THE RUBRIC

STORIES OF MINISTRY

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, SEATTLE, WA
WINTER 2016-2017, VOL. 73, NO. 3

SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

WELCOME
INSPIRE
TRANSFORM
SERVE

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.

THE VERY REV. STEVEN L. THOMASON, DEAN & RECTOR;

LIZ BARTENSTEIN, EDITOR

PHOTOS BY KEVIN C. JOHNSON AND LIZ BARTENSTEIN (UNLESS NOTED)

The Rubric is a publication of Saint Mark's Cathedral which celebrates who we are as a community: as a parish, as a cathedral for the Diocese of Olympia, as Episcopalians, and as Christians.

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GREETINGS *from the* DEAN

The cherubic faces in the cover photo of this issue of *The Rubric* are from last year's Pageant of the Nativity. Allow me to shamelessly plug this year's pageant, entitled *Pageant of the Nativity: A Celtic Telling*, set for Monday, December 19, at 7 p.m. in the cathedral. All are welcome.

Pageants are a time-honored church tradition that invite us into the rich story of God coming among us as a little child—a helpless babe, homeless with wayfaring parents, and peasant poor. Whether the story of Jesus' birth happened exactly as recounted in scriptures and our pageants is not the point. We tell the story, and retell it time and again, because at some deep place in our being, we know the story to be true—that God is with us, that oppressive power is paradoxically vanquished by love and selfless service to others, and that we are people of hope who bear witness to these truths here and now, even while they are not yet fully realized.

It is often said that children, like the ones on the front cover, are "the future of the church," which, of course, is meant to be a hopeful statement supporting the investment in children's ministries in places like Saint Mark's Cathedral. But I would suggest that these children stand with us fully in the present, as the church embodied here and now. They are "the present of the church," and we are the richer for their presence and leadership in our midst. They have much to teach us as members of the community now; if we listen intently, we discover that they have beautiful spiritual wisdom which has not yet been tainted and diminished by cynicism or weak resignation. They bring to this community a fresh face and undaunted enthusiasm for whatever excites them, pageants included. We would do well to catch their vision.

The reason we still "do" pageants—donning scrappy costumes and singing our quaint carols—is because the effort opens us to the experience of living the story of Christmas in ways that transform how we see the world today, and how we see ourselves in it. Such pageantry is designed to break us open to the awareness that some baby will be born tonight, hapless, homeless, with weary parents seeking safe refuge, and we are left turning in our beds wondering what are we to do about it.

All that you read in the pages that follow is but dried ink on the page if we are unable to see the details of our community as portals into the pageant of life as the people of God who take a stand today and proclaim this good news that God has come among us. We are invited to engage the powers and principalities of this world on behalf of the least and the lost, the little ones and all who suffer. The children among us help me remember this, and I am grateful. So read on, and know that what is described herein is a retelling in its own right of the good news that God is here and is inspiring us to be the Church—today. And may you know the blessings of God this day and every day of your life.

Steve †

The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason
Dean and Rector

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

8 A.M. Eucharist
in Thomsen Chapel

9 A.M. Eucharist
in the Nave

11 A.M. Eucharist
in the Nave

4:30 P.M. Choral Evensong
in the Nave *(First Sundays, October-May)*

7 P.M. Contemplative Eucharist
in Thomsen Chapel

9:30 P.M. Compline
in the Cathedral Nave,
chanted by the Compline Choir and broadcast live on KING 98.1 FM

WEEKDAY SERVICE TIMES

Monday through Friday

6:30 P.M. Evening Prayer
in McCaw or Thomsen Chapel

Mondays, 7:15 P.M.
Centering Prayer
in Thomsen Chapel

Wednesdays, 12 NOON
Holy Eucharist
in Thomsen Chapel

Thursdays, 7 A.M.
Holy Eucharist
in Thomsen Chapel

For more information about Worship and Prayer at Saint Mark's visit *saintmarks.org.*

"Remember your baptism." Young helpers distribute holy water after the baptisms on All Saints' Sunday at Saint Mark's Cathedral, November 6, 2016.

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ON THE COVER: *Children participate in Saint Mark's 2015 Christmas Pageant. Photo by Kevin Johnson.*

Advent & Christmas
AT SAINT MARK'S

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday, November 27
8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
7 p.m. "O" Antiphons Service
Procession with music, banners, candles and incense

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 3
9 a.m. An Advent Quiet Morning at St. Andrew's, Greenlake
a morning of silence, prayer and reflection, co-sponsored by Saint Mark's

Sunday, December 4
8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist
Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, will visit after the 9 a.m. service
4:30 p.m. Choral Evensong

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 11
8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 18
8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 19, 7 p.m.
Pageant of the Nativity: A Celtic telling
A Celtic telling of the Christmas story told by the children and youth of Saint Mark's Cathedral

Wednesday, December 21
9 a.m. -3 p.m. Greening of the Cathedral
A festive community gathering with music and food, as we decorate our sacred space together

Thursday, December 22
7 p.m. Blue Christmas Service
A special Eucharist in Thomsen Chapel for those who find the holiday season a difficult or painful time

ON THE WEB: *Find and share this schedule on Saint Mark's website at saintmarks.org/adventchristmas*

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24
4 p.m. Holy Eucharist
With music by the Junior and Senior Choristers
Families with children especially welcome
7 p.m. Festive gathering with Music and Carols
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist*
with music by the Evensong Choir
10:15 p.m. Festive Gathering with Music and Carols
11 p.m. Holy Eucharist*
With music by the Cathedral Choir
**Incense will be used at 7:30 & 11 p.m.*

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols
With music by the Saint Mark's Singers

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

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

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

Wednesday, December 28
7 p.m. The Feast of St. John the Evangelist, Holy Eucharist, *Thomsen Chapel*

Thursday, December 29
7 a.m. Holy Eucharist, *Thomsen Chapel*

Saturday, December 31
6 p.m. -12:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk with Midnight Eucharist
As the Labyrinth Walk concludes, and as the new year begins, we will ring bells and celebrate Eucharist commemorating the Feast of the Holy Name.

Sunday, January 1
Holy Eucharist, 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m.
4:30 p.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols with the Evensong Choir

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

Evensong at Saint Mark's

BY MICHAEL KLEINSCHMIDT, CANON MUSICIAN
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"Evensong is a service of quiet and thoughtful worship, of meditation, of learning, remembering, and reflection. There is much rest in it, much time to ponder, and pray, and to relax in God from the strain of mundane life, spreading our souls out in the sunshine of heaven, drinking in the atmosphere of ancient holy deeds and thoughts, strengthening our inner life by the fellowship of the Common Prayer, and lifting up tranquil hearts in piety and thankfulness to the God of our mothers and fathers."
-Percy Dearmer, from *Everyman's History of the Prayer Book*

On the first Sunday of the month, October through May, the cathedral parish gathers with the Evensong Choir for our monthly Evensong liturgy. The pink and orange light of sunset streams in through the west windows of the Cathedral nave and curls of incense rise to the rafters during the opening procession. The voices of children and adults unite to offer a respite from the work of the day and relief from the primal anxiety that attends all human beings at the onset of night.

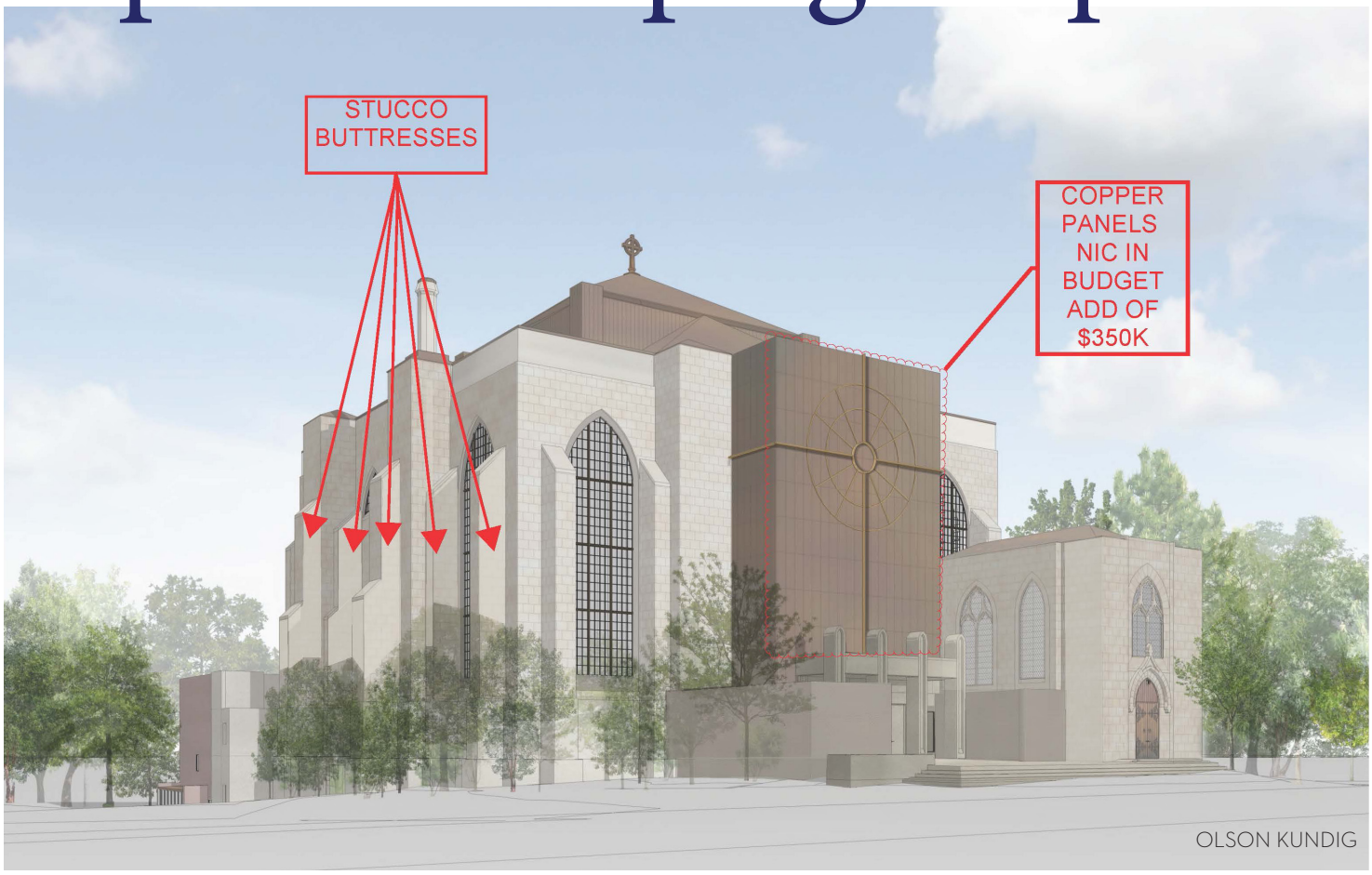
A New but very Old choir was Formed
In the fall of 2015, Canon Musician Michael Kleinschmidt and Choir School Director Rebekah Gilmore began a new choir for the Cathedral based on the centuries-old model of a choir of men and boys. Receiving an inclusive update, the choir now boasts auditioned adult women and men joined by the teenaged singers of the Schola and advanced boys and girls of the Senior Choristers. Much of the fine repertoire of our tradition was intended to be sung by adults on the alto, tenor, and bass lines with highly trained chorister trebles supplying the soprano line. The Evensong Choir returns to that approach incorporating a beautiful and refined "kid color" on the top line with some adult soprano support.

As the Saint Mark's Choir School continues to grow, the need has developed to offer additional challenges to advanced choristers. Members of the Senior Choristers receive a director's invitation to join the Evensong Choir when they demonstrate ability in sight-reading/musicianship, vocal ability, composure, and poise. Those choristers then remain for an additional hour of rehearsal every Wednesday to rehearse Evensong Choir repertoire with the high school Schola singers and adults.

The auditioned adults of the Evensong Choir offer the strong vocal foundation for the younger choristers while reveling in some of the finest choral repertoire of the Anglican tradition. The adult singers are role models of musicianship, vocal production, rehearsal etiquette, and faithful commitment to our musical heritage. Such an intergenerational choir is truly a microcosm of the cathedral community and truly a glimpse of the Kingdom of God. Patience is needed as those youth of the church are taught the ways of preparation and performance and the youthful exuberance of the choristers reminds the adults of the awe and joy inherent in what we do together.

A New Adventure - the Pilgrimage to England, 2018
Michael Kleinschmidt is spearheading the newest adventure for the Evensong Choir. Having recorded and submitted audition tracks to cathedrals in England, the Evensong Choir has been invited to be in residence at both Ely Cathedral and St. Paul's Cathedral, London during the summer of 2018. As Michael says, this is an opportunity for our singers to "dip our toes, even swim for a time, in the ancient stream of prayer and music" in historic buildings where our music has been used for the proclamation and worship of Christ for centuries. The planning has begun for this big undertaking, the first of its kind for the music program at St. Mark's. Upon hearing of the residency invitations this fall, the Evensong Choir had an outburst of unbridled enthusiasm from the 10-year-olds and 60 -year-olds alike. We are going to England and we plan on making the people of St. Mark's Cathedral very proud! Stay tuned!

LIVING STONES
Capital Campaign Update



BY MARIA COLDWELL, CANON FOR OPERATIONS
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On Sunday, October 16, Dean Steve Thomason and Capital Campaign Co-Chair John Hoerster led a Parish Forum at Saint Mark's to share exciting updates about the progress of the Living Stones Capital Campaign and the upcoming construction project. Lots of work has been going on!

As of mid-October, we have raised a total of $7,223,809. The breakdown is as follows:

Parish Campaign (Fall 2014)	$4,401,735
Vestry Designated Funds (2015)	$734,733
McCaw Garrison Bequest (2015)	$73,800
Major Gifts Phase (2016)	$2,013,541
(includes Matching Challenge fund)	
Total Pledges and Gifts in Hand	$7,223,809

Additional work on Major Gifts is ongoing; many thanks to chair Marshal McReal and all the members of the Major Gifts committee. The Diocesan Phase of the campaign, to be led by Bishop Greg Rickel, will take place in early 2017. The expectation is that we will be able to raise an additional $1.5-2.5 million in gifts and pledges by mid-2017.

The Design Committee has been very active throughout 2016. Spectrum Development Solutions was engaged as "owner's representative" and project managers in 2015, and they have done a fine job in helping us make decisions about the upcoming construction project. Olson Kundig Architects have continued with design work, which was completed over the summer. Permits were submitted in the spring, and we are awaiting final approval from the city any day. In July, Turner Construction was retained as the General Contractor for the construction project. Spectrum Development and Turner have worked conscientiously on value engineering to refine the scope of the project and the timeline for construction. Senior Warden Lynne Markova announced that on October 15, the Vestry approved a project where the Scope of Construction is not to exceed $10.5 million; the Vestry also authorized leadership to secure a long-term loan not to exceed $2 million, to cover the difference between capital campaign gifts and $10.5 million.

The Scope of Construction now includes limestone cladding of the north, south, and east facades of the cathedral,

with the buttresses and lowest portions of the walls to be clad in stucco matching the limestone. All windows on the north, south, and east sides will be replaced, in a style very similar to the current windows. A new elevator annex will be added to the south side, making all 5 levels of the cathedral accessible. A large Celtic cross will be featured on the east façade, thematically connected to the reredos screen in the nave. Thomsen Chapel's exterior will be coated to match the rest of the building. The east façade of brick will be coated with stucco, in lieu of the copper panels previously proposed (the copper would add an additional $350,000 to the project). The front entry portico, patio, and stairs will all be repaired or replaced, and new landscaping will be adding around the exterior of the cathedral.

The timeline of construction has been firmed up. In the fourth quarter of 2016, pre-construction work with Turner and Spectrum will continue, and in first quarter 2017, some preliminary site work will be done (tree removal and some work on the elevator annex). Easter Day is April 15, 2017; we will officially break ground on April 16, putting up scaffolding around the exterior and interior of the building. A ceremonial ground-breaking will take place on Cathedral Day (May 13, 2017), when members of all diocesan parishes will be welcome to participate. We hope to complete construction by November 30, 2017, and we'll celebrate completion during December 2017.

Lord God, creator of the Universe,
We offer thanks for the blessings of Saint Mark's Cathedral,
enlightening Puget Sound and beyond for over 100 years.
Your holy spirit flowing through it, yet,
remaining within as well.
Help us, O God, to reconstruct this cathedral space
that it may best enhance this spiritual beacon.
Fill us with the generosity, vision, and courage to restore this
monument as a manifestation of your glory.
Lord God, Open our hearts to this Prayer of Action
for all concerned.
May we stretch our imaginations and stewardship
in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

- Don Lewis

READ MORE AT: *saintmarks.org/livingstones*

Strategic Planning at Saint Mark's

BY MARIA COLDWELL, CANON FOR OPERATIONS
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Saint Mark's currently has not one but two strategic planning processes going on. First, we're working on a 3-year "operating" Strategic Plan for 2017-2019 (to replace the plan we had in place for 2014-2016), and secondly we're creating a "2030 Plan," which looks about 15 years into the future and focuses largely on facilities usage and capital project planning.

Senior Warden Lynne Markova chairs the 3-year operating plan task force, a group which has been very active throughout the summer and fall of 2016, interviewing many different ministries and committees and facilitating parish forums. Each group has been asked the same four questions: 1. What's going well at St. Mark's? 2. What's going less well? 3. Where should we focus our energies over the next few years? and 4. What do we need to do to achieve our goals? Lynne and Junior Warden Cara Peterson have sorted through all the responses and come up with a draft 3-year plan, which was discussed and edited by the planning task force. Next step is to get Vestry feedback and eventually approval. The plan should be ready to present to the parish at the Annual Meeting in January 2017. Note that the over-arching Mission/Vision/Values are not being changed in this plan, as they were thoroughly discussed and revised back in fall 2013 as part of the last planning process.

The 2030 plan task force, chaired by Canon for Operations Maria Coldwell, has been meeting monthly since May. This group got some initial input from the Vestry and the staff of St. Mark's, and then did an online parish survey in June to collect ideas. The task force did SWOT analyses ("Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats"), demographic analyses, and solicited "visionary" proposals from Dean Steve Thomason, consultant Gerry Johnson, and various ministry leads like Michael Kleinschmidt (music), Malcolm McLaurin (youth and young adults), and Marjorie Ringness (justice). The task force heard reports from John Hoerster and Nancy Pearson, both of whom were involved with the "Master Planning" effort of the early 2000s. With Vestry approval, the 2030 task force commissioned reports from Marx/Okubo ("property condition assessment" report) and Spectrum Development Solutions ("site assessment" report), which are still in progress. The goal of the 2030 group is to create a "plan" that looks at the capital projects that will be necessary or desirable over the next 10-15 years and makes recommendations about prioritization and funding. The group is exploring alternate revenue sources and more effective use of our whole campus at St. Mark's Cathedral. More parish input will be sought by the 2030 group in January-February 2017, as the task force begins to formulate possible options.

Gratitude

SERMON PREACHED BY THE REV. CANON DR. NANCEE L. MARTIN, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2016
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Luke 17:11-19 [On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."]

Recently I was visiting with a couple after church, and one of the two mentioned she was searching— searching for what was next in her life after losing her job.

She said that she did not have a lot to fill her time and had a lot of time to think. I mentioned that having regular empty time, Sabbath time, was a very good thing for discernment—listening for God's voice.

She sort of bristled when I used the 'discernment' word and clearly let me know she did not want to be a priest. I acknowledged this, and we went on to talk about how discernment—listening for God's will and wondering how to respond to it—is not only about ordained ministry. Discernment is for all baptismal ministry, the priesthood of all believers being engaged in ministry—inside and outside the church.

I went on to talk about how in holy listening it is helpful to have:

1. Regular and intentionally empty or Sabbath space,
2. A commitment to personal prayer,
3. Care for one's health (eating well, exercise, adequate sleep, living a balanced life),
4. Play,
5. Movement from an attitude of entitlement to an attitude of gratefulness.

It is this last point on which I want to dwell. Gratefulness. Gratitude. Thanks. Appreciation.

Is this gospel shouting a message of gratitude or what?!

Jesus is walking south toward Jerusalem and approaches ten men with leprosy. It was required in those days that lepers stay outside the villages, and that they had to shout "unclean, unclean" to warn others away from them.

Jesus has a reputation of being a compassionate healer. And as they call out, they ask, not for alms, but they ask for mercy. 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.' They want to be cured.

Jesus tells them to go and show themselves to the priests; in other words, to obey the law of Moses— only a priest could pronounce/certify them healed, as Leviticus shows in astonishing detail.

The ten obey and start the long trek south. And one of them sees that he has been cured, and loudly gives thanks, falling on his face, prostrating himself before Jesus. He returned to say, 'Thank you.'

Let me be clear. The nine did not do anything wrong. In fact, they did exactly as they were told and presumably also enjoyed healing.

The one who turns back, though, to give thanks, was blessed a second time. And isn't that part of what giving thanks is about?

Have you ever noticed just how powerful it is not only to receive blessing but also to name it and give thanks for it?

Maybe you're enjoying a picnic with family or friends, and it's one of those meals, prepared with such care and love and served and eaten deliberately, where time just stops for a little while and you're all caught up and bound together in a wonderful sense of the sweetness of life, how absolutely marvelous it is to be alive, share life with these people. And you look around and say, "This is so wonderful. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."

And in seeing and giving thanks, the original blessing is somehow multiplied. You've been blessed a second time.

There is something about gratitude that draws us out of ourselves into something larger, bigger, grander in a-reign–of-God sort of way and joins us to the font of blessing itself.

Gratitude is such a powerful emotion and it can help us move through and beyond fear and anxiety, and even empower us to do more than we'd ever imagined.

And that's what the nine missed. It's not that they did anything wrong; it's that they didn't see their good fortune and didn't voice their blessing, and missed out on that second blessing.

It can be hard for us as 21st-century residents of the prosperous USA to be grateful. I say this because many of us were born, bred, & socialized in an entitled way.

I don't know about you but when I look at those charts:

- I expect to live 78-78.9 years as a Washingtonian
- I expect to encounter light traffic on I-5 if I avoid rush hour
- I expect the light rail to roll up when I get on the platform
- I expect to be seen right away after I check in at my physician's office

It can be hard to be grateful people in this culture and yet, this morning we are being people of gratitude— we are giving thanks—that is what Eucharist means— thanksgiving.

I like the way Martin Luther described the nature of worship as 'the tenth leper turning back.' Worship is the return of a thankful heart to the source of its life.

We gather to remember, celebrate, and live into the mystery of Jesus' life, ministry, teachings, death, resurrection, ascension, and the presence of his Spirit with us now.

We gather in gratitude: for the gift of life and all those things that bring us closer to God. And here I am including things joyful and things difficult.

We gather in gratitude: for the world and the earth, for the dear people God has given to enrich and grace our lives. And we are encouraged to take this attitude of gratitude with us. Try to live one entire day in utter thanksgiving! Balance every complaint with ten gratitudes, every criticism with ten compliments!

Not only are we are encouraged by scripture to be thankful and have joyful hearts.

Not only does having an attitude of gratitude help as we listen for God's voice, and enlarge our world, but being grateful may have health benefits too.

As an example, I point to 'Boost Your Health with a Dose of Gratitude', a medical group website where evidence is cited that grateful people, for whom gratitude is a permanent trait, have a health edge.

It may be that grateful people take better care of themselves, but there is evidence that gratitude alone is a stress reducer, that grateful people are more hopeful, that there are links between gratitude and the immune system.

So your mother was on to something good when she made you call your grandmother and thank her for the birthday card!

Here at Saint Mark's we are in a thanksgiving season, our stewardship season, a time to give thanks to God for our life in Christ in this community, for the goodness that is here. Like so many others, I give annually to this cathedral and to Living Stones (our capital campaign).

And at my death, a percentage of my estate will go to Saint Mark's Cathedral. It is a way of expressing gratitude, experiencing that double blessing as I watch how lives are transformed around here.

Undergirding my giving are my Biblical and theological beliefs. I believe in Jesus Christ and that Christ has the greatest potential to change the lives of people. I believe in the church. I have seen the church incarnated as Saint Mark's Cathedral improve and enrich people's lives time and again.

Let us all find ways to be grateful people, like that tenth man cured of leprosy that turned back to give thanks to Jesus. For this is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Amen.

SERMON RECORDINGS *& transcripts are available on Saint Mark's website at www.saintmarks.org/sermons.*

FALL 2016 AT SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

Feast of Saint Francis & Blessing of the Animals. On October 2 Saint Mark's honored Francis of Assisi, the 13th-century saint known for his love of God's creation and animals. Pets were welcomed to come to church for a blessing that day.

Farewell to Canon Precentor Becky Morrill. Canon Precentor Becky Morrill accepted a position as Director of Volunteers at ASAP, a cat rescue organization in Santa Barbara, CA. On her last Sunday, September 25, we celebrated her fourteen-year ministry among us. Becky was awarded the Bishop's Cross and the Pro Christo Medal, and was sent with blessings from the parish at the end of the morning liturgies that day. We sent her with best wishes in this next chapter!

Ministry Fair. On Sunday, September 11, Saint Mark's had its annual homecoming festival and Ministry Fair. Representatives from a wide variety of Saint Mark's ministries took part in the processionals that day, and all were included in a special blessing. Morning services were followed by the fair in Bloedel Hall, where ministries held displays, and attendees enjoyed conversation and refreshments as we prepared for another year in mutual ministry and service.

All Saints' Sunday. Saint Mark's celebrated the Feast of All Saints' on November 6, 2016. We gave thanks for all the baptized, the "saints" known and unknown, who have made up the body of Christ from the very beginning of the Church. We baptized new "saints" into Christ's body the Church, celebrating their new birth into our ongoing life. We also remembered all the members of this community who have died over the last year.

Mirabai Starr makes mystic wisdom accessible

BY LIZ BARTENSTEIN, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
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Mirabai Starr writes, speaks and leads retreats with one mission: to connect people to the inter-spiritual teachings of the mystics. The mystics of all traditions claim that their love-encounter with the Holy One defies all description and yet their experience of longing and union pours out in the form of ecstatic, luminous and richly descriptive poetry and prose.

Starr spoke at Saint Mark's on November 3; an event which was part of the new Wisdom School programming at Saint Mark's. Starr drew from the works of the great Christian mystics: John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, Julian of Norwich, Francis and Claire of Assisi, and Hildegard of Bingen; as well as Sufi saint, Rabia, Hindu poets, Mirabai, and others. She then led those in attendance through an intimate writing exercise modeled upon Lectio Divina, or sacred reading. The practice sought to deepen a connection to the self and to our inner mystic, deepening our own personal journeys.

Coming up in the Wisdom School, Saint Mark's will offer a Wisdom Praxis "Practice" Day (which will have happened by the time of publication), on November 19. This day will be grounded in a three-centered approach to Wisdom and will include contemplative practices of meditation and lectio divina, contemplative chant and movement, small group conversation and a holy meal, prepared and shared together.

Other upcoming opportunities include:

New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk

December 31, 2016, 6 p.m.–12 a.m., Cathedral Nave
By candlelight in the sacred space, walk the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth as spiritual practice of renewal and meditative resolution while musicians from the community set the tone for a holy evening. At midnight, a celebration of Holy Communion will be shared on the labyrinth "rose" as a sign of God's abundant grace in the world. All are welcome. Suggested minimum donation: $5.

Embracing the Enneagram as a Map for Spiritual Unfolding

Friday, March 10, 7-9 p.m. & Saturday March 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Bloedel Hall
The inner observer knows the difference between when we are thinking, feeling and acting out of patterned responses and when we are living in grounded presence. Contemplative prayer cultivates the capacities of the inner observer. But we become discouraged when we find ourselves reacting in our same old patterned ways in love, work and family life. The Enneagram provides a map for understanding the dynamics of the human condition and the barriers to living our spiritual freedom. This narrative tradition class is introductory in nature, relying on group participation in the panel method and introducing practices for working with the Enneagram in daily life.
Please purchase "The Essential Enneagram: The Definitive Personality Guide, Revsied and Updated 2009" by David Daniels, M.D. and Virginia Price Ph.D.and complete the exercise on pages 1-8 prior to attending the workshop. Copies available at the Cathedral Shop in November 2016.

MORE AT: *saintmarks.org/wisdomschool.*

Mideast Focus Film Series
Who Counts?

Mark your calendar for the fourth annual Mideast Focus Ministry's Film Series , beginning the last Wednesday in January 2017! We are happy to share some outstanding feature films and documentaries that give insight into the conflict in Palestine and Israel. Our goal is to demystify the conflict by presenting films that provide critical context and foster understanding through story.

In this time of doubt about who does count, we consider: Who counts when it comes to the news? Who counts in a refugee camp? Who counts in West Bank Settlements? Who counts among marginalized groups? Can we live in a world where everyone "counts"? Come to an introductory forum on Sunday January 22 at 10:05 a.m. in Bloedel Hall at Saint Mark's. Ruth McRee
will discuss "Hebron I and II" from "On Seeing and Not Seeing in the Holy Land."

Series screenings begin at 7 p.m. in Skinner Hall - at the north end of the Brightwater School Building.
Admission is free. Donations welcomed to help defray costs.

January 25 - The Occupation of the American Mind
February 1 - Arna's Children
February 8 - The Settlers
February 15 - The Dream (Al Helm- Martin Luther King, Jr. in Palestine)
February 22 - Two Blue Lines

The Arts at Saint Mark's
2016-2017 MUSIC SERIES

Coming up:

The O Antiphons Service of Advent Lessons and Carols
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 7 P.M.
This beloved annual service of music and pageantry celebrates the beginning of Advent – the season of longing, vigilance, and expectation in preparation for Christmas. With the Cathedral Choir, the Compline Choir, and the Senior Choristers of Saint Mark's Choir School.

The Pageant of the Nativity: A Celtic Telling
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 7 P.M.
The children of Saint Mark's Cathedral will join together to proclaim the story of the Nativity in song, speech, and visual pageantry. You will be transported to another time by a torchlight procession of our children accompanied by Celtic instrumentalists and watch as the scenes of Jesus' birth come alive on the altar platform.

"Organ Plus" Concert (Thomsen Chapel)
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017, 3 P.M.
Curt Sather, organist, and Jacob Herbert, bass-baritone, offer music of Bach and Schütz, among other composers. Dr. Sather is Organist and Choirmaster of Saint John's Episcopal Church, Olympia, WA.

Music of the Finnish Orthodox Church
FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 7:30 P.M.
Finnish conductor Timo Nuoranne directs Cappella Romana in Einojuhani Rautavaara's exotic and avant-garde All-Night Vigil, featuring legendary Grammy-award winning basso profundo Glenn Miller.

Later this year:

Concert on the Flentrop organ: Janette Fishell, organist
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 7:30 P.M.

Concert on the Flentrop organ: John Stuntebeck, organist
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 7:30 P.M.

Membra Jesu nostri by Dietrich Buxtehude
FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 7:30 P.M.

All Bach concert on the Flentrop organ: Bálint Karosi, organist
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 7:30 P.M.

The Cathedral Trio
FRIDAY, MAY 19, 7:30 P.M.

Saint Mark's Choir School Spring Concert
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 7 P.M.

More at saintmarks.org/music

Convention Conversations

The 106th convention of the Diocese of Olympia was held Oct. 21-22 at the Hilton Seattle Airport and Conference Center. Over 500 people attended from more than 100 congregations in the diocese. Saint Mark's Cathedral had 12 lay delegates in attendance, along with its clergy and some staff members. The cathedral had a table, staffed by Vestry volunteers, at the Exhibition, and the Cathedral Shop had a whole room in which to display its wares. Here are brief reflections about the convention from several of Saint Mark's delegates.

One of the highlights of diocesan convention was Bishop Rickel's annual address to the diocese. In his address, he reflected on the convention theme ("Your Kingdom Come"), the keynote address given by a visiting ELCA bishop, as well as addresses of past bishops of this diocese. One thing that Bishop Rickel said that stood out to me was "[The church is] always evolving and growing, or we are dead." In fact, participants of convention were called to reflect on how we might explore new ways of living into the call of the Kingdom of God here on earth. And so, I share this invitation with you. How might you reflect on where God is calling us, the Church, to journey together? And what might that vision look like?—*Michael Seewer*

The church in action is action outward – moving to bring justice to all. This action is very evident during the business sessions. After electing both clergy and lay members to Standing Committees and Diocesan Councils, the secretary, archivist, treasurer and historiographer were elected. Also, four lay and four clergy deputies were elected to represent the Diocese of Olympia at General Convention in 2018. Four resolutions were presented to the assembly. Three of the resolutions: reduction of the diocesan assessment rate (possible because parishes are current in their payments); cost of living increases to the clergy salary scale; and the adoption of a policy on health insurance coverage were passed without comment. One resolution recommending the adoption of a family leave policy generated good discussion. No one was against the recommendation as such, but many felt it didn't go far enough and some were concerned coverage for adoptions was not as broad as for a pregnancy and birth. After many comments and several additional motions the resolution was passed as written with the one exception that the date of activation was moved from January 1, 2018, to the same date in 2017. This is the church in action. —*JoAnn Bailey*

Bishop Richard Jaech (ELCA) delivered a thought-provoking keynote address. He started by noting the approach of an important date in Church history: 499 years ago, on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his "95 Theses" to the door of All Saints Church in Wittenburg. This marked the start of what we think of as "The Reformation." But as Bishop Jaech made clear, re-formation was not a one-time only special event, nor was it merely a change in church structure and modes of worship. Luther's study of Scripture had led to his new understanding of God as a loving Father, rather than the fierce Judge portrayed by the orthodox Catholic teaching of his time. Because God's love is given freely to all, salvation is not attained by works but by accepting God's grace. The Reformation not only marked institutional change but a re-forming of our understanding of humankind's relationship with God. —*Rick Hodsdon*

We are sent. It's certainly not a new concept, I mean Luke clearly outlays Christ's command to the 70 in chapter 10. Yet, as Bishop Unti of the Lutheran Northwest Washington Synod outlined, we have nearly always set up a system that is the opposite. We imagine Christ knocking at a door at a large church that we have erected meant to draw people in, which is the western historical model. Yet, here in Luke 10, Christ sends the 70 appointed people out. Sure, being sent is uncomfortable. It's like being a two year old working our way up to that first slide, inching our way to the edge. In the end, we may need a push to get us out there. But living with uncertainty means living with God increases exponentially. It tests whom we rely on. By sharing our message with others, including Jews, Muslims, other Christians we enter a relationship and share in Christ. If we can't share it with our neighbor, then how can we go to the world and help? We pray that we might be one. Sharing the table from around the Diocese together at Convention was the first step of being *one*. —*Peter McClung*

Join the conversation:

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saintmarks.org/subscribe

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facebook.com/SaintMarksSeattle

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instagram.com/SaintMarksSeattle

Call for Artists: Stations of the Cross

Saint Mark's Cathedral invites proposals from artists to create their interpretations of the fourteen Stations of the Cross. The history of the stations has tended toward literal interpretations, but ultimately their purpose is to invite reflection and contemplation not only of Jesus' passion and death, but also the universality of these themes. Thus, the artwork does not need to adhere to a particular cultural or religious framework. We invite artists to use the fourteen scenes as a starting point for a broader meditation on human relationships, injustice, suffering, and the mystery of death. Applications are due November 28, 2016. Read more at *saintmarks.org/stationsofthecross*.

Spiritual formation opportunities during Advent

FIND YOUR INNER MYSTIC: AN ADVENT JOURNEY WITH THREE INCREDIBLE WOMEN

A Three Week Series Presented by Sandra Smith
November 30, December 7 & 14, 7 p.m., Bloedel Hall
Enrich your Advent journey and discover your inner mystic with St. Hildegard of Bingen, St. Catherine of Siena and St. Theresa of Avila; three women whose influence and contributions were felt throughout the church. Each of them was a mystic, living a life of prayer and contemplation. They were also women of action; theologians, philosophers, and in Hildegard's case, a composer. Each has been declared a Doctor of the Church and the influence of their work was significant. This series will explore mysticism as something for which you too can strive.

SUNDAY FORUM SERIES - SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Sunday mornings, 10:10 a.m., Bloedel Hall

December 4 - The Gift of Incarnation, with The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty. We will explore the gift of Incarnation—divine Word made flesh in Jesus—and what this means for how we understand ourselves, our God, and our lives.

December 11 - The Gift of Imperfection, with The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty. To be human is to be made in God's image – and to be imperfect. We will discuss this paradox and how our imperfections can show us the path to wholeness.

December 18 - The Gift of Forgiveness, with The Rev. Canon Dr. Nancee L. Martin. In this gathering we will explore Biblical, historical, liturgical, personal and social dimensions of forgiveness—forgiveness as as holy gift that can bring us closer to God, others, and our true selves.

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THE CATHEDRAL SHOP

Christmas Boutique

The Christmas Boutique is coming! Beginning Sunday, November 20, Leffler House and the Cathedral Shop will be transformed into a Christmas gift wonderland. Lots of your Christmas Boutique favorites as well as new and exciting items are in store. Stocking stuffers and gifts for all ages, holiday cards and gift wrap, Advent calendars and wreaths, books galore, classical, sacred and seasonal CDs, chocolates and other goodies, ornaments and nativities, crosses and elegant jewelry, and much more! There will be extended hours for the length of the boutique. More at *saintmarks.org/shop*.