The Cathedral is alive and buzzing with a genuine excitement and energy, fueled by the vision laid out in our 2019–2023 Strategic Plan. As we live into the first year of this roadmap for mission and ministry, we are following God’s call to Welcome, Deepen, Convene and Serve. We do not wish to be simply stewards of a grand building or proud legacy, but to act as agents of reconciliation in our world. Your partnership with us makes it all possible. Thank you!

— THE VERY REV. RANDOLPH MARSHALL HOLLERITH, DEAN

Financial growth. A renovated Cathedral College. A five-year strategic focus. And countless LEGO® bricks coming together to form the world’s largest plastic Cathedral.

There’s a lot happening at Washington National Cathedral, a moral witness and a vibrant community of faith that is expanding audiences, growing impact and touching hearts around the world.

From worship to the arts to welcoming sight-seers and visitors, this Cathedral is growing into its second century of ministry with a renewed focus and palpable energy. Everything we do is made possible with the support of donors from all corners of this nation. Thank you!
WELCOMING

A state funeral summons the best of the Cathedral, the Episcopal Church and the U.S. military. The Cathedral hosted its fourth Presidential funeral, for George H.W. Bush, on Dec. 5, 2018, for nearly 3,000 guests. On Sept. 1, the Cathedral welcomed the nation for the funeral of Sen. John McCain, with eulogies offered by former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush. On Oct. 26, the family of slain civil rights icon Matthew Shepard brought their son’s remains to a final rest at the Cathedral after a 20-year search for peace, safety and consolation. “Rest easy in this place. You are safe now,” said Bishop V. Gene Robinson. “Oh, and Matt, welcome home.”

And who said church has to be boring? The Cathedral’s new LEGO® project aims to build a 1:40 scale replica of the Cathedral. At nearly 500,000 pieces, the project is expected to take two to three years to build, and will be the largest LEGO® Cathedral ever built. Built at $2/brick by the public who visit the Cathedral, all funds go toward the $19 million remaining in earthquake repair.

236,191 SIGHT-SEEING VISITORS +6.71%
3,471 BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR TICKETS SOLD +27%
587 VISITORS TOOK A TOWER CLimb TOUR
$1,756,701 IN VISITOR REVENUE +9.6%
34,974 LEGO® BRICKS PLACED

DEEPENING

A group of 20 pilgrims from the Cathedral Congregation journeyed to Alabama to retrace the battle for Civil Rights along the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, to Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham and to the new National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery.

The Cathedral went out into the world—literally!—to celebrate Earth Day and the wonder of God’s creation with an interfaith Sunday worship service in the AB Mall Amphitheater.

Under the leadership of Canon Vicar Dana Corsello, the Cathedral leaned into spiritual growth through more than 80 classes and Bible Study sessions, more than 20 book discussions and a popular five-week Lenten devotional series.

Renovations began on the old College of Preachers building, which will be rechristened as the Virginia Mae Center in honor of its principal donor, Virginia Mae Cre ets Mars. The new facility will be the hub of the new Cathedral College of Faith & Culture, and expand the Cathedral’s ability to host pilgrimages, seminars and residencies that allow participants to go deeper into bridge-building, spiritual growth and civic engagement.

162,116 WORSHIP ATTENDEES
72,914 CONCERT/PROGRAM/EVENT ATTENDEES
3,100 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ATTENDEES +264%
45 MEMBERS BAPTIZED, CONFIRMED OR RECEIVED +29%
1,126 CONGREGATION MEMBERS +9%

SERVING

The Cathedral’s new canon missioner, the Rev. Canon Leonard Hamlin Sr., was installed Nov. 1 to help lead the Cathedral’s social justice work, with a focus on racial reconciliation, the Cathedral Scholars program and building bridges across the District of Columbia.

Responding to hundreds of thousands of federal workers trying to make ends meet during the prolonged government shutdown, the Cathedral’s F2FeedTheFurloughed initiative dispersed $8,000 to provide grocery baskets to 400 families in partnership with four churches in D.C., Maryland and Virginia. Led by Vicar Dana Corsello and Canon Missioner Leonard Hamlin, 18 volunteers from the Cathedral Congregation and the Cathedral Scholars Program journeyed to Puerto Rico to help retrofit an abandoned school into housing for victims of Hurricane Maria.

Members of the Cathedral Congregation learned together to buy and donate more than 200 books and various art supplies to the Traffik Center, which aims to offer a refuge to the youth of Southeast Washington, D.C., including many whose families have been wounded by gun violence.

Bells tolled to mark the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I on Nov. 11, 1918, with a national service that also paid tribute to the sacrifices and service of America’s military families.

The Cathedral’s famed Space Window took center stage at an evening celebration to mark the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar mission, co-sponsored by NASA and the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum. Hundreds gathered to mourn the lives lost in Easter Sunday bombings across Sri Lanka, as well as the funeral for Kieran de Zoysa, killed in the attacks at age 11. Several weeks later, the Cathedral hosted an interfaith symposium for church and civic leaders to learn lessons from recent attacks at houses of worship in South Carolina, Texas and Pennsylvania. Oscar-winner BlacKkKlansman took center stage at the Cathedral, alongside the 30th anniversary of Spike Lee’s Do the Right Thing for the weekend Long Way Film series, co-sponsored by Baylor University, the Austin Film Festival and the March on Washington Film Festival.

CONVENING

$3,032,279 IN TOTAL EVENT & PROGRAM REVENUE +49%
$1,009,877 IN EXTERNAL EVENT REVENUE +12%
1,058,930 USERS VISITED CATHEDRAL.ORG +34%
82,401 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS: +16%
The sledgehammers and drilling you hear echoing inside the new Virginia Mae Center reflect an institution that is growing from a position of strength. With our fourth consecutive year of net operating surplus, and solid growth in giving and attendance, this Cathedral is on the move. The launch of the Cathedral College of Faith & Culture will equip us to bring the Cathedral to the nation, and the nation to the Cathedral. With solid leadership, and your support, exciting things are happening at your Cathedral.

— ANDREW C. FLORANCE
CHAIR, CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

12,558 DONORS
+7.3%

453 CONGREGATION HOUSEHOLDS MADE FINANCIAL GIFTS OR PLEDGES +6.8%

$1.7 MILLION WAS GIVEN BY CONGREGATION HOUSEHOLDS +39%