

2022

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, SEATTLE



**ANNUAL REPORT
PRESENTED AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2023**

FROM THE DEAN



Dear friends,

As I reflect on the year that was 2022, I am aware of just how many transitions were bound up in those days: the slow turn into a post-pandemic world still grappling with the experience of viral infections (and how we move in that milieu as a community); the adaptive ways we now gather in hybrid form for worship, classes and meetings; the ways this community marked milestones in life (and death), with a score of baptisms, confirmations and receptions, several marriages, and 21 funerals across the year; and we welcomed so many new members to the Saint Mark's community.

I am keen to note that there were transitions in my life as well—the birth of my first grandchild, the occasion of completing my tenth year of ministry as dean, and launching into the next decade with you.

In it all, there is a sense, not just of the transitional nature of this past year, but of the transformational quality in the ways we live and move and have our being in this place. I hear people share of their life-changing experiences on pilgrimages, in Radix groups, in ministry groups, in youth group and intergenerational gatherings, on hikes and retreats, in justice work arising in this community, and of course in worship. Revisions to 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Eucharist rites and the Blue Christmas service, the addition of seasonal Taizé services, the offerings of Cathedral Yoga and Centering Prayer, and the myriad ways we form community, in large and small ways—all these were designed to gather us in sacred ways. Jesus said, “where

two or three are gathered, I will be in the midst of them.” That is the palpable promise incarnated by you, the people of this community.

My purpose is not to rehearse every element of our common life that bears witness to such vitality; the reports that follow offer touchstones and testimonials that the Spirit is moving in and among us here. Which is to say, these are exciting times! I am grateful to be a part of this, and I trust you are too.

Yes, there are challenges that shape the experience of transition and transformation, but there is a sense of sacred journey in it all, the sort of journey that hearkens to the great biblical journeys in which our human narrative finds its way into the encompassing story of God's story of transformative power in our lives. Read on in this report to relish the vignettes of that intertwining of our stories with the divine story of God's call to us in this time and in this place. May it be a source of encouragement and blessing for you! I know you embody that encouragement and blessing for me, and for that I am exceedingly grateful.

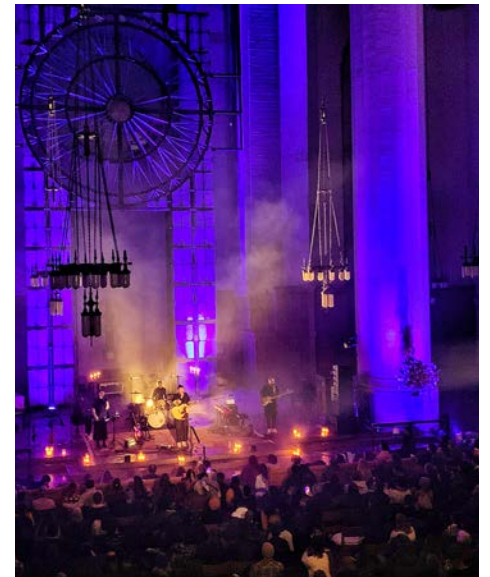
A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Steve" with a small cross symbol above the "e".

*The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason
Dean & Rector*

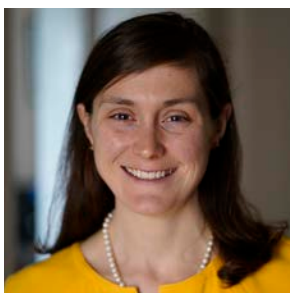


SPECIAL DAYS IN THE LIFE OF THE CATHEDRAL

(Top L:) Burning of the Greens on Twelfth Night, Jan. 5, 2022 [GB]. (Top R:) Dean Thomason and Bishop Rickel with Duwamish Tribal Chair The Hon. Cecile Hansen, April 3, 2022. (Middle L:) The Kadima Reconstructionist Jewish community's Yom Kippur service in the cathedral nave, Sept. 26, 2022 [GB]. (Middle R:) Cathedral Day, May 7, 2022 [KJ]. (Bottom L:) Celebrating ten years of Steve Thomason as Dean, Sept 4, 2022. (Bottom R:) Concert by Seattle musician SYML produced by Abbey Arts, Nov. 18 & 19, 2022 [GB]. (On the cover:) *The Pageant of the Nativity* [KJ]



FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN



Each year the Vestry meets in February to set mutual ministry goals that guide the work of overseeing and stewarding the cathedral's finances, facilities and grounds. This year we again voted to approve the goals of Creation Care and Carbon Reduction, Intergenerational and Innovative Community, and Restorative Justice and Systemic Justice.

Throughout the year, members of Vestry—including the Dean (chair), the Bishop of Olympia (or designated representative), elected lay parishioners, and Diocesan Members (those who serve from another parish)—gather monthly to discuss and vote on cathedral business with these goals in mind. This Annual Report tells much of the story of how these mutual ministry goals unfolded this year and we, as Vestry, have been grateful for the ways to provide support and leadership. Our meetings were structured to allow time and space for meaningful conversations and reflection to ensure that our actions were guided by our shared values and mission. Examples of this included:

- ◆ Continuing mutual ministry reflections at the end of each meeting to recognize where in our conversations we discussed these goals.
- ◆ Incorporating strategic conversations into monthly meetings that focused on micro topics of Creation Care and Carbon Reduction, Intergenerational and Innovative Community, and Restorative Justice and Systemic Justice to think deeply and respond prayerfully.
- ◆ Reflecting and responding to the guiding documents of the *Statement of Lament and Commitment to Action* and Land Acknowledgment.

We saw how these goals oriented our agenda as we passed initiatives such as a carbon offset travel recommendations for staff travel, systemized our approach to facilities maintenance, completed a successful financial audit, modified the Land Acknowledgment and assessed opportunities for campus enhancements, continued key carbon reduction interventions and considered meaningful ways of connecting virtually—to highlight just a few. Vestry members

► LEFT: Rose Hazard fills the font before baptisms on the Day of Pentecost, June 5, 2022. [KJ]

RIGHT: St. Francis Celebration and Blessing of the Animals, October 1, 2022 [KJ]





◀ Blessing and commissioning of all cathedral ministries at “Homecoming Sunday,” September 11, 2022. [KJ]

jumped into the work with enthusiasm—from preparing dinner as a Vestry team at a Tent City meal, leading a Carbon Tracker activity for children, to volunteering to manage parking for Christmas Eve services—finding the opportunities outside of meetings to deepen relationships as we served together.

It is worth mentioning that, since early 2020, most of our meetings have been conducted by Zoom, taking away the opportunity for the infamous Vestry “potluck” dinner. We cherished the opportunity to take part in this role to host dinner in teams and share a meal together before meetings. We also appreciated the flexibility of a new hybrid option via the Owl technology when travel or sickness made it more accessible to join by Zoom.

In September, the wardens recognized an important milestone in our community: the tenth anniversary of the ministry of Dean Steve and Kathy Thomason at Saint Mark’s. Vestry members served cake after the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. We are so grateful for the ways in which their lead-

ership and presence continue to lead Saint Mark’s into vibrant ministry in this cathedral community.

This annual report also includes more specific details regarding the core functions of the Vestry—facilities, finance and stewardship ministries—all of which have seen meaningful milestones under the leadership of junior wardens Walter Stuteville, Clara Berg and Chris Rigos, along with the Dean, clergy, and staff. We are also grateful for the service of Re Knack, chancellor; Barbara Erickson, secretary; and Lynne Cobb, treasurer, who give so much of their time and expertise that supports these goals.

One of the highlights in serving as senior warden is the opportunity to learn the stories of the myriad ministries and people who call Saint Mark’s their spiritual home. I am grateful for the ways in which this community so generously gives of their time, talents and gifts to change the way that we, together, can reimagine how we care for our planet, gather together across ages, and engage in justice that shows hope to the world.

—Emily Meeks, Senior Warden

1. CREATION CARE & CARBON REDUCTION

CREATION CARE MINISTRY

The Creation Care Ministry of Saint Mark's Cathedral strives to help our Saint Mark's community understand the deep connection between the care for creation and our faith, overcome our fears about the climate crisis, and see hope for action. In the Mutual Ministry Goals adopted by the Vestry, Saint Mark's has pledged to reach a net-zero carbon footprint by 2030, and the Creation Care Ministry supports both the cathedral and its individual members in taking the steps necessary to reach this goal.

A highlight of 2022 was the adoption of two resolutions related to Creation Care at the Diocesan Convention in October: one regarding the Creation Justice Pledge and the other regarding a "Season of Creation." In July, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church adopted eight Creation-related resolutions, including support for the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, the Green New Deal, a goal of net carbon neutrality, and investment strategies informed by the climate crisis, among others. Also at General Convention, the House of Bishops passed a statement titled "Expressing the Mind of the House on Climate and Our Vocation in Christ."

At Saint Mark's, the Creation Care Ministry was active in a wide variety of ways. In 2022 we:

- ♦ Tracked and commented on bills related to Creation Care and Climate Change, through the Creation Care Advocacy Group, during the short 2-month Washington State Legislative session.
- ♦ Co-hosted with the Visual Arts Ministry an exhibit and forum featuring the artwork of Coast Salish Tribal member Peter Boome. We look forward to similar collaborations in 2023.
- ♦ Co-hosted a forum with the Bee Ministry, focusing on the importance and success of this ministry and the importance of bees in sustaining our agricultural and food systems.
- ♦ Coordinated with Keiko Maruyama for the care of the Leffler Garden and arranged for the installation of an irrigation system (thanks to Tyler Morse). The garden provided food for Tent City meals and the Wednesday community dinners. And our bees found the pollinator garden!
- ♦ Prepared a recommendation to offset the carbon footprint of clergy and staff in their work-related air travel. The recommendation was adopted by the Vestry in August.
- ♦ Hosted "Made in Faith," a forum on the clothing industry and climate change.
- ♦ Established a Creation Care lending library, with about 150 books, located on the Bloedel stage area.
- ♦ Began hosting monthly Climate Conversations on Zoom, focusing on everyday actions people can take to reduce their carbon footprint. Topics have included Food, Water, Energy, Transportation, Using the Carbon Tracker, Investing, and Sustainable Holidays. These Conversations will continue in 2023.
- ♦ Saw the completion of a report from the Bishop's Task Force on Creation Care and Climate Justice. Two of our Saint Mark's members participated in this task force.
- ♦ Organized an in-person all-day retreat for a time of lament, sharing, and brainstorming, which was attended by 15 of our members and led by The Rev. Stephen Crippen and The Rev. Canon Jennifer

King Daugherty. A follow-up retreat on strategic planning will be scheduled in 2023.

- ♦ Co-hosted a Sunday Forum with the Children and Families Ministry about family use of the SustainIslandHome.org carbon tracker tool.

Details, links, and recordings for these events are available on the Saint Mark's Creation Care Ministry webpage at www.saintmarks.org/creation-care. If you are interested in learning more about the work of the ministry, please contact co-chairs Marjorie Ringness at marjorie@ringness.org or Kathy Minsch at kaminsch@gmail.com

—Marjorie Ringness & Kathy Minsch

GARDENING MINISTRY

The Saint Mark's Cathedral Garden Volunteers have been caring for the Great Lawn of the cathedral for many years, organized as a ministry in the early 2000s. We meet the second Saturday of the month, February through November, 9 a.m. to noon. The Garden committee was busy during 2022. We started the entry path from the sidewalk on 10th, near the exit; to be continued in 2023. Special attention was given to the front garden of the Leffler house, where we bushes are being swallowed up by morning glory and blackberries. The hedge surrounding the labyrinth and the hedge along 10th Avenue were pruned. We have great plans for 2023, including an irrigation system for the perimeter flower beds, extending the garden along the arc on the south side, and cutting down the locust tree at the southwest edge along the exit drive. On an ongoing basis, our work involves the very basics of good gardening: weeding, pruning, watering. The result of these routine chores is the beauty that we see through each season of the year. We welcome all to join us, green thumb or not. Just bring your gloves and a water bottle. We have extra tools. And there are always fresh cookies to enjoy!

—Norva Osborn & Kathy Sodergren



BEEKEEPING MINISTRY

The bee ministers are happy to report, as of Christmas morning, the bees are buzzing even after that cold snap. In the spring of 2022, two new nucs were installed and then expanded to a third hive in mid-summer. Interestingly, the newer third hive is the one that has survived. Our three hives created enough honey to feed themselves through the winter, with enough left over to sell on St. Francis Day and sweeten our Communion bread. Thus, the ministry is sustainable. Now that we appear to be past the worst of the pandemic, when springtime comes, we will be looking for more volunteers who want to learn about bees and cover shifts regularly, helping sustain Creation as well as beekeeper Rob Reid. We are grateful for the Rubio-Maruyama family, who have been such a big help with the bees over the last three years. When it gets warm again, we will be looking for some more consistent beekeepers. For more information, please contact Rob Reid at 206.525.5238 or robreid62@gmail.com

—Rob Reid



▲ Beekeeping ministry leader Rob Reid and Canon Rosario-Cruz at the Blessing of the Beehives on the roof above Bloedel Hall, May 29, 2022. [photos: Penny Reid]

FACILITIES

The Facilities Committee has been meeting in 2022 year by Zoom. The members of the Committee were: John Selberg, Sharon Ferguson, Judy Andrews, Kathy Sodergren, Norman LeMoine, Carrie Davis, Julia Logan, Jim Buskirk, Nancy George, Wayne Duncan, Justin Mills, Senior Warden Emily Meeks, Dean Steve Thomason, and Junior Warden for Facilities Walter Stuteville, who chaired the committee. We give thanks for the contributions of Facilities Manager David Wagner, who retired at the end of 2022, and bless him in what comes next!

The Garden Ministry is a sub-committee of Facilities under the leadership of Kathy Sodergren. They have been actively maintaining and providing new plantings in the yard and gardens of the cathedral. Another subcommittee headed by Justin Mills worked on and got approval for a plan to store emergency supplies in the cathedral in case of a natural disaster. Finally, Saint Mark's own Habitat for Humanity team continued to put their expert skills to use repairing and improving the cathedral's buildings. Their liaison on the Committee is John Selberg.

A few of the accomplishments in 2022 include:

- ◆ The former Cathedral House room 209 was divided in two and remodeled as a staff lounge with kitchenette and additional staff offices.
- ◆ The Cathedral House HVAC system was repaired and upgraded, including new thermostatic controls, and the hot water heater on level five was replaced.
- ◆ The Flower Ministry workroom was remodeled.
- ◆ Bloedel Hall fluorescent fixtures were retrofitted for LED bulbs, safety and security film was installed on Bloedel Hall windows, and a new motorized projection screen was installed.
- ◆ Bloedel Hall kitchen was completely repainted.
- ◆ There were extensive repairs to the St. Nicholas HVAC system, and plumbing repairs at Carriage House, Leffler House, Cathedral, and St. Nicholas Building.
- ◆ St. Nicholas building roof was repaired, new fencing was installed at St. Nicholas, and new flooring was installed in early childhood classroom at St. Nicholas.
- ◆ Exterior lighting at Leffler House was repaired, new carpeting was installed in the basement apartment and the first-floor office of Leffler House, the Leffler House Service Corps apartment got new kitchen cabinetry and bathroom tile, and new cabinetry was installed at Carriage House
- ◆ The exterior storm drains were cleaned and repaired, and the damaged irrigation system on the cathedral grounds was repaired and serviced, and a new irrigation system installed for Leffler House garden.

Major projects on the horizon include security system upgrades, HVAC system repairs and replacing aging components, removal of a large diseased tree, providing an irrigation system for the Patty gardens, and lighting system upgrades for the cathedral nave. An immediate focus for the Committee is the transfer of some of our major maintenance work from in-house staff to a service contract with a property management firm.

—Walter Stuteville,

► Chris Brown and David Wagner changing the lighting fixtures that hang above the choir loft. [GB]



2. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE & SYSTEMIC CHANGE



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COUNCIL

The Restorative Justice Council emerged in 2022 as a response to the Vestry's approval of Restorative Justice and Systematic Change as one of Saint Mark's mutual ministry goals. The Council expands the voices and opportunities that cultivate transformative ways for us to live into the holy call to respect the dignity of every human being, strive for justice and peace among all people, and seek and serve Christ in all persons—guided by the specific areas of injustice articulated in the Statement of Lament and Commitment to Action. The Council meets regularly throughout the year. In conversation, we discern the best ways to create capacity for change and relationship building. The Council is committed to pursuing the holy work of transformation in a way that is consonant with the values of mutuality, respect, collaboration, and humility.

—The Rev. Canon Eliacín Rosario-Cruz

"I value the work of the Restorative Justice Council as we not only support specific ministry programs but also seek to nurture a culture in the Parish where all are encouraged and equipped to live out the call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God in their specific lives. The work of restorative justice and systemic change is not just programs but people loving in the way of Jesus."

—Scott Hulet, Restorative Justice Council Member

"The work of the Restorative Justice Council has been incredibly rewarding. The introspection that takes place among our members is palpable... everyone seems to absorb what they hear before participating, and the responses are always thoughtful. It has been great to see how devoted our members are to changing the status quo. I know there has been some frustration among those who want immediate societal change, but in my opinion, the strides that have been made within our group are considerable and inspirational."

—Carmen Brady, Restorative Justice Council Member

"One of the important aspects of the work of the Restorative Justice Council is creating space for courageous conversations. I have appreciated that our meetings can be a safe place to bring different perspectives, experiences, and questions, even when challenging to me. We may not always agree, but we practice deep listening and caring for one another. Being in relationship is so important to the work of restorative justice and systemic change, and I am grateful for the ways we are building these connections with each other to prayerfully respond together."

—Emily Meeks, Senior Warden



▲ One of the refugee families who lived for a period of time on the cathedral property as they began their new life in the U.S., told the harrowing story of their escape from Afghanistan at a hybrid forum on February 9, 2022. [GB]

RELATIONSHIP WITH EL SALVADOR

In 2022 we continued to deepen our relationship with El Salvador. In February, Joseph Russ from The Santa Marta Anglican Center visited Saint Mark's. The Santa Marta Anglican Center supports LGBTIQ+ youth in El Salvador who are facing homelessness. It is a ministry of the Diocese of El Salvador, part of the Anglican Church in Central America. He shared the story of founding the Center, the faith that grounds their work, and how faith becomes action by accompanying and providing safety for queer Salvadoran youth and young adults. In 2023, Saint Mark's will partner with The Santa Marta Anglican Center in hosting a workshop on LGBTIQ+ Theology.

In the Fall of 2022, Saint Mark's parishioner Elizabeth Hawkins who has been living and working in San Salvador since 2019, gave us an update about the current situation in El Salvador, where the government had recently suspended the civil rights of all citizens and carried out arbitrary mass arrest as a strategy to combat gang violence. Elizabeth shared how liberation theology has informed her decision to stay in El Salvador and continue her current work as Program Director of Programa Velasco, an NGO dedicated to educating and empowering women, children, and families.

—The Rev. Canon Eliacín Rosario-Cruz

SANCTUARY/REFUGEE MINISTRY

The Sanctuary Ministry has continued since its official re-launch in 2017 when the cathedral committed to being a Sanctuary hub, in collaboration with the Church Council of Greater Seattle. A primary purpose was to provide direct services to those whose lives are affected by U.S. immigration policy. In 2019, this commitment to sanctuary took the form of welcoming the Rubio-Maruyama family to live within the safe space of the cathedral grounds as they sought a legal remedy to deportation and the separation of their family.

In 2022 the sanctuary ministry at Saint Mark's Cathedral:

- ◆ Held a forum to share an update on Jaime Rubio's pending case, and ways to get involved in immigration reform and advocacy. Jaime's case took a positive turn in 2021 so direct sanctuary was not needed in 2022. The cathedral community expresses an ongoing commitment to Jaime Rubio and family as his case makes its way through the courts.
- ◆ Supported Casa Latina's Virtual Annual Gala and Christmas gift drive. Casa Latina is an organization whose mission is "to empower Latino immigrants through educational and economic opportunities" and whose vision is "that the Latino community participate fully in the economy and democracy of this country." (casa-latina.org)

In 2022 the refugee ministry at Saint Mark's Cathedral:

- ◆ Sponsored three Afghan families new to Seattle, in conjunction with the Diocese of Olympia's Refugee Resettlement Office.
- ◆ Offered emergency housing to two families on the cathedral campus. Walking alongside them as they integrate into U.S. life also took the form of: English language practice, resume and cover letter writing assistance, and donating home and clothing items.

—The Rev. Canon Eliacín Rosario-Cruz

MEAL SHARING MINISTRY

During 2022, the Cathedral Feeding Programs ministry expanded all its meals programs with a number of new volunteers and increased opportunities to serve our hungry neighbors. We continued our twice monthly hot dinners provided to the 54 residents of the Saint Martin de Porres Shelter on Alaskan Way South in Seattle. The ministry volunteers served seven dinners throughout the year to the Teen Feed organization serving homeless teen residents in the Seattle University area. The Ministry leaders and volunteers prepared and served hot weekly dinners to the residents of Tent City for 12 Sunday nights while they were in residence in the Saint Mark's parking lot. Ministry supporters also prepared and served six lunches to clients of Immanuel Community Services at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in South Lake Union. Ministry volunteers also participated in the Community Lunch program provided at the Pilgrim Congregational Church on Capitol Hill. The growth of all Cathedral meals during 2022 required flexibility and patience on all ministry volunteers and supporters. The weekly dinners provided to Tent City residents encouraged the growth of ministry volunteers from about 10 to 50 persons. New volunteers of all ages joined in to prepare quality sit-down meals, and a chance to chat with guests. The ministry is most grateful for the commitment of the Cathedral by providing increased funding and caring oversight from clergy and staff. During 2023 we will continue to serve others, especially as new programs request our help and provide us opportunity to serve.

—Chris Rigos



◀ From June 19 through September 4, Saint Mark's parishioners prepared and served meals for the residents of Tent City 3, then in residence in the cathedral parking lot, each Sunday evening. [photos: Chris Rigos]



▲ Dean Thomason marched together with Fr. Michael Ryan of St. James Cathedral, Rabbi Daniel Weiner of Temple De Hirsch Sinai, and other faith leaders at the Interfaith Vigil and March Against Gun Violence in the wake of the mass shooting of children in Uvalde, Texas, on June 2, 2022. Photo by Mark White

HUNGER OFFERING

On the second Sunday of the month a special offering is collected to support several food programs in the Seattle area. In 2022, funds were divided between Ballard Food Bank, Lifelong AIDS Alliance, Pike Market Food Bank, Immanuel Community Services, The Food Bank@St. Mary's, and St. Brigid's Banquet. Contact Vicky Greenbaum to learn more or to get involved: vgreenbaum1@gmail.com

—Vicky Greenbaum

THRESHOLD FUND

The Threshold Fund is a ministry of Saint Mark's that provides funds for deposits and move-in fees to individuals and families, lowering the barriers to entering permanent housing after experiencing homelessness. In 2022 the Threshold Fund assisted 20 families, for a total assistance of more than \$30,000. Here are the stories of just two of those grants:

- ◆ In May, the Threshold Fund helped a single mother and her two young daughters to move into a new safe home following a referral from the Domestic Abuse Women's Network (DAWN).

- ◆ In July, a large family who were enrolled in the CCS Counseling Recovery and Wellness Program were approved for an apartment. The head of the household was employed at his job while caring for not only his own children, but also several nieces and nephews. He needed move-in assistance to allow him to move his large family into safe housing. Thanks to the Threshold Fund, this family is now safely housed.

—The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason

LOWELL ELEMENTARY VOLUNTEERS

In the spring, Lowell volunteers, with the help of the Habitat For Humanity crew, assembled raised garden beds and several bird houses. These were delivered to Lowell playground, filled with dirt, and planted with vegetables and berries.

A cold snap prompted an urgent winter coat drive for Lowell Students in early November. In less than a week the generosity of Saint Mark's parishioners enabled the school social workers to establish a coat closet where any child who needs it can be given a warm, bright hooded coat and a pair of gloves.

Saint Mark's was also able to provide grocery store gift cards to Lowell families at Thanksgiving.

The Giving Tree, which was on display in the nave in late November and early December, included requests for Safeway and Target gift cards, along with specific toys requested by Lowell children. Individuals purchased these items, which were then wrapped by Saint Mark's parishioners during an inter-generational event in Bloedel Hall, presented at the altar and blessed during the Sunday Eucharist, and delivered to students just before Christmas vacation.

Lowell staff expressed gratitude and appreciation for the many ways Saint Mark's has supported the schoolchildren and their families this year.

—Canon Wendy Claire Barrie

PRIDE

Our Cathedral was well represented at the Capitol Hill Pride Festival, with 17 Saint Mark's community members representing the cathedral. We had the opportunity to engage folks in conversation, gave away Pride Flags and stickers, and let people know that they are God's beloved children and are always welcome at Saint Mark's.

—*The Rev. Canon Eliacín Rosario-Cruz*

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

The Mission to Seafarers offers a priceless opportunity to provide hospitality to people from around the world. Currently Seattle Service Corps member Emily Dudek is working as the Assistant Port Chaplain at Seattle Seafarers Center. Service Corps members and volunteers do ship visits and provide ground transportation, mostly for crews during the cruise ship season. Opportunities exist for ship visitors and drivers; contact Deacon Earl Grout to learn more.

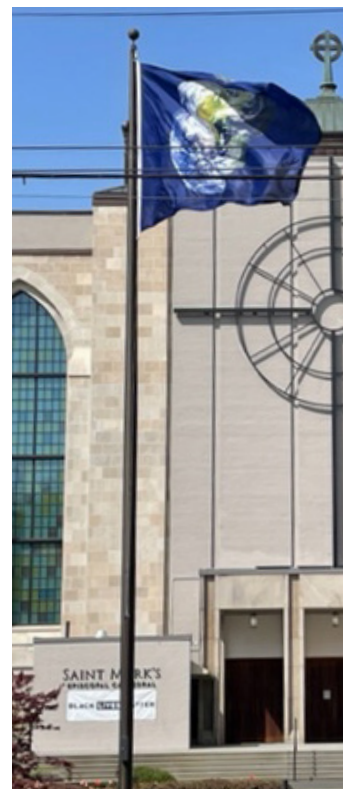
—*The Rev. Earl Grout*

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

While hoping for expanded volunteering opportunities with the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate in the near future, the Saint Mark's Habitat group, in addition to attending the annual Habitat luncheon in June, continued working on various projects on the cathedral campus in 2022. These included finishing the work on the new staff break room and kitchenette in part of what was previously Cathedral House Room 209, installing a stairway handrail and storage cabinets on the third floor of Leffler House for use by the Seattle Service Corps, working to convert a small former bathroom into a storage space, and building new storage racks for the "O" Antiphon Banners. We also began planning the construction of a "tiny house" on the Saint Mark's property, which, when completed, will be picked up by the Low-Income Housing Institute for placement in a Tiny House Village. We plan to get to work on this exciting project in early 2023.

—*Gordon Miller*

▼ Four flags on the cathedral flagpole
[GB/MP]



The Spring 2022
Mideast Focus
Film Series:

***Is Sumud
Sufficient?***

Blind Trust

about psychiatrist
and peace activist
Dr. Vamik Volka
(2021)

Objector

about Atalya, a
young Israeli
woman who
refuses mandatory
military service
(2019)

GAZA

a cinematic
portrait of life in a
zone of perennial
conflict (2019)

**Mission: Hebron
and Skies Above
Hebron**

two documentaries
offering different
perspectives on
the occupation of
the city of Hebron
(both 2020)

**Little Palestine:
Diary of a Siege**

about Palestinian
civilians affected
by the Syrian civil
war (2021)

200 Meters

a moving drama
about a father
separated from
his injured child by
Israeli checkpoints
(2020)



▲ *The Holy Land—What's Next?*, September 24, 2022

MIDEAST FOCUS MINISTRY

Activities of this ministry continue to focus upon education and advocacy for peace and justice in the Middle East, particularly the Holy Land (Israel/Palestine). Events in 2022 included:

- ◆ A Wednesday evening Cathedral Forum on April 20 regarding Middle East Children's Alliance's Maia Water Project, an international effort to provide clean water systems for children attending school in Gaza, which has suffered terribly from the strife between Israelis and Palestinians. Featured speaker (via Zoom) was Zeiad Abbas Shamrouh, Palestinian refugee, filmmaker and Executive Director of MECA.
- ◆ The Annual MEFM Film Series continued into its ninth year, making outstanding documentaries on Mideast Peace and Justice issues available to viewers through the internet followed by discussions on Zoom, which featured the participation of the filmmakers or other experts in the subject. The theme for the 2022 series was *Is Sumud* (steadfastness) *Sufficient?*
- ◆ MEFM established a Mideast Focus Ministry Library in the newly available room created at the back of the Bloedel Hall stage. Space is shared with the Creation Care Ministry; and books are being inventoried in a computerized system for circulation. Watch for a "grand opening" of the library in 2023!
- ◆ On September 24 MEFM held its major event for the year, a symposium titled *The Holy Land—What's Next?* featuring international speakers addressing the current political and social issues in Israel/Palestine. Participants included: Naim Ateek, founder of Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, Jerusalem; Jonathan Kuttab, international lawyer and Executive Director of Friends of Sabeel, North America; The Rev. Canon Richard Toll, founding Executive Director of FOSNA; The Rev. Don Wagner, former Professor of Middle East Studies, North Park University and Presbyterian minister; Dr. Alice Rothchild, physician and advocate for justice in Israel/Palestine; Mark Braverman, psychologist and Executive Director of Kairos USA; and Ranna Harb, co-founder of Falastiniyat, a Palestinian activist collective based in Seattle. Over 65 people attended the event in person, plus another 150 from throughout the world via Zoom. Following the symposium, a Middle East-style dinner was held as a special tribute to The Rev. Richard K. "Dick" Toll, former Canon Pastor of Saint Mark's (1976–84) and recipient of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship's 2022 Cotton Fite Award for four decades of service to the cause of peace and justice in the Holy Land.

The ministry looks forward to more offerings in 2023, including the tenth annual Film Series beginning in February.

—Steve Paul Moen

3. INTERGENERATIONAL & INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY

INTERGENERATIONAL COUNCIL

2022 was the first full year of the Intergenerational Council, and that allowed us to experiment with being intergenerational in a variety of modes and contexts. When Rabbi Wiener was the forum guest at 10:10 a.m. in May, a parallel learning opportunity for children was offered by interfaith educator and IC member Hannah Hochkeppel, introducing them to Jewish holidays and customs.

Inspired by IC member and high school student Heather Sutkus, we planned 10:10 a.m. events to connect all ages with existing ministries at Saint Mark's, beginning with outdoor ones such as the labyrinth. Two of these events were presented in conjunction with the Creation Care Ministry, and were exceptionally well attended: *Meet the Beekeepers & Blessing of the Hives* in the late spring, and *How to Use and Love the Carbon Tracker* in the early fall.

Thanks to the hiking expertise of IC member Betsy Bell, we continued our intergenerational hikes, exploring Tradition Lake in the pouring rain, Discovery Park on a sunny day, and Carkeek Park where we serendipitously discovered salmon running. Each hike concluded with a brief and intimate worship experience centered on God's gifts of the natural world.

From May through September, we gathered monthly in the backyards of Saint Mark's congregants for informal Neighborhood Eucharists, sharing a holy meal in the simplest way. Neighborhood Eucharists were offered in Ballard, Lynnwood, First Hill, West Seattle, and Clyde Hill on the East Side.

We also came together on three Wednesday evenings in June, July and August for *Eat, Play, Love: Water of Life*. All ages shared a

meal prepared by Chef Marc Aubertin, and then together we explored scripture and the sacredness of water through a variety of creative and reflective activities, some as a mixed age full group, and others self-selected, so that everyone could participate in ways that were meaningful to them. The evenings ended with a brief service of Compline in the cathedral nave.

In early December, multiple generations gathered between services to (1) share a cookie swap where you could sample an abundance of homemade treats and take home the recipes, (2) hear parishioner Libby Carr read her newly-published Christmas story and tell about the experience of writing and publishing a book, and (3) wrap holiday gifts for children.

We look forward to continuing the good work of building and nurturing relationships among all ages at Saint Mark's!

—Canon Wendy Claire Barrie



◀ Participants in the 2022 Choir Camp spent an afternoon thoroughly cleaning the pews in the nave. [KJ]

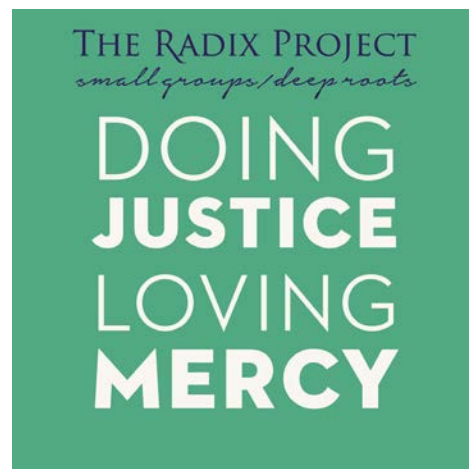
THEOLOGIAN-IN-RESIDENCE

In 2022, Saint Mark's Theologian-in-Residence was The Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining, whose vibrant and engaging presence as a priest, scholar, spiritual director, teacher, and preacher—in person and on Zoom—was a gift and a blessing to our community. In March, she presented a two-part series over Zoom titled *Blood Memory and Spiritual Inheritance: Intergenerational Trauma and Intergenerational Blessing*. She returned in May, again via Zoom, for a Wednesday evening forum, *Spiritual Practices as Balm for the Soul*. We were delighted to welcome Dr. Raining in person for the first time in August, when she offered a Saturday gathering, *Mary Magdalene: A Tower of Lineage*, in which she explored the fascinating and little-discussed practices of exorcism and spiritual healing in our Christian tradition. The next day she preached at Sunday morning services and was the Dean's guest at the 10:10 a.m. Sunday forum. In November, again in person, she led a full-day workshop with Saint Mark's staff on communication styles and the Enneagram, a Saturday workshop for clergy and laypeople on *Liturgy & Intersectionality: Appropriation or Appreciation?*, and on Sunday returned to the Saint Mark's pulpit and Sunday forum. That afternoon, she also shared the indigenous wisdom of Blood Memory with the youth. We are enlightened and inspired by her time with us.

—Canon Wendy Claire Barrie



► The Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining, Saint Mark's Theologian-in-residence, for the year, offered an in-person sermon Sunday morning, August 21, 2022.



RADIX PROJECT

The Radix Project, an opportunity to gather in small groups for scripture study, discussion, and prayer, offered its first six-week series in January of 2020, and over the course of the next three years hundreds of community members have participated. 2022 began with online-only groups for *Radix 7: Doing Justice, Loving Mercy* in January and February, but by the fall we were able to offer a choice of either in-person or Zoom groups for *Radix 8: Creation, Community, and Connection*. Radix group members this year numbered 125 and the feedback we received consistently reflected how highly participants valued the small group dynamic, the experience of praying with and for one another, and the “soul-polishing” that happens when we reflect on scripture and share personal connections in community.

—Canon Wendy Claire Barrie

SUNDAY FORUM

The “Friends Talking” forums with cathedral guests and Dean Thomason are always popular, and in 2022, this series included Bishop of Indianapolis The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows (the first African-American woman to be elected a bishop diocesan), Episcopal Church Missioner for Indigenous Ministries The Rev. Dr. Bradley Hauff, Rabbi Daniel Weiner of Capitol Hill's Temple De Hirsch Sinai, Saint Mark's 2022 Theologian-in-residence The Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining, coordinator of Indigenous Theological Education for the Episcopal Church The Rev. Canon Mary Crist, and The Rev. Canon Dick Toll, founding director of Friends of Sabeel North America and former Canon Pastor of Saint Mark's.

Other Sunday morning highlights included two intergenerational forums presented in conjunction with the Creation Care Ministry: *Meet the Beekeepers & Blessing of the Hives* in May, and *How to Use and Love the Carbon Tracker* in October.

A focus of this year was strengthening our commitment to learning about Indigenous spirituality, art, culture, and current issues. In April, Duwamish Tribal Chair The Hon. Cecile Hanson spoke about the tribe's struggle for federal acknowledgment at a special Sunday evening forum. Later that month, Coast Salish artist Peter Boome launched his exhibition at Saint Mark's with a fascinating Sunday morning talk about the connections between his art, the natural world, and spirituality.

—Canon Wendy Claire Barrie



CATHEDRAL COMMONS

The Wednesday evening offerings known as Cathedral Commons in 2022 continued the hybrid model that was so sustaining during the pandemic. As the year progressed, some evenings were offered in person only, depending on the nature of the offering.

The first Wednesday of the year was an intergenerational celebration of Twelfth Night, which began with a simple liturgy in the nave and concluded with the Burning of the Greens at a bonfire in the lower parking lot. Offerings in the following months included *Exploring Dimensions of Culture* with Canon Rosario-Cruz, *Celtic Spirituality* with Canon Daugherty, *Knowing God Through the Body* with Rev. Stahleckler, a Rogation Day liturgy across the cathedral grounds, *The Paradoxical Friendship of Grief and Joy* by Canon Daugherty, and a report from El Salvador from parishioner Elizabeth Hawkins.

In the fall, we joyfully resumed community dinners prepared by Chef Marc Aubertin with the assistance of Deborah Person, Nancy George, and Maris Olsen, at which participants in the Cathedral Commons program share a delicious meal with kids of The Choir School, their families, and anyone who wants to join.

—Canon Wendy Claire Barrie

▲ “Friends Talking”
Forum with Rabbi Daniel
Weiner of Temple De
Hirsch Sinai, Sunday
morning, May 22, 2022.
[KJ]

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM)

The three Saint Mark's EfM classes graduated a total of six students in June 2022, two from each of the three sections, each of whom had completed the three-year program. This fall the Sunday evening group has been on hiatus, but the Monday morning and Monday evening sections both have ten participants. Maria Coldwell and Julia Logan are mentors for the Monday morning group, while Tom Hayton and Wayne Duncan are mentors for the Monday evening group. The Monday morning group has met primarily via Zoom with occasional in-person meetings, while the Monday evening group has met in hybrid mode all fall. Discussions are always lively in these two-hour seminars, whose theme this year is *Living Faithfully in a Multicultural World*.

—Maria Coldwell

THE WISDOM SCHOOL

After two years of pandemic-related limitations to gathering for Wisdom School programming, we resumed a robust calendar of offerings in 2022. The general theme for 2021–22 was “A Spirituality of Desire” and the theme for the current program year is “Embodied Spirituality,” building on the incarnational realities of human spirituality that takes shape in so many life-giving ways. Keynote speakers in 2022 included Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows (*Following Jesus to a New Counter-Cultural Post-Pandemic Normal*), Theologian-in-Residence The Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining (*Blood Memory, Spiritual Practices, Mary Magdalene, and Appropriation vs. Appreciation*), and Dr. Belden Lane (*Ravished by Nature's Beauty*). Cathedral staff also offered forums on thematic topics. We held Women's and Men's weekend retreats, and a group made pilgrimage to Iona and the Celtic Missions of Scotland and Northumbria.

Seasonal and ongoing spiritual practices include the Daily Office, Cathedral Yoga, Labyrinth walks, Centering Prayer, the Sunday evening Contemplative Eucharist, and Taizé prayer services.

Looking to 2023, the Wisdom School will host keynote speakers Killian Noe (*Addiction and Love*), Phil Cousineau (*The Art of Pilgrimage*), Brian McLaren (*Is Christianity Worth Saving?*), Hillary McBride (*The Wisdom of your Body*), Christena Cleveland (*The Divine Feminine*) and Wil Gafney (*Womanist Theology and Scripture*). And a group will make pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March. The Wisdom School webpage has all the information: saintmarks.org/wisdom

—The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason

THE SECOND SUNDAY CATHEDRAL BOOK GROUP

The Book Group welcomes all to join in a lively discussion of books from a variety of genres on the second Sunday of odd-numbered months. All meetings in 2022 were hybrid, with some gathering in Room 210 and others joining via Zoom. The group is coordinated by Pearl McElheran and Deborah Brown.

The books discussed in 2022 were:

See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love (2020) by Valarie Kaur

Skid Road: On the Frontier of Health and Homelessness in an American City (2021) by Josephine Ensign

Souls in the Hands of a Tender God: Stories of the Search for Home and Healing on the Streets (2008) by Craig Rennebohm

Migrations (2020) by Charlotte McConaghy

My Old Kentucky Home: The Astonishing Life and Reckoning of an Iconic American Song (2022) by Emily Bingham

Putin Country: A Journey into the Real Russia (2016) by Anne Garrels

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

A group continued to gather each Tuesday at noon to discuss the week's lectionary reading, led by a rotating member of the cathedral staff or clergy. After an experiment with in-person meetings in late 2021, the group had returned to online-only gathering by the beginning of 2022. That was the case until September, when the gathering was made hybrid each week, with the option to join on Zoom or in Leffler House. After some experimentation with this format, the group decided to return to online-only meetings by the end of the year.

—*The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker*

INQUIRERS' CLASS

The Inquirers' Class was a hybrid series in both spring and fall 2022, drawing over 40 participants. A strength of the program is the diversity in ages, experiences, and backgrounds of the inquirers, who brought with them deep insights, wisdom and curiosity about the Christian faith and life. We used the textbook *Your Faith, Your Life* by Jenifer Gamber and Bill Lewellis as a springboard for the rich presentations by clergy and staff and the lively discussions that followed.

—*Canon Wendy Claire Barrie*

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT RESOURCE CENTER

During a year of transition, we accepted many pieces of equipment and inventoried and organized the closet. We look forward to serving more people in the new year.

—*Nancy Cleminshaw*

GODLY PLAY

In the first half of 2022, we weren't yet ready to return to indoor gatherings, so children, parents and teachers frequently gathered on the labyrinth or in Volunteer Park for a story, scones, spiritual community, and fun. Then in the fall, Godly Play returned to the 10:10 a.m. time on the first and third Sundays of the month, thanks to our teachers Alicia Goodwin, Kristen Kelly, Rebecca Engrav, Hannah Hochkeppel, Sonjia Gavin, and Cherie Bradshaw.

—*Canon Wendy Claire Barrie*

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children's Chapel returned in October, and the response was so positive that it has become a weekly offering at the 9 a.m. service. Each week, following the reading of the Gospel, children pre-school through 2nd grade are invited to process to Thomsen Chapel to hear the same Gospel story in a developmentally appropriate telling, along with singing and prayer. They return to the nave at the Peace

—*Canon Wendy Claire Barrie*



◀ *Eat, Play, Love: Water of Life*, July 27, 2022.
[photo: Neil Gavin]



YOUTH

No frostbite or broken limbs were sustained as the youth group kicked off 2022 with a late-January snow-play afternoon over Snoqualmie Pass. Quesadillas and smores over the campfire and hot chocolate kept youth and families toasty warm between sledging runs and snowball fights. The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and Closing of the Door liturgy was again hosted by the youth and Service Corps supported by Chef Marc Aubertin. A robust crew of cooks, servers, and decorators assisted with the meal and members of the high school Schola lead the chanting of our final Alleluias while the reredos doors were closed. We don't just deal with food in youth groups. Our youth participated in the Intergenerational Hikes in February and April, and they strapped on roller-skates, rollerblades, unicycles and bicycles for the Pentecost Ride, Run, and Roll around Seward Park in May. This year's Pentecost event ended with the traditional root beer floats! Roller-skating became a theme in 2022, with the youth group and chaperones hitting Southgate Roller Rink—and winning both the youth and adult speed races for the day! Then in Bristol, UK, the Schola members participating in the Evensong Choir pilgrimage spent an evening in an outdoor riverfront roller rink.

The 2022–23 confirmation class was formed in Spring of 2022 to include six youth exploring theology, scripture, tradition, and service in a mix of online and in-person classes taught by Clara Berg, David Wagner, Wendy Barrie, and Rebekah Gilmore. The students are contemplating confirmation at Cathedral Day in April 2023.

During Lent, the youth were joined by Bishop Greg Rickel to walk the Stations of the Cross, hung in the cathedral nave and this year donated in honor of Bishop Rickel's father. For many of the youth, this was their first exposure to the spiritual practice of praying the Stations.

As a part of the intention of the broader community of Saint Mark's to learn from and take action to support the Coast Salish people on whose land the cathedral was built, the youth attended the visit of Duwamish Tribal Chair The Hon. Cecile Hansen, in conversation with Dean Thomason, and later traveled to West Seattle to visit the Duwamish Longhouse to broaden their understanding of the Duwamish people, their history, and traditions. Later in the year, Theologian-in-residence Dr. Hillary Raining offered a reprise of her "Blood Memory" class, this time specially geared toward the youth, which explored deep questions of intergenerational trauma and healing, informed by an indigenous perspective.

The youth of Saint Mark's took up a couple of pews at the Beyoncé Mass in May, a thought-provoking liturgical experience grounded in womanist theology. Afterwards they sat down with Canon Wendy Barrie and Clara Berg to debrief. Then, in a gathering that was not widely publicized, the youth sat down with global rap artist, Seattle native, and Capitol Hill neighbor Macklemore. He spoke about his experience of art-making, struggles with addiction, faith, and redemption when our judgment strays.

In October, 12 youth and four adult leaders traveled to Gold Bar, WA to retreat at Camp Huston. Engaging in a rhythm of morning and evening prayer, group learning and discussion sessions, intentional snacking, alone time and exuberant play time, the group was both stalwart and joyful despite the oppressive smoke from the nearby forest fire. The youth expressed interest in an annual retreat of this kind... minus the smoke.

—Rebekah Gilmore

▲ Youth outing to Snoqualmie Pass,

January 30, 2022 [photos: Rebekah Gilmore]

20s/30s GROUP

2022 programming for the 20s/30s group continued to integrate formation, community, justice and play with many new members joining and participating. Fewer COVID restrictions created more space for impromptu, unofficial gatherings such as lunch after church and potluck dinners.

We started the year in the season of Epiphany with a Bagel Bar after church and a Sunday evening pop-up “Questioning Together” gathering exploring themes of light and darkness. Other evening conversations on important faith-focused topics were offered throughout the year, including one on liturgy with Cathedral Sacristan Michael Seewer, and discussing the Apocalypse in the context of Advent with the Rev. Linzi Stahlecker.

As we entered Lent, we took time to pause, connect and reflect by going on a bird walk, reflecting in “A Holy Thread”—a conversation drawing from *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*—with Canon Jennifer King Daugherty joining us for one of the sessions. We also walked the Stations of the Cross with a reflection led by the Visual Arts Ministry. There was an opportunity for learning about the contemplative spiritual practice of *lectio divina* and diving into scripture with a study on “Scripture and Empire.” Canon Michael Kleinschmidt gave us a behind the scenes tour of the Flentrop organ and allowed extra time for a hymn sing-along.

In June, a group of 20s/30s experienced the beauty of the coastline and forest of the Olympic Peninsula on a backpacking trip, made in collaboration with the Seattle Service Corps. Summer fun continued with an “Explore Bainbridge Day” where we toured St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, visited the Japanese Exclusion Memorial, and enjoyed lunch at the home of parishioners John Simmons and Scott Hulet. August marked the end of monthly Night Prayer, an offer-



ing we launched in the early part of the pandemic in 2021 to pray together even when in lockdown. The end of the regular offering created opportunities for special Pop-Up Night Prayer offerings such as a Bilingual Night Prayer. In September, we attended a Mariners game, and also enjoyed a liturgical farm to table dinner, “Heart of the Table,” at Nurturing Roots Farm.

In the fall, we got to meet the incoming Seattle Service Corps members at “Evensong and Tacos.” We launched our fifth Sunday Stairway Walk from Trinity Parish to learn more about the church’s history and the development of downtown and the waterfront. We also welcomed the start of new 20s/30s staff lead, Luke Abdow, who helped plan our second annual “Spreadable Hope” event to benefit Edible Hope. Penny and Rob Reid hosted our second annual Candy Cane Lane and the timing of meeting for Christmas Lights and the new snow made the gathering feel even more festive.

As we turn toward 2023, we look forward to new and creative opportunities to connect, share our spiritual journeys, participate in service, and build community.

—Luke Abdow

▲ “Heart of the Table” at Nurturing Roots Farm, September 18, 2022. [photo: Emily Meeks]

SEATTLE SERVICE CORPS

Now in its seventh program year, the Seattle Service Corps continues to be a lively ministry of Saint Mark's.

In June 2022 we said goodbye to the 6 young women who made up the 2021–22 Service Corps cohort. The second half of their year included participation in the first Diocesan-Wide Contemplative Young Adult Retreat in mid-February. Throughout the late winter and spring, the corps members continued to participate in weekly formation days including topics and conversations focused on Liberation Theology, an exploration of embodiment and spirit, and reading together *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James H. Cone. The group finished their year together with a spring retreat at St. Andrew's House, reflecting on their year and finding rest and renewal as they began their transitions away from Seattle.

At that time we also said goodbye to Service Corps Director Adam Conley, who followed his calling to seminary in Tennessee this summer. In October we welcomed our new director, Luke Abdow, who himself was a member of an Episcopal Service Corps program in Boston for two years. We are grateful to Adam for his four years guiding the program, to Luke for joining this adventure, and for the ongoing support of our Advisory Board members, the members of the search committee, and the Saint Mark's community.

In late August 2022, we welcomed seven new Corps members from across the country and Canada. They are spending this year in intentional community life, formation, prayer and discernment. They each bring with them their own goals and motivations, and are developing practices and projects to meet these ambitions.

Corps members spend 32 hours per week at their site placements, working with Seattle area nonprofits and churches to further their missions of justice and service in the world. This year these include Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light, the Seattle Seafarers Center, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Mercy Housing Northwest, the Diocese of Olympia, Edible Hope at St. Luke's Ballard, Real Change News, and the Saint Mark's Communications Office.

Weekly Monday formation days are an opportunity for facilitated learning, reflection, discernment, spiritual practices, play, and fellowship. This year's cohort enjoyed a week-long orientation retreat at St. Andrew's House on the Hood Canal in September, as well as a fall retreat at Camp Huston in Gold Bar. In February we will join the Diocesan Young Adult Contemplative Retreat, and in May we'll return to St. Andrew's House for our final retreat.

—Luke Abdow

► The 2022/23 Service Corps cohort were welcomed, blessed, and commissioned during the 11 a.m. Sunday morning service, October 10, 2022.





CATHEDRAL YOGA

Cathedral Yoga went from strength to strength in 2022. At the start of the year, the Monday evening gatherings were already welcoming 40–50 participants each week. By the end of the year, attendance was reliably over 60, and occasionally exceeded 80 people. (In January of 2023 Cathedral Yoga exceeded 100 participants for the first time.) Every week, without fail, there are people who have never seen the inside of Saint Mark's before.

Two regular monthly offerings began in the spring: an “Organ Meditation” on the first Monday of the month (30 minutes of drone-based improvisations played on the Mighty Flentrop by Associate Organist John Stuntebeck as a prelude to the yoga class) and a “Sound Bath” on the third Monday of the month (a 30-minute presentation of singing bowls and other instruments, which create extraordinary psychoacoustic effects in the nave's unique acoustic). The sacred space of the cathedral nave is a setting for yoga unlike any other, and these monthly offerings were an effort to take full advantage of those resources which make it unique.

Cathedral Yoga has attracted a roster of skilled, professional instructors, who also connect with and respond to the cathedral space. Saint Mark's Yoga Ministry founder Wendy Townsend had to step away from regular teaching in 2022, as did Sally Senger. The regular monthly teachers at the end of 2022 were Leah Adams, a specialist in a gentle, contemplative style known as Yin Yoga, Saint Mark's member Ruth Sonawane, Annabell DuMez-Mattheson, and Luna Miller. Andrew Ragan taught on a substitute basis several times, and then in November and December he led two extraordinary sessions of “facilitated breathwork” in lieu of regular yoga. Participants spent the session simply breathing, but with focused awareness and intention, while being accompanied by improvised music from the Flentrop which gradually increased in volume and tempo. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

—Gregory Bloch

▲ Final relaxation during Cathedral Yoga led by Luna Miller, January 2, 2023 [GB]



WORSHIP & PRAYER

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

2022 saw the liturgical ministries at Saint Mark's return almost entirely to pre-pandemic levels. Cathedral liturgies now have a full complement of liturgical ministers, and new expectations (like mask wearing and vaccination requirements) have become a part of normal routines. I am extremely grateful for the leadership of the ministry leaders who assist in coordinating all the many volunteer positions in liturgical ministries across our numerous services, both Sunday and weekday. We have had many new liturgical ministers trained this year, and many more being trained as we speak.

As we enter 2021, we have a particular need for oblation bearers at both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday liturgies, chalice bearers at the 7 p.m. Sunday Contemplative Eucharist, and ushers at the 11 a.m. Sunday liturgy. If you are interested in these roles, or in any of the ministries at any of the liturgies, I'd love to have a conversation with you! Reach out to me if you're interested in exploring one of the many opportunities to serve.

A special thank you to Peter Snyder, Beatrix Roemheld-Hamm, Sue Tait and Walter Stuteville, Kathy Sodergren, Wayne Duncan, Don Sutkus, John Selberg, Kevin Johnson, Erik Donner, Ray Miller, and many, many others for taking on leadership in various liturgical ministries.

—Michael Seewer

DAILY OFFICE

Saint Mark's continues to be blessed by its thriving Daily Office Ministry. In 2022, the Daily Office offerings at Saint Mark's consisted of nightly Evening Prayer, Wednesday Morning Prayer (every Wednesday morning), and Thursday Morning Prayer (on the second, fourth, and last Thursdays



every month). We pivoted to offering Evening Prayer on Wednesdays in-person again (the first time since pre-pandemic), while Evening Prayer the other days of the week continued on Zoom. At the end of 2022, the decision was made to discontinue Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings, and the Thursday Morning Prayer no longer meets on the fifth Thursdays of the months when those occur (Holy Eucharist is celebrated in person in Thomsen Chapel on those Thursday mornings when Morning Prayer doesn't meet, this is, on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of the month).

Many thanks to our many passionate and flexible worship leaders for your continued leadership and support of the Daily Office ministries at Saint Mark's: Jo Ann Bailey, Sue Tait, Michael Murphree, Julia Logan, Deborah Person, Sarah Elwood, Penny Reid, Kathleen Nyhuis, Pamela Bradburn, Emily Meeks, Lynne Markova, Russ Campbell, and Norm & Tovi Harris! Thank you also to our Curate, the Rev. Linzi Stahlecker, for offering continued support to the Daily Office ministries.

—Michael Seewer

▲ The Stripping of the Altar, Maundy Thursday, 2022 [KJ].

◀ (previous page) A selection of stills drawn from livestream liturgy videos from throughout 2022.

► The candle bowl and Pantokrator icon were used in the first of the cathedral Taizé services, April 5, 2022. [GB]



TAIZÉ PRAYER

Toward the end of 2021, a group of parishioners began having conversations about their shared desire to bring Taizé Prayer to Saint Mark's. After many months of dreaming and planning with the Dean and Vestry, the new Taizé Ministry offered its first service on April 5, 2022 in the cathedral nave. We are calling the services "Candlelit Prayer with music from Taizé" to honor the wishes of the monks who live in community in Taizé, France—their hope is that liturgies using the Taizé style are first and foremost about Prayer, and not about Taizé.

Since that first Taizé liturgy was offered in April, three additional Taizé liturgies were offered through the rest of 2022. This ministry has been blessed by the talent of a group of people from Saint Mark's whose passion and love for Taizé Prayer and Music brings life and beauty to this unique and ecumenical worship style. Thank you to Hannah Hochkeppel, Arthur Lee, Natalie Tapias, Jane Carter, Bruce Solsten, and Adam Conley, who shaped what Taizé Prayer at Saint Mark's would look like, as well as to the many musicians who have added their voices to the beauty of the services, especially Ben Cope.

We are offering five Taizé Prayer liturgies throughout 2023, and look forward to new and creative ways of sharing the

Taizé prayer style with Saint Mark's. If you are interested in learning more about this unique ministry and how you might contribute, we would love to speak to you. Reach out to Michael Seewer (mseewer@saintmarks.org) or Hannah Hochkeppel (hannah.hochkeppel@gmail.com) if interested!

—Michael Seewer

SAINT MARK'S QUILT MINISTRY

As part of the Pastoral Care network the Saint Mark's Quilt Ministry sews quilts to be given to parishioners in times of illness, in transition, and blessings for staff and parish family departures. This year we added small flannel blankets to be given to families welcoming newborns. This project proved to be so easy and fun that one member made dozens of them! Some slightly older siblings also received child-sized quilts.

Quilts were on beds in Leffler House to welcome new Seattle Service Corps members. We were delighted to hear that a former SSC member was taking his quilt to a new post in Japan. Saint Mark's sent staffers to new jobs, parishioners to seminary and the Rubio family out of sanctuary, all with quilts of blessing. Saint Mark's welcomed a Syrian family with quilts when they came to share their story during a meeting in Bloedel. By the end of December, a second Afghan family with small children was welcomed with quilts as they made Leffler House their temporary home in Seattle.

We were a busy group in 2022, meeting monthly to sew new quilts, to finish completed layers with colorful yarn ties, to enjoy being in community with one another and to share a potluck lunch. You don't need to sew or quilt to join us. We have machines and can teach simple sewing skills. Tying is easy to learn and is an essential part of our work.

Total quilts given in 2022: 30

Total infant blankets given in 2022: 12

—Sandra Piscitello

HOSPITALITY/NEWCOMERS MINISTRY

The Newcomers' Ministry hosted monthly Newcomers' Coffees and responded to an average of 10 online inquiries every month. Ministry volunteers met frequently with individuals seeking information and connection with Saint Mark's, and guided them to ministries, programs, and groups. It's worth noting that in recent years a significant portion of newcomers who affiliate with the parish are young adults. Many of the newcomers of all ages attend the Inquirers' Class and seek confirmation or reception and become members.

—*The Rev. Earl Grout*

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

This year found the Eucharistic Visitor Ministry continuing to live into its mission with a spirit of flexibility given the ebb and flow of community COVID status. We give thanks for our visitors who have met the need with great compassion, adapting to the requirements of parishioner health status and facility requirements. The gifts of the table and community are perhaps even more poignant during times of uncertainty, and through the barriers of infection control. This year brought the loss of several parishioners that we see no longer, and our band of visitors has known the blessing of the holy ground that makes itself known during those times.

Should you have any questions about the ministry or want to learn more about becoming a licensed visitor, or if you have need of a visit, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Johnson (contact info in the cathedral directory) or The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty.

—*Kevin Johnson*

VISUAL ARTS MINISTRY

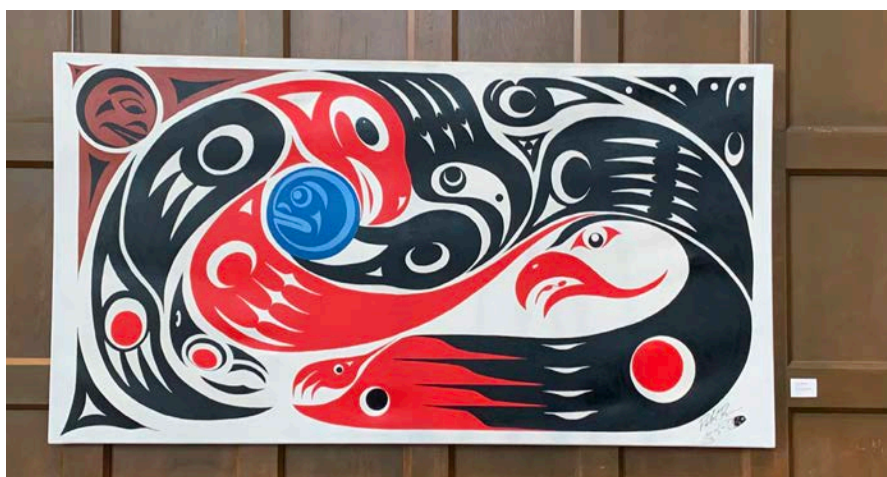
VAM's 2022 began with the rehangings in the nave of *The Stations of the Cross* by sculptor Virginia Maksymowicz. We are grateful to The Rt. Rev. Gregory & Mrs. Marti Rickel for donating funds this year in memory of his father Morris E. Rickel, Jr. for the purchase of the Stations for Saint Mark's.

In early spring of 2021 parishioner Louise Kind gave Saint Mark's a grant in memory of her husband Walt Kind to mount an art exhibition by a Coast Salish artist. After an extensive research process, we invited Upper Skagit artist Peter Boome to exhibit his paintings and serigraphs in the nave in the late spring and early summer of this past year. One of the paintings displayed was the template for a large mural depicting orcas that Mr. Boome has since completed at Pier 66 on the Seattle waterfront. Another canvas, entitled *Birds of a Feather*, is now hung in a place of honor in Bloedel Hall, thanks to the generous donations of 25 of Saint Mark's parishioners. Boome's informative Sunday morning Forum about Coast Salish art is available as a video on the Saint Mark's website.

Several projects are being considered for next year and beyond, including an exhibition of art in 2023 by artists portraying Washington farmworkers and agriculture, to be cosponsored by the Creation Care Ministry.

—*Deborah Brown*

▼ *Birds of a Feather*, a large painting by Coast Salish artist Peter Boome, on exhibit in the cathedral nave. After the work was acquired for the cathedral, it was installed in its permanent location in Bloedel Hall. [GB]



CATHEDRAL MUSIC PROGRAM



▲ Canon Kleinschmidt conducting a rehearsal of the Evensong Choir in Bristol Cathedral during the choir's UK pilgrimage in August, 2022. [photo: Charles Gagnon]

Having endured nearly two years of pandemic-imposed limitations on singing together, Saint Mark's worshipping assemblies reclaimed their song in 2022, *Deo gratias!* While not yet quite as robust as it was before the pandemic, the congregations' singing grew more and more confident throughout 2022, especially in the oft-repeated pieces of service music such as settings of the Lord's Prayer.

Approximately 65 adults and 55 children sang regularly in the cathedral's choirs. All the choirs' repertoires expanded to include more compositions by women and black composers. The Cathedral Choir claimed the gallery as their home base, having found the choir room uncomfortably small for singing by groups of more than 25 people with pandemic-informed sensibilities. Saint Mark's Singers grew notably more skilled at singing in four-part harmony, unaccompanied.

The Evensong Choir went on pilgrimage to England in August, where they served as choir-in-residence for a week each in Chichester and Bristol Cathedrals. They

supplemented pilgrimage scholarship funds raised in 2021 with two fundraising events in 2022: a Cabaret in March and a Psalmathon in May.

The Choir School's ensembles happily returned to full operation in 2022. Please see the Choir School Director's full report below.

As usual, a combination of cantors, organists, and Artist-in-Residence Choirs provided musical leadership while the cathedral's choirs were on summer break. This summer the Mägi Ensemble and the Seattle Choral Company each sang at least one 11 a.m. Eucharist.

With the return in 2022 of Contemplative Eucharists on Sundays at 7 p.m., a rota of six musicians resumed playing and singing music to frame the extended silences that characterize that liturgy.

Saint Mark's Music Series continued to draw appreciative audiences of all ages. The longstanding tradition of brief organ recitals after Compline had become somewhat sporadic before the pandemic, and so when in-person Compline resumed, there were relaunched as a predictable monthly offering on the third Sunday of the month, under the auspices of the Music Series, now called "Organ by Night." These recitals continued in 2022. There are almost always attendees who have never seen or heard a real pipe organ up close before, and a lively Q&A always follows the recital. For more information about these ministries, please see the Canon Musician's full report about the Music Series below.

In July, Saint Mark's hosted several events as part of the American Guild of Organists' biennial National Convention, held in Seattle for the first time since 2000. In addition to hosting the final round of the National Young Artists Competition in Or-

gan Performance, and two recitals by concert organist, Isabelle Demers, Saint Mark's offered our famous "O" Antiphons liturgy on two consecutive evenings. Hundreds of conventioners attended, sang lustily, and expressed appreciation for the rare opportunity to hear the Advent message in mid-summer.

In January, Lucas Jindra, a student at Saint Olaf College, spent his January term as Music Intern at Saint Mark's. He observed all aspects of the cathedral's musical ministries, received lessons in organ playing from staff organists, sang in the Cathedral Choir, and participated as organist in Sunday liturgies and "Organ by Night."

In November, Saint Mark's welcomed Jim Van Horn to the cathedral staff as part-time Music Librarian, and Laura Loge as part-time Music Series Manager.

Profound thanks to the music staff, all choral singers, Choir School families, cantors, instrumentalists, concert hosts, Friends of the Music Series, and all other volunteers who give generously of their time, talent, and treasure to ensure the vitality of Saint Mark's musical ministries.

— Canon Michael Kleinschmidt

CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL

The Choir School returned almost completely to its pre-pandemic rhythm during 2022. As of September, rehearsals have moved from the spacious cathedral nave back into the St. Nicholas building (with help from air purifiers), where the choirs enjoy a dedicated rehearsal space with individual binder cubbies for each chorister and our vesting area. We have been pleased to see the number of participating choristers return to pre-pandemic levels; there are now 54 choristers enrolled in three choirs. These choirs rotate singing for the Sunday morning 9 a.m. liturgies, often collaborating with the Saint Mark's Singers. The Senior Choristers (upper-elementary/middle school) and Schola (high school) share their

robust choral leadership during Holy Week, singing for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil liturgies.

Last spring, the high school Schola attended the Beyoncé Mass, held at Saint Mark's on a Friday night. They then gathered in Leffler Living Room, engaged in conversation about what they had experienced, worship style, and womanist theology well into the night. They then woke up early the next morning, Saturday, to sing for the extended Cathedral Day liturgy. Then they returned at 8 a.m. the day after that, to sing for the 9 a.m. Sunday morning service as well. That's commitment on the part of those busy teenagers!

In late June, the Schola was afforded a unique opportunity to appear in the filming of the music video of "Chant," a new release by global rap star and Seattle native, Macklemore, featuring Australian pop artist Tones and I. The Schola joined with Seattle area gospel singers in the nave to lip sync to a pre-recorded track. Soon after the shoot, the Schola was able to get a quick Instagram-worthy photo with Macklemore on the steps of the cathedral.

In July the Senior Choristers participated, along with the Cathedral Choir and the Compline Choir, in the two special offerings of the "O" Antiphons liturgy, presented as part of the American Guild of Organists national convention in Seattle.

The summer saw a return to fully in-person Choir Camp for the Senior Choristers as well as the launch of a concurrent Junior

▼ The Evensong Choir rehearsing in Bristol Cathedral.
[photo: Charles Gagnon]





▲ The music video for the song “Chant” by Macklemore ft. Tones and I was filmed at Saint Mark’s and featured the Flentrop, the narthex, and the youth of the Schola. After the filming wrapped up, Macklemore took a photo with the Schola (below), and later returned to Saint Mark’s to sit down for a conversation with the youth of the cathedral. (See “Youth,” p. 20.)



Chorister partial day camp. The Choir Camp theme was *Listen! God is Calling*, and throughout the week we explored the different ways to pay attention to God’s work in our lives. As choristers, the call to listen is ever present and the balance between singing loudly enough that your neighbor can hear you but softly enough to hear your neighbor is truly a life lesson with application beyond music.

We enjoyed the expertise of Lacey Brown in percussion class, Kay Hessemer in handbell class, Shannon Keeler in piano class, and Michael Kleinschmidt with our young organ students. Campers stretched out on the floor during a choral listening class, led by Rebekah Gilmore, to be inspired by great repertoire and great performances. All campers were visited by a panel of tenor and bass adult singers who shared their experience of transitioning from boy sopranos into the bass clef singers they are today. In addition to daily morning prayer, the campers offered choral leadership for the 11 a.m. service the following Sunday. This year’s camp might have been targeted

at the 5–13-year-olds, but the high school Schola were an invaluable presence all week long, a force of enthusiastic leadership and modeling.

From July 31 through August 16, the five Senior Choristers and eleven Schola choristers of the Evensong Choir traveled with their adult colleagues to the United Kingdom for residencies at Chichester and Bristol Cathedrals. Challenging music in historic spaces and the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of so many that shaped our liturgical tradition was a brilliant experience for the Evensong Choir.

The Pageant of the Nativity returned to regular staging and seating configurations after the pandemic-related modifications last year. The four choirs, organists, and brass ensemble, along with rousing congregational singing, came together to enrich telling of the Nativity story with repertoire spanning five centuries. In a last-minute twist, the Pageant of the Nativity 2022 was postponed due to a Winter Storm Warning and so became the Pageant of Epiphany 2023 instead, taking place on January 6.

—Rebekah Gilmore

THE COMPLINE CHOIR

2022 was the year of returning to prior best practices and rediscovering The Compline Choir's core ensemble sound, and of exploring familiar and new repertoire. Over the course of the year, we premiered a new work entitled *A Hymn of Faith* by member Gregory Bloch, began and completed an exploration of square-note (Gregorian) chant notation, participated in the cathedral's presentation of the "O" Antiphons service for the American Guild of Organist's national convention in July, welcomed again the Women's Compline Choir under Rebekah Gilmore's leadership to chant the Office in the summer, offered a special Compline service in memory of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, premiered a new work—commissioned by Paul Johns and dedicated to The Rev. Canon Patricia Taylor and The Compline Choir—entitled *Love Never Ends* by Alice Parker, and welcomed the Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel to chant the office with the choir—one of his last official duties at the cathedral.

The Choir's membership has been steady, but not without change. In January, our long-term decani alto substitute Joey Blundell became a full member. In June, cantoris bass David Gary was forced to take long-term leave to focus on his recovery after an accident while backpacking. (He returned to the choir in January 2023.) In October, we

bid farewell to long-time member Thomas Adams, decani alto, who moved to Minnesota; John Garlid has moved "up" from the tenor section to fill the alto vacancy, and we anticipate bringing on a new decani tenor in Lent 2023. The Compline Choir's members bring a cumulative 384 years of experience singing the office of compline, with an average term-of-service of 16.75 years.

The board entered maintenance mode in 2022, as it sought to recover from the ravages of the pandemic. Still, the board accomplished or continued working on many items from the Choir's strategic plan. Areas for growth in 2023 include adoption of a new member covenant agreement, more active management of our digital music channels, exploration of TikTok to reach more persons under age 24, and fundraising for the 2024 England pilgrimage and new choir stalls.

The Board of Governors includes Jeffrey Ricco, James Wilcox, Kenneth Pendergrass, Jim Buskirk, Maria Drury, René Marceau, Fred McIlroy, Vernon Nicodemus, Phil Lloyd, and *ex officio* members Jason Anderson, The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason, and The Most Rev. Melissa Skelton. The *ex officio* position accorded Classical KING is currently vacant. If you have questions about The Compline Choir, please contact Jason Anderson at director@complinechoir.org

—Dr. Jason Anderson



◀ The Compline Choir was joined by Bishop Rickel (second from right) to chant the office on November 6, 2022, observing the Feast of All Saints.

COMPLINE IN 2022, BY THE NUMBERS

Weekly estimated listeners via KING-FM radio or internet stream	6,000
Weekly in-person attendance since re-opening	128
Weekly live livestream viewers (watching as the compline service happens)	60
Weekly additional livestream viewers (watching after the livestream has ended)	260
Weekly podcast clicks, interactions, and downloads	1,453
Weekly listeners to the Compline Choir's commercially-recorded music on Spotify.	394
Actual weekly streams, downloads, and purchases of digital music.	710
Actual weekly Compline Choir website visitors	260
Average weekly reach (sum of above)	9,275
Average annual reach	482,300

PETER R. HALLOCK INSTITUTE

The board met five times in 2022. Board accomplishments included exhibition at both the Association of Anglican Musicians conference in Richmond, Virginia, and the American Guild of Organists convention in Seattle, Washington; initial planning for a celebration of Peter Hallock's 100th birthday in 2024 through music and song; and final uploads of the complete database of Peter Hallock's works, which will soon appear as a searchable database on Version 2 of the Institute's website (hallockinstitute.org) launching in the first half of 2023.

Readers may recall that in 2020 the board established an allied director compensation fund, initially funded through a three-year descending grant from both the cathedral and diocese, combined with sustaining funds from the Institute and The Compline Choir, making compensation of the Compline Choir Director a reality for the first time in its history, beginning in 2021. Grants from the cathedral and diocese end as of 2023; maintaining the Director's compensation is predicated on successful future fundraising by the Institute and The Com-

pline Choir. When these organizations ask for your support, we hope you'll give generously.

At its annual meeting in early May, the board feted Joel Matter and John Henson as both completed their terms of service. In their stead, the board welcomed Michael Kleinschmidt (Saint Mark's Cathedral, Seattle), David Ouzts (Church of the Holy Communion, Memphis), and Michael Silhavy (GIA Publications, Chicago). In November, Compline Choir alumnus and composer Kevin Siegfried resigned from the board; the bishop approved Jeff Junkinsmith, Compline Choir alumnus and composer, to succeed him.

The current Board of Directors includes David Ouzts, Gerard van Wesep, Heather MacLaughlin Garbes, Jason Anderson, Jeff Junkinsmith, Katherine Crosier, Michael Kleinschmidt, Michael Silhavy, Robin Ethridge, The Rev. Stephen Crippen (Bishop's designee), and the Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason. If you have questions about the Hallock Institute, please contact Jason Anderson at director@hallockinstitute.org

—Dr. Jason Anderson

SAINT MARK'S MUSIC SERIES

Saint Mark's Music Series continued to draw appreciative audiences of all ages in 2022. Madeleine Stephens, manager of the series since 2018, left Saint Mark's staff at the end of January to become Marketing Manager for Issaquah's Village Theatre. The Canon Musician, the Director of Communications, and a corps of faithful volunteers sustained management of the series until November, when Laura Loge was appointed to the cathedral staff as Music Series Manager. In particular, thanks are due to volunteers Kay Hessemmer and Susan Vanek for their fearless management of the will call and ticket sales tables at all 2022 concerts; and staff colleague Gregory Bloch for publicizing and helping manage the series from February through October.

Profound thanks to the Friends of the Music Series whose generous financial contributions sustain the vitality of the series and make admission to concerts affordable for all.

Here are the concerts which were offered in 2022, all of which were available in person and via (paid) livestream:

- ♦ **Flentrop Organ Concert**, January 14. Staff organists John Stuntebeck and Michael Kleinschmidt performed compositions based on two of the church's canticles: the *Magnificat* and the *Te Deum laudamus*. The concert included the first performance of a new composition commissioned from Oklahoma-based composer Rebecca Groom Te Velde, presented by John Stuntebeck.
- ♦ **Organ Plus**, in Thomsen Chapel, February 20. Guest artists Una Hwang, organist, and Svend Rønning, violinist, offered a varied program of continental European music.
- ♦ **Northwest Art Song**, March 11. Guest artists Arwen Myers, soprano, and Susan McDaniel, piano, offered music by Harriet

Cohen, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Herbert Howells, Louis Vierne, Florence Price, Samuel Barber, and Leonard Bernstein.

- ♦ **All Bach on the Flentrop Organ**, May 13. Finally, after postponements in 2020 and 2021 resulting from pandemic-era border-crossing restrictions, the German-born Canadian organist Alexander Weimann at last was able to make it to Saint Mark's to perform much of Bach's *Clavierübung III*. This concert was co-sponsored by Early Music Seattle and the Seattle Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. This collaboration with Saint Mark's Music Series yielded an unusually large audience for an organ concert. Over 250 people attended.
- ♦ **The Complete Organ Works of César Franck**, October 21 & 22. In celebration of the 200th birthday of Belgian composer and organist César Franck (1822–1890), guest organists Adam Pajan and Joseph Arndt performed his complete organ works over two evenings. In between, they offered lectures and workshops about the context and performance practice of Franck's organ music. This "Franck Fest" was co-sponsored by the Seattle Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Organ by Night, established in August, 2021, is a series of 20-minute recitals on the Flentrop organ offered immediately after Compline on the third Sunday of every month. Attendance grew steadily in 2022 from approximately 20 guests in the gallery to over 40. Many guests have never before heard nor seen a pipe organ in person. The brief Q&A period following the recital is a highlight of Organ by Night. Staff and visiting organists alike feel they are doing useful "missionary work" for the Flentrop organ specifically, and the witness of Saint Mark's Cathedral generally. This series is now managed as a branch of Saint Mark's Music Series.

— Canon Michael Kleinschmidt

COMMUNICATIONS

After two years during which churches were forced to reconsider almost everything about communications, 2022 was a year to regain stability and become more and more comfortable with the new normal. For example, while livestream/hybrid equipment in Bloedel Hall was installed in the fall of 2021, it was in 2022 that the procedures for using the equipment became routine and stress-free. By the end of 2022, we were using that equipment for everything from intimate seminars, to all-day workshops, to large symposiums with presenters located around the world. That same equipment was even used for a hybrid Rosh Hashanah liturgy! And it is not only the hybrid events themselves which have become more predictable, but also the editing and posting of video recordings afterward. In 2022, a total of 47 complete forum and workshop videos were posted to the cathedral's YouTube account and embedded on the cathedral website, plus additional shorter videos and excerpts. The result is that the cathedral website is not simply a record of events in the past, but an enduring and accessible resource.

The cathedral's weekly newsletter was also consolidated and refined in 2022, after being rethought and redesigned in 2021. Simply because of the sheer amount of activities and offerings in this community each week, the newsletter will always be long, but the intention is to use design conventions, typography, and integration with the website to make it as accessible and navigable as possible. The office of the Communications Director also facilitates less frequent email newsletters for specific ministry groups, including a bimonthly Creation Care newsletter, a seasonal email about Intergenerational offerings, and special newsletters for liturgical ministers and 20s/30s.

In May of 2022 the Director of Communications attended the national conference of Episcopal Communicators, at which two entries from Saint Mark's were recognized

at the Polly Bond Awards for excellence in Church Communications. (Due to disruptions in the previous years, work completed in 2021 or 2020 was eligible for the 2022 awards.) First *The Rubric*, the cathedral's magazine, received an Award of Merit in the category "Best Print Newsletter/Magazine—Parish or Cathedral." The adjudicators praised the magazine as "well-written, clear... with a commitment to diversity in authors and content," and "beautifully laid out, with strong visuals... clean and inviting." Then *The Way of the Cross*, the filmed liturgy produced by parishioner David Wild in the very early days of the pandemic lockdown, featuring the sculptures of Virginia Maksymowicz and the music of parishioner James Falzone, received the Award of Excellence (i.e. first place) in the category "Best Long-Form Video." The judges said, "You made a beautiful, powerful piece of art here... beautiful and mesmerizing... delivers something in a digital format that feels fresh, but never lost sight of the sacred nature of the content."

Only two issues of *The Rubric* were published in 2022, in large part due to the departure of Rubric editor Adam Conley, who left in June to begin seminary. He is greatly missed, but toward the end of 2022 the role of editor was taken on by Maria Coldwell, so stay tuned for some interesting new *Rubric* issues in 2023.

One of the least appreciated but most significant aspects of cathedral communication is signage, both interior and exterior. In 2022, with masks first required, then optional, then recommended, informational signage needed to be clear, up-to-date, and ready for nimble revision as policies and circumstances change. On the other hand, revisions to signs which are intended to last for some time, such as the language on the restroom signage, were revised in 2022 in a consultative process with the Vestry and other stakeholders.

Social media remains a key part of the overall communications strategy of the

IN 2022...

New Facebook followers:

224

New Instagram followers:

208

New sign-ups for cathedral emails:

451

Unique viewers on Vimeo:

6,100

Net new YouTube subscribers:

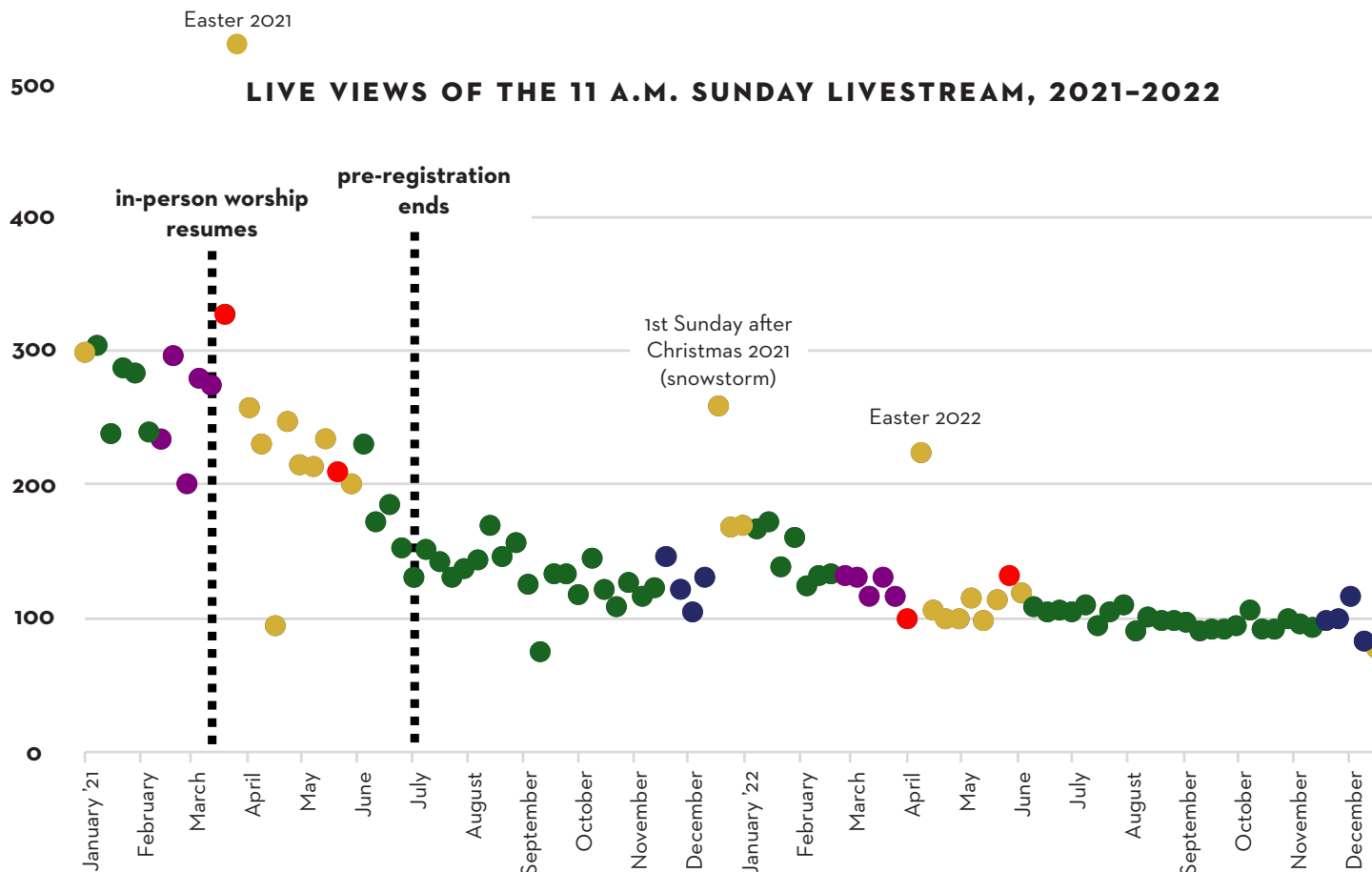
+337

Total YouTube views in 2022:

94,336

Total YouTube watch time:

10,624.6 hours



cathedral, including the public-facing Facebook account (serving, among other functions, as a venue for live chat during livestreamed services), as well as the closed Facebook group, “Saint Mark’s Community Life,” a space for more informal interaction between community members. The content on the cathedral’s Instagram account is not as flashy as some parishes, but the high quality of the photography and video depicts the vitality of the cathedral well. All these venues were particularly valuable during the Evensong Choir’s pilgrimage to Chichester and Bristol, and the Wisdom School pilgrimage to Iona and ancient Celtic sites of Britain. Facebook and Instagram allowed the community to learn about how the pilgrimages were going in real time.

In previous years, the Communications submission to the annual report would include a summary of how and where Saint Mark’s appeared in local and national media. However, in 2022 the cathedral was mentioned in the new much less frequently than in recent years. In fact, prominent mentions were limited to reports on the

postponed funeral of U.S. Senator from Washington Slade Gorton (offered on May 4, 2022, almost two years after his death), and discussions of Seattle musician SYML’s album *Sacred Spaces: Live at Saint Mark’s Cathedral*.

While it is true that 2022 did not see the experimentation and innovation in communications that characterized the previous two years, one small project did prompt a creative solution. The Vestry requested that some sort of “online card” be made available for people, wherever they might be located, to express their well wishes to Steve and Kathy Thomason on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of their arrival in Seattle in 2012. After considering more sophisticated tools, the simplest solution was settled on—using the basic comment functionality already available on the cathedral website. The “card,” accessible through the URL saintmarks.org/thomason10, prompted 40 responses, from very short to quite long, and many expressed appreciation for the opportunity to express their gratitude to the Thomasons.

▲ While in 2021 live viewership declined as more and more could attend in person, in 2022 the live viewership on Sunday morning became more stable and predictable. In 2022, Sunday morning liturgy videos averaged about 400 on-demand views following the service.

—Gregory Bloch

► While it is on display during the Annual Campaign, the “Gratitude Installation” changes color each week. On the final Sunday of Stewardship Season, it was lit as a full rainbow.

[KJ]



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

The Saint Mark's Stewardship Ministry reminds us that as stewards of God's gifts, we are all called to look inward and live prayerfully into our biblical call to give back generously from God's abundance. Our Stewardship Committee plans and implements an annual fall campaign to remind us of our opportunities for service, encourage our deeper reflection upon gratitude, and celebrate generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure.

The 2023 Annual Appeal, *Trusting in God—Growing in Faith* linked our spiritual faith and our opportunities for service even in times of doubt or challenge. As a prelude to the campaign, the committee invited the community into a series of five Gratitude Conversations to reflect on and strengthen our sense of gratefulness for our lives and God's abundance. During our annual fall appeal, we were honored by many new and long-term parishioners who shared their spiritual journeys and stewardship stories with us, in addresses from the pulpit on Sunday morning, and in video reflections. We chose pieces of visual art from the cathedral collection to highlight, and the “Gratitude Installation” was again displayed from the ceiling of the nave to inspire us. This community continues to be generous in spirit and commitment. The parish pledges for 2023 exceeded those from the prior year, despite economic concerns. Our Stewardship Committee thanks all who contributed in any way to help create opportunities for everyone to participate in our shared stewardship ministry.

—Chris Rigos

CATHEDRAL FOUNDATION OF THE DIOCESE OF OLYMPIA

During 2022 the Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia accomplished the following:

- ◆ Distributed to Saint Mark's Cathedral \$62,502 from endowments to cover planned upkeep and maintenance of the Cathedral's buildings and grounds and \$12,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to cover some of the Cathedral's unbudgeted buildings and grounds expenses as requested by the Dean.
- ◆ Created a Collaborative Stewardship video in partnership with Saint Mark's Cathedral and the Diocese of Olympia to encourage planned giving. The video premiered at the Diocesan Convention in October and at the Cathedral's Planned Giving Workshop in November. The video can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3g6jtQ9>
- ◆ Implemented a relationship with [FreeWill.com](https://www.freewill.com) under a contract with the Diocese for 2022 that has been renewed for 2023. FreeWill offers online tools to facilitate giving through making and updating wills, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from traditional IRAs, and gifts of stock.
- ◆ Updated the Board of Directors manual and transformed it from paper to electronic format. As you consider your many options for charitable contributions and planned giving within your church and community, we hope that you will consider both the Cathedral and the Cathedral Foundation as resources to help you make a meaningful impact on our Cathedral community and its buildings and grounds.

—Phil Haas

▼ The members of the Flower Ministry create exceptional beauty in the nave and chapel each week [KJ/GB]



SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL
OPERATING BUDGET HISTORY, 2005-2022

SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

CATHEDRAL OPERATING BUDGET, 2013-2023

REVENUES	ACTUALS (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)										2023 BUDGET
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN	1,002	1,087	1,116	1,235	1,286	1,341	1,468	1,610	1,729	1,896	1,961
PLATE OFFERING	124	117	110	104	106	112	108	62	64	110	108
GIFTS & GRANTS	103	50	98	66	48	48	48	364	100	111	72
SPECIAL EVENTS	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PROGRAM & SERVICE FEES	103	122	124	138	151	118	118	30	54	140	173
DIOCESE OF OLYMPIA	208	111	65	46	71	68	58	25	25	65	74
CATHEDRAL FOUNDATION	54	127	93	102	106	72	53	67	63	69	68
INTERFUND TRANSFERS/ MISC.	80	76	69	74	42	66	138	93	92	99	102
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,678	\$1,690	\$1,675	\$1,765	\$1,810	\$1,825	\$2,008	\$2,251	\$2,127	\$2,490	\$2,558
EXPENSES											
PERSONNEL	846	904	965	982	940	1,054	1,025	1,201	1,160	1,389	1,470
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT	298	223	238	234	231	235	225	288	266	315	358
MISSION DISBURSEMENTS, OTHER	20	5	39	29	25	24	18	16	16	17	22
PROFESSIONAL FEES	43	50	22	26	52	46	59	55	41	60	123
SUPPLIES & MINOR EQUIPMENT	63	50	42	43	85	60	73	40	58	59	43
COMMUNICATIONS	18	23	29	30	37	37	24	19	25	28	25
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	71	70	88	67	87	46	49	104	99	104	116
EQUIPMENT RENTAL & SERVICE	94	104	103	112	95	76	94	107	64	99	105
UTILITIES	92	91	77	90	105	107	98	81	89	108	110
TRAVEL	2	6	12	4	3	5	2	3	1	1	1
HOSPITALITY	15	15	18	17	13	14	14	3	7	17	11
CONFERENCES & TRAINING	8	14	14	21	19	19	20	20	7	25	40
INSURANCE	23	26	23	27	34	37	26	27	30	33	40
DUES, FEES, & LICENSES	16	17	23	20	21	25	33	37	69	37	36
OTHER	15	20	16	25	38	72	164	54	56	76	91
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,624	\$1,618	\$1,709	\$1,727	\$1,785	\$1,857	\$1,924	\$2,055	\$1,988	\$2,368	\$2,591
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$54	\$72	(\$34)	\$38	\$20	(\$32)	\$84	\$196	\$139	\$122	(\$33)

updated 2/1/2023



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