
Thanks to You!

**An article from the *Cathedral Times*
by the Very Reverend Samuel G. Candler,
Dean of the Cathedral of St. Philip**

There are days like this past Sunday, when all I can say is "Thanks to you!"

Thank you for the delightful energy of the Cathedral of St. Philip during this September season! Our Sunday education classes are full, our hallways are brimming, our worship services are packed. Thanks to you who want to be part of a learning community!

Thanks to you visitors who keep showing up. Every Sunday we meet someone new. And thanks to you who are transferring your membership here. We want you! This is a beautiful community!

And thanks to the youth! So many of you were on the bus trip to Florida for "Rock the Universe," and you made it back for communion at the 8:45 service in your sweatshirts. Thank you for showing us how to bond and how to have fun.

Thanks to you who are signing up to feed the homeless, and to serve breakfast on a Saturday! Thanks to you who are supporting our own Cathedral kitchen transition plans. A new Cathedral kitchen community is emerging. Thanks to you who are coming to Wednesday lunches and to the Wednesday night dinners!

Thanks to you who have supported our Preschool! It is truly a delight to have those children walking and singing through our hallways after a summer absence. Thanks to you teachers and leaders, too.

Thanks to you who bring such energy to our Sunday mornings. It might be worship and singing, but it is also deep prayer and engagement. Sometimes, it is simply the energy of laughing and greeting. And, speaking of energy and singing, what about our choirs? Thanks to you who were part of "Choirs Uncorked" a lively and mischievous glimpse of the secret life of our noble musicians! From frivolity to the discipline of Sunday routines, our choirs are the best.

Oh, and thank you a deep thank you to you who are generous givers. I mean givers of funds and finances. Some of you have been giving annually, and monthly, for years. Some of you have recently increased your pledges (we need increases more than ever). Some of you are giving regularly to the Cathedral for the first time. No matter where you are on that spectrum, this Cathedral needs that generosity! Our energy and life and service could not exist without your generosity. Thank you.

Thank you thanks to all of you for being part of something enormous and alive. Our energy and our size, are both rather rare in The Episcopal Church these days. God has blessed us with a special identity and calling.

In short, we are a vibrant and growing Christian community. We are a community of faith. We really do transcend the amplified polarities of the world around us conservative and liberal, democrat and republican, rich and poor. Yes, these are important differences, and our parishioners represent the most passionate of these distinctions.

But what draws us to the Cathedral is something that transcends even those distinctions. We have found a faith and a community which energizes us, which feeds and challenges us, which gives us life. So, thanks to you. "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel,"
(Philippians 1:3-5).

Sam Candler signature



The Very Reverend Sam Candler

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