From Our Vicar
The Pain of Grief When We Cannot Gather

Dear Congregation Family,

I hope you’ve had some semblance of a traditional summer and have been able to either get away or to take a break from your computer screen for a staycation of rest and renewal. I don’t need to tell you that we are living in strange times. These times are especially hard when one of our members dies and we cannot grieve and celebrate their life together soon after their passing. As Episcopalians, we value our traditions and sacred rituals. We need to be together to process, and to find some sort of closure.

Not being able to gather for funerals and memorial services weighs heavily on all us. I feel this pain now, especially after two beloved congregation members passed in the last month—Robert Daffer and Tom Van Alen (neither COVID related). They were both devoted fixtures of the Cathedral, had supported it in a myriad of ways and made life-long friends through the congregation. While both their families will hold services when the Cathedral reopens, that promise does not heal our hearts now. Please know that the clergy are praying for their families and you during this “in-between” time. It may help to pick up the telephone, call your mutual friends and share stories and tears together. Your healing process can begin now.

We can carry on knowing that both men walked into the arms of God and are at peace. Their bodies are made perfect with the assurance of the resurrection.

Faithfully,
Cathedral Day News!

Because we cannot celebrate our founding in the typical grand fashion with in-person worship in the Nave and a picnic on Sunday, September 27, the Vicar’s office felt it important to honor our birthday with special services of baptisms and compline on Saturday, September 26 in the amphitheater—physically distanced of course!

At 3 pm we will offer the sacrament of baptism for children and adults. Due to the District’s restrictions on in-person gatherings, we can have no more than 100 people at each of these two services. This service is reserved only for baptismal families. (Please contact Patrick at pkeyser@cathedral.org if you desired to be baptized.)

At 6 pm, or thereabouts, we will offer compline for the congregation. You are welcome to bring your own chairs, blankets and a picnic, but you must take everything with you when you depart. The same restriction on numbers applies, so we will ask you to register in September for the service and will draw participants via a lottery. If you are selected, you can bring immediate family members. If you are single, we ask that you not invite a friend but another congregation member.

If it rains, both services will be held in the Nave of the Cathedral. Specific details to follow in the September newsletter.

Vicar Dana Invites You to Host a House-Church

One of Dana’s goals for the fall is to create evening House Churches (you may know these as Foyer Groups). Her plan is to recruit 10 hosts to commit to bi-weekly or weekly gatherings of 10 to study scripture, pray and offer fellowship. Since we won’t be gathering in one another’s homes and breaking actual bread together anytime soon, this will be a wonderful way to stay connected. It will be like a dinner party via Zoom, except there is no shopping, cooking or cleanup!

Congratulations!
Charlotte McKnight and Zakaria Raggad were married on June 22, 2020 in a small ceremony at their home. Vicar Dana Corsello officiated. Help us congratulate the newly married couple on their happy news!

20s and 30s
Join us on Facebook and Zoom!
Ongoing Friday Fellowship and Game Nights with rotating hosts and Sunday Reflections with Tanya Aquino. Additionally, Janelle McCarthy is hosting a book study that is being cross-posted/cross-pollinated between both the WNC 20s & 30s and EDOW Young Adults FB sites. Join the 20s & 30s Facebook group for updates.

Gun Violence Prevention Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 7 pm, Zoom
Join GVP for their monthly meeting via Zoom. Join online
Once the hosts are confirmed, she will match up guests with each host family. This will be a natural way to stay engaged, keep one’s brain biblically stimulated, share prayers and care for each other. What she particularly loves about it is that anyone from the DMV can join, and there’s no fretting over driving at night or the traffic!

There is one catch though: we’re asking each host to secure their own Zoom account and pay the $15 monthly fee. The Vicar’s office doesn’t have 10 additional accounts or capacity. The hope is that the groups will pitch in to cover the cost. The trial run of the first 10 house churches will last 2 to 3 months, depending on how often we decide to meet. She will offer a training session too. Please contact the Vicar if you’re interested at dcorsello@cathedral.org.

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**Congregation Tidings is Getting a Refresher!**

Starting next month, the congregation newsletter will look a bit different! It’s being refreshed because we’re moving to a new platform—we hope you will like it. You can expect it to hit your inboxes on or around the 15th of each month with the same vital congregation and ministry updates. As we make changes in upcoming weeks, know that Congregation Tidings will still be published monthly, and Thursday weekly email blasts will continue. If you have questions or are not receiving these Cathedral communications, please reach out to Margaret Rawls at mrawls@cathedral.org.

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**Back to School Drive**

*August 12 and 13, 11 am—4 pm, Cathedral Bus Garage*

As families prepare for the year ahead, the Cathedral is partnering with United Planning Organization to make sure every student, no matter where they are learning, is prepared to succeed. We are collecting needed items to make at-home learning the best possible experience for all students. We are also accepting non-perishable food donations for healthy snacks, breakfasts and lunches (meals normally provided for at school). Needed items include thumb drives, jump ropes, arts and crafts kits and more. See a complete list [here](#).

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**LGBTQIA Alliance Social Hour**

*Thursday, August 13, 8 pm, Zoom*

The LGBTQIA Alliance will be hosting a Virtual Happy Hour on Thursday, August 13 at 8 pm. We would love to have you with us for open, informal discussion... we may chat about our personal experiences, recent books and movies, current events, etc. A few members are reading Bishop Gene Robinson’s book, *God Believes in Love*. It will be a time of connection with no real agenda. Don’t forget to bring your own beverage! Register [here](#).

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**Racial Justice Task Force Author Talk**

*Sunday, August 16, 1 pm, Zoom*

The Racial Justice Task Force invites you to an enlightening and informative presentation from Dr. Richard Bell, author of *Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home*. Dr. Bell is presently an Associate Professor of History at the University of Maryland. This program will be held on Zoom following the 11:15 service. Join online [here](#).

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**Martha’s Table, Continuing the 3rd Monday of the Month**

*Monday, August 17, 11 am—1:30 pm, Cathedral Bus Garage*

Martha’s Table has increased its assistance to the community by 400% to address the challenges of COVID-19. Help us support them; make sandwiches at home and deliver them to the Cathedral on the third Monday of every month. Sandwich-making and delivery instructions are [here](#). Kindly email marthastable@cathedralcongregation.org no later than 3 pm on Friday, August 14 to tell us how many sandwiches you will bring. Safety is paramount; masks and social distancing are required at the drop-off. Thank you for helping to feed our hungry neighbors.

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**Fiction Fun!**

*Monday, August 17, 7 pm, Zoom*
Join us on Zoom for Coffee Hour

Sundays, 12:45 pm, Zoom

If you haven’t logged on to the congregation’s coffee hour at 12:45 pm you’re really missing out. No one could have predicted how seeing one another’s face and name on the screen would be such a terrific way to get to know each another better and make new congregation friends. We discuss the sermon, current events, check in pastorally and share the latest news. It is true fellowship with some fun thrown in. Please join us and invite your friends. Join on Zoom here.

Join Us to Study Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians

Wednesdays, 10 am, Zoom

Our congregation Bible Study returns this fall with meetings on Wednesdays at 10:00 am via Zoom, beginning September 9. This clergy-led series will focus on the book of 1 Corinthians. Spots are limited for Congregation members only. Email congregation@cathedral.org to register.

Policing and a Just Society

August 18 and 20, 7:30 pm, Zoom

Joined by former mayors from Minneapolis and DC, police representatives and community leaders, Canon Missioner Leonard Hamlin and Programs Director Michelle Dibble explore policing and community safety through the lens of faith. The first session explores why community members believe change is necessary. The second looks at possible paths forward. The Cathedral congregation is invited to submit questions they would like to ask live to programs@cathedral.org. Learn more online and register here.

Update from Dean Hollerith

As your Cathedral continues to live into God’s calling to be a national house of prayer for all people, we must be honest about the financial impact of the ongoing COVID pandemic. Out of a commitment to responsible and

Fiction Fun will meet this month via Zoom. Bobbie Messalle will lead us in a discussion of Café Nevo by Barbara Rogan. If you are reading, or have read, Café’ Nevo and want to join the discussion, please do. Email fictionfun@cathedralcongregation.org for the Zoom link.

Sanctuary Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 7:30 pm, Zoom

The Sanctuary Ministry will meet Tuesday evening, August 25 from 7:30 - 9 pm. The Ministry meeting will feature presentations from immigrant youth leaders, including Marianna Bonilla, a student at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School and co-creator of the website voicesofmigrants.org. Join the zoom call here.

Racial Justice Task Force Book Club

Thursday, September 10, 7 pm, Zoom

Join the Racial Justice Book Discussion Group on September 10, 7-8:30 pm, via Zoom, as we discuss The Cross and the Lynching Tree, by James H. Cone. Henry Louis Gates said, "Cone turns his attention to two symbols that dominated not only the spiritual world but also the daily life of African Americans in the 20th Century. In their inextricable tie, he finds both the terror and hope that governed life under violent racism…” Join us in a conversation that will challenge us, maybe make us uncomfortable, but certainly will help us to grow in our understanding. Email congregation@cathedral.org to be added to the Racial Justice Book Discussion Group email list and get the Zoom link.
sustainable financial stewardship, the Cathedral will be reducing its footprint until a vaccine is developed and the public feels comfortable gathering in large groups once again. You can read more about these changes in the letter from Dean Randy Hollerith. Questions? Contact Vicar Dana at dcorsello@cathedral.org.

Virtual Donation Plate

While the building is closed, donations to the congregation can still be made online. You can make virtual plate donations here. If you have any questions about your congregational pledge or about making a one-time gift to the Cathedral congregation, please email Emily Davis at emdavis@cathedral.org.

CCC News

As per custom, the Cathedral Congregation Committee did not meet in July. It will gather for its regular monthly meeting on August 12 via Zoom. The CCC’s June minutes will be published in September after they are approved at this week’s meeting.

Steps on the Journey

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 dcorsello@cathedral.org. And if you have a prayer request, please email: prayers@cathedralcongregation.org.