



CATHEDRAL VOICE

A NEWSLETTER FROM WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL • DECEMBER 2008

Cathedral Reorganizes to Weather Economy; Moves into Next Century of Service

DEAN EXPLAINS CHANGES AT TOWN HALL MEETINGS

December brings a flurry of activity to Washington National Cathedral. From Advent and Christmas services to special concerts and gatherings, this season is among the most full for the nation's church. In late November, the Cathedral hosted a different set of gatherings, however, through a group of town hall meetings with key constituents to let them know how the national economic downturn is impacting the life of the Cathedral.

Cathedral Dean Samuel T. Lloyd III hosted five town hall meetings with volunteers, donors, and Congregation members to announce major steps the Cathedral is taking, including program adjustments and staff reductions, to meet the challenges of these extraordinary times.

To ensure the Cathedral's continued financial health during this global economic crisis and to provide responsible stewardship the Cathedral Chapter has approved a new budget reflecting a significant reduction in expenses, while adopting a conservative stance on anticipated revenues from donations, endowment draws, retail income, and other programs.

This budget reflects a reduced and reconfigured staff. In addition it requires the Cathedral to reach out into the community to attract new volunteers. "We are enhancing a rich heritage of community spirit and service at this Cathedral," Dean Lloyd said. "We are, of course, distressed that these actions have to be taken, and are deeply saddened by the personal dislocations that will result from the necessary reductions in staff. However, the leadership of the Cathedral has a responsibility to be financially prudent. This is a vital institution, and we will do what is necessary to protect our important work in the city and the nation."

Like many other institutions around the world, the Cathedral has been affected by the current economic downturn. These conditions are having a serious impact on invested funds that the Cathedral uses to support its mission. In recent years the Cathedral has also invested in significant capital improvement projects and mission-related programs that are essential foundations for its future work.

"We believe the future support, dedication, and engagement of our many friends, as well as potential new volunteers and supporters in Washington and from across the nation, will enable us to rise above these challenges," Dean Lloyd said.

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Share with Us

FAMILY EVENTS

The Cathedral Choral Society hosts a special family matinee of the *Joy of Christmas* on Saturday, December 13, at noon. Bring the whole family for this hour-long presentation specially designed for our younger fans, with audience participation and special demonstrations of the organ, bells, and brass



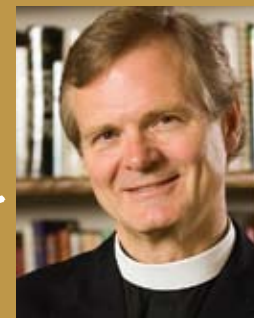
instruments. For this family matinee only, seating is by general admission and all tickets are \$25.

On December 20, at 2 pm, the Cathedral welcomes families to the annual Christmas Pageant. This special pageant for children includes the reenactment of the story of Jesus' birth—with visits from the three Magi, animals, and angels. It is free and open to the public.



WASHINGTON
NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

Advent in Hard Times



A MESSAGE FROM CATHEDRAL DEAN SAMUEL T. LLOYD III

Rarely do I feel more out of step with our culture than in Advent, the church's season of preparing for Christmas. Everywhere I go I hear the latest Muzak version of "Frosty the Snowman" or "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," but when I come into church on Sunday the tone is much less jaunty. Think about the hymns we sing:

"Lo, he comes with clouds
descending..."

"O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel..."

"Come thou long expected Jesus
Born to set thy people free..."

These words point to something more real, more sober, but also, strangely, more hopeful—a God who comes into the complexity of our lives bringing hope and new life.

Advent is a time of watching and preparing a space for Christ to be born again this year. This year we are praying for Christ to come in a time of global economic crisis in which many of the most prominent corporations in America face massive layoffs and even bankruptcy. People are losing their homes, jobs, and much of their life's savings.

This Cathedral, too, is being hit hard by the financial meltdown. I hope you will take a moment to read the article in this *Cathedral Voice* about how we are handling this turbulent time. We have had to make difficult decisions, curtailing programs and eliminating staff positions, to maintain the financial strength of the Cathedral and to sustain its mission for the future.

The cuts have been painful but necessary, and we have lost talented and devoted colleagues. As we have made the reductions, we have been clear that worship, the most important part of our life, must remain central, and so we have ensured that our services have the resources they need to continue to offer God's praise faithfully and in ways that compel and inspire. Although we have cut back our program life significantly, we are working to maintain parts of our ministries with volunteers wherever possible.

Advent doesn't promise quick answers or happy endings to the problems we face. Instead, it declares that no matter what we face, God is coming to take on flesh in our lives and to go with us through the challenges and demands of our days.

In one of the great Advent prayers we pray, "Stir up thy power and with great might come among us." I believe that God is already stirring new life in what will turn out to be a season of expectation at the Cathedral that will go on far past these four weeks of Advent. I hear a fresh enthusiasm for the role of volunteers in our life, an eagerness of congregation members and others to join in to keep our ministries going, a readiness to pray, work, and give to sustain the Cathedral's vital ministry in this hard time.

Christ is coming. That's the promise of this season—new life, new ways of being together, new ways of serving in Christ's name. "Come thou long expected Jesus"—I can't think of a better prayer in the coming weeks, for the Cathedral and for our whole country as we make our way through the coming months.

May the hope and expectation of this Advent season be with you—on the way to Bethlehem. ❀

Editor's Note: We apologize for the late mailing of the December issue of *Cathedral Voice*. Important information was pending at press time that we wanted our readers to have in a timely manner.

Cathedral Voice is published monthly by the Communications and Marketing Department of Washington National Cathedral. Send subscription and address information to subscriptions@cathedral.org.

Washington National Cathedral is a church for national purposes called to embody God's love and to welcome people of all faiths and none. A unique blend of the spiritual and the civic, this Episcopal cathedral is a voice for generous-spirited Christianity and a catalyst for reconciliation and interfaith dialogue to promote respect and understanding. We invite all people to share in our commitment to create a more hopeful and just world.

continued from front cover

“Serving as the nation’s church and as a place of prayer and spiritual renewal is a significant responsibility. And we are committed to being conscientious stewards of this revered Cathedral building.”

Actions to address financial realities began earlier this year. As part of a re-evaluation of financial forecasts, scrutiny was given to accounting processes, contractual obligations, infra-structure projects, alignment of program-to-mission, and fundraising activities.

The Cathedral’s revised budget reflects the highly uncertain nature of the U.S. economy over the next 12 months and beyond. The following recommendations have been approved:

- ✿ Retail operations in the Cathedral Store have been outsourced to Event Network, a third-party vendor, reducing costs and substantially increasing revenue.
- ✿ Approximately 40 staff positions, including those vacant and in retail, will be eliminated over the course of the next several months.
- ✿ The Cathedral will be discontinuing the Cathedral College residential course offerings effective March 31, 2009. Other College programs will be scaled back.
- ✿ In the near future an Office for Cathedral Volunteers will be established.

Dean Lloyd also announced the appointment of a Strategic Advisory Committee to help steer the Cathedral through these unique times. Joining this committee are former Missouri Senator John Danforth; David Abshire, former presidential advisor and current president

“This is a critical time for the Cathedral....I believe that this institution will meet these challenges, and...come out stronger than ever.”

DEAN SAMUEL T. LLOYD III



of the Center for the Study of the Presidency; and David Maxwell, widely credited with the turnaround of Federal National Mortgage Association. Dean Lloyd explained that this panel of highly skilled individuals will provide advice and counsel to the Dean and the Chapter as the Cathedral manages its current challenges and plans for its future.

“This is a critical time for the Cathedral,” Dean Lloyd said, “but the Chapter and I believe that this institution will meet these challenges, and with a renewed commitment to our mission in service to the nation, come out stronger than ever.” ✿

Seasonal Nave Changes

LITURGICAL BANNERS AND STATE FLAGS MOVE

If you’ve visited the Cathedral several times in the past year or so, you might get a nagging sensation that something has changed. And you’d be right. In November 2007, the state flags hanging 50-or-so feet above the nave floor were removed to prepare for the Centennial Gala, the first-ever candlelit dinner held in the nave, which honored Nobel laureate and anti-apartheid leader Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

But, just like the “blue state/red state” divide, Cathedral staff and visitors were split on whether the flags should return. Compelling arguments were made—some liked the idea of having a space dedicated to the glory of God alone, while others said the nation’s church should be a place that honors the rich heritage of all 50 states.

While the conversation with the community continues, a plan for the following year has emerged. During the most intense liturgical seasons of the year—Advent through Eastertide—the state flags will be down, allowing the focus to be entirely on liturgical appointments and actions. In tourist-heavy spring, the flags will return and remain in place until the first Sunday of Advent.

State flags aren’t the only items rotating through the nave. The beautiful liturgical banners, commissioned from artist Nancy Chinn to celebrate the Cathedral’s centennial, are also on the move.

With the end of the centennial celebration, the banners will be “retired” until the beginning of the liturgical year. From Advent 2008 through Pentecost 2009, the two identical banners for each liturgical season will be displayed at the appropriate time.

During the 50 days of Easter, the entire banner series will again be on display. The banners will not be displayed during Ordinary Time, the long season that stretches from spring to Thanksgiving.

Keep an eye out as the nave changes. ✿



Make a Difference

NCA Shares Passion for Preserving Cathedral's Future

Marty Stiffler, the Cathedral's director of national and volunteer advancement, is on a mission. Having embarked on an extensive national tour over the past months and with upcoming plans to visit ten more locations, Stiffler wants above all to ensure people that the National Cathedral Association (NCA) remains the Cathedral's vibrant national volunteer community it has been for more than 100 years.

Stiffler's "listening tour," as she calls it, to date has included Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Louisville, and Sacramento. Her goal is to hear from long-standing Cathedral friends who have been part of the NCA community and to share an update about the NCA's continuing role in the life of the Cathedral. Although she has encountered concerns regarding the NCA's transition from being strictly a "member" organization, Stiffler points out that the Cathedral continues to highly value the NCA's role—especially when the NCA now incorporates the much wider community of Cathedral donors and friends across the country,

and not only those who purchased memberships under the former model.

"Most importantly," says Stiffler, "I want to help dispel the misunderstanding that the NCA no longer exists. We need that national community of friends and donors more than ever. We need a volunteer force to be the Cathedral's ambassadors and advocates—meaning that our national friends and donors tell their communities about what their National Cathedral is doing, but that we are here, too, to hear from our national friends and supporters. It's really about a conversation."

Stiffler also consistently hears from the community an overwhelming love of the Cathedral. Many of these friends share stories about their connection to the Cathedral or how they first became engaged. "It's clear that people who have been touched by the Cathedral feel a connection to it forever. It's a connection seemingly as permanent as the carvings in the Cathedral's edifice," Stiffler says.

And people continue to express an interest in the building, the Cathedral's fabric, and in ensuring it is in the best possible condition. Stiffler hopes to clarify how the National Cathedral Association and its volunteers can be central to the preservation of the Cathedral now and in the future. "After all," she said, "most people affiliated with the NCA were passionate about contributing to building the Cathedral during the long decades of construction.

Annual Volunteer Recognition Service

More than one thousand volunteers who work at Washington National Cathedral were honored on Thursday, October 16, at a special Evensong, recognition ceremony, and reception. Volunteers can be found in every corner of the Cathedral. They ring the bells in the tower, work in the Cathedral gardens, usher on Sundays and at special services, design beautiful flower arrangements, tutor adults and children, conduct pilgrimages, sing in a volunteer choir, and provide numerous other services that enable the Cathedral to keep its doors open year-round. Dean Lloyd concluded the Evensong with this blessing—"Bless our Cathedral volunteers, strengthen and uphold them; nourish and guide them; and so empower us by thy Spirit that together we may continue to edify thy kingdom through the ministries of this holy place; this we ask in Jesus' name."

It makes great sense for that community to focus energy and support on the Cathedral's needs for maintenance and preservation as we go forward."

A gathering of NCA volunteers and leaders is scheduled for May 2009 as the organization takes its next steps in defining the mission and the activities of its key volunteer leaders around the country.

Stiffler's upcoming travel schedule includes California, North and South Carolina, and Oklahoma, as well as Sewanee, Tennessee, New Jersey, and New York City. ✿

TELL YOUR STORY

Have a Cathedral story to share? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

When did you first join the National Cathedral Association?

How do you think the NCA can be an effective advocate for the Cathedral now and in the future?

E-mail your responses to Marty Stiffler at mstiffler@cathedral.org.

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During Evensong the Cathedral also recognized the work of 12 needlepoint volunteers. After 50 years of service, the high altar kneelers required complete refabrication. The new cushions are an exact replica of the originals, which take their color palette from the surrounding stained glass windows.

Between the Evensong and the reception active volunteers were recognized through a pin ceremony. John Shenfield, chair of the Cathedral Chapter, read the names of volunteers who have been at the Cathedral from five to 55 years. Volunteers across the country were recognized, from Caroline Thompson, who traveled here to receive her five year pin to Donald Matthews, our 55 year pin recipient, who lives in Delaware, but has been a Cathedral usher since before the building was completed. ❁

To learn more about volunteering at Washington National Cathedral or as a regional volunteer, e-mail volunteer@cathedral.org.

Holiday Shopping in the Cathedral Store

The west rose window, *Creation*, designed by artist Rowan LeCompte, is one of the most iconic images of Washington National Cathedral. The colorful lancets symbolically portray the creation of the elements, land and sea, and light. Throughout the day the light cast from the window shifts in color from orange to blue to gold. Its light stretches through much of the nave as the sun sets and Evensong begins.

It is no surprise then, that items reproducing the west rose window are among the best-selling items in the Cathedral gift shops. This holiday season, several new “west rose” items make an appearance, including earrings and pendants, and a new stationery set and holiday wrapping paper.

To save on production and mailing costs, this year a catalog was not produced. To view the full range of new items—or to find your favorite gift items—visit the online shop at www.nationalcathedral.org, or stop by the Cathedral Store on the lower level. ❁



Lectures and Learning

Cathedral College Spring Programs

The ministry performed by our colleagues at the Cathedral College is important to the Cathedral’s mission. As we move forward and determine how these programs change and develop in the future, the Cathedral College will conclude the current program year and programs with the following:

❁ Sunday Forum: The Sunday Forum continues not only through June 30 but going forward as well.

❁ Sacred Circles 2009 will take place February 13–14, 2009.

❁ The nave program featuring Elizabeth Gilbert scheduled for March 27, 2009, will take place.

❁ Residential conferences in the Cathedral College end on March 31, 2009. Residential programs scheduled beyond that date are cancelled. Full refunds will be given to those currently registered.

❁ Individual and group accommodations and meetings scheduled through March 31, 2009, will continue.

❁ On-site pilgrimages continue through June 30, 2009.

❁ The Art of Spiritual Companionship course that runs the full program year continues to its scheduled completion date in June 2009.

❁ Cathedral Crossroads continue through June 30, 2009.

❁ The Jerusalem pilgrimage scheduled for April 2009 will take place.

❁ Benedictine Life & Prayer on Monday, Listening for God and centering prayer on Tuesday, and centering prayer on Wednesday morning continue.

❁ Community of Reconciliation program activities continue through June 2009; beyond that will be dependent upon future funding. ❁

“What I like about DOCC is that it helps us listen to each other, like the way God listens to us.”

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

DOCC Winter/Spring Class
Tuesday, January 27 through
Tuesday, April 28, and
Saturday, February 7, 2009

Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC) is an adult education program that provides an experience in building Christian community while encouraging individual spiritual growth. Each session consists of a presentation for approximately 45 minutes, followed by an hour-long conversation in a small group that will stay together for the entire course. Contact ddavis@cathedral.org or (202) 537-6382 for information and registration.



Visit Us

A SYMBOL OF THE SEASON

RED AND GREEN

The evergreen Christmas tree is used as a symbol of the renewal of life through Jesus Christ.

Visitors to the Cathedral are often surprised at the lack of “Christmas decorations” in the nave during the weeks leading to Advent. The Cathedral’s altar guild decorates with Advent wreaths—with four candles to be lit on successive weeks—and greenery to complement the meditative quality of the season. Splashes of red poinsettias do not appear until the end of Advent.

TREES IN STAINED GLASS

The stained glass image above comes from a window given in honor of Harriet

Whittaker, a longtime Cathedral docent.

Learn more about the iconography that can be found throughout the Cathedral by joining our trained docents on a stained glass tour. “Jewels of Light: Cathedral Stained Glass Windows” is offered at 3 pm on Thursday, January 1, and on Sunday, January 4, at 1:30 pm.

In this introduction to the stained glass windows, take a look at the Cathedral’s “jewels of light” and learn about the tales they tell, from Creation to stories from American history. ❁

Stained glass tours are \$5 per person.

If you would like to add an Advent wreath to your holiday decorations, visit the Cathedral Store.

Where in the World?

AN ORIGINAL CARVING BY DEAN SAYRE

The late Cathedral Dean Francis B. Sayre, Jr., was known as an outstanding preacher, creative iconographer, and Cathedral visionary. Few know that he was also a wood carver in his spare time.

In the clergy office behind St. John’s Chapel, you’ll find a small wooden door concealing a pipe chase. Carved into this door is a smiling priest impaneled in Gothic tracery. He wears a biretta and peers through the woodwork as he reaches up over the paneling. Five quatrefoils at the bottom of the door feature delicate flowers, while the sixth



is adorned with a furry-faced creature.

Dean Sayre fabricated the door in 1969 from pieces of oak discarded from other Cathedral projects. Before the door could be considered a permanent part of the Cathedral fabric, Dean Sayre had to present his work for approval by the Building Committee. According to Building Committee minutes, “There was spontaneous exclamation of enjoyment over this bit of whimsy, and a unanimous motion that it be accepted with much appreciation.” Dean Sayre’s light-hearted carving continues to greet



Cathedral chaplains, and serves as a small memorial to our sixth dean. ❁



Cathedral Events

Holiday pageants have been a Cathedral tradition for many decades. Above, students perform in a pageant in 1951. Angels—as well as Mary and the baby Jesus—from recent performances appear on the front cover.

through January 6

“The First Nowell” annual crèche exhibit, lower level, outside Bethlehem Chapel

Thursday, December 4

3 pm - Close-up Tour: “Search for the Holy Family”

Friday, December 5

7:30 pm - Handel’s *Messiah*

Sunday, December 7

10:10 am - Sunday Forum: Dr. Timothy Johnson, “Faith and Healthcare”

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

1:30 pm - Close-up Tour: “Search for the Holy Family”

4 pm - Handel’s *Messiah*

4 pm - Retreat: “Making Room at the Inn”

Saturday, December 13

noon - Cathedral Choral Society “Joy of Christmas” family matinee

4 pm - Cathedral Choral Society “Joy of Christmas”

Sunday, December 14

10:10 am - Sunday Forum: Tavis Smiley, “Faith and Civil Life in America”

11:15 am - Holy Eucharist and Montana State Day, Dean Samuel T. Lloyd III, preacher

4 pm - Cathedral Choral Society “Joy of Christmas”

Saturday, December 20

9:30 am - Bethlehem Prayer Service

2 pm - Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 21

10:10 am - Sunday Forum: Martin Rayner and John Glavin, “Exploring Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*”

11:15 am - Holy Eucharist and Idaho State Day celebration, Cathedral Vicar Stephen Huber, preacher

4 pm - Christmas by Candlelight service

Learn More

WHAT SEASON IS IT?

Advent continues through December 21. The season of Christmas (from “Christ’s Mass”) is defined as the period from Christmas Day to the evening of January 5, the day before the start of Epiphany. This period is also commonly known as the “twelve days of Christmas,” as referred to in the carol of the same name, or Yuletide, as in the secular carol “Deck the Halls.”

Wednesday, December 24

6 pm - Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist (passes required)

10 pm - Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist (passes required)

Thursday, December 25

9 am - Festival Holy Eucharist of Christmas Day—telecast live by WJLA (ABC), check for local listings in your area

noon - Christmas Festival Holy Eucharist

4 pm - Vespers of Christmas

5:15 pm - Christmas Day Organ Recital, Scott Dettra and Christopher Jacobson performing

Sunday, December 28

11:15 am - Holy Eucharist, the Rev. Canon John L. Peterson, preacher
time pending - Wreath-laying Ceremony on the anniversary of the birth of President Woodrow Wilson

For a complete listing of all events, or for more information visit www.nationalcathedral.org.

DECEMBER 2008						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



WASHINGTON

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The Sunday Forum

10:10 am in the nave
or streamed live at
www.nationalcathedral.org.

Lectures and Learning

HEALTHCARE, CIVIC LIFE, AND SCROOGE

Faith and Healthcare

On December 7, join Dean Sam Lloyd and Dr. Timothy Johnson, medical editor for ABC News, in a discussion of the intersection of faith and healthcare.

Dr. G. Timothy Johnson has provided commentary on medical problems and answers for viewers of ABC News' *Good Morning America* since the program's debut. Johnson's broadcast work has garnered Emmy Awards and a Gabriel Award in best news category.

Faith and Civic Life in America

On December 14, Dean Lloyd engages talk show host and media personality Tavis Smiley for this week's Forum on civil life in America.

Tavis Smiley is a renowned broadcaster, author, and philanthropist, as well as host of the late-night PBS television show *Tavis Smiley* and *The Tavis Smiley Show* distributed by Public Radio International. His Tavis Smiley Foundation has provided training workshops and conference opportunities to more than 5,000 black youth.

Learn More

PARTICIPATE ONLINE

In addition to being able to view the Forum on the Cathedral's Web site, online viewers can participate by submitting questions. Questions are gathered during the week preceding and are monitored during the live webcast.

photo: Randall Balmer and Dean Lloyd at the Sunday Forum, November 2, 2008

Exploring Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

Actor Martin Rayner and playwright John Glavin discuss this beloved holiday classic on December 21.

Martin Rayner currently stars as Ebenezer Scrooge in Ford's Theatre's production of *A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas*. He has appeared on television in *Doctor Who*, *Star Trek Voyager*, *Frasier*, and *Law and Order: CI*, and onstage in *Travels with My Aunt* and *Henry V*.

John Glavin is a playwright and professor of English at Georgetown University, specializing in stage and screen adaptations of the works of Charles Dickens. Glavin's most recent books include *After Dickens: Reading, Adaptation, and Performance*, and *Dickens On Screen*.