In Christ we grow in faith, respond through action, and embrace all people
Welcome from the Senior Warden

Welcome!

It is my pleasure to welcome you into our discernment process at St. Matthew’s Cathedral, where we are looking for a new dean to lead us into what we believe will be a vibrant, new chapter of ministry for Laramie, the Episcopal Church in Wyoming, and beyond.

The cathedral close is home to some of the most important and recognizable ministries in Laramie. From the Laramie Soup Kitchen to the Clothing Cottage to further opportunities for spiritual growth, the Cathedral offers tangible assistance for the city, university and the diocese, while serving as a model for the larger Episcopal Church.

Many churches have struggled as a result of the COVID pandemic and the Cathedral is no exception. Yet, our members and leadership are already living into what we believe could be one of our most exciting chapters in this historic place.

Bishop Paul-Gordon Chandler has a special interest in the growth and spiritual development of St. Matthew’s. Through a financially lean time, he and the Episcopal Church in Wyoming provided supplemental funding to strengthen our ministry for the interim and help us generate exciting ministries for years to come. The result has been a noticeable sense of enthusiasm about our church life and our future.

In the pages that follow, we hope you will see the same. If you feel called to consider a unique opportunity to work with us to build up a vibrant, prayerful and inclusive cathedral we hope to hear from you.

Robbie Darnall
Senior Warden
A Message from the Bishop
CHRIST ON THE NEW FRONTIER

As we approach the season of Advent, I can’t imagine a better time to begin this period of discernment as to whom God is calling to serve as the next Dean of St. Matthew’s Cathedral - to lead the Cathedral toward living into all it can be. This is the church season where John the Baptist, that foremost figure of Advent, blazes forth out of the desert, inviting us to prepare the way for something new, brought to us in person by the Living God. And preparation is always associated with expectation. As John the Baptist announced, someone was coming who would enable us to experience God anew and afresh.

In this regard, I profoundly believe that as the Cathedral’s vestry, dean search committee and congregation have been praying and artfully planning for the future, that God has been beautifully preparing the way for one of the most exciting phases of ministry in and through St. Matthew’s Cathedral – a future that builds on its remarkable history, strategic ministry and tremendous potential.

This unique opportunity at the Cathedral comes at a distinct moment in time in the life of the Episcopal Church of Wyoming as we seek to serve “Christ on the New Frontier.” As a Diocese, we are finding ourselves on the verge of something new, focusing on a “frontier” vision of the future, through an ongoing exploration of spiritual discovery that engages the frontiers of our hearts, minds, churches and communities. We are together on a journey of being caught up in God’s imagination for us as we desire to see the message of Christ taken to new frontiers. This has led us to embody a culture of experimentation and exploration in terms of “doing and being” the church. It is an intentional opening of our sails into the winds of God’s Spirit, to enable us to go to those places we need to go. Together as a Diocese, we are becoming a visionary team. Along this line, the Diocese is more committed than ever to coming alongside St. Matthew’s Cathedral in strategic ways to enable it to live into its fullest ministry potential.

As our Cathedral finds itself entering into a new chapter in its historic ministry and mission, I believe it is positioned to experience its most fruitful days ahead, toward thriving in depth and breadth. I am passionate about the distinct ministry role of cathedrals and believe that St. Matthew’s is primed to serve in new and fresh ways in a spiritually transformational role within the cultural and educational heart of Wyoming. Also, as a “Wisdom Center for Spirituality” for our Diocese, the Cathedral can serve as a ministry example and inspiration to all our churches throughout the state.

As we look to the future, we envision St. Matthew’s Cathedral serving a leading role in the below areas toward transforming the church and society.
A Center of Contemplation (Spirituality)

St. Matthew’s Cathedral has the potential to be a leading “center of contemplation,” toward enabling people to connect in new and fresh ways with the Transcendent. At a time when a large segment of society, especially the younger community associated with the University of Wyoming, is more interested in spirituality than institutional religion, our Cathedral, with its distinct atmosphere and ambiance, is uniquely poised to be an all-embracing sacred space for a spirituality with aesthetic and sensory appeal, that addresses in relevant ways the profound spiritual hunger and thirst that exists for a fresh encounter with our Creator. In addition to the Cathedral’s majestic worship, this will entail developing alternative contemplative services and programs that reach different segments of society.

A Center of Culture

St. Matthew’s Cathedral, located in a university context, is uniquely positioned to play a leadership role in programming that creatively explores the interaction of faith, spirituality and culture (i.e. the arts), as well as addressing the critical issues of today - local, national and global - through the lens of spirituality and faith.

A Center of Compassion

Compassionate ministry defines St. Matthew’s Cathedral, as they host various transformational outreach ministries, such as the Laramie Soup Kitchen, the Clothing Cottage, the Hilde Project, etc., that are strategically meeting critical physical and emotional needs. There is unlimited potential to continue to grow in this area, as these initiatives become more strategically aligned to the overall vision and mission of the Cathedral.

A Center of Community

In a university town like Laramie, there is a profound need for community, and this is an area that St. Matthew’s can continue to excel in as we look to the future. The Cathedral community is truly an all-embracing one that welcomes all people, regardless, seeing everyone as made in the image of our beautiful Creator. The Cathedral is a truly “safe” community, a “sanctuary” in the deepest sense of that word, providing life, hope and spiritual refreshment.

Overall, I believe this is one of the most exciting opportunities within the Episcopal Church, toward discovering ever more relevant ways to live into the way of Christ for today. If you sense the leading of God’s Spirit, we invite you to explore joining us on this adventure of seeing Christ walk the Wyoming road.

Take hope,

The Rt. Revd. Paul-Gordon Chandler
Bishop, The Episcopal Church in Wyoming
The Episcopal Church in Wyoming

FAITH ON THE NEW FRONTIER

We are an all-embracing spiritual home for everyone, where people come to love and be loved, to grow in faith and spirit, and to explore together the spiritual dimension of life through the person and teachings of Jesus within the cathedral of God’s creation that surrounds us in our beautiful state.

The Episcopal Church in Wyoming seeks to be God’s loving community throughout Wyoming and the world. We are a diverse community consisting of 50 churches and faith communities, as well as four Wisdom Centers, that together are seeking to know, love and serve our Creator. We are committed to being an all-embracing spiritual home for everyone, where people come to love and be loved, to grow in faith and spirit, and to explore together the spiritual dimension of life through the person and teachings of Jesus. Our desire is to encounter together the living God, enabling us to live as God’s people in God’s world. We are deeply rooted in the Christian traditions of prayer, contemplation, spiritual exploration, aesthetic experience and loving engagement in both Wyoming and the world.

The Episcopal Church in Wyoming is one of over 100 national and international dioceses in The Episcopal Church, which is one of 38 Episcopal/Anglican Churches around the world that comprise the worldwide Anglican Communion, with more than 85 million members under the leadership of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

“Building on our frontier pioneering history, the Episcopal Church in Wyoming is focused on seeing the message of Christ taken to ‘new frontiers.’”
Faith on the New Frontier

The historic land of Wyoming has long been a place with a frontier mindset. Wyoming’s trails, roads and highways follow centuries-old Native American hunting and trade routes. For generations, Shoshone, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Ute, Lakota and Crow peoples valued innovation as they lived off the land, gathered plants, visited family and tracked game along watercourses and over mountain passes in the seasonal subsistence patterns of their lives. The pioneering spirit of the Episcopal Church’s early presence in the region began in the 1880s through visionaries such as the Welsh missionary-priest John Roberts, Bishop Ethelbert Talbot and the Arapaho priest Sherman Coolidge. Native American spirituality, historically so often crushed by white settlers, was in time encouraged to emerge alongside new found faith in ways that continue to enhance our seeing and experiencing God in new and fresh ways.

As many communities experienced the “boom and bust” of the discovery of gold, oil, coal and valuable minerals throughout the state, so resilience and a frontier approach to life became a necessity. As the Episcopal Church of Wyoming today, we are seeking to build on our distinct foundation and history as we embrace the unique faith opportunities of our current times. Wyomingites are an independent people, where living on the frontier requires and fosters both self-reliance, community and creativity. Taking the message of Christ to “new frontiers” is an ongoing exploration of spiritual discovery, engaging the frontiers of our hearts, minds and communities.

Our Beautiful State

Wyoming is a land of great geographical diversity with wide expanses of prairie, high mountain peaks, and deserts. Wyoming is often described as a “small town connected by long streets,” with wide-open spaces in-between. Wyoming is dotted with lakes and rivers that boast world-class fishing, and plains where “the deer and the antelope play.” Herds of bison are being restored to the lands where they used to roam in great number. In Wyoming, one can see the infinite, eternal and renewing power of God. With 240 sunshine days per year, Wyoming’s blue skies and starry nights are legendary.

Wyoming’s population includes a strong Native American presence, especially of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho peoples, as well as other cultures that have moved here over the years, from the Basque peoples of Spain, to the English, Italian and Hispanic, among many others.
A strategic location, a venerable history, and new frontiers of ministry

St. Matthew’s Cathedral is a historic church in historic downtown Laramie, Wyoming. The pedestrian-friendly downtown, with its eclectic mix of shops, restaurants, and gathering spaces, was recently recognized as one of the finest in the nation. And on the east side of the Cathedral, within walking distance, is the thriving campus of the University of Wyoming. Strategically situated between these two centers of civic life, learning, and culture, the Cathedral is uniquely positioned to welcome people from all walks of life and to draw on the synergies of town and gown.

The city of roughly 33,000, located near the southeastern corner of Wyoming, Laramie became the Bishop’s see city in 1887. With westward expansion, Laramie would be the place from which ministry would spread to the frontier. In today’s world of virtual and electronic engagement, Laramie is well positioned to capitalize on the recent trend of those wishing to relocate to places with a better quality of life. One’s geographic location no longer needs to define a church’s reach, and with our new dean, we look forward to exploring an expanding ministry to the diocese and beyond.

Our beautiful Cathedral was built between 1892 and 1896, and the towers were added in 1916. The more than two dozen beautiful stained glass windows were made by designers from London, Boston and New York City. They depict everything from the Calling of Matthew, to the Storm at Sea, Moses on Mt. Sinai, The Rt. Revd. Ethelbert Talbot (the first missionary Bishop of Wyoming and 15th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church), to an elegant window dedicated to the remarkable Japanese-American priest Rev. Luke Yokota who led an Episcopal group while incarcerated at Heart Mountain during WWII, and who later served on the Wind River Reservation. The Skinner pipe organ was built in 1926 and is one of the finest organs in the country. And notably, Laramie residents and tourists alike enjoy the Cathedral’s beautiful chimes and track their day with the tower clock.

“I cherish the feeling of God’s presence when I’m in this beautiful church.”
The Cathedral is one of three structures composing a full city block, and our grounds include a newly constructed labyrinth that is modeled after the historic one found in the Cathedral at Chartres, France. Our desire is to serve more and more as a kind of “town square” or “cathedral commons,” where people can find rest, spiritual nurture, tangible help, and regular community-building events.

Our other buildings include a Victorian-era house called the Clothing Cottage that is used for our extensive clothing ministry, and an administrative building, Hunter Hall, that began as a boys’ boarding school, became a girls’ school, and eventually became an orphanage. At one point, Hunter Hall housed disadvantaged children, and decades later, this became what is now known as the Cathedral Home for Children, a thriving non-profit now located north of town. The offices of the Diocese of Wyoming were housed in Hunter Hall until 2008, when they were relocated to Casper, which is more strategically located for traveling to the parishes throughout the diocese.

Hunter Hall is a grand old building that we believe represents one of the greatest opportunities for the development of our ministries and the introduction of new revenue streams for the long-term benefit of the Cathedral. However, Hunter Hall is in need of either renovation or replacement. Our next dean will have an exciting opportunity to work with St. Matthew’s, the Bishop and others on this innovative project.

At an altitude of 7,276 feet, St. Matthew’s Cathedral is the highest cathedral in the nation and serves as a widely recognized landmark and spiritual beacon for the city of Laramie.
“Being a part of the St. Matthew’s community warms my heart. What a blessing!”

A Note about Hunter Hall

Hunter Hall, which currently houses offices for the Cathedral and the Soup Kitchen, as well as Sunday School rooms, a children’s chapel, the Prayers and Squares ministry, and other meeting spaces, is widely recognized as in great need of repairs, and could become a potentially historic opportunity for the future thriving of St. Matthew’s Cathedral. We are seeking a dean with a collaborative and visionary spirit, who is eager to join in this project with all of its challenges and opportunities. The next steps we take regarding Hunter Hall could be a national model for ministry in the 21st century.
Life in Laramie

Laramie (population 33,000) describes itself as a “spirited offbeat college town with an abundance of outdoor recreation, deep western roots, and a vibrant cultural scene at 7,220 feet.”

Laramie is home to the only four-year university in the state, the University of Wyoming, with over 12,000 students, and has the cultural amenities expected in a college town. Tucked between the Snowy Range 30 miles to the west and the Laramie Range 10 miles to the east, access to outdoor activities is easy and cherished by many. With the recent acquisition of land for the Pilot Hill Project, one can now walk, bike, or ride horseback on public land directly from Laramie to the 65,000-acre Pole Mountain area of the Medicine Bow National Forest and the Veedauwoo Recreation Area, home to world-class rock climbing.

In 2022, the Laramie Main Street Alliance won the prestigious “Great America Main Street Award,” recognizing our downtown alliance for “excellence in comprehensive preservation-based commercial district revitalization.” Bestowed by The Hartford, this award was given this year at the opening plenary at the Main Street Now Conference in Richmond, Virginia. In recent years, visitors have regularly commented that our pedestrian-friendly downtown, with its eclectic array of coffee shops, restaurants, antiques, creative retail, and old-fashioned watering holes is a great place to gather with family and friends.

Laramie has the advantage of small-town friendliness with interesting, big-city amenities. And if the funky downtown shops and restaurants, the UW symphony, UW theatre and dance, Division I college sporting events, town cultural events, and university lectures and exhibits, not to mention mountain biking, skiing, hiking, fishing, camping, and hunting, aren’t enough to keep you busy, Denver is only a two-hour drive away – a quick getaway that has its rewards, including that satisfying feeling of returning to your beloved home in Laramie.

“Our quirky, feisty community is full of gifted individuals who are interested in serving as they can.”
Worship

“**I love the history, symbolism, warmth, majesty and awe that St. Matthew’s invokes.**”

St. Matthew's Cathedral has a vibrant worship life, centered around Holy Communion which is celebrated every Sunday morning. On Sunday evenings, we also offer an Evening Prayer service, and prior to the pandemic, we offered a Choral Evensong on the first Friday evening of the month. There is enthusiasm for restarting this service. During the summer months, each Sunday, Morning Prayer or Holy Communion (depending on the availability of clergy) is offered at our beautiful outdoor worship space, St. Alban’s Chapel, in the Snowy Range Mountains.

We follow a traditional liturgy based in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, with occasional Wyoming flourishes. With the encouragement of Bishop Chandler we also continue to explore alternative worship services. Our style of worship is both reverent and embracing, transcendent and intimate. Our custom, for example, is to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries of members and visitors alike, each Sunday morning. This custom signals the embracing intimacy of our worship that is evident throughout. And the majestic words of our Anglican worship tradition, our focus on musical excellence, and our reverent attention to detail all convey a reverence and transcendence that feeds our souls.
“We treasure our worship with others in a beautiful historic place that reaches out to community.”
Music Ministry

The music ministry at St. Matthew’s Cathedral has a grand tradition of excellence and vibrancy, providing the people of our community with joyful and prayerful experiences—both liturgical and in the concert setting. We are fortunate to have two music staff people, a Cathedral Organist and a Choir Director, both of whom are classically trained and wonderfully versatile in their musical expression. Cathedral worship, therefore, is tremendously enhanced by a musical repertoire that spans the centuries and lifts the spirits of worshippers.

In 2022, the Cathedral received the K.T. Utterback Sacred Music Endowment, a generous estate gift of a beloved member of the St. Matthew’s choir, Kris Utterback, who passed away in 2021. This endowed fund now honors Kris’ lifelong love of music by building connections with the University of Wyoming Music Department, providing opportunities for music students to experience and lead in sacred music settings, and promoting the music program at St. Matthew’s Cathedral.

“The music of our souls and the brilliance of the sun coming through our stain glass windows brings us joy.”
In a recent informal poll, many members of St. Matthew’s Cathedral said that their greatest joy was our sense of community and that they cherished the family-type relationships fostered within our congregation. Sunday mornings are marked with warm greetings, shared concerns, and laughter. It is evident that we like one another and enjoy each other’s company. People who are new to the congregation have remarked about how friendly the community seems, but they also note that we could do a better job of helping newcomers become more fully incorporated as part of the cathedral family. We could also grow in our ability to discern the gifts of new and old members alike, helping people find ways for personal gifts to be offered and appreciated.

“In our short time here, we have grown to love and appreciate the friendly and accepting members.”
A new day of enthusiasm is dawning, as we have instituted new programs, such as an Adult Education Forums, monthly potluck suppers, and new support of the young adult ministry at Canterbury Fellowship. We have brought back activities and programs which had been curtailed due to the pandemic. For example, we are training a cadre of Eucharistic Ministers to visit members who are unable to attend services. Parish-wide spring and fall cleanup of the Cathedral’s close, as well as the highway cleanup, have been popular community builders. Members have begun to step up to host receptions after burial services. The choir, which has long enjoyed genuine community, has been revitalized. And the idea of resurrecting Foyer groups has been envisioned.

St. Matthew’s Cathedral is recognized in the community as a caring place where people in need are fed, clothed, and given a variety of assistance. Pastoral care for our own members in need, following hospitalization, during grief or other distress can be uneven and is receiving renewed attention. As the pandemic wanes, we see this transitional time as one in which we are putting our hope to be the family of Christ into action and to be as caring for one another throughout the week as we are on Sunday mornings.
Outreach

“I love the willingness of St. Matthew’s parish to give and sacrifice itself to help and reach out to those less fortunate and in need.”

St. Matthew’s has a long history of outreach to the city of Laramie and beyond. The passion for service that addresses human needs has led parishioners and clergy to plant and nurture seeds of ministry across our city. Many of these, such as Cathedral Home for Children, the Laramie Soup Kitchen, Laramie Interfaith, and Family Promise of Albany County have blossomed into independent 501(c)3 organizations and continue to serve the community, while maintaining important connections to the Cathedral.

However, outreach ministries, such as the Laramie Soup Kitchen, the Clothing Cottage, the Hilde Project, the Period Project, and Prayers and Squares, are deeply integrated into the everyday life of the Cathedral.

Staff from the Albany County Detention Center and Laramie Soup Kitchen collaborate.
• The Laramie Soup Kitchen really does not describe this tremendous ministry that is known throughout the region. Individuals are fed daily on our Cathedral campus, and effective inroads are being made toward zero food waste in our area by redistributing food that might otherwise be wasted to people in need. In recent months as many as 150 to 200 people have been feed daily. A partner ministry of the Cathedral, it is professionally run and makes use of volunteers from throughout the region. Its presence, is a defining and important one that signals our calling to care for our neighbor as Christ himself and to respect the dignity of every human being.

• The Cottage at St. Matthew’s provides quality clothing and household items to neighbors in need.

• The Hilde Project works to empower women to achieve self-sufficiency through jobs, education, life skills and mentoring.

• The Period Project, which provides feminine hygiene products to girls and women who cannot otherwise afford them.

• And Prayers and Squares, an ecumenical group who stitch and pray as they make quilts for people in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual support and comfort, continues to be one of the integral ways in which St. Matthew’s serves the larger community.

In addition, for two months in the summer, members of St. Matthew’s lead Morning Prayer services at St. Alban’s Chapel in the Snowy Range which is 38 miles to the west. Campers and other visitors from all over the world attend and their expression of gratitude is a consistent blessing. Many couples, some with the next generation in tow, fondly recall their long-ago weddings as St. Alban’s is a popular wedding spot. And internationally, we have embraced our brothers and sisters in the Diocese in Kiteto, Tanzania, a partner diocese of our own, by raising funds for needed infrastructure projects there.
Adult Formation and Community Engagement

The mission of Adult Education at St. Matthew’s is to provide opportunities for spiritual and intellectual growth. We hope to connect Christian faith with everyday living. We offer Bible studies, book groups, Education for Ministry (EfM), and host programs promoting Christian and spiritual formation. Our newly invigorated Adult Education Forums on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am feature a diverse array of topics, speakers, and activities, all focusing on increasing our understanding, deepening our spiritual formation, and enlivening our faith, all while enjoying delicious coffee and donuts.

The Cathedral membership includes members of the faculty at the University of Wyoming, and we benefit greatly from their presentations, their insights, and their connections to other thought leaders who bring fascinating perspectives on the intersection of culture and religion. In addition, we have several experienced and knowledgeable retired clergy who have made their home at the Cathedral, and they bring rich, diverse perspectives on theology, liturgy, prayer, and the future of religion and spirituality. And finally, the Cathedral community includes people who have directed various ministries that have sought to integrate faith and action. We try to combine these internal resources with the voices of others, including ecumenical and interfaith voices, to host engaging presentations and discussions that change and enrich lives.

In a time that is marked by division and misinformation, we believe we have a ministry to draw people together, to heal divisions, and to mend and weave the social fabric of our city. Our “big tent” mentality as Episcopalians calls us to promote such respectful and community-building gatherings, presentations, and dialogue.
“I have always felt ‘our’ city block offers everything: food, clothing, and spiritual substance.”
Like many Episcopal churches, St. Matthew’s Cathedral is eager to strengthen its ministries with children and youth. Not only do we seek to nurture the innate spiritual lives of children and youth, we also seek to learn from them, as we accompany them in their praying and “holy wondering” about God’s love for us all.

We take seriously Jesus’ exhortation, “Unless you become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” Time and again, Jesus demonstrated that children were precious to him, and they are of course most precious to us. One of our highest callings at St. Matthew’s Cathedral is to welcome children reverently, nurture them in their God-given capacity for prayer and wonder, and equip their parents to do the same.
Currently, during the academic year, we welcome children and youth each Sunday morning at 9:00 am for a brief child-oriented service in our children’s chapel. This service uses the same elements found in our regular Cathedral worship, with children tending the altar linens and candles, for example, while they also take leadership roles in leading prayers and acolyting. After this service, children move to one of three sections for Sunday School: Kindergarten through Second Grade; 3rd Grade through 5th Grade; or 6th Grade and above. Currently, we are finishing the third year of a three-year program, “Weaving God’s Promises,” which is a rich, lectionary-based program.

Worship in the Cathedral begins at 10:00 am, and children are accompanied from their classes (and often a brief snack time) to join their families in worship shortly after the sermon, at the Peace. On Fifth Sundays, we take a break from Sunday School, so that children can join in the Cathedral’s worship from the beginning, often taking special leadership roles, such as ushering, reading, singing, acolyting, or bringing up the bread and wine (oblation bearers), using their experience in children’s chapel to serve the larger cathedral in this way.

During our interim year, we are preparing for the arrival of our new dean in part by exploring new curricula, such as Godly Play. Our desire is to engage with young parents and others in the Cathedral and the larger community of Laramie who have a special interest in this all-important ministry of nurturing the spiritual lives of children and youth. One idea we are exploring, for example, is inviting leaders in this field to speak at the Cathedral and help us imagine increasingly effective ways to care for those who are so precious to God and to each of us.

“We are a community of faith, care and love.”
Canterbury Fellowship at the University of Wyoming

Canterbury Fellowship is a ministry of the Episcopal Church in Wyoming for college students and young adults, operating out of a house that is strategically located across the street from the campus of the University of Wyoming. Since the 1940’s, Canterbury Fellowship has served as a welcoming and inclusive group where young adults in the Laramie community meet, join in fellowship activities, engage in ministry projects, and grow in their faith. Canterbury seeks to honor Christ through prayer, worship, acts of service and promotion of justice, peace, and inclusion. Canterbury House is an official ministry of the Episcopal Church in Wyoming, and it is in close communication with the Cathedral, shares resources, and regularly partners with the Cathedral in ministry. Cathedral vestry meetings and potluck suppers, for example, frequently take place at Canterbury House, and the coordinator of Canterbury’s ministries regularly serves in liturgical and other roles at the Cathedral, which helps to draw university students and professors to our worship and other activities.

Canterbury’s meetings for students typically take place every Tuesday at 6:00 pm during the academic year, offering a meal and relaxed setting where students enjoy refreshment with each other and support from Cathedral members and mentors.
The University of Wyoming

The University of Wyoming (UW) brings 12,000 students from around the world every year to Laramie. UW is the state’s only 4-year university, making it the academic, cultural, and sports hub for the state of Wyoming (Go Pokes!). Many of our parishioners are affiliated with UW, whether as staff, faculty, alumni, or students. St. Matthew’s Cathedral often collaborates with UW to highlight and celebrate Wyoming’s rich heritage of arts, music, and culture.

“I love the sense of community I feel at St. Matthew’s.”
Finances

Over the years, St. Matthew’s Cathedral has been very fortunate to receive several trusts and funds from very generous parishioners. While the pandemic had a withering effect on the Cathedral’s finances, the extraordinary support from the Diocese of Wyoming has had a powerful, regenerating effect. With Diocesan help, our revenue now exceeds our expenses, and with a spirited stewardship campaign in the summer and fall of 2022, we believe we are on a healthy trajectory. We are also working on innovative models for new, long-term revenue streams, by instituting new spaces and ministries on our campus.
In 2022 the Cathedral has an annual operating budget of $362,892. If you would like a more detailed report of the financials please contact Jessica Reynolds at jessica@episcopalwy.org.
Our Next Dean

The next Dean of St. Matthew’s Cathedral is a leader who has a vision for a cathedral in the 21st century. As a spiritual leader in an historic cathedral, the Dean should manifest serenity, model spiritual maturity, practice empathy, and demonstrate self-awareness. Desirable qualities include, but are not limited to: quiet confidence, gravitas, charisma, creativity, energy, passion, vision, and a sense of humor.

**Excellence in preaching, persuasive public speaking engagement.** In the pulpit, the Dean should be highly articulate and able to connect the theology and tradition of the Church to today’s needs, with the intention of proclaiming the Good News of Christ. This would entail connecting the faith to issues of critical importance, both locally, nationally and globally. Sermons should be inspired, able to speak to heart and mind, inspiring questions, reflection, and spiritual growth.

**A deep understanding of our Anglican/Episcopal tradition.** The Dean must ensure that Cathedral’s liturgical worship is theologically informed and solidly grounded in the tradition and practice of the Anglican/Episcopal Church, while at the same time staying relevant to the Western regional context in which we are located. The Dean will value and support a professional cathedral music program.

**Strong pastoral experience.** The Dean must model pastoral care to the congregation, vestry, staff and beyond. In addition to having a direct role in pastoral care, the Dean must work with the vestry, clergy and lay leadership and staff to ensure that responsible and effective pastoral care is in place throughout the Cathedral community.

**Ability to delegate, inspire, motivate and develop others.** To inspire congregational growth, which is vital to the health and well-being of the Cathedral, the Dean must empower the vestry, clergy and lay leadership, staff, and volunteers to use their unique gifts to strengthen the community and further the Cathedral’s mission. With the support of vestry and staff, the Dean must help the congregation to sincerely and generously welcome people. As a university town, Laramie is full of seekers, looking for a tradition within which to ground their spiritual practice.
“We fully embody ‘all are welcome’ at Christ’s Table.”

Ability to think creatively, “outside the box.” The Dean must be creatively-oriented, open and able to think “outside-the-box” in terms of ministry and mission. While honoring our Anglican liturgical tradition, that grounds us in a rich heritage, the Dean must be open-minded and flexible liturgically, with the intention of connecting effectively with those currently not associated with The Episcopal Church.

Ability to collaborate, manage an organizational structure, present and receive feedback. The Dean must be adept at management, accountable for measurable goals, and responsive to feedback. While the Dean works closely with the Bishop, s/he is accountable on an organizational basis to the vestry to ensure the well-being of the Cathedral as an iconic church and cultural institution. S/he must have excellent interpersonal communication skills, and the ability and agility to navigate the interests and concerns of the different constituencies that support and participate in the life of the Cathedral. Additionally, the Dean will work collaborative with the Bishop toward strengthening and expanding the Cathedral’s ministry role in the Diocese.

Strong management experience, understanding of quantitative analysis, and ability to evaluate organizational needs and make decisions. This role requires the ability to delegate duties to clergy and lay leadership, as well as to the vestry and staff, empower them, and draw on their strengths to support the overall mission of the Cathedral. With a strong understanding and appreciation for finances, s/he must also have the ability to evaluate the needs of the Cathedral, and, when necessary, the courage to make difficult decisions to ensure the long term success of the institution. While ensuring that the Cathedral fulfills its pastoral obligations to the congregation and community at large, the Dean must also understand the business of ensuring fiscal strength and viability and be committed to leading stewardship initiatives.

Passion for diversity. To be a leader of this Cathedral requires a love of diversity and spirit of inclusion. The Dean must relish diversity in all its aspects. This love of diversity is not a sideline, but a vital and daily perspective that a successful leader in a cathedral such as St. Matthew’s must embrace. The Dean will also have ministry experience within ecumenical contexts, having worked with other church and religious traditions, and also be committed to strengthening the role of the Cathedral in ministry formation, partnership creation and civic engagement.

Appreciation for our context. The Dean must be conversant, or willing to become conversant, with the history and ministry of the Cathedral and the Episcopal Church in Wyoming, as well as become familiar with the opportunities and challenges of ministry within a Western state such as Wyoming.
Dean Search Committee

The Dean is the Cathedral’s senior priest and is called by the vestry but appointed by the Bishop.

The Dean Search Committee is comprised of eight members representing the vestry, congregation and the Diocese.

Representing the Vestry
Robbie Darnall, Cathy Kintner, Jordan Bishop
Senior Warden

Representing the Congregation
Linda Allgeier, Charlie DeWolf, Kent Drummond

Representing the Diocese
The Rev. Canon Lara Gilbert - Canon for Spiritual Formation and Congregational Development & Dean of the Wyoming Iona School
The Rev. Jim Shumard - Rector of St. Mark’s Church in Casper, Wyoming

“The cathedral drew me in, the reverence, the silence, the liturgy unfamiliar and yet known. The pews change, the people change, the clergy change. But I belong at St. Matthew’s, where we love, those inside and those outside, where we worship, on Sundays and each day, where we treasure, the past, the present, and the future.”
How to Apply

Interested candidates should send their CV/resume, OTM profile and a cover letter to:

Canon Jessica Reynolds
Canon for Finance and Administration and Transitions Officer
The Episcopal Church in Wyoming
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“My hope for St. Matthew’s is that we grow in joy, love, peace and people.”