



THE CATHEDRAL CHIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

St. John's Provides Housing in Spokane Since 1973

BY THE REV. CANON KRISTI PHILIP

I think it was the first week I served on the St. John's Cathedral staff in 1985 that I was invited to attend the dedication of Winchester Court, a new apartment community of affordable senior housing in Hillyard. I happily accepted the invitation, curious what this complex would be like. I was familiar with Canterbury Court, a multi-story apartment building next door to the Cathedral and facing Rockwood Boulevard. But the new project in Hillyard was quite different, fitting beautifully into its grassy space.

For some, building and maintaining rental property is a business. For St. John's Cathedral and St. John's Properties, it is a ministry.

For some 50 years, the Cathedral, through its legal entity, St. John's Properties, has built and managed apartments for moderate- and low-income residents with facilities that meet the needs of elderly and handicapped persons. The first of these was Canterbury Court, a 125-unit apartment building,



Canterbury Court building was designed by Warren Heylman in the mid-1970s. He also designed the Parkade in downtown Spokane.

built in 1973 and renovated recently. In the mid-1980s, construction began on Winchester Court with 78 units. Since its completion, a second and third phase have been added for a total of 119 units.

Both Canterbury Court and Winchester Court have been operating at or near 100-percent occupancy, with waiting lists, in recent years.

Since Canterbury Court is literally a 'next-door neighbor' to the Cathedral, its residents have always been invited to a dinner at the Cathedral on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. They are always welcome at worship, as well as other Cathedral events such as concerts or the holiday bazaar, as a kind of 'extended family.'

One of the founders and early workers in this housing ministry was the late Bill Fix, who worked under a contract with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to build and oversee the St. John's Properties facilities. Initial funding came from a small investment raised through the Cathedral. Since then the housing ministry has developed and flourished in two parts of Spokane.



Some of our neighbors that live in the Canterbury Court apartments joining us for our Thanksgiving celebration on November 23.



SJP's Newest Project

BY THE VERY REV. HEATHER VANDEVENTER AND
JAMES ROSENZWEIG

Spokane's getting something new at 315 W. 9th Avenue, where the latest property managed by St. John's Properties (SJP) will soon come to life, as our cathedral community continues its tradition of supporting quality affordable housing into the 21st century. The story of how we got here is an exciting one, and it involves many hands and hearts.

It started with the St. John's Properties board, who realized at the beginning of the pandemic that Spokane's housing market was stretched thin, especially for working class families and seniors. Could SJP take action? Board chair Bruce Miller, a commercial real estate developer, worked with long-time SJP consultant Shannon Meagher to learn what opportunities existed to raise funds for a new building project. Some priorities were set early on. The board felt it was key to locate the property near the Cathedral, to help keep the church community engaged with the community that would grow at the new location. Access to groceries and bus routes was a must. Finding the perfect spot would be a challenge.

In March 2022, the SJP board elected to purchase the medical building at 315 W. 9th Avenue, along with two adjacent lots, for almost \$3 million. This corner of property, bounded by Cliff Drive and Ben Garnett Way, is seen best driving south up Stevens and curving east towards Grand. The property is located on a bus line that connects to multiple supermarkets,

it is near medical facilities, and it has trees and green space already in place. The board was especially excited by its close proximity to the Cathedral.

The location had been chosen, but much work remained. Unfortunately, HUD rules limited options so that affordable housing could not be offered to both seniors and families, and the choice was made to focus on seniors. Retrofitting the existing medical building was not fiscally viable, so the SJP board worked with architects to explore green building options for constructing a new building.

These plans needed funding to become a reality, and fortunately, Shannon Meagher worked on behalf of SJP to seek money for construction. The funding streams available in the 1970s are gone, so right now, the best sources of money for affordable housing projects are state and local governments. While Spokane County has yet to contribute to the project, the City of Spokane has set aside funds for SJP's use, and early this year the state of Washington committed \$1.5 million for the same purpose (thanks to the combined work of Rep. Ormsby, Rep. Hill, and Sen. Riccelli).

The work of raising the capital isn't done yet, but planning with architects and contractors for a 35-unit building is under way. This fall, SJP board members Karen Byrne and Dean Heather met with stakeholders from Canterbury Court and Widmyer Properties to learn more about how to better serve seniors' needs in affordable housing. With the St. John's community's ongoing support, it is hoped that SJP's work providing affordable housing in Spokane can continue to expand in the decades ahead.

PAM KOHLMEIER

Grieving as an Act of Faith

BY G.E. LAWRENCE



Dr. Pam Kohlmeier's journey through grief began when she was 15. She lost her mother due to a stroke. Then at age 29, Pam's younger brother died by suicide. Two years ago, she lost one of her four adult children, Katie, who also died by suicide.

Any one of her beloved family members' deaths could have flattened a less determined person. Not Pam. Through the power of faith, Pam has mustered the courage to speak her truth at numerous community events throughout the Inland Northwest. Over time she has channeled her grief into opportunities for healing herself and others while shining a light on suicide prevention and LGBTQIA+ rights.

"I'm not saying it's easy or fun. I simply feel called to use my voice. And the invitations keep coming. If I can stop even one person from going through with their suicide attempt, it will be worth my own discomfort," Pam said.

Expressing her faith through her activism included speaking at Pride 2025, a lineup at Riverfront Park that included Bishop Gretchen.

In August, Pam spoke at the International Overdose Awareness Day event. Pam told a packed audience that when she ran for office during the last election



Pam speaking at Pride 2025 in July.

cycle, her platform included raising awareness about mental health services, especially in rural areas and for marginalized populations. Pam's trans child Katie found it nearly impossible to get help, and Pam did not want anyone else to suffer the way Katie did. Pam envisioned a better way.

In her book *Learning to Be Brave*, Episcopal Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde writes,

A vision of what could be is what inspires us to start on a journey...Along the way we are changed, the goal itself may change, or perhaps it may not even be realized. But in deciding to start, we put ourselves on the path of our transformation. The vision may be audacious, but along with it comes a sense of excitement and purpose...we learn to be brave and not give up (p. 69, Budde, 2024).

On the campaign trail "Dr. Pam," as she was known, met thousands who gave shape and meaning to her grief. Many were grieving their own losses. Pam sat and listened to each story of loss, often holding a mourner's hand and crying beside them. Although Pam lost the election, she won hearts and minds. Her goal changed. And so did she.

Pam now serves on the boards of the National Alliance for Mental Illness, Frontier Behavioral Health, and Partners with Families and Children, and she is active with the Spokane County Democrats.

Parker Palmer, a Quaker author, educator and activist, writes about navigating our inner lives while staying compassionately engaged in a world that needs our gifts. He says "giving from a place of authenticity," even during times of personal loss and great suffering, can be an antidote to depression, to help us feel renewed.

Pam hopes that by sharing her story of faith in action, the people of St. John's and the community might know that there is hope and healing for those living with mental health challenges, and for those who mourn.

A Reflection on Giving

BY MIKE WILSON

During pledge season our hard-working stewardship committee invites lay members of the St. John's community to share a message in worship services about giving and why giving matters. What follows is the text of remarks shared by Mike Wilson. He and his wife Carol have attended the 8:00 service on Sundays for a long time.

I'm here today for two reasons: 1. Arlen asked me to help with the stewardship drive. 2. Carol and I thoroughly love St. John's, Heather, Arlen, staff, and our friends at the 8:00.

True confession. I've never really enjoyed Stewardship Sundays. One more uncomfortable request for money! I also shared with Arlen my role in healthcare administration often had me giving speeches but the worst speech of all was to my son's kindergarten class where I felt totally out of place. No bandaids, tongue depressors, or anything for five-year-olds! This assignment, too, makes me nervous.

But last year, Rick Voit spoke at the 8:00 Eucharist and comfortably and convincingly struck a chord. He gave clear examples of how numerous times in scripture we are asked to care for the poor, be generous, and willing to share. These messages are lived out in many ways by you and me--in community service, in our work, in service to the church, volunteering boards, and providing direct service to others. We all choose what is comfortable for us.

We hear the message of the Scriptures in this

wonderful cathedral and we give back because it is reflective of our faith and values and those are reinforced each week here at St. John's. Our ministers are so good at strengthening this for each of us. We are so fortunate to hear their messages to us in a warm and beautiful cathedral. A cathedral and staff which needs our generous support.

So last year, what I also heard Rick say was, 'Am I comfortable, let's say *proud*, of my support of this ministry in what I give to support it?' Well, I thought, Carol and I could do better and feel good about it. And as much as we love this cathedral, and Heather, and Arlen, and others we know in this church - yes, we should do better in making certain our contributions strengthens and sustains St. John's.

So, here is a question for us: Is God asking me to be generous? To be generous with my time and my money? He gives us so much, and giving much in return may sometimes feel a bit uncomfortable, but it nearly always feels good and is the right thing. Our financial support is an important way to say thank you for all this church, leadership, and congregation brings to us each day.

Please join us with a generous donation this year. You will be proud to make it our best year.



Vergers, acolytes, and choir serve in worship



Dean Heather leads the Eucharist



The clergy bless our beloved animals every fall



Through Advent: One Intentional Day at a Time

THE VERY REV. HEATHER VANDEVENTER
DEAN

I have a deep fondness for Advent calendars.

I remember the ones of my childhood that had a little glitter on them and a flap to open per day as Christmas drew near. Under each flap was a picture and Bible verse to look up, telling the story of the Good News, leading up to the extra large flap for Christmas Day. I'm presuming that we read the Bible verse – but opening the flap was the point of anticipation, followed by the delight in seeing the picture for that day. One (or more!) of those Advent calendars that I remember may still exist in one of my folks' homes as it was used year after year, opened flaps and all. We did not need a new Advent calendar each year; it was like reading a beloved book.

When our kids came along and grew, David and I got Advent calendars and books to enjoy with them. The calendars were different from the kind of my childhood and often treat-filled. There was the Playmobil Santa's Workshop where a different figure or item was waiting behind each flap. The refillable New England styled lighthouse-house combo with a drawer for each day that we would fill with dried fruits and chocolates, along with slips of paper. Sometimes the slips of paper were Bible verses and other times prayer prompts or ways to help and serve others, giving gifts in other ways. Drawer 24 is three times the size of the others, appropriate for reaching the last drawer.

I love the season of Advent. Advent has counter-cultural rhythms and a measured sense of journey that are a breath of fresh air in the midst of the commercial gift-buying extravaganza that started before Halloween happened. Advent calendars help us slow down and live into each day. The Advent wreath is a tangible and beautiful reminder to pause and pray, giving thanks for the Light and living into the grace that characterizes each week of Advent: hope, peace, joy, love.

Even though our kids are both in college, I will pull out the bag of Advent and Christmas books to bring into the living room. The lighthouse Advent calendar will be on a table to help David and me journey to the

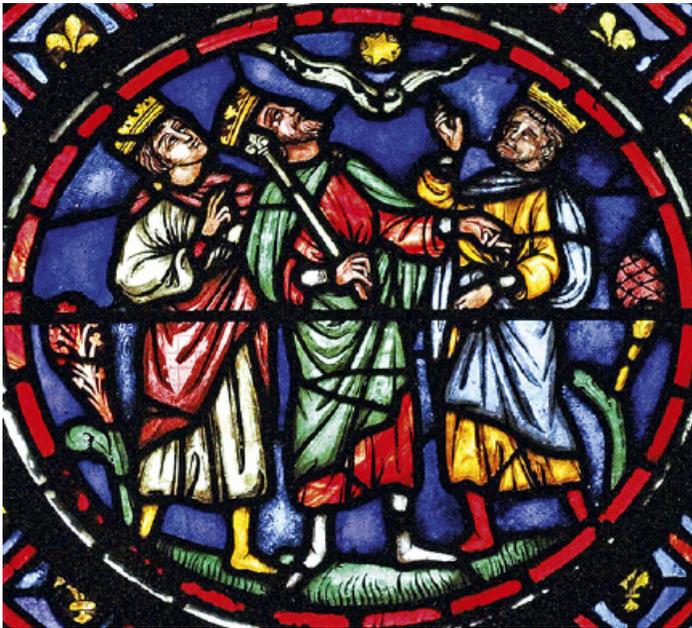


hills around Bethlehem and seek the shelter where the Christ Child was born. The Advent wreath will be on the dining room table and the candles will be lit as often as we can. Our kids will join us halfway through Advent, shifting from the rhythms of the end of term and finals to patterns with less pressure.

There is a different kind of giving that we practice in Advent. Across the four weeks, we give attention, presence, and time to our relationship with Jesus, the one who comes to humanity in such vulnerability and with such grace. Whether adorned with flecks of glitter, bits of chocolate, or slips of paper, when we slow down and breathe into the season of Advent, we hear the Good News of Jesus Christ afresh. We hear and remember the power of healing, the love of friends, the courage of faith, the strength of the God-given truth, and the joy of grace – gifts given for the love of all creation.

Ask Father Arlen About Christmas

We asked the kids of St. John's what they wanted to know about the season. Here are two awesome questions and Fr. Arlen's awesome answers!



A stained glass window from the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption of Clermont-Ferrand in France showing the Three Magi looking up at the star. (Image: Francisco Lecaros)

Why are stars important during Christmas?

What a good question. Star decorations are everywhere around Christmas time -- maybe you will have one on the top of your Christmas tree or see paper cutouts hanging from ceilings. I wonder if we would have as many stars in our Christmas decorations if we could see more of them ourselves at night. Perhaps you have been lucky enough to be outside of the city and looked up at night to see a brightly-lit sky with too many thousands of stars to count. Almost everyone in the ancient world had this experience nearly every night! Just like you and I might talk about how sunny or rainy it is during the day, ancient peoples talked about the stars they saw at night and they thought their movements had special meaning. Many people still do.

In Matthew's story of Jesus, we read of magi from the East following a star to the place where the new king, Jesus, was to be born. This makes a big impression on us, because many of us don't often

even see the stars, let alone find meaning in them. For ancient people, though, it made a big impression because they trusted there was some meaning in the stars and a story of a star showing the way to a new king's birth was very common both in the stories of ancient historians and ancient philosophers.

Our Christmas story says the meaning we find and make in the creation can point us to Jesus, the one who is the secret life of the creation made visible as bright as the stars in the sky outside of the city.

Why do so few people know about Epiphany?

Another good question. Epiphany celebrates the coming of Christ, the Light of the World, at Christmas and the carrying of his light to all of us who weren't born Jewish like Jesus was. Originally, it reminded people who celebrated other lights, in the form of Greek or Roman gods, that there was something special and unique about the light Jesus brings. In time, that contrast became less important in western culture and some Christians, beginning in the Middle Ages, started keeping time differently. Because of that, the really big holidays of Christmas and Easter, shared by most Christians, started to create their own kind of momentum. This crowds the seasons those holidays stand in and the seasons which some Christians still keep around them. Lots of people, though, are rediscovering the season of Advent before Christmas as a way to prepare for the coming of the light of Christ at Christmas. We can help get the word out about Epiphany and the good news that Jesus' light can keep getting brighter for everyone.



Adoration of the Shepherds by a follower of Rembrandt. Notice how the main light source illuminating the central figures is Baby Jesus! The artist conveys that Jesus really was the light coming to disperse the darkness in the world. (Image: Public Domain)

Cathedral News: Ministries with Impact

SHARED MINISTRY, TWO PERSPECTIVES

St. Clare's Needleworkers is a group that gets together on Fridays at 10:00 in the cathedral. We create prayer shawls and lap robes for those in need of comfort, those in hospice, and those in the hospital. Others from St. John's deliver shawls and lap robes when going on visitations (see below!). On Friday mornings the expert knitters can assist others with difficult knitting problems, but mainly we enjoy fellowship and getting to know each other. This year we have held two "Needlework in the Cathedral" events, and we plan to continue this once every quarter. The first one was attended by over fifty people, and many had never been to the cathedral before. In November we had a booth at the bazaar selling knit children's sweaters, scarves, hats, mittens and other fun items. For more info: stclaresneedleworkers@gmail.com.--Annette Rogers



Prayer Shawl Ministry Lord, thank you for the gift of yarn and hands that weave comfort into every stitch. Through our prayer shawl ministry, you've shown me the quiet joy of giving—of wrapping someone in warmth when words fall short. Whether it's a new mother cradling her baby or a friend facing illness, each shawl carries a prayer, a blessing, a whisper of hope. The majority of the stories I've heard since the beginning of the ministry have been deeply personal. Notes and calls arrive from those touched by our needleworkers, reminding us that love travels far through simple threads. I've seen tears, smiles, and moments of peace sparked by these handmade offerings. In giving, I've received—faith renewed, purpose deepened. May every shawl continue to be a gentle embrace from you, reminding each recipient they are seen, loved, and never alone. Amen. --Marianne Harrington, Parish Nurse, St John's Cathedral

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING

Every year we come together as a family of faith to celebrate Thanksgiving, inviting our neighbors from Canterbury Court and others to join us. This year, the team--led by Cindy Duncan and Aaron Duncan--served 180 meals in the Great Hall and and packed 70 boxed meals for others.



DECEMBER

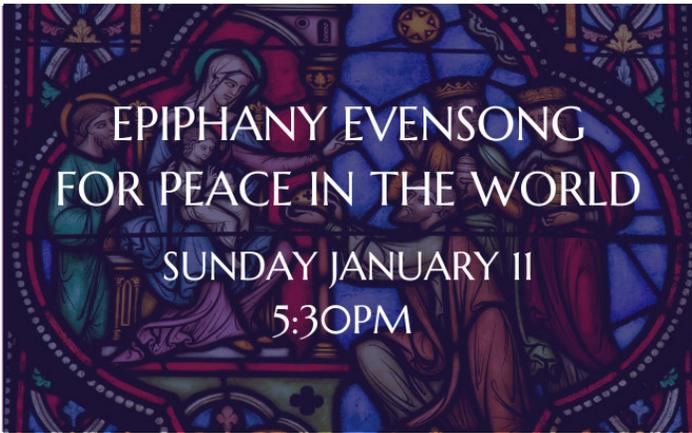
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOV 30 8a Worship 9a Jr Choir 915a Forum 915a Sun School 10:30a Worship 5p Lessons & Carols	1	2	3 630a Morning Prayer 12p Worship 7p YABS	4 530p Bells 7p Choir	5 10a Knitting 10a-4p Saint John's Bible Exhibition 6p Al-Anon	6 1030a Diocesan Ordinations 530p Worship 7:30p Whitworth Concert
7 8a Worship 9a Jr Choir 915a Forum 915a Sun School 10:30a Worship 3p Whitworth Concert	8 4p Service league	9 10a Chair yoga 430p Finance	10 630a Morning Prayer 12p Worship 7p Taize	11 5p Property 530p Bells 7p Choir	12 10a Knitting 10a-4p Saint John's Bible Exhibition 6p Al-Anon 7p Movie night	13 9a Illumination workshop 11a SAYC Concert 530p Worship
14 8a Worship 9a Jr Choir 915a Forum 915a Sun School 10:30a Worship 2p Yoga	15	16 6p Chapter	17 630a Morning Prayer 12p Worship 7p YABS	18 530p Bells 7p Choir	19 10a Knitting 10a-4p Saint John's Bible Exhibition 6p Al-Anon	20 530p Worship
21 8a Worship 9a Jr Choir 915a Forum 915a Sun School 10:30a Worship	22	23 530p Bells 7p Choir	24 OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON 4p 7p 10:30p Christmas Worship	25 CATHEDRAL AND OFFICES CLOSED	26 CATHEDRAL AND OFFICES CLOSED	27 530p Worship
28 8a Worship 10:30a Worship	29	30	31 OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON 4p New Year's Service			



JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 CATHEDRAL AND OFFICES CLOSED	2 10a Knitting 10a-4p Saint John's Bible Exhibition 6p Al-Anon	3 10a Pageant rehearsal 530p Worship
4 PAGEANT 8a Worship 9a Jr Choir 915a Forum 10:30a Worship	5	6	7 630a Morning Prayer 12p Worship 7p YABS	8 5p Property 530p Bells 7p Choir	9 10a Knitting 6p Al-Anon	10 530p Worship
11 8a Worship 9a Jr Choir 915a Forum 915a Sun School 10:30a Worship 5p Evensong	12	13 10a Chair yoga 430p Finance	14 630a Morning Prayer 12p Worship 7p Taize	15 530p Bells 7p Choir	16 10a Knitting 6p Al-Anon	17 1p Funeral for Pat Williams 530p Worship
18 8a Worship 9a Jr Choir 915a Forum 915a Sun School 10:30a Worship 2p Yoga	19 CATHEDRAL AND OFFICES CLOSED	20 6p Chapter	21 630a Morning Prayer 12p Worship 7p YABS	22 530p Bells 7p Choir	23 10a Knitting 6p Al-Anon	24 530p Worship
25 8a Worship 9a Jr Choir 915a Forum 915a Sun School 10:30a Worship	26	27	28 630a Morning Prayer 12p Worship 7p YABS	29 530p Bells 7p Choir	30 10a Knitting 6p Al-Anon	31 530p Worship





**EPIPHANY EVENSONG
FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD**
SUNDAY JANUARY 11
5:30PM



CHRISTMAS SERVICES
CHRISTMAS EVE
4:30pm Festive Family Service
7pm Festive Service with Handbells
10:30pm Festive Service with
Cathedral Choir and Brass
CHRISTMAS DAY
10am Quiet Service with Hymns
EPIPHANY (PAGEANT SUNDAY)
10:30am Pageant Service with Party



**YOUNG ADULT
BIBLE STUDY**
Creating a space for young
adults to socialize + study in
community.
Wednesdays at 7pm
Taizé Second Wednesdays 7pm



ST. JOHN'S GIFT SHOP
Now featuring a kid's corner
and all-new rotating
merchandise!
Open Fridays 10am-3pm
& after the Sunday 10:30am service



ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1
BUSINESS BEGINS FOLLOWING
THE 8AM SERVICE AT 9AM



ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18
7AM | 12PM | 7:30PM



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