



# THE BULLETIN

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
An Episcopal Community in the Heart of Houston, Texas

JULY 2020  
CHRISTCHURCHCATHEDRAL.ORG

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY CARE LINE | 713-826-5332



## In-person worship plans determined week-to-week

With great joy, we returned to in-person worship on Sunday, June 21. We also began live streaming that day, and the number of people participating in worship from home doubled. Due to a significant rise in COVID-19 metrics, we suspended in-person worship for Sunday, June 28. Each week, we monitor the situation and follow the guidance of **Bishop Doyle** and the Texas Medical Center to determine if we will hold in-person services. We make the announcement that services are being held

on the preceding Tuesday, and if the metrics demand a change in the plan, we contact registrants directly and post the update by social media. In these unprecedented times, we are thankful that your flexibility and the wonders of live streaming allow us to remain connected and be a strength to each other.

For registration information and answers to the most frequently asked questions about our return to worship, see page 7.

RETURN, page 7

## Cathedral yard sale planned for September 12

It's hard not to get excited when you hear organizer **Sonia Velasquez** talk about Christ Church Cathedral's annual yard sale. Velasquez, a member of the Latino Ministry Council, has been a volunteer with the sale since its inception four years ago.

"There is a lot of energy leading up to it," Velasquez says. "We work so hard!"

In past years, the sale has been a collaboration between the Latino Ministry Council and the Mission Outreach Council, but this is the second year it will be run by the Latino

YARD SALE, page 6

CATHEDRAL YARD SALE

Saturday, September 12



Canon Bautista with yard sale volunteers.

## You are my other self

In April, just a few weeks into our COVID-19 new reality, world-recognized author, filmmaker, and fellow Houstonian **Lois Stark** wrote an essay entitled, "Breakdown or Breakthrough: Changing the COVID Crisis to Opportunity."

It is a profound piece of writing, and it is a living word, meaning that it has taken on additional meaning in the six weeks since Lois wrote it. In it, she says:

*The name of the virus is a shortened form of Coronavirus Disease of 2019. Another way to read the word Covid is to notice that it combines Co, meaning together, and Vid, a root word meaning to see. This is a time of seeing together. Our connectivity is literally staring us in the face, even our masked faces.*

*COVID-19 is highly infectious. You can catch it from anyone, whether they know they have it or not. It is invisible, just as the connections that bind us are invisible, but understood intuitively.*

*An early language of the Dagara tribe in Africa had no word for 'you'. Their closest translation for the word 'you' was: 'my other self'. That is as close as we can come to describing today's situation. We are all potential infectors, potential helpers, potentially sick, and potential scientists who can devise new cures. The very cure may be from antibodies in the blood of another who lived through it.*

*You are my other self.*

*COVID-19 is a virus. A virus does not replicate by itself. It needs a host. Every human being, regardless of age, nationality, race, or belief system, can be a host. This*

OTHER SELF, page 3



THE VERY REV.  
BARKLEY  
THOMPSON

## OUR CATHEDRAL FAMILY

### We celebrate with

- ✞ **Marc Russell Love**, who was baptized on May 18, 2020.
- ✞ **Ashly Evans** and **Clifton Vining IV**, who were married in the Cathedral on May 23, 2020.

### We extend heartfelt sympathy to

- ✞ the family of member **Ann Wier McNamara Jones**, who passed away on May 17, 2020. Ann is mother to **Ann McNamara Duclos**, **Alice "Dallas" McNamara**, **Mary McNamara Tashjian**, **Dan McNamara**, and **Robert McNamara**.
- ✞ the family of **Eric Daniel Gonzales**, who passed away on May 20, 2020. Eric is the brother of **Keith McFarland's** spouse, **Nathan Gonzales**.

### Flowers on the Cathedral Altar

- ✞ on June 28 are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for the Ordination of the newest Deacons in the Diocese of Texas by the Commission on Ministry and The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Texas.
- ✞ on July 5 are given to the glory of God in loving memory of **Diane Tobola** on her birthday by **Erin** and **Toby McMillin**.
- ✞ on July 5 are also given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for the lives of **Sam Holden, Jr.**, and **Mary Holden** by **Sue** and **Hart Green**.
- ✞ on July 12 are given to the glory of God in celebration of the marriage of **Meg** and **Chris Shatto** on July 11, 2020.
- ✞ on July 19 are given to the glory of God in loving memory of her parents, **Sarah Ann Stowe** and **Gerhardt (Gary) Hoffius**, by **Susan Hoffius**.



Durham Cathedral, Durham, Tyneside, England

## Dean Thompson to pursue Doctor of Theology degree

**Dean Barkley Thompson** has been accepted to the Doctor of Theology and Ministry program at Durham University in England, matriculating this fall. He will pursue the doctorate part-time, while continuing in his role as dean of the Cathedral.

"Last summer I researched and prepared the Dean's Hour course on Christian non-attachment," Dean Thompson explained. "When it came time to stop researching and write the lectures, I wanted to continue studying! Non-attachment as a fully-engaged and faithful way of living is, I am convinced, what Jesus commends in the Gospels. My doctoral research will further this idea."

Because the British model of doctoral study is oriented almost entirely to research and writing, students can pursue it at a distance. Dean Thompson

**DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY, page 8**

## Cool offerings for children and families during the hot days

BY MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
KARIANN LESSNER

Several summers ago, **Dean Thompson** suggested that our offering for children during the summer months be a time of sharing of the people. We invited clergy, staff, and members of the congregation to share their favorite books, poems, songs or stories. **David Simpson** played his guitar and sang to the kids about a Yellow Submarine; **Lisa Viktorin** read *Chicks and Salsa*, and we all did the chicken dance; and **Sarah Grace Nettles** read *Harold and the Purple Crayon*. The children loved it! They soaked up all of the wonder and beauty that good stories bring to our lives. This summer we are doing a reprise! Each summer Sunday at 10:00 a.m. you're invited to dial into our Zoom call (email

**Elizabeth Cuevas** for the link: [ecuevas@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:ecuevas@christchurchcathedral.org)) to hear three selections read by Cathedral folks. **Kari-Ann** follows each set of readings with

**THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG**

**10:00 a.m. Summer Sundays**

wondering questions, sings some songs, and closes with prayer. Want to be a reader?

Email Elizabeth — we'd love to add to our line-up. And you won't want to miss the dean reading *The Saggy Baggy Elephant!*

What do you do when COVID-19 tries to cancel your VBS? You link arms with children's leadership at St. John the Divine and St. Martin's to create a Virtual Vacation Bible School and share it with everyone who wants to join — wherever in the world they may be! Kids from four years old to fifth grade can join



Join us this summer for *This is My Story, This is My Song*. A weekly time of story and song where Cathedral Kids and their families enjoy songs, stories, and tales shared by their Cathedral Family. For the Zoom link, email [ecuevas@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:ecuevas@christchurchcathedral.org).

the fun. Please register your child — or the kids in your neighborhood you invite — on the Cathedral website under "Registrations." It only takes about three minutes! Once you've registered, we'll send you a list of the items you'll need to participate in arts and crafts, games, outreach, and prayer time. You choose how many of the activities you'll want to join.

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, page 5**



# An Ember Day Update from our postulant for the priesthood

Dear Cathedral Family,

When my family and I left for Virginia Theological Seminary last July, it was with the hope that our community in Houston would support us through prayer. The Cathedral has gone above and beyond, and we give thanks to God for your prayers, texts, phone calls, monetary donations, and social media reach-outs, all of which have lifted us when we have missed home. We, too, have kept you in our daily prayers, and since worship has moved online, we have been able to join you a few times.

As a youth minister, I would often ask the students to share a positive and a challenge when starting a program. It seems like a fitting way to let you know how I am doing. The most challenging aspect of seminary thus far has been taking the many beliefs that I have and unpacking them to discover new truths and contradictions through prayer, research, conversations with professors and classmates, and listening to the Holy Spirit. It has indeed been a formative experience, and the solidifying truths that I am learning will surely help guide me as a priest.

The biggest positive has been living in

community. Living in a community of students and families who have all experienced the major life transition of coming to seminary quickly led to the formation of lifelong friendships, for which we are immensely thankful. Our seminary community has supported our family in numerous ways, which

has made our transition here much easier. It is a unique and powerful experience to live in a close community where you know you can always count on others for fellowship or a helping hand. We have never been short on babysitters, meals when we were sick, bike riding buddies, or cups of sugar.

**Lauren** started a new job in January at Goodwin House, a senior living organization. She loves it! She is working as a social worker coordinating services for older adults who wish to age in place in their own homes. **Jonah** started daycare at the Butterfly House, the on-campus



Jeremy Bradley, who served the Cathedral as Youth and Young Adult Minister from 2011 to 2019, shares some Easter joy with his wife, Lauren Bradley, and their son Jonah at the Virginia Theological Seminary.

childcare facility, at the end of November; but, since mid-March, he has been at home because of COVID-19. His favorite words are *this*, *that*, and *look*. I am excited to spend this summer with him, to watch him learn and grow, and foster a connection with him that will continue to grow for years to come.

Thank you again for your constant support. We ask that you continue to lift us in prayer and by reaching out to say hello.

With Love,

Jeremy, Lauren, and Jonah Bradley

## Shepherds become Lay Chaplains

New name, same purpose: to make sure no one walks alone

BY MINISTER FOR PASTORAL CARE JODY GILLIT

The individuals known as Shepherds who serve in a pastoral care role here at the Cathedral will now be known as Lay Chaplains. A Lay Chaplain is someone who has completed the Community of Hope International (COHI) training, completed current Safeguarding training, and is approved by the Dean to serve in this role. The approval is reviewed annually. These individuals are volunteers, not clergy. Changing their designation to Lay Chaplain aligns the nomenclature with Lay Eucharist Visitors, Lay Eucharist Ministers, and other designations of roles here at the Cathedral.

As the COHI brochure describes, Lay Chaplains support parishioners by “being ‘present’ in a listening, compassionate, non-controlling manner to an individual or group for the purpose of consciously or unconsciously representing God to them and seeing to respond to their spiritual needs.”

Throughout this time of physical distancing our Lay Chaplains have been providing a consistent listening presence for



The Community of Hope International (COHI) Mission: creating communities, steeped in Benedictine Spirituality, to serve others through compassionate listening.

## OTHER SELF, from cover

is so fundamental it is easy to overlook. Our most common and connected truth is that we are human beings. We have the same bodies.

It is as if, at the same moment, everyone on the globe realized we have a potentially fatal disease. To be reminded of our own mortality wakes us up. All of a sudden, we pay attention to time, to those around us, to the environment we are a part of, to the echo of every action we take — to life itself. That kind of awakening has never before been felt by all humans on Earth at the same time.<sup>1</sup>

Only halfway through the year, 2020 is an experience of crisis-layered-upon-crisis coming to a head: medical, environmental, economic, racial. There can be a tendency to allow our physical isolation to grant us permission to cocoon, to draw into ourselves as if in a cloistered monastery, walled away from the cares and needs of the world. But I am always reminded of **St. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne**, who became a hermit only so that he could more potently pray for the people. That is to say, even in his physical isolation, Cuthbert was ardent and active for those he loved. And who are we to love? As Lois Stark reminds us, *our whole human family*, who, the coronavirus has paradoxically reminded us, are our sisters and brothers.

My encouragement to you is to spend some of our physically-distanced time apart in prayer, asking of God which of the layered crises of these days you are called to engage. And then, engage! Use the miraculous ways in which we are still connected, digital and otherwise, to speak, and act, and participate in the redemption of our world and the in-breaking of God's kingdom.

On Trinity Sunday, we were reminded that even in God there is no one alone. God *is* relationship between the three persons of the Trinity, and *each is the other*. Our lives truly mirror God's. You are my other self. When you hurt, I hurt. When you encounter joy, I cannot help but smile. May we strive in all things for the redemption of one another.

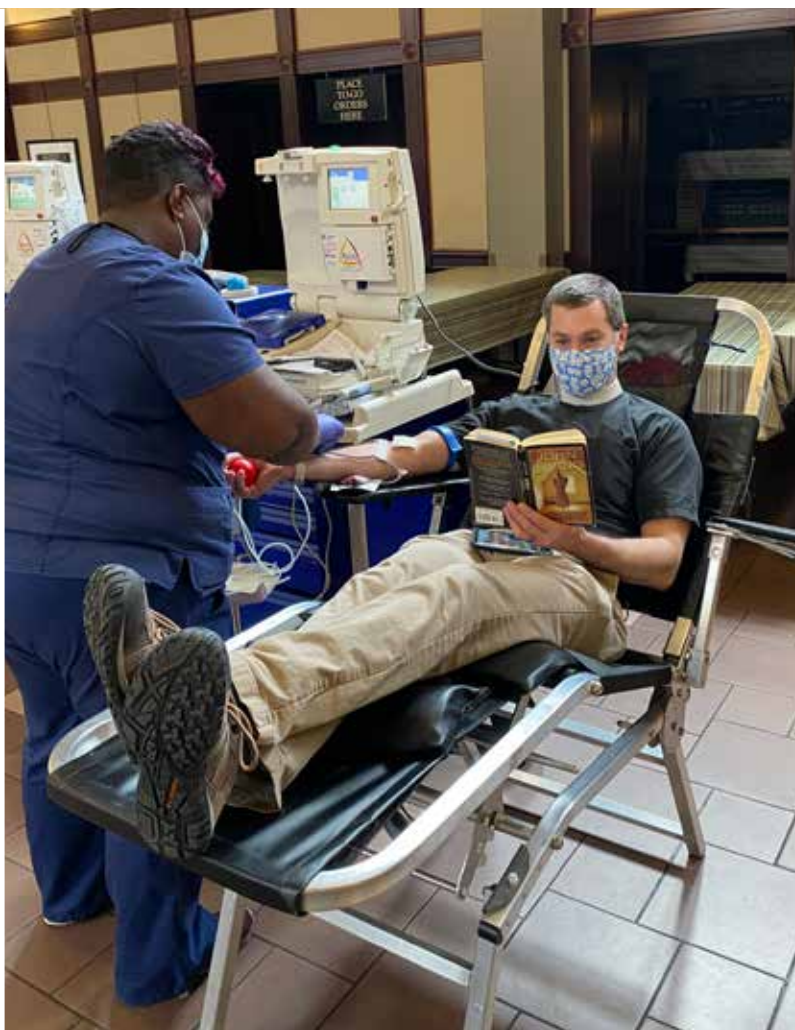
<sup>1</sup> <http://internationalcoronavirusjournal.com/coronavirus/breakdown-or-breakthrough-changing-the-covid-crisis-to-opportunity>

LAY CHAPLAINS, page 8



# IN PICTURES

Right: Cathedral kids put on their Sunday best to enjoy Zoom Sunday School.



Left, above: The blood drive gathered enough units to potentially save 30 lives.



Above: Masks for All



Right: Mission Outreach Council meeting





Left, above: Children's Ministry sent a Bendy Jesus to remind kids that Jesus is everywhere!



### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, from page 2

We'll also send you a link to join us for all the stories, songs, and fun we'll be sharing from July 27–30, beginning at 10 a.m. You can do all the activities in your own living room or front yard! And the best part is it's absolutely free. Most of our crafts use things you probably have at home. If not, you can easily and inexpensively purchase them on Amazon or at Kroger. We're excited — and ready to focus on God, God's truth, and the people God calls us to love!

#### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 27–30, 10 a.m.

Below: 20s & 30's Meeting



Join us July 27–30, 10 a.m., for "FOCUS: Take a Closer Look," virtual vacation bible school. We're taking a closer look at God, God's truth, and the people God calls us to love. Absolutely free!

## YARD SALE, from cover

Ministry Council, with support as needed.

The **Reverend Simón Bautista Betances**, Canon Missioner for Latino Ministries, says that the idea for the sale originated as a Latino ministry initiative to generate funds for first-year college students. The money raised is given out as a grant to at least five students who apply for help with college expenses. The students do not have to be Cathedral members.

"The money is used for everything from buying an extra pair of shoes to paying for a plane ticket," Bautista says. "These are low-income students, maybe from a family where they are the first to go to college. They are trying to do their best to move up."

In past years the yard sale has been held in June in order to take advantage of the spring cleaning inclination; but this year, due to COVID-19 concerns, it is planned for September 12. The location for this year's sale has not been announced. Previously, it was held in a neighborhood at I-45 South and Park Place.

One thing that is for certain is the need to collect donations. Bautista says that they are downsizing — meaning they are not looking for big, heavy furniture items, due to the problems they create for pick up and transport.

Small electronics, appliances, and furniture — like chairs — are welcome, as well as yard-sale staples such as gently used clothes and shoes, kitchen items, and children's toys.

Currently, collection is scheduled to start the first week in August. Donations will be received at the Cathedral and then moved to a storage facility off-site before being taken to the yard-sale location.

While the volunteer needs and structure might look a little different this year, volunteers will be needed to accept and transport donations, price and ready them for sale, and provide day of sale help. Safety concerns are paramount, and organizers are looking at the best ways to protect both donors and shoppers.

The most the sale has raised in any previous year is \$2,700. Velasquez says that her favorite part of the yard sale is the announcement of the total.

"I get most excited to know what the total was," she says. "When I know, I start to divide in my mind to figure out how many people we can help."

The **Reverend Greg Seme**, who serves as liaison to the Mission Outreach Council, says that he appreciates the yard sale's ability to create a sense of community and fellowship between the members of the Cathedral and the neighborhoods.

"In order to have a great sale, there needs to be great organization," Seme says. "In leading up to the sale, members who are chosen to be part of the organizing team are always in contact with each other to make sure that we have a smooth operation on the day of the

drive."

He says that having the yard sale in neighborhoods also allows members to do God's mission — to evangelize.

"The most important thing for me is to know that we are doing all this to help youth who are getting ready to start college," Seme says. "As part of being qualified to be a recipient of this small grant, we ask that each candidate submit an essay. It was amazing to see the kind of goals that these young people have. Reading their goals and expectations gives me the strength to go forth to make the sale as profitable as possible."

Bautista says that the sale is a team effort that involves a lot of hours from all involved. It is successful because of enthusiastic volunteers like Sonia Velasquez, and because of the backing of the entire Cathedral congregation.

"The Latino Ministry Council is so grateful for the support, and the donations," Bautista says.

**Gary Krause**, a member of the Mission Outreach Council, has been a yard sale volunteer for the past few years. He said he is always impressed with the involvement and commitment of those involved.

"We do things as a family," Krause says. "It's always a good time."

Krause says that the Mission Outreach Council will support the Latino Ministry volunteers again this year — "In prayer and in physical support."

## What's your bucket?

BY THE REVEREND BECKY ZARTMAN

Life is restricted right now, painfully so. We've been restricted from celebrating rites of passage: graduations, ordinations, weddings, funerals. We've been restricted from family and beloved friends, restricted from work, restricted from travel, restricted from gathering, restricted from worshipping the way we used to. With each passing day, with each new sacrifice small or large, the restrictions begin to feel like constrictions, closing in around us, making it hard to move, hard to breathe.

So I dwell on the humble tomato. Even when I've had a real garden bed, I've chosen to grow tomatoes in five-gallon buckets. In a bucket, a tomato plant's roots are restricted, and it forces the plant to put its energy into growing upward and outward. The stress of restriction also causes the plant to flower earlier and more often: because the plant is afraid it may die, it rushes to fulfill its purpose, which is to bear as much fruit as possible.

Perhaps growing tomatoes in a bucket is cruel, but it's worth noting that I, as gardener, actually provide the plant with everything the plant needs. The plants are watered, every day, enough to soak the entire root system. The plants are fertilized, providing enough nutrients to supply the limited root network with all it needs. When in danger from frost, wind, or hail, the whole bucket can be moved



to a sheltered location, a luxury that the garden bed doesn't afford. Despite the stress of restriction, a well-tended tomato plant in a bucket thrives in an environment of sufficiency.

My life is a bucket. My home, a bucket. My work, a bucket. My family, a bucket. My vows, my promises, my obligations, a bucket. My grief, my shattered expectations, a bucket. Can I recognize that there is enough here? Can I trust that I have all I need to bear fruit? Can I grow upward and outward, reaching toward the sky, basking in the light that feeds me, is enough for me, that carries me towards my own fulfillment? Can my restrictions set me free?



## **RETURN, from cover**

*Based on over 500 responses to our survey, here are the answers to the most frequently asked questions about our return to in-person worship. On days when all metrics indicate that in-person worship is prudent, our current schedule includes Holy Eucharist, Rite I, at 11 a.m.; Holy Eucharist in Spanish at 1 p.m.; and The Well at 5 p.m. Look for weekly updates in the Dean's Tuesday Message to the Parish and the Thursday e-news.*

### **What about the 8 o'clock service?**

*The cleaning process required in the church between each service prevents us from adding an early service at this time.*

### **Can I still stay home and participate in the service?**

*Online worship continues, with live-streaming and the ability to communicate with the Cathedral during the service.*

### **What do I need to do to attend a service?**

*Advance registration is required for all services. Go to "Registrations and Downloads" on our website. Links are also included in the Dean's Tuesday email to the parish.*

### **Is there a way to make a reservation by phone?**

*Yes. You may call the Cathedral main number 713.222.2593 and ask to leave a message for Elizabeth Cuevas.*

### **Are there any restrictions about who can come to church?**

*Everyone is welcome to come to church!*

### **Should I come to church or continue to participate on-line?**

*If you are in an at-risk category or have concerns about your health or safety, or that of the people in your household, you are encouraged to consider continuing to worship from home, through our online offerings. We love you and want you to do what is best for you and those you love!*

### **What will our return to in-person worship look like?**

*Because the novel coronavirus continues to be a daily reality, Bishop Doyle has issued guidelines to keep us all safe. At least for a season, in-person worship will look and feel different from the worship to which we are accustomed.*

### **How many people can come to church?**

*At least initially, attendance will be limited to 60 worshippers per service, so that we can ensure physical distancing guidelines.*

### **How will the seating process work?**

*Plan to arrive at the Cathedral at least 10 minutes before your registered service time. Late arrivals cannot be guaranteed a seat.*

*At the time of the service you are registered to attend, please come to the Cathedral with confirmation of your reservation: either a printed copy of your "ticket," or confirmation viewable on your mobile device. If you've reserved your seat by calling the Cathedral office, a greeter will have your name on a list. Once you've arrived on campus, a friendly Welcome Team member will walk you through your next steps, and an usher will show you to your seat.*

### **Will people be wearing masks?**

*As required by diocesan guidelines, we will all wear masks while on the Cathedral campus, with the exception of small children.*

### **What about music?**

*Due to evidence of community viral spread through singing, there will be no congregational hymnody. A soloist or small choral ensemble will provide sacred music, along with organ, keyboard (at 1 p.m.), or our trio of harp, cello, and flute (at The Well).*

### **Will we have Communion?**

*We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist at each service, though*

## **How to register when in-person services are held:**

**Links will be published in the Dean's email message to the Parish on Tuesdays.**

**They will be available at [christchurchcathedral.org](http://christchurchcathedral.org) under 'Registrations and Downloads.' Should a change in plans occur between Tuesday and Sunday, you will be notified.**

*only bread will be shared, not wine at this time. This is called "Communion in one kind," and it is a full measure of grace.*

### **How can I take Communion with a mask on?**

*Please remove your mask only long enough to consume your wafer.*

### **What about my children?**

*Children of all ages are welcome in church, as always. We will not initially offer childcare.*

### **How will I get to church with impaired mobility issues?**

*Our valet service will be available for the principal morning services. For those in need of wheelchair access or extra assistance, please arrive 15 minutes early. This will allow extra time to get you checked in for the service. An usher will escort you into the Cathedral via one of our transept entrances.*

### **Will we have Summer Place?**

*We won't host an on-site Summer Place coffee hour, but we are working on providing other plans for fellowship.*

### **What about Sunday School?**

*Virtual Sunday School for kids will continue online with our This Is My Story, This Is My Song program.*

*Adults are invited to participate in the "Dean's Hour Summer Matinee" online on Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. on Facebook Live and at*

### **What do you mean "live-streamed?"**

*Those at home will encounter worship live alongside those gathered in the Cathedral. The*

*purchase and installation of our live-streaming technology is part of our Sowing the Seed building project. You'll continue to see the online worship experience get better and better.*

### **I watched a live-stream but I had some technological issues. What can I do?**

*Several parishioners reported a sound quality issue, and we are working diligently to correct it from our end. Other parishioners reported that the live-stream froze at times. Freezing comes from your internet connection. If this happens, try viewing the live stream directly from Vimeo. The Worship page of our website can direct you there. If the freezing persists, please check with your internet provider about solutions. Also know that the live-stream is retained as a recorded video on the website. You can always watch it after the service. The recorded video may stream with no problems.*

### **Is there anyone at the Cathedral who can walk me through technical issues?**

*Minister for Pastoral Care Jody Gillit has a team of people who can work with you to improve your ability to access online offerings. You can reach her at [jgillit@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:jgillit@christchurchcathedral.org).*

### **What if the virus surges?**

*We monitor local COVID-19 conditions daily and follow the guidance of the Bishop. We make the decision about holding in-person worship on Sundays on a week-to-week basis. On Tuesdays, we will announce if in-person services are being held on the coming Sunday. If we need to suspend a previously scheduled service for any reason after it has been announced, we will contact registrants directly and post the announcement on our website and social media channels. We are grateful for your flexibility during these uncertain times.*



# CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

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Did you know you can read **The Bulletin** on our website? If you'd like to go "online-only," contact Ramona Sikes at [rsikes@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:rsikes@christchurchcathedral.org) or call her at 713-590-3301.

## The Cathedral welcomes Brant Mills as Minister for Communication

Dean Thompson is pleased to announce that **Brant Mills** joins the Cathedral staff on July 6, 2020, as Minister for Communications. Originally from East Texas, Brant moved to Pearland and has worked in Houston since 2006. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in radio/television from Sam Houston State University and a Master of Arts in corporate and non-profit communication with a second concentration in public and media relations from The Johns Hopkins University. With 17 years of professional experience in communication, including working for the United Methodist Church following a few years in print and broadcast media, he began his journey toward the practice of communication by learning video production as a volunteer for his church A/V team in high school. Brant is the father of two rambunctious kiddos named **Cameron** and **Bailey**, and a loving husband to his wife, **Patty**. We welcome Brant to the Cathedral!



BRANT MILLS

### DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY, from page 2

will travel to Durham, England, twice per year for a week each time to meet with supervisors and study research methods. The remainder of work will be done in Houston, with Dean Thompson conducting video conferences online with his supervisors. The program will take six years to complete.

Dean Thompson has long considered doctoral study. "Before I went to seminary, I attended graduate school in theology at the University of Chicago thinking I'd become a college professor," he explained. "I'm glad I found my calling as a parish priest, but part of me has always yearned to earn a ThD."

Before deciding to enter the doctoral program, Dean Thompson conferred with the Cathedral wardens, who are all supportive. Sr. Warden **Rob Reedy** offered, "I am excited for the Dean personally about this next step in his theological life; and because he is such a gifted teacher, I know we will all benefit from his work in our own spiritual lives."

Dean Thompson added, "I'm very pleased Durham accepted me, and I hope my gray matter hasn't atrophied. I'm excited about pursuing the degree."

Durham University is the third oldest university in England, after Oxford and Cambridge.

### LAY CHAPLAINS, from page 3

parishioners who are especially isolated and feeling more anxious than normal. If you know of someone who might need their support, or if you might find comfort in talking with a compassionate listener, know that we are here for you.

We'll be sharing information soon about future COHI-Circle of Care events. There will also be opportunity in the fall for those who wish to take the fourteen-week COHI training. Please contact **Jody Gillit**, Minister for Pastoral Care, [jgillit@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:jgillit@christchurchcathedral.org), to connect with a Lay Chaplain or to indicate your interest in serving our community in this meaningful role.