

The Cathedral Church of Saint Paul

A House of Prayer for All

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

January 2024

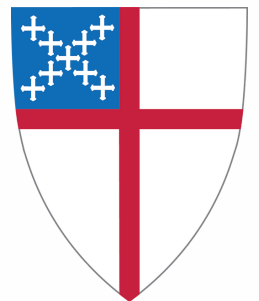


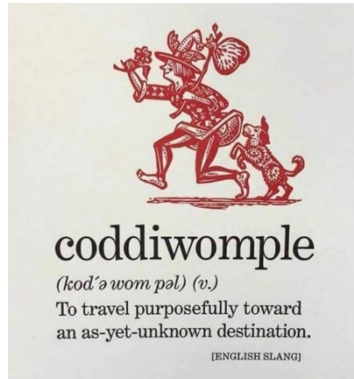
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Report of the Dean of the Cathedral

I am indebted to Bishop Carol Gallagher for giving me the word that captures my experience of leading this cathedral in 2023. The word is “Coddiwomple”, and as you can see below, it means “to travel purposefully toward an unknown destination.” The cathedral’s purpose is as clear as it’s always been: to be a House of Prayer for All People, amplifying the mission of the Diocese of Massachusetts. But the future of the Church, city, nation, and planet in which we are called to do that are harder than ever to discern. We faithfully coddiwompled together in 2023.



2023 was a year of liminality on many levels, and as Sharon Beaumont notes in her book *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going*, in a liminal season, “watching and waiting can be difficult, overplanning can be futile, and it simply isn't helpful to pretend that we understand what happens next.” What felt hard here also felt hard in most faith communities, and I was buoyed to find open, honest conversation about the challenges of the time among many colleagues in the diocese, our staff, and chapter.

In the midst of this liminality, we remained faithful, acted with a good balance of realism and hope, and held together. I am so thankful for the tremendous congregants, cathedral staff members, chapter members, volunteers, and donors who joined me in abiding here in 2023. We did good work, which I believe pleases God and blesses the diocese. A few things I want to lift up for special mention:

We completed urgently-needed HVAC renovations and additions. Under the leadership of Chapter Chair Jane Peyrouse, we installed new systems that ensure healthy, cool airflow in our office buildings, sanctuary, and Sproat Hall. This major improvement moves us toward our goal of being better equipped to provide worship, welcome events, and serve those on the margins year-round. Special thanks to the diocese, all our donors, and the grants department of Liberty Mutual for making this financially possible.

The St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer continued growing into its calling. This joint project with the diocese, created to help the diocese live into its mission strategy goal of “creating disciples in every congregation,” hosted a day of learning with Archbishop Rowan Williams, offered regional discussions of the question “Why Go to Church?” and hosted a Lenten series on the Jewish spiritual concept of Zim-Zum. As we bring Kirsten Cairns on board as our Coordinator and plan for the development of regional learning communities for clergy, we look forward to an even stronger 2024.

Our partnership with the Poor People's Campaign grew stronger. During Lent, we were honored to host the Rev. Liz Theoharis, Co-Chair of the Campaign. She preached in our Lenten Preaching Series and led a well-attended workshop on growing justice-making communities. In the fall, we hosted a gathering organized by the MA Episcopal PPC Network at which groups from around the diocese engaged in justice work could coordinate and plan to support one another.

We continued moving toward our commitment to becoming an anti-racist institution. In the winter and spring, chapter took time in each of its meetings to discuss the findings of the Racism Audit of Episcopal Leadership, including naming ways we see the nine patterns of racism named in it at work in our communal life and next steps for change. (Thank you to the Crossing Council, from whom we borrowed this model!). In November, the cathedral staff joined the diocesan staff in three days of DEI training led by VISIONS. Joint working groups emerging from that experience are now continuing the work in four areas: accountability, conflict response, addressing historic harm, and equitable compensation.

As always, there is so much more to report. Most importantly, I celebrate the fact that every day, this cathedral does beautiful, life-giving, sometimes life-saving work. Our congregations, each in their own unique and brave way, are following Jesus’s command to love God and your neighbor as yourself. Our episcopal worship services hold sacramental ministry and holy gathering in thoughtful planning, beautiful music, and remarkable hospitality. I hear almost daily from people around the diocese whose lives are enriched by reading Nautilus News, joining morning prayer by conference call, stopping by Ministry of the Steps, watching a Lenten Preaching Series sermon, or being warmly welcomed to The Crossing or MANNA.

As we head into a year of episcopal transition, let me pause to thank Bishop Alan Gates for inviting me into the ministry of Dean back in 2018. His strong support for the cathedral and his partnership in helping it advance have been such a grace. I am so thankful to be here, coddiwompling into 2024, and pray that this year of transition brings blessing to him, as well as to all those who are discerning a call to serve as his successor.

Faithfully submitted,
(The Very Rev.) Amy McCreath



Bishop Gates lights the new fire at the Easter Vigil, organized by The Crossing



I was able to enjoy a sabbatical this fall. Thank you to everyone who made that possible, especially our Sabbatical priest, the Rev. Cathy Boyd.

Report of the Chair of Cathedral Chapter

2023 was a year of accomplishments at the Cathedral. In July, we celebrated the completion of our renovation project. When all systems were declared ‘good to go’, the cool air began to flow to parts of the building complex, the Sanctuary and Sproat Hall, that had never experienced air conditioning. We also are enjoying a new roof on the Sears and Clark buildings which should last for 15-20 years. And finally, the second floor of the Clark building is now accessible to all. Hooray! Thanks be to God.

This fall, we completed the first phase of the Capital Campaign raising roughly 60% of the project budget – thanks to the many generous friends of the Cathedral, both here in the Diocese and in far-flung places from Philadelphia to Zurich. We are so thankful for the prayers that helped fuel our efforts and the gifts, small and large, that made this possible, including a significant gift from the



Diocese. A construction loan will bridge the gap between our 2023 fundraising results and the actual cost of the project. We’re pausing the capital campaign and will renew these efforts at a later date.

Other important changes occurred in the neighborhood as businesses continued to reopen in the downtown area, and employers and shops recalibrated the definition of what it means to be open. We welcomed our new neighbor, the Embrace sculpture which is situated nearby on the Boston Common. As you may have read Embrace is the largest

US-made public sculpture in this country. Many visitors to this monument also passed by the Cathedral during the busy summer months and were warmly greeted by our Ministry of the Steps program.

As we ended the year, Chapter turned its attention to the future. This spring we will reconvene a Strategic Planning taskforce. Our last Strategic Plan was ratified in the fall of 2020, roughly six months into COVID lockdown. While our work began during the pandemic, we marked many of our 2020 goals as “complete”. And yet we know that we have more to do.

My thanks to all who contributed to our work this year, Chapter members, staff, and volunteers. It was a group effort, and we couldn’t have accomplished so much without the efforts of so many.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Peyrouse

Report of the Sunday Congregation Council

As we think about the life of the Sunday congregation, we are inevitably reminded both of the people who make up our community, and the services, programs, and events that draw us together and through which we express our individual and collective faith. This year saw much to celebrate in both aspects of our journey together in God.

The most visible change in our community came during the months of August, September, and October, when Dean Amy was on sabbatical. While we missed Amy's grounding and energizing presence, we rejoiced in this opportunity for her to find refreshment and renewal. We were grateful to welcome the thoughtful and energetic Rev. Cathy Boyd as sabbatical priest, and it was a grace to bring her and her husband, the Rev. David Boyd, into our lives.

We experienced other transitions as well. In March, MANNA Chaplain Molly Minnerath left to continue her formation in postulancy for ordination. The Rev. Paul Shoaf Kozak left MANNA and the Cathedral in July for an exciting opportunity in parish ministry in Trenton, New Jersey. We celebrated the ordination of Eva Ortez to the diaconate in June and then wished her well as she left the Cathedral in September for St. Stephen's in Boston's South End. Many in the congregation traveled to St. Stephen's recently for the joyous occasion of her ordination to the priesthood.



The work of the Sunday Council this year has been enriched by the contributions of new members Laura Thomas and Christie Towers, while we celebrated the faithful witness and warm friendship of longtime member Lucy Adams before her move out of the area. We are grateful to Gail Merriam for her service as the representative of the Sunday Congregation to Cathedral Chapter, and to Council member Rhea Ranno for her service as representative to the Boston Harbor Deanery. An early Christmas gift was learning in December that Rhea had been accepted by the diocese as a postulant for ordination.

Weekly worship and special events and programs structure our life as a faith community. In this round of activity, the liturgical calendar inevitably plays a defining role. As in years past, Holy Week and Christmas proved to be particularly exciting and busy. In advance of Easter, a special five-part Lenten preaching series focused on "A Woman's Testimony", while Easter season featured a bible study program co-led by Laura Thomas and Louise Mundinger. Evening prayer was a special highlight of our expanded seven-week Advent observances.

Throughout the course of the year, we were fortunate to hear outstanding sermons from our own clergy, lay leaders in our community, and guests from inside and outside the diocese. Starting in July, those of us in the sanctuary were able to experience air conditioning for the first time, thanks to the success of the Cathedral's capital campaign. The music offered by Louise and the talented singers of the Schola have continued to enrich our worship immeasurably.

Within the Council, and in the congregation as a whole, we have engaged in ongoing conversations about God's dream for us. Our desire to deepen community within the congregation has led to the new ministry of a lay welcome, by a member of Council, at Sunday morning services, and a move to informal socializing rather than more formal



programming after most Sunday services. Reverend Cathy led a successful retreat at the end of September that brought members of all three of the Cathedral's congregations together for reflection. Looking ahead, we hope to remain attentive to how the Spirit is already moving within us and how we may open ourselves more fully to God's grace.

Respectfully submitted,

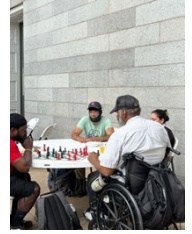
Michael Baenen and Anne Moore, Co-Conveners, on behalf of the Sunday Council

Michael Baenen, Martha Gardner, Anne Moore, Jennifer McCracken, Amy McCreath, Louise Munding, Rhea Ranno, Jeffrey Seamans, Laura Thomas, and Christie Towers

Report of the MANNA Community

A Year of Celebrations!

In February, members of the community bundled up to participate in the Winter Walk. In 2023, MANNA became a partner of the Winter Walk organization whereby MANNA received a portion of the general funds raised by the Winter Walk, in addition to funds raised by our team. The MANNA team raised \$8,056, received \$10,951.00 from the general split, for a total of **\$19,007!** Yay MANNA Team! We are looking forward to Winter Walk 2024.



Another way the MANNA community likes to support local efforts to fundraise and raise awareness about food scarcity and homelessness, is by participating in the Walk for Hunger each May. MANNA is a community of people who actively experience food insecurity and who understand the importance of balanced nutrition for overall well-being. The community thrives when we join forces with Project Bread to raise money to feed others. This year, MANNA contributed \$1513.00 to Project Bread. Well done team!



It is a great gift when MANNA can collaborate with The Crossing and the Sunday morning congregation at the Easter Vigil. Playwriter, Richie Berman, LOVES to choose a story to perform with the rest of the community at the Vigil. This year's story was Noah's Ark and MANNA did not disappoint! Members of the community helped with set and costume design, script writing, and biblical story telling. It's an absolute joy to witness the community having so much fun!



The BACHome Council, whose origins began in the MANNA community, continues to provide wisdom to the Mayor's Office of Housing from the perspective of people with lived experience of homelessness. The council is facilitated by Rev. Jennifer and Chaplain Elaina and meets twice a month at City Hall. Due to the incredible commitment of the council members, BACHome has had a significant impact on shelter reform and housing stabilization in the City of Boston. In May 2023, St. Paul's was chosen by the mayor's office to host the presentation of \$16 million dollars from HUD to the City of Boston, in support of unsheltered homelessness.



Over the summer months, Ministry of the Steps provides a fun space for musicians and poets to offer their gifts on the steps of the Cathedral. MANNA folks love to get up to the mic and read their poetry which can be heard all the way across the Boston Common. Sometimes, a passerby will want to join in and sing a song, play an instrument, or dance to the music on the sidewalk! Chess games are always a favorite at MoS!



Writers' Group is thriving thanks to the Black Seed Writers and the efforts of James Parker and Christie Towers. Each Tuesday morning, Sproat Hall is filled with a robust energy for creative writing and poetry. We enjoyed two wonderfully successful public readings this year; one at the Brookline Book Smith and one at the Copley Library.



Annual MANNA Day of Gratitude (Thanksgiving)

Once again, the MANNA community, in partnership with the Black Seed Cafe, hosted a beautiful Thanksgiving dinner for more than 150 guests on Thanksgiving Day. We have tremendous gratitude for everyone at the Black Seed Cafe, who prepared and donated the meal and for all the volunteers who spent the day serving alongside us. It was especially meaningful this year in the midst of all the global conflict and violence, to partner with our Muslim siblings who pray each week at the Cathedral.



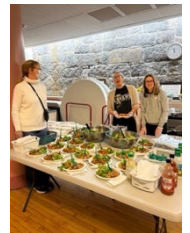
Monday Lunch Program

Thanks to our parish partners (St. Michael's Milton, Christ Church Needham, Trinity Church Concord, All Saints Brookline, and St. John's Newtonville) we continue to enjoy an amazing hot meal every Monday. Whether a holiday or a snowstorm, our faithful partners deliver a nutritious meal with a main course, fruit, and cookies, sometimes along with juice boxes, Ensure, and warm hats knit with love. Our parish partners share their gifts with us in so many ways: through prayer, in-kind donations, volunteering in our space, financial support, and handwritten notes that arrive attached to the casseroles. Thank you for all the love!



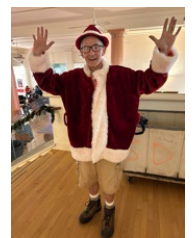
The Living Room Scene (Christmas Eve)

Nothing gives us greater joy than transforming Sproat Hall into a cozy living room scene and inviting the neighborhood in to decorate the Christmas tree, share food, sing carols together, and be the chosen family we are called to be. This year we also enjoyed Christmas dinner together on Christmas Day, in partnership with common cathedral. The community prepared a delicious Christmas ham dinner to share with almost 100 people who joined us for dinner. We had a blast!



A year of challenges and transitions, too!

2023 was a year of transitions for the MANNA community. We said "goodbye" to several staff members who were called to practice ministry in different communities far and wide. Rev. Paul Shoaf Kozak answered a call with a new community in Trenton, N.J., Cristo Rey, where Rev. Paul and his family are enjoying being immersed in a Spanish speaking community. Molly Minnerath, MANNA's first full-time chaplain, left MANNA in the spring of 2023 for an intensive Clinical Pastoral Education program and to take some time to discern her next steps in the process to become a priest. Molly is now serving as a Pastoral Associate at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bedford, MA. Eva Ortez was ordained Deacon in June of 2023 and is now serving at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Boston's South End. Eva's ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests will be January 13, 2024. Congratulations Eva! We



are missing all these beloved pastors and are deeply grateful for the many gifts they shared with MANNA.

Springtime and summer can be hard for the community, saying goodbye to beloved pastors and interns, but usually by fall, we are once again saying, “hello!” This year was no different. We welcomed Samantha Mossing, our Boston College intern, who hit the ground running even though she had little to no experience with people experiencing homelessness. Our community has been enriched by her compassion and thoughtful theological reflections. In October, we were grateful to hire Elaina Taze Smith. Elaina joins our team as an experienced chaplain and will soon be completing her Doctorate in Pastoral Counseling. She is also the current Kitchen Manager at the Friday Night Supper Club at Arlington Street Church. Welcome Elaina!

Christie Towers graduated with her MDiv. from Boston University (along with Eva) in May of 2023, and is now serving as a full-time chaplain for MANNA. Christie is a gifted writer and pastor and co-edits the *Pilgrim Magazine* with James Parker. She and James empower the Black Seed Writers to find their gifts for poetry and reflections and share them with the world. In the fall, we had a public reading at the Brookline Booksmith where many writers performed their pieces to a standing room only audience. In early December, the writers took the stage at Boston’s Copley Library and once again, filled the auditorium. James has been with the community for over 12 years and still enters the space on Tuesday mornings with exuberant energy to excite and encourage the writers, whether they’ve been attending Writers Group for a long time, or whether it’s their first time there. Issue #51 of the *Pilgrim Magazine* was distributed in December and our writers were so proud to see their work in print and in such an impressive magazine!

Christie also offers her pastoral gifts at the Barbara McInnis House twice a week, where she and Rev. Jennifer hold worship for respite patients on Sunday afternoons, and Christie spends a few hours during the week offering one-to-one care for the patients. Barbara McInnis House is a respite care center at Boston Health Care for the Homeless on Albany Street in Boston.

Gratitude! Gratitude! Gratitude!

We are deeply grateful for all the love and care we are given by so many people and by multiple communities. Our community members, our parish partners, our donors, our volunteers, the health care teams that visit us at MANNA, the Cathedral staff and congregations, Chapter members, and those who travel the halls at 138 Tremont St. Thank you! We are grateful for all the socks, the gloves, the hoodies, the sweatpants, the underwear, the Hot Hands, the ponchos, and the hand knit hats. Thank you! Most of all, we are grateful to God for the abundance of gifts and blessings that flow through our community, daily. Our prayer each day is this: “Thank you, God, for waking us up today and bringing us to this place in safety. Thank you for the gift of each person and the gifts that each person brings to this space.” Amen!





Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Jennifer McCracken

Report of The Crossing

Are you made “for such a time as this?” What a time it is in our world to be asking such a question, with war and genocide, poor policy changes and ever-rising consumerism of human bodies, it is a wild time to ask such a bold question. This is the question we were asking our community a couple months ago in addition to asking, “Do you need rest?” I wonder if Esther would have thought twice if she were asked if she needed rest when Mordecai persuades Esther to help. In the bible passage he says, “if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” (*Esther 4:14*) If her family wouldn’t perish, and if help would come from somewhere else anyway, would Esther want rest?

It’s what I wonder in our beloved community. Our beloved community that identifies as “an unlikely band of pilgrims and heretics, students and artists, mystics and activists, following the radical and



subversive way of Jesus.” Our beloved community that has survived a pandemic and has fundamentally changed because of the exhaustion of our world. Our beloved community that strives for the flattening of a hierarchical system while simultaneously is financially very dependent on the generosity of the cathed

ral. When help comes from somewhere else, do we just want rest? Will we perish if we are doing our own work? Will our identity change if we don’t lead ourselves and work for justice for others?

Our annual meeting is typically in January, but we are having it early because I am leaving for sabbatical shortly and won’t be with you in January. This will also be my last annual report as I will be leaving permanently at the end of the school year in May. And through our community meetings and leadership restructuring conversations and our council and worship circle meetings and our small groups, I am reflecting on all that has come to pass.

Just 11 months ago we were celebrating getting half way through our 5 year vision, looking to the future of what we want to accomplish to get closer to that vision of being more easily found and known as a church that works towards justice, being an anti-racist community and having that be true and real and honest, being a living example of a healthy and whole Christian community without falling into toxicity and cynicism, and being strongly connected to one another, growing spiritually and communicating effectively. The new council set out to make sure that everything we had on our agenda was addressing and working toward that vision. Because we were well into our Program theme of Home: Building Belonging through Shared Stories, each council member found their own

area of Home Ownership. They owned something special about our vision with which they wanted to bring Crossing members alongside. I felt like we were on fire for this vision.

The Program theme was really feeding me in the beginning of the year. There has never been an Ash Thursday service that was as powerful as us cracking the mirror as we recited our Lenten Repentance Prayer. “For being Christian and racist, **forgive us.**” *Crack!* “For being Christian and homophobic, **forgive us.**” *Crack!* “You were hungry, **and we did not feed you.**” *Crack!* ... Representing the brokenness of the holy image of God, this mirror remained as a symbol of the God within us that we are aiming to repair. What a powerful community to do this repair with! I would not have asked for a better community, for I know it doesn’t exist. There is no better for this beautiful, holy, broken, whole, perfect work. You are The Crossing. You are all these things - beautiful, holy, broken, whole, and perfect. Whether you feel made for this time, or whether you need a nap, you are perfect.



There have been, of course, many more memories I would reflect on. Our new Program theme for 2023-2024- Embodied Care: God, Self, Community, Future - has led to a vulnerability we would not have been able to do if we hadn’t built our home together first. Spending time finding our Embodied God and caring for that God in all ways, has been a season of opening for us. And we will continue that vulnerable work as we turn toward our bodies in the next few months. We will also have new leadership and leadership styles in the coming year! While there are so many things to reflect on, we will have time to do this reflection together in the months after my sabbatical.

Until then, I pray our beautiful community finds rest and creativity and inspiration and hope in the coming months, and that you find that you are made exactly for just a time as this. I love you all. Thank you for being The Crossing.

Faithfully submitted,
The Rev. Tamra Tucker (Priest/Lead Organizer)

Report of the Facilities Manager

Here we are, it's that time again. Where do I start?

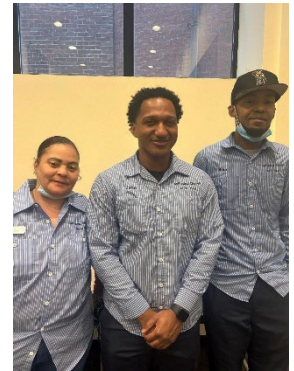
Wasn't it wonderful to have air conditioning in the church last summer? If you were away and didn't get to enjoy a Sunday service or help with the MANNA folks on a Monday or Tuesday, make sure you do this summer. It'll be cool.



The Diocese is renovating their space on the 4th and 5th floors. Our team emptied those 2 floors in advance of demolition and construction. There's furniture and "stuff" piled up everywhere! It'll be great to return to normal. That work has been going on for a few months, and I'm involved daily. There's always a question, or problem, or some sort of co-ordination needed. It's challenging and gratifying work, but I'm a little tired of construction!

Our team changed drastically in 2023. September saw two sextons depart the staff. Chris Nourse and Charlie Walker had around 20 years of experience between them and were part of the family around here. Chris has had some serious health issues since he left and we hope for a full recovery. And of course, we're deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Charlie this month. Our hearts go out to his family. In December, Paul Estes left to return home to the Southwest. Another 10 years of experience, gone. On December 29th he said his goodbyes and headed back to the Southwest. He told me he was "going where the climate suits his clothes". We wish him the best!

Thankfully, we've been able to hire three new sextons. Mike Garden, Jahri Franc is, and Marylyn Velez are learning the ropes and doing fine. Please introduce yourself to all of them when you get the chance.



And finally, on a personal note, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone here for the continued love, support, and prayers for my family and me after the loss of my wife in October.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Woodworth
Facilities Manager

Report of the Music Director

From Strength to Strength

Last year we took steps toward our vision of music at the Cathedral to reach the congregation here and to those outside our walls.

In February Dr. David Hurd led us in a livestream Sung Compline in collaboration with Dr. Hurd's residency weekend with the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



Embrace Ambiance Concerts

The 'Embrace' sculpture in the Boston Common features an artistic hug from four entwined arms. By walking through the sculpture, the viewer experiences the dynamic action of those loving arms. The reverberant acoustic at the Cathedral, following the recent renovation offers the loving embrace of sound. By walking into the church, music lingers and surrounds both music maker and listener to bring them to another spiritual place. The sculpture features the arms of Martin Luther King, Jr., and his wife Coretta Scott King to emphasize the importance of love in our lives. That is our dream at the Cathedral as well.



We presented two full Embrace Ambiance Concerts in April and December with music of Benjamin Britten, Carlotta Ferrari and choral improvisation. The Cathedral Schola and Nightingale Vocal Ensemble made up the choir.



In May we began a collaborative program with the Nightingale Vocal Ensemble called "First Wednesdays at 1". These programs were entirely improvised following a thematic prompt. Audience members participated by singing, listening and even dancing. The music created was recorded, but not written down and offered a unique experience.

We held our second annual Barbara Harris Hymn Sing in June which kicked off our summer *Hymn Sings from the Porch*. One Wednesday a couple from out of town heard us launch into their favorite hymn and they rushed up the steps to sing before heading off to Logan to return home. The tradition of hymn-singing is alive and well.



We ended the year with a Messiah Sing which has been growing in size each year. We always need to add chairs! Join us next year with the very able assistant conductor Richie Berman.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Munding
Director of Music



Report of the Finance Committee

Through a year of difficulty and uncertainty, the Finance Committee is dedicated to ensuring that the Cathedral has the means to carry out its mission in the community. In 2023, guided by the steady hand of Cathedral leadership and the Diocesan Finance team, the Cathedral navigated through the choppy waters of a budget deficit without laying off staff or suspending any of its programming. We are grateful for the work of all who helped make this happen.

Entering 2024, the Cathedral continues to carry a substantial deficit, primarily driven by a rise in overall costs and the lapse of some pandemic-era support. Support for the Cathedral through individual donations is strong, and we received an influx of new grant funding for MANNA last year from the Liberty Mutual Foundation and the Eastern Bank Foundation, as well as continued support from the Winter Walk (of which MANNA is an official partner), the Walk for Hunger, and the Mission Initiatives program of the Diocese of Massachusetts. Our Capital Campaign to raise funds for the completed HVAC installation is ongoing, and we held a Giving Tuesday Dinner to thank all of our generous donors for their contributions to ensuring that the Cathedral can be a house of prayer for all people, in all seasons.

The Diocesan Finance office is in the process of assisting us in putting together a three-year budget forecast so that we can better plan for the ebbs and flows of the economy as we look towards our future. Though it is a challenging time for many faith communities in our city and country, our spirit remains resolute and our mission is unwavering. We trust that this year will be a fruitful one.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Carpenter, Treasurer
Betsy Munzer, Assistant Treasurer

Report of the Minister of the Steps

Working on the steps of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul last summer was a formative experience. It challenged me in ways that I never had been before, and it was immensely rewarding. Though I am in school, my time on the steps was one of the most important parts of my education.

When I took the position, I was very apprehensive. I had never worked this sort of job before, and I was unsure how dangerous it would be. I had to go through de-escalation training, I heard stories about previous summers, and on my first day (before I was outside) someone ran by the steps and into Boston Common with a machete. All that to say, the first day I went out I had no idea what to expect and I was very nervous. That said, as soon as Amy and I set up our cart of lemonade that Thursday in May I felt very at ease. I had the pleasure of getting to know not only the people of the MANNA community, but also those who frequent the Common and Tremont St. I learned their names, their likes and dislikes, their favorites games, their favorite foods, etc. I got to experience the humanity of the folks so many simply pass by on the street, and this was a joy.

One of the most special experiences I had on the steps was inviting my wife to be a part of it. My wife is a zookeeper at Franklin Park Zoo, and I had asked her if she would be interested in doing a “Ask a Zookeeper” event on the steps. Not only did she sacrifice one of her days off to be outside with me, but she enjoyed it so much she came back to do it a second time. Seeing her meet the people I worked with and the kindness with which she interacted with them and the children who would often stop to ask questions about Rudy the lizard is an experience I hold very close to my heart. And it would not have happened had I not been working on the steps.

Faithfully submitted,
Riley Brown – Minister of the Steps, Summer 2023



Report of The St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer

Envisioned in 2022 and initiated in 2023, the St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer (TSPC) is a partnership between the Diocese of Massachusetts and the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Our aim is to equip and resource local congregations for the tasks and joys of faith formation, teaching and learning, catechesis, and the life of prayer.

TSPC addresses the call at the center of our diocesan mission strategy: to grow disciples in every congregation. Housed at the Cathedral, with regional centers at St. Paul's, Newburyport and St. Thomas, Taunton and a substantial online presence, TSPC seeks to carry out this work through three fundamental avenues: 1) continued theological education for clergy; 2) theological training and spiritual formation for lay leaders, including for lay-licensing programs; and 3) vocational discernment for lay and ordained people, oriented toward a deeper and more attentive life of prayer and discipleship.

While the Diocese of Massachusetts includes a plethora of excellent Christian educators, creative program designers, wise mentors, active monastic communities, academic theologians, and much more, these resources are not well-connected, widely known, or fully accessed by parishes. TSPC is building structures for surfacing and sharing these resources so that everyone – especially those in small parishes and traditionally under-resourced congregations – can benefit from them. Each of our congregations can offer its own set of strengths and assets, but for the entire diocese to continue growing disciples, we must invest in a thriving ecosystem of relationship, exchange, and togetherness.

In Lent, we invited congregations to use a series of videos created by the Rev. Dr. Jarred Mercer on "**Learning to Pray.**" Each video explored a different form of prayer, inviting people to come together learn and "try it on," and wrestle with questions about prayer.

In Lent and Easter seasons, we hosted a six-session program called "**Meeting God in our Busy Lives: Exploring the Theology and Practice of ZimZum.**" Led by the Rev. Phil LaBelle,



"Why Go to Church" at the cathedral

Rector of St. Mark's Church, Southborough, the program opened up the Jewish mystical practice of ZimZum, or holy withdrawal, inviting participants to try on creative ways to pull back and buy less as spiritual practices. One group met in person at St. Mark's Church and the other met online via Zoom.

In June 2023, each regional center of TSPC hosted a program entitled "**Why Go to Church?**" geared towards lay leaders in congregations. Growing out of a widespread sense of uncertainty and anxiety in the diocese about what the post-

pandemic church might look like and theological questions about the implications of "virtual church," the one-day program invited participants to consider the gift of being present in the

assembly in terms of sacrament, community, and mission. In 2024, we plan to build on this great start with a second “big questions” program and resource, again offered regionally.

In the fall of 2023, TSPC hosted former Archbishop of Canterbury, **the Most Rev. Dr. Rowan Williams** to discuss “The Learning Church: Theology and Christian Maturity.” A large group of people from around the diocese and beyond joined by livestream, and small groups gathered at the cathedral and two other parishes to watch together, celebrate Eucharist, and reflect on how to bring what they learned back to their parishes.



The Learning Church at St. Andrew's, Wellesley

In 2024-2025, we will continue to partner with Loving the Questions, a program currently offered through the Diocese of Western Massachusetts that assists people in discerning their calling and contemplating their relationships within and beyond their congregation. We will also explore piloting a lay ministry discernment day, in partnership with the diocesan Commission on Ministry. We will be broadening our leadership team and finding ways to curate and share resources online in a way that is helpful to congregations of the diocese.

We are thankful to our bishops and to chapter for their support for this evolving program. We believe it is good work for a cathedral to do in a diocese currently encouraging collaboration and seeking to equip the saints for the journey ahead into God's future.

Respectfully submitted,
The TSPC Leadership Team

Martha Gardner, Diocesan Missioner for Networking and Formation
The Very Rev. Amy McCreath, Dean of the Cathedral
The Rev. Dr. Jarred Mercer, Rector of St. Paul's, Newburyport
The Rev. Joseph Mumita, Rector of St. Thomas, Taunton
Kirsten Cairns, TSPC Coordinator, member of Trinity Church, Boston

Report of Cathedral Midweek Worship Communities

The Daily Office is a gift from the Holy One through our forebears. This richness is fully embraced by the Cathedral and is manifest in our calling to be a House of Prayer for All People. Everywhere. At all times.

The Cathedral sponsors Morning Prayer (through phone conferencing) daily during the week from 8:30-9:00 a.m. and has done this since the Covid pandemic began. We are a small but faithful band, a diverse bunch who share all the joys and sorrows of humankind and lift these up in prayer together. We rotate leaders, who draw on a variety of lectionaries for readings, Anglican, Lutheran, Roman. We occasionally have leaders who offer a brief reflection on an appointed Saint of the day, which has moved them due to personal or societal circumstances. We are united in being supportive of one another, and this is a daily part of our thanksgivings for our Morning Prayer community.

The Cathedral also hosts sung Compline through Zoom on Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m., with our music director Louise Munding in charge. This also began during the Covid pandemic and has continued, now offered on the first Fridays of every month. Again, our community is diverse and deeply supportive. We pray along with pre-recorded sacred seasonal music, both from our own Schola as well as from other sources



within and without the Diocese. We have a rotation of Officiants and Voices of the People who lead in the chants. We all sing. As in Morning Prayer, there are occasional reflections offered as well, times for silence and listening to the Holy One, and times for sharing prayer.

I would urge everyone to consider responding to these gifts; they are of the Divine. I know that the Holy Spirit is with and among us all, and cares not that these are remote gatherings of the faithful. Join us as fully as you are called.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Butler
Lake Oswego, Oregon

Cathedral Chapter Roster 2024

Updated 01/23/2024

Ex officio Members

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates
The Rt. Rev. Carol J. Gallagher
The Very Rev. Amy E. McCreath

Officers (Elected Annually)

Jane Peyrouse, Chairperson
Jen Hopcroft, Vice-Chairperson
Sean Carpenter, Treasurer
Betsy Munzer, Assistant Treasurer
Anne Stetson, Clerk
Nick Carter, Chancellor

Elected by Diocesan Convention (3-year terms)

Kevin Miller (2025) Lay
The Rev. Kate Bast (2025) Clergy
The Rev. Andrew Switter-Bentley (2026) Clergy
Allison Brown (2026) Lay
Andy Clarkson (2027) Lay
The Rev. Megan Holding (2027) Clergy

Elected by Chapter (3-year terms)

The Rev. Emily Garcia (2025) Clergy
The Rev. Chris Capaldo (2025) Clergy
Katy Denning (2026) Lay
The Rev. Beth Grundy (2026) Clergy
The Rev. Hall Kirkham (2027) Clergy
The Rev. Derrick Muwina (2027) Clergy

Nominated by Cathedral Congregations (3-year terms)

The Crossing: Rebecca Spangler (2025)
MANNA: John Lane (2026)
Sunday Morning: Vacant (2027)

Committee Chairs/Conveners

Personnel: Katy Denning
Finance: Sean Carpenter
Development: Jen Hopcroft
Governance: Megan Holding
Justice Ministries: Beth Grundy
Rental Advisory: Jane Peyrouse, John Lane
Property Advisory: Jane Peyrouse
Executive: Jane Peyrouse

Task Force

Strategic Plan Implementation: Megan Holding

2024 Cathedral Staff List

Full-Time Staff

The Rev. Amy McCreath, Dean of the Cathedral
The Rev. Jennifer McCracken, Pastor to MANNA
Christie Towers, Chaplain to MANNA and Co-Editor of *The Pilgrim*
Elaina Taze-Smith, Chaplain to MANNA
The Rev. Tamra Tucker, Priest/Lead Organizer to The Crossing
Louise Mundinger, Music Director
Matthew Jarrell, Director of Operations
Brad Rothrock, Cathedral Administrator
Jim Woodworth, Facilities Manager
Mike Garden, Sexton
Jahri Francis, Sexton
Jimmy Jiang, Sexton
Marylyn Velez, Sexton
Glen Schultzberg, Receptionist

Part-Time Staff

James Parker, Founder and Co-Editor of *The Pilgrim*
Kirsten Cairns, Administrator for The St. Paul Center for Theology & Prayer
Jimmy Lim, Music Director for The Crossing
Brenetta Ingram, Night Receptionist

Contracted Ministry Partners

Liz Ayres-Kerr, Cathedral Schola
Leo Balkovetz, Cathedral Schola
Alex Henderson, Cathedral Schola
Laura Thomas, Cathedral Schola
Nicholas Ochoa, Cathedral Schola
Julia Leitko, Cathedral Schola
John Meurling, Cathedral Schola
Penny Wilhelm, The Crossing Band
Adam Theriault, The Crossing Band
Hunter Ryan, The Crossing Band
Cynthia Marr, The Crossing Band
JT Minor, The Crossing Band
Sam de Soto, The Crossing Band
Henry Godfrey, The Crossing Band
Sean Griffin, Livestream Minister for the Sunday Congregation
Henry Wheaton, Livestream Minister for The Crossing

Upcoming at the Cathedral

Thursday, January 25: Service of Prayer for Christian Unity

- Time: 7:00 PM
- Location: Paulist Center, 5 Park St, Boston MA
- Description: The Paulist Center is hosting the annual service of Prayer for Christian Unity in partnership with UniteBoston and the Cathedral. This year's theme is "You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself."

Sunday, February 11: Winter Walk

- Time: 8:30-11:00 AM
- Location: Registration will take place at the Boston Common
- Description: The Winter Walk is an initiative raising awareness and funds to help end homelessness in our communities. MANNA is an official partner of the Walk and has set a goal to raise \$5,000 through participation and fundraising. To learn more, donate, and join the MANNA team for the Walk, please visit bit.ly/winterwalkmanna24.

Friday, February 16-Saturday, February 17: Enigma Chamber Opera Presents *The Burning Fiery Furnace*

- Time: 7:00 PM
- Location: Cathedral Church of St. Paul, with livestream available
- Description: Enigma will hold a fantastic exploration of Benjamin Britten's church parables. Tickets are \$20 for in-person shows and \$15 for livestream access. Visit enigmachamberopera.org for more.

Tuesdays during Lent: Lenten Preaching Series

- Time: 5:15 PM
- Location: Cathedral Church of St. Paul, and via livestream accessible at stpaulboston.org/events
- Description: We will mark Lent this year by hearing from younger preachers in their 20s and 30s.

Wednesdays and select Saturdays throughout the year: Embrace Ambiance Concerts

- Time: 5:15 PM on the first Wednesday of the month beginning April; afternoons on Saturdays including April 13, July 13, and September 7
- Location: Cathedral Church of St. Paul
- Description: A slate of experimental performances that use the ambient acoustics of the Cathedral to perform improvised and previously composed music for pipe organ and vocals. Concerts are free; donations are welcomed.