From our Vicar

HELP US TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER
WNC Congregation Pastoral Care Signup

Dear Friends and Family of the Congregation,

At times like this pandemic, we turn to our faith and to our faith community for strength and comfort. As such, the Dean and I believe that the most important thing we can do during these unprecedented times is to take care of one another. Our greatest fear would be that one of our own is left alone, afraid and unconnected.

To this end, if you or someone you know may need assistance with grocery delivery, medications picked up at a pharmacy, a one-on-one pastoral visit, or just a check-in phone call, we are organizing a pastoral care team to take care of our most vulnerable. Due to the size of our Congregation and Cathedral family, we will not be able to offer one-on-one assistance to those who live with families, caretakers or in assisted-living facilities unless an emergency arises. And if you belong to another congregation or parish within the DMV, it is our hope that you will rely on your clergy there as the first pastoral contact.

If you would like to offer your gifts and time as a member of our pastoral care team, please contact me at dCorsello@cathedral.org. It is important that you be known to our Cathedral clergy as we cannot allow strangers to care for our shut-ins. This is an important safety measure to protect everyone involved.

May you abide in the trust of God’s healing and presence.
Submit your pastoral care offers or needs here »

Our Pastoral Care team will be actively monitoring submissions and will be in touch as soon as possible. Please know that we are here for you.


The Rev. Canon Dana Colley Corsello

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**Seeds of Faith**

There is goodness in this world and each of us can be a witness of it. The Cathedral Seeds of Faith initiative invites everyone to be an instrument of good. The Coronavirus has shifted our routines and made us realize how connected we are to each other, our local communities and world. We have been advised to practice social distancing, but as we live out our faith, we value being community and staying connected to one another as best we can.

Throughout this Season of Lent, we are encouraged to participate in an act of kindness or justice each day. A kind word, a call of encouragement, being an advocate for those who are suffering injustice, volunteering to assist or serve an individual in need or offering a prayer are just some examples that can be carried out. Needed more than ever now, it is through these acts of generosity and kindness that we are able to transform the world. There is an interconnectedness that we should not only see but embrace in this moment. Keep reporting your "seeds" through the Cathedral website. We look forward to sharing the good that we grow together.

—The Rev. Canon Leonard L. Hamlin Sr., D.Min.

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**Easter Baskets 2020 Update**

*Our annual basket drive continues online!* [Donate today!]

Members have asked to hear more

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about this year’s Friendship Place recipients. We learned from our congregation rep Chris Cannedy that the Easter Baskets, filled with useful and some fun items, will be presented to clients in the Veterans First, Neighbors First Families and La Casa 40-unit Men’s Permanent Supportive Housing divisions. In thanking the Cathedral community for its generosity, he added that the baskets are important symbols that demonstrate beloved community and the act of spiritual hospitality.

Curious to learn more about our neighbors? Watch these 3 videos to meet some of the people served by Friendship Place.

Veterans First Program Participants
Navy Veteran Aja Ford and her children, part of the Families First program
Jasmine Zanders-Young

Giving Voice: Cathedral Scholar Spotlight

Program Director Joseph Peralta shares a vignette on one of our current Scholars.

Jaiye, a Cathedral Scholar who is finishing her senior year at Capital City Public Charter School, had an opportunity to travel and participate in the recent Iowa Caucus. As a member of the Mikva Challenge Program, Jaiye was able to conduct neighborhood canvassing and phone banking for multiple candidates. During her last night in Iowa, Jaiye participated in a Youth Summit and spoke about the importance of healthcare.

We are glad that Jaiye had the experience to participate in our political processes and contribute to conversations that are important to her and her peers. Giving youth opportunities to voice their opinions plays a meaningful role in shaping their community and fostering positive lasting change.

To learn more visit the WNC website or email Program Director Joseph Peralta. Follow the Scholars on social media:
Twitter: @wnescholars
Instagram: WNCScholars
Facebook Page: @WNCScholars

Paying Attention to the Sacred in Daily Life

Kathy Deal reports on the Lenten Retreat led by guest spiritual director Nancy Bieber.

Earth Hour 2020

Saturday, March 28, 8:30 pm
Turn out your lights! The Cathedral once again joins the World Wildlife Fund and others worldwide in turning off the lights to raise awareness of climate change with Earth Hour 2020. Remember to turn off all non-essential lights for one hour. Learn more about Earth Hour 2020 »

Sanctuary Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 31, 7:30 pm
The committee members are planning to hold their meeting by teleconference. Learn more »

April Fiction Fun!
On February 29, 23 participants gathered in the Cathedral Library for a Lenten retreat led by Nancy Bieber, author and spiritual director who has led retreats throughout the United States and England. Grounding the day in prayer, poetry and reflection, Nancy posed questions and facilitated discussions which invited us to explore new ways to pay attention to the Sacred in our daily lives. Quoting a Rumi poem—Don’t go back to sleep—Nancy emphasized the importance of staying awake.

On a practical level, Nancy suggested various practices to help us slow down and become more attentive to God’s presence. Kathy shares some of the highlights that we can take on, including Pausing to build habits for stopping and noticing at points in our day, particularly when we transition from one task or room to another. Download and print the invitation to pay attention.

Songs of Hope & Affirmation Reflection
by Sher & Tim Sandusky

The inspiring music of Associate Director of Music for Contemporary Worship Daryl L.A. Hunt and the Cathedral Band lifted the voices of about 60 Cathedral congregation members on March 6 in the intimate space of the Cathedral’s Great Choir. Daryl and the band introduced their unique perspective on hymns, anthems, songs of praise and instrumental music in a program entitled Songs of Hope and Affirmation.

Carried by Daryl’s impeccable piano stylings and the rock-solid grooves of Cathedral Band rhythm section Mark Price (percussion) and Michael Bowie (bass), congregation members sang a selection of gospel favorites including Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing and Sweet, Sweet Spirit. Daryl also introduced a couple of new soulful refrains which may soon be heard at our 9 am service. Read the full review.

Where love will bless the earth

As we continue to shine the spotlight on the Easter Basket Collection for Friendship Place and our Cathedral Scholars Program, our Canon Missioner reflects on our Cathedral Outreach and Social Justice (OSJ) ministries and shares a poem by Langston Hughes to focus our vision and work.

Richard Whately once stated, “A
man is called selfish not for pursuing his own good, but for neglecting his neighbor’s.” Our Cathedral Outreach and Social Justice (OSJ) ministries are engaged in work that both visions and works toward the formation of a new and beloved community focused on the religion of God’s freedom and the politics of justice and compassion. The practice of these ministries is both priestly and prophetic—priestly in the practice of our faith in the conventional places of our community, but also prophetic in offering an alternative perception of reality and in letting people see their own history in the light of God’s freedom and God’s will for justice. I am thankful for all those who are serving the mission of this Cathedral through faith and extend the invitation to all to connect with a ministry.

Dear God, I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom’s way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!
—Langston Hughes

Plate Donations During Virtual Services

While the building is closed, donations to the congregation can still be made online using this link. Regular monthly credit card payments will continue as scheduled. If you have any questions about your congregational pledge or about making a one-time gift to the Cathedral congregation, please contact Emily Davis: emdavis@cathedral.org or (202) 537-5792.
CCC Minutes

The March meeting of the CCC was cancelled. The minutes for the February 2020 Cathedral Congregation Committee (CCC) meeting will be approved at the next member meeting.

Steps on the Journey

Baptisms!
The following were baptised on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany:
Roman Edward, Beatrice Faith, Odella Avery and Zoe Marie. Welcome new Christians!

Pastoral news
If you or someone you know in the congregation would like to discuss a pastoral concern or wish a hospital or home visit or to receive Communion, please contact the Vicar, Dana Corsello, at (202) 537-5290 or d corsello@cathedral.org. And if you have a prayer request, please email: prayers@cathedralcongregation.org.