

Cathedral Voice

A monthly newsletter from Washington National Cathedral

JULY/AUGUST 2006

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

By Schisms Rent Asunder?

By now I suspect that everyone reading this knows that momentous events have been taking place in the life of the Episcopal Church over the past month, and that the future shape of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion is now in question.

In June I briefly visited the Episcopal Church's General Convention in Columbus, Ohio, our triennial decision-making gathering that brings together some 10,000 Episcopalians for what has been described as a cross between a family reunion, a county fair, and a session of Congress. Even in my brief time there I could sense the intensity of the moment as the bishops prepared to choose a new Presiding Bishop and the Convention as a whole faced the growing rift between the Episcopal Church and the rest of the Anglican Communion.

There were two major events at the Columbus Convention. The first was the election of the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, currently Bishop of Nevada, to be the next Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Her election took the Convention by surprise as the House of Bishops turned to a bishop from a small diocese in the West, a Ph.D. oceanographer and private pilot, to be our leader. Our Presiding Bishop-elect comes across as wise, prayerful, and strong. She deserves our prayers and best wishes as she leads us in this difficult time.

Then in the final hours, at the request of Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, the Convention passed a resolution to respond to the crisis in the Anglican Communion. The consecration of Bishop Gene Robinson in New Hampshire three years ago has strained the ties that bind the Anglican Communion to the limit. The resolution promised that in order to allow for a time of healing and reconciliation, the

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Margaret Bergan Davis To Head Cathedral Advancement

Dean Sam Lloyd has appointed Margaret Bergan Davis as Associate Dean for Cathedral Advancement, a newly formed position overseeing three areas of operations--membership and development, public affairs and marketing.



An NCS parent with close ties to the Cathedral and the Close, Ms. Bergan Davis will oversee the Cathedral's strategic direction for advancement, foster new partnerships to further the Cathedral's mission and manage communication of the Cathedral's vision to external audiences.

In making the announcement Dean Sam Lloyd referred to Ms. Bergan Davis' noted success managing advancement teams, capital campaigns, major gifts programs and annual fundraising in her more than 20 years of working with major non-profit institutions. She is known for her hands-on approach, personal responsiveness and creativity, and her impressive leadership and strong consensus-building abilities. The Cathedral is exceptionally fortunate to be welcoming Margaret to the staff.

Most recently, Ms. Bergan Davis was Vice President and Director of the Washington, D.C. office of Campbell and Company, a national consulting firm to non-profit organizations. She is a graduate of Milton Academy and Mount Holyoke College. She will assume her Cathedral position August 1, 2006.

Inside this issue

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See You in September

Cathedral Voice will take a summer break. Watch for the next issue in September.

From the Dean, continued from page 1, column A
Episcopal Church would restrain from consecrating any bishops whose “manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on the communion.” It was a dramatic, eleventh-hour attempt to extend an olive branch to the rest of the Communion.

And then, to everyone’s surprise, a few days later Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, issued a “Reflection” suggesting that the thirty-eight regional churches in the Communion might be invited to agree to a “covenant” articulating a common faith. Those who could not agree to the covenant would be given non-voting status in the Communion as “associates.” And he also suggested that even within regional churches individual dioceses and congregations could choose which of the two groups with which to affiliate.

All this has left our Episcopal Church and our Communion at a tenuous moment. Six Episcopal dioceses have announced they are seeking oversight from some other leader than our own Presiding Bishop, and more such actions could be in the offing. In the midst of all this I want to offer three brief thoughts.

The first is to say that while the divisions we face are serious, and could lead to the breaking apart of significant portions of the Church and the Communion, there is no cause for despair. The church through the ages has lived through many crises—from the conflict at the Council of Jerusalem in the Acts of the Apostles, to the divisions in the churches across Europe during the Reformation, to the recent major struggles over Civil Rights, the role of women in the church’s life, and the development of a new Prayer Book over the last few decades. For all the struggle of these times, the gospel of Christ has not been defeated, but has continued to be proclaimed and lived. It’s good to remember that God can work even with small and broken groups and people—like that first group of disciples—to accomplish remarkable, sometimes miraculous things.

Second, the church’s work will always be what St. Paul called “the ministry of reconciliation,” breaking down divisions and healing animosities. And that work has to start at

home, within our own church and communion family. That means we cannot write off those with whom we disagree on the subject of sexuality. The church cannot write off its gay and lesbian members who are seeking full participation in the life of the church, and this Cathedral is committed to their full involvement in our life. Nor can it write off its members who believe that acting as we are now is a violation of biblical teaching. We have to stay with each other,

listen and learn, and see Christ in one another.

And finally, we cannot let this conflict distract us from our mission to serve God’s world. We have a gospel to proclaim and a suffering world to serve. I believe the devil loves church battles because they so effectively distract us from the hopeful, life-giving work to which we are called.

In these divisive times I keep thinking of the words of one of our great hymns, which begins, “The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord” (#525). It was written in the late 19th century when the church in England was facing another time of deep conflict. Here is one stanza:

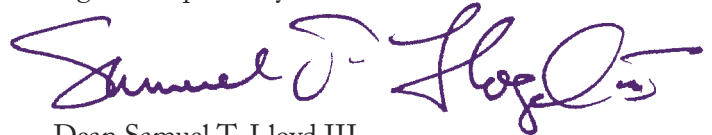
*Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder by heresies distressed.*

*Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*

Christ will see us through as we stay close to him and to each other.

Frankly, none of us knows what new shape our church and communion will take. At least for now it all looks like a house dividing. But the outcome for us Christians is irrelevant. The question is our faithfulness.

We have been given important work to do in these times—as a voice of generous-spirited Christianity, a place of reconciliation, a people serving a broken world. That’s enough to keep us busy. The rest is in God’s hands.



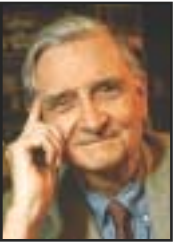
Dean Samuel T. Lloyd III

“The church’s work will always be ... ‘the ministry of reconciliation,’ breaking down divisions and healing animosities.”

Summer Hours until Labor Day

The Cathedral’s nave level will extend its hours to visitors and worshippers throughout the summer. The nave will remain open between the service of Evening Prayer which begins at 5:30 PM and the service of Compline which begins at 7:45 PM. Evening services are usually held in War Memorial Chapel. Guided tours are not offered during evening hours, but self-touring brochures are available on the information table and volunteers are on hand to answer questions.

Naturalist E.O. Wilson to Kick Off Cathedral College Fall Programs



The Cathedral College's fall slate of programs and lectures kicks off September 20 with a lecture by renowned scientist and author E. O. Wilson (pictured) speaking on "Saving Creation." Wilson has recently called on the religious community to take a more involved role in environmentalism and biodiversity.

September 27 will feature Senator John Danforth's presentation on finding common ground in politics as a person of faith, and the ladies of "The Faith Club" (Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner) will share their interfaith conversations on October 11. On November 14 Isabel Allende will address female archetypes and women's leadership. Larry Dossey will speak on mind/body healing on December 1.

Four courses also fill the College calendar this fall. First among the courses will be "Healing as Holy Practice" with Ann Brower scheduled each Saturday from September 16 through October 7. On Mondays, September 18 through October 16 Zainab Alwani and Canon Michael Wyatt will present "The Five Pillars of Islam," followed by Canon John Peterson's "The Episcopal Church from a Global Perspective" also on Mondays October 23 through November 13. Bill Ryon and Canon Eugene Sutton will round out the year's courses with "The Theology and Liturgy of the Eucharist" on Tuesdays November 14-28.

Online registration for these programs will begin mid-August. Call (202) 537-2221 for more information.

Who Knew?

Etched in Stone

Recently the wife of a contractor who had assisted with the construction of the west towers inquired if her husband's visage had been carved into the Cathedral's exterior as had once been suggested by a carver. To her disappointment it had not, but the inquiry raised the question of how many faces and images of people involved in the Cathedral's life are woven into the fabric. There are many, and one in particular underscores the panoply of people, pastimes, and professions that have made their way onto the Cathedral.

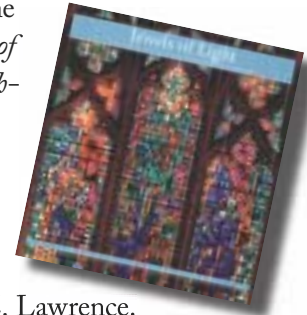
It was common for the Cathedral's carvers to personalize their work, often integrating their friends and loved ones and their personal characteristics into a carving. Carvers Roger Morigi and Vincent Palumbo worked closely for several years with Marjorie Hunt, a folklorist with the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, on

July/August 2006

Cathedral Helps Celebrate American Originals

This summer museums, theaters, attractions, restaurants, and hotels throughout the Capital region are celebrating American Originals, all things uniquely American and uniquely Washington. Tourists and residents alike will have countless opportunities to discover all-American treasures, from the newly opened Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery to the Charters of Freedom at the National Archives. Included are two Cathedral lectures focused on our unique art and architecture.

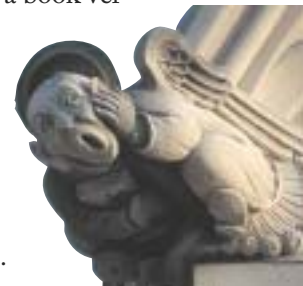
On Wednesday, July 12, at 7 PM, Diane Ney and Elody Crimi, authors of *Jewels of Light: A Guide to the Stained Glass of Washington National Cathedral*, will present a slide lecture on the Cathedral's brilliant stained glass windows, focusing on the work of American stained glass artists such as Rowan LeCompte, Brenda Belfield, Lawrence Saint, and Charles Z. Lawrence. A tour of the windows follows.



Renowned architectural photographer Robert Lautman will lead a slide discussion on photographing iconic American buildings, focusing on his extensive work at Washington National Cathedral. Lautman has photographed the works of many of the world's most esteemed architects including Louis I. Kahn, I.M. Pei, Michael Graves, and Thomas Jefferson. His work has appeared in scores of publications such as *Architectural Digest*, *Elle Décor*, *House Beautiful*, and *Cathedral Age*. His lecture will be Saturday, August 12, at 2 PM. Both lectures are free.

the production of a documentary film about their lives and work. The film, *The Stone Carvers*, won an Academy Award in 1985, and eventually Marjorie published a book version of the film. She recounts the story:

A few years after we were awarded the Oscar, Vincent (Palumbo) and his crew began to carve the hundreds of angel gable termination stones that surround eight large pinnacles on the west towers. Originally each angel was to hold a musical instrument... Vincent said, "I've got the idea, why does every angel have to carry a musical instrument? Let's put one different. Let's carve the Oscar." Working from a model by sculptor Jay Carpenter, he crafted an angel that bears my likeness, clutching an Oscar in her arms. Thus I too have become part of the creative process, incorporated into the carvers' stone compendium of experience.



Who Knew?



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The Cathedral Goes to Columbus

The Cathedral sponsored an exhibit at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church held in Columbus, Ohio, June 11–21. Staff and volunteers welcomed many of the thousands of people attending and working at the church's triennial gathering, answering questions, promoting the Cathedral and Cathedral College, and selling products from the Museum Store. "The General Convention always offers a great opportunity to greet old friends, make new ones, and display and discuss what's new at the Cathedral and the College," said Greg Rixon, Cathedral public affairs director.



"This year Shelagh Casey Brown (Cathedral College associate warden) and I worked hard to integrate what in the past had been two separate booths. We also worked closely with Pete Bernal and others in the Museum Store to display the merchandise that would most appeal to the conventioners and their families. Pete calls it 'Episcopaliana.'" Sales

were much higher than expected, exceeding \$7,500.

This year's 400-square-foot exhibit featured imagery of the Cathedral on one end and the College on the other with a merchandise display in the center. Visitors could pick up literature about all the Cathedral and Cathedral College's offerings, watch videos online, browse the merchandise, or just stop and visit. Marsha Mueller, NCA representative from Southern Ohio, organized regional volunteers from the National Cathedral Association to assist in staffing the exhibit.

Spaces Available for DOCC Course

Registration is still open for the fall "Disciples of Christ in Community" (DOCC) course. The 18-week course begins September 19, 2006.

DOCC 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, (except Dec. 26 and Jan. 2) and one Saturday (Sept. 30) from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. To enroll, contact Sheri Jackson at sjackson@cathedral.org or (202) 537-6222.