

Dear Friends,

Summer has flown by and fall is upon us. While AHG's monthly board meetings take a hiatus in July and August, the work does not stop. Thank you to everyone who has worked so diligently over the summer to further our ongoing projects and do the administrative tasks that support our "active" portion of the year. Welcome to our five new Board members!

This summer we launched a two-part initiative approved by our Board in March to preserve the Olmsted Woods. The Special Projects Committee has met several times with the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation and the Horticulture staff to refine our stormwater mitigation systems and to identify zones for pulling invasive species and replanting natives. As we launch these projects, the Guild hopes to develop educational materials to explain the work, science and artistry required to care for our woods.

Our Annual Meeting is set for Tuesday, November 4, and we are fortunate to have **Ethan Tapper** as our dynamic speaker. Ethan is a Vermont-based forester, author, content creator and musician. He is the author of *How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World* - a most appropriate theme as the Guild embarks upon our latest woods conservation effort.

Planning for Flower Mart 2026 began in June. **Nicole Kang**, Chair for FM 2025, is joining two of our newest AHG Board members, **Cameron Taylor** and **Robin Moore**, to Co-Chair next spring's event, themed "The Secret Garden." Thank you all for stepping forward! Mark your calendars to join us on May 1 and 2. Fingers crossed for another spectacular weekend.

The Guild is pleased to move into year three of our Student Fellowship program. Open to seniors from St. Albans, National Cathedral and DC Public Schools, AHG awards three \$1,000 Fellowships for summer study in the area of Science and Environment. AHG's Philanthropy Committee continues to pursue grants in support of our work as stewards of the gardens and grounds. Our Investment Committee monitors our investment accounts with our professional advisors to ensure continued performance in these volatile times. The All Hallows Guild Gardens and Grounds Society has been formed to support our mission through planned gifts. We hope to encourage more members to join the Society in the coming years.

All Hallows Guild offers heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the indomitable **Melissa Isbister** as she retires from her position as AHG Office Manager, and previously as the gifted Tour and Tea Coordinator. Melissa has been engaged with All Hallows Guild and the Cathedral for more than twenty years. Her enthusiasm, creativity, dedication, friendliness and professionalism have been felt and appreciated by all. While Melissa will remain as a volunteer, we will miss her on a regular basis and wish her well.

We are so pleased that **Beth Kelley** has stepped into the role of Office Manager, adding on to her current duties as AHG's Communications Consultant! A longtime member of our community, stalwart Flower Mart volunteer and former co-chair, Beth knows us well, and couldn't be more perfect for the job! Welcome, Beth!

The gardens, grounds and woods of the Cathedral Close are a gift in every season. We are all drawn to this outdoor space to gather with friends and family or take a contemplative stroll to restore and refresh ourselves in the heart of the city. All Hallows Guild is thankful that you are part of this community throughout the year and appreciates your generosity, which is crucial in supporting our mission. We encourage you to visit, join our events, and volunteer. We hope to see you on the Close often!

With great appreciation,

Debbie Page

President, All Hallows Guild, Fall 2025

www.allhallowsguild.org

Membership:

At almost 400 strong, our members' support continued to provide the financial foundation for the care and beautification of these magnificent gardens and grounds and to keep them open year-round, free of charge, for all to enjoy. Without our members, medieval stonework and statues could not be repaired, native plants could not be planted, and there would be no Pollinator Garden. THANK YOU for your unwavering support.

In the coming year, members will enjoy these benefits:

Members (along with one guest) are not charged the Cathedral visitor admission fee.

Members receive a discount at our Annual Virtual Greens Sale in October and November.

Members receive an invitation to our Annual Meeting in October/November – with a guest lecturer and refreshments.

Invitations and notifications to attend special events and dedication ceremonies

Advance notice of upcoming events and activities (some with a discount or free admission for Guild members) are sent via our monthly email newsletter.

Members may receive a discount to attend events and activities hosted by organizations with similar interests.



Committee Reports

Our Garden and Woods Docent Programs

We are proud of our docent program, which guides large numbers of people each year through the Bishop's Garden and the Olmsted Woods. We led several tours in the spring with visitors from across the country, and we continue to receive inquiries and requests. In addition, visitors can access a recorded tour by means of QR codes posted in the garden, and on our website, allhallowsguild.org.

Flower Mart

Flower Mart 2025 was a hugely successful event, with strong attendance and perfect weather both days. On May 1 & 2, 2026, we look forward to welcoming visitors back to the Close for **our 87th spring festival!** In addition to raising critical funding to maintain the Cathedral's natural environment, Flower Mart is a beloved annual tradition bringing together the Washington, DC community. This year's theme, **"The Secret Garden,"** celebrates nature's restorative power and the importance of connection. The historic carousel, children's rides and games, traditional offerings of Premier Plants, unique gifts, entertainment, festival food, and an international floral exhibit will all return! We are grateful to all who attended Flower Mart last year and to the generous donors and sponsors who continue to sustain us. Thanks to you, the Cathedral gardens and grounds have remained open nonstop for all to enjoy.



Philanthropy Committee

The Philanthropy Committee continues to seek grants to support All Hallows Guild's important watershed plan for the Olmsted Woods as well as general maintenance and care of the gardens and grounds. The Committee has also focused on grant submissions to foundations that directly support AHG education goals; significantly, recent grant awards have offset the cost of hiring interns who work tirelessly during the busy summer season when our public gardens are heavily trafficked (and enjoyed!) by both tourists and local neighbors. The Philanthropy Committee is committed to researching NEW funding sources to expand AHG's important education initiatives and also meet the constant demands of climate change mitigation costs on the Cathedral Close.

Communications

We continue to make updates and improvements to our website and database, allowing us to reach a large audience efficiently. Our website features a full narrated online garden tour, with interactive maps that lead to individual web pages for 17 areas of the Cathedral Close and 14 areas of the Bishop's Garden. We also maintain a blog that features our programs and garden projects, as well as "Gardens Out and About" —visits to other gardens in our area and beyond. Our eNewsletter is now being received by around 2500 people. We continue to send hard-copy mailings, with full-color brochures, twice yearly. The fall membership mailing and the spring Flower Mart mailing are sent to approximately 1000 addresses. All Hallows Guild has a growing presence on social media. We maintain Facebook pages for All Hallows Guild and for Flower Mart. We also have accounts on Instagram, X, and YouTube.

Development

In March 2026, the board will focus on two fundraising efforts: an art sale of donated fine art including oil, acrylic, and watercolor paintings and posters; and the start of a new Friends of the Carousel initiative.

Memorial Gifts, 2025

A Yoshino Cherry tree, *Prunus x yedoensis*, was planted on the west side of Church House in memory of Louise Beale. In addition, a garden of plantings around the tree was made possible by her friends and family.

In memory of Janet Crawford, a selection of *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Pee Wee,' was selected by friends and is located in the apse area on the east lawn of the cathedral.

Suzhen Qian's family members, Jinling and Xiaoling, selected an oak tree, *Quercus imbricaria*, in her memory for the apse area.

The Shadow House is in the process of refurbishment, covered partly by a bequest from Julianne Hale Cross through the efforts of her son Allen Cross. An American Smoke tree was also selected in her memory for the Bishop's Garden.

We are extremely grateful for several generous donations for landscape improvements to the cathedral's gardens and grounds.

Treasurer's Report FY 2025

All Hallows Guild (AHG) raises funds and supports projects for the care and beautification of the gardens and grounds of the entire Washington National Cathedral Close. AHG pays for flowers, bulbs, trees, shrubs, tree maintenance, storm damage remediation, landscape architects, arborists, garden interns, staff education, and the stonework that is an integral part of the gardens and woods design. Throughout its history, AHG has allocated its resources to projects that have brought national recognition to the Washington National Cathedral grounds and gardens.

In FY2025, the AHG supported both ongoing horticulture needs and special projects. In May 2025, Flower Mart, our largest fund raiser, saw beautiful weather that drew capacity crowds and raised funds that exceeded the budget projections. Members and supporters continue to be generous and our income from contributions again exceeded expectations. In addition, the grants initiative that AHG has undertaken has remained a significant source of reliable income.

Substantial expenditures were planned for FY26, as we embark on special projects in the Olmsted Woods that arose from our recent study that identified investments needed for the longterm sustinment of the woods' health. We also expect similar continued expenditures on our core functions to continue into FY2026.

Overall, our financial position remains strong. We ended the fiscal year with more than \$500,000 in available resources and \$2 M in investments. These resources, along with continuing membership and contributions, will allow us to continue to fund our core gardens and grounds mission through 2026.

FY25 Budget Summary

Available Resources as of 6/30/2025	\$520,000
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Flower Mart

Expenses	\$267,000
Revenues	\$462,000
Net	\$195,000

Highlights of FY25 Significant Investments

Tree Maintenance	\$31,000
Plants/Bulbs throughout the Close	\$9,500
Interns	\$22,000
Contribution to Horticulture Budget	\$5,200
Shadow House Repairs	\$19,100
Olmsted Woods	\$7,000
Apse Seating Area	\$10,200

All Hallows Guild Annual Meeting

Nov. 4th, 2025, 9 am, Washington National Cathedral, 7th Floor Auditorium

Guest Speaker: Ethan Tapper, Forester, Digital Creator, and Author

Ethan Tapper is the bestselling author of *How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World*. For more than a decade, Ethan has been recognized as a thought-leader and a disruptor in the worlds of forestry, conservation, and ecosystem stewardship, winning multiple regional and national awards for his work. His message of relationship, responsibility and hope reaches millions of people each year through his writing, social media channels with hundreds of thousands of followers, and the walks, talks and keynotes that he delivers across North America each year.

Topic: "How To Love a Forest"

What does it mean to love a forest? In this talk, Ethan Tapper, a forester, bestselling author and content creator from Vermont, will draw from his work as a forester and his book *How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World* to discuss what it means to care for forests and other ecosystems at this moment in time. How do we respond to the harmful legacies of the past? How do we use our species' incredible power to heal rather than to harm? How do we reach toward a better future? In a time in which many believe that "protecting" ecosystems means protecting them from ourselves, Ethan argues that humans must take action to help ecosystems heal and to move into a more abundant future, and that to do so is an act of care and compassion – of love. Ethan's message is at once compassionate and pragmatic, clear-eyed and hopeful, sobering and inspiring – a powerful new vision for how we can build a world that works for all of its ecosystems and all of its people.

Garden Committee Annual Report 2025

This year the challenges Mother Nature sent our way were less catastrophic than in recent times - so far avoiding massive storms and tree losses. Very wet weather in early summer was followed by very dry weather in August and September - so the that irrigation was working hard, as were the gardeners watering and moving hoses where they were needed.

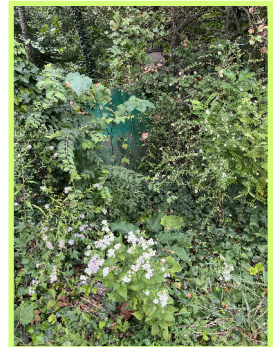


In the Bishop's Garden, we are saddened by the loss of the beautiful copper beech on the lawn below the Prodigal Son sculpture (L); but we await the arrival and planting of an American Smoke Tree for that spot. This is a memorial to a past AHG Board member. Future plantings will help define the space as a small new garden.

We continue to focus on the Cathedral Apse garden and the Olmsted Woods. The Apse garden (R) with its three stone terraces, provides tables and chairs for congregating, meditation, and enjoyment of an area defined by pathways, shrubs, and perennials, without the formality of the Bishop's Garden. Oak trees of several varieties are in place to provide shade and verticality behind the towering buttresses of the Cathedral.



Plans continue to clear the Olmsted Woods of invasive species, chiefly English Ivy, and to replant with native species. The loss of so much canopy after the 2023 storm can be a plus and a minus, with the added light giving rise to aggressive unwanted plants but also to some ash and beech tree seedlings taking hold. One small test area (L) to the east of the George Washington statue has been hand cleared and planted with carex, and has several tree seedlings looking strong. The plot is home to spring ephemerals like Virginia Bluebell and Mayapple. A bit farther along the path is an area called "Dr. Walker's Garden" (R), well cleared and home to bulbs and wildflowers. Spring ephemerals may also be seen here - Virginia bluebells, Mayapple, wild ginger, and trout lily, so clearing must be carefully accomplished by hand. During the winter, trees will be trimmed and dead wood removed and in some cases reused for path markers and habitat. This clearing will allow us to install new plants both to hold the hillside and to prevent unwanted growth.



(L) The ends of the removed bridge have been hazards since 2012 when the bridge was closed, and we are now furnishing black mesh fencing to secure both the Pilgrim Road end and the interior woods end, and fencing will be screened with Nellie Stevens hollies.

Our summer intern program was fully subscribed with three horticulture interns and one turf intern. Bailey Davila attends Spartanburg Community College, studying horticulture, and Bailey's summer internship project was redesigning the STA Green Roof. Owen Loucks is from Northern Virginia and is a rising sophomore at Syracuse University studying Biology. Owen's summer project was mapping and naming plants all around our close. Andy Risch comes from Friendship Heights, Washington, D.C., and is a rising sophomore at Ithaca College with a Biochemistry major and Art minor. She hopes to follow a career in entomology, perhaps finding ways to counteract pests, and is interested in conservation. Isaiah Johnson's hometown is Washington, D.C., and he studied Sport Management at Delaware State University. He had not done mowing or weeding before, and the preparation of the school fields for sports, placing goals, and getting fields ready is right in his study area. Isaiah has now graduated and been hired to the PECF turf team full time, so his time as an All Hallows Guild summer intern was fortunate for both sides. Win-win!



ALL HALLOWS GUILD
WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL GARDENS

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Kelleher, Garden Committee Chair