

# Cathedral Voice

A monthly newsletter from Washington National Cathedral

DECEMBER 2005

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

## Still Point in a Turning World *Reflections on a Cathedral Pilgrimage*

“At the heart of our life as a cathedral is worship,” the canon from St. Paul’s Cathedral asserted firmly. I was in my third cathedral in a week of travel with John Shenefield, chair of our Cathedral Chapter, to explore how the great English cathedrals understand their mission and ministry. There, talking to us in the study of John Moses, dean of St. Paul’s, this canon put a stake in the ground that seemed to hold true for every cathedral we visited.



We had already been to Salisbury Cathedral and had then spent two inspiring days at Canterbury, the Mother Church of the Anglican Communion. I had been eager to learn about programs and practices in these cathedrals as part of our own cathedral’s strategic planning process. But secretly I was hoping for something more—a pilgrimage of the spirit from a New World cathedral entering its second century to cathedrals that have been living out this distinctive ministry for 750 to 1,500 years.

I had chosen the cathedrals intentionally—Westminster Abbey, Britain’s sacred shrine for funerals and coronations; St. Paul’s in London, cathedral for a major nation’s capital; Canterbury, cathedral for a nation’s church; and Salisbury, because I had been visiting it as a holy place for fifteen years.

The trip was inspiring. I found talented deans, canons, and lay staff doing creative work, and came back with sheets of notes and journal entries about education programs, ways to engage the city and the diocese, ways to be a community. How about showing real hospitality with a café or restaurant? When are we going to produce a major play in the cathedral? Have we ever thought of having an artist or poet in residence? Is it time to convene major public debates on

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## Slots Still Open for Disciples of Christ in Community Program

Positions are still available, but filling fast, for the upcoming Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC) program scheduled to begin in January. The DOCC program is an

adult education curriculum designed to develop an expanding core of lay leadership in ministry.

It provides experience in building a strong Christian community among participants while encouraging individual spiritual growth, said Canon William Barnwell who will run the DOCC program

with Dean Sam Lloyd. “Dean Lloyd is interested in building a community of the people who come here regularly,” said Barnwell, who as canon missionary is charged with establishing and coordinating metropolitan ministries and projects aimed at addressing poverty, health care, and social and economic justice in Washington and throughout the region. DOCC should be instrumental in expanding outreach to Washington and justice-seeking programs, he added.

Each session of DOCC is intended to deepen participants’ spiritual life and help them identify and exercise their ministry within the church and beyond. It is hoped that participants from local parishes will share what they learn at home churches.

The program will be offered at the Cathedral from January through May every Tuesday evening from 7 to 9 PM. Participants are asked to make sure they can commit to the 18-week program with a maximum of two absences. “The program works if people make a conscientious effort to come,” said Barnwell.

Those interested in registering for the 18 week, Tuesday evenings program should contact Ruby Robertson at (202) 537-6206 or rrobertson@cathedral.org.

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the issues of our time? The possibilities seemed endless.

But what struck me most was how profoundly all four cathedrals embraced the vision articulated by the canon at St. Paul's. It's the daily round of prayer, the Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist, the special services, that are the foundation of everything else. Each of the cathedrals seemed to be the center of a great swirl of life—the dominant physical landmark in their town in two cases, the spiritual center of a great city and a nation in the case of the others. I began to think of cathedrals as center-points. They had been built centuries ago to connect earth and heaven, to be grounding, centering places for the spiritual life of a people. Each of them contains the relics of at least one saint, a tangible sign that God has been known, loved, and served in this place.

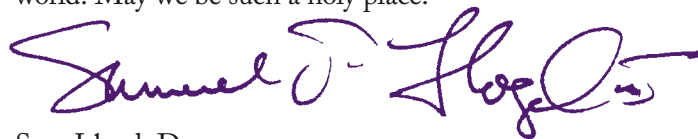
And cathedrals stand not simply as physical reminders of a Holy Center. They are places of daily communion with God. I was amazed by the seriousness with which these communities take morning prayer, Eucharist, and Evensong. Keeping that cycle of prayer isn't being done just because "that's the tradition," but because all of our cities need a community of prayer at their center, listening to God, giving thanks, looking at the world through God-shaped

eyes, daring to see the world God wants to create out of the conflicts and divisions of our time.

I kept thinking of a cathedral as what T. S. Eliot called a 'still point in this turning world.' They are places that live as close to the Center as they can, and where the staff carry on a many-faceted life of prayer and teaching, coffee hours and performances, in order to keep the channels open between a distracted human race and their God.

As I was browsing in a newsstand before getting on my flight back I came across a tour guide featuring "ten top spots" to see in Washington. Wanting to make sure we were listed among them (and of course we were), and want-

ing to see what they had to say about our cathedral, I picked it up and rifled through the pages to our section. There they characterized the National Cathedral as "the focus of the public spiritual life for the city and the nation." And it struck me again: What a calling we have been given, to be a still point in this turbulent capital city, in this turbulent world. May we be such a holy place.



Sam Lloyd, Dean

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## **"At the heart of our life as a cathedral is worship."**

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### **Strategic Planning Underway**

While the Cathedral is undergoing extensive construction of parking facilities on its grounds, It's also facing construction "in many other parts of our life here," said Dean Lloyd as he spoke about the extensive planning process the Cathedral has launched for the coming year.

As mentioned in last month's issue of *Cathedral Voice*, the Dean has appointed a thirty-member Strategic Planning Committee which has begun its work of

***The Dean and the Planning Committee welcome and encourage comments about the future of the Cathedral. Send them to [vision@cathedral.org](mailto:vision@cathedral.org).***

co-chair, said the planning committee has met almost weekly since October and will continue to meet through spring. The committee is still determining the form in which it will present recommendations.

"prayerfully discerning where God is calling us." Ann Carol Brown, committee

When Dean Lloyd came to the Cathedral last spring he spoke of the need to have "thoughtful religious reflection" in society today and of the Cathedral's multiple missions of being "a voice of generous-spirited, intellectually vibrant Christian faith, a place of reconciliation and a people serving a broken world," and the focus of his sermons since then have guided the work of the planning committee. Three subcommittees address the areas he earmarked: voice, place, and people. "His words really resonated," Brown said. "He has laid the foundation. We're just putting flesh and bones around those words."

Dean Lloyd appointed members of the committee, including staff, volunteers, and others. Brown is counseling the Dean on the process the committee should follow. In addition, the Alban Institute, a consulting organization for religious institutions, is assisting.

"It doesn't take much to get a conversation about the Cathedral going," said Brown. "The Cathedral is a lively community. People have wonderful ideas and that's where a lot of ideas are going to come from. We need ideas to come from everywhere."

## Coming Up

### *Abrahamic Scholars:*

#### *Spread Your Cloak Over Me*

For a week in early January, three women scholars—Muslim, Jewish, and Christian—will spend a week together in residence on the Close. They will be discussing the care of the widow and the orphan in their three traditions, discussions they will later share at an evening lecture.

“Widows and orphans are the primal category in Hebrew Scripture of those who have no advocate in society; they are the ones most at risk. Even in our own day, wars are waged and commerce rides on the backs of those who do not have the resources to escape or the voices in the halls of power to protect them—and yet every one of us knows that God condemns this trampling of those who cannot defend themselves,” said Michael Wyatt, Canon Theologian and Director for Theological Initiatives. “I envy them this opportunity,” he says. “It will be like the evening at an oasis where three strangers open their sacks of provision and make a common meal out of what they bring.”

**Dr. Hibba Abugidieri, the Rev. Katherine Grieb, and Rabbi Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer** will live together and spend their time exploring their Scriptures, interpreting them for each other, looking at the convergence and divergence of God’s commands to provide for those who cannot provide for themselves. “The profoundly cohesive social vision of Judaism and Islam,” Canon Wyatt says, “is not as forcefully expressed in Christian Scripture. How does Christian action for social justice differ from Muslim and Jewish action? Can there be a common vision?” **On Wednesday, January 11, at 7:30 PM, the three scholars will talk about their time together and their discoveries.** Join us in the Nave to hear what it was like for three women of different faiths to live together for a week, and what they have found their traditions have in common and what they don’t.

### *A.K.A. God*

So what do Twelve-Step Programs, the Course in Miracles, and Ken Wilber’s Integral Theory have in common? “Over my years in the Church, I have discovered that many of the folks in the pews have found more vital articulations of who God is and more transformative experiences of being in relationship with God outside the Church. That’s worth looking at more closely,” laughs Canon Michael Wyatt. “It’s not as simple as saying that ‘real church’ happens in a church basement, when an A.A. meeting is going on; that cheapens both experiences. But where can one talk about the difference between the two understandings of God and whether or not they really are incompatible?”

For six Thursdays, January 12 through February 16, in Saterlee Hall at St. Alban’s Church, a group will gather for supper at 6:30 followed by programs from 7:00 to 8:00 to explore these three non-Christian aliases for God. The group will consider what each perspective has in its literature, discuss the experiences of those present with each pattern of living, and see how they connect with Christianity. Nothing is more exciting to me than this in theology,” says Canon Wyatt, “that God could be alive and well—and well known!—outside the Church. It makes me want to know who they say God is, and to figure out if we are talking about the same person.” For more information, call (202) 363-8286 or go to [www.st-albans-parish.org](http://www.st-albans-parish.org).

### *Joyful Revival Service in Response to Katrina*

Mark your calendars and save Friday, February 3, 2006 at 7:00 PM for a joyful revival service with an offering designed to bring considerable financial help to three vital programs that are helping New Orleans recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Pastor Johnny Ray Youngblood, a native of New Orleans and leader of St. Paul’s Community Church in Brooklyn, New York will deliver a great message of hope. Other featured speakers include Pastor Dwight Webster, pastor of Christian Unity Baptist Church, one of New Orleans’ great justice-seeking churches, and a representative of the Peoples’ Institute for Survival and Beyond, perhaps the most effective “undoing racism” organization in the nation. Local Gospel choirs will also join in the revival.

### *Centennial Celebration of the Birth of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Join Dr. Wayne Floyd, director of the Cathedral College’s Center for Christian Formation, for a five-week course **Following Christ in a Time of Terror.**

The course highlights the theology and courage of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran clergyman and resistance leader in Nazi Germany. Dr. Floyd, a renowned Bonhoeffer scholar, will coordinate a lecture, evensong and film series to be offered throughout the month of February, to coincide with the centennial of Bonhoeffer’s birth on the 4th. Specific lectures and events include:

- Bonhoeffer: Film and Conversation with filmmaker Martin Doblmeier  
Wednesday, February 1, 7:00 PM
- Bonhoeffer Centenary Choral evensong  
Sunday, February 5, 4:00 PM
- Confessing Christ:  
The Preaching Witness of Dietrich Bonhoeffer  
Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 PM

## Meet Wayne Floyd and the Center for Christian Formation

Wayne Floyd might just remind you of a chef in a five-star restaurant: His task is to please a loyal clientele, even as he introduces bold new dishes to dazzle critics and bring in new patrons, too.

As the inaugural director of the Cathedral's Center for Christian Formation, Wayne is hard at work on his menu, contemplating how to "flavor" Christian education, through the addition of holistic and spiritual ingredients. "Most people's experience with Christian education has been from the neck up," says the recent transplant from Virginia. "Formation adds to education by teaching a person on how to claim one's spiritual self. Your head may know the facts, but involving your heart and hands allows you to live out your Christian identity in the world."

Wayne has already introduced to the Cathedral classes called *Via Media*. The 8-week series of 2-hour sessions is designed to build community among worshipers and to spark conversation about faith and living. In his past experiences with the program, says Wayne, "Most participants, by and large, were people who had previous religious education



but are struggling with beliefs—or had left their church for a variety of reasons. *Via Media* was a way to reconnect for some, connect for others. The church recognizes that they've done a good job educating youth. But, as young adults, many experience the 'Rip Van Winkle syndrome,' a decade or two of being away from their faith. Whether it's marriage, children or another reason that brings them back, they're looking for a spiritual re-awakening."

While programs the likes of *Via Media* are dishes that satisfy "seekers", his repertoire includes offerings for many other groups. Adult education programs for a lay academy, for example, haven't previously been offered by the Episcopal Church. He also envisions offerings for "sophisticated adults"—those skilled in jobs, by degrees, and even in religious matters—who are looking to expand their knowledge and sense of self.

It's all part of Wayne's philosophy of "different pedagogy for different audiences." With his work at the Center, it's pretty clear that Wayne has more than a few pots on the stove. But there's so much more. Wayne and his wife, Nancy Lee Jose (rector of St. Thomas' Parish in Washington, D.C.), have nine other mouths to feed at home: Wayne's beloved Bernese mountain dog, two cats, four finches, and two budgies.

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## What's Going on Here?

Did you wonder what was up with George Washington last month when scaffolding went up around the statue on Pilgrim Road?

Every five years the bronze statue (originally covered with a gilded finish when it was completed in 1959) is cleaned and waxed to bring out the patina in the bronze and protect it from elements. The protective wax is put on hot, then buffed off just as with a car's finish. Nick Veloz, long time conservator of the National Park Service's outdoor statuary was hired to rejuvenate the statue.

Washington is home to more equestrian statues than any other city in the nation, and the memorial to George Washington situated on Pilgrim Road adjacent to the Olmsted Woods is one of two equestrian statues of the first President in the nation's capital. (The other is at Washington Circle.) The statue is the work of renowned sculptor, Herbert Haseltine best known for statues of Man O' War. (In fact the famous racehorse is the model for Washington's mount.)



## How Do You Like Us So Far?

This is the second issue of *Cathedral Voice*, and the feedback we received after publication of the November issue was positive and encouraging. But we're still anxious to hear your thoughts on how we can improve the publication and truly make it your newsletter. And if you know of people who would enjoy *Cathedral Voice*, let us know. It's available in print or via e-mail to all interested readers.

**Send ideas and names to  
[PublicAffaris@cathedral.org](mailto:PublicAffaris@cathedral.org).**

## Two Name Cathedral Newsletter

Kudos and congratulations to Warren Davis, Jr. of the Mechanical Department of the Foundation's Facilities Services Office and Miriam Zanders of the Dean's Office for proposing *Cathedral Voice* as the name for our new newsletter. Thanks to all who submitted names. There were a number of thoughtful and innovative suggestions, but in the final analysis *Cathedral Voice* captured the style and tone that the new publication needed most. Some have expressed concern that the new publication is merging with the aptly named Volunteer Voice published by the Office of Visitor Programs and Volunteer Services (vpps), prompting one observer to note there's plenty of room for the two publications. "After all, he said, both Washington and Denver manage to host papers called the *Post* and they're seldom confused."

## Thanksgiving Day 2005

More than 1,000 worshippers attended services at the Cathedral on Thanksgiving Day this year, giving thanks in the beauty of the adorned nave.



## The Month in Review

Pennsylvania  
Major State  
Day, Sunday,  
November 20.



Visit [www.nationalcathedral.org/programs/pa/1.shtml](http://www.nationalcathedral.org/programs/pa/1.shtml)

"Word to the City"  
Revival led by the  
Rev. Dr. James  
Forbes.  
November 15 & 16



Visit [www.nationalcathedral.org/worship/sermons.shtml](http://www.nationalcathedral.org/worship/sermons.shtml)

The 26th Annual  
InterFaith  
Conference  
Concert, Tuesday,  
November 8.



Visit [www.nationalcathedral.org/video/index.shtml](http://www.nationalcathedral.org/video/index.shtml)

Marian Woodman:  
"The Potent  
Spiral of Body-  
Soul Wisdom."  
November 17.



Visit [www.nationalcathedral.org/video/index.shtml](http://www.nationalcathedral.org/video/index.shtml)

Panel Discussion:  
"Meditation on  
the Move: From  
Monastery to Lab  
to Main Street."  
November 11.



Visit [www.nationalcathedral.org/video/index.shtml](http://www.nationalcathedral.org/video/index.shtml)



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## **Handel's Messiah**

**Friday, December 2, 7:30 PM, and Sunday, December 4, 4 PM**

Combined Choirs of Washington National Cathedral  
Washington National Cathedral Baroque Orchestra

## **Advent Worship with John Bell & Alan Jones**

**Sunday, December 4, 10 AM in St. Joseph's Chapel**

Experience an innovative approach to music and worship at this ecumenical eucharist, led by John Bell, acclaimed worship leader from the Iona Community in Scotland.

**Sunday, December 4, 11 AM in the nave**

The Very Rev. Alan Jones, dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, will be the guest preacher. He is an inspiring preacher and speaker who draws liberally from poetic and literary sources in his imaginative presentations.

## **The Joy of Christmas**

**Friday, December 9, 7:30 PM, Saturday, December 10, 4 PM,  
Sunday, December 11, 4 PM**

With the Cathedral Choral Society.  
Includes an Advent Wreath Procession, seasonal favorites and carols for all to sing.

## **Christmas Pageant**

**Sunday, December 18, 3:30 PM**

This child-friendly service includes a re-enactment of the story of Jesus' birth.  
Guests from Mar Thoma Church of Greater Washington will provide a glimpse of Christmas in India.

## **Christmas Eve**

**Saturday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols at 6 PM**  
with the Cathedral Choirs (passes required)

**The Festival Holy Eucharist of Christmas Eve at 10 PM**  
with the Cathedral Choirs (passes required)

## **Christmas Day**

**Sunday, December 25, 9 AM, noon, and 4 PM**

**The Festival Holy Eucharist of Christmas Day at 9 AM**  
with the Cathedral Choirs.

*The 9 AM service will be telecast and will include sign language interpretation and closed captioning.*

**The Holy Eucharist of Christmas Day at noon**

**The Vespers of Christmas Day at 4 PM**