

Trinité

VOLUME 18 N 2

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN CATHEDRAL IN PARIS

FALL 2023

DEAN JAMES HARLAN TAKES THE LEAD

EXTRAORDINARY
CHARACTERS HONORED
BY OUR MEMORIAL PEWS



Trinité

The Magazine of The American Cathedral in Paris
FALL 2023 - VOLUME 18 N 2

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ISSN 2610-296X

PHOTO CREDITS:

Cover and photos of Dean Harlan by Krystal Kenney.
Page 6, photo of work by Dennis Mana-ay.
Page 8, photo by Chantal Mistral-Bernard.
All plaque photos by Elisabeth and
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Carrying forward with care and commitment

First of all, I have to say again what I have been saying so often since arriving in Paris at the beginning of August: Eli and I are so deeply grateful to have been called to serve at the Cathedral! We feel at home, we are marveling at the rich tapestry of stories and experiences within our parish community here, and we are having fun! I find myself ever-more amazed at how resilient, creative, and honest this community has proven to be through the combined transition of pandemic, retirement, interim, and more.

One of the most beautiful aspects of being a parish priest (and now cathedral dean) is recognizing that we are stewards of a legacy of faithful women and men who responded to a call from God to found a church, to build a building, to offer divine worship, to advocate for justice, and to visit the sick and bury the dead. At the Cathedral, we are heirs of just such a tradition, both over decades and in exceptional ways during this most recent time of transition. I wish I could go back in time – even three years – and say thank you to the clergy and parishioners whose courage and commitment brought us through tremendous challenges to a place where we can look forward with hope. Indeed, we have the privilege of carrying forward for a season our faithful history of being a haven of worship and welcome. And then we hope to leave all of it in the hands of other faithful souls to lead in their generation.

Yet even as we honor our tradition and history, we also must discern what kind of mission and ministry we are called to in our current time. Every church, every religious institution faces the need to re-examine, re-learn, or re-invent, because the world around us has changed so radically this decade. We must honor and carry forward our tradition and history, but we cannot expect that this alone will be faithful to God's call or effective in our mission. We now get to discern together what it will mean to be followers of Jesus together in a new day – not breaking with the past but growing from it in fresh new ways.

And for a season – however long we share a life together in this place – we can look forward with eager anticipation to what God has in store. I hope you share my excitement and energy for continuing our glorious worship and music, rebuilding ministries with children and youth, discovering new dimensions of our commitment to radical welcome, developing our distinct voice in the neighborhood and in the city, and so many other aspects of our life together.

I look forward to worshipping and serving with you for a rich, life-giving, surprising, and challenging season together!

Peace,
James+

A prayer

For Peace Among the Nations

Almighty God our heavenly Father,
guide the nations of the world
into the way of justice and truth,
and establish among them that peace
which is the fruit of righteousness,
that they may become the kingdom
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

by Nancy Janin



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Taking the tempo of the organ restoration and nave renovation project

Thanks to the resounding success of the Make a Joyful Noise capital campaign, announced at a grand celebration in the Cathedral on Sunday, June 11, the project implementation team – music staff, architects, project managers, organ builders, and the Cathedral works committee – got to work the very next day. With €5.2 million pledged for organ restoration, acoustic improvements, and relighting of the nave, it became possible to sign contracts and begin coordinating the many steps that bring us closer to the inaugural concert of our renewed and enhanced instrument, most likely in 2026.

The first official step in the process, filing for the construction permit, was done by our architects, Pierre Bortolussi et Associés, and acknowledged by the *Direction de l'Urbanisme de la Ville de Paris* on August 18. The requested permit covers only the organ project, by far the largest element, as decisions about the acoustic and lighting systems could have delayed this important step. We can file an amended

application once we have finalized details of these parts of the project, while moving full steam ahead on the organ work.

The next critical step is undertaking the engineering and coring studies. With the guidance of our project managers, Tewako, the Cathedral Works committee and in coordination with the clergy and our Ventures manager, these studies were scheduled for October, with a deadline for the installation of our new dean, James Harlan, on Sunday, November 5. Some of this is messy and noisy work, such as removing small sections of the marble floor by a specialist firm, and drilling into the concrete slab to assess what reinforcement may be needed in various parts of the nave to support the new organ components.

This period can be seen as a run-through for the more invasive phases of the project that lie ahead, ensuring we have optimized the continued functioning of the nave for



worship, special services, and concerts, and that our regular users can enter and leave with minimal disruption. Lengthy discussions have led to plans for the removal and protection of our artwork, the types of materials that will be used to protect our floors, walls, and furnishings, and traffic flow directions to provide a safe environment for workers, staff, parishioners, and external users. Other aspects of planning that will carry on through the project also have been addressed: how workers will be permitted into the Cathedral space, what area will be provided for their use, where construction equipment will be stored and secured on the premises, etc.

After the studies are completed, there will be little visible evidence of the project in the Cathedral for many months. The two initial projects affecting the nave will be the removal of the Positif section of the current front organ, with these Cavaillé-Coll pipes going to our organ builders' workshop for repair. This is scheduled for November 2024. The second project, which has not been definitively scheduled, is the removal of the back organ, the Antiphonal organ. When it is dismantled, we will be able to see for the first time in 50 years the full stained-glass window at the back of the church. We hope the protection afforded by the organ cases will have shielded the window from damage.

A complicating factor for many aspects of our project is the Olympic Games, scheduled for July 26-August 11 with the Paralympics following shortly thereafter. The City of Paris has banned all construction work in the city center from May-September 2024, so it will be quite a feat to plan and respect timetables that keep progress going. Our team will be meeting regularly to do everything possible to keep us on track.

If all goes according to plan, in the fall of 2024 the construction of the two new Antiphonal organs will begin in the Klais workshop in Bonn; installation of these and the Positif is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2025. Once these organs are operating and able to accompany our worship services, attention will turn to the Grand organ, the other front organ which includes the fixed console. But that is another chapter in the saga we have begun. Stay tuned! 🎧

Nancy Janin co-chaired the "quiet phase" of the Make a Joyful Noise capital campaign. She is senior editor of Trinité magazine, treasurer of the American Cathedral in Paris Foundation and a member of the Board of Foreign Parishes.

For more information on the Cathedral's Cavaillé-Coll organ and its history, please see the Spring 2023 issue of Trinité magazine.



ANTIPHONAL ORGAN PIPES WILL BE REMOVED TO REVEAL REAR WINDOW



BEFORE BEGINNING THE PROJECT, WORKERS OPENED A HOLE IN THE PARQUET FLOOR TO CHECK THE FOUNDATIONS AND BEAMS. THEY FOUND LOTS OF DUST AND SPIDERWEBS – AND THE FOUNDATIONS IN GOOD CONDITION



Memorial Pews

Looking at extraordinary personalities of our early years

A century ago, around the time the Church of the Holy Trinity became the American Cathedral, notable parishioners gave donations to memorialize pews, the same ones we sit in today, as a means of financing the conversion to a free church. While many of them are little known today, they were an extraordinary lot. Titans. Larger than life. They merit a closer look.

During the final years of the 19th Century, Holy Trinity became the center around which the life of the American Colony in Paris revolved. The church edifice was by far the most expensive and best equipped of all the British and American churches in continental Europe. To quote from the Christmas issue of Harper's Weekly in 1890: "Doctor Morgan's congregation, which is famed all over the continent for its wealth and fashion, is justly considered one of the sights of Paris, and the tourist who fails to visit it is justly considered to have missed one of the principal points of interest in that great city."

Dr. John Brainerd Morgan, who was married to Juliet, the youngest sister of banker J. Pierpont Morgan, poured the treasures of a rich life into the creation of the Cathedral, now classified as a French national Historic Monument. But who were those he called on to assist him in the construction of this marvelous edifice? And who, once the new church was consecrated in 1886, were the notable parishioners whose donations allowed the church to end its traditional system of pew rentals in favor of free seating for everyone? Thirty memorial plaques, placed from 1923 on, provide answers to these questions. That is why these plaques, grimy as some now are, deserve to be studied in more detail.

Four plaques have been given by the following states: Connecticut (no. 5), Massachusetts (no. 6), Pennsylvania (no. 11), and Rhode Island (no. 13). They have an identical presentation and honor men who gave their lives in the Great War. Three plaques are from New York City



parishes, also dedicated to those lost in the First World War: Incarnation (no. 9), St. Thomas (no. 19) and Grace (no. 20).

Other plaques were given in memory of individuals who died in the war: Gerrit Van Schaik Quackenbush (no.8); the French and American Aviators' plaque (no. 10), and the Rev. Ernest DeF. Miel (no. 50), an army chaplain. A later addition, Private Flem Stapleton (no. 15), was dedicated by Craig Stapleton, an active member of the congregation during his term as U.S. ambassador to France between 2005 and 2009.

“Doctor Morgan’s congregation, which is famed all over the continent for its wealth and fashion, is justly considered one of the sights of Paris [...]”

HARPER’S WEEKLY, 1890

Apart from the war memorial pews were those dedicated to individuals by their families. This group includes some of the most prominent figures of the Gilded Age, those who traveled regularly between New York and Paris, and occupied pews on the center aisle when attending services at the Cathedral.

The first two memorial pews, nos. 28 and 72, were dedicated (at a cost of \$12,500, or \$220,000 today) to **William Kissam Vanderbilt**, grandson of the Commodore and heir to his immense fortune amassed in railroads and shipping. A horseman and racing enthusiast, he was co-founder of The Jockey Club de Paris. He moved to France before the turn of the century and built a manor house (today Chateau Éphémère) in Carrières-sous-Poissy, west of Paris, as well as a celebrated racing stable and breeding farm near Deauville. With his second wife, Anne Harriman, he was the principal benefactor of the Lafayette Escadrille, the squadron of volunteer American pilots who flew and fought alongside France in the Great War. He was



PORTRAIT OF W.K. VANDERBILT BY F.W. WRIGHT, 1920



also a steady contributor to the American Hospital of Paris. In recognition for his generosity to France, he was named Chevalier in the Légion d'honneur. He died in 1920, with an estate of nearly \$100 million (\$1.5 billion today). His widow and his sister, Emily Vanderbilt, the second wife of Henry White, each dedicated a pew to his memory.

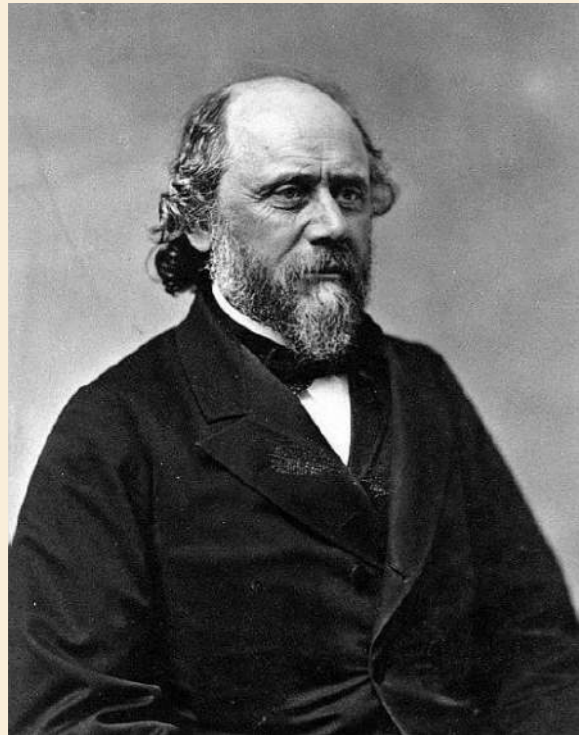
W.K. Vanderbilt is a good example of the select and socially prominent parishioners attending services on what was then the Avenue de l'Alma. In that era, Americans of means often spent several months a year in Paris or sent their children to be educated here. Yet the American Colony was not to everyone's liking. As Henry James once wrote, upon his return to London in 1876: "Of course I saw a great deal of the little American sets – the American village camped *en plein* Paris. They were all very kind, very friendly, hospitable, etc. [...] but ineffably tiresome and unprofitable." Irrespective of one's personal prejudices, the memorial pews are there to remind us of some of the remarkable Americans who attended services at Holy Trinity. That they should all have found themselves brought together in a single church so far from home is itself extraordinary. As is the fact that many of their names remain familiar, long after the end of the Gilded Age in which they lived.

Holy Trinity had at the time a quasi-official relationship with the American Legation, as the U.S. Embassy was then known, and the ambassador was the honorary head of the vestry. Hence the addition to this list, though not memorialized, of Levi P. Morton, who served as warden at Holy Trinity during his term as ambassador to France (1881-1885). While the new church was being built the vestry meetings were held at the Legation. Upon his return to the States, Morton was elected governor of New York and then vice president of the United States, serving under Benjamin Harrison between 1889 and 1893.

Two ambassadors of that era did have pews (nos. 1 and 2) dedicated, in perpetuity, to their memories: **Whitelaw Reid**, ambassador to France (1889-1892) and to the United Kingdom (1905-1912), and **Henry White**, ambassador to Italy (1905-1906), France (1906-1909) and then American Peace Commissioner, who signed, in the absence of President Wilson, the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.

To Henry White (no. 1) we owe a special debt of gratitude. Scion of a wealthy Maryland family that moved to Europe after the Civil War, White finished his studies in Paris. He supported the efforts to raise funds for the erection of a new church. But Dr. Morgan was hampered by a conservative vestry that refused to consider any debt formation in the name of Holy Trinity. The vestrymen had become accustomed to re-electing themselves without interference, but White, under 30 at the time, rallied a number of his friends and, to the astonishment and dismay of its old members, some 15 to 20 pewholders appeared suddenly and without notice at the vestry meeting held in April 1879. They voted in a new vestry and elected White as secretary. Then, in May 1883, the vestry voted to issue \$100,000 in church bonds (\$1.7 million today), delivered in lots of \$6,000 to, among others, Ambassador Morton, Henry White and Dr. Morgan, who had paid from his own pocket, but was then reimbursed, for the construction works already undertaken.

Pew no. 74 serves to remind us that, at the same vestry meeting, in April 1879, another prominent American, **Richard Henry Dana**, author of *Two Years Before the Mast*, was elected senior warden. Dana wrote this American classic to describe his experiences after he left Harvard in 1834 to ship to California, still under Spanish rule, as a common sailor. Upon his return to Boston, as a young lawyer, he defended enslaved persons captured under the Fugitive Slave Act and founded the abolitionist Free



RICHARD HENRY DANA

Soil Party. He was elected to the Massachusetts legislature in 1868, but political enemies kept him from being confirmed as minister to Great Britain in 1876. Dana then moved to Paris, just in time to help Holy Trinity find a new home. Yet his term as senior warden was brief. In ill health, he resigned in October 1880 and left for Rome, where he died in January 1882.

Whitelaw Reid (pew no. 2) was a journalist and political figure. He edited and then acquired the *New York Tribune*, one of the foremost newspapers in the country, upon the death of Horace Greeley in 1872. A staunch Republican and influential opinion maker, Reid served as ambassador to France from 1889 to 1892, before returning to become the Republican vice-presidential nominee in President Harrison's unsuccessful attempt to obtain reelection.

Elisabeth Mills Reid played a major role in supporting young American students, by buying properties on the rue de Chevreuse, and founding Reid Hall, today's Columbia University Global Center.

His wife, Elisabeth Mills Reid, remains most closely associated with Dr. Morgan's efforts to extend the reach of Holy Trinity. The only daughter of Ogden Mills, founder of the Bank of California and at one point the richest man in California, Elisabeth Mills Reid was a philanthropist and social activist. Her ties to Holy Trinity go back to 1874 when, while studying in Paris, she was confirmed in the same class as John Singer Sargent. She played a major role in supporting young American students, leasing and then buying properties on the rue de Chevreuse, near Montparnasse. Cathedral historian Cameron Allen credits her with funding, anonymously, the construction of St. Luke's Chapel, the "Tin Church," where, under Dr. Morgan's aegis, these students could worship. In 1893 Mrs. Reid founded the American Student Club for Women. Then, for decades, she returned annually to Paris as the



SKETCH OF ELISABETH MILLS REID BY JOHN SINGER SARGENT, 1912.

primary patron in support of the programs in Reid Hall (today's Columbia University Global Center).

While in Paris the Reids lived in the Palais de Gramont on the Avenue Hoche and entertained lavishly. One wonders about their relations at the time with James Gordon Bennett Jr., the mercurial owner of the rival *New York Herald*. Having no direct descendants – Bennett did not marry until the age of 73 – no memorial pew has been dedicated to him. (He was baptized at Holy Trinity on September 9, 1914, on the eve of his wedding.) But he does appear, in profile at bottom left, in the painting *After the Service on Christmas Day 1890* that he commissioned from Jean Béraud and then gave to Holy Trinity in 1900. It is difficult to imagine a more colorful figure. On a bet of \$90,000 (\$1.8 million today), Bennett won the first transatlantic yacht race in 1866. He paid for Henry Stanley's two-year expedition to Africa in search of Dr. David Livingstone. His extravagant lifestyle left the *Tribune* in very straitened circumstances at the time of his death. Elisabeth Mills Reid made the final offer to purchase the *Herald* and the *Paris Herald* for \$5 million (\$85 million today) in 1924, prompting one reporter to remark "Jonah just swallowed the whale." Hence the creation of the *Herald Tribune* and the *International Herald Tribune*, two great newspapers that just might trace their origins back to conversations along the center aisle after the 11:00 service.



JEAN BÉRAUD, "APRÈS L'OFFICE À L'ÉGLISE DE LA SAINTE TRINITÉ (HOLY TRINITY CHURCH), NOËL 1890"

Willard Straight (pew no. 3), though of a younger generation, had a career that is in many ways reminiscent of White and Reid. The son of two Yankee missionaries to China and Japan, Straight was orphaned at age 10. He worked as a Reuters correspondent during the Russo-



Japanese War before becoming, at 26, the American Consul General in Manchuria. He then headed the State Department's Division of Far Eastern Affairs before joining the J.P. Morgan & Co. bank in New York. There he spearheaded a number of profitable ventures in the Far East, for Morgan, also for John D. Rockefeller Jr., and on his own account. In 1911, Straight married the beautiful and socially active Dorothy Payne Whitney, who at age 17 in 1904 had inherited \$15 million (\$500 million today) from her father, making her one of the wealthiest women in America. Together they founded *The New Republic*, a political weekly that quickly became the voice of American liberalism. When America joined the war in 1917 Straight promptly volunteered, was sent to France with the rank of major, and was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal for his service. His association with the Cathedral was brief as he died in December 1918, still under 40, a victim of the flu pandemic. Straight was a brilliant, self-made man, and the pew in Straight's memory, given by his widow, is a welcome testimonial to a remarkable American.

This article only describes a handful of the parishioners to whom pews have been dedicated. But Fanny Schermerhorn, by her aunt Caroline Astor (pew no. 31), the Munroes (pew no. 65), the Burckhardts (pew no. 96), George Kessler (pew no. 25) and Herman Frasch (pew no. 17), among others, all left behind vivid stories. The memorial plaques offer a fascinating glimpse into the remarkable people who founded our Cathedral. 📍

Charles (Chad) Dilley is a retired lawyer who, with his wife, Anne Marie Reijnen, is a long-term member of the Cathedral. This article could not have been done without the collaboration of Elisabeth and Constantin Martel de Créquy, who photographed all of the memorial plaques in a documentation project for the Cathedral archives.



CANON ZACH ULLERY DIRECTS A PIPING HAPPY BIRTHDAY



CHRIS BARNES, JOCELYN PHELPS, ROBBIN AND KYLE AHROLD

Friday March 24th

The Cathedral opened a weekend of centennial celebrations with a musical evening, dance party and warm welcome to those who traveled from across the Convocation to attend. The Church of the Holy Trinity was consecrated as a cathedral on March 18, 1923. Happy 100th birthday!

PHOTOS BY KATE FRENCH



CLERGY IN CELEBRATION



ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL B. CURRY



SINGER URSULINE KAIRSON



SARAH STURMAN AND AUDREY SHANKLES AT THE REVIVAL

The Cathedral celebrates its 100th birthday

Saturday March 25th

A Revival led by Episcopal Archbishop Michael B. Curry and Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell addressed issues facing the church today and offered workshops to take a closer look at how we can do better.

PHOTOS BY KATE FRENCH



REV. SCOTT MOORE, BISHOP MARK EDINGTON AND FRIEND SING PRAISES



KATHLEEN DAMERON AND KIM POWELL



YOUTH PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday March 26th

Youth from across the Convocation gathered at a pancake breakfast with Archbishop Michael B. Curry, who then preached at the 11 am service. We were joined for this special Sunday by U.S. Ambassador Denise Campbell Bauer and Archbishop of Uppsala, Sweden, Martin Modéus.

PHOTOS BY KATE FRENCH



THE FRANCOPHONE MISSION PRESENTS THE ARCHBISHOP WITH GIFTS



BISHOP EDINGTON GREETS AMBASSADOR BAUER



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



HELPING WEAVE THE TAPESTRY OF OUR FUTURE



CLERGY FROM THE SWEDISH CHURCH AND THE EPISCOPAL CONVOCATION

Monday March 27th

Representatives of the Swedish Church, led by Archbishop of Uppsala Martin Modéus, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Episcopal Church in recognition of a centuries-old relationship of support and exchange.

PHOTOS BY JEREMY TACKETT



ARCHBISHOP CURRY AND ARCHBISHOP MODÉUS SIGN THE ACCORD



ARCHBISHOP CURRY AND ARCHBISHOP MODÉUS EN ROUTE



A MEETING OF THE PRINCIPALS



by Barbara Diggs

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A Warm Welcome

Dean James Harlan Begins His Leadership of the American Cathedral in Paris

Habemus Decanum! After an intense and prayerful 10-month search, the Very Reverend James Harlan will be formally installed November 5 as the 11th dean and rector of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. His arrival coincides with the departure of familiar faces in the pulpit, including interim dean Tim Safford and Canon Nathaniel Katz, heralding a fresh chapter in the Cathedral's history and bringing a sense of joyful renewal.

Since answering the call in May, James and his wife, Eli, have been swept up in the frenetic whirlwind of packing up their home in Norfolk, Virginia, saying goodbye to family and friends, and brushing up on their French. Yet, after hopping across the pond in early August, James says they feel remarkably at home in Paris and at the Cathedral. Indeed, as we chatted for this interview in the Fleetwood Room in early September, James, casual in shorts and a shirt sans clerical collar, looked relaxed and comfortable, if somewhat amazed, to find himself dean of this historic church.

"Saying it's a dream trivializes it," he says. "I've awakened every morning for the last few months saying, 'What a gift!'"

James is a lifelong Episcopalian who hails from Colorado. The fourth of five children in a deeply faithful family, he grew up as an active participant in the church community, attending services every week and becoming an acolyte at age 7. He distinctly remembers the sense of God calling him to the priesthood during an Easter service in the fifth grade. "I can remember those years saying, 'I'm going to be a priest when I grow up.' And it wasn't like saying, 'I'm going to be a fireman.' I didn't mean it like that."

This strong sense of calling and connection to God never left him throughout his teen years. By the time he reached 18, he felt confident that a religious path would shape his future. While studying at the University of Colorado, he interned as a youth minister at St. John's Cathedral in Denver, working under the guidance of his mentor and





friend, now Bishop Rob O'Neill. After graduating with a degree in business administration in 1988, he was hired at St. John's as the Director of Youth Ministries – a massive program responsible for guiding the spiritual journeys of a remarkably diverse group of 350 children – and never looked back. He answered God's childhood call three years later, entering Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Illinois.

James's 30-year tenure in the priesthood has provided him with a rich tapestry of experiences. His journey has included serving as a rector in a small-town parish, leading larger urban and suburban congregations, a three-year tour as a Navy chaplain (where he literally moved around the world with his congregation), and, most recently, a significant non-parochial appointment as Canon Evangelist for the Southern Diocese of Virginia. He met Eli during a diocesan youth weekend gathering in 1995: he was a new priest in Colorado Springs and she was a youth minister at an Episcopal church in Denver. They've been married for 26 years and have one child, Orrin, a 24-year-old bio-lab technician and student who lives in Gainesville, Florida.

“When we connect with that loving presence of God, we can't help but be transformed. And our sacramental life, our worship life, is the basic manifestation of that.”

Many of James's experiences seemed tailor-made to prepare him for the unique mission and needs of the Cathedral. His 10 years as rector at The Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, a large church in the resort community in Palm Beach, Florida, required him to adapt to the varying rhythms of a congregation that swelled and shrank with the seasons. As Canon Evangelist, he gained valuable insights into the varied successful strategies congregations in his diocese used to thrive in this evolving post-pandemic world. He'd even conducted a capital campaign at one parish to fund a new organ.



But there was more than pertinent experience leading James toward the deanship. On several occasions, those involved in the search for the Dean, from members of the Vestry to the Discernment Team, and even James himself, felt the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit leading him to this role.

For James, the Spirit may have been readying him for the position as far back as 1986, when he first walked through the Cathedral doors as a 20-year-old college junior. That year, James had elected to study abroad at the Université de Bordeaux. Although he and another American student had felt welcome and found community at a small French evangelical church, he did not find an Anglican community that felt right for him. However, when he went to Paris and visited the Cathedral for the first time, he felt at home. “My host family had an apartment in Paris,” recalled James. “They gave me a set of keys, told me to go anytime it was available.” James took the train to Paris as often as once a month, delighting in the opportunity to worship at the Cathedral as much as exploring the city.

Over the decades since, James and Eli, who share a deep love of France, have attended services at the Cathedral numerous times, including regular Sunday attendance during a two-month summer sabbatical in 2009. James was struck by his desire to be part of the Cathedral community and imagined more than once what it might be like to be the Cathedral's Dean. He'd even considered applying for the Deanship when the position opened in 2012, but the timing wasn't right, as he was only a year into his tenure at Bethesda-by-the-Sea.

When the position opened again in October 2022, James felt a pang of dismay at the timing as, this time, he was only a year into his new job as Canon Evangelist. But he “let it go,” recognizing that he was blessed with his position and delighted with the opportunity to work with Bishop Susan Haynes. He felt that France would be in his and Eli's future someday, perhaps for retirement. However, Haynes urged him to apply for the job, saying she believed the Spirit might be leading him to the Cathedral – and the rest is history.

Now that he's here, James is excited about journeying forward together, getting to know the congregation, and discovering the enriching ways the Cathedral can evolve and grow during his tenure. Asked whether he has observed any changes in the Cathedral over his 3½ decades of visits, he noted that he is pleased to find today's Cathedral, a

community he has always found exceptionally hospitable, making efforts to spread its arms even wider. “I'm glad to see that there's a conversation about what it means to welcome everybody. I'm glad to see there's an awareness that while our roots are American, our life is multicultural. And people are ready to explore what the implications are.”

Welcome is a significant word in James's lexicon and ministry. As he emphasized in his first sermon at the Cathedral, all of us are welcome in the loving community of Jesus Christ: “Full stop. No conditions.” In terms of what such “radical welcome” (as it is often called in the Episcopal Church) might mean for the Cathedral in the future, James looks forward to exploring and experimenting with creative initiatives or programs to help every member of the congregation feel like an integral, beloved part of the community. He is also eager to find more inclusive roles for Friends of the Cathedral or others who watch services online from wherever they may be in the world. Nevertheless, he acknowledges that the larger challenge of living out God's radical welcome is “being ready for the parts of it that we hadn't imagined.”

“I'm glad to see there's an awareness that while our roots are American, our life is multicultural. And people are ready to explore what the implications are.”

Another of James's priorities is to discover new ways for the Cathedral to broaden its welcome to the Francophone community, within the church and outside it. His strong French skills allow him to hold services in French, though sometimes with a little help. “Several times I've stopped mid-sentence in a service and looked over at someone close by and said, ‘How do I say this in French?’” James said. “And people are just terribly kind and generous and appreciative of the effort.” Going forward, all services will likely incorporate bilingual elements. Some will be primarily in English; others, such as Jazz Vespers and the



Tuesday and Saturday noonday prayers, predominantly in French, so that all might feel welcome.

Practicing radical welcome isn't always easy, but the key to it may lie in what James considers the true core of his ministry: understanding the boundless depths of God's love. For James, God's love encompasses more than warm or uplifting feelings, but includes a profound understanding that we are, as expressed in the book of Psalms, "wonderfully made." James maintains that it's not only vital to know this truth about ourselves but also to recognize it in everyone else.



ELI AND JAMES HARLAN IN THE DEANERY

"I think there is this longing in every person to know they can grow into the fullness of who they were created to be," he said. "We need to know that we are loved when we are deeply unlovable. We are loved when we're afraid. [When I'm feeling vulnerable], you need to be able to look me in the eye and say, 'Can I tell you what God sees in you?' [...] When we connect with that loving presence of God, we can't help but be transformed. And our sacramental life, our worship life, is the basic manifestation of that."

Unsurprisingly, James' and Eli's schedule is jam-packed in the coming weeks and months. Eli has just completed a month-long immersive French course while James is fully engrossed in his myriad duties as dean, as well as busy preparing an enthusiastic welcome for interim Canon Lissa Smith and Hailey Jacobsen, the new Canon Missioner. James and Eli are also getting to know the Cathedral community better through small-group "Meeting the Dean" evenings hosted by members of the congregation. If you want to sign up for or host a Meet the Dean event, visit www.amcathparis.com/news/meet for more details.

"When we connect with that loving presence of God, we can't help but be transformed. And our sacramental life, our worship life, is the basic manifestation of that."

As our conversation concluded, I asked James if there was anything in particular he wanted to say to the congregation. He gave a small, rueful chuckle and said: "There's so many of you and only one of me. For the time being, it would be so helpful if you could start every conversation with your name!" 🙏

Will do, Dean James Harlan. Welcome!

Barbara Diggs is a lawyer and writer from Washington D.C. who lives in Paris with her husband, Tobias Trautner, and sons, Teodor and Lukas. She is the author of five middle-grade books, including: Race Relations: The Struggle for Equality in America and Racial Bias: Is Change Possible? She has been a member of the Cathedral for more than 20 years and was a member of the Discernment Team.



New Canon Hailey Jacobsen to focus on Youth and Stewardship

The Rev. Hailey Jacobsen has been named Canon Missioner for the American Cathedral, bringing with her a wealth of experience in community building and spiritual practice. She previously served as Associate Rector at St. Paul's Memorial Church at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. At the Cathedral, she will work alongside committed lay leaders in the Children and Youth programs, as well as stewardship.

Originally from Nashville, Hailey graduated in 2021 from Virginia Theological Seminary, where she was awarded the Bishop Mark Dyer Prize for

Theological Reflection, recognizing a graduating senior for theological skills and insights to support preaching and service. She was ordained at All Saints Church in Richmond. Before joining the priesthood, she worked in fundraising and development at the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church in New York City, and then as assistant director of stewardship at Trinity Church, Boston. She also served with AmeriCorps in Austin, working at a middle school with young immigrants and refugees from Mexico and the Middle East, and at a food bank in Nashville.

"Hailey's work with intergenerational ministry, creative ideas for fellowship, and experience with donor and stewardship programs are but a few of the many reasons we believe that she will be a great fit for and with the Cathedral," Senior Warden Joyce Chanay wrote in an email. "We are grateful for Hailey's acceptance of this call, and we look forward to Hailey and Devin becoming part of our Cathedral family."



Senior Warden Chanay, along with other members of a small discernment committee, reviewed 36 applications and queries for the position, and unanimously agreed with Dean James Harlan's decision to appoint Hailey.

Hailey met her husband, Devin, while studying English literature at Sewanee, the University of the South. While serving in two Anglican parishes in Nice and Vence, they fell in love with France and its multicultural communities. Devin recently completed his PhD in linguistics at St. Andrew's University in Scotland. 🙏



A Brief Peek Inside the Discernment Process

by Barbara Diggs

“Over a 10-month period, a motley group of nine strangers was transformed into a cohesive team which labored diligently and faithfully despite surprises, pitfalls, and disappointments, to finally reach agreement via consensus to recommend candidate James Harlan for consideration by the Vestry as the next Dean and Rector of the American Cathedral. What a joy it was to learn that the Vestry had issued a call and that James had accepted! Surely the hand of Providence was at work in this process, and we are grateful!”

SOPHIE BELOUET
CHAIR OF THE DISCERNMENT TEAM

Discerning a new clergy member, particularly a cathedral dean, is an enormous responsibility. The task requires taking into account the mission and vision of the Cathedral as an institution, the congregation’s collective needs and hopes, and, above all, making a thoughtful evaluation of the candidates with spiritual eyes and the desire to perceive God’s will.

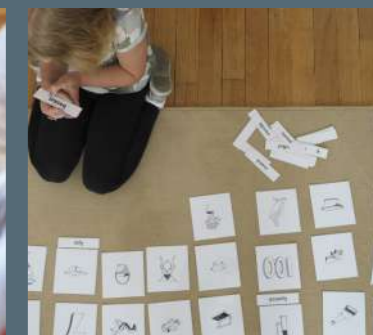
The process began in June 2022 when the Vestry assembled a Visioning Committee and a Discernment Team. The Visioning Committee’s job was to survey the congregation to identify the qualities and characteristics they sought in a prospective dean. Based on the responses, they developed a list of criteria, which the Vestry clarified and expanded on, and created a comprehensive report for the Discernment Team to use to assess the candidates.

The Discernment Team began its duties in June with bi-monthly Zoom meetings, and by September, it moved to weekly sessions. During these meetings, the team members delved into the discernment process, developing standards to fairly, objectively, and prayerfully evaluate the candidates based on the established criteria.

Forty-eight candidates submitted applications for the position. Beginning in early December, the Discernment Team members meticulously reviewed each candidate’s application materials, assessing how well they aligned with the criteria. After many lengthy discussions, they narrowed the field to eight candidates by mid-January. In the subsequent weeks, the team conducted extensive research on the remaining candidates, including watching videos of their sermons, scrutinizing their church’s websites, and reviewing any publicly available information about them. The team also interviewed each candidate at least once, often twice, and consulted their references. Finally, in spring 2023, they recommended four candidates to the Vestry. The Vestry conducted final interviews and, with great delight, extended an invitation to Dean James Harlan in May. 🙏



The Bilingual Montessori School of Paris set to expand



Opened in 1972 in the American Cathedral library with eight children, the Bilingual Montessori School of Paris was founded by Barbara Baylor Porter, who had studied Montessori methods of teaching in the United States before moving to France. Since then, the Montessori network has grown to include 12 more schools in the Paris area and counts more than a hundred students. And it is getting ready to expand at the Cathedral, starting an Elementary level class of 6- to 11-year olds next year.

“Our aim is for the children to develop a joy of learning.”

LAURENT LEVY
DIRECTOR OF THE GEORGE V CAMPUS

“Things are growing at the Cathedral!” said Elaine Bowman, one of the school’s campus directors. The new class could have as many as 24 students, and will meet in the library.

The Montessori teaching philosophy centers on allowing individual children to set their own pace for learning. The focus is on each child’s rhythm and choices, interests, and ways of processing information.

“Our aim is for the children to develop a joy of learning,” said Laurent Levy, director of the George V Campus at the Cathedral. “Our schools follow the national curriculum, and our good adult-child ratio, our highly qualified teachers and our child-centered approach means that they regularly surpass academic expectations.”

Each class has an English and a French teacher, in order to foster bilingualism from the earliest ages. “The advantage we’re able to offer is the child can speak English and French all day long,” Bowman said. “Studies show it helps in fine-tuning empathy when children are deciding which language to speak to which person.”

Barbara Porter’s original idea led to the first Montessori school in France. “She was really looking for something to answer to the needs of international families like her own,” Bowman noted. Porter recently retired.

At the Cathedral, the school teaches two groups of children. The Toddlers Group counts 14 children between 2-3 years old. The classes meet four days a week in either half-day or full-day sessions. The Children’s House, for a maximum of 24 3- to 6-year-olds, meets full-time four days a week. The program includes practical skills, language (including reading and writing for the 5- and 6-year-olds), numbers and music.

Full-time tuition for each group is €13,250 per year, plus lunch.

Parents seeking more information may contact Laurent Levy at office16@montessori-paris.com.



The Friends of the American Cathedral in Paris invite you join us in welcoming Dean James Harlan to the Cathedral at in-person receptions in Philadelphia and New York.

Philadelphia Reception
 November 13th, 5:30-7 pm
 Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral
 19 South 38th Street
 Philadelphia, PA

New York Reception
 November 15th, 6-8 pm
 House of the Redeemer
 7 East 95th Street
 New York, New York

For those who cannot attend in person, there will be a Friends' Zoom with Dean Harlan on Sunday, November 19th at 4 pm EST.

Don't miss this chance to hear directly from him about his dedication to outreach and his vision for the Cathedral's worldwide community.



Rosie Ward takes up Cathedral Communications post

London-born and an avid tea-drinker, Rosie Ward graduated from the University of St. Andrews in 2019 with an M.A. in French and Arabic. During her time there she was actively involved in the student interfaith society, running discussion groups and hosting a conference for academics, professionals and students on the meaning of justice. Her passion for interfaith dialogue and communication was further nurtured while completing a master's degree in Muslim Minorities in a Global Context from SOAS, University of London.

Former interim dean Tim Safford is on sabbatical in Massachusetts

First coming to Paris as part of the Erasmus program, Rosie returned after graduation to work in a support program for adults with learning disabilities. She also served as English linguistic and content coordinator for a French association promoting dialogue about the Middle East. Initially joining us in May 2023 as the Interim Communications Manager, Rosie is delighted to be staying on at the Cathedral. 🌟

Sarah Sturman, former Communications chief, sends news from New York

Greetings from sweet-aired, currently rainy, bagel-filled Long Island! I completed the Columbia Publishing Course this summer, a six-week series of lectures and panels on everything from editing to sub-rights to publicity to AI. I'm now looking for positions in both New York and Paris.

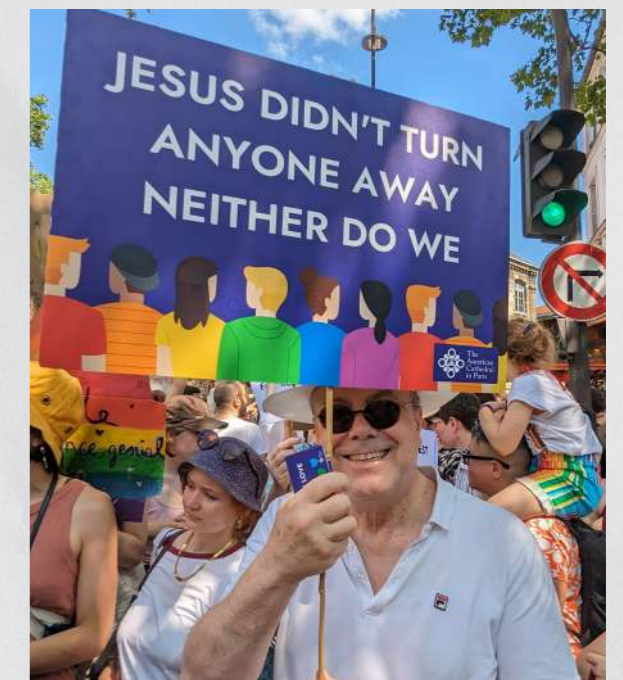
Living on a closed campus, in a dorm, and having such a rigorous schedule was a novel experience and, I think, exacerbated the culture shock, much of which has been overwhelming in stores: there's so much merchandise packed onto so many shelves, and lots of brands I'm not familiar with. I miss speaking French every day, and having boulangeries, markets, and cafés around every corner. I miss the Paris metro—anyone who says the New York subway system is convenient and easy to learn is off their rocker.

Most of all, of course, I miss my Parisian family and friends. I'm living with my uncle (Sue's brother Bill), in the town where we both grew up, a small coastal place on the end of a branch of the Long Island Railroad. I've seen old friends here, including our very own Ned Tipton, Robbin Ahrold, and Julia Seder, and I've spent lots of time with family members I usually only see once a year, which has been the best gift of all.

But ah, Paris! I may return sooner rather than later. I'm grateful that this adventure was possible, and thankful to you all for your continued support. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Christmas! 🌟

Lynn and I returned on July 31 to the village of Padanaram, in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, living now in a house we started to live in back in 2022 before our move to Paris. It took eight large duffle bags to move us to Paris for our 15-month stay. We needed 14 bags to get us home, because of all the art books, posters, tablecloths, crêpe pans, knives, and ceramics we had collected. Only our open and grateful hearts were needed to bring home all of the fond memories of our time at the American Cathedral in Paris.

Lynn continues her research as a Senior Economist at RAND. I am on sabbatical through January, studying American civil rights history and planning a research trip to Alabama in November. I am covering All Saints Attleboro on Sundays. I'll be seeking my next assignment in early 2024. 🌟



FORMER INTERIM DEAN TIM SAFFORD AT THE PRIDE MARCH IN PARIS IN JUNE 2023

+ In memoriam

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Frances Bommart (1929-2023)

Frances Latham Bommart, a faithful longtime member of the Cathedral, died September 17th in Neuilly-sur-Seine at age 94. She had been an active member of the Cathedral and its ministries for more than 60 years, serving in the Junior Guild, the Altar Guild, the Archives Committee, the Fine Arts Committee and as a docent. She also was a member of the Association of American Wives of Europeans (AAWE) and worked for a time with the American Aid Society.

Her guidance and influence in Cathedral ministries was felt by everyone who knew her, from assisting the Junior Guild's glamorous galas and rummage sales, to revamping the Altar Guild's methods of working with sacred vessels and linens, to needlepointing kneelers. She attended the Ecole du Louvre in the 1980s, and used her knowledge to help document Cathedral art and stained glass. When Cameron Allen published his history of the Cathedral in 2012, he did not fail to acknowledge her help.

She also was an avid traveler, visiting cultural sites in Europe as well as India, Russia, Israel and Jordan. She kept an apartment in Chichester, Sussex, in the 1980s-1990s and enjoyed the English seaside on regular trips there. Her skills at bridge were well-known and continued in recent years, when friends would visit.

Born in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1929, Frances met her husband Christian Bommart while studying French in Tours. They were married in Jackson in 1951 and moved to Paris the following year. After Christian died in 2010, Frances moved to Neuilly. She is survived by a daughter, Isabelle Fauduet, of Paris; a son, Gilles Bommart, of Boston; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on December 27th at the Cathedral.

Scott Sullivan (1937-2023)

Scott Gregory Sullivan, head of the Newsweek bureau in Paris for two decades, died in New Iberia, Louisiana, on June 25th. During his time here, he was very active at the American Cathedral, serving on the vestry for 18 years and as delegate to the Anglo-Roman Catholic World Dialogue Commission (ARCIC) for 10 years.

Scott graduated from Yale University and also took a master's degree at Oxford. He was the author of 10 books, including *The Shortest Gladdest Years: a History of the Marshall Plan* (1962). He began working as a journalist in Baltimore in 1963, moving to Paris for Newsweek in 1973. After a brief stint in Washington, D.C., Scott settled in Paris as European Regional Editor from 1979 to 1998.

He moved to New Orleans in 2005 and became deeply involved in various clubs and associations there. He is survived by three children, Judith Sullivan Joels of London, England; Rebecca Sullivan Balagna of Gap, France, and Stephane Sullivan of Nice, France, as well as two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, a brother and a sister. A memorial service was held at the Cathedral on September 18th.

Sycamore Gap Tree (c.1700-2023)

Hadrian's Wall, Northumberland National Park, England



SKETCH BY PEGGY PAUL-CAVALLIER.

Just a week after completing the first nonstop transatlantic flight, Charles Lindbergh (at right) placed a wreath at the American Cathedral's Battle Memorial Cloister in memory of American aviators fallen in the Great War. Lindbergh, who arrived at Paris' Bourget Airport on May 21, 1927 after completing a 33.5-hour solo flight from New York to Paris, was greeted by more than 150,000 joyous fans upon landing.

U.S. Ambassador Myron T. Herrick met him at the airfield and took him to the embassy residence, where he finally could sleep – although he ended up talking to reporters for a while first. The Cathedral is donating a framed copy of the above photograph to the U.S. Embassy Residence,

which has a display of photos of Lindbergh in Paris in his namesake guest room.

Standing next to Lindbergh are (right to left) Col. Francis Drake, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Paris; Sheldon Whitehouse, U.S. Embassy chargé d'affaires; Ambassador Herrick, Margaret Beekman and Dean Frederick Beekman.

NB. Parishioner Mrs. Augustus Clifford Tower was inspired by Lindbergh's flight to dedicate a memorial pew (n° 10) to the American aviators killed in WWI and in the cause of aviation. She also began a scholarship at Harvard University that continues to sponsor Americans studying in France.



Annual Call to Membership

Every autumn the American Cathedral in Paris asks parishioners to confirm their support to our community with a financial pledge for the coming year. We look forward to hearing from you about your commitment for 2024. Please see amcathparis.com/pledge for more information.

Friends of the Cathedral

Former Cathedral members, those who have moved away and others who enjoy supporting the Cathedral in various ways are welcome to join the Friends of the Cathedral group. We stay in touch through regular communications, including Trinité Magazine, and hold occasional gatherings in the States. Please contact friends@americancathedral.org for more information.

Trinité Mailing List

If anyone in Europe would like to have a paper copy of Trinité Magazine mailed to their home address, please send your information to communications@americancathedral.org. Those in the States should contact the Friends address above.

