



# Cathedral Voices

DECEMBER 2007

## Voice of the wardens

Marianne W. Culver | Senior Warden  
Robert D. Black | Junior Warden

With the holiday season approaching, the weather getting colder, snow surely on its way before too long, we turn naturally to thoughts of home. In this month's column, we cover a number of practical household themes. Read on to see how the chapter is preparing the cathedral's house for the future.

### CHAPTER HOUSEKEEPING

St. James has a new chapter secretary— Kevin Godsil. Many of you will know Kevin as a frequent acolyte. Kevin has agreed to act as secretary for Cathedral Chapter, taking over from Emily Knaus. We are delighted to be working with Kevin, and extend warm thanks to Emily for her past service.

You can find the minutes of past chapter meetings on the St. James website. Just click on *Publications* and *Cathedral Chapter Reports*.

### GETTING OUR HOUSE IN ORDER

Chapter has established an Administrative Task Force to support the cathedral's administrative policies and issues, including staffing, staff development and performance, and office support systems.

see **Wardens** on page 5



■ **At the Cathedral** Participating in CROP Walk (see article on page 6)

## Advent: Finding home, finding God

The Very Rev. Joy E. Rogers | Provost of the Cathedral

Not and I have made enough moves in 40 years of marriage to know that being really at home in a new place never seems to happen until we figure out how to do "Christmas" there.

We are pushed into making new traditions, and depending on new friends, finding a new place to put the Christmas tree, searching for the boxes of decorations that were stashed rather haphazardly when we moved in because who needed them in May. There is something uncomfortable and

disconcerting about it all—our fussy need to get it 'right', even when we have no idea what 'right' means now.

We have come to trust that our sometimes frantic efforts are not the point and that this Christmas, like every one since the first, is given by a power that comes from beyond ourselves. The point of our preparations is only to place us in the path of that power, to open our imaginations to a greater gift than any we will wrap and place under the tree.

see **Advent** on page 4



## Sandwich Sunday expands its scope and services

**F**or four years, on the third Sunday of every month, Sandwich Sunday has been important to both the cathedral's hungry neighbors and to its Sunday School youth. The youth know they don't need to be grownups to respond to God's Gospel charge.

Seven-year-old Helen Gunn is proof of that. "I like to help people who are hungry. When I wake up and it's Sandwich Sunday, I feel ready to help poor people. I get to know other kids and other grownups, too. I love Sandwich Sunday."

"Our growth has been amazing," says cathedral youth ministry director Dean Niedenthal, "especially in the past few months. More hungry folks are finding us."

Like many cathedral ministries, Sandwich Sunday is becoming intergenerational. Lots of adults—



many who don't have kids—have joined us. The box in the narthex for donations of seasonal clothes has been almost full every time—coats, jackets, sweatshirts, t-shirts, sweaters, pants, gloves, mittens, even boots and shoes.

The recipients of the program are excited to be able to choose clothes and shoes that actually fit them! They're happy to be able to offer clothing to the children in their lives, too.

"Lots of people help each other. I like that," Leland Culver, 6, says. "My very first time, I didn't know how to make sandwiches, but a grownup showed me. Now I'm good at it and it's fun. I think God is happy that we make sandwiches for people who are hungry."

"This year, my white sweater is too little for me. My mom said I can bring it to Sandwich Sunday. Maybe one of the homeless people knows a little kid and my sweater could keep him warm."

Five-year-old Paul Murphy-Gartner sees Sandwich Sunday this way, "It's really hard work, but I like it. When I see people who don't have much bread, it makes me happy to know that now they'll have bread and peanut butter and jam and some other things. I'm

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*Youth help make and distribute sack lunches (above) and everyone at the cathedral is involved in the outreach to our community's homeless (left).*



## Cathedral Voices

December 2007

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Your comments, suggestions and offers to volunteer on future issues are encouraged. Please contact Tom Patterson at (312) 751-3573 or [tpatterson@saintjamescathedral.org](mailto:tpatterson@saintjamescathedral.org).

### St. James Cathedral

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### Cathedral Clergy & Full-Time Staff

The Rt. Rev. William D. Persell ..... Bishop  
The Rt. Rev. Victor Scantlebury .....  
Assistant Bishop  
The Very Rev. Joy E. Rogers ..... Provost  
The Rev. Peter Siwek ..... Vicar  
The Rev. Jackie Lynn ..... Deacon  
The Rev. Judith Mason ..... Deacon  
Bruce J. Barber II .....  
Director of Cathedral Music  
Tom Patterson ..... Business Manager  
Debra Campbell ... Administrative Assistant  
Henry Leach ..... Head Sexton

### Cathedral Wardens

Marianne Culver ..... Senior Warden  
Robert Black ..... Junior Warden

happy that we made them be not so hungry. Sometimes I just like to help people."

And there's also a sundries table—soap, toothpastes and toothbrushes, lotion, lip balm, disposable razors, hotel-size shampoo and mouthwash—all donations from the community.

"When you're cold and hungry, everything is a luxury," Niedenthal continues. "I pray we can keep growing like we have. The people of St. James are generous." ■

# The Diocesan Convention: Reflecting on electing

Bill Cospier | Delegate to Diocesan Convention

I was honored to represent St. James Cathedral at the 2007 Diocesan Convention in November and to be asked by *Cathedral Voices* to reflect on my experience. This was my first time as a delegate and I was thrilled to be part of the election of a new bishop.

The cathedral's delegation participated in the whole of convention in marathon sessions from Friday morning through Saturday afternoon. We took part in learning opportunities, heard the debates on the various resolutions before the convention, and sat proudly at the Friday night banquet where our Provost Joy Rogers did a wonderful job as one of the masters of ceremony during the celebration honoring Bishop and Nancy Persell. But, of course, with the election of our new bishop as the "main event" of the convention, throughout the whole of both days the question on everyone's mind was: *Whom will we choose?*

## DIocese REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY

On Friday afternoon a series of resolutions came up for vote. One, a resolution that the Diocese of Chicago urge the 2009 General Convention to repeal Resolution B033, was approved by an overwhelming majority. B033 was passed at the last General Convention and called on the Episcopal Church to "exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion."

By calling on the 2009 General Convention to repeal B033, the diocese affirmed its strong commitment to equality for gays and lesbians, including election as bishops. Another

important resolution was the approval of reinvigorating the Diocesan Anti-Racism Commission as an important tool in building a more just, more equal church and society.

Debate on both issues was far less contentious than I expected it to be, and the overall spirit of affirmation, understanding, and consensus was amazingly palpable. All of it made me proud to be an Episcopalian.

## SECOND BALLOT DECIDES BISHOP

Then came our main task: election of the 12th bishop of Chicago on Saturday afternoon. Knowing a bit about church politics and a good amount about some of the issues, it was a marvelous surprise to see how it all unfolded.

Saturday morning started with a Eucharist and then the voting began. Although "politicking" was officially forbidden, a lot of hushed conversations seemed to be going on. The first ballot took more than an hour to count and we waited, some more patiently than others, for the results. (Apparently it was equipment malfunction with the ballot scanner.) We were entertained and inspired as we waited by a wonderful story told by Fr. Brian Hastings and music from some of the young people in the diocese.

The room was hushed as the first ballot's results were announced. From the outset, there were two clear frontrunners—Jeffrey Lee and Petero Sabune—and some strong votes for several others. As we all further thought, prayed and talked, it became clear that our final determination wasn't deciding who was "better," but trusting in the Spirit to guide us. We voted on a second ballot just before lunch, and when we returned to session, we saw Bishop

## Profile



**Bishop-elect Jeffrey D. Lee**  
Rector, St. Thomas, Medina, Wash.

**EDUCATION:** University of Michigan, BA, 1978; University of Michigan, graduate study, 1978–79; Nashotah House, MDiv., 1985

**MINISTRY:** Curate, St. John's, Elkhart, Ind. 1985–1987; Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Northern Indiana, 1987–1991; New church developer, Holy Family, Fishers, Ind. 1991–1994; Rector, St. Christopher's, River Hills, Wis. 1994–2000; Rector, St. Thomas, Medina, Wash. 2000 to present

**AGE:** 50

**FAMILY:** Married to Lisa Rogers. Children—Katherine and Jonathan

Persell standing at the podium and knew our new bishop had been chosen.

The room erupted with applause at the announcement of Jeffrey Lee as the next bishop, and there was a powerful sense that everyone present felt that we really were doing God's work. I knew there were some who were disappointed that their favorite candidate hadn't "won"—as there always is in any democratic process—but it truly felt we were a united body as Fr. Lee accepted his election and addressed the gathering by phone from his home in Washington.

I'm looking forward to the bishop-elect's consecration on February 2 and his seating at the cathedral the next day. I left the convention with a full heart—thankful for what is to come, and deeply grateful for what has gone before. ■

## Persells honored for their ministry

At a choral evensong last month, the diocese joined with members of Chicago's interfaith community to celebrate the ministries of Bill and Nancy Persell.



The Rev. James Risk (foreground), executive director of Bishop Anderson House, delivered the homily, thanking Bill and Nancy for their dedication to the diocese and its people.



The Persells are joined by Archbishop Francis Cardinal George (right).



Bishop Persell offers the bishop's blessing during the All Saints choral evensong, as Nancy looks on.

### Advent from page 1

Oddly enough, these seasons in our married life have made for the most powerful experiences of Advent—uncertainty and expectation, anxiety and hope mark our souls and psyches and make us more attentive to the subversive themes of the Church's disciplines of lectionary and liturgical year.

As the chill of a Chicago winter sets in, and the days grow shorter, the Church gives us this strange interlude that may pierce our consciousness in spite of ourselves. In four short weeks, the Advent scriptures take us from a vision of the end of time and history to a fragile beginning in a cattle stall.

Advent voices are as eloquent as the prophet Isaiah:

*A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'*

and as abrasive as John the Baptist.

*You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance.*

Advent presents us with angels who disturb the sleep of troubled carpenters, and with the radical song of liberation from a pregnant virgin. The regal blues and purples that mark our Advent space are a poignant counterpoint to the culture's propensity for glitter and glitz. We are cloaked for this season in a sober beauty as pointers to mystery, dread, awe and the sovereignty of God. Instead of fantastic displays of lights, we are asked to trust the mysterious glimmers of flame that dot an Advent wreath to light our inner darkness.

Before we dash too quickly to the crèche, Advent brings us up short and stops us in our tracks, for a moment. The Advent Gospel takes us to history's end and shows us humanity restored and the whole creation

renewed. It preaches the nearness of God, and prepares us for the coming of the Christ. More than a baby in a manger, but also a message, a ministry and a man on a cross is given. The babe is a beginning, but Advent tells us of the end that God intends.



Provost Joy Rogers

In a frenetic season, Advent asks us to find interludes of quiet in a chaotic world; Advent points us to the Sovereignty of God; in the face of despair and grief and

loneliness, Advent takes us to signs of hope and love and promise. Advent takes us, as always, to God.

At the end of time and history, God welcomes all creation home.

At the end of Advent, we are asked to once more welcome the God who makes a home with us.

Nat and I are grateful to find a home among the people of St. James. It can be a complicated and difficult time for many. Tend to yourselves and one another gently this season. If you need help, ask for it. If you see others in pain, be present to them. Seek the Christ in another, and trust that He will be born anew in you.

Have a blessed Advent. ■

### Welcome to our Home

Nat and Joy Rogers  
invite the people of  
St. James to an  
Open House at the Deanery  
1829-B North Cleveland Avenue  
Sunday, December 30  
3:00–6:00 pm

# Ministry to newcomers takes new steps

The Rev. Peter Siwek | Vicar

**A**s an urban, downtown parish in the third largest city in America, membership at St. James Cathedral is in a constant state of transition. It is estimated that one third of our members join or leave the community in the course of the year, so we have the great privilege of welcoming newcomers into our midst on a regular basis.

The Cathedral Newcomer Ministry, led by co-chairs David Olmstead and Judy Kirk, has worked with the cathedral staff to create a system to help newcomers connect as they make St. James their church home. Mailings, personal phone calls and seasonal brunches help us get to know each other better and build new friendships.

In January, we're creating an exciting new program called *Newcomers Incorporation* as a next step, working to develop other ways of welcoming and embracing newcomers in our midst. One of the new ministry programs will be a *Cathedral Community Crash Course*. This three-Sunday series will help newcomers—and perhaps some who have been around for a while but are not yet



Vicar Peter Siwek

involved—to become connected to fellowship groups, ministries and other opportunities.

The first session will be Sunday, January 13 following the 10:30 service. Sessions will continue at the same time on January 20 and will conclude January 27 at the Annual Meeting and International Brunch—a real immersion experience in Cathedral life!

If you would like to be a “pioneer member” of the *Newcomers Incorporation* ministry, I'd love to talk with you. You can reach me at (312) 751-6727, or at [psiwek@saintjamescathedral.org](mailto:psiwek@saintjamescathedral.org). ■

## Wardens from page 1

They will work closely with our provost and business manager to develop processes and procedures, and identify needs. On matters requiring chapter decisions, they will report their recommendations to the full chapter. The Task Force is expected to bring more structure and discipline to cathedral administrative matters, enhancing the staff's ability to grow the St. James community.



The Administrative Task Force will not tend to matters respecting the other areas in the chapter's purview: property, finances and our connection to the diocese.

The members of the Administrative Task Force are the provost, senior warden and current chapter members Richard Kelley, Jessica Abell, Cathie McEnerney and Phil Debush. Other non-chapter members may also be added. Please feel free to bring any questions or concerns you may have about St. James administrative matters to any one of them, or to business manager Tom Patterson.

## FEATHERING OUR NEST

With the new year just around the corner, it's budget season. In November, chapter began discussing the 2008 budget, for approval in December. Cathedral budgeted expenses for 2007 were \$875,250, against budgeted income of \$800,000, so we expected

to incur a deficit, but 2007 income is on budget and operating expenses are lower than anticipated. We expect the 2007 deficit to be much lower than originally anticipated. That is good news!

The cathedral budget is quite conservative. As a matter of general policy, we draw no more than five percent from the endowment each year for operations—a little over \$400,000. We need to raise that amount—or a little more in 2008—from pledges and offerings. It comes to about \$3,000 per St. James family. Your gifts keep the cathedral open, power our services, provide us with prayerful, steadfast clergy, support the St. James choir and glorious concert series, make Sunday school possible, keep the nursery open, make sandwiches for the homeless, bring nationally known speakers to our community and build our spiritual home. Please consider giving generously to St. James Cathedral. ■

## Tower construction delayed; cathedral renovations scheduled for February

In early November, Related Midwest, the developers of Canyon Ranch Living on the diocesan property at 65 East Huron, approached the diocese and cathedral about extending the deadline for giving notice to proceed with the new building.

Our original agreement expired October 31, 2007. Following lengthy discussions and negotiations, the diocese and cathedral have agreed to a new extension, which could delay the start of the tower construction for at least one year. With the extension come significant additional extension payments.

The Cathedral's Redevelopment Steering Committee and chapter will be asked to approve the revised

financial projections before we start construction on the redevelopment of the cathedral undercroft and west end. It is important for the cathedral's ministry that handicap access be improved and new space for mission be built.

The city has a moratorium on street construction in the Central Business District until January 15, so we hope to begin construction on the cathedral itself on or about February 1, 2008.

In the meantime, you may have noticed some improvements at 65 East Huron, most noticeably new carpeting in the lobby and Burrill Hall, extending all the way to the cathedral's sacristies. The developer is giving us an allowance to make modest improvements to the building in consideration of the delay. They have been maintaining, and will continue to maintain, the existing heating/air conditioning system and elevator.

We will keep you updated on the progress of construction in future issues of *Cathedral Voices*. Questions about the redevelopment should be directed to business manager Tom Patterson at (312) 751-3573 or [tpatterson@saintjamescathedral.org](mailto:tpatterson@saintjamescathedral.org).



## St. James CROP Walk team recognized with Silver Sneaker

"Chris and Nicole rock!" said Tessa Barnes, director of the Chicago CROP Walk, describing Chris Plotner and Nicole Schall, co-chairs of the St. James walkers, who participated in the October 21 walk to alleviate hunger. She continued, "I wish all our recruiters had their spirit. They almost doubled their dollar goal, earning the second-highest team total in online sponsorship. That's incredible! We were thrilled to present them the CROP Walk Silver Sneaker Award, recognizing them as the Chicago CROP Walk outstanding newcomer team. St. James is awesome!"

The St. James team, in its first year of participation, raised \$4,300 for the 10K walk, significantly

exceeding their own goal of \$2,500. St. James Sunday School children provided essential support, too, creating original signs illustrating our Christian charge to feed hungry people. The St. James walkers gratefully and proudly carried the signs, every step of the way, to explain the real meaning of their walk through downtown Chicago on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

Thanks to the entire St. James community—walkers, donors and supporters—for putting faith into action in support of feeding the hungry in our midst. ■

*Above: Chris Plotner (left) and Nicole Schall were captains of the St. James CROP Walk team.*

### CATHEDRAL BUDGET

through October 31, 2007

#### Operating Budget

Income	\$ 656,972
Expense	\$ 687,134
Net Deficit	(\$ 30,162)

#### 2007 Pledges

Total Pledged	\$ 324,348
Expected to date	\$ 270,290
Received to date	\$ 263,283
Net Deficit	(\$ 7,007)

For more information, contact business manager Tom Patterson at (312) 751-3573 or [tpatterson@saintjamescathedral.org](mailto:tpatterson@saintjamescathedral.org).

Sunday, December 2  
4:00 pm

*Advent*

## An Advent Service of Lessons & Carols

Join the clergy and Cathedral Choir for a candlelight service of readings, anthems and carols celebrating the season.

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Dec 1** Sidney Scherer  
Diane Davis  
Emily Knaus
- Dec 3** Christopher Talarico
- Dec 7** Alison McIntire
- Dec 8** Isabel Faircloth  
Alexis Reese
- Dec 10** Anna Debush
- Dec 11** Max Drake
- Dec 12** Anna Mills  
Eric Meyer
- Dec 13** Bonnie Clarke
- Dec 14** Nancy Bieschke  
Jackson Gage
- Dec 15** Peter Drake  
Randall Rademaker
- Dec 16** Nathaniel Lloyd Crump
- Dec 17** Randall Lowe
- Dec 18** Alexandra Earle  
Nathan Mason
- Dec 19** Deborah Sobol  
Laura Ellis
- Dec 20** Alexander Eichenold  
T.J. Ferrantella
- Dec 21** Robert Hampton  
Owen Quinn
- Dec 24** David DuPre
- Dec 26** Nilmini Wickramasinghe  
Sydney Munson
- Dec 28** Sunny Lopez
- Dec 29** Sasha Earle
- Dec 30** Philip Kirk
- Dec 31** Suzanne Janes  
Bryon Martin  
Ian Halliday

### CATHEDRAL CALENDAR

#### December 2007

##### Sun 2 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 9:00 am **Christmas Basket Reparation** Burrill Hall. For information: Karen Ferrantella (312) 337-7044 or karen@old-town.us
- 12:00 pm **After Hours Group Lunch** Meet in narthex
- 4:00 pm **An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols** Cathedral

**Wed 5** 6:00 pm **Bible Study** Room 200

**Fri 7** 6:30 pm **Advent Night** Burrill Hall

**Sat 8** 9:00 am **Christmas Basket Reparation** Burrill Hall. For information: Karen Ferrantella (312) 337-7044 or karen@old-town.us

**Sun 9** 10:30 am **St. Nicholas Celebration** Cathedral

**Wed 12** 6:30 pm **Bible Study** Room 200

**Sat 15** 11:00 am **Service of Ordinations** Cathedral  
7:30 pm **Cathedral Christmas Concert: Bach Magnificat** Cathedral

**Sun 16** 9:15 am **Sandwich Sunday Homeless Ministry**  
Diocesan Center Lobby

**Wed 19** 6:00 pm **Bible Study** Room 200

##### Mon 24 EVE OF THE NATIVITY

- 5:00 pm **Service of Carols for the City** Cathedral
- 8:00 pm **Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist** Cathedral  
Choral Prelude at 7:30 pm
- 11:00 pm **Christmas Eve Festival Chorale Eucharist** Cathedral  
Choral Prelude at 10:30 pm

##### Tue 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

- 10:30 am **Christmas Day Choral Eucharist** Cathedral

#### January 2008

**Sun 6** 10:30 am **Epiphany Pageant** Cathedral  
12:00 pm **After Hours Group Lunch** Meet in narthex  
4:00 pm **Chorale Evensong: Feast of the Epiphany** Cathedral

**Wed 9** 6:00 pm **Bible Study** Room 200

**Sun 13** 12:00 pm **Cathedral Community Crash Course** (See page 5)

**Wed 16** 6:00 pm **Bible Study** Room 200

**Sat 19** 11:00 am **Ordination of Deacons** Cathedral

**Sun 20** 9:15 am **Sandwich Sunday Homeless Ministry**  
Diocesan Center Lobby  
12:00 pm **Cathedral Community Crash Course** (See page 5)  
4:00 pm **Cathedral Concerts: Students from the Merit School**  
Cathedral

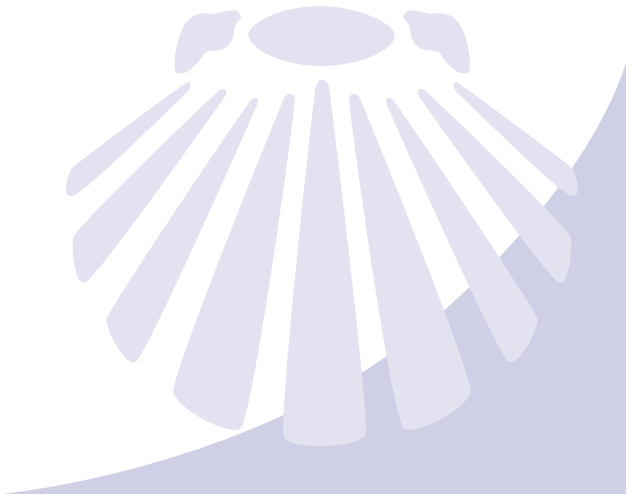
**Wed 23** 2:00 pm **Book Club: Mere Christianity** Montgomery Place  
6:00 pm **Bible Study** Room 200

**Sun 27** 12:00 pm **Cathedral Annual Meeting & International Brunch**  
Burrill Hall

For updates and more information, visit [www.saintjamescathedral.org](http://www.saintjamescathedral.org).



**CATHEDRAL VOICES**  
 ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL  
 65 EAST HURON STREET  
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611



**SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES AT THE CATHEDRAL**

**Sunday**  
 8:00 am  
 Said Eucharist (St. Andrew Chapel)  
 9:15 am  
 Faith Formation (Burrill Hall)  
 10:30 am  
 Choral Eucharist (Cathedral)  
**First Sundays, October–June**  
 4:00 pm  
 Choral Evensong (Cathedral)  
**Wednesday**  
 5:30 pm  
 Said Eucharist and Healing Service  
 (St. Andrew Chapel)  
**Thursday/Friday**  
 12:10 pm  
 Said Eucharist (St. Andrew Chapel)

See the **Cathedral Calendar** on page 7 for upcoming events.

*Rejoice!*

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2007**  
 AT ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2**  
 4:00 pm An Advent Service  
 of Lessons and Carols

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7**  
 6:30 pm Advent Night

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
 7:30 pm J.S. Bach: Christmas  
 at the Cathedral

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
 5:00 pm Carols for the City  
 7:30 pm Choral Prelude  
 8:00 pm Holy Eucharist  
 10:30 pm Choral Prelude  
 11:00 pm Festival Holy Eucharist

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25**  
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist



*Cathedral Concert Series*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
 7:30 pm

**Johann Sebastian Bach:  
 Christmas at the Cathedral**

Come and hear the glorious sounds of Bach in this program featuring two of his most celebrated works. In addition to the *Concerto for Violin in A minor* featuring violinist Bernard Zinck, the Cathedral Choir and Chamber Orchestra will perform his monumental setting of the *Magnificat* with the rarely performed Advent and Christmas interpolations written by the composer himself.

Requested donation: \$15