

Cathedral Voice

JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2006

A monthly newsletter from Washington National Cathedral

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

Living Stones

We have all known the long loneliness, and that the only solution is love, and that love comes in community.

—Dorothy Day

It's a paradox. We Americans have more freedom, more options, more lifestyle possibilities, more ways to connect and choose than ever before. Cell phones and laptops keep us in touch every moment, and yet by all accounts we're a more disconnected, more isolated people than we've ever been. Neighborhoods have vanished in a matter of decades; civic life that once took place in the town square or in public parks is now receding behind private fences and locked doors. The good news in all this is that we are free to define our lives any way we please. The bad news is that increasingly we feel that we're on our own.

A recent *Newsweek* article on contemporary spirituality reports that a fourth of all Americans declare that they are "spiritual" but not "religious." They hunger for a connection to God, but they want it all on their own terms, not limited by a particular tradition or set of priorities.

And it has to be said, church is often described as a lonely experience for many either because of the superficial, cheerful façade people are expected to present when they come to church, or because churches can be cliquish and inhospitable, leaving visitors and newcomers to fend for themselves. People often come to church looking for connection to God and to other people, only to walk out the door feeling even more isolated.

Christian faith has always been rooted in the experience of community. The earliest picture we have of the church is that of a small group of disciples meeting together after Christ's resurrection to support each other and live Christ's

Continues inside, page 2, column A



Dean's Dialogues Continue with Cathedral Staff

Dean Lloyd will continue his series of meetings with members of the various Cathedral communities when he meets with Cathedral staffers at two morning dialogues scheduled for Thursday, February 2, and Thursday, February 9.

In a message to the Cathedral staff he emphasized the importance of everyone understanding his vision for the Cathedral as well as his desire to learn more about the donors, volunteers, and staff who make the Cathedral's ministries possible. "My goal during my first year as dean has been to meet with all the communities that make the Cathedral's life possible. As I've been meeting with people I have been sharing my own vision and dreams for the Cathedral's future and asking them to share their thoughts with me," he said. Because the staff is a vital part of the community and essential to the Cathedral's life and ministry, Dean Lloyd expressed particular eagerness to meet with them.

Each meeting will begin with a light breakfast at 8:30 AM in the Churchill Porch followed by a dialogue in the Rare Book Library from 9 to 10 AM. The dean will share his reflections and invite the staff to share theirs. Staff planning to participate in one of the dialogues should email Ellen Spencer (espencer@cathedral.org) and let her know which session they would like to attend (Thursday, February 2, or Thursday, February 9, 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM, Rare Book Library).

Inside this issue

- VPVS Says Farewell to Luann Vaky
- Some Myths Dispelled
- Museum Store Records Record Sales
- Snapshots of Recent Events

Your ideas and comments about the Cathedral's future are welcome. Send them to vision@cathedral.org.

From the Dean, continued from page 1, column A
love together. The Acts of the Apostles describes it this way:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all as any had need. (Acts 2:42-44)

In sharing their lives, praying together, going through the good times and the hard times together, they experienced Christ's presence in their lives. In fact, the earliest recorded comment from the pagan Roman world about this new community was this: "See those Christians, how they love one another." It was the reality of this beloved community that stunned the rest of the Mediterranean world.

I've always been moved by the words in the epigraph from Dorothy Day, the remarkable Roman Catholic woman involved with the Catholic Worker's Movement in the 1950's. Buried in the heart of every member of our human species is the longing for connection to God and each other. We try many strategies, some of them self-destructive, to answer that need. But the only real answer is community, where we can be accepted, and where we can know and experience God's love. Love comes in community, in the give and take, the giving and receiving of our life with one another.

The Cathedral's Strategic Planning Committee is spending a good deal of time these days discussing what kind of "a people" we at the Cathedral are being called to be. Our life on the Close contains many groups and communi-

ties—the worshipping congregations; the staff who make all our ministries possible; those involved in the schools; the staff at Diocesan House; the clergy and people of the Diocese of Washington; and many more. I believe deeply that from these disparate groups we are being called to be a community of communities, a people who belong to each other because we serve a common mission for Christ's sake.

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In the planning going on now for the Cathedral's future, we are talking a great deal about what it might mean to be part of a living community of prayer, support, and service at the Cathedral, to experience Christ's life with each other as we work and serve in Christ's name. For example, the DOCC program, Disciples of Christ in Community, is one way this new vision of a Cathedral community of communities is taking shape, as we welcome not only Cathedral worshippers, volunteers, and staff,

but members of St. Columba's, St. Alban's, and a number of other churches to the 130 or so participants. Coffee after church, dialogues with the dean, this newsletter, are others. Community in Christ is growing.

It's all part of this "new construction" we're undergoing at the Cathedral—digging down and then raising up a new structure, a fresh way of being the church on Mount St. Alban. "Like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house," the First Letter of Peter says. After a hundred years of magnificent limestone construction, we are building a new spiritual house made of living stones. It's called Christian community.



Sam Lloyd, Dean

Easter Passes

Services on Easter Sunday, April 16, will be 8 AM Festival Holy Eucharist; 11 AM Festival Holy Eucharist; and 4 PM Vespers of Easter Day. Advance seating passes are required for the 11 AM service and can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope with your request to Easter 2006, Washington National Cathedral, Massachusetts & Wisconsin Avenues NW, Washington, DC 20016. Please specify the number of seating passes that you would like to have, with a suggested maximum of six. Requests for passes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning in March. Advance seating passes are not required for the 8 AM or the 4 PM services.

Coming Up

Alive in the Heart:

Meditation for Inner Transformation

For five Mondays in February and March renowned Buddhist teacher Sharon Salzberg will offer a course of meditation and conversation designed to help participants devote themselves to the principles of loving kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity. In the Buddhist tradition, four codes of conduct, or sublime states of mind, called the Brahma Viharas, heal the wounds of suffering

and restore our truest nature.

Participants in the course will be asked to practice the Viharas in their daily lives consciously and deliberately by volunteering in a shelter, visiting an ailing relative, working on an environmental project, or perhaps simply inviting a nosy neighbor to tea. As Salzberg says, “There are no greater understandings than those that help us to find love, community, and a meaningful life.”

The program is co-sponsored by the Cathedral College and the Insight Meditation Community of Washington. For more information call (202) 537-2221 or e-mail programs@cathedral.org.

Choral Society Director, J. Reilly Lewis, Joins 2005’s “Washingtonians of the Year”

Cathedral Choral Society Music Director J. Reilly Lewis has been named one of fifteen “Washingtonians of the Year 2005” by *Washingtonian* magazine for his ability to “make a difference” in Washington, D.C. Now celebrating his twentieth anniversary as music director of the Cathedral’s resident symphonic chorus, Dr. Lewis was cited for his musicianship and service to the community in bringing “world class music to the region, inspiring children, entertaining and educating adults and encouraging generations of promising musicians.”

“He could conduct and play anywhere,” said *Washingtonian*, but he has chosen instead to put down deep roots in the town in which he was raised. Washington National

Washington National Cathedral has shaped Reilly Lewis’s life since his days as a member of the Junior Boys Choir.

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It was in

Bethlehem Chapel that he received his first organ lessons from Richard Wayne Dirksen. After earning his doctorate at the Juilliard School, Lewis became the Society’s keyboard artist and was elected as the Society’s second music director in 1985. He often plays Cathedral Evensong organ recitals and appears as conductor and featured soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra in summer concerts at the Cathedral.

In 1977, Dr. Lewis founded the Washington Bach Consort, which today is recognized as a world-class ensemble and Washington’s premiere Baroque chorus and orchestra. This season marks the culmination of the Consort’s goal to perform all 215 cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach. Lewis has said he fully intends “to perform them all again.”

Friends and fans of Dr. Lewis from around the Close unanimously voiced their joy to learn of his well-deserved recognition, noting that his extraordinary contribution to the arts extends beyond Washington across the world. Over the past two decades, his leadership of the Cathedral Choral Society has drawn many thousands of listeners to Washington National Cathedral where they have been blessed to hear great sacred music performed to the highest standards in a great sacred space.

The Cathedral Choral Society’s next concert in the Cathedral will be on May 21, with a rare performance of Benjamin Britten’s *War Requiem*. Written for the reconstruction of Coventry Cathedral after World War II, the *War Requiem* is considered one of the twentieth century’s great musical compositions. As at the world premiere, the soloists for this performance will come from Great Britain, Russia, and Germany.

Earlier this year Dr. Lewis received the Conservatory Medal of Excellence from Shenandoah University during ceremonies at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Last April, Dr. Lewis was honored, together with the late Chief Justice of the United States William Rehnquist, by the University Club with its Distinguished Washingtonian Award in Literature and the Arts “in recognition of ... extraordinary leadership in bringing outstanding music to our community and his substantial contribution to enhancing the quality of the cultural life in Washington, D.C.”



Retail Operations Break Seasonal Records

The Cathedral Museum Store and Greenhouse reported record sales in excess of \$1.3 million for November and December of 2005. A mailing of more than 400,000 *Gifts of Spirit* catalogs to households across the country added to the increase.

Leading the list of popular items sold online during the holidays were the new Cathedral Advent Calendar (sold out entire run) and the new Creation Rose Umbrella. The widespread distribution of this year's catalogue drew the attention of many newspapers resulting in such items as garden stakes and sculptures, and Bishop's Blend coffee being featured as holiday gift ideas in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Washington Post*, *Columbus Dispatch*, and *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. Also high on the list of increased sales were books and CDs. "Expanding on the success of the 'Bishop's List' book recommendations featured in last year's catalog, we invited Cathedral College and music staff to make recom-

mendations for this year's catalog," said Erik Vochinsky, the general merchandise manager in the Museum Store. Recommendations also appeared on the retail portion of the Cathedral's website. "The response from our customers to this wider and deeper range of topics and points of view was encouraging, and we're looking forward to making this a regular part of *Gift of Spirit* offerings."

Of the 28 recommended titles from Bishop Chane and the Cathedral College staff, 5 were among the top 50 bestsellers. Topping the list with 96 copies sold was *Jesus & Buddha: the Parallel Sayings* recommended by Michael Wyatt and *Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life Together & Prayerbook of the Bible* (39 copies sold) recommended by Dean McDonald. Among CD recommendations *Carols from Trinity* recommended by Erik Wm. Suter sold 127 copies and *Rachmaninoff Vespers* recommended by Scott Hanoian sold 62 copies.

How Do You Like Us So Far?

This is the third issue of *Cathedral Voice*, and the feedback we have received so far has been positive and encouraging. But we remain 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
PublicAffairs@cathedral.org.**

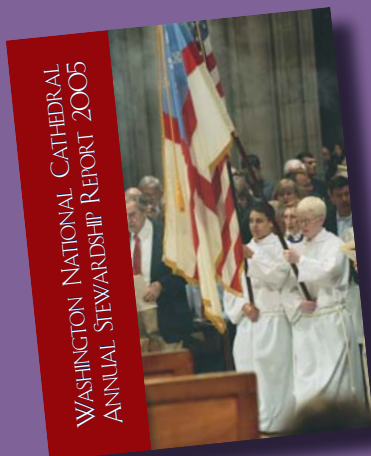
Don't Believe Everything You Hear

In the most recent issue of *Cathedral Voice* it was reported that the famous racehorse, Man of War, was the model for George Washington's mount in the statue on Pilgrim Road. With her characteristic style and grace, Luann Vaky of the Visitor Programs and Volunteer Services office penned a most cordial and gentle note to the editors praising the article but pointing out there are no Cathedral records affirming the statement, and that the myth probably grew from the fact that the artist Herbert Hazeltine, who created the Washington statue, had also sculpted statues of the famous horse.

Luann's note prompted inquiry into more of the myths and legends that have attached themselves to Cathedral lore. For instance, according to Luann, a recognized authority on these matters, Bishop Harding's dog is not buried

with him in Resurrection Chapel; the dog carved at his feet on his tomb is a symbol of faithfulness. Nor is it true that Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs are carved on the Cathedral, and the kneeling statue of Abraham Lincoln at the top of the Parclose Stairs was not rejected in the competition for the Lincoln Memorial. The hands of the heroic statue of Lincoln in the northwest corner of the nave do not use sign language to form an *A* and an *L*.

The glass in the west rose window does not contain a wedding ring, the Great Choir is not carved from the oak trees which stood in front of the Cathedral, and nowhere in the Cathedral are the ashes of a workman's wife mixed with the mortar. (Apparently such a story is told of virtually every European cathedral.)



The FY05
Annual Stewardship Report is being mailed soon! View it today at www.cathedral.org/cathedral/pdfs/arfy05.pdf

Luann Vaky Retires After Quarter-Century of Service

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. —Hebrews 13:2

Perhaps no quote from Scripture better typifies the extraordinary ministry of Luann Vaky at the Cathedral.

“A true gem” is how one long-term docent described Luann, whose many responsibilities over the years included leadership and oversight of the Cathedral’s docents and staff aides. “No one has ever been as considerate and hospitable

to all those who visit here as Luann. She truly loves the Cathedral and extends that to all who come through the doors.”

Luann first came to the Cathedral when her husband Pete, a career Foreign Service Officer, was assigned to Washington following service in Latin America.

(The Vaksy’s career took them to six foreign countries, three where Pete served as

America’s ambassador. He also served as assistant secretary for Inter-American Affairs at the State Department and worked on the National Security Council.)

“I came to the Cathedral to volunteer in the 1960s, but there were no docent spots available so I volunteered at the Herb Cottage and served as secretary there until 1972. I’ve been a docent, a staff aide, assistant manager of the Herb Cottage, and co-chair of the Needlepoint Committee. The secret to my longevity here is simply loving the place.”

It’s not the big events such as Queen Elizabeth’s visit, the setting of the final pinnacle nor the many funerals and memorials for America’s leaders that come to mind when Luann reminisces; rather it is the people with whom she has worked—staff, volunteers, and visitors alike. “The dean is so right when he calls the Cathedral a community of communities. Each of us comes here through a different portal, and I would never have met so many people from all across the spectrum had I not worked here. I particularly felt it important that I help interpret the Cathedral for people with a spiritual need ‘irregardlessly’ [one of Luann’s many Chicago-isms] who they are or where they’re from.”

Closest to Luann’s heart is her beloved corps of docents, whom she credits for their extraordinary dedication, patience, and flexibility. “So many of them could be doing something else with their time, yet they come here time and again to work an entire day without respite. They come from all faiths and backgrounds. I’m so proud of them.”



The Month in Review

Jan Karon:
“Wrestling with
and Writing from
the Heart”
December 6, 2005



Visit www.nationalcathedral.org/video/index.shtml

Christmas 2005:
Lessons and
Carols, Festival
Holy Eucharist,
and National
Telecast



Visit www.nationalcathedral.org/worship/sermons.shtml

Hibba Abugidieri,
Kathy Grieb, and
Nancy Fuchs
Kreimer:
“Spread Your
Cloak over Me”
January 11, 2006



Visit www.nationalcathedral.org/video/index.shtml

Arizona State Day
Sunday,
December 11, 2005
*Photography by
Lisa Helfert*



www.nationalcathedral.org/programs/arizona/1.shtml

Oklahoma State
Day
Sunday, January
22, 2005
*Photography by
Lisa Helfert*



www.nationalcathedral.org/programs/oklahmoao6/1.shtml



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Cathedral's DOCC Program Off and Running

The Cathedral's Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC) program under the direction of Dean Sam Lloyd and Canon Missioner William Barnwell is off and running with 130 participants from the Cathedral community and local parishes. Participants will continue to meet every Tuesday evening at the Cathedral until May for a program of education and discussion designed to deepen participants' spiritual lives and to assist in developing personal ministries within the church and beyond. The evenings begin with a teaching by Dean Lloyd or Canon Barnwell, followed by an hour of discussion in smaller groups dispersed to chapels and meeting and conference rooms throughout the Cathedral.

Cathedral Calendar & Events coordinator Ellen Spencer assists with logistics for the weekly meetings and also serves as a small group facilitator. "DOCC is truly a community building exercise for us. In many ways it fills a need for those who are self-identified Cathedral parishioners but have never felt a sense of community here. This is a hole we're definitely trying to fill. This is connection building on so many levels." Cathedral Administration & Budget

Assistant Kory Burkley, relatively new to the Washington area and not yet affiliated with a local parish, says he finds DOCC to be a wonderful opportunity for "reasonable people to discuss faith," noting too that participation in DOCC is giving him "a greater appreciation of building a community within a community."

Current plans call for a second DOCC program to begin in the fall of 2006.

Dean Convenes 'Pilot Group' To Steer Strategic Planning

Dean Lloyd has established a staff advisory group to assist him focus on broader Cathedral policy matters. The group, informally known as the Pilot Group, is designed to help the dean 'pilot' or guide the way forward as he leads the Cathedral on a new strategic path. Initial members of the group include the warden of the Cathedral College and the canons for liturgy and pastoral ministry as well as the canon missioner. Lay members of the group include the provost, the senior director of membership and development, and the director of Visitor Programs and Volunteer Services. The group meets every other Wednesday.