



THE BULLETIN

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

MARCH 2024
CHRISTCHURCHCATHEDRAL.ORG

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

Robert C. Stuart

Lenten Series

in Honor of the Very Rev. Barkley S. Thompson



The Theology of Beauty

Beauty is not likely to be among the first words to come to mind when we think of the season of Lent. The practices of penitence and fasting that are central facets of Lenten observance often motivate us to deny ourselves beauty as something luxurious or even frivolous. Our Lenten Series for 2024 seeks to shift this perspective. We will examine ways that beauty in various forms allows us to be more present – more present to the world around us,

to ourselves and our inner lives, and to God in our midst. This is at its core the spiritual work of Lent – to be present to God in our lives such that we are able to make course corrections that allow us to deepen our relationship with God and follow Jesus more faithfully.

For three Sundays in March, our Dean's Hour features speakers who are scholars and practitioners in the ways that beauty in the

LENTEN SERIES, page 6

The Rev. Luz Montes joins Cathedral staff

Dean Nathaniel Katz was pleased to announce on February 2 that the Reverend Luz Montes has accepted the call to join our Cathedral Staff.

The Rev. Luz Montes was born in Houston, Texas, to a family that came to the United States from El Salvador. She attended church most of her childhood but did not become aware of the Episcopal Church until she began attending Iglesia Episcopal San Mateo during her early teenage years. She attended her first Episcopal Youth Event, which draws together youth from across the entire Episcopal Church, in 2005. Shortly after, she became actively involved in ministry across the Diocese of Texas and the wider Episcopal Church.

Rev. Montes graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Houston. Before attending seminary, she was a bilingual education teacher and served as a lay minister at Iglesia Episcopal San Mateo. She received her Master of Divinity from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin and became the curate at Trinity Episcopal

THE REV. MONTES, page 8



THE REV. LUZ MONTES



Easter at the Cathedral

JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday, March 28

12:05 PM First Eucharist
of Maundy Thursday*

6:30 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II, Bilingual,
Stripping of the Altar*

Good Friday, March 29

12:05 PM Rite II*

7 PM Via Crucis, bilingual

Holy Saturday, March 30

8 PM Easter Vigil, Rite II, with incense*

Easter Sunday, March 31

7 AM Rite I

9 AM Rite II

11 AM Rite I, with incense*

1 PM Rite II, en Español*

5 PM The Well*

* livestreamed at www.christchurchcathedral.org

OUR CATHEDRAL FAMILY

We celebrate with

new members **John Estes** and **Haylie Treas**.

We extend heartfelt sympathy

to the family of member **Annette Barnard** who passed away on January 9, 2024. **Annette** is mother to **Anne Bazan** and **William Barnard Jr.**

to the family of member **Bruce Loble** who passed away on January 10, 2024. **Bruce** is spouse to **Bernice Loble**.

to the family of **William Bowen Jr.** who passed away on January 10, 2024. **William** is spouse to **Marjorie Bowen** and brother-in-law to **Debby Francis** and **Gail Hendryx**.

to the family of member **Gertrude (Trudy) Collier** who passed away on January 23, 2024. **Trudy** is aunt to **Terry Gonzalez**.

to the family of member **Zachary Moore** who passed away on January 25, 2024. **Zachary** is son to **Trish Moore** and brother to **Ashley Goble**.

to the family of **Ralph Weaver** who passed away on January 27, 2024. **Ralph** is spouse to member **Carol Weaver** and father to **Andrew Weaver** and **Alison Weaver**.

to the family of **Alex Perez** who passed away on January 30, 2024. **Alex** is son to member **Sylvia Perales**.

The flowers on the Cathedral Altar

on February 11 were given to the glory of God in thanksgiving of the marriage of **Meredith Ellen Ramey** and **Otis Larry McAlhany Jr.**

on February 25 were given to the glory of God in celebration of the birthdays of **Jim** and **Joyce Nielsen** by **Tim** and **Carol Nielsen**.

on March 5 are given to the glory of God in loving memory of their mother, **Dorothy Knox Howe Houghton**, their father, **Thomas Woodward Houghton**, their grandmother, **Dorothy Trone Howe Dupree**, and their grandfather, **Knox Briscoe Howe**, by **Rowena Houghton Dasch** and **Adele Houghton**.

on March 12 are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of **John Baird** from his family.

on March 19 are given to the glory of God in loving memory of **James Leonard Dougherty**, **Jewel Kendall** and **William Brooke Hamilton**, **Henry Kendall Hamilton**, **Newton Gilbert Dougherty** and **Maribel Kendall Daffan** by **Anne** and **Jim Dougherty Jr.**

The Sharing Tree

Providing resources to those who are making an impact around us and abroad is part of our Cathedral DNA. It's why the annual fundraiser for missions has continued to successfully send youth out into the communities of Houston, Louisiana, and Costa Rica.

This year we are introducing The Sharing Tree, formerly known as The Giving Tree. The ministry of Jesus calls us to come together and share the Good News through act, word, or deed. The word share invites us to unite and bear each other's pain, sorrow, joy, happiness, and ministry. In 2 Corinthians 9:12-15, Paul underscores the spiritual significance of giving and sharing, emphasizing not only the material support provided but also the positive impact on relationships within the body of believers. For this reason, we invite you to not just give but also to share the ministry of Costa Rica with us.

This year we embark on our eighth intergenerational mission to Costa Rica. Our high school students will join adults from the Cathedral on a short-term international mission to Limón, Costa Rica, to lead a Vacation Bible Camp for children ages 5-12.

How can we, as a community of faith, help our youth live out the call that God has placed in their hearts? While not all of us have the time or energy to accompany the youth, you can be a meaningful part of these missions. We hope you will prayerfully consider supporting our youth by participating as a Share Holder of The Sharing Tree.

As a Share Holder, you will receive periodic emails updating you on the youth missionaries (what is happening on the mission trip and their experiences after they have completed their mission trip), and you will be invited to a Share Holder



dinner. Your name will also be printed on the back of the mission trip shirts, because "Share Holders Have Our Back."

There are several Share Holders Levels: Platinum leaf (\$2200+), Gold leaf (\$1100-\$2199), Rose Gold leaf (\$550-\$1099), Silver leaf (\$250-\$549), and Bronze leaf (donations up to \$100). Each level offers various donor benefits

and recognition. Your sponsorship helps us "leaf the tree," as each leaf represents a gift.

Funds raised from The Sharing Tree provide scholarships for students who can't fiscally afford to go on a life-changing mission. Your gifts empower our youth to work together to build God's kingdom on earth with the support of their church community.

You can find The Sharing Tree in the Cloister on Sundays during Lent (March 3, 10, and 17) and visit with youth missionaries and sponsors to hear about our shared call to the work this summer

THE SHARING TREE, page 8

Cloistery Gallery to participate in FotoFest Biennial Exhibition

The FotoFest Biennial 2024 central exhibition, Critical Geography, reexamines traditional Western and historical understandings of geography while investigating shifting and emergent spatial realms.

Critical Geography features a diverse range of image-based practices: from photographers and storytellers whose works shed light on systemic oppression, violence, and urgent environmental concerns, to artists and image-makers who appropriate mapping, social media, and technology to explore inequality in colonial and post-colonial contexts. The exhibition presents a range of unorthodox strategies employed to construct new narratives around place and community while imagining alternative social organizations of space.

For this year's exhibition, the Cathedral's Cloister Gallery (located in Reynolds Hall) hosts an exhibition by the Pixels+Silver Photography Group. Pixels+Silver is a photography critique group of emerging to mid-career

artists. They work in a variety of photographic techniques including Analog (Film) and Digital photography.

The theme of the show is /hôm/. From the artists: What is our most critical geography? For many it is the place they call home. For many "home is where the heart is." Boundaries and walls become mute when the heart is centered, and we are comfortable with ourselves. Whether a shack or a mansion, the true home is where peace and serenity can be found.

A cultural non-profit organization based in Houston, FotoFest organizes year-round shows as well as a Biennial exhibition. FotoFest's photo-based programs seek to

illuminate social issues and present new, vital artwork. Past participating locations are organizations such as: Silver Street Studios, Winter Street Studios, Spring Street Studios, The Alta Arts, Houston Museum of African American Culture, The Menil Collection, and many more.

The show will be on view in the Cloister Gallery beginning Thursday, March 7 through Sunday, April 21. A reception will be held on March 7, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Reynolds Hall. Learn more about the Cloister Gallery and find information on FotoFest by visiting: www.christchurchcathedral.org/art

**FOTOFEST BIENNIAL
EXHIBITION**
March through April 21

Dialogues of the Past

On Saturday, March 9, the Moores Chamber Music Downtown concert series returns to Sanders Hall. "Dialogues of the Past" will feature trios by Alfred Uhl, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Arvo Pärt, and Roger J. Henry, performed by faculty from the Moores School of Music. This eclectic program of works for clarinet, piano, viola and cello will include the world premiere of a trio by Roger Henry – one of the

Dialogues of the Past

Saturday, March 9

leading composers of Trinidad and Tobago. Admission is free of charge.

The Moores Chamber Music Downtown concert series is a partnership of the University of Houston's Moores School of Music and Christ Church Cathedral. These concerts are performed in Sanders Hall, a perfect space for intimate chamber music. In previous seasons, audiences have enjoyed repertoire spanning centuries with varied groups: piano trios and quartets, song cycles, and instrumental sonatas that have incorporated string, winds, brass, keyboard, fortepiano, and vocal performers.

The fourth (and final) concert of the 2023-2024 season will take place on Saturday, April 6. To learn more about this series and other music offerings at the Cathedral, visit: www.christchurchcathedral.org/music



Instruction in Eucharist

This spring's Lenten series theme, "The Theology of Beauty" encourages us to look at our world differently during this season. A familiar piece of artwork when viewed through the eyes of someone new helps you to find special beauty or nuance. Similarly, spoken word or a piece of music when shared with another person opens us up to hear sounds we weren't tuned in to. Hidden things that maybe we once knew but have since forgotten, or things brand-new in a beloved piece; experiences we have never known or considered before. All of these experiences help us to deepen our relationship with God and with one another.

We are excited to see Communion with fresh eyes, as Dean Nat Katz joins us for the first time at Instruction in Eucharist. Our morning together will be filled with wonder and formation as we look upon an incredible and beautiful sacrament with new insight. We'll learn about how sharing the Eucharist can create a deeper sense of our own belovedness and renew our hearts for a new day.

All ages are welcome on Sunday, March 17, at 10 a.m. for intergenerational learning in the chancel of the Cathedral. Whether you have attended before, or will be joining us for the first time, we look forward to our time together. Questions? Contact KariAnn Lessner, Minister for Children & Families at klessner@christchurchcathedral.org

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Noche Familiar, Spring Flings, and more

IN PICTURES



Left: The Diocesan Council in early February.

Below: Members of o



Above: Roasting marshmallows at the Spring Fling hosted by the Children & Families Ministry.



Right: Dr. Greg Garrett sharing ways to find God in arts and culture during the Dean's Hour as part of the Robert C. Stuart Lenten Series.

Right, below: Laissez les bon temps rouller at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!



Members of our Latino Ministry celebrate el Dia del Amor.



Below: Rev. Francene Young led a discussion as part of the Cathedral's celebration of Black History Month.



LENTEN SERIES, from cover

form of visual art, literature, film, and more causes us to focus our attention on our lives and our world in a manner different from anything else. Their perspective will prompt us to consider how we might approach beauty in a way that changes how we relate to ourselves, to our neighbor and to our God.

March 3rd: The Dance of Beauty and Justice with the Rev. Paul Fromberg, Rector of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco, CA.

Beauty is one of the ways we can come to a clearer understanding of God in the world. The same holds with the experience of justice. Justice and beauty are intertwined, complementing each other in a graceful dance. Without beauty, justice is incomplete, and without justice, beauty lacks its purpose. Beauty has the power to free individuals and attune them to justice, while justice creates an urgency for beauty in the world. Beauty can move the church from the safety of its four walls into the world, working for the gospel's sake, refocusing our vision so that we can begin to see the world as God sees it. The transformative power of beauty doesn't just lie in its ability to evoke emotions; the power of beauty is to change us into beauty.

Paul Fromberg is the rector of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco. From 1987–2004, he served churches in Houston, Texas. Paul is an iconographer and has practiced for over 20 years. In addition to his congregational ministry, Paul is an adjunct faculty member at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. He is the author of *The Art of Transformation* (Church Publishing, 2017) and *The Art of Disruption* (Seabury Books, 2021). Paul has served the Episcopal Church as a deputy to General Convention, the chair of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, and as a member on the Consultation on Common Texts. Paul is married to Grant Martin.

March 10th: The Beauty of God in Scripture & Poetry with the Very Rev. Cynthia Briggs Kittredge

The Very Rev. Cynthia Kittredge, Th.D., Dean and President of Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, draws upon her expertise as

10–11 a.m., Reynolds Hall

A Lenten series, “**Theology of Beauty**,” inspires us to examine ways that beauty in various forms allows us to be more present to the world around us, to ourselves, and to God in our midst.



March 3
The Rev. Paul Fromberg

**ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**



March 10
The Very Rev. Cynthia Kittredge

**TH.D., SEMINARY OF
THE SOUTHWEST**



March 17
Natalie Carnes

PH.D.

Matthew Whelan

**PH.D., BAYLOR
UNIVERSITY**

a scholar of scripture and poetry. Dean Kittredge will also join us for worship.

March 17th: Art, Poverty, and Waste: The Christian Vocation in a World of Need with Natalie Carnes, Ph.D, Professor of Theology in the Department of Religion and Matthew Whelan, Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Moral Theology in the Honors Program at Baylor University.

By exploring how Christian understandings of creation, hope, and community show us a way of holding together the twin vocations to create art and to alleviate poverty.

How can Christians justify making and supporting art in a world where people die of unmet needs? Amidst poverty, crisis, and loss, why continue to enjoy the arts? Why this “waste?” That’s the question the disciples ask when a woman at Bethany lavishes expensive ointment on Jesus. But Jesus rebukes his disciples, and by his life, teaching, and ministry, offers a radical critique of their notion of waste. Deep in the Christian tradition, it turns out, is the conviction that art and lavish acts of worship are harmonious with a life committed to the alleviation of poverty. This talk describes how Christian understandings of creation, hope, and community show us a way of holding together the dynamic tensions of poverty

and art, fasting and feasting, and excess and waste. Still more, the vocations to making art and addressing poverty are not opposites to be balanced. They are complements that inform and transform one another.

Natalie Carnes writes about how theological topics can speak to our modern life and how our modern issues, questions, and entanglements provoke us to re-describe our theological convictions. She is the author of three books, including, most recently, *Motherhood: A Confession*, which thinks through how the themes of Augustine’s *Confessions* shift when they are re-told through the story of becoming a mother. This year she has been working to launch the Baylor Initiative in Christianity and the Arts.

Matthew Philipp Whelan has the good fortune to be married to Natalie Carnes, and he’s an Assistant Professor of Moral Theology in the Honors Program at Baylor University. His research focuses on Catholic social teaching, Latin American and liberation theologies, and ecological theology and ethics. He’s the author of *Blood in the Fields: Óscar Romero, Catholic Social Teaching, and Land Reform*, which argues that Romero’s advocacy for justice in the distribution of land—a commitment with deep roots in the Christian tradition—illuminates the meaning of his witness, along with that of other land and environmental defenders today.

Beauty is one of the ways we can come to a clearer understanding of God in the world.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit christchurchcathedral.org/events or call **713-222-2593** to learn more about these and other events at the Cathedral.

● Registration recommended ▲ Registration required ✕ Registration closed ★ Childcare available (3 mo. to 12 yrs.) 🧑 Bring a friend!

MARCH

MAR 1 FRI

Bridge/Rummikub Game Night

6:30–9:30 p.m. McGehee Conf. Room. Join the group for a game or a hand and bring a dish to share.

MAR 2 SAT

Threads of Comfort & Joy

10 a.m. to noon, Mellinger Room. Learn or build skills knitting or crocheting. Light brunch and supplies provided.

Mornings at the Museum ✕

11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Explore faith through the artist's eyes with guided tours of different exhibitions. \$10/person.

MAR 3 SUN

The Sharing Tree

8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., Cloister. Visit the Sharing Tree cloister table and help support summer mission trips, thru March 24.

MAR 6 WED

Cathedral Book Club

6:30–8 p.m., McGehee Conference Room. Book club will discuss: *The Friend* by Sigrid Nunez.

MAR 7 THU

Cloister Gallery — FotoFest Exhibition and Reception

5:30–7:30 p.m., Reynolds Hall. Opening of the FotoFest Exhibition: /hōm/ on view through April 21.

MAR 8 FRI

EPN Conference Worship Service

6 p.m., Cathedral. All are welcome to join us for a special bilingual Eucharist.

MAR 9 SAT

UH Moores School Chamber Music Concert 🧑

7:30–9:30 p.m., Sanders Hall. Third concert of partnered series between University of Houston and the Cathedral.

MARCH 11 MON

Pastoral Care Circle

6 p.m., Mellinger Room.

MAR 17 SUN

Instruction in Eucharist

10–11 a.m., Cathedral. All are invited to learn more about gathering at the sacred table.

MAR 21 THU

Caregivers Gathering

12:30–1:30 p.m., Jeffers Conf. Room & Zoom. Offering community and fellowship for those in any caregiving role.



MAR 24 SUN

Palm Sunday

Observances at all services commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

MAR 24 SUN

Palm Sunday Organ Recital and Evensong 🧑

4:15 p.m. organ recital by James Mellichamp, 5 p.m. Evensong with the Cathedral Choir.

MAR 28 THU

Maundy Thursday

12:05 p.m., Cathedral. Eucharist and foot washing.

Stripping of the Altar

6:30 p.m., Cathedral. Bilingual Eucharist and foot washing.

MAR 29 FRI

Good Friday

12:05 p.m., Cathedral. Traditional Good Friday Service from the Book of Common Prayer.

Via Crucis (Bilingual)

7 p.m., Cathedral. Join the Latino Ministry for the telling of Jesus' trial, suffering, and crucifixion.



MAR 30 SAT

Easter Vigil

8–10 p.m., Cathedral. The first Eucharist of Easter and baptisms. With incense.



MAR 31 SUN

Easter Day 🧑

7 a.m. Eucharist, Rite I, with hymns.

9 a.m. Festival Eucharist, Rite II.

10 a.m. Flowering of the Cross, Bishop's Courtyard.

11 a.m. Festival Eucharist, Rite I, with incense.

1 p.m. Festival Eucharist, Rite II, en español.

5 p.m. Eucharist, Rite II.

WEEKLY

SUNDAYS

Children's Sunday School

10–11 a.m., Jones 201-208. (3 years–5th grade)

Youth Sunday School

10–11 a.m., The Treehouse. (6th–12th grade).

Robert C. Stuart

Lenten Series
in Honor of the Very Rev. Barkley S. Thompson

SUNDAYS IN LENT

The Robert C. Stuart Lenten Series
10–11 a.m., Sundays in Lent, Reynolds Hall.

- March 3 – The Dance of Beauty and Justice, with the Rev. Paul Fromberg
- March 10 – the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Kittredge, Dean and President of Seminary of the Southwest
- March 17 – Art, Poverty, and Waste: The Christian Vocation in a World of Need, with Natalie Carnes, Ph.D, and Matthew Whelan, Ph.D, Baylor University

SUNDAYS CONT.

Cathedral Tours

Tours are held every Sunday following the 11 a.m. service. They will also be held the third Sunday of each month following services at 9 a.m. and The Well.

Latino Youth Sunday School

1–2:30 p.m. The Treehouse.

Latino Ministry Children's Sunday School

1–2:30 p.m., Jones 201-208.

MONDAYS

Centering Prayer

11:15 a.m., Mellinger Room.

TUESDAYS

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

7–8 a.m. Zoom.

Women's Evening Bible Study

6:30–7:30 p.m., Zoom. Runs through March 26.

TNT: Tuesday Nights at the Treehouse

6:30–8 p.m., The Treehouse. Runs through March 26. Youth grades 6–12 are invited to join us for fun, fellowship, and Jesus! Dinner provided.

20s & 30s Bible Study

7–8 p.m., Jeffers Conference Room. Weekly through May 14.

WEDNESDAYS

Men's Morning Bible Study

7–8 a.m. Zoom.

Women's Morning Bible Study

9:30–11 a.m., Jeffers Conference Room.

Cathedral Tours

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the bell tower, you may spend your time alone or the guide will share the Cathedral's rich history.

THURSDAYS

Thursday Noon Bible Study

12–1 p.m. Zoom. For information about these Bible Studies and on how to participate visit: www.christchurchcathedral.org/biblestudies

UPCOMING

APR 1 MON

Easter Monday

Cathedral Offices closed.

APR 10 TUE

Newcomer Party ▲

6–8 p.m., the Norcross Family home. If you are a newcomer or just feel like one, you are invited. RSVP to ecuevas@christchurchcathedral.org



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

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THE SHARING TREE, from page 2

in Costa Rica. In the cloister, we accept cash, checks, and credit cards, or you can mail a check to the Cathedral office. Checks should be made payable to Christ Church Cathedral with The Sharing Tree on your check memo line and on the envelope.

We look forward to sharing the ministry of Costa Rica and thank you as you support us financially and hold us in prayer.

To learn more about The Sharing Tree, make a gift online, or hear about previous mission trips to Costa Rica, visit: www.christchurchcathedral.org/sharingtree

THE REV. MONTES, from cover

Church, Houston, in 2020.

She was ordained on February 20, 2021, as the first Latina priest from a Spanish-speaking parish in the Diocese of Texas. After her curacy, she remained at Trinity as its Associate Rector. She has served as a deputy to the General Convention, Secretary of the Commission on Hispanic Ministry, and Youth Ministry Liaison for the Episcopal Church Office of Youth Ministries. The Rev. Montes is married to Thanh, and together they have one beautiful and sassy daughter and two dogs.

The Rev. Luz Montes will begin her ministry at Christ Church on Sunday, March 17th.

**THE REV. LUZ
MONTES FIRST
SUNDAY AT THE
CATHEDRAL**

March 17



Newcomer Party — Save the date

The Newcomer Party welcomes those who are new, or who still feel new, to the Cathedral with an opportunity to meet fellow parishioners and Cathedral staff. We hope you can join us on Wednesday April 10, for drinks, hors d'oeuvres and lively conversation. Hosted by the Welcome Council and led by Elizabeth Cuevas, Minister for Community Life and Welcome.

NEWCOMER PARTY
Wednesday, April 10

For questions or to RSVP and receive address details contact Elizabeth Cuevas via email at ecuevas@christchurchcathedral.org or by calling 713-590-3300.