

Cathedral Voice

A newsletter from Washington National Cathedral

JANUARY 2008

A WORD FROM THE CANON FOR COMMUNITY LIFE

"Take This Light"

On January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany, we will do the most important thing we ever do as the Body of Christ. We will baptize four very young new members of our body—Hayden Springer, Jack Fucci, Sumayah Gabriel and Gretchen Dohr—at the 8:45 AM service. This day marks the beginning of Epiphany, the season in the church year that follows Christmastide. It also is the day on which modern Christians remember the end of a long journey for three traveling Gentile kings, who discovered the Savior of the world in a very unlikely place. But if we look deeper, we'll see why baptism on Epiphany makes so much sense.



Of the four days designated in the *Book of Common Prayer* on which baptism should take place, the first Sunday after the Epiphany, the Baptism of Our Lord, seems the most appropriate. So why baptize a week earlier on Epiphany? It turns out that in the early Eastern Church, the Epiphany—the "manifestation"—was *the* feast day on which Christ's baptism was celebrated with, among other actions, a solemn blessing of water. By the fourth century, along with Easter and Pentecost, it had become one of the three major festivals of the church.

After its introduction to the western church in the fourth century, this feast day lost its association with baptism. It took on the familiar character we now see in the story of the three wise sages from the East, who heard of the birth of Christ, prepared extravagant gifts for him, and followed a star in the sky to a barn, where they became essentially the first worshippers of Christ. The light from the star that guided their way and made possible the discovery of God's manifestation in the world has become one of the symbols of the season of Epiphany. It is also one of the more vivid and visceral symbols of God in our lives: the Light that shines in the darkest of places, that gives us life and redeems

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The Sunday Forum: Critical Issues in the Light of Faith

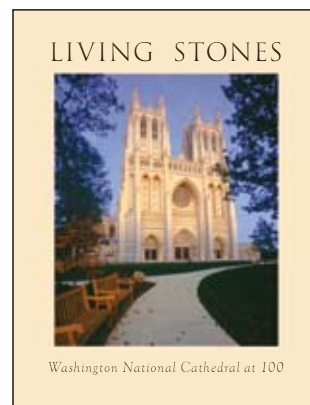
Dean Lloyd's recent Forum guests have included Michael Duffy and Nancy Gibbs of *Time* speaking on "Faith in the White House" on December 2 and Bishop William Williamson, noted preacher and author, on December 9.

Gibbs and Duffy wrote the best-selling book *The Preacher and the Presidents: Billy Graham and the White House*. "Why this book, and why now?" Dean Lloyd asked his guests. Gibbs said that, after the most



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Centennial Commemorative Book Now Available



Don't miss *Living Stones: Washington National Cathedral at 100* on sale in the Museum Store or online at www.nationalcathedral.org. This centennial commemorative book is filled with photographs (most by Cathedral staff photographer Donovan Marks) that show the Cathedral at 100. Remarkable essays, including thoughts by Cathedral

Dean Sam Lloyd and stories by Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and PBS Senior Correspondent Ray Suarez, tell the story of the Cathedral's impact and its role for the future.

Cathedral Events

JANUARY 2008

Sunday, January 6—Epiphany

11:15 am – Holy Eucharist. Cathedral Dean Samuel T. Lloyd III, preacher.

1:30 pm – Close-Up Tour: “The *Ter Sanctus* Reredos.”

4 pm – Advent Lessons and Carols.

Friday, January 11

8 pm – Concert: Folger Consort; pre-concert discussion at 6 pm.

Saturday, January 12

8 pm – Concert: Folger Consort.

Sunday, January 13—Epiphany I

10 am – Sunday Forum: “Can Conservatism Be Heroic?” with Michael Gerson.

11:15 am – Holy Eucharist. The Rev. Canon John L. Peterson, preacher.

Monday, January 14

5:30 pm – Evensong honoring Head Verger Stephen Lott’s retirement.

Sunday, January 20—Epiphany II

10 am – Sunday Forum.

11:15 am – Holy Eucharist & Centennial Celebration of American Preaching. Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, guest preacher.

4 pm – Centennial Organ Recital Series: David Higgs, Eastman School of Music.

Monday, January 21—MLK Day

2 pm – Youth Non-Violence Program with poet Bomani Armah, the Urban Nation H.I.P. H.O.P. Choir, and more.

Wednesday, January 23

5:30 pm – Evensong and Installation of Canons Christiana Olsen and William Barnwell.

Friday & Saturday, January 25 & 26

Convention: The Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

Sunday, January 27—Epiphany III

10 am – Sunday Forum.

11:15 am – Holy Eucharist and Celebration of West Virginia State Day. Cathedral Dean Samuel T. Lloyd III, preacher.

Tuesday, January 29

6:30 pm – Cathedral Crossroads.

Wednesday, January 30

5:30 pm – Evensong honoring Verger Larry Keller’s retirement.

recent presidential election, she and Duffy wondered whether journalists had “misunderstood or misinterpreted” the role of religion in political campaigns. Billy Graham, they realized, had been welcomed into relationships with every president since Eisenhower. Duffy compared Graham to a “skeleton key” who not only opened himself to their project, but also opened doors to presidents to whom he ministered, and to their families and colleagues.

Graham’s influence over many years became both personal and powerful. “By 1956, Graham was counseling Vice President Richard Nixon how to stay on the ticket with Eisenhower.” Duffy saw this as a transition from ministry to political strategy. As Graham witnessed and shaped the interaction between politics and religion, he learned from his many experiences. In the latter years of his ministry, Graham warned, “You can’t preach to the left wing or the right wing; you have to have the whole bird.”

On December 9, Bishop William Willimon spoke of “Leadership for a Changing World” and the emerging place of Christianity in American culture. While allowing that the mainline Protestant churches have gone through a period of decline, Willimon expressed optimism for the future of these traditions. “We’re in need of a kind of theological refurbishment,” he said, and then asked what the church talks

about that other organizations do not discuss. “I would submit that God is a thing we do that others don’t do...People come to church to meet and be met by God,” he asserted in calling for a renewed examination of the church’s role. “We’ve been far too deferential to talking about what people are interested in.” The church needs to reassert its very identity: its beliefs and practices.

Christians are now “swimming against the stream” in American culture, Willimon believes. More education is needed to help believers understand their faith and respond to an unanticipated need to evangelize in their own culture.

Watch the Sunday Forums at forum.nationalcathedral.org.

Spring 2008 Highlights

Sunday, January 13	Michael Gerson
Sunday, January 20	Tony Hall
Sunday, February 3	Krista Tippett
Sunday, February 24	Jim Wallis
Sunday, March 2	Diane Rehm
Sunday, March 30	Rep. John Lewis



Coming Up

MLK Youth Non-Violence Day

Monday, January 21, 2–4 pm

Come participate in the Cathedral's city-wide youth program to promote peace and justice. This year's program features Bomani Armah, a Washington poet, songwriter, producer, performer, and educator. His debut album, "Radio Friendly," will be released in February 2008. He has appeared in *The Washington Post* and on CNN, Fox News, and BET's 106th & Park. Youth from the Cathedral Scholars and T.E.E.P. programs will participate in a workshop in the morning, celebrating Dr. King's legacy and building on "the dream." Also featured in the program will be The Urban Nation H.I.P. H.O.P. Choir and radio and television personalities Jeanie Jones, Anwan "Big G" Glover, and poet Lamont Carey. Free and open to the public.



Religion & Violence: Untangling the Roots of Conflict

Tuesday–Wednesday, January 22–23, 8:30 am–4:30 pm

Explore the deep roots of religious conflict as interfaith theologians illuminate each faith's vocation as a force for peace. See **James Carroll, James H. Cone, Susannah Heschel, and Tariq Ramadan** via live web cast from Trinity Wall Street, New York, as they address the paradox of the faithful raising prayers for peace and stories of religiously fueled violence filling the news. Participate in on-site

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us, teaches us to love and follow and trust.

We use three ancient, precious elements in the baptismal service to communicate the sacredness of the sacrament: life-giving water, soothing oil, and fire or light in the form of a candle. "Take this light," we will say, "and be as the light of Christ in all the world." New birth, new fire, new life. And so we come full circle, on the day when we celebrate the Light of the world coming into our midst, to tell Hayden and Jack and Sumayah and Gretchen that in their baptism, they may become that light. And to remind the rest of us that we are children of God.

Join us, won't you, to celebrate this most important moment in our lives?

The Rev. Canon Christiana Olsen

January 2008

interfaith discussions guided by local Jewish, Christian, and Muslim facilitators. Registration of \$15/day includes a catered, kosher lunch: (202) 537-2221 or cathedralcollege@cathedral.org. More information: www.trinitywallstreet.org.

The Transforming Literature of the Bible

TLB is an 18-week course starting Wednesday, January 30 (7–90 PM) in which participants will be immersed in the great stories and events of the New Testament. In small seminar groups, participants will study the four Gospel accounts of the life of Jesus: what his life meant for the first century church, and what his life means for each of us now. Designed by Canon William Barnwell, the course will be led by trained and gifted seminar leaders. Twelve groups have now completed TLB and the evaluations testify to a quality experience. Materials fee: \$100; administrative fee (can be waived in some circumstances): \$50. Register with Linda Terrell at (202) 537-5240 or lterrell@cathedral.org.

Race and Reconciliation (A Study)

Jack Pannell of Sojourners and William Barnwell, canon missionary, will lead a study of race, racism, and reconciliation in America (Wednesday evenings, 7–9, January 30–April 9). They will focus on compelling short stories, memoirs and essays by African American writers, including Alice Walker, James Baldwin, and Martin Luther King. The more we appreciate the strengths and loveliness of both white and black cultures, the more effective we will be as agents of reconciliation. Small groups will follow large group presentations. Register with Linda Terrell at (202) 537-5240 or lterrell@cathedral.org.

Celebration of American Preaching



Once a month during the Centennial year, a prominent preacher will deliver the sermon at the 11:15 AM Sunday service of Holy Eucharist. The Centennial Celebration preacher on January 20 will be **Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie**, the first female bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and national chaplain of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



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January DOCC Course Registrations End Soon

Registration is still open for the DOCC course beginning January 8, 2008

*Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm for fifteen weeks beginning January 8
and one Saturday session from 9 am to 3 pm on February 2*

Disciple of Christ in Community is a fifteen-week journey into the heart of Christian faith led by Dean Sam Lloyd and Canon William Barnwell. Participants meet each Tuesday evening for fifteen weeks with a presentation on the fundamental teachings of Christianity by Dean Lloyd followed by an hour of small group discussions. Many of those who have completed previous DOCC programs have found it to be a transformative experience. The course is structured to allow for a shared intimacy of a small Christian community and ultimately a more purposeful and conscious walk with Jesus. DOCC allows all to learn the power of Christian faith and its impact on our lives and those of others.

To register contact Linda Terrell at lterrell@cathedral.org or call (202) 537-5240.