

# Cathedral Voice

A monthly newsletter from Washington National Cathedral

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

## The We of Me

### *The Cathedral Community Begins*

“What life have you if you have no life together?” poet T.S. Eliot once wrote in his play *The Rock*. There’s nothing quite like being a member. To be a member of anything is to belong, to have a place, to know that there is a space there just for you. I remember that poignant story of adolescence *The Member of the Wedding* by Carson McCullers, in which the twelve-year old girl Frankie aches with a longing to be part of her brother’s impending marriage. She wants to be part of a larger, more expansive world than her own little realm, and



senses that can only come by being joined to something bigger than herself. “You are the we of me,” she says to her brother and his fiancée.

For all the simplicity of this story, the yearning Frankie feels is universal—our need to belong, to be connected, to sense that we are members of one another. In fact, we come to know who we are as we find ourselves in significant relationships. There is no “me” apart from some “we” in community. I discover who I am through the belongings of my life.

That wise farmer and writer Wendell Berry refers to people in his little fictional town of Port William, Kentucky as “the membership,” because in their rural lives they have the strong sense that they need each other for their lives to be complete.

In fact, the only way to be a Christian in the New Testament is by being a member of Christ’s Body, the church, where every part of the body depends on every

*Continues inside, page 2, column A*

## New Canon for Community Life

The Cathedral is delighted to introduce the Rev. Christina Olsen as its new Canon for Community Life. Christie, who joined the staff on February 1, comes to the Cathedral from St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas, where she has been the associate rector for pas-



toral care since 2002. St. Michael’s is the second largest Episcopal Church in the country with more than 5,000 members. Here she will oversee the building and formation of the Cathedral’s new worshipping community (see the dean’s column). And working closely with the vicar, Steve Huber, she will also assume primary pastoral responsibility for

the Cathedral staff and volunteer chaplains. Olsen said, “It is so exciting to think about deepening the opportunities for community life and discipleship in this great place at this important juncture in its history.”

A graduate of Yale Divinity School, Christie was sponsored for ordination by the Diocese of Massachusetts. During seminary she served at St. Luke’s Parish in Darien, Connecticut and one summer as chaplain at the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. In each setting she has developed and led adult bible and theology classes, managed pastoral care programs, lead retreats, and been recognized as an energetic pastor with an easy style who delights in working with people of all ages and places in their faith journeys. Please join in welcoming Christie to the Cathedral community and Washington.

*Available Online*  
***A New Century, A New Calling***  
***The Cathedral’s New Strategic Vision***  
***Outlined by Dean Lloyd***

*From the Dean, continued from page 1, column A*  
other. A theologian once described the early church as a “conspiracy,” meaning that believers literally “breathed together” in sharing their life as a spiritual community. Christ comes to us through our lives with one another. Our “me” can’t exist without the “we.”

After nearly two years of conversation and preparation, the time has come for Washington National Cathedral to have “members.” But wait, you might say, don’t we have members? Yes, of course we have volunteers and worshipers and staff; we have acolytes and docents and altar guild members. And of course we have the National Cathedral Association, some 14,000 members strong dispersed across the country.

What is new, though, is that now we are intentionally launching the “Cathedral Community,” a community of worship, prayer, and life together. A people who have participated in an informal, unacknowledged community at the Cathedral for years now may become official members of this worshipping community, along with many who have become regular worshipers in recent years.

This new community is the coming together of those who believe God is calling them to worship and live their Christian lives through this Cathedral. Many have found that the remarkable combination of our beautiful building, our often moving and inspiring worship, and the intellec-

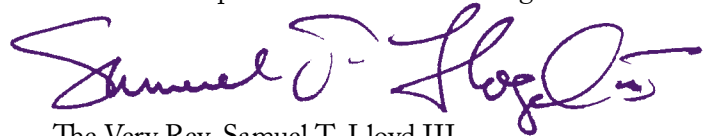
tual and spiritual vitality of our ministries, offers rich soil for growing in Christ and serving the world.

If this intrigues you, and if you are not rooted in another Christian community, I hope you will consider becoming a member of this new “we.” Come join us as we welcome the visitor and stranger, as we serve the diocese and the nation, as we gather for coffee and study scripture and explore the faith, as we come together for meals and for projects that serve the city in Christ’s name.

We are creating something new, so there is much yet to be worked out. How can members of the Community find each other in the crowd of Sunday tourists? How can we support each other in living our Christian lives? What kind of lay leadership should this Community have?

Stay tuned over the next few weeks as begin to welcome new “members.” Be sure to greet our new Canon for Community Life, Christie Olson, as she begins her ministry in early February, and let Steve Huber, our Vicar, and any of the Cathedral clergy know if you are interested in joining.

There is now a new “we” at Washington National Cathedral. Come explore with us what this might mean.



The Very Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III

**“After nearly two years of conversation and preparation, the time has come for Washington National Cathedral to have ‘members.’”**

## Lent 2007: Worship at the Cathedral

- Sunday Holy Eucharist (webcast live!)
  - Weekday Evensong
  - Weekly podcast/email meditations
- Weekly posting of Cathedral College Lenten Series
  - Palm Sunday Concert: J. S. Bach St. John Passion
- Holy Week Services: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil
  - Easter Day Festival Holy Eucharist (webcast live!)

**For details, see [www.nationalcathedral.org/lent2007](http://www.nationalcathedral.org/lent2007)**

## Sacred Circles to Focus on Spiritual Practice of Love

We have all seen how beautifully humans can respond to others' need in times of crisis. Yet in the frantic pace of today's world, it is difficult to sustain a loving posture toward everyone we encounter. This is why the February, 2007 Sacred Circles, the biannual women's spirituality gathering, will focus on the spiritual practice of love in our daily lives.



From little things to big ones such as looking a store clerk in the eye to saving the planet, we feel the inner pull to be motivated not by fear, but by love, to right injustice not from anger, but out of love and gratitude. This deep love is grounded in wisdom and has its own

power. With skillful practice, it can pervade our daily lives in such a way that we can sense the difference we're making for ourselves and in our circles of influence.

The Harvard Pluralism Project has recognized Sacred Circles as a national example of women's interfaith community. The timing coincided with the program's tenth anniversary. In celebration of this milestone, and in response to many requests, the 2007 program has been expanded with intensive daylong workshops on Friday, February 16, and an enhanced plenary gathering on Saturday afternoon, Febru-

ary 17. This year will also reflect intensified efforts to "green" the conference with the purchase of carbon offsets for energy use, among other activities.

Presenters include Oscar-winning actress Ellen Burstyn, Episcopal Bishop Carol Gallagher, Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, internationally renowned Buddhist teacher Sharon Salzberg and more than 20 others drawing from diverse spiritual traditions and areas of expertise.

Now, more than ever, it is essential we choose love over fear as the dominant motivation for our lives. Women who combine spiritual principles with their daily actions are leaders in their spheres of influence, from the personal to the social to the global. Sacred Circles will nourish and replenish women's spiritual energies, offer practical how-to information, and affirm that instincts to love and preserve the world are valued, shared and practical.

For more information or to register, please visit their website at [www.nationalcathedral.org/sacredcircles](http://www.nationalcathedral.org/sacredcircles) or call (202) 537-2221 to request a printed brochure by mail.



## Arena Stage Campaign Director Joins Cathedral Staff

The Cathedral welcomes Michael Hill as the new Senior Director for External Relations and Development.

Over the past four years, Michael has directed Arena's \$118 million campaign. The effort recently went public with a \$100 million committed measure to communications, management joining



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joined the Cathedral staff. Before joining the Cathedral, Michael served as executive director of St. Bonaventure University's Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts, where he managed all

artistic and operational functions, including spearheading a multi-million building and endowment campaign.

Michael has also served as public relations director for the Minnesota Conservatory for the Arts and as a guest critic for theater and symphony at the Chautauqua Institution. He also teaches marketing and public relations in George Mason University's Master of Arts Management program. He holds a master of arts in Arts Administration from St. Mary's University of Minnesota and a bachelor of arts in journalism and mass communication from St. Bonaventure University in New York.

Senior leadership at the Cathedral, both staff and volunteer, have strongly endorsed Michael's skills and abilities, calling him an excellent fit and a real leadership talent for the Cathedral staff.

# "A Great Church for National Purposes"

## Ford Funeral Continues Cathedral Mission and Vision

Phones rang early across the capital region the morning of December 27th. President Gerald R. Ford had died and the Cathedral and Foundation staffs were called into action to begin the laborious task of staging a funeral service under the gaze of an entire nation.

In the days between the 38th President's demise and the state funeral on January 2 there were dozens of meetings among the Cathedral and Foundations staffs to iron out the countless details necessary to ensure a flawless service. The Foundation staff opened a pre-planned operations center in Church House organized to answer the hundreds of important issues involving personnel and physical security, transportation, ticketing, media accommodation and television production which had to be addressed. Establishing an operations center to handle support functions freed the Cathedral staff, most notably the Worship Department, to concentrate efforts on the details of the funeral service itself. Coordination meetings with representatives of the Military District of Washington, the White House staff, United States Secret Service and the Ford family representatives were held virtually every hour.



As the day of the funeral approached security in the Cathedral and across the Close tightened, and musical and military rehearsals intensified. By Tuesday morning all was ready. By the time the service began, a brisk wind was blowing across Walker Court in front of the Cathedral, unfurling the American and Presidential flags as the President was borne to the west doors. Bishop John Chane met the casket saying, "With faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the body of our brother Gerald for burial." Once inside the Cathedral a military honor guard carried the flag-draped casket down the entire length of the nave and placed it on a catafalque centered beneath the arches of the Crossing.



Once again the Cathedral was called upon to fulfill the vision and mission to be a "great church intended for national purposes, such as public prayer, thanksgiving (and) funeral orations." That the Cathedral was able to do so was made possible only by the dedicated teamwork of Foundation and Cathedral staffs immersed in preparations less than 48 hours after the last Christ-

mas service. "From chair arrangers and floor polishers, to security guards and flower arrangers, to choristers and vergers, to our key leaders in every area," Dean Lloyd said later, "everyone pulled together to give the nation and the



Ford family the kind of prayerful, moving service President Ford's passing called for."

For all the details of the Ford funeral or to watch the entire service online go to

[www.nationalcathedral.org/worship/FordFuneral/I.shtml](http://www.nationalcathedral.org/worship/FordFuneral/I.shtml).



## Who Knew?

The recent death of 38th President Gerald R. Ford and the state funeral in his honor at Washington National Cathedral prompted dozens of inquiries into the history of similar events held here. Many of the questions revealed a general misconception that most, if not all, the Presidents have had funeral services at the Cathedral.

(One caller assumed George Washington is buried beneath the statue in the southwest corner of the nave.) Although Gerald Ford was only the third U.S. President whose funeral service was held at the Cathedral (Dwight Eisenhower's in 1969 and Ronald Reagan's in 2004 were the others) eight Presidents have been memorialized in one way or another.

Following his assassination in September of 1901, William McKinley was memorialized at St. Mark's Pro-Cathedral (the diocese's temporary cathedral) on Capitol Hill.

### **Services at Washington National Cathedral Following Deaths of American Presidents**

1. President William McKinley (1901)
2. President Warren G. Harding (1923)
3. President Woodrow Wilson (1924)
4. President William Howard Taft (1930)
5. President Calvin Coolidge (1933)
6. President Franklin Roosevelt (1945)
7. President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1969)
8. President Harry S. Truman (1973)
9. President Richard M. Nixon (1995)
10. President Ronald W. Reagan (2004)
11. Gerald R. Ford (2007)

Henry Yates Satterlee, first Episcopal bishop of Washington delivered the memorial address. When President Warren G. Harding died in August of 1923 there were three Cathedral services—a commemoration during the morning service in Bethlehem Chapel, a second memorial service at 4:30 pm that day, and a memorial service at the Peace Cross the following week.

Woodrow Wilson, the only President actually interred in Washington, had burial rites performed in Bethlehem Chapel on February 6, 1924, although his

funeral had been held at his home on S Street. In December, 1961, the funeral for former first lady Edith Bolling Galt Wilson was conducted by Dean Francis B. Sayre, grandson of President Wilson. Mrs. Wilson is interred with her husband in the Cathedral's Woodrow Wilson Bay.

On March 11, 1930, Bishop James Freeman officiated at the Cathedral's memorial service for former President and Chief Justice, William Howard Taft. The service was broadcast live nationwide by CBS-Radio. Following the death of President Calvin Coolidge in January of 1933 a memorial service conducted at the Cathedral was broadcast nationwide on radio.

Although President Franklin Roosevelt's funeral service (conducted by Angus Dun, fourth Episcopal Bishop of Washington) was held in the East Room of the White House on April 15, 1945 the Cathedral conducted prayers for the President continuously from April 12 through April 15. A memorial service was held for first lady Eleanor Roosevelt at the Cathedral following her death in 1962. A statue of Eleanor Roosevelt graces the Human Rights Bay in the Cathedral's narthex.

In January of 1973 the Cathedral held a memorial service



for President Harry S. Truman. Another memorial service following the death of a President was not held until April of 1994 following the death of Richard

M. Nixon. Many are surprised to learn that neither John F. Kennedy nor Lyndon B. Johnson had funerals or memorial services at the Cathedral. President Kennedy's state funeral was held at St. Matthews Cathedral and President Johnson's was at National City Christian Church. The Cathedral held prayer services immediately after learning of President Kennedy's death and remained open throughout the night for prayer. The Cathedral rang a muffled peal of bells as President Johnson's funeral motorcade made its way from National City Church to Andrews Air Force Base.

*Cathedral Voice* extends special thank to Margaret Shannon for her research on this subject.





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## Cathedral College Expands Course Offerings

This season, the Cathedral College will present a series of comprehensive programs and lectures under the title “Fresh Starts from Ancient Roots” all designed to assist in living out faith in the world.

Among the class selections, renowned author and teacher Esther de Waal will connect her classes to a creation-centered spirituality. Cathedral conservator John Runkle, both an architect and priest, will use the Cathedral as his teaching tool. Renowned scholar, Michael Battle will provide insight into how Black churches in the U.S. have created a spiritual life that encourages reconciliation rather than anger. Virginia Seminary New Testament Professor Katherine Grieb will address one of the hot button issues of the day—the authority of Scripture. Margaret Guenther, one of America’s best loved scholars of prayer, will lead a retreat on living each day prayerfully based on her recently published book. Deryl Davis, of the Wesley Seminary faculty, will take his students through Lent with intriguing insight into selected cantos from Dante’s *Divine Comedy*.

How are people of faith to have an impact on the political process

on behalf of “the least of these,” whose fate all the Abrahamic faiths have left in our hands? The staff of the Washington Office of the

Episcopal Church will offer their informed advice. Naomi Rosenblatt will draw from her wise and witty books on women in Hebrew scripture to throw light on the misread role of women in religion. Jehanne McQuillan, a scholar of the Gnostic Gospels will lead a retreat focused upon Mary Magdalene, debunking *The Da Vinci Code* from a scholarly perspective. William Barnwell, the Cathedral’s canon missionary, will teach two courses on the transforming literature of the Bible.

The Cathedral College spring event season will also include an intriguing series of lectures. The line-up includes biblical researcher Bart Ehrman; spiritual memoirist Nora Gallagher; scholars of the Gnostic texts, Karen King and Elaine Pagels; Buddhist spiritual leader Lama Surya Das; geneticist Francis Collins; and author-activist Barbara Kingsolver. And, folk-rock legend Bruce Cockburn will rock with a rare acoustic gig in the nave!

For more information or to register, visit our website at [www.nationalcathedral.org/register](http://www.nationalcathedral.org/register) or call (202) 537-2221.

