the new coat of paint on Thomsen Chapel; a close-up view of the beautiful limestone sealing the exterior walls; triple-paned, specially designed, colored glass windows are installed; the Celtic cross is erected on the facade facing 10th Avenue; finishing touches on windows are completed. See much more on Facebook: facebook.com/SaintMarksSeattle
All Saints’ Sunday.
Saint Mark’s celebrated the Feast of All Saints’ on November 5, 2017. We gave thanks for all the baptized, the “saints” known and unknown, who have made up the body of Christ from the very beginning of the Church. We baptized new “saints” into Christ’s body the Church, celebrating their new birth into our ongoing life. We also remembered all the members of this community who have died over the last year.
The Mideast Focus Ministry has been quite busy this fall with a number of interesting activities that have been held with more to come in the future.

On Saturday, September 30, we held an inspiring conference entitled “Welcoming the Stranger.” Dean Steve Thomason opened the conference with prayer and appreciation of the importance of this topic for our church. Drs. Kerry and Tim Dearborn followed with an inspiring discussion focused on “The Priority of Welcoming the Stranger in the Biblical Faith.”

Our hearts were touched by the stories from three individuals who spoke of their challenges in leaving their respective homelands (Syria and Iraq) and the challenges in adjusting to life in the United States. Anne Lynn, President of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem spoke about “A Path to a New Life: The Episcopal Church at Work Among Refugees in Jordan” and helped us understand the work of the Episcopal Church to help refugees in Jordan. The Rev. Peter Strimer helped to clarify our understanding of the confusing situation regarding changes in immigration policy. Anika Segall spoke about “The Ways of Involving teens in Social Justice” by recounting her experience of living in northern Iraq where she developed a close friendship with a Syrian child at school in Erbil, Iraq. Kelly Moody, Director of Children and Family Ministries, invited older children from the congregation to attend as part of their study of the Holy Land. They have continued in Sunday School by developing a panorama of a Palestinian village.

Following a tasty middle-eastern lunch, we learned about the activities of seven different organizations including Saint Mark’s efforts through the Refugee Resettlement initiative to support the adjustment of refugees coming to the Puget Sound area and how we could become involved with these organizations’ efforts. Thanks to the annual support from Saint Mark’s through the Justice Ministries to the Mideast Focus Ministry, we were able to give an honorarium to each participating organization and gift cards to the refugees who spoke. We have created “A Friends of Maher” to help in tangible ways some refugees that we have come to know. Maher spoke at the conference and his situation is heart-wrenching. One participant remarked: “I will never again think refugees who get here ‘just have to learn the language and be part of us’. We heard such moving stories from the refugees who struggle to adapt to our complicated culture. Getting ‘traction’ in America is a huge challenge for families and even the best support is limited.”

Following this conference, we were very fortunate to be able to participate in welcoming Dr. Naim Ateek for a very well attended potluck (45 participants for a sit-down dinner) at Leffler House on Friday, October 13. Dr. Ateek is an Anglican priest and a co-founder of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem. He was the first to articulate a Palestinian theology of liberation in his book A Palestinian Theology of Liberation. Dr. Ateek was in town to announce with Bishop Greg Rickel the memorial scholarship fund to support travel of seminarians and clergy to “go and see” the peoples of the Holy Land.

Some upcoming events include co-sponsoring a Muslim-Christian Friendship program with St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Renton on December 9, and conducting a listening process to discern the parameters and interests of the congregation with respect to justice and peace for the people of the Holy Land and other directions for the Mideast Focus Ministry.

BY MARY SEGALL, MIDEAST FOCUS MINISTRY CHAIR mesegall@yahoo.com
Where there’s a Will, there’s a Way

BY VIRGINIA LENKER
vlenker@gmail.com

Saturday, February 17, 2018, Trinity Parish, Seattle
Check in at 9 a.m., program begins at 9:30 a.m.

What is your hope for your legacy? Explore this question with us!

Bishop Greg Rickel and Dean Steve Thomason will talk about transformative gifts and the importance of planning ahead.

This workshop will feature a panel discussion on wills, followed by table talks with clergy, estate planning attorneys, and financial consultants. Sound advice, great resources, and time for Q&A.

“I can think of no more loving gift to your family than a well-planned and well-articulated set of wishes for the celebration of your life.” - Bishop Greg Rickel

Sponsored by the Joint Life Planning Ministries of Saint Mark's Cathedral, Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia, and Office of Stewardship and Development.

Cost: $20, includes lunch and many resources. Everyone who attends will receive the Life Planning Manual, a very good tool developed by our diocese.

For more info, contact Office of Stewardship and Development, stewardship@ecww.org, 206-325-4200. Registration deadline is February 14, 2018. The cost is $20 per person. You can register online at https://where-theres-a-will-theres-a-way.eventbrite.com

Mideast Focus
FILM SERIES PREVIEW

BY RUTH MCREE,
ruth.mcree@gmail.com

Announcing the Annual Mideast Focus Film Series!
We are still selecting films for the 2018 series, but some changes have been made!

- Dates for the new series are all on Friday evenings at 7 p.m.
- We will provide child care for each of the films, in the same building as the event.
- Films will be screened in Bloedel Hall, rather than Skinner Hall.
- Dates are: March 16, 23, and April 13, 20, and 27, 2018. Please, mark your calendars now.
- It will not rain every time there is a screening!
- Admission is still free! A basket will still be passed for those who wish to help support our work through these films.

We are delighted to announce the first film, the Washington state premiere of Andy Trimlett’s 1948: Creation and Catastrophe. 2018 will mark the seventieth year since the British gave a large part of Palestine to the Jewish people as they emerged from the horrors of the Holocaust. This film is the greatly anticipated close look at what happened that first year when the United Nations affirmed a map made with ruler and pencil to divide up area that had been the British Mandate—with no consideration for the people who already lived there. The film is filled with first-hand stories from Jews who arrived in Israel at that time, and by Palestinians who survived the Nakba (the Arabic word for Catastrophe.) The filmmaker will host a discussion after the film and reveal its special connection to Saint Mark’s. This film is dedicated to the late Brenda Bentz who was a member of the Mideast Focus Ministry at Saint Mark’s. She masterminded the Sabeel and Islamophobia conferences at the Cathedral, and worked tirelessly for peace and justice in Palestine.

In addition to documentaries, our series will include feature narratives that focus on personal stories from both sides of the conflict. We will learn first hand about struggles of both Israelis coming to terms with their role in the occupation; and also those of Palestinians who must deal daily with forces beyond their control; discover efforts on both sides to understand “the other”; meet Palestinians who struggle to persevere in peaceful resistance, and others who feel self-defense is called for, despite the imbalance of power. Films take us everywhere! They expand our worlds and our understanding. Films can enlarge our hearts. We hope you will join us for this year’s series.
As a new(ish) member of the Episcopal Church after becoming involved with my home parish in Medford, Massachusetts two years ago, I have been fortunate to experience many firsts within the Church: praying my first Anglican Rosary, reading the Book of Common Prayer, becoming a voting member of my congregation, and this year, attending my first Diocesan Convention in Vancouver, Washington with the other members of the Seattle Service Corps.

Joining the Episcopal Church has come with a steep learning curve. There is much to know about the organizational structure of the Church, and sometimes it can be difficult to understand how and why individual congregations and the people in them are affected by laws that are seemingly passed much further up the church ladder. The Diocesan Convention is a way to bring the laws to the people, and voting members truly work to put their congregation’s best interests at heart.

Even though I’m not an “official” member of St. Mark’s and I wasn’t sitting in on the resolutions being passed, I was still able to experience an alternate side of the Convention with the Seattle Service Corps. We arrived in Vancouver after a three-hour drive featuring the beautiful fall foliage. Half of us went to the convention center to get the Service Corps table set up, and the other half went to the Church of the Good Shepherd (where they kindly allowed us to stay the night) to get the key for our sleeping arrangements.

For the first evening of the convention, we were able to talk to many wonderful people about what we do as the Seattle Service Corps. While some people had heard about us, many hadn’t, so we were able to explain how we are serving Seattle through our church and non-profit placements. One of the things that we were able to convey through our conversations is that the Service Corps is an alternate way of living; one that doesn’t depend so much on surviving and waiting for the next paycheck or getting ahead in a job, but that depends on community decisions and the ability to make a difference in each other’s lives and in the world. This style of new-monasticism is counter-cultural, which resonated with many of the people there because so many who attended the convention are also trying to live counter-culturally, whether that be through a religious order or specific spiritual service that they offer as a facet of the Episcopal Church.

On Friday evening, we headed into Portland to go to Powell’s Books – something that all of us were looking forward to. Although we all have separate interests, the majority of us ran into each other in the Purple Room, which houses books on Philosophy, Theology, and Cultural Studies. We should have figured that we’d find each other in the room with topics closest to our hearts!

After spending the night at the Church of the Good Shepherd, we went back to the Hilton for Day 2 of the Convention. Malcolm was kind enough to head over to Blue Star Doughnuts early in the morning and grab a unique variety of flavors for us to try, something which brightened up our morning! We were also fortunate to be able to participate in the morning service at the Convention, and it was wonderful to hear so many people singing together and partaking in the Eucharist.

At our table, we started to make Anglican Rosaries which will hopefully soon be sold at the Cathedral Shop as a special fundraiser for the Service Corps. We also had the ability to connect with many wonderful churches, religious orders, and ministries that are part of the Diocese of Olympia such as the Little Sisters of Poor Clare and the bi-lingual church Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was so encouraging to see God’s mission being lived out in the world through such a diverse assortment of gifts, talents, and dedications to the church.

After a successful two days connecting with people at the Diocesan Convention, it was time to head home. Although we didn’t get to vote, I left feeling encouraged about the state of the Diocese of Olympia: through such an assortment of people and ministries, the Church is all the stronger because of its commitment to diversity, inclusion, and appreciation for the unique gifts that each brings to the table.

BY KAREN SARGENT
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Diocesan Convention
From the perspective of a Seattle Service Corps member

Photo at top left: Credit Jan Akin. At right: Liz Bartenstein.
The Arts at Saint Mark’s
2017-2018
MUSIC SERIES
Concert on the Flentrop organ:
Michael Kleinschmidt, organist
Friday, January 19, 7:30 p.m.
The Tudor Choir
Friday, March 2, 8 p.m.
Quartet for the End of Time, by
Olivier Messiaen
Palm Sunday, March 25, 2 p.m.
“Organ Plus” (in Thomsen Chapel)
Sunday, April 22, 2 p.m.
Choral Evensong
First Sundays, October-May, 4:30 P.M.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
CATHEDRAL DAY: April 28, 2018
This annual event is a celebration of the community of the Diocese of Olympia. Cathedral Day is a time for fun, fellowship, and an opportunity to see Saint Mark's Cathedral in a new light. Plus, there's something for everyone—no matter your age!

Later this season...
Wisdom School programs
Storytelling as Social Conscience
WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 10-FEBRUARY 7, 2018, 6:45-8:15 P.M., BLOEDEL HALL
Facilitated by Bob Chapman. Class is free. Optional dinner is served 6-6:30 p.m. for $7 per person.
Our bodies and identities are socially and culturally constructed. We are gendered, racialized, sexualized, politicized, represented, colonized, contained, controlled, and inscribed. As a result of the relationship between our lived experiences and our social actions, we may be both shaped by and resist social and cultural constructions. Participants will develop an autobiography of self (e.g., a poem, collage, song, etc.) in C. Wright Mills’ sense of connecting “private troubles” with “public issues.” That is to recognize that your identity is a reflection of (and perhaps a resistance to) society, culture, and politics, all of which have, to a certain extent, shaped our experiences.

Becoming an Atheist about the God of Rewards and Punishments
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEB. 23-24, 2018, BLOEDEL HALL
Facilitated by The Rev. Ed Bacon, former rector of All Saint’s Church, Pasadena, CA. Fee: $50 includes Saturday breakfast and lunch. Register at saintmarks.org/wisdomschool.
Drawing on themes from Cynthia Bourgeault’s latest work on Centering Prayer, including her emphasis on Oneness, and tapping Ilia Delio’s work on Wholeness as well as Ed Bacon’s own work on Love and Fear, this workshop is designed for those seeking to integrate a life of both contemplation and action as well as phenomenal levels of energy (a literal “well of water gushing up full of eternal life-energy”). We seek to become atheists about the God of rewards and punishments split off from both science and other faiths while we articulate a New Narrative of experiential faith for a transformed church.

MORE AT: saintmarks.org/wisdomschool
The Christmas Boutique is open! Leffler House and the Cathedral Shop have been transformed into a Christmas gift wonderland. Lots of your Christmas Boutique favorites as well as new and exciting items are in store. Stocking stuffers and gifts for all ages, holiday cards and gift wrap, Advent calendars and wreaths, books galore, classical, sacred and seasonal CDs, chocolates and other goodies, ornaments and nativities, crosses and elegant jewelry, and much more! There will be extended hours for the length of the boutique. More at saintmarks.org/shop.