

Cathedral Voice

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006

A monthly newsletter from Washington National Cathedral

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

Our Overwhelmings

After the quiet of late summer in Washington it's a little jarring to see the traffic picking up, college students pouring back into town, school children chasing a soccer ball across a field, and in general to sense the pulse quickening. If we're lucky, at some point in the summer we had a chance to taste the sheer goodness of being alive—whether it was sitting on a back porch or climbing a mountain or hitting a ball or getting together with old friends. But then August became September, and now for many of us the demands of work, schools, and congested calendars press in, the adrenalin has started pumping, and that old feeling begins to stalk through the back of our minds—of being overwhelmed.

In a fine book called *The Shape of Living*, David Ford suggests that “overwhelmed” characterizes a great deal of our lives—the busyness, the rush, the deluge of cell phones and emails, the demands of work, the needs at home, the concerns for children, the worries about the state of the world. Some overwhelmings come as unexpected blows—the job lay-off, the bad news from the doctor, the loneliness when a relationship ends. But then there are the good overwhelmings—the peace of a beach sunset, the delight of grandchildren, the excitement of a new venture such as going to college or moving to Washington.

In early August I found myself by a mountain lake 12,000 feet up in the Rockies, talking with a friend about some of the complex pieces of our lives, while sensing God's presence amid the craggy peaks and azure evening sky. And I couldn't help but wonder, how can the peace of this place and this moment relate to the multiple demands of life back down the mountain?

The key, as David Ford puts it, is to “attend to the shape of living.” The answer to our overwhelmings isn't for us to

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Cathedral Guests Hear Former Iranian President

Nearly 1,300 invited guests attended a Cathedral address by former Iranian president Mohammed Khatami Thursday evening, September 7. Khatami's presentation at the Cathedral, as well as four other venues around the country, was considered controversial by many and was met with expressions of outrage and concern along with statements of support of the Cathedral for hosting such a high-profile event. Across Wisconsin Avenue a crowd of more than 200 loudly protested Khatami's visit throughout his time on the Close.

In an hour-long address characterized in media reports as “scholarly and theological,” Khatami made a plea for greater dialogue among cultures, and urged both Eastern and Western cultures to “rescue life from the claws of warmongers and violence-seekers.” He called Jesus the prophet of kindness and peace; Mohammed the prophet of ethics, morality and grace; and Moses the prophet of dialogue and exchange.

In his remarks introducing President Khatami, Dean



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tackle them one by one and wrestle them to the ground. We are no match for what is coming at us. What we need is to shape our lives from the inside out, in ways that can allow us to move through our days with balance and grace in the midst of all the pressures.

We need to find a way of living amid the overwhelms that keeps us in touch with the overwhelming truth of our lives—that we are called into being by a God of love, and that Christ is our companion and guide in the midst of all that we face.

I have found that starting my morning with a time of silence, Scripture, and prayer grounds me in a wisdom and peace that strengthens me for the day's demands. Every morning here at the Cathedral worshippers gather for the 7:30 Eucharist, and a little later, at 9, clergy and other staff meet for Morning Prayer, as simple steps towards shaping lives that are sane and whole.

Prayer is a first step. Shaping a healthy life includes rest and play, friends and family, refreshment for the body and study for the mind. Christian faith itself is built on a set of practices that form us in gracious faithful ways—friendship and community, honoring the Sabbath, sharing what we have, practicing forgiveness, caring for our bodies, and nurturing our minds. Practicing these can equip us to withstand the deluge.

The pace of life at the Cathedral has already quickened. By the time you read this we will be running again at full speed, including having hosted an important address by the former president of Iran, Mohammed Khatami. We will have focused in late August on remembering the

overwhelming of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast a year ago by Katrina, and then in early September we will have marked the fifth anniversary of 9/11. Our work of prayer and reconciliation, Christian formation and ministry, will be well underway, and our efforts to offer a generous-spirited Christianity to this city and nation and to minister to a world riddled with divisions and human suffering will be launched again.

Amid these overwhelms, too, we at the Cathedral will depend on the shape of our living. Here it is the many communities of volunteers and staff, and our emerging Cathedral worshipping community, that give us the companionship and support to carry out our work. And here it is the daily and weekly rounds of prayer that will keep us grounded and strengthened for the months ahead.

So welcome to the fall! A full, demanding year awaits us. But God has given us rich resources to maintain our balance in these practices of Christian faith. We will be living and teaching these practices every chance we get—in DOCC classes, in offerings in the Cathedral College, in lectures and labyrinths and other events in the nave, and more. In all these we'll find signposts through our overwhelms.

The Very Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III

“We need to find a way of living amid the overwhelms that keeps us in touch with the overwhelming truth of our lives.”

Cathedral Canon Brings Global Perspective to the Episcopal Church

The Rev. John L. Peterson is the Cathedral's first canon for global justice and reconciliation. In this role he is charged with organizing a program of education, alliance building, resource gathering and communication to address the acute global issues of violence, poverty and disease. Prior to bringing his ministry to the Cathedral College, Canon Peterson served as secretary general of the Anglican Communion.

Beginning October 23 and for three Mondays thereafter, Canon Peterson will address the issues facing the Episcopal Church from a global perspective. He will explore how different resolutions adopted at the recent 75th General Convention in Columbus, Ohio, will impact the world and

the church family. The General Convention's response to the Windsor Report is one issue that will not only impact the Anglican Communion, but other ecumenical and interfaith bodies as well. Canon Peterson will also provide insight into the challenges and implications facing the new Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori, as she takes her place in the Anglican Primates Meeting following her installation as Presiding Bishop here at the Cathedral November 4.



Sam Lloyd emphasized that the evening's event was part of the Cathedral's ongoing ministry of reconciliation, a ministry that "requires us to engage in conversations with nations, faiths, and individuals with whom we may have significant disagreements." He stressed that reconciliation requires respectful hearing of people whose words and actions sometimes disturb and trouble us.

The invitation for Khatami to speak at the Cathedral was initiated by the Cathedral College's Center for Global Justice and Reconciliation. Originally the evening's event was to be open to the public, but both security concerns and an overwhelming demand for access necessitated attendance by invitation only.

You'll find a full reading of President Khatami's address, along with the comments of Dean Samuel T. Lloyd III and Bishop John Bryson Chane online at www.national-cathedral.org.



Coming Up

Canon Missioner to Begin New Course On the Transforming Literature of the Bible

Canon Missioner William Barnwell, a former professor of English, is soon to lead a course he developed on the great stories and events of scripture and how those stories can transform our lives and the lives of our churches. Class participants will read selected passages of scripture accompanied by appropriate commentaries and then come to a weekly seminar first to reflect on the content and then to relate the passages to contemporary life. This fall the course will focus on the Old Testament, and in the spring, the New Testament. To learn more call Canon Barnwell at (202) 537-5522. Classes begin September 20 and will meet each week thereafter from 7 PM to 9 PM. Enroll soon; the class is filling quickly.



Renowned Scientist E. O. Wilson To Address Religion and Science

Harvard professor E. O. Wilson has been awarded the National Medal of Science and the Pulitzer Prize and has authored more than 20 books. This renowned scientist and father of sociobiology has personally identified more than 400 new species of ants. And, he is the most prominent enemy of intelligent design.



Labeled by Britain's *Guardian* newspaper as "Darwin's natural heir," Wilson is caught in the heated battle between religious faith and scientific humanism. While he fears religious resistance threatens evolutionary biology, he worries more that religion and science—the two most influential forces in saving the Creation—are caught in a stalemate in the evolution debate itself. Now Wilson calls for an alliance, saying in a recent interview, "It's the quixotic idea that if we can bring the two most powerful forces together in common purpose, we might actually get the job done."

Wilson argues that no matter what we believe about Earth's origins, no matter what scientific or religious dogmas tell us, we must find ways to work together in the stewardship of life. He invites us to search for knowledge about ourselves and our world, a task he sees as one of the greatest intellectual and spiritual endeavors of which we are capable. On Wednesday, September 20, at 7:30 PM in the nave, come share his infectious wonder for the natural world

and his hope for the life-saving activism of humankind.

The Rev. Canon Howard Anderson, warden of the Cathedral College, sees Wilson's visit as a natural fit for this place of generous-spirited Christianity. "The Episcopal Church," he says, "has always embraced scientific discoveries not as a threat but as further revelations of God's ongoing process of creation."

Wilson's lecture marks the start of the Cathedral College fall program season. In addition to Wilson, the College will welcome mind-body expert Larry Dossey, celebrated writer Isabel Allende, Senator Jack Danforth, and the ladies of the Faith Club. These wise minds all call for a dialogue of reconciliation and hope that can nourish us in these difficult times.

In addition, the College's brand-new courses offer thoughtful explorations into the five pillars of Islam, sacred healing, the holy Eucharist, and the Episcopal Church in global perspective. For tickets or to register for courses, go to www.nationalcathedral.org/register.

John Danforth to Speak on a Ministry of Reconciliation

Former U.S. Senator and United States Ambassador to the United Nations John Danforth, an ordained Episcopal priest, will speak at the Cathedral Wednesday evening, September 27, at 7:30 PM. Senator Danforth will address how, in a polarized nation, with widening rifts between left and right, we can find common ground. He challenges all to choose reconciliation instead of division.

In his new book, *Faith and Politics: How the "Moral Values" Debate Divides America and How to Move Forward Together*, Senator Danforth speaks out frankly about the undue influence of the Christian Right and urges all Christians to approach



politics with humility. Rather than turn political agendas into religious crusades, he believes we must acknowledge the distance between our secular politics and God's commandments. Speaking of the power of Jesus' commandment to love, he says, "the politics of the state will always fall short of the demands of faith."

A voice of reason and moderation, John Danforth—priest and politician—will openly share how his own faith has influenced his political methods. He will ask us to look to Scripture for guidance on how to practice our faith in daily life as well as the body politic.

For additional information or tickets contact us at www.nationalcathedral.org/register.

"Films about Global Warming Link Congregations To Issues of Climate Change"

That's what reports around the country are saying about church screenings of *The Great Warming* and *An Inconvenient Truth*, two films scheduled for showing at the Cathedral Saturday, September 30, from 1 to 4:30 PM.

Those who attend the screenings at the Cathedral will learn more about climate change, as well as learn what can be done individually and as part of a faith community to address issues of global warming. The program is part of Interfaith Power and Light's "Spotlight on Global Warming" initiative. In addition, the National Council of Churches, among other religious organizations, is helping develop online promotions, newsletters, and campaign materials for film screenings such as those at the Cathedral.

The suggested donation for viewing the films is \$8. Refreshments will be on sale and resource packets will be provided. Please respond by September 28 to cathedral-college@cathedral.org and go to www.gwipl.org for more information.

Save October 11 to Meet "The Faith Club"

After the September 11 attacks five years ago, Ranya Idliby, a Muslim scholar of Palestinian origin, invited Suzanne



Oli-ver, a Christian writer, and Priscilla Warner,

a Jewish illustrator, to write a children's book on the shared history of their religions. Quickly their search for commonality and mutual respect exposed their deepest fears, prejudices, and misunderstandings.

Over the next three years these three women met regularly to discuss challenging and unanticipated issues that arose between them: political clashes to religious rituals, personal spirituality to basic theology, the Crucifixion to jihad. Committed to their spiritual adventure, the three vowed to speak with respect and honesty, however painful or saddening. Over time, their dedicated dialogue bore fruits of self-discovery, friendship, and renewal of faith that continue to flower in their communities and beyond.

Their collective memoir, *The Faith Club*, weaves together first-person stories with the quest for mutual tolerance, and offers readers a guide to how to be agents of healing dialogue in a world fractured by fear and misunderstanding.

Take part in an evening of candid and heartfelt conversa-

tion about the worries, hopes, and strengthened faith that provide a meeting ground to cultivate true community in diversity.

The program discussing nurturing faith across religious divides is scheduled for 7:30 PM, Wednesday, October 11.

September Cathedral Crossroads Offers Special Feature

The final Tuesday evening of each month is the date for Cathedral Crossroads, a popular Cathedral program offering a spiritual smorgasbord of contemplative practice, music, and reflection. Past participants are quick to report how the peaceful setting of the Cathedral at night is a perfect venue for searching for quietness in our busy capital city. Each Cathedral Crossroads evening begins with Centering Prayer from 6 PM to 7 PM followed by time to walk the labyrinth from 6:30 PM to 8:45 PM.

On Tuesday, September 26, from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM, the Rev. Dr. Barbara Nielsen, an Episcopal priest and fellow at the Mind/Body Institute at Harvard Medical School, will lead a program entitled "How to be Spiritual in a Stressed Out World." All Cathedral Crossroads programs are free and open to the public.



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Save the Date for the NCA's Annual Meeting

Make plans now to attend the National Cathedral Association's Annual Recognition of Cathedral Friends to be held Thursday evening, October 12. The special evening thanking the Cathedral's supporters begins with Evensong at 5:30 pm followed by a reception in the Pilgrim Observation Gallery at 6:30 PM and the NCA's Annual Update and Program. Special guest speaker for the evening will be PBS senior correspondent Ray Suarez.

Please phone your acceptances to (202) 537-8989 or e-mail ncanews@cathedral.org. Call (202) 537-6243 for more information.

September/October 2006

Recent Events

Crossing Stage.

The new stage went into use in late August. Watch entire 11 am Sunday services live and on-demand.



<http://www.cathedral.org/cathedral/worship/servicevideos.shtml>

Alaska Major State Day

August 20, 2006

Ms. Pearl Chanar, an Athabascan, native Alaskan from Minto, read Scripture. Ms. Chanar, a senior realty specialist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, wore a wolf fur jacket that she said traditionally is worn in the cool Alaskan summers.



<http://www.cathedral.org/cathedral/programs/alaska2006/1.shtml>

New Hampshire Major State Day

Sunday, July 16, 2006

The Right Rev. V. Gene Robinson, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire,



<http://www.cathedral.org/cathedral/programs/newhampshire2006/1.shtml>

serves as celebrant at the New Hampshire Major State Day service at Washington National Cathedral on July 16, 2006. Cathedral clergy here are the Rev. April Berends, priest associate for liturgy, and the Rev. Canon John L. Peterson, canon for global justice and reconciliation.

Cathedral Set to Roll Out Centennial Logo

With the Cathedral Centennial just one year away, plans are underway to celebrate the Cathedral's 100th birthday with the fanfare it deserves and also usher in a new century filled with both faithfulness and promise.

As part of the Centennial celebration the Cathedral will roll out in late September (September 29 marks the day exactly one year away from the hundredth anniversary) a new logo designed to acknowledge the Centennial and underscore the Cathedral's position as a place of generous-spirited hospitality toward all.

"As we prepare to move into our second century it's certainly the time to celebrate where we are going as a community of faith, while at the same time honoring all that has gone before. With that in mind we set out to create a Centennial logo that would be 'evolutionary' rather than 'revolutionary' in design. We wanted something that would not radically depart from what people have identified for more so many years, but would nevertheless include new elements that subtly show movement into a new era," said Greg Rixon, Cathedral Public Affairs Director, who led the logo redesign project.

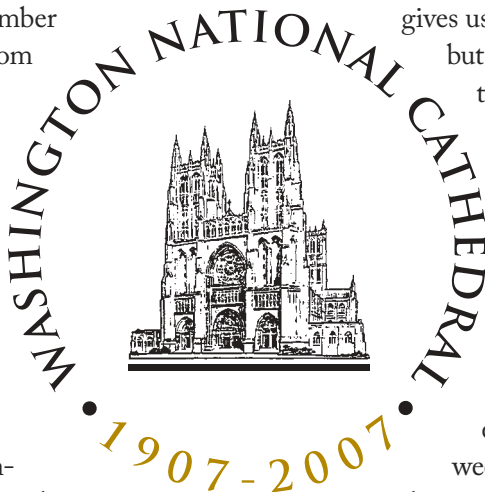
Unlike the current squared-off logo, the Centennial logo is round with the text Washington National Cathedral 1907-2007 circling the image of the Cathedral as viewed

from the west. The heavy black line under the image of the Cathedral has been narrowed significantly, and the hand-designed lettering and spacing has been replaced by a venerable font known as Garamond.

"From a practical standpoint the Garamond font gives us a lot more flexibility in use and design, but most importantly the circular shape of the logo conveys an important sense of embracing hospitality, generosity, and inclusion that is so important to the A Voice, A Place, A People theme that Dean Lloyd has articulated so clearly," Rixon said.

Current plans for the centennial celebration include numerous services, events, and activities including an extra special Open House and reunion weekend to kick off the Centennial year, a historical exhibit, a Centennial film produced for the Cathedral by renowned filmmaker Martin Doblmeier, special worship services, a gala dinner along with world-class entertainment to be held in the Cathedral nave, a Cathedral College symposium addressing the issue of reconciliation, and a week-long Festival of the Arts to close out the Centennial celebration.

Watch for more details in future editions of *Cathedral Voice*.



Amphitheater Restoration Underway

Construction has begun on the All Hallows Amphitheater on the Cathedral's south side below Pilgrim Road. The \$800,000 restoration project is the third phase of the Olmsted Woods Restoration Project begun by the All Hallows Guild nearly ten years ago.

Nestled against Olmsted Woods, the restored amphitheater will accommodate up to 600 people and will serve as a



perfect venue for school convocations, outdoor services, and pilgrimages. Ten terraces, each with a bluestone edge bracing

a grassy three-foot strip, will be wide enough for chairs. The terraces will form a natural bowl focusing viewers' attention toward the stage. The revitalized plan realizes Olmsted's plan for a functioning outdoor amphitheater on the Cathedral Close, and is also central to the Guild's efforts to curtail the water runoff problems on the southern edge of the grounds.

Ribbon cutting is scheduled for later in the fall. For an invitation call the All Hallows Guild at (202) 537-2937 and leave your name and address.



Cathedral Choral Society Greet New Executive Director

Alison Combes of Reston, Virginia, is the new executive director of the Cathedral Choral Society (CCS). CCS celebrates its 65th anniversary season this year.

A familiar figure in the Washington choral community, Combes joins CCS after 13 years at the Washington Chorus, most recently as deputy director. She fills a position held by Mark Ohnmacht over the past ten years.

CCS Music Director J. Reilly Lewis, a long-time admirer of Combes' managerial role in the development and growth of the Washington Chorus, applauded the appointment. "In making this move, Alison brings

to our choral group impressive technical skills and a clear passion for the choral arts and the way the business of music needs to be conducted in the 21st century. She combines her expertise with a strong familiarity with the community."

During Combes's tenure, the Washington Chorus' operating budget has increased steadily from \$400,000 to almost \$1 million. She was graduated from Frostburg State University and has a masters of arts in arts management degree from American University, where she graduated *summa cum laude* in 2002.

The Cathedral Choral Society is the oldest symphonic choral group in the Washington metro area, dating to 1941. CCS will mark its 65th season with Bach's towering *B Minor Mass*, its traditional Joy of Christmas concerts, and a special performance with the renowned a cappella group Anonymous 4.



Physician/Priest Offers Course on Healing As Holy Practice

Renowned physician and priest, the Rev. Anne Brower, M.D., will offer a Cathedral College course, "Healing as Holy Practice," over four Saturdays throughout the fall. Sessions from 10 AM to noon are scheduled for September 30, October 7, 14, and 21.



Healing, Anne Brower finds, moves us into closer communion with God, closer to the reign of God, and closer to understanding the divine within us. In her book *I Am Not Ready to Die Just Yet*, she tells stories of the faith and heroism of ordinary people living with, through, and beyond disease to a newly whole and vibrant life.

A cancer survivor, Brower will share her own journey through disease and illness to become whole in mind, body, and spirit. Her course illustrates the crucial distinction between disease and illness. She presents opportunities to consider the efficacy of prayer, touch, and faith and the influence of community and sacred space to bring about healing. Brower has been a physician and teacher for more than four decades. In 1998 she was honored with the Madame Curie award as the most outstanding female radiologist in the United States. It was her passion for healing the whole person that led to her ordination in 2001 as an Episcopal priest.

Who Knew?

Longtime friends of the Cathedral and new visitors alike are impressed by the delicate beauty of the three statues recently added above the sedilia on the south side of the high altar. (Sedilia are sets of seats recessed in niches in the south wall of a chancel. They are most often stepped, decorated, canopied, and built from stone such as those in the Cathedral. The three statues depict George Herbert, John Donne, and Howard Thurman.)

But regardless the depth of knowledge of church architecture or ornamentation the question always comes, "Why are these statues a different color? Is it because they're new and haven't 'weathered' yet?" *Cathedral Voice* sought help from conservator John Runkle.

Years ago, Runkle recounted, Master Carver Vince Palumbo set aside three blocks of Texas limestone that came from the same vein of stone used for the Majestus.

These blocks were intended for the three sedilia statues.

That intention was respected as the statues of Donne and Herbert were completed. (Malcolm Harlow carved the statue of Donne; Joe Moss carved both the George Herbert and Howard Thurman statues. The artist for all three statues was Chas Fagan.) When Joe Moss began carving the Thurman statue he discovered the third block of stone was seriously flawed and proved unsuitable for carving. He searched diligently for a block of matching Texas limestone but could not find a satisfactory replacement. Finally he found a block of French limestone that matches nicely. The Thurman statue is carved from that.

Who Knew?





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A monthly newsletter from Washington National Cathedral

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Seating of the New Presiding Bishop

The seating of Katherine Jefferts Schori, 26th presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, will take place at the 11 AM service on Sunday, November 5, at Washington National Cathedral. Passes will be required for this service. To request passes, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Installation 2006
Washington National Cathedral
Massachusetts & Wisconsin Avenues NW
Washington, DC 20016

The request for passes should be postmarked no sooner than September 22; please include the number of passes you are requesting, with a limit of two per request. No group requests will be honored; no email or faxed requests will be honored. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Instructions for accessing the Cathedral will be mailed with the tickets.

Please note: This service is separate from the Service of Installation at the Cathedral scheduled for Saturday, November 4.



DOCC Schedule Changed

Registration remains open for the fall "Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC) course. The starting date has been changed to Tuesday, October 10 (rather than September 19 as originally planned.) The course will end Tuesday, January 23, 2007. There will be a one-day session on Saturday, October 21, rather than Saturday, September 30.

DOCC provides participants with an encounter with Christian faith, both in its central teachings and in the experience of Christian community through small-group interaction. To enroll, contact Sheri Jackson at sjackson@cathedral.org or call (202) 537-6222.

