

Cathedral Voice

A monthly newsletter from Washington National Cathedral

JUNE 2006

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

The Heart of the Matter

An Invitation to DOCC

"I've been an Episcopalian all my life, but it's never seemed all that important to me. What could really make Christianity seem exciting and compelling for me?"

"From everything I hear about Christians these days, I'm not sure if that's a group I really want to be a part of."

"God, resurrection, salvation, peace, forgiveness, healing, Jesus the Savior—it's all very confusing. Some of it seems hard to understand or believe, some of it sounds appealing but hard to find for myself. Is there something in this for me?"

"Can Christian faith actually change the quality of my life? Is it possible to live a saner, wiser, richer life?"

Every time a congregation gathers for worship at the Cathedral I can sense the questioning going on in people's minds and hearts. Many bring into the Cathedral profound questions about what being a Christian actually means, and whether Christian faith can be more for them than cultural traditions. They wouldn't be there without something tugging at them—the pull of family and heritage, the attraction of a beautiful space and glorious music, a curiosity about the



muddles of life: Why are we here? Why is the world in the mess it's in? What can I do about it? How do I make a good life for me and those I love?

And my guess is that those of us who count ourselves Christians bring similar questions. Just how can my faith change the quality of my days, deepen my relationships, affect what's happening in the world around me, or help me to see why I'm on this earth?

Sometimes I think of encountering Christian faith to be

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Cathedral Vicar Appointed

The Rev. Stephen Huber has accepted the call to be Vicar of Washington National Cathedral. Dean Sam Lloyd made the announcement recently noting that Steve will bring with him "significant experience in leading a large staff, along with a warm and gracious presence, and a great love for the Cathedral and commitment to its mission."

Steve has served St. Columba's Parish in various positions since 2000; most recently as Priest-in-Charge. He began his career as a theology teacher in private secondary schools. His lifelong interest in social justice led to a decade of fundraising

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Cathedral Ministries Spread

The Cathedral recently joined the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), a multi-ethnic, interfaith, non-partisan politically active grassroots organization, consisting of nearly 50 member congregations, schools, union locals and other organizations working to improve life in the District of Columbia. St. John's Lafayette Square, St Alban's and St. Columba's are all active members in the coalition.

WIN's stated mission is to improve the quality of life for all of the District's residents through grassroots political action in the areas of affordable housing, neighborhood safety, public schools, youth, decent jobs (and a living wage), immigration, and a vote for DC residents in Congress. Of particular concern to WIN member organizations is the betterment of low-income citizens and those living in neglected areas of the city. High on the WIN agenda for 2006 is its

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a little like entering a great cathedral. Cathedrals have many doorways, and each introduces the visitor to a different perspective, a different sense of what the whole looks like. If your first visit to Washington Cathedral begins in the Way of Peace entrance on the south side, taking you to the lower level and past Bethlehem Chapel, the Cathedral can seem to be rabbit's warren of dark passageways and quiet chapels. But if you enter first from the west end, you're overwhelmed by the grandeur and immensity of the Cathedral. Climbing the south steps to enter and turning into the children's chapel on the right, suggests the Cathedral as a place of intimate gatherings.

Our Christian faith too is often shaped by the door through which we entered. Did you come in through the small, demanding door of fundamentalism, or the intimacy of a small church, or through a vast sense of God's presence in the world, or by focusing on the cross of Christ? Maybe the coffee pot marked your entrance as you discovered a group of friends, or a meeting room where some parishioners were planning to build a Habitat house.

However you entered, at some point you may wonder how all the parts fit together. What is the undergirding harmony beneath all the nooks and crannies of Christian faith and Christian life? What is the heart of the matter?

Through the past winter and spring Canon William Barnwell and I offered a program called DOCC for the first time. The name stands for "Disciples of Christ in Community," and it is the most effective exploration of the heart of Christianity I know. The program involves two hours per

week for 18 weeks, the first part of each session is a presentation and the second a small group discussion.

Each week we seek to lead participants a step deeper into the heart of Christian faith until we arrive at the center of it all—the difference that Christ can make in the depth and quality of our lives and in the future of our world. And each week participants explore in the small groups just what this can mean for their particular lives.

We enrolled a maximum number the first time around, some 130, and the evaluations were enthusiastic. Participants came from several parishes as well as from the Cathedral community. The next course will begin on September 19 and will end January 16. DOCC calls for a major time commitment, but important things take time, and probing the heart of the Christian faith has to be one of the most urgent.

So if you've ever found yourself wondering about this whole Christianity thing, if you've been asking searching questions even in the back of your mind, if you've

been wondering if your faith really could matter, I hope you'll consider making the DOCC journey. I can promise you a fresh encounter with Christian faith, a goodly company of fellow explorers, and the possibility, to use C.S. Lewis's words, of being surprised by joy.

For additional information on DOCC or how to enroll, see page 6.



Dean Samuel T. Lloyd III

**“Just how can my faith
change the quality of my
days, deepen my relationships,
affect what’s happening in the world around me,
or help me to see why I’m on
this earth?”**

Come and Sing!

Auditions held soon for a volunteer choir to lead worship on Sunday at 9 am

“Cathedral Voices,” a new mixed-voice choir, will offer adults the opportunity to participate in the growing musical ministry of Washington National Cathedral. Members of the “Voices” will learn music spanning a wide variety of styles and cultures. Informal auditions for the choir are scheduled for Tuesday, June 27 and Thursday June 29 from 7

to 9 PM. The choir will sing at the 9 AM Sunday Eucharistic service beginning in September. Rehearsals will be held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 PM and from 8 to 9 AM on Sunday mornings. For more information or to schedule an audition, please e-mail MusicOffice@cathedral.org or call (202) 537-6216.

Coming Up

Cathedral College Presents Barbara Brown Taylor: *Leaving Church*

After 15 years, longtime Episcopal priest and gifted writer Barbara Brown Taylor traded her church for a college classroom. On Wednesday, June 7 at 7:30 PM, hear the personal story of her journey as mirrored in her shift from being a writer of sermons to a chronicler of her private struggle to discern God's call.

Known for the penetrating imagery, honesty and scholarship of her sermons, Taylor said in a recent interview with Calvin College, "To me, effective preaching is about effective living. If you are not living a life that matters, you cannot preach a sermon that matters. God has always chosen people to work through them...the Holy Spirit has decided to use me, and I can either help or hurt that."

Her new book, *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith*, is a deeply personal portrait of Taylor's journey through ambiguity and loss to the discovery of her true vocation.

"To hear her preach or speak is a gift not to be ignored," says the Rev. Canon Howard Anderson, warden of the Cathedral College. "Barbara Brown Taylor is, for me, America's most eloquent preaching voice. I always come away from time with her words and thoughts feeling enlivened, encouraged, and emboldened to live out the Good News in my life."

Following the lecture, Barbara Brown Taylor will sign copies of her new book *Leaving Church*, which you can purchase at the event or through our Museum Store. To buy tickets, go to www.nationalcathedral.org/register or purchase at the door. Tickets are \$15 regular, \$13 NCA members, \$8 student/senior/limited income.



Cathedral Conservator Honored

Cathedral Conservator, the Rev. John A. Runkle, RA, has been honored with corresponding membership in the Cathedral Architects Association. This is an association in the United Kingdom comprising architects who are appointed to care for Anglican cathedrals. It provides mutual support of its members who share unique responsibilities, offering a forum to promote the highest standards and acting as a voice to the larger community. Although it is not unusual for an American to be invited to join the association, membership for an architect from outside the UK is testimony to John's professional skill, background and esteem held throughout the worldwide community of cathedrals.

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and development work for national advocacy organizations in Boston and Washington. Called to ordained ministry, he graduated from Yale Divinity School and was ordained in 1998. Before coming to St. Columba's, he served as development director for Berkeley Divinity School at Yale and as priest-in-charge of St. George's Parish in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

As Vicar Steve will be the Cathedral's executive officer, responsible for the implementation of our programs and ministries and for the integration of the many facets of the Cathedral staff's work. He will also be responsible, with our pastoral staff, for the development of the new Cathedral community. He will join the staff in mid-July.



Mother of God Concert

On Saturday, June 17, the Cathedral Choir of Men and Girls will present a program of devotional works focusing on the life of the Virgin Mary. *Mother of God* combines the poetry of Rainer Maria Rilke with motets by Tomás Luis de Victoria and Andrew Smith. Director of Music Michael McCarthy explains how the program came into being: "In 2004, we presented Andrew Smith's work as part of a Trio Medieval concert. Andrew's style of writing complemented polyphonic choral writing, so we sought to incorporate his pieces into a larger program." McCarthy paired Smith's modern music with Victoria's sixteenth-century Spanish motets; Rilke's poem cycle, *The Life of Mary*, became the structure on which to hang the music.

"Rilke's poetry is the voice of a tormented soul, providing an interesting perspective on the Virgin Mary and her life. Rilke places Mary in a twentieth-century context: we see her as a complete person, not just as the mother of Jesus." The poetry is full of rich imagery, imbuing the Virgin's story with the sounds, fears and feelings of Mary and those closest to her. "Each poem could be a bead of the rosary for which the music is a commentary," adds McCarthy.

Enhancing the beauty of the program is its intimate setting in the Great Choir. The concert will be held on June 17 at 7:30 PM. Tickets (\$10-\$40) are available at www.music.cathedral.org or by calling (202) 537-5757.



Cathedral Leaders Departing

It is with genuine regret that the Cathedral will soon say farewell to a number of key staff members.

Provost and Chief Operating Officer Tina Mead is departing after six years as the principal executive overseeing the operation of the Cathedral's programmatic and pastoral ministries as well as all business related functions.

In a message to the staff announcing Tina's departure Dean Sam Lloyd noted Tina's remarkable role as a manager and leader. "She has overseen the full range of the Cathedral's ministries," he said, "from our programmatic life, to budget and finance, to retail, to development. She has also been an essential presence on Cathedral Chapter and the Finance Committee, and has been the Cathedral staff's liaison with the Foundation. She has been the right-hand person for two deans, an interim dean, and a vicar, offering wise counsel, advice, and historical perspective. I will miss her deep commitment to the Cathedral and all the ways she has supported me in my first year as dean." Tina will continue her work on the Close until the end of July.



Also departing the staff is Senior Director for Membership and Development, Ray Foote. Ray came to the Cathedral in February 2000 as director of the National Cathedral Association (NCA) and assumed his present duties when the NCA and Cathedral development operations were combined in the spring of 2002. In Ray's departure announcement Dean Lloyd said, "Ray has been a tireless enthusiast and advocate for the Ca-



thedral. He began his time with us as director of the NCA and worked vigorously to build its local leadership across the country. And in becoming senior director for membership and development, he has led a large department in obtaining the major gifts, annual funds, planned gifts and capital gifts needed for the Cathedral to carry on its many ministries." Ray has accepted the post as vice president for development for the National Parks Conservation Association. He departs at the end of June.

The Rev. Dr. Jean Milliken has also recently left the Cathedral staff in order to pursue additional training in healing ministries. Jean is a fellow of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors with particular skills in pastoral psychotherapy, a skill instrumental in her success here over the past four years as canon for pastoral ministries. With her new healing ministry Jean intends to work with people holistically, integrating body, mind and spirit. All in the Cathedral community wish our colleagues the very best in their new endeavors.



District Day Celebration Slated for June 25

Join the Cathedral community on Sunday, June 25th at 11:00 am for a Eucharistic service of prayer and thanksgiving in celebration of District of Columbia Day. The mayor, the mayor's cabinet, DC Council, city officials and administrators and all DC residents have been invited to join in this special service of worship. The guest preacher will be the Reverend Ronald E. Braxton, Pastor of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. Councilmember Kathleen Patterson will read the day's scripture lesson. The Cathedral Scholars, representing District Public High Schools will also participate in the service, and, as in years past, the Cathedral will present monetary grants to organizations working with the youth of our city. This year's recipients will be the New Community After School and Advocacy Program, Martha's Table, St. Philip the Evangelist Summer Youth Program, and Communities In Schools of the Nations Capital. For more information about DC Day please contact Ruby Robertson at (202) 537-6206 or email rrobertson@cathedral.org.

The Month in Review

Author and bishop N.T. Wright spoke on "Simply Christian" on May 16 as part of the Cathedral College's spring programs.



www.nationalcathedral.org/video/index.shtml

More than 100 volunteers were honored May 14 for long-term service to the Cathedral. Longest serving honored was Tom Leedy, who has more than 45 years of service.



Cathedral Publications Honored

Both *Cathedral Voice* and *Cathedral Age* were recently recognized by the Episcopal Communicators Council (ECC) and the Associated Church Press (ACP) for excellence in publishing. Overall the Cathedral received eleven prestigious Polly Bond Awards presented by the ECC and four “Best of the Christian Press” awards from the ACP, including a third place finish for Best in Class for *Cathedral Age* among magazines published nationally. In this category the Cathedral is competing with such publications as *Sojourners*, *The Christian Century*, and *U.S. Catholic*.

Cathedral publications were recognized in virtually every category, including writing, editing, interviewing, layout and design, and photography as well as video production. *Cathedral Voice*, received two awards including the Award of Excellence for graphic design in the newsletter category. ECC also recognized the Diocesan communications office and *Washington Window* with a number of awards particularly for the quality of their writing.

Who Knew?

Cathedral Voice recently received an e-mail from a pilgrim planning a visit asking if he would find a traditional carving of a “green man” somewhere in the Cathedral. We’ve answered hundreds of questions over the years. “How many chapels are there?” “Do all the altars face east?” “Why are there so many crosses, but so few crucifixes?”

But a question about the “green man” had never crossed the desk. Whenever faced with such questions, the first stop is almost always Cathedral Archives (along with a hope that it’s a day Dr. Richard Hewlett, Diane Ney and the extraordinary team of volunteers are on duty) where there’ll most likely be an answer and a detailed explanation as well. In this case the answer came forth within minutes. Diane appeared with a sheaf of papers detailing the ancient history of the green man, complete with photos and drawings, a bibliography, and even an ancient riddle and a musical score.

Seems that many churches display a human head within a mass of leaves somewhere in the carvings. In some cases the leaves appear to grow out of the head, in others the head can be seen within the carvings of the leaves themselves.



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“Vote Neighborhoods First” voter registration campaign for the District’s 2006 elections, as well as programs to generate \$1 billion dollars in new investments in neighborhoods, affordable housing and youth facilities and programs. In 2005 WIN’s “Neighborhoods First” Campaign resulted in \$50 million in dedicated funding for neighborhoods to balance the District government’s focus on downtown development.

For more information on WIN go to www.windc-iaf.org or contact Canon Missioner William Barnwell at wbarnwell@cathedral.org.

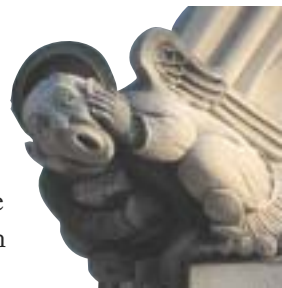
Pass Voice Along

Please keep your comments and suggestions coming, and help us increase our circulation. Pass your copy of *Cathedral Voice* along to a friend and encourage them to subscribe at PublicAffairs@cathedral.org.

Although the green man design appeared in Europe as early as the second century, it doesn’t find its way into Christian places of worship until the sixth century. (Bishop Nicetius incorporated carvings from a nearby Roman ruin into two pillars in Trier.) Scholars believe it is most likely the green man (symbolic of the cycle of nature) was one of many pagan images adopted by the early Church, such as yew trees, candles and bells. In Britain the green man is also associated with myth and legend. There’s the story of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight within the Arthurian legend, and of course, the tale of the green man of Sherwood Forest, Robin Hood.

Oh, and by the way, we have two! Carved into the wood of the tracery, they peer down on all who pass through the portal from the south transept into War Memorial Chapel.

Who Knew?



Cathedral Voice gratefully acknowledges the Mayo Charitable Foundation for the generous gift that makes possible our publication.

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



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A monthly newsletter from Washington National Cathedral

A National House of Prayer for All People
Massachusetts and Wisconsin Avenues, NW
Washington, DC 20016-5098

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Second DOCC Course to Begin in September

Dean Sam Lloyd and Canon Missioner William Barnwell will again offer the popular course “Disciples of Christ in Community” (DOCC) beginning September 19, 2006.

DOCC is an 18-week exploration of the heart of Christian faith. Earlier this year, Dean Lloyd and Canon Barnwell led 130 people through this course of study, and the Cathedral was recently appointed as national sponsor of the DOCC program. More than 22,000 people have completed the DOCC program since 1989.

The class provides participants an encounter with Christian faith, both in its central teachings and in the experience of Christian community, through the small group interaction. The hope is that the people who take this course will learn for themselves the difference Christian faith can make in the quality of their lives and the living of their days.

DOCC will meet every Tuesday evening between September 19, 2006 and January 16, 2007 (with the exception of December 26 and January 2) and one Saturday (September 30, 8:30 AM–4 PM). Each week Dean Lloyd, the principal presenter, will speak for approximately 45 minutes on the fundamental teachings of the Christian faith. His presentation will be followed by an hour-long conversation in small groups to conclude promptly at 9 PM. The groups will stay

together for the entire course. An optional supper will be served at 6 PM.

To enroll, contact Sheri Jackson at sjackson@cathedral.org or (202) 537-6222. The course will fill quickly; act soon if you'd like to attend. Potential participants who know that they will have to miss more than two sessions should wait to take the course in another session. For more information, please contact Canon William Barnwell at (202) 537-5522.

Podcasting of Cathedral Sermons Gaining in Popularity

For many years sermons posted on the Cathedral's website in both audio and written formats have been among the most popular features. Earlier this year the site began posting video versions of Sunday sermons, also with great success. MP3 or “podcast” versions of sermons on the web are the latest addition, and website visitors are downloading sermons in increasing numbers. Since podcasts were made available in March listeners have made more than 1,500 downloads. To download sermons directly from the Cathedral website, go to www.cathedral.org/cathedral/mp3s/.