



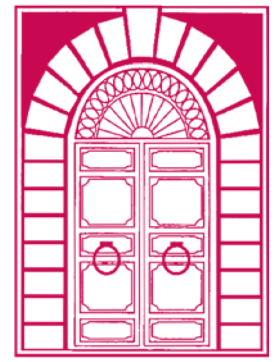
# House of the Redeemer

7 East 95<sup>th</sup> Street

New York, New York 10128

[www.houseoftheredeemer.org](http://www.houseoftheredeemer.org)

(212) 289-0399



*The House of the Redeemer, a place apart, based in the Episcopal tradition is open to all. Housed in a landmarked building, we provide hospitality through worship, spiritual renewal, and cultural and community events.*

## Fall 2024 Newsletter

### Annual Winter Benefit



*L to R: The Rev. Matthew Paul Buccheri; Honorees-  
The Rt. Rev. Andrew ML Dietsche and Mrs. Margaret Dietsche*



*L to R: The Rt. Rev. Dean E. Wolfe; Mrs. Clara Mun;  
The Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin*



*Refectory during the Winter Benefit Cocktail hour*



*The Rev. Robbie and Mrs. Polly Pennoyer*

On February 22, 2024 the House celebrated the Annual Winter Benefit honoring The Rt. Rev. Andrew ML Dietsche and Mrs. Margaret Dietsche.

*Photo credit: Kara Flannery*

# Notes from the President



The House is preparing for a major transition: our esteemed Executive Director, Judi Counts, will retire in June of next year. During her sixteen years as Executive Director (and prior to that as House Manager), she has rendered exemplary service to the House and community. We are all in her debt and the House is today in a stronger position due, in no small part, to her management skills. Bishop Dietsche's award of the Bishop's Cross to Judi last year is indicative of the respect she has earned in the diocese.

The Board of Trustees has formed a five-person search committee to select just the right person to oversee the day-to-day operations of the House going forward. We are working with Saison Consulting, a firm with wide experience in the Episcopal Church family.

As you can see from the photographs, the dinner on February 22nd honoring Bishop Andrew Dietsche and his wife, Margaret, was attended by people from across the diocese. A number of guests made moving tributes to our honorees. Although Andy's time as our diocesan is over, we remain deeply grateful for his past support and look forward to his and Margaret's continued involvement with the House.

The Garden Party on June 6th (<https://karaflannery.zenfolio.com/gardenparty2024>) was a festive event, although the weather forced us indoors. Guests could admire the antique folding screen in the refectory that was restored with funds donated at last year's party. This year, guests were invited to support an upgrade to the library lighting-not the antique torchères, but the fixtures above the molding. The funds are in hand, so work will now commence. Leslie Rupert oversaw the arrangements for the party, and to her, Judi Counts and Suzanne Martinucci our deep thanks.

Unfortunately, on the very day of the garden party a recent heavy rain caused the sewer to back up into the House's basement. Although there was no permanent damage, one elevator was shut down for a day or two. Our insurance will cover the cost of the cleanup, which was overseen by our indefatigable Operations Manager, Moumen Haffar.

In conclusion, I have some very good news to share. Robert and Suzanne Parsons, who lived in Birmingham, Alabama, were good friends of the House and stayed here on a number of occasions. They placed their assets in a charitable remainder unitrust which terminated on their recent deaths. The House will receive a percentage of the remainder. Due to the size of the trust, our share will be more than enough to replace the furnace next year. This replacement is long overdue and the trustees are delighted to be able to move forward with this crucial project.

I trust you are having an enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you at the House in the fall.

Percy Preston, Jr.  
President

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Percy Preston, Jr.

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Suzanne Martinucci

#### ASSISTANT OPERATIONS MANAGER

Moumen Haffar

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## Priests-in-Residence September 2024 - January 2025

**The Rev. Ellen Francis, OSH, September 1-15,** Sr. Ellen Francis is an Episcopal priest and a life-professed sister of the Order of Saint Helena. Her ministries include interfaith dialogue, parish ministry, retreat leading, spiritual direction, and painting icons. Before entering religious life, she taught English as a foreign language and worked at UNDP while living overseas. Then, back in the US, she worked in medical and special libraries (NYPL) and taught at Pratt Institute School of Information. She is originally from New York City and now lives at the OSH convent in North Augusta, SC.

**The Rev. Michael Rowe, September 16-30,** who was educated at McGill, Oxford and the University of the South, has served as a priest in Montreal, the UK, Bermuda, ME and now FL. He has taught history and liturgy at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College; Bangor, ME Seminary; and the Diocese of Southwest Florida School for Ministry Development. He is currently the priest-in-charge of St. Raphael's Church, Fort Myers Beach, FL

**The Very Rev. Mark Goodman, October,** is Dean Emeritus of St. John's Cathedral in Albuquerque, NM. Originally from OK, Dean Goodman attended the General Theological Seminary in New York City and was ordained in 1991. He has served parishes in the dioceses of Southern OH, SC, and the Rio Grande. He and his wife, Dawn, have two grown children. Mark served as a deputy to seven General Conventions and has served on the Executive Council. He is the liaison to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Dean Goodman enjoys walking pilgrimages, cooking, amateur astronomy, opera, and reading history.

**The Very Rev. Zachary Fleetwood, November,** is Dean Emeritus of The American Cathedral in Paris, where he served from 2003-2011. Prior to his tenure in Paris, he served as Rector of St. Peter's Church, Morristown, NJ; Rector of Grace Church, The Plains, VA; and as Associate Rector of Christ Church, Georgetown, Washington, DC. Since retirement in 2011, he has served as transitional rector of several parishes, including St. Columba's-by-the-Castle, Edinburgh, Scotland; St. Peter's, Skidaway Island, Savannah, GA; and St. Paul's, Ivy in Charlottesville, VA. A native Virginian, he studied at the University of Edinburgh and holds degrees from the Virginia Theological Seminary, the University of Virginia and Guilford College.

**The Rev. Cn. Gary R. Hall, December,** retired in 2016 as the 10th Dean of Washington National Cathedral. Prior to coming to Washington, Rev. Hall served as Dean and President and Professor of Anglican Studies at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. He has also served as rector of parishes in Pennsylvania (Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr) and Michigan (Christ Church Cranbrook in Brookfield Hills). Since 2020 Rev. Hall has served as President of Bloy House, the Episcopal School of Theology at Los Angeles.

**The Rev. Dr. Adam D. McCoy, OHC, January** is a solitary monk of the Episcopal Benedictine Order of the Holy Cross and lives in Southern California. He was Prior of Mount Calvary Monastery in Santa Barbara, California 2014-2020, and also was President of the Board of Trustees of the House from 2003-2013. He is a historian of monasticism.



*The House Chapel*

# Calendar of Events

## ***In Venice: An Opera about the Pursuit of Love and Inspiration*** **(not necessarily in that order)**

Join Anthony Newfield, Artistic Director of I Fabbri, as he presents a concert version of the chamber opera, *In Venice*, featuring the music of Paul Scherer with libretto by Germaine Shames. *In Venice* is based on the Edith Wharton short stories “The Muse’s Tragedy” and “The Touchstone.” The young biographer of a renowned poet chances upon the poet’s much-talked-about muse during a sojourn in Venice. Romance blossoms. Ten years later, the biographer returns to Venice with his young socialite wife, having sold the other woman’s love letters to pay for the honeymoon. Can a muse inspire the most sublime sonnets in the history of poetry and yet not be loved? Reception with light refreshments to follow.

**Tickets: \$40. [Reserve through Eventbrite.](#)**

**Saturday  
September 21  
6:30 PM**

**Sunday  
September 22  
2:00 PM**

## **Fabbri Concert: Abigél Králik, Violin and Andrew Armstrong, Piano**

For its first concert of the 2024-2025 season, Fabbri Chamber Concerts is thrilled to present Abigél Králik, violin and Andrew Armstrong, piano in our intimate Renaissance Library. Abigél Králik was the only musician listed in the 2020 *Forbes Hungary* “30 under 30” list, and is quickly gaining attention as “a shooting star in the truest sense of the word” (*Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk Kultur*). Ms. Králik most recently performed with the Mexico City Philharmonic, Warsaw Philharmonic, Casco Philharmonic as well as the Anima Musicae Chamber Orchestra. This concert will also feature Fabbri’s very own Artistic Director and dazzling pianist, Andrew Armstrong. Reception with light refreshments to follow.

**Tickets \$45. [Reserve through Eventbrite.](#)**

**Wednesday  
October 16  
6:00 PM**

## **Community at the Crossing**

Join us for a presentation and conversation with members of the Community at the Crossing - an intentional ecumenical community based at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. Find out more about ways of journeying with the Community through their rhythms of prayer, study, and shared life.

**Free of charge. [Reserve through Eventbrite.](#)**

**Thursday  
November 14  
6:30 PM**

## **Mannes Sounds Festival presents: “If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On!” A Celebration of Shakespeare with Dramatic Readings and Music**

Curated and directed by director Stephen Brown-Fried, this event will be a collaboration between Mannes School of Music and the School of Drama of the College of the Performing Arts at The New School. Shakespeare has inspired many of the greatest composers in music history up to the present day. Talented actors and musicians from The College of Performing Arts will present excerpts from Shakespeare’s dramas and music by Beethoven, Dowland, Purcell, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Richard Strauss, Debussy and Prokofiev.

**Free of charge. Limited space. [Reserve through Eventbrite.](#)**

**Wednesday  
November 20  
7:00 PM-8:30 PM**

## **Annual Christmas Party**

Join us for our annual end-of-the-year celebration as Anthony Newfield, Broadway performer and Artistic Director of I Fabbri, continues the popular House tradition of a holiday reading followed by caroling and a festive reception. This is one of the most eagerly anticipated events each year at the House, and the trustees look forward to welcoming friends to celebrate the spirit of the season!

**Tickets \$25. [Reserve through Eventbrite.](#)**

**Monday  
December 9  
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM**

## 2025 Events - Save the Dates!

Fabbri Concert's February 5, March 12, and May 7



### Dog Biscuits and Communion Wafers

At the House of the Redeemer in New York City, barely a stone's throw from Central Park, there is a tradition each priest-in-residence is asked to continue. It involves dogs, angels without wings.

But first, a word about the "House." Nestled among splendid co-op apartments, the House of the Redeemer wasn't always a home turned Episcopal retreat center. Between 1914 and 1916 Edith Shepard Fabbri, a great-granddaughter of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, and her husband, Count Ernesto Fabbri, commissioned the House. It was a mix of Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance, and Baroque, inside and out. The House at 7 East 95th Street had good company, too. Among its neighbors was the mansion of Andrew Carnegie. The Gilded Age passed, however, and the Fabbri House saw nearby mansions fade and be uprooted, replaced by multi-tenant apartments. Nice though those buildings were, opulence had moved on. The Fabbri house was spared. In the middle of the 20th century, it was deeded to the Episcopal Church to be used as a religious retreat center. The Sisters of St. Mary, an Episcopal order of nuns, moved in, remaining for more than 30 years. In 1980 the sisters departed, and a secular warden took over the management of the House on 95th Street.

Now, back to the tradition. Each weekday, the priest-in-residence, leads morning and evening prayer, or celebrates the Eucharist (twice a week). Ten minutes before a service, the priest is asked to be outside of the House and hand out biscuits to passing dogs. (It seems every resident of NY has at least one dog, some of them quite large!) The neighborhood dogs know the routine. They often insist on a biscuit before steering their owners on to Central Park. During my two weeks as priest-in-residence, I handed out more than 40 Milkbone treats – whole ones for the major dogs and half biscuits for their tiny counterparts. With each of the forty biscuits there was an opportunity to chat with the humans accompanying them. It was a chance to ask them about their plans for the day, or what had transpired if we were at the end of the day. The biscuit ministry is a success. The people ministry, seemingly less so. During those two weeks, I offered only eight communion wafers, and four of them I consumed. Some days I dressed in cassock, surplice, and tippet, or alb and stole, stood on the doorstep of the House of the Redeemer and greeted dogs and owners. But no congregants. One might suggest that the ministry to people is sorely lacking. Is it worth the effort? Absolutely it is. Recall that Jesus said when two or three are gathered, he is among them? (Matthew 18:20). Besides, I was surrounded by a company of angels without wings. There is no doubt that Jesus was part of each encounter, each conversation, each biscuit. It is an exquisite and loving ministry – dog licks and all!



**The Rev. Dr. Susan Carter** (*pictured above*)  
**Priest-in-Residence, House of the Redeemer**  
**May 16-31, 2024**

# Religious Offerings

All are welcome to the weekly religious activities at the House:

## Morning and Evening Prayer

Monday through Friday 8:00 am and 5:30 pm  
(Eucharist on Tuesday Evening and Thursday Morning)

If you would like to add names to the Chapel prayer list, please let us know.

## Weekly Bible Study Schedule

House of the Redeemer Bible Study will resume Fall 2024, details to be announced.

Everyone is welcome to join! No experience is required and all questions are welcome! If you would like more information, please contact the House at [info@houseoftheredeemer.org](mailto:info@houseoftheredeemer.org). There's no need to sign up and no cost – visitors are always welcome to join.

Please consider including the House in your estate plans. Bequests have been important to the House over the years, especially unrestricted bequests, due to the flexibility they provide.

The suggested language for your will is:

“I give the sum of \$ \_\_\_ to House of the Redeemer, New York, NY for its general corporate purposes.”

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Donors contemplating making a gift of marketable securities should contact the office for instructions on how to deliver those securities.

If you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter or any future communications from House of the Redeemer, please let us know at [info@houseoftheredeemer.org](mailto:info@houseoftheredeemer.org) or call 212-289-0339.