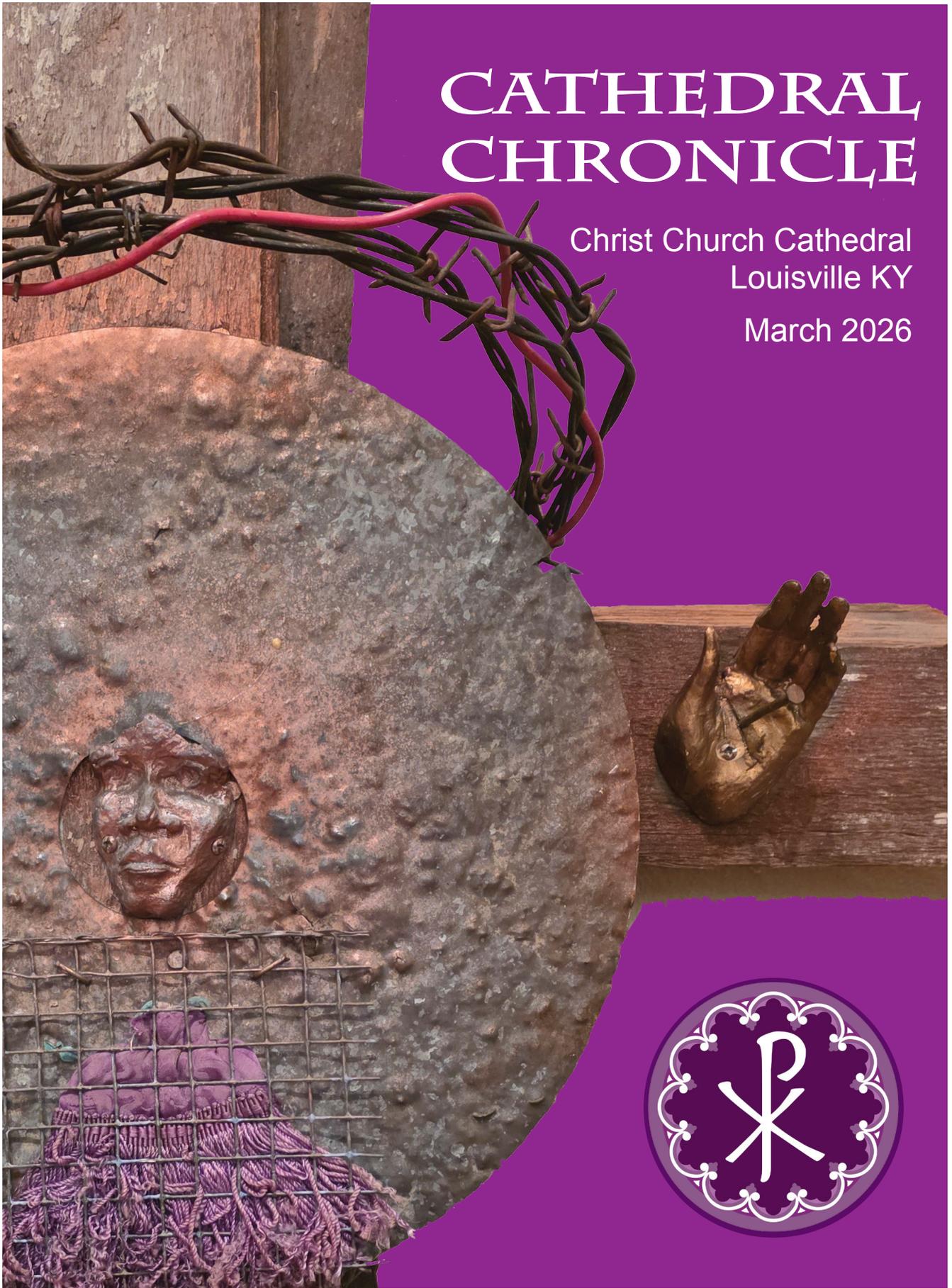


CATHEDRAL CHRONICLE

Christ Church Cathedral
Louisville KY

March 2026



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

➔ a church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city ←

WELCOME

ccclou.org
502.587.1354
421 South Second Street, Louisville, KY 40202

Service Times

Sunday Mornings

9:00 Bible study, 2nd Floor, Diocesan building
10:30 Holy Eucharist in-person and livestream
11:30 Coffee Hour

Midweek

Tuesdays and major feasts during the week, 12:00–12:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Monday and Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Friday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m..

Parking

Available on Sundays only:

- At the Louisville Surgery Center, 444 S. 1st St., (accessed from 1st Street), which is directly behind the cathedral
- At the Transamerica parking lot, adjacent to Cathedral Commons, at the corner of 2nd Street and Muhammad Ali Boulevard (Saturday and Sunday only FOR A FEE OF \$8.)

Additional paid parking is available at the locations below on Sundays and during the week:

- YMCA Garage (555 S. 2nd St.)
- Marriot Garage (280 W. Jefferson St.)
- PARC Garage at 1st and Jefferson
- Meters are available on 1st and 2nd Streets

Staff

The Very Rev. Matthew Bradley, Dean
The Rev. Dr. Eva Markham, Deacon:
Austin Echols, Director of Music
Susan Shockey, Parish Coordinator
Thomas Thill, Sacristan

Lay Leadership

Senior Warden: John Kiesel
Junior Warden: Graham Whatley
Secretary: Kent Echler
Treasurer: Kay Wilkinson

Editorial Staff

Members of the Communication Committee edit the *Chronicle*.

The *Cathedral Chronicle* is a quarterly newsletter that focuses on our work together in fellowship, ministry, and worship. We welcome ideas and contributions from parishioners. Please send submissions to cathedralchronicle@gmail.com

in this issue ...

From the Dean _____

Annual Meeting _____

National Fund for Sacred Places Award _____

The Easter Season _____

Austin Echols _____

Departed This Life _____

Annuciation _____

Holy Week Schedule _____

on the cover ...

detail from Lenten Cross by Ed Hamilton

Christ Church Cathedral Land Acknowledgement

Christ Church Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky gathers and stands on land which has been home, for over 11,000 years, to primarily Shawnee, Cherokee, Osage, Haudenosaunee Seneca, Hopewell and Adena peoples. Today we acknowledge the role our Church has played in colonialism's devastating legacy of death, stolen lands, dehumanizing removals, and forced assimilation of native people. We repent of our complicity in perpetuating the dominance of white European culture, even to the present day. We seek forgiveness. We honor the original peoples of this land and the presence of native people still living in Kentucky. We honor with respect their Elders, past, present, and future, their traditions, and the land itself. We commit to listen, learn, and walk in love.

from the Dean . . .

From **The Gospel of the Crucified King**

**The Gospel of the Crucified King
is not etched in gold
but written in blood —
a manifesto of mercy
signed with wounded hands.**

**Here is a King —
a wild Messiah,
lifted high,
not in triumph
but in torment.
A coronation of nails.**

**He reigns,
not by crushing enemies
but by forgiving them;
not by hoarding power
but by pouring it out.**

**Let the Church be like this —
power redefined as cruciform love,
where victory looks like vulnerability,
and leadership tastes like loss.**

Rev. Jon Swales
Part of the *Gospel of the Wild Messiah Collection*

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is a wonderful in-between space on the second floor of the Cathedral's Link building that folks call the parlor. Most of the time it's just the space that folks walk through on their way to somewhere else - the Choir Room, the Chapter Room, the Diocesan Offices - but on the Wednesday evenings of Lent this year it has felt like a chapel.



This season of Lent Fr. Edgar Wallace has been leading a small group, some Cathedral folk and some other folk, in a contemplative evening circle steeped in prayer and poetry, silence and sharing. Together, we've been

listening to the poetry of Rev. Jon Swales (an invitation to holy realism, is what he calls it) and naming the points of connection with our lives and life and ministry of the Church.

Jon Swales's poetry, written from the margins - those off to the side, out of the way, in-between places - lifts up the stories of those who are too often ignored.

And his verses contain the frequent refrain "Let the Church be like this..." drawing out the implications of what life can look like if the Church will follow where the "Wild Messiah" leads, out into the margins with the people Jesus came to seek and serve.

When I read Rev. Swales's prayer - that the church would redefine power to look like the love of the cross, willing to be vulnerable, choosing to take the losing side if it means standing with Jesus - I find myself saying "Amen" and then, with no small amount of fear, wondering what our Cathedral would look like if our prayer was answered by "the Wild Messiah".

Maybe God has been answering this prayer. Maybe we are in the process of becoming. Maybe we are in-between who we were - the Church of the powerful and the privileged - and who God would have us become, with and among and for those on the margins. If that's the case, may God give us the courage this Lent to let that which is passing away slide through our fingers with thanksgiving. And may Christ give us the joy this Easter of rising to follow our Crucified King into a wounded world.

Matt+

Christ Church Cathedral

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 8, 2026

— Chronicle Staff

After a two-week delay caused by inclement winter weather, the Cathedral held its annual meeting on Sunday, February 8. Holding such an event on Super Bowl Sunday might have threatened low attendance, but Bishop's Hall was packed with parishioners eagerly dining on a range of soups and chilis prepared by a dedicated all-volunteer crew organized by Randy Peters.

Copies of the Annual Report were made available for the perusal of attendees, but only two oral reports were presented, by Kay Shields Wilkinson, Parish Treasurer on behalf of the Finance Committee, and Dean Matthew Bradley. Both emphasized the encouraging position that the Cathedral finds itself in, particularly given the upheaval of the last several years and the ongoing challenges many congregations face. Indeed, the convivial atmosphere of fellowship that characterized the Annual Meeting served to illustrate the esprit de corps that has typified the past year at Christ Church Cathedral.

Kay Shields Wilkinson's brief oral report emphasized the overall strong financial position of the parish, boosted by an increase in pledge giving over the pledged amount. As always, financial challenges remain, not the least of which is that posed by an aging physical plant.

Dean Bradley's report was lengthier in large part due to the many promising developments and areas of growth that the Cathedral enjoyed in 2025. Highlights include the successful completion of Room in the Inn in 2025 and the ongoing RITI work in 2026; staff growth, including Susan Shockey as Parish Coordinator, Austin Echols as Music Director and Organist, and Fr. Charles Myers as Associate Dean for Mission and Outreach, a position funded by the Mission Funding committee of the Diocese of Kentucky. After the challenges of the pandemic and a shifting Cathedral staff, to have a settled and growing parish staff promises additional growth and further development of our mission in 2026.

Considerable time was given over to Dean Bradley's discussion of the \$500,000 grant from the National Fund for Sacred Places, which will provide a much-needed boost to the upcoming Capital Campaign, helping to keep this vital place of worship functioning into our third century of ministry to Louisville. The NFSP grant is discussed elsewhere in this issue of the Chronicle.

Three new Chapter Members were announced, as well: Josh Edwards, Phoebe Moore, and Susan Weddle. Thanks were rendered to Tara Durnil, George Hubbard, and Louise Issacs as their Chapter terms expired.

As the official meeting wound down to a close, Randy Peters took the microphone to thank Dean Bradley for his steadfast leadership, which was echoed by the standing ovation he received following his address.

Those who did not attend the Annual Meeting or who attended but did not receive a copy of the Annual Report are encouraged to reach out to the parish office to request a copy.



Christ Church Cathedral

Awarded \$500,000 Grant

from National Fund for Sacred Places — Chronicle Staff

In October of 2025, the National Fund for Sacred Places, a program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, awarded a \$500,000 grant to Christ Church Cathedral to support our efforts to restore and revitalize this house of worship that has served Louisville for over 200 years.

This grant requires a 1:1 match, meaning that \$500,000 of matching funds are required to be raised for full disbursement of the grant. As our Capital Campaign consultant Nick Sollog determined through a feasibility study that just over \$1,000,000 in potential funds can be expected, the NFSP grant award represents a serious shot in the arm for our Capital Campaign, which was placed on a delayed start in hopes of securing this grant.



For our physical plant, this grant means that crucial repairs to roof trusses, the Cathedral roof, the flat roof in the Link Building, and other areas of concern can at long last be made. In addition, NSFP offers support, a technical assistance grant, and other resources that, in tandem with Nick Sollog and the members of the Capital Campaign committee (Jan Margerum, Lee Cochran, Mike DaRif, Tom Peters, Cynthia Fanning, and John Werst) will set our Capital Campaign on a solid footing and ensure that Christ Church Cathedral continues our ministries into our third century in Downtown Louisville.

The Cathedral is the first church in Kentucky to receive an award from NFSP, and the Fund's confidence in our project was made clear by the fact that they increased our award from the roughly \$480,000 of the original grant request to a full \$500,000, the maximum award offered by the Fund.

In addition, a technical assistance grant will empower the Cathedral through an Economic Halo study, which will quantify the economic impact that the Cathedral has on our community. This data will be crucial to helping the Cathedral make the case for our continued ministry and service to Downtown Louisville and beyond by allowing us to translate the benefits we offer into the economic language so often employed by Metro government and local businesses and funders.

The NFSP award, along with the larger Capital Campaign itself, represent the culmination of efforts made by faithful parishioners over the generations to ensure that Christ Church Cathedral continues its legacy of excellence in worship, music, and ministry to our parish community, Downtown Louisville, and beyond.

At this time, the plan is to launch the Capital Campaign with a kickoff event in March and conclude by Memorial Day 2026. The first tranche of the NFSP award will be disbursed when the campaign has \$125,000 in committed or in-hand funding, a benchmark that has been nearly reached. Repair work will begin with all due dispatch upon receipt of the funds.

Anyone interested in learning more about the National Fund for Sacred Places grant is encouraged to reach out to Dean Bradley or Capital Campaign committee co-chairs Jan Margerum and Lee Cochran.

The Easter Season

— Fr. Charles Myers

Fifty Days of Joy + + + + + + + +

We tend to forget about the fifty days of celebration of the Resurrection in Eastertide. We focus on Easter as a Day—a Day that ends Holy Week and the forty day fast of Lent. The early Church recognized the joy in celebrating Christ's Resurrection and the defeat of death and the principalities and powers that held people captive. The festive days of Easter, or Pascha as it was also called, was a time that not only celebrated Christ's Resurrection but to embody it in a world that was still seduced by these the powers. These days of feasting and celebrating energized the Early Church with Joy in the face of suffering and despair and possible martyrdom.

Our world today is facing great darkness, and it feels that the principalities and powers have a stronghold on every system that affects our lives and those we love. We are bombarded day in and day out with atrocities, abuses of power, and the actions of those who seem not to be held accountable. This is why we need Fifty Days of Joy and practice of the Resurrection!



We talk about our spiritual practices for reflection in Lent, but do not talk about our spiritual practices for Easter. Here are some suggestions

- 1** Come to Easter Octave services. Easter Octave is eight services including Easter Sunday where the Eucharist is celebrated and the stories of the Resurrection are expounded upon. These services are held in the Chapel at 12pm.
- 2** Join us for our Easter Season Book Study: Church Tomorrow? What the 'Nones' and 'Dones' Teach Us About the Future of Faith, by the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers
- 3** Meditate on the Resurrection Narratives of Jesus. Contemplate how people react or respond in the story. Reflect on how you would act or respond in the story. Hear the Resurrected Christ speak from the story to you and let the Word be rooted in you.
- 4** Practice gratitude for all the blessings in your life. Thank the triune God for those moments of peace, joy, love, etc. (Philippians 4:8)
- 5** Have meals with friends and family or share a meal with strangers and those who have need friends and family. The Risen Lord is always known in the "Breaking of the Bread," and these meals of hospitality are extensions of the Eucharist.



When you need to be reminded about the Hope of Easter in these Great Fifty Days that end with the Feast of Pentecost, meditate on this Easter Sermon from St John Chrysostom:



Are there any who are devout lovers of God?
Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival!
Are there any who are grateful servants?
Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!
Are there any weary with fasting?
Let them now receive their wages!
If any have toiled from the first hour,
let them receive their due reward;
If any have come after the third hour,
let them with gratitude join in the Feast!
And you that arrived after the sixth hour,



let them not doubt; for they too shall sustain no loss.
 And if any delayed until the ninth hour,
 let them not hesitate; but let them come too.
 And those who arrived only at the eleventh hour,
 let them not be afraid by reason of their delay.
 For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.
 The Lord gives rest to those that comes at the eleventh hour,
 as well as to those that toiled from the first.
 To this one God gives, and upon another God bestows.



God accepts the works as God greets the endeavor.
 The deed God honors and the intention God commends.
 Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!
 First and last alike receive your reward;
 rich and poor, rejoice together!
 Sober and slothful, celebrate the day!
 You that have kept the fast, and you that have not,
 rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!
 Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one.
 Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith.
 Enjoy all the riches of God's goodness!
 Let no one grieve at their poverty,
 for the universal kingdom has been revealed.
 Let no one mourn that they have fallen again and again;
 for forgiveness has risen from the grave.
 Let no one fear death, for the Death of our Savior has set us free.
 God has destroyed it by enduring it.
 God destroyed Hell when He descended into it.
 God put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh.
 Isaiah foretold this when he said,
 "You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below";
 Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with.
 It was in an uproar because it is mocked.
 It was in an uproar, for it is destroyed.
 It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated.
 It is in an uproar, for it is now made captive.
 Hell took a body, and discovered God.
 It took earth, and encountered Heaven.
 It took what it saw and was overcome by what it did not see.
 O death, where is your sting?



O Hell, where is your victory?
 Christ is Risen, and you, o death, are annihilated!
 Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are cast down!
 Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice!
 Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!
 Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead;
 for Christ having risen from the dead,
 is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
 To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!

I grew up in Northern Kentucky and moved to Louisville to attend the University of Louisville. After finishing undergraduate studies, I worked extensively as a professional pianist and organist, primarily focusing on choral and vocal accompanying. I served as the Organist and Music Associate at Highland Baptist Church in Louisville for almost fifteen years. During that time, I played for numerous school, collegiate, and community choirs, All-State Choirs, and state, regional, and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association. In 2019 I returned to UofL where I earned my master's degree in Choral Conducting. Following graduation, I was offered a faculty position conducting the university's tenor-bass ensemble, The Singing Cardsmen. Around the same time, I was feeling like it was time to leave Highland Baptist and I felt strongly called to an Episcopal Church. One of my formative experiences in music was singing for the Evensong choir at St. Francis in the Fields with Dr. James Rightmyer. The richness of the Anglican choral tradition was very meaningful to me. Whether the Spirit or coincidence I'll leave up to you, but it just happened that the Episcopal Church down the road from HBC had a vacancy for an Organist-Chorleader. Church of the Advent was a great place for me to gain experience running a music program in an Episcopal parish church and I am very grateful for my time there and the people I met who remain a treasured part of my life.

1 First and foremost, when I accepted the position at Advent, I also became a confirmed member of the Episcopal Church. So, for me, the Cathedral position was not just a job, it was my Cathedral already. And while I initially was not sure it was the right move for me at the time, I decided to apply and go through the process trusting that the right choice would become clear. And it did. I had worked at Christ Church Cathedral as the bass soloist and section leader for a year under John Cantrell so I had some idea of what the congregation was like, at least 20+ years ago. I remembered several choir members very clearly (Tom and Randy Peters, Jerry Brown) and I remembered the Cathedral being the first church I'd attended where gay men lived as their full selves as celebrated children of God. After meeting with the search committee, the choir, and Dean Matt, I knew this was the right move for me and I've had no regrets.

2 The Cathedral music program excites me because of the dedication of the choir, the passion they bring to our shared ministry, and the appreciation and understanding of the value of music by the clergy and staff from the Bishop on down. At our best, musicians can reveal more deeply the profound truths of our faith and the directions in which God is calling us than words alone.

3 Dean Matt often says that cathedrals are public spaces. Similarly, I think the Cathedral can be a place where music speaks to people who attend here regularly, who may join us from other churches in the Diocese, or simply wander in because they hear a choir singing. This past Monday, one of our guests from Room in the Inn was captivated by the sound of a choir rehearsing in the Nave. For that woman, in that instance, music was a gift of welcome. It was holy.



Austin Echols

Whether it's for Sunday Eucharist, Evensong, or a concert of special event, the Cathedral can be a musical and spiritual oasis for all people.

4 My mentor from college, Dr. Kent Hatteberg introduced me to a book called *The Composer's Advocate*. The philosophy that the conductor's job is not to leave their own mark on music but rather bring to life the intention of the composer really stuck with me. Many well-known conductors strive to be impressive or leave their mark on music they perform. I find that my motivation to excel as a conductor is birthed from a desire to honor the composer (I fancy myself one of modest success after all) and, by doing so, unlocking deeper meaning in the music and text. Words are, of course, the tool that bands and orchestras don't have, and composers are very thoughtful about how they set them to music and what the words reveal about our humanity and relationship to the Divine.

5 I think the real "aha" moment for me happened far earlier than I realized. As a child, my best friend's parents were both musicians. His father the choir director at my middle and high schools and his mother a pianist and organist at the church I attended in my adolescence. I knew choir and church music were things I wanted to be involved in and I desperately wanted to play the piano and the organ.

6 I don't really feel comfortable trying to name a most-significant musical or professional triumph so I will name a few meaningful moments from my life. Just last week, my men's choir from UofL performed at the Kentucky Music Educators Association annual conference. My group was one of two collegiate groups from the state of KY selected. The recognition of not just amateur listeners but also highly qualified and skilled colleagues was more meaningful than I expected. The first time I accompanied a high school All-State Choir was a major milestone for me because those experiences had been so formative when I was in high school. Several years ago, a composition of mine was presented live on BBC Radio during a broadcast from Selwyn College in Cambridge. The Selwyn Choir performed the piece again in London for a performance at St. Bride's that I was able to attend solely because my travel was delayed. Those both meant a lot to me. Finally, finishing graduate school with a 4.0 GPA felt like a major accomplishment for me. I was never a great student in undergrad, preferring the social opportunities to the academic, and it was a chance to prove to myself that I could be successful.

7 Speaking professionally, I would say the best advice I've received is two-fold. Life is too short for bad music and choose music you love and do it at the highest possible level.

8 What's it like to be Austin Echols?! Usually quiet. I spend a lot of time studying or simply thinking. I spend a great deal of time looking for and choosing repertoire for my choirs. I'm naturally introverted but feel completely at ease in front of a choir because I have a purpose there. There's nothing worse for me than a social situation where I have no purpose other than to engage in small talk. When I was preparing for confirmation with Fr. Karl Ruttan, I was challenged to identify when I feel most like the person God intends me to be. The answer is unquestionably in front of a choir.

9 Magic wands are dangerous. I have two but call them batons. I would like to expand the role that the music program here plays in the spiritual and cultural life of our city and our Diocese. As far as tangible items are concerned, I would like to begin a tradition of presenting a choral-orchestral Requiem for All Saints'/ All Souls', I'd love to see a larger or expanded organ, and I'd love to purchase timpani for festive occasions.

10 I hope the answers above give a pretty good idea of who I am. Some trivia perhaps. I love architecture. Had I not gone to music school, I would love to have been an architect. That said, post-modernism is not for me. I have an insatiable sweet tooth. I think Mint Juleps are a waste of perfectly fine bourbon. And I could probably survive on pizza and Indian food.



DEPARTED THIS LIFE

*Let saints on earth in concert sing
with those whose work is done;
for all the servants of our King
in heaven and earth are one.*

NANCY F. OTTO

DONNA BROWN POTTINGER

MARCIA WILMET

ANNETTE SWAN

FRAZIER MARSH

ROBERT A. "BOB" HUFFMAN



Annunciation

— Denise Levertov



We know the scene: the room, variously furnished,
almost always a lectern, a book; always
the tall lily.

Arrived on solemn grandeur of great wings,
the angelic ambassador, standing or hovering,
whom she acknowledges, a guest.
But we are told of meek obedience. No one mentions
courage.

The engendering Spirit
did not enter her without consent.

God waited.
She was free
to accept or to refuse, choice
integral to humanness.

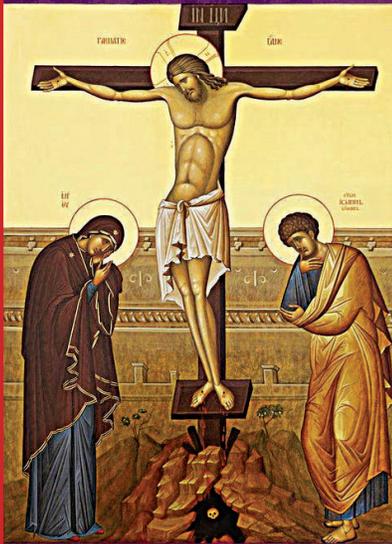
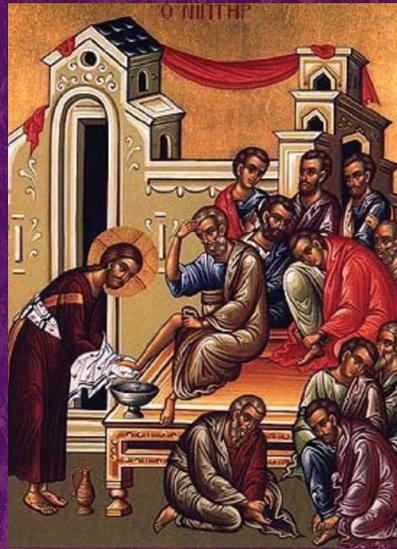
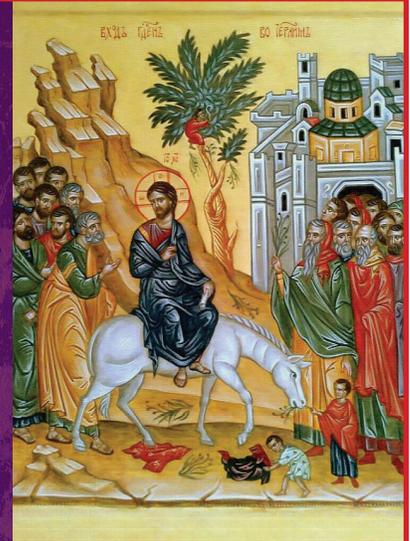


Aren't there annunciations
of one sort or another
in most lives?
Some unwillingly
undertake great destinies,
enact them in sullen pride,
uncomprehending.
More often
those moments
when roads of light and storm
open from darkness in a man or woman,
are turned away from
in dread, in a wave of weakness, in despair
and with relief.
Ordinary lives continue.
God does not smite them.
But the gates close, the pathway vanishes.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

Christ Church Cathedral
March 29, 10:30 AM
421 South Second Street



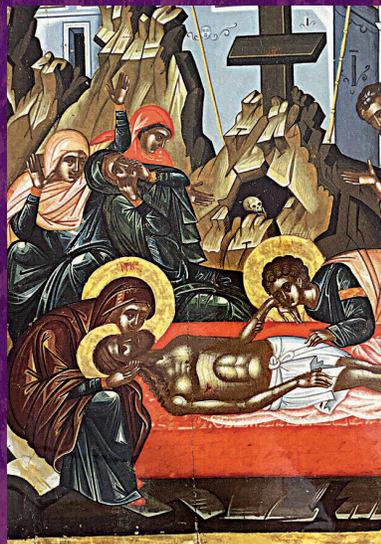
Good Friday

Our Merciful Saviour
Episcopal Church

April 3

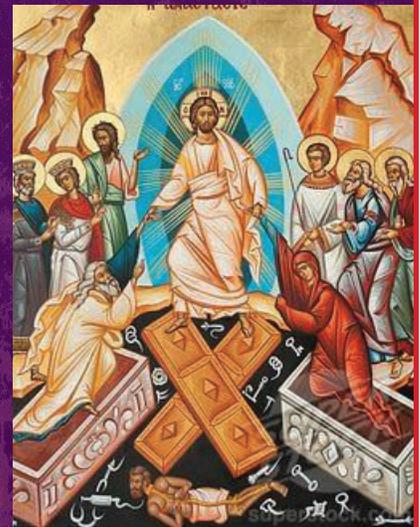
473 South 11th Street

- 10:30 AM: Gather at Calvary Church (821 South 4th Street) for procession of the Blessed Sacrament with Stations of the Cross to Church of Our Merciful Saviour.
- 12 noon: Proper Liturgy for Good Friday



Easter Vigil

Christ Church Cathedral
April 4, 8:30 PM
with Alleluia Party to follow
421 South Second Street



Maundy Thursday

Calvary Episcopal Church

April 2: 6 PM Agape meal

7 PM Worship

821 South 4th Street

Holy Saturday

Saint George's
Episcopal Church

April 4, Noon

1201 South 26th Street