

# Trinité

VOLUME 12 N 2

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN CATHEDRAL IN PARIS

SPRING 2017

TIMELESS MUSIC  
COMPOSED  
JUST FOR US

GENEROSITY THAT INSPIRES



# Trinité

The Magazine of The American Cathedral in Paris  
**SPRING 2017 - VOLUME 12 N 2**

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**Dean and Rector**

The Very Reverend  
Lucinda Rawlings Laird

**Cathedral Canon**

The Reverend Mary E. Haddad

**Canon for Music**

Zachary Ullery

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# A SEASON'S WELTER OF THOUGHTS AND EMOTION

## YES, APRIL IN PARIS ...

As I write, it's April in Paris, and right on time the trees are getting green and flowers are appearing. The Deans' Garden at the Cathedral is absolutely beautiful.

But as all of you know if you have been to Paris, and especially if you have lived in Paris, it's not all flowers and romance, wine and roses. We are extraordinarily lucky to live in such a beautiful place, but the lives of individuals, congregations and cities always have their ups and downs. I thought that for this letter I'd give you a birds-eye view – or a Dean's-eye view, if you will – of the Cathedral and the city right now. As I look around this spring I find

Ⓐ **Delight:** Glorious music keeps coming from the Cathedral choir, every Sunday, and from the Paris Choral Society. The PCS just had a wonderful concert, and we're looking forward to a choir concert on Good Friday.

Ⓐ **Sorrow:** We held a memorial service on March 29 for Melinda Whalon, the wife of our Bishop Whalon and a beloved parishioner. We grieve for others, of course (note the memorial service on May 18 for long-time parishioner Ted Cumming), but this involved the whole Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, plus ecumenical and inter-faith friends. The day showed the Cathedral at its best, with many, many people giving time, talent and treasure with extraordinary generosity. The service did what it was supposed to do, allowing us to mourn and remember,

and to celebrate a life; and then giving us hope, and leading us to rejoice in Christ's promise of on-going life in Him. Afterwards, all were welcomed at a beautiful reception provided by the Junior Guild.

Ⓐ **Concern:** There are more and more people sleeping on the street, and more and more people asking for money. Some are refugees or migrants, some have substance abuse or mental problems, some are simply down and out. France is struggling to deal with refugees and the political climate is tense. Here at the Cathedral we are asking how we can be of immediate help to people in need (our ministry in Calais ended with the dismantling of the refugee camp there, and another camp near Dunkirk burned to ashes). I was struck by Pope Francis' recent words on giving to all who ask. As a New York Times editorial said, the idea is "scripturally sound, yet possibly confounding, even subversive." Probably Christians should be slightly subversive; certainly we should give to those in need.

Ⓐ **Fear:** Truthfully, I'm not picking up on a lot of fear here; life goes on in Paris and Parisians enjoy their lives. But I do hear from many Americans that they are afraid to come to Europe because of the risk of terrorism! Don't be; come. There is arguably more danger in some U.S. cities, whether from terrorism or other 21st century plagues.

Ⓐ **Focus:** During Lent, Our services have focused on silence, poetry and meditation. Canon Haddad has led



a series called "Focus on the Body," with fasting, yoga, meditation – and cooking! This all helps us, as our prayer book says, "to prepare with joy for the Paschal feast."

Ⓐ **Active involvement:** Involvement at the Cathedral in so many ways – with children, youth, outreach, music, worship, fellowship, and study. And outside the Cathedral, there is the rising excitement of the French election coming up (and deepening anxiety too), and involvement in things political and social. Like a number of other parishioners I participated in the women's march here in Paris the day after the inauguration of President Trump, and was delighted to realize that my niece in Sydney and my sister in Atlanta were also marching. It was a powerful moment.

Ⓐ **Anticipation:** The children of the Cathedral "buried the alleluias" in the Deans' Garden on the First Sunday of Lent. What will blossom on Easter Sunday!

Ⓐ **Joy:** That is always the first and last word for Christians. There is a palpable sense of joy in the city as spring emerges after a long, gray winter. On Easter Sunday we celebrate the joy of the Resurrection, making the Cathedral ring with the sound of trumpets and glorious music, and making it beautiful with a profusion of flowers. The joy is not just for the one day, however; this is the joy that lasts – even in the midst of sorrow or fear – and lasts forever.

Yours in Christ,  
Lucinda+

## Listening to St. Matthew

The Pope's guidance responded to a question many of us face as we walk through our neighborhoods: Do I give to the person asking for a few coins? (Sometimes it's a whole family.) Or should I save my charity for the missions of the Cathedral?

Giving to someone in need "is always right," said the Pope, and it should be done with respect and compassion. He put aside a frequent justification that we may all use for not giving to beggars: the money will probably just go for drink. The Pope's response was in line with his reputation for gentleness and generosity. If "a glass of wine is the only happiness he has in life, that's OK. Instead, ask yourself what do you do on the sly? What 'happiness' do you seek in secret?"

There was pushback, of course, and the Dean has followed it with interest. A Huffington Post contributor pointed out the benefits to the needy of "planned acts" of kindness instead of "random acts."

"A dollar to a beggar on the street in your city could have 100 times the impact if you gave it to an effective nonprofit in Malawi," said Kelsey Timmerman, an author and advocate for personal connections, in a Huffington Post essay. "The dollar could go to fighting



root causes of homelessness and poverty in your community if you gave it to an organization working to address them."

And the Roman Catholic bishop of Providence, Rhode Island, found a different rationale. The Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin wrote on Facebook that giving money to beggars "is a practice that enables a few dishonest individuals to prey upon the compassion of others to ask for money, even when they don't have legitimate needs."

Only the Pope seemed to recall St. Matthew's guidance. *Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.* (Matthew 5:42)

*Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.* (Matthew 25:37-40)




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# A brief but enriching residency program

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A composer for the Cathedral

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During her sermon at the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, January 22, Dean Laird reported two occasions in the previous week when she “brushed up against the divine.” One was when she took part in the previous day’s Paris segment of the worldwide marches for women, playing out in more than 60 countries.

“I shall be made  
Thy music.”

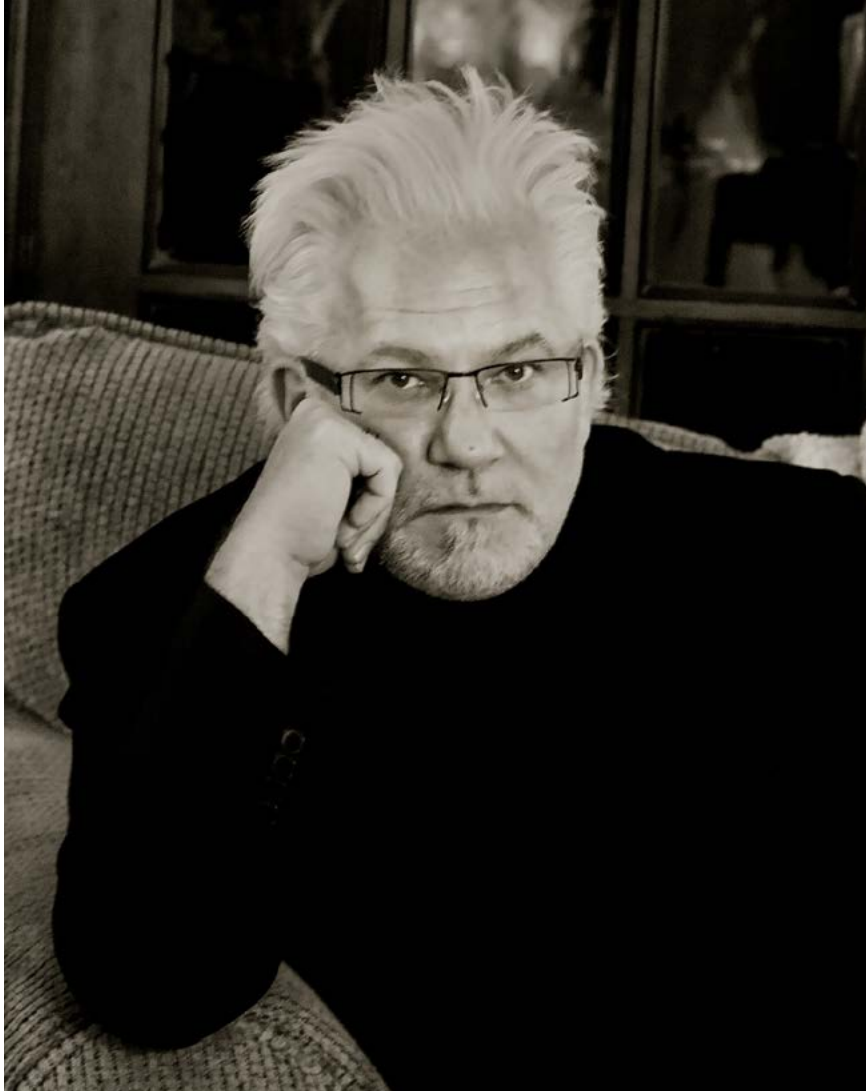
The other occurred the previous Thursday evening in the Cathedral’s Parish Hall. It was at choir rehearsal, which takes place every Thursday from September to June. This time parishioners were invited in advance to attend. The occasion was the rehearsal of a new offertory anthem, *Adorate Deum Omnes Angeli Ejus*, written by the Cathedral’s Composer-in-Residence Richard Burchard. The epiphany the Dean was referring to was hearing the piece being smoothed out by Canon for Music Zachery Ullery and the full

Cathedral choir, and then “listening to the composer talk about his music.” She thought of John Donne, one of her favorite poets, speaking to God: “I shall be made Thy music.”

Then the composer spoke. He is Associate Professor of Music at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky, where he teaches composition and arranging, music technology, music theory and world music. After serving 12 years as department chair, he was appointed Executive Composer-in-Residence. His choral works have been performed and premiered throughout the U.S. and in six European countries. You can hear his works here:

<https://soundcloud.com/richardburchard-1>.

Instead of the music pedant some of us expected to hear, Burchard came across as witty, conversational and thoughtful. “I like my music to serve a function,” he began. Since choral pieces like the one we had just heard always serve a liturgical function, they fit his preferences well.



*Richard Burchard is the composer-in-residence and an associate professor of music at Bellarmine. A native of Pennsylvania, the popular teacher and mentor chaired the music department at Bellarmine for 12 years. He teaches composition and arranging, music technology, music theory and world music. He's also taught abroad for many years and has taken BU students to countries throughout Eastern Europe as well as South Africa. The award-winning composer's choral works have been performed throughout the United States, Asia and Europe, including Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal. His music includes more than 40 commissioned works for choir. He lives in the Kentucky Highlands with his two dogs, Woody and Seamus.*

Then he talked about his own evolution in music. “I’m a recovering trombone and euphonium player. You get all these juicy parts.” Add that to his centering love of 16th century music and the meditative resonance of Gregorian chant and it is not hard to see how he came to compose the piece we had just heard.

The road to this sensibility was not promising at first. “When I was 15 I wanted to be Barry Manilow. I dabbled in cheesy little love songs.” It was not until 2006 that treacle turned into old wine. “I was working with the choir director at another university. That’s when I realized what it is to compose, to take something to a finished point.”

One critic put into words an insight that parishioners seemed to sense instinctively: “His music sounds both fresh and timeless....so satisfying.” Another writes of “...rich colorful harmonies and suspensions” (tension produced by prolonging a note while the underlying harmony changes).

The new offertory anthem we were hearing bore these observations out. It alternates between Gregorian chant and eight-part choir, which can produce an effect that is both contemplative and intense. It has freshness not because it is a new sound but because it is timeless. “It’s not really fresh at all,” notes Burchard paradoxically. It seems fresh because it refers back to the 16th century,



RICHARD BURCHARD AUDITS REHEARSAL



before instrumental ensembles started to take hold, and when the human voice was still dominant.

The tone is what tends to yield a sense of timelessness. This is, of course, a far cry from the brashness and atonality of some modern music. Burchard is deeply attracted to what he calls “pre-Enlightenment quiet.” True contemplation, he feels, is present in an era—or even a group—“where there is an explosion of solitaries and gentle prophets.” So for him there is not only St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross in the



CANON FOR MUSIC ZACHARY ULLERY

“Burchard is deeply attracted to what he calls ‘pre-Enlightenment quiet’ ”

16th century but Thomas Merton at his Trappist monastery in Kentucky in the 20th century. Among the contemporary composers he admires are Arvo Part, Philip Glass, John Adams and John Corigliano. He

doesn't listen much to modern choral composers so as not to be influenced by them.

As he composes in Latin, Burchard finds himself switching mental gears. “There's a certain tension and rhythm in word sounds. In English, I feel the responsibility to stay closer to the text in composing. English changes but Latin is Latin. When I'm composing in English, I do a word search that leads me to poems that work for me.” That makes staying close to the text easier. One comfort: “There are no new chords.”



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Les Arts George V is dedicated to bringing professional quality artistic events to the American Cathedral for the benefit of the parishioners and the greater Paris community. Proceeds from the events and donations help underwrite the music program of the Cathedral.

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"Music" tab

*Written for the choir of The American Cathedral, Paris France  
Zach Ullery, Canon for Music*

*Dedicated to The Very Reverend Lucinda R. Laird, Dean and Rector*

### ADORATE DEUM OMNES ANGELI EJUS

Introit for the Third and Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Psalm: 96 (97): 1, 6

#### INTROIT

*Adorate Deum, omnes Angeli ejus: audivit et lætata est Sion: et exsultaverunt filiae Judæe.*  
Adore God, all you His angels: Sion heard, and was glad: and the daughters of Juda rejoiced.

#### PSALM 96 (97):1

*Dominus regnavit, exsultent terra: lætentur insulæ multe.*  
The Lord hath reigned, let the earth rejoice: let many islands be glad.

#### PSALM 96 (97):6

*Annuntiaverunt cæli justitiam ejus, et viderunt omnes populi gloriam ejus.*  
The heavens declared his justice: and all people saw his glory.

Music by:  
RICHARD BURCHARD

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The fact that Burchard hails from Kentucky would suggest that he knew Dean Laird or Canon Ullery there. The Dean was rector of St. Matthews Parish in Louisville before coming to the Cathedral, and Ullery is a native Kentuckian. That's not the case. Burchard had been following the Cathedral music program via Facebook and friended Ullery, proposing that he come to the Cathedral for a two-week residency. That worked out and, in collaboration with Zach, he composed five new pieces in all for the Cathedral choir. The others will premiere later. He also plans to write an oratorio to be performed some time in 2018 by the Cathedral choirs, senior and junior, and the Paris Choral Society.

And then came Sunday morning. At the Offertory, both Cathedral choirs lined up across the altar and faced the congregation as they sang the four-minute work. For at least one witness, it was moving, even exhilarating and, yes, fresh. At the Communion, the choir sang Thomas Tallis's *O Nata Lux* and Henry Purcell's *Thou Knowest, Lord*: The music flowed in a perfect line from the 16th and 17th centuries to Burchard's 21st century work. 🎵

*Joseph Coyle, a retired Senior Editor at Time Inc's Money Magazine, contributes frequently to Trinité.*





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Keeping the faith amid the tumult

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# Guarding hope — a post-election reflection

It's been said that Americans are a millenarian people predisposed to believe in the imminent arrival of a Golden Age. Whether it be a new psychological movement, a new dietary regime or exercise fad, a new religion, a new politics, a new technology, a new lifestyle, Americans are uncommonly ready to believe that the solution to the problem of existence that has eluded previous generations has at last come to light in their own day. Perhaps that's because America is still a young nation favored with an immense endowment of natural resources and blessed with an uninterrupted history of democratic government. It has largely been spared the history of cataclysmic violence and social upheaval that, for example, Europeans have borne.

No more extravagant display of American optimism can be found than the quadrennial ritual of the U.S. presidential campaign. Messianic hopes surround candidates. In anthems, invocations, and stump-speech perorations, God is repeatedly called upon to bless America. For one party a new day will dawn when the energies of individuals freed from the oppressive and self-serving bureaucracy of gov-

ernment are unleashed. For another it will come through a just and compassionate government protecting the vulnerable from the predations of the powerful, enabling "the better angels" of the human spirit to preside over us.

The religious fervor of presidential elections should attract the notice of religious people who are taught to keep watch for the presence of God in their personal lives and in the world at large. Being such a people, we have probably all experienced moments in which the Kingdom of God has seemed to draw near. At such moments, we have seen hope take wing, doors open, coincidences unfold. We have been met by acceptance where it was least expected; we have been borne along toward realization of our hopes by a momentum not our own. But if we have known the companionship of the Holy Spirit for a time, we undoubtedly have also known seasons of disappointed hope, unanswered prayer and discouragement. We have encountered the silence of God and asked why.

For those disappointed by the outcome of the 2016 presidential election, it is good to remember that we find



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ourselves today in a time particularly hospitable to moral re-examination. Have we been implicated in any way in a result we did not want? Like many people, I was taken by surprise by the election of Donald Trump. No one I knew, and none of my usual media sources, had taken his candidacy seriously. But this is another way of saying that I have been living in an economic, social and communications bubble, that the voices of people who have been left behind by the economic developments of the past 35 years reached me only as passing references in news reports and editorials.

What began as a new tax policy in the Reagan era that disproportionately advantaged people in upper income brackets helped spur an evolutionary change in capitalistic and social practices that has turned businesses into aggressive money-making machines exploiting the opportunities of a global marketplace. Corporate executives have benefited from rich incentive programs, shareholders have enjoyed appreciation in share value, and consumers have captured increased buying power as prices have stagnated and often been driven down by competitive forces. Dur-

ing this same period, labor has steadily lost ground as a result of foreign outsourcing, the increasing automation of manual work, and the erosion of collective bargaining power. The resulting economic disparity has naturally led to resentment and undermined the social contract which we call “the American dream.”

Long discussed in the media, the widening gap between rich and poor finally found expression in the outpouring of support for the Trump and the Bernie Sanders campaigns. But the Trump campaign uniquely was able to consolidate myriad other issues with grievances over economic injustice and to build an expectation that sweeping change was at hand. The list of other issues was potent: perceived weakness in Obama’s nuanced foreign policies and strategies for conducting a war against Islamic extremism, fears over legal and illegal immigration inflamed by the threat of domestic terrorism, frustration over divided government in Washington, and perceived unfairness in global trade deals. Add in the interference of the Russians, the questionable conduct of the FBI, the babel of social media that gave currency to lies, ad hominem attacks and



shouting matches, and the commercialization of broadcast journalism together with the idiosyncrasies of the electoral college and the low “likeability” factor of Hillary Clinton, and a Trump victory was all but assured. In an election that favored big personalities and simple messages, Donald Trump prevailed by offering hope to the disenfranchised.

Given the systemic scale of the forces that have contributed to the shrinking of the middle class, can any of us claim to have clean hands? Have we enjoyed buying the latest electronic products at low-prices? Most of these products have been assembled by workers housed in dormitories annexed to factories where they earn a dollar an hour with meagre benefits under lax environmental regimes. Have we seen our retirement accounts gain in value? The executive incentive plans that have magnified incomes at the top end of the range and spurred increases in share value have been underwritten in part by plant closings, restructured workforces and a pervasive “financialization” of economic activity. Have we benefited from low-interest mortgages? Ferocious competition among capitalistic enterprises has kept a lid on prices and opened the door to a prolonged period of near zero interest rates.

As a people of faith in Jesus Christ, we are necessarily people of hope, but we have abundant reason to be guarded about putting our hope in the political process. In proclaiming the Kingdom of God, Jesus appealed to the hearts of individuals, not to collective structures. His call was to a new order of forgiveness, of self-abandonment to the love of God, of compassion and justice for the poor and the sick, the widowed and orphaned. The entry of Jesus into history could not have been better staged to underscore an explicit renunciation of hope in a political kingdom. The cross to which he submitted is a victory only to those who can see in Jesus’s execution a transcendent act of sacrificial love; and his resurrection stands at the end of history as a mysterious sign of the promise of God’s love for his people.

The American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr has reminded us in *Moral Man, Immoral Society* (1932) that the state is relentlessly self-serving. To accomplish its ends, it relies upon hypocrisies and self-deception to generate for a sympathetic audience complacent idealizations of its history and conduct. Should we then abandon hope in transforming society through the agency of the state into something more closely resembling the Kingdom of God?

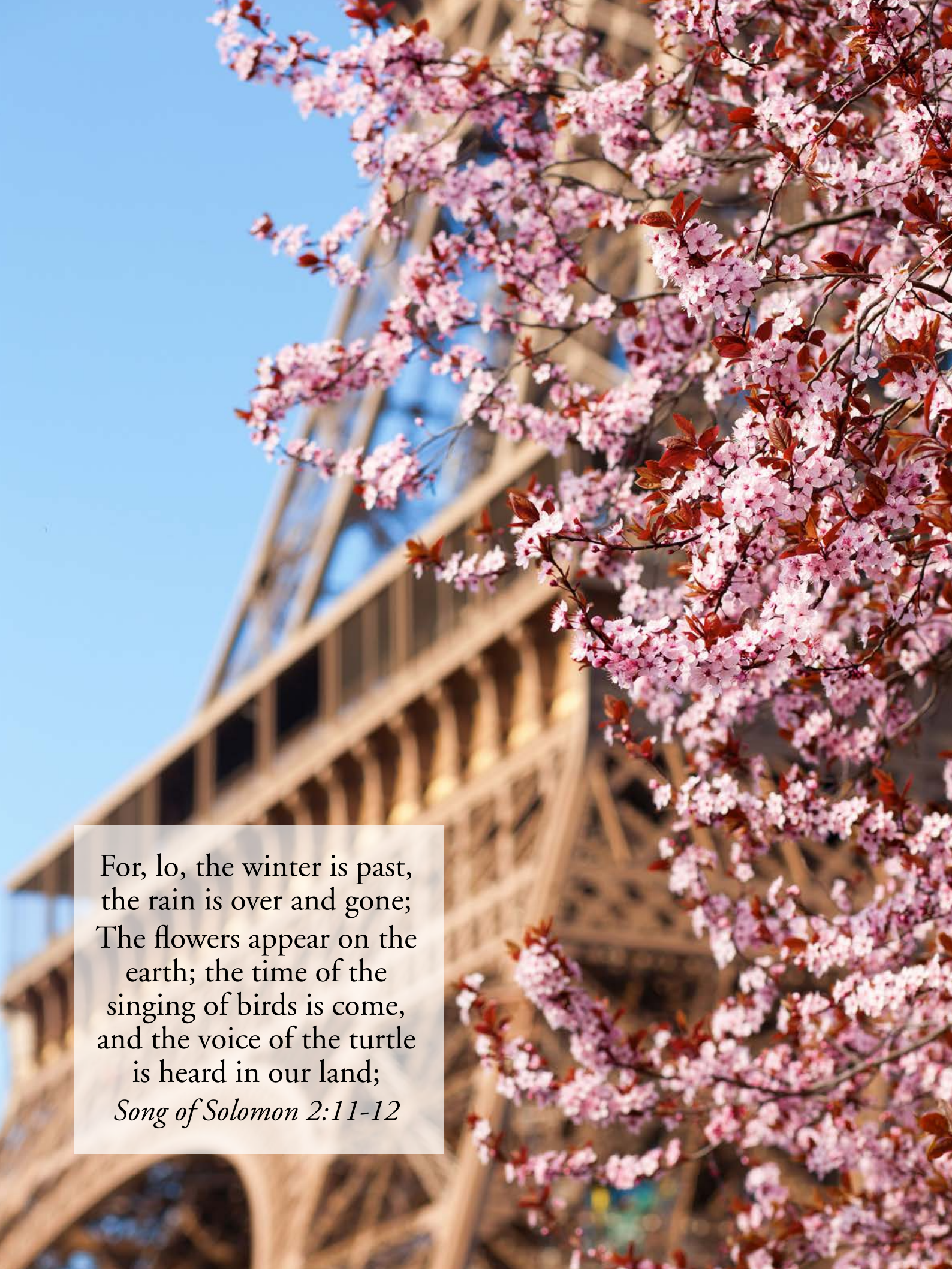
By no means, but we should not assume that the attractive plans of political leaders of whatever stripe will not be seriously compromised by the political process itself. We should not be surprised if unforeseen consequences overtake and vitiate good intentions. In the conversion of hope into law, the public interest often must wait for special interests to be satisfied. We may choose to entertain the hope that societies can make sustained moral progress, but at the same time we must acknowledge the abundant evidence that deeply anti-social themes like racism, sexism, virulent nationalism and other manifestations of contempt and fear of that which is different are never expunged from the body politic but lurk like latent viruses waiting for the right circumstances to re-emerge.

“We have abundant reason to be guarded about putting our hope in the political process. In proclaiming the Kingdom of God, Jesus appealed to the hearts of individuals, not to collective structures.”

Above all, we should be wary of religious language coloring political discourse, for as Niebuhr points out, “religion is so frequently a source of confusion in political life . . . precisely because it introduces absolutes into the realm of relative values.” The paradoxes that mark Christian theology invite us to look upon the political process with hope and with skepticism, knowing that the Kingdom we are bound to build on earth must first and last reside in the hearts of individuals. ☺

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*Former Senior Warden of the Cathedral, Peter Fellowes now divides his time between Paris and the Maryland Eastern Shore.*



For, lo, the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone;  
The flowers appear on the  
earth; the time of the  
singing of birds is come,  
and the voice of the turtle  
is heard in our land;

*Song of Solomon 2:11-12*




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A season we love and cherish

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# Springtime in Paris

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Who among us hasn't heard, "I love Paris in the springtime" without being swept away in a romantic notion of a beautiful spring day in our wonderful city when all seems right with the world. Sure, the actual song goes on to love Paris in all seasons, and we do, but springtime is, after all, the best time.

We as Trinité readers, for the most part, have been blessed in our lifetime with the privilege one feels on a perfect spring day in the golden city that we so love and cherish. With the coming of spring a delicious sweetness arises in the air. The cafes are buzzing, lovers do walk hand-in-hand along the Seine, children laugh (or cry) as they ride the carousels, people actually feel life is worth smiling about, you might even go as far as to say the Parisians are in a good mood, and let's not forget that we get to wear our sunglasses openly and freely; for a west coaster, believe me this is meaningful.

What are the telltale signs that spring has arrived? Is it the daffodils breaking through in a burst of joy announcing the procession of the beauty that's about to unfold? They seem to be everywhere, even growing in large groups along the sides of the "périphérique" - standing tall like happy servants. The flower shops are full of them and we can find them being sold on every street corner in charming little bouquets. If not the daffodils, then could it be the postcard perfect cherry blossoms that sneak onto the scene in the Champs

de Mars, framing the Tour Eiffel in all its splendor; a vision one never tires of seeing.

Still, for many of us, it's the arrival of the chocolate explosion. It seems that overnight the windows and shelves of the *boulangeries* and *chocolatiers* are lavished with bunnies, chickens, ducks, and eggs of all sizes just waiting to be eaten in celebration of ... of course, that's right, its much more than the unfolding of spring, it is the arrival of Easter.

Springtime, the most beautiful of all seasons, is our season of Easter in all its glory. Nothing is more precious to us in this time of renewal, new beginnings, and the promise of better days ahead than the celebration of the resurrection of our beloved Jesus Christ who died for our sins, so that we may live with forgiveness and bask in the glory of His splendor.

We love Paris in the springtime, we love Paris in the fall, we love Paris in the winter, we love Paris in the summer ... oh why oh why do we love Paris? Because, the signs of our blessings are everywhere. 🍷

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*Judith Bell is the Managing Editor of Trinité, and has been attending services at the Cathedral for 20 years.*



By Sigun Coyle

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We get by with a lot of help from our Friends

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# Ted and Patti Cumming: models for all who love the Cathedral

The American Cathedral has friends the whole world over, good friends, loyal friends, and “official friends” too – members of the Parish no longer, but members of that important support group, Friends of the American Cathedral. We are lucky to have them all, but among the “official friends” some members stand out boldly for their liveliness and generosity. Patti and Ted Cumming, for example.

When Ted died in January, word went out from the Cathedral to all points, and messages of condolence and treasured memories came flooding in, at the Cathedral and at the couple’s home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The Cummings came to Paris in 1989 and lived here for more than 20 years. As it does for many of us, the Cathedral became a home away from home for them. They were active in every aspect of the church: Ted sang in the choir, served on the Vestry, helped with Les Arts George V, was a minister of communion and a lay minister. He was a member of the Cathedral’s investment committee, a member of the Building and Grounds Committee, and a presence

in the development effort. He also was an advisor to the Bishop and the Convocation (the Cummings were honored in Florence in 1999 with the Bishop’s Award).

“A power couple from the  
Cathedral’s recent past”

Perhaps Ted’s most lasting contribution to the Cathedral was as a prime mover for listing the Cathedral as a French *Monument Historique*. As a result, the Cathedral received various subsidies from the French government for the *ravalement*, or renovation of the façade, as well as other work.

Patti was all over the place as well: the Altar Guild, the Flower Guild and, as president, the Junior Guild. Among many other activities she organized the large Convocation dinner in Paris in 2006. For the dinner she and some helpers baked 36 Black Russian cakes, and she even brought over new cutlery from the U.S. especially for this occasion. Reminiscing, Harriet



Rivière said that Patti got her to help in the kitchen; she said she would never forget stringing tons of beans, working with people she had never seen before but who knew what they were doing. She felt intimidated, she said, but “There was no saying ‘no’ to Patti.” The Cummings were among the founders of the Trinity Society in 2007, whose members provide a charitable bequest to the Cathedral in their estates. The Cummings’ involvement with the Cathedral did not stop once they moved back to North Carolina: they became active members of Friends of the American Cathedral, and Ted served on the board of the American Cathedral Foundation.

Ted was a banker, but there was a time when the Cummings could have easily been mistaken for the American ambassador and spouse. They were possibly the most hospitable parishioners ever — they gave countless dinners while in Paris, serving fine food and wine. They gave a large dinner for Bishop Jeffery Rowthorn and his wife, Anne, when he was installed as Bishop in Charge. Bishops from all over the world attended. The Cummings also gave a dinner for Presiding Bishop Edmond Lee Browning when

he visited his Paris parish. When he arrived at their home, the concierge thought he was the Pope, recalls Patti. They organized a college night twice a year for American students studying in Paris; they cooked for 75 when they expected 50 to come, just in case. Parents were also invited if they were in Paris. Patti says that some engagements and marriages resulted from these dinners.

Back in Winston-Salem, the door to their home was always open, and countless parishioners were weekend guests of these two generous souls.

Longtime parishioner Nancy Janin, who got to know Ted during choir rehearsals, shared one of her many memories of the couple: “After only a few weeks’ acquaintance, Ted invited Neil and me to a cocktail party at his and Patti’s home. When we got to the address we were astonished to find ourselves at the door of a very grand *hôtel particulier*, but there was Ted, inviting us to come on in, like it was any other Parisian apartment. Despite the fancy trappings, it was clear that Ted didn’t have a stuffy bone in his body. Wearing his customary bow tie, he



tended bar that night, as he always did (he told me he liked to do that so he could be sure to have a chance to chat with every guest), sharing his latest wine discovery with us (one of Ted's passions was finding the best wine bargain in town). Little did we know that night how many good times we would share with Ted and Patti in the years to come."

Patti recalls that they organized the furnishing and decorating of the Deanery for Ernest Hunt and his wife. To help with the job they hired Dennis Mana-Ay, and Dennis has been the Cathedral's sexton ever since. He and his wife, Alice, felt so close to the Cummings that they named their first-born Dominique, after the address of their home on Rue St. Dominique.

Good memories of them abound; I will never forget the immense suitcase, filled with Christmas items, they schlepped from Winston-Salem for the Junior Guild's Christmas Fair one year. Or the day that Patti, helping in the kitchen, decided the big aluminum pans used for the Mission Lunch were not safe to cook in, so she went out and bought new ones. Whenever they identified a need, they were always there to step in.

Here is a tribute of our former Canon of Music, Ned Tipton:

"Ted and Patti were so much a part of my life in Paris, from the very beginning, as they arrived just a month or two before I did, in 1989. We became fast friends. But more importantly, they were tremendously supportive of our music program - their gift to the organ project put us over the top during our 1991-1992 campaign to get the instrument in shape, after the leading gift from the Paulé Foundation. Ted's work through the Vestry made possible the use of a generous endowment to the Music Library, Patti's work with the Junior Guild made possible the purchase of the lovely red vestments that the Choir still wears. Ted's leadership in Les Arts George V (and their regular financial support) made possible so much of the growth of the Arts program during those years, including the founding of the Paris Choral Society. Patti purchased and shipped the coffee cups still in use (I think!) at Coffee Hour after services. The list goes on and on ...." 🍷

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*Sigun Coyle, a parishioner herself, frequently contributes profiles of other members to Trinité.*

By Anne Rowthorn

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# First and forever, treasured friends

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Honoring a legacy of generosity

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We came to Paris to begin Jeffery's new job as Bishop of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. We arrived modestly with four suitcases and a single telephone number. It was midnight on a cold January night. Our excitement mounted as we rode through the city to our temporary sight-unseen apartment across the street from Notre Dame imagining the next chapter of our lives in the City of Lights.



Tired but happy, we humped our suitcases up the narrow stairs to the door of our apartment. As soon as we opened the door we realized we had made a serious mistake. The apartment was shabby and so tiny, we could hardly fit our suitcases into the entry. The bedroom consisted of a narrow daybed and a mattress for the floor and nothing else. This didn't quite fit our image of lush, elegant Paris! As we sank into our modest beds sleeping fitfully, we wondered for the rest of the night how we were going to extricate ourselves from





this miserable situation. The clock ticked. Jeffery awoke at 6 a.m. and asked me if I could find that telephone number, and whose number was it anyway?! We found it was the Cummings' and then wondered how early we could call them. Perhaps 8 o'clock. We counted the minutes until 8:00 and then Jeffery called what sounded like a very sleepy Ted. Jeffery explained our predicament and Ted immediately invited us to their charming home on Rue St. Dominique. We warmed immediately to the affable Ted and bubbly Patti, and they told us they could help.

“Our excitement mounted as we rode through the city to our temporary sight-unseen apartment across the street from Notre Dame imagining the next chapter of our lives in the City of Lights.”

Ted and Patti led us to a delightful studio apartment up 45 winding stairs. It was a light room with a modern kitchen, large closets and a Murphy bed on the wall. It was small—but charming and romantic. Our only question was, “Can we move in right now?”

Unfortunately, the apartment was rented to someone else for the next month. The Cummings must have registered the sense of disappointment in our faces. They looked at each other and with hardly a pause they offered another area of their house that we could use until the apartment became available. Before the day was out, Ted drove us back to collect our four suitcases.

The Cummings not only provided our first home in Paris; they also provided lots of friendship, laughter and warm hospitality along with everything these neophytes needed to know about how to get a phone, where to shop, how to get a Carte Orange, what buses would take us to the Cathedral. When family members came to Paris for Jeffery's institution as Bishop of the Convocation, they stayed at the

Cummings. The Cummings were always available and helpful. If it was 9 p.m. and we needed a book to read for the night we called down to Ted and Patti and they always had something of interest. When we eventually moved to a slightly larger apartment in the Marais, Ted and Patti gave us some furnishings and drove us out to Ikea for more.

The Cummings truly reached out to us. They were our first friends in Paris and we remained treasured friends. We are very grateful that the one telephone number we had in Paris was that of Ted and Patti Cumming. 🙏

*The Right Reverend Jeffery Rowthorn was Bishop in Charge of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe from 1994 to 2001.*

*His wife, Anne, has written a number of books and taught at Hartford Theological Seminary and Yale Divinity School. She also leads workshops, retreats and eco-bikes.*



*Requiescat in Pace*

*Melinda Jane McCulloch Whalon  
1949 - 2017*

*Melinda Whalon, wife of Bishop Pierre and mother of Marie-Noëlle, died February 26 during a long and valiant struggle with cancer, of an unrelated infection. A member of the Parish and active in supporting many of its missions, Melinda was known for her lovely singing voice, charm, gracious manner and human warmth.*

*The burial office was held on March 11 at St. George's Church in Harbeson, Delaware, with the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry officiating. A memorial celebration was held on March 29 at the American Cathedral in Paris.*

Gifts in her memory can be made to the AROSAT Association, which supports research on digestive cancers. Information about making a donation can be obtained at [www.fondationarcad.org/espace-donateurs/faire-un-don-en-ligne](http://www.fondationarcad.org/espace-donateurs/faire-un-don-en-ligne), or from the Convocation office, [office@tec-europe.org](mailto:office@tec-europe.org)



By Nancy Janin

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# Grand Central Cathedral

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A day in the life of a very busy place

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**Multi-tasking defined:** The engaging in more than one activity at the same time or serially, switching one's attention back and forth from one activity to another.

**Multi-tasking experienced** (during my stint as the interim head of administration at the Cathedral): Finding a lost earring in the nave, locating Thanksgiving napkins in the lower storage room, moving misplaced chairs, assuring the Cathedral was open for Cub Scouts meeting, ordering office supplies, scheduling and coordinating fire alarm testing, proofing bulletins, clarifying parking space assignments and removing squatter, coordinating kitchen cleaning, arranging for moving hundreds of Love in a Box project for concert, meeting with numerous photocopier companies, supervising use of Cathedral car and Rungis and Metro cards, entering Friends of the Cathedral giving information into database, showing movie crew Cathedral spaces, putting bereaved family of former parishioner in contact with clergy, distributing mail, supervising photo session of Cathedral by new Japanese wedding blessing firm, emptying nave money boxes, drafting thank-you notes to donors, meeting firms bidding for nave floor repair, emptying parish hall closet, feeding photocopier during bulletin preparation, billing space users, responding to phone messages, filling in at the front desk, organizing de-cluttering project, helping draft new position description, attending vestry and staff meetings, conceiving and

implementing environmental practices in the office, processing paperwork for subsidized French classes for staff, organizing washing of choir robes – and lots, lots more.

Luckily volunteers support staff functions in many domains or the work would, quite simply, not get done.

No day, no hour even, is ever the same up in the office. Hundreds of parishioners with varying needs from the Cathedral, a building which hosts multiple users (internal and external) every day, five worship services each week, a heavily used physical plant where some of the space was built in the 19th century, visitors and newcomers wanting to connect to the Cathedral in different ways, yield a constant stream of questions, problems, issues, demands the staff must resolve. And the office staff is small (three full-time and one part-time). Luckily volunteers support staff functions in many domains or the work would, quite simply, not get done. But often it is just staff and they must, in



addition to their core responsibilities, be willing to step into other functions regularly. In addition to the sheer volume of contacts coming into the office the unpredictability of each email, phone call, and visit adds challenges. Will the response take five seconds, five minutes, hours? And how can it be accommodated when the monthly financial report needs to be finalized for the Vestry meeting, the e-letter disseminated, the event contract signed? Being able to quickly determine the urgency and importance of the incoming items was key to retaining sanity – and good systems to ensure that the less urgent items were not forgotten instrumental to good management.

In sum, I found it exhilarating to work in the office – M.A.S.H. in a church setting. And it was very rewarding to briefly be part of the staff team – good-spirited, hard-working, and amazingly patient and caring even when facing deadlines. I admired them before but little did I know ...

*Nancy Janin, a long time parishioner who now lives in London, is Associate Editor of Trinité.*

## Please welcome Sarah, our new multi-tasking master

*The Cathedral's new Communications and Administrative Assistant, Sarah Norodom opened her application with a favorite anecdote of her mother's that seemed particularly apt.*



The family had just moved to Manhattan, and her mother was looking for a school for the children. After other interviews, she met with the Dean of the Cathedral School of St. John the Divine. "As a mother of three mixed-race children

with Cambodian, French and Jewish heritage, she asked the Dean if they took families 'like us' at a school like Cathedral. The Dean, not missing a beat, replied: 'We're Episcopalians. We take everybody.' "

It's a formula that worked then for Sarah's mom and continues to work now. "The values of community service, tolerance and diversity make the Episcopal faith a modern and vibrant one, and that is why I'm writing to apply for the post of bilingual assistant." Sarah said in her letter.

And now another Episcopal Cathedral and another Dean have taken Sarah for another learning experience. And a teaching experience too, because Sarah's résumé is one of those that suggests she's older than her 25 years. Just consider:

French mother language but complete fluency in English and professional level Italian. Magna cum laude from the Groton School. A classics degree from Oxford and a masters in arts and heritage management from Maastricht University. She has been a contributor to several books, managed a number of publishing projects, worked as a paralegal assistant in Padua; she has IT experience with diverse software; she's an amateur violinist; at Oxford she played and coached basketball and soccer. She has lived in Bangkok and Phnom Penh as well as New York, Oxford, Padua and Paris. She lists a wide range of volunteer experience, and there are enough other noteworthy lines in her C.V. to make you ask what you've done with your own life.

On the administrative staff Sarah works closely with Tony Holmes, the Communications and Community Manager, and the other members of that lean team and the many Parish volunteers.

*By Walter Wells. Former member of the Vestry, he is the Editor of Trinité.*

**On any given Sunday, you'll find that the before and after services activities create a wonderful sense of community at the American Cathedral in Paris.**

From inside the nave with the welcome desk, set up faithfully each and every Sunday by the Welcome Committee, who are always on hand and ready to greet newcomers – with a smile and a cup of coffee – to the reception line of parishioners and visitors who enjoy the opportunity to speak with Dean Laird, to Harriet Rivière, chair of the Altar Guild who is endlessly busy tending to dressing and un-dressing the altar, and Denis



*Photos and text by Judith Bell, Managing Editor of Trinité*



Mana-ay who's also on-hand guarding over the procession, making sure all goes smoothly from the time the doors open until they close, the nave serves as a natural center of gathering. Then we move onto the after service gathering in the Parish Hall which stirs up a buzz of excitement as many gather around the refreshment table looking for a familiar face and the opportunity to catch up with friends, whether it be a

fellow committee member to discuss ministry affairs, or simply life itself. Plus, you'll always find the leaders of the Youth Group hurrying about as they rush to get lunch downstairs to a hungry group of young parishioners. And, all of this activity takes place while children play, running around through the halls and in the Dean's Garden... yes, on any given Sunday, the American Cathedral is thriving with the spirit of community.



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# Trinity Weekend 2017

## June 10-11, 2017




**The American Cathedral in Paris  
cordially invites you to  
Trinity Weekend, June 10-11, 2017  
to celebrate a decade of legacy gifts!**

On the occasion of our 10th anniversary, please join us for special events, Trinity Sunday festival worship and a parish-wide picnic and BBQ, as we recognize and celebrate your generous support.

The Trinity Society ensures that the Cathedral in Paris will shine its special light for generations to come. The Cathedral has made a difference in your life...make a difference in the life of the Cathedral by including a bequest in your estate plans.

**For information on how to join,  
please contact:  
[development@americancathedral.org](mailto:development@americancathedral.org)**

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A dramatic, low-key photograph capturing the silhouettes of the Eiffel Tower and several Russian Orthodox domes against a bright, cloudy sky. The sun is positioned behind the clouds, creating a strong backlighting effect and a lens flare in the lower right. The Eiffel Tower stands tall in the center, its lattice structure clearly visible. In the foreground, the dark, rounded domes of a church are silhouetted, each topped with a cross. The overall mood is one of contrast and architectural grandeur.

*Another cathedral has come  
to the neighborhood.  
Another Holy Trinity, in  
fact. Canon Mary  
Haddad's camera magic  
caught the dramatic  
addition to the Left Bank  
skyline of the new Russian  
Orthodox "spiritual center"  
that has opened just across  
the Seine from our own  
Holy Trinity.*



## **Sustaining the Cathedral that sustains us**

Our Christian faith sustains us, the miraculous mystery of faith. And faith attaches to places and things – like the Cross, most obviously. But also like our magnificent Cathedral, which needs your help to ensure that it can continue to shine its special light for generations to come. Three pillars of stewardship sustain our missions in the world and our environment for worship – the Annual Call to Membership, or ACTM; the Friends of the Cathedral, and the Trinity Society.

### **Annual Call to Membership**

Every fall the ACTM asks parishioners to signify their membership in our community by pledging their financial support for the year.

But it's an opportunity that doesn't end with the season.

If you're a newcomer, or haven't pledged your support yet in 2017, it's not too late.

### **Friends of the Cathedral**

Through Friends, members who have moved away, and all who wish to support the mission of the Cathedral, demonstrate their active commitment. We stay in touch through regular communications – like Trinité magazine – and occasional gatherings in the U.S. And our prayers.

### **The Trinity Society**

The legacy society seeks to strengthen our endowment and achieve long-term sustainability by encouraging bequests and planned gifts. Based on scriptural and spiritual foundations, the Trinity Society can help educate all who support us on end of life issues and estate planning.

Information about all three avenues

is available through the Cathedral's web site

**[www.AmericanCathedral.org/giving](http://www.AmericanCathedral.org/giving)**

