



FISCAL YEAR 2020

ANNUAL
REPORT

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

For centuries, cathedrals have reached to the heavens amid the city skyline, anchoring their communities in prayer, beauty and service. Here in Washington, the lofty spires of the National Cathedral have kept watch over the nation's capital for more than a century.

This Cathedral exists to gather and serve the people who call this city home—now more than ever.

As part of the Cathedral's strategic goal of **Serving**, the Cathedral delivered 1,553 food baskets and 1,626 frozen turkeys—about 20 tons of food—to needy families for Thanksgiving. After the pandemic hit in March, the Cathedral collected 900 bags of groceries to help restock local food pantries that were emptied by increased need.

The donations kept coming: 3,500 pounds of food collected in June, delivered to the families of first responders and 17 daycare centers that care for their children; 100 backpacks filled with supplies for virtual schooling for children in need; and nearly \$100,000 raised to benefit the Cathedral Scholars Program to assist students at D.C. public high schools.

When the pandemic closed many traditional sites used by the American Red Cross for blood drives, the Cathedral opened the empty nave as a collection site, gathering 250 units of blood over the course of several weeks, enough to potentially save more than 650 lives.

"This pandemic may have shut the doors of this Cathedral temporarily, but it did not close our hearts," said Canon Missioner Leonard L. Hamlin, Sr. "We have seen, clearer than ever before, the power of this Cathedral to bring people together to serve this community."

Being a witness in the community can take many forms.

As the Washington Nationals chased their first-ever World Series win, the Cathedral rallied the city behind the hometown, bathing the west front in Nationals red, the choristers singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and even the "Baby Shark" fight song on the organ.

"Everyone loves a winner, but we cheered on the Washington Nationals for the unity they brought to this city, for the grace they brought to the challenge, for their resilience in adversity and for reminding everyone that there are ways to come together, regardless of the labels we claim or the uniforms we wear," said a Cathedral Facebook post that reached 1 million people around the world.

"We don't give thanks for winning a ball game; we give thanks for the remarkable joy this team has brought to a city in desperate need of something to celebrate."

THE CATHEDRAL'S NAME REFLECTS OUR CORE IDENTITIES AND ACTIVITIES IN A YEAR OF BIG CHANGE



The COVID-19 pandemic, and the closures that followed, shifted everything we do at the Cathedral. Yet despite the temporary disruptions, we discovered **NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO BE A CATHEDRAL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**. The grace of this pandemic is that we are living into our national mission in new and creative ways, and the Cathedral is having a larger impact than ever before. Your partnership and support makes it all possible. Thank you!

— THE VERY REV. RANDOLPH MARSHALL HOLLERITH DEAN

The activities and mission of this Cathedral may look and feel different than before, yet **THIS NATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE IS MORE RELEVANT TO PEOPLE'S DAILY LIVES THAN EVER BEFORE.** Thanks to the wise and careful leadership of our dean, a determined and hard-working staff and supporters like you across the world, this Cathedral is financially sound and on the move. We give thanks that, despite the challenges around us, God continues to bless this Cathedral.

— ANDREW C. FLORANCE
CHAIR, CATHEDRAL CHAPTER



WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

They say God works in mysterious ways. And the Holy Spirit definitely left fingerprints on the Cathedral's new high-tech video system.

Launched in September 2019, the new network of cameras, screens and controls would be called into service a few months later to beam all Cathedral services, online, across the world when the COVID-19 pandemic closed the building to the public.

With a rapid pivot to online services and programs, the Cathedral became a church home for countless Americans and people around the world during the pandemic, finding new ways to live into its call to serve the nation.

Over the course of a year, the number of YouTube subscribers doubled; traffic to cathedral.org grew 151 percent year over year; and the Cathedral saw a 383 percent growth in new donors.

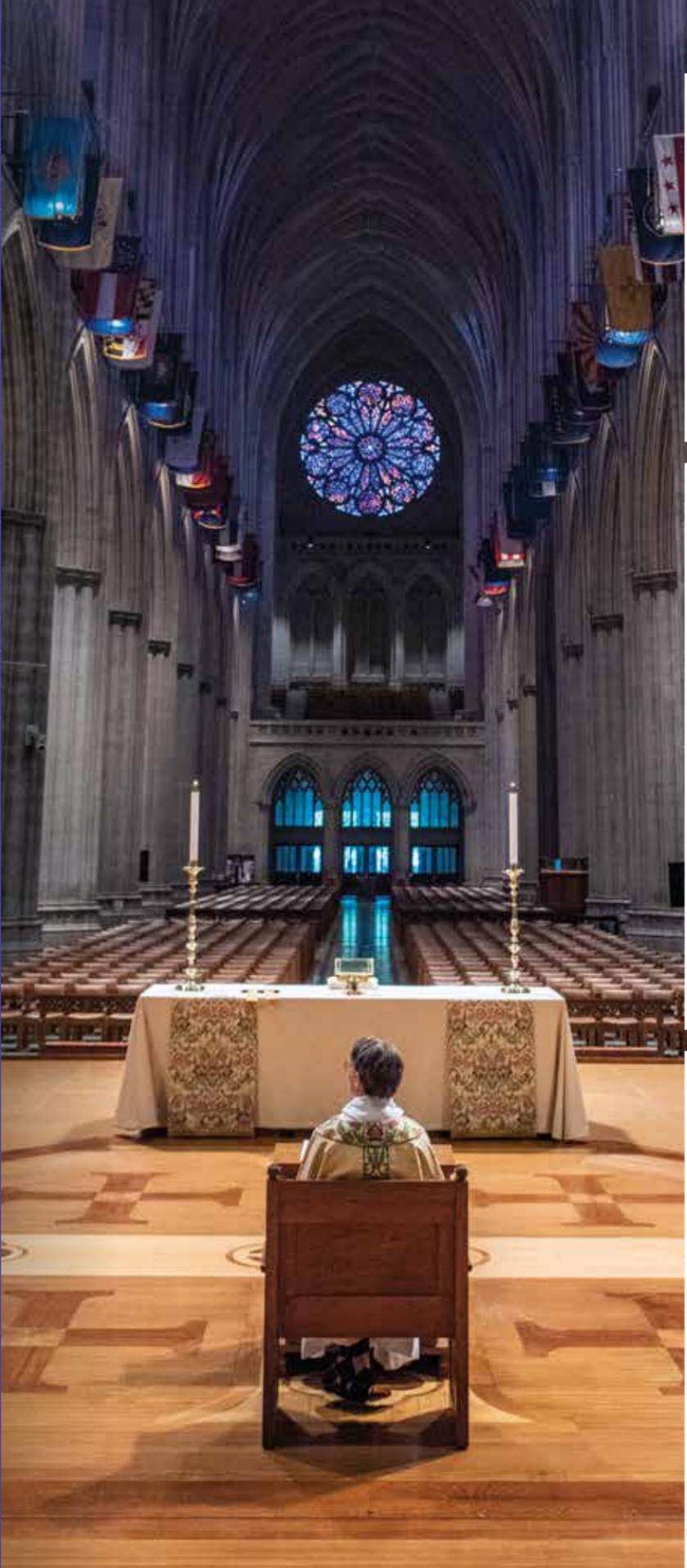
"Thank you for all the ways you have responded to God's good grace that has made the Cathedral a light to this nation," one worshipper wrote in from Massachusetts. "You are an amazing group of shepherds! May you continue to be bread for the hunger you cannot see."

Before the pandemic closed the doors in March, the Cathedral found new ways to live into its goals of **Welcoming** and **Convening**, with services to lament the 400th anniversary of slavery in North America; a concert to honor America's veterans that drew 1,300 people; an online service to mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day; an examination of the laws of war in cyberspace with former National Security Advisor Susan Rice; and mining the moral implications of scientific discovery with Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health.

The closures accelerated changes that were already underway to expand the Cathedral's national footprint, with a growing investment in digital infrastructure to support everything from a Zoom talk with theologian Barbara Brown Taylor to a national coffee hour with the Cathedral's growing online Congregation.

"This is the sacred space where America gathers at moments of national significance," said Provost Jan Naylor Cope. "And how true that has been this year, when everything has taken on a whole new level of significance. Thanks be to God that this Cathedral exists, in this time and in this place."

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OPERATING REVENUE
\$20.24 MILLION

- 1% retail
- 2% program revenues & other
- 4% music & worship
- 5% visitors
- 7% facilities & events
- 12% releases of donor-restricted contributions
- 18% endowment draw
- 51% contributions

OPERATING EXPENSES
\$20.16 MILLION

- 7% debt service & principal payments
- 16% development
- 17% administrative support
- 20% cathedral buildings repair & maintenance
- 20% visitors, programs, outreach & events
- 20% worship, congregation & music

WASHINGTON NATIONAL
CATHEDRAL

A Cathedral isn't just a building. At their best, cathedrals are both a place of physical beauty but also a spiritual refuge from the world.

The Cathedral's growing online Congregation bore witness to the spiritual richness that is found week in and week out, with sermons that inspire and music that stirs the soul.

When the pandemic disrupted church life across the country, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry invited the church to worship online at the Cathedral—bringing together 50,000 people for Easter Sunday in a building designed to seat 3,000. When Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde couldn't visit her far-flung flock, the Diocese of Washington tuned in to hear her at the Cathedral.

"It has been a long time now since my last visit in person," one viewer wrote from Las Vegas, "but through the online services I feel as if I have returned."

Despite the closure, the roster of prominent guest clergy expanded as guest preachers joined Sunday mornings via video from across the church, including *New York Times* columnist David Brooks, presidential historian Jon Meacham and Poor Peoples Campaign founder Bishop William Barber.

Dean Randy Hollerith's commitment to the delivery of spiritual content, part of the Cathedral's strategic goal of **Deepening**, found new form in daily prayer services broadcast from the Cathedral chapels, as well as online devotionals that started in Lent and continued well past Easter.

The physical Cathedral, too, grew in strength and beauty as the Cathedral Garth reopened with the new All Souls Memorial Garden after nearby earthquake repair was completed. Even as full construction was paused due to the pandemic, work continued on the infrastructure to support the new Virginia Mae Center, the crown jewel of the reimagined Cathedral College of Faith & Culture.

"We always knew we had people joining us online on Sundays," said Vicar Dana Colley Corsello. "But, ironically, it took a pandemic for us to really know who they are. The blessing of this very strange year is that our Cathedral family is growing in size and relationship in ways we never thought possible."

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