XXVII, NUMBER 5 EASTER 2025

The Cathedral Chimes

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Welcome to the New Chimes!

BY DEAN HEATHER VANDEVENTER

The communications committee has been working on the rebirth of the St. John's newsletter. Starting with this edition, the Chimes will have a new focus as part of the overall communications plan for the cathedral.

Many of you offered feedback on cathedral communications via the survey distributed in 2024, with a smaller set of people offering additional feedback via focus groups. That feedback helped us understand that you expected and wanted to find different information from our various modes of communication–the bulletin, e-blasts, Facebook, website, and the Chimes.

We heard that you look for information, in a succinct format, about current and upcoming events in the bulletin announcements and the Friday Connections e-blast. Facebook is a way for both the congregation and the wider community to learn about events and get a peek at the life of the cathedral with photos. The website is also a way we connect with the wider community, particularly those new to St. John's, and some congregants also want to find current information there.

The Chimes is a publication that fosters community and engagement. It will be a bi-monthly publication that connects with liturgical seasons and the rhythms of congregational life. It will have longer articles inviting you to take time to read and ponder.

An editorial board, anchored by communications committee chair Meredith Shimizu, along with Lindsey Newton and James Rosenzweig, plans the theme and articles for each edition and recruits writers. You can expect to read a variety of voices over the course of a year.

In keeping with a shift begun in 2024, the Chimes will be emailed, with a small number of copies mailed to households who have requested. Paper copies of the Chimes are always available in the Welcome Center and the south transept entrance to the cathedral.

Over the past ninety-plus years, the Chimes has had a variety of formats, methods of distribution, and frequency of delivery. There are volumes in the Coombs Library and the archives which hold many issues. They tell us what was important and happening at the Cathedral and in the wider Church and world at those times. Today's editions of the Chimes will join those, sharing the insights of our day. I am looking forward to reading them.

Sabbatical: A Time of Renewal

BY DEAN HEATHER VANDEVENTER

As I announced on Annual Meeting Sunday, I will be on sabbatical and away from the Cathedral for the summer of 2025, starting on June 2.

I started serving St. John's in August 2018. To put it mildly, over these almost seven years, a lot has happened! It is time for me to take a step back, to rest and recharge, and to be in a space of different perspectives. It is also a good time for the cathedral congregation to have a change in routines and hear from other voices over the summer.

Many of you know that my husband David is also an Episcopal priest and serves St. Luke's in Coeur d'Alene. He started at St. Luke's as interim in the fall of 2018 and later became their rector. It is time for David and St. Luke's to have sabbatical as well and we are thankful that we can be on sabbatical together.

Across our years in ministry, David and I have each engaged in interfaith conversations and ministries. As followers of Jesus, we also know that we are siblings particularly to the other "People of the Book," the traditions that hold Abraham as a forebearer. As an undergraduate, I was a history major focused on medieval history in western Europe but I also took classes in medieval Islamic thought, medieval traditions in south east Asia, and Jewish history. When we were on our honeymoon (26 years ago), we went to Spain and Morocco. The heart of Cordoba is the Mezquita–a large building where we find Visigothic Christian foundations, Muslim archways, and a Roman Catholic cathedral just a few blocks from a Jewish synagogue. History tells that Jews, Christians, and Muslims lived together in relative peace during Muslim rule. What David and I learned and saw in Cordoba has stayed with us across the years.

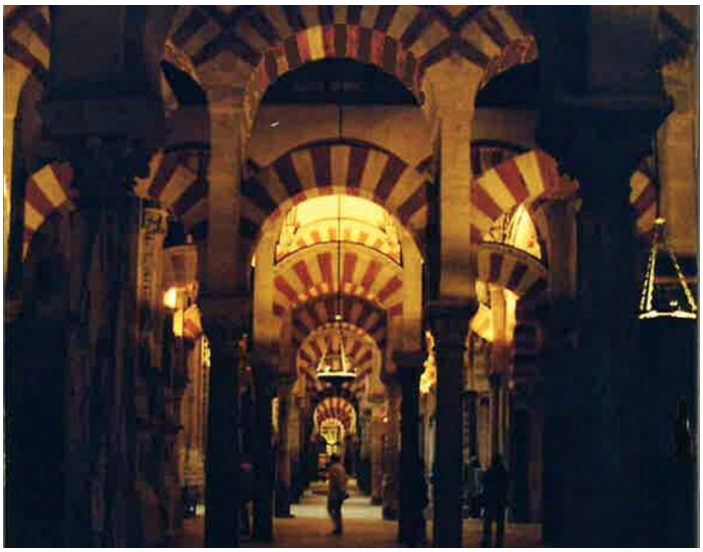
Our sabbatical is focused on visiting sites of historic and/or current interreligious cooperation between Jews, Christians, and/or Muslims. In a world that feels increasingly divided, we seek to learn more about and amplify where people of faith are sticking with the values and practices that unite.

Over about eight weeks, we will spend time visiting various cities and sites in Spain, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey, with a shorter time seeing sites in Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Albania, and Greece. Before we return to Spokane, we will also spend a little time in Germany and Austria, visiting our good friend the Rev. Markus Duenzkofer and our college kids, both of whom will be there for school this summer.

We will return to our congregations in late August, after getting our kids back to their colleges on this side of the Atlantic. After this trip, there will be one month remaining in my sabbatical, to be taken at a later (and not yet determined) time.

While I am away, the Cathedral will be in good hands and leadership with Fr. Arlen, Senior Warden Dave Marken, and Junior Warden Karen Byrne, as well as the rest of Chapter and the cathedral staff. Lay and clergy preachers are being lined up, as well as some priests to share with Fr. Arlen in leading worship on occasion. Note that I will not have access to email across those weeks–that for me is part of the sabbatical reset. Another part of the sabbatical renewal is that I will have opportunity to participate in worship without leading or supporting worship. That will be a challenge for me–because I so deeply love leading worship–and that's a very good challenge to have.

If you have questions, wonderings, or favorite places to share, please reach out. I look forward to sharing what we experienced on the sabbatical in the fall.



God Gives the Growth

THE REV. CANON KRISTI PHILIP

When I was growing up on Puget Sound, gardening was a big part of family life. My mother tended her roses and other gardens that surrounded our house. For a while my grandfather had a huge garden on some property adjacent to our home. His crop of vegetables and fruits was amazing, and before long he planted raspberries that provided us with delicious jam.

When I was about ten years old, my mother got me started on a small vegetable garden along our driveway. There were rows of carrots, beets and other veggies, and a corner dedicated to zucchini, a vegetable I didn't really like to eat, but loved to grow. My enormous zucchini earned blue ribbons every year at the Kitsap County Fair.

I think it was the memory of that garden that got me interested in the cathedral's community garden when I joined the staff as interim dean a few years ago. The former manager, the Rev. Nick Mather had moved to the Diocese of Olympia so this volunteer job was open. I didn't know much about the history of the cathedral's garden, but I appreciated a space that welcomed all kinds of gardeners and particularly those who don't have gardening spaces where they live. Some of our gardeners are apartment dwellers and others live in condominiums or homes with small yards. Everyone, though, is welcome to join in.

The garden is off a small road that connects the diocesan office to the cathedral property. There are 34 beds, some of which are taller to make gardening easier for those who find it difficult to bend down to a ground-level bed. Much of the garden stretches

up a fairly gentle hillside. It takes considerable work from wonderful volunteers to keep all of this in order and in good repair.

There are many administrative details that are part of the garden manager's job–assigning beds, making sure hoses and other tools are available, and assisting and encouraging the gardeners. But as I worked my way into this volunteer job, I was also struck by something else. Food is an obvious byproduct of gardening, but for our gardeners there are other benefits. One is an opportunity to enjoy God's creation in a special way. The whole process of planting and tending a garden is a deep dive into a kind of creation care. (Our gardeners also work without artificial fertilizers or pesticides, so they also honor the earth in this way.)

Gardeners also honor creation by sharing their harvest. There are many opportunities to donate in various ways to those in Spokane who simply need food.

Our planting season begins in mid-May and continues into the early fall. Soon we will see both vegetables and flowers beginning to grow, and we'll also be able to see the beauty and miracle of God's creation, even in this rustic hillside space. Please remember our garden and our gardeners in your prayers this season, giving thanks for the gift of creation that surrounds us.

A Journey to Baptism

MEREDITH SHIMIZU

Christopher Knott is relatively new to St. John's. His journey to belief, to baptism, and to the cathedral is remarkable in many ways. It reveals the many ways God can draw us into the community of faith.

Christopher's turn toward faith started in an unexpected way. He teaches English language courses at Spokane Community College and part of the course involves a presentation. Last spring, many students spoke about their faith—mostly Eastern Orthodox but also Islam and others—in really refreshing ways. Among other things, they connected their faith to prophecy and modern events.

Intrigued, Christopher started revisiting ancient texts and religions. One evening, Christopher recounts, "I was reading about ancient Sumer and was overcome with a feeling of warmth, peace, and love deep in my chest, my heart. The instruction to get baptized into the Christian faith was very clear. That is when I began my journey to Yeshua and the Word."

The next step was to find a faith community where he could be baptized. Searching online, he found himself coming back over and over again to the St. John's website. Finally, Christopher realized he was being guided to the cathedral. He met with Arlen and visited the very next Sunday.

Not long after, Christopher expressed his desire to be baptized. After meeting with Arlen and learning more about the Episcopal church, he was baptized in July. He reflects, "Once baptized, I felt a peace, and kind of support, for my further exploration of faith."

That exploration involved "a voracious reading spree" including texts on Christian history and theology. While Christopher wrestles with some official Christian doctrine, he has "found the teachings of Yeshua to be the pinnacle of God's Law and Love." He is still exploring the nature of "I AM" (that is, God) and the idea that we all have the spark of the divine in us.

Christopher is involved in our community at the cathedral, worshiping at the 10:30 service with his wife Holly. He also volunteers as a chaplain at the Spokane Veterans Home. This ministry is particularly meaningful because he served in the Air Force himself for 21 years. Now, he leads a service once a week and makes the rounds talking to residents.

Christopher sees baptism as a spiritual step that is demonstrated by a physical act, but it doesn't end there. We need to remember to remain baptized in the spirit and by the Spirit. In his ongoing effort to know God and serve others, he is a model for all of us.

Finding Renewal at Camp Cross

WINTER CROSS 2025

ALEX FLANNAGAN
CANON FOR CAMP, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

In February, 35 youth gathered at camp for Winter Cross. They came from fourteen congregations across the diocese: Spokane, Walla Walla, Ellensburg, Yakima, Coeur d'Alene, Medical Lake, Richland, Omak, Pullman, and Ephrata. We had some good snow this year so campers were able to enjoy tubing, sledding, ice skating, and snow-shoeing, in addition to the usual games and activities. We explored the new diocesan theme of "Called and Compelled by Love" through the scripture story of the Samaritan woman at the well, weaving small group discussion and contemplative activities throughout the weekend.

FRIENDS, PRAYER, WATER, FIRE, AND FOOD

LEAH AND LISA CHURCH

Friends, Prayer, Water, Fire. And Food. Those are my favorite parts of camp. This past February brought another fantastic year at Winter Cross weekend in Ellensburg! Friends – some kids I have seen for years, and some new. Some are Episcopalian, and some practice other faith traditions.

+ Prayer – this was an opportunity for me to share my faith traditions with the friend I brought, and to have time to talk with my friend about the similarities and differences in our faith practices.

+ Water – this time it was frozen, thankfully, as snow is essential to "winterfront" outdoor fun.

+ Fire – a campfire stick ceremony is a tradition regardless of the time of year and location of camp.

+ Food – the chicken and mac'n'cheese at Lazy F Ranch was my favorite meal.

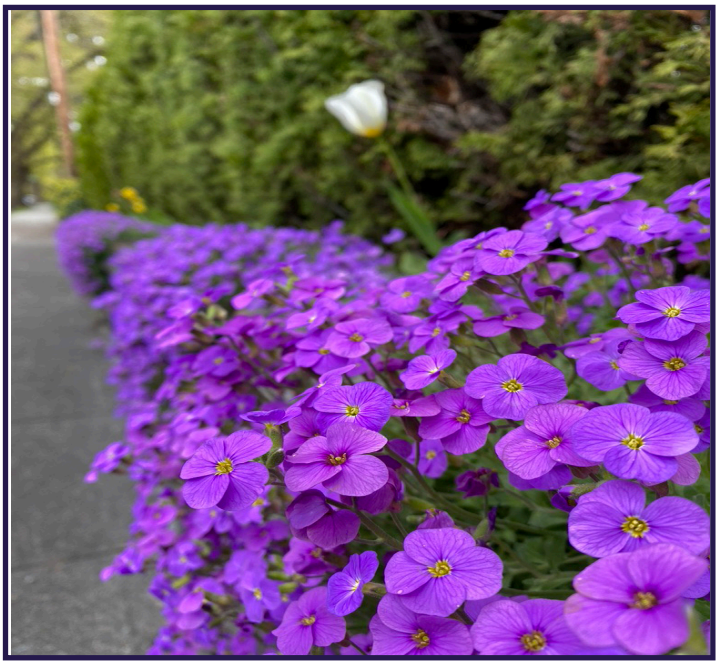
Learn about the 2025 camp schedule and register here!

Summer at Camp Cross is even better because it is longer, the weather is warmer, and the view of the water is incredible. It's another chance to see friends from across the diocese I've grown up with but don't see regularly. It's a chance to meet kids at their first year of camp. Prayer and worship at St. Francis outdoor chapel is something I have a deep connection with. My mom tells a story from when I was a baby in the summer of 2010 and she sang to me the simple songs she heard at camp chapel on my oldest sister's last day of Mini Camp. She bounced me in the middle of the night, singing "Lord prepare me, to be a Sanctuary...". Now it's my turn to head off to Senior High Camp, and there will be early morning tubing across the lake, afternoon waterfront, and fireside stick ceremony sharing. There will be dancing with dressed-up teenagers and so much silliness and messiness. I'm so grateful to everyone who makes this magic happen every year, especially Pia – you win the lottery if Pia is working the kitchen the week you're there!

Prayers for Creation

O God of warmth and light,
Of cold and dark, whose life is alive in all that lives,
safeguard your creatures
and the created order that harbors them
and strengthen us
to turn away from the ease of self indulgence
and toward the shared labor
of stewarding this Earth, our home,
until the return of Jesus Christ,
Who will, with you and the Holy Spirit,
Make us and all of this world
A new creation. Amen.

I pray that today and every day, We live and work to protect nature and biodiversity for future generations. Amen.



Lord of the wilderness
Do not let us turn all the stones into bread or batteries
Give to us distrust in the
Angels who visit us with
Promises of kingdoms accessible by jet fuel.
Give us eyes to see the stars from here where we are,
To know the sacrifice present
In our daily food,
To love the child promised
In real human bodies,
To hope present in only what is provided.
Amen.

Writing down prayers takes the casual conversation of living in prayer to a different place, distilling the important words from all the chat. And writing a prayer to share is even more engaging, finding words to share that are true despite personal vulnerability. Reading other's prayers connects me to a person's heart and widens my eyes. We invite you to write your own prayers for creation and share them with us. – John Wallingford

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 10a Knitting 6p AlAnon	3 9a Eco-anxiety cafe 530p Eucharist
4 8a Eucharist 915a Sunday School 915a Youth Group 1030a Eucharist	5	6	7 12p Eucharist 630p AlAnon 7p YABS	8 5p Junior Choir 545p Handbells 7p Choir 7p Cath. Life	9 10a Knitting 6p AlAnon	10 830a DAR 1030a Shibli Bayyuk Funeral 5:30p Eucharist
11 8a Eucharist 915a Sunday School 915a Youth Group 1030a Eucharist	12 Clergy at conference through 4/15	13 430p Finance	14 12p Noon Prayer 630p AlAnon 7p Ordination Eucharist	15 5p Junior Choir 545p Handbells 7p Choir	16 10a Knitting 4p Girl Scouts 6p AlAnon	17 3p SAYC Spring Concert 530p Eucharist
18 8a Eucharist 915a Sunday School 915a Youth Group 1030a Eucharist	19 530p St. Monica's	20 6p Chapter	21 12p Eucharist 630p AlAnon 7p YABS	22 5p Junior Choir 545p Handbells 7p Choir	23 10a Knitting 6p AlAnon	24 530p Eucharist
25 8a Eucharist 915a Sunday School 915a Youth Group 1030a Eucharist	26	27	28 12p Eucharist 630p AlAnon 7p YABS	29 5p Junior Choir 545p Handbells 6 La Donne Concert 7p Choir	30 10a Knitting 12 World Relief Tea 6p AlAnon 7p Mead HS Concert	31 530p Eucharist

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8a Eucharist 915a Sunday School 915a Youth Group 1030a Eucharist	2	3	4 12p Eucharist 630p AlAnon 7p YABS	5 5p Junior Choir 545p Handbells 7p Choir	6 10a Knitting 6p AlAnon	7 530p Eucharist
8 PENTECOST/BISHOP VISIT 8a Eucharist 915a Sunday School 915a Youth Group 1030a Eucharist	9 4p Service League	10 430p Finance	11 12p Eucharist 630p AlAnon 7p Taize	12 5p Property 7p Cath. Life	13 10a Knitting 6p AlAnon	14 1p Funeral 530p Eucharist
15 8a Eucharist 915a Sunday School 915a Youth Group 1030a Eucharist	16	17 6p Chapter	18 12p Eucharist 630p AlAnon 7p YABS	19	20 10a Knitting 6p AlAnon	21 10a Knitting Day 530p Eucharist
22 8a Eucharist 1030a Eucharist	23	24	25 12p Eucharist 630p AlAnon 7p YABS	26	27 10a Knitting 6p AlAnon	28 530p Eucharist
29 8a Eucharist 1030a Eucharist	30					

The Feast of

PENTECOST

with Bishop Gretchen

Sunday June 8 at 8am & 10:30am

The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist (Episcopal)
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