

# CATHEDRAL VOICE

A NEWSLETTER FROM WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL • FEBRUARY 2009

## Certainties *for* Uncertain Times

A CATHEDRAL UPDATE FROM THE DEAN

After the hard decisions of the late fall, the Cathedral staff is making progress in adjusting to financial strains and economic worries. With the trimming of budgets, activities, and staff, we are nevertheless determined to keep the essential pieces of Cathedral life alive and well. Cathedrals live with a few certainties, the essentials of their life that apply no matter what the size of the budget in any given year.

Of course, the most basic certainty is worship—our daily prayer and praise to God continues to be offered three times each day and five times on Sunday. Whether in the quiet of our early Morning Prayer, or in the noon Eucharist at the high altar amid the company of visitors from across the world, or in the beauty of Evensong offered by our choristers, we are day by day giving thanks for and praying for our city, nation, and world.

Another certainty is our service as a spiritual home for the nation, a mission so clear in the national prayer service for the inauguration of President Obama. In recent weeks, too, we have been especially aware of the certainty that our Cathedral is a major destination for pilgrims and visitors, as travelers to Washington for the inaugural events poured into this beautiful and holy place at the heart of their nation's capital in droves.

There are many other certainties—that we are called to preach and teach a moving, intellectually rich, spiritually alive Christian faith, that we must use this sacred place to bring people of divergent faiths and views together to find common understanding, that we must make room in our life for the struggling and disadvantaged, that we depend on the congregation and many other communities within our life to be this cathedral for the nation.

But new things are taking shape, too. The volunteer office is well on its way to fulfilling a broad mission of providing ways to tap into the remarkable gifts and eagerness of those ready to dedicate their time and talent. Our chapter is exploring an array of ways to put our buildings to creative uses for purposes of hospitality, revenue, and housing groups who are partners with us. Every part of our life is undergoing careful examination to clarify what the absolute core ministry in each area is, how that work can be supported, and how it can be shared.

These are not easy times, but they are very hopeful. We are seeing the shape of our life with increasing clarity. That clarity begins with a handful of certainties that will never go away and will continue to guide our life no matter what storms we encounter. ❁

## SING *a* SONG of HOPE

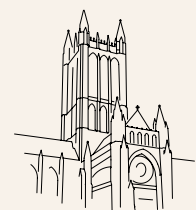
THE 2009  
PRESIDENTIAL  
INAUGURAL  
PRAYER SERVICE

Fresh from his inauguration, President Barack Obama began his first full day in office by attending the National Prayer Service at Washington National Cathedral in celebration of the fifty-sixth



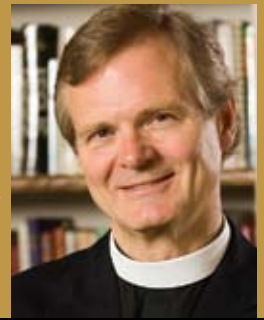
presidential inaugural. Accompanied by First Lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joseph R. Biden, and Dr. Jill Biden, the president greeted clergy

*continued on page 3*



— WASHINGTON —  
NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

# Putting on Your Mask First



A MESSAGE FROM CATHEDRAL DEAN SAMUEL T. LLOYD III

I've been thinking lately about a line that often strikes me when I'm settling into my seat for an airline flight, and the attendant is reciting the usual litany of safety precautions: "Should we lose altitude rapidly, oxygen masks will drop from the panel above you.

Pull them securely over your head and in place. *If you are traveling with children or others, make sure to put yours on first.*"

Sounds selfish, doesn't it? Tend to yourself first. But of course it's not.

It reflects the hard reality that you can't help anyone else if you yourself aren't staying alive.

Our economy has been losing altitude over the last several months, and this year promises to be no easier. Yet all of us are going to need to stay as strong and healthy as we can in this hard stretch. We're going to need spiritual oxygen for ourselves just to keep going, and especially if we want to live well and generously in an anxious time. And that means putting our masks on first.

Part of the work of this Cathedral and churches everywhere is to provide people the oxygen they need to sustain their

spirits in these demanding times. So I'm going to play flight attendant for a moment and list some of the sources of oxygen that the crew and I believe are important for staying alive.

Such as worship. I've already challenged our Sunday morning worshipers to make a New Year's resolution to be at the Cathedral, or in church somewhere else, for 52 Sundays straight. This isn't meant as a nice idea. It's serious counsel to stay grounded in a reality that doesn't go up and down with the stock market, in a love that will hold you even

when jobs and retirement accounts are shaky. I can come close to guaranteeing you that by not missing a Sunday, you will be helping something quiet and confident to take shape in your spirit.

Your crew is also recommending doing something to strengthen your faith. Come to the Forums, sign up for a journey through the Scriptures in the Transforming Literature of the Bible class, go on a retreat. When I asked Forum guest Barbara Brown Taylor what kept her spiritual life alive she spoke urgently about the importance to her of keeping Sabbath—preserving a day, for her it's Saturday, when she stays off

the computer, doesn't go shopping, and tries to live the day at a different pace. Everything comes back into focus, she said, when you're not over-connected and rushing from one thing to the next.

And, of course, there is prayer. By the time you receive this, I will have been giving two Sunday Forums on Paul's Letter to the Philippians, which is as encouraging a part of the Scripture as I know. Try praying with it. Ten, 15 minutes spent reading a few verses and letting them echo around in your spirit every day, or even a day or two a week, can change how things look. Keep reading the twenty-third Psalm once a day—as good an antidote to being overwhelmed as I know.

Finally, find a way to serve, to take up some cause, to support some organization, to serve some person, who is struggling in these hard times. That's where you'll see Christ.

We're in for a rough ride this year in the economy. It won't be a time for the faint of heart. The world around us is going to need wise, patient, hopeful people to keep on focusing on the things that matter, to be encouraging when times feel lean. Put your mask on first. Breathe the oxygen of God's spirit. It can make quite a difference. ✿

**“We are going to need spiritual oxygen for ourselves just to keep going...”**

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

## A SPIRITUAL HOME FOR THE NATION

Visitors to the Cathedral this month can continue the inaugural celebration by lighting candles, leaving messages of hope, saying prayers for the nation, and viewing photos of presidential visits—including photos of the January 21, 2009, national prayer service in celebration of the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

“A Spiritual Home for the Nation: Presidents and Washington National Cathedral,” a new participatory exhibit, runs through President’s Day, February 16. This special exhibit features photos of past presidential visits to Washington National Cathedral as well as photos from the Inaugural Prayer Service for President Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden. Visitors are also invited to light a candle of hope for the nation and take a prayer in celebration of the inauguration of our forty-fourth president. ❁



## Participate online

Light “virtual” candles and leave a personal message of hope, renewal, and reconciliation at [www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org). Online visitors can also access a gallery of historic presidential photos, view video footage of the national prayer service, and explore the role of this church for national purposes throughout the years.

(above) President Jimmy Carter prays for the safe return of American diplomats taken hostage in Iran, 1979.



President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George H. W. Bush attend a prayer service marking their first inauguration, the first attended at the Cathedral by a president, 1981.

## The Nation’s Cathedral

*continued from front cover*

participants before the service outside Bethlehem Chapel and entered the nave from the parclose stairway, passing by Herbert Houck’s statue of Abraham Lincoln kneeling in prayer.

In his welcome, Cathedral Dean Samuel T. Lloyd III pointed out the service’s poignant resonance.

“Forty years ago Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., preached his last Sunday sermon here in this Cathedral from the Canterbury Pulpit the week before he went to Memphis and was assassinated. It is no small thing then,” said Dean Lloyd, “that we not only welcome here today our distinguished and gifted new president but our first African-American president. It is an honor and joy to be able to celebrate such a rhyming of important moments in our life today.”

The tradition of inaugural prayer services, which dates to the first inauguration of George Washington in 1789, was renewed by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 when he assumed office in the midst of the Great Depression. More recently, the National Prayer Service has been held at the Cathedral following the inaugurations of presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and George W. Bush. ❁

(top right) The three Abrahamic faiths were represented by participants in the service: the Most Rev. Francisco González, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, and Dr. Ingrid Mattson.

(center right) The president and first lady singing the national anthem.

(bottom right) The Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins gave the sermon.



photos: Donovan Marks

## Cathedral Store Update

The Cathedral has signed a five-year contract with Event Network, Inc., to operate the Cathedral Store. Event Network is a firm specializing in operating retail stores at cultural institutions, with a core purpose of “extending and elevating the guest experience.”

The Cathedral retains ultimate control of what is sold in the store, and receives a significant percentage of sales. Event Network assumes all aspects of the retail operation, including management, staffing, purchasing, merchandising, product development, and inventory control. Event Network also plans to invest in store infrastructure and web-based sales.

The store re-opened under new management on January 10. The store manager, Ivan Gautier, comes to the Cathedral with extensive retail experience, most recently at World Market. Event Network is in the process of hiring additional staff.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to the Cathedral staff who worked in the Museum Store. Many store employees were offered positions, but most chose to pursue other opportunities. We are grateful for their dedication and devotion to the store, to our visitors and customers, and to the Cathedral. They are missed.

We especially want to thank Pete Bernal, our store director, whose tireless effort, leadership, and professionalism throughout the entire transition process have been exemplary and are a wonderful testament to the depth of his character.

We believe that the decision to partner with Event Network will help ensure the long-term viability of the store and will enhance the overall visitor experience. Please join us in welcoming Event Network to the Cathedral family. ❀



## Make a Difference

### The Power of Generosity

For decades, volunteers have raised awareness of and support for the Cathedral. Recently, when Gail and Kirby Rowe decided to be generous with their blessings, they chose the Cathedral.

The Rowes chose to support the Cathedral’s malaria program in a way they love—by hosting a grand party and inviting their closest friends. The Silver Bells Charity Ball, held at the Newton-White Mansion on December 6, 2008, hosted many guests who had never been to the Cathedral and were first-time supporters. Food, music, palm readers, raffles, and a silent auction made the evening memorable, and raising close to \$5,000 for the malaria program.

One of the silent auction winners, Joan Mory, who attended a Cathedral Christmas Eve service, said, “With everything happening over the past several days, Christmas Eve has taken on more importance than it normally does. The service was incredibly beautiful and so very meaningful.”

The Cathedral’s efforts in the elimination of malaria occur through collaboration with the Inter-religious Campaign against Malaria in Mozambique, a national faith-based coalition of 11 faith communities. Currently the first stage of the campaign, Together Against Malaria, is underway in the Mozambique province of Zambezia. This project demonstrates the effectiveness of mobilizing faith communities to fight malaria and, potentially, other health threats.

“I’m thrilled at the level of passion and commitment the Rowes put into this event,” said the Rev. Canon John L. Peterson, director of the Cathedral’s Center for Global Justice and Reconciliation. “They believed in the Cathedral and wanted to do something special. They are a true testament to what can happen when caring individuals bring friends together in support of a common cause.” ❀

### Easter Passes

Seating passes are required to attend the 11 am Festival Holy Eucharist service on Easter, April 12. Passes are available beginning March 2 through the Cathedral’s box office at [www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org) and (877) 537-2228. No mail order requests will be fulfilled. A \$2 service charge per pass covers postage. Requests are filled in the order in which they are received.

Thirty minutes prior to the service, empty seats will be released. Passes for empty seats will then be made available to the general public on Easter morning.

Passes are not required for the 8 am Easter Eucharist or the 4 pm Evensong. ❀



## Cathedral Events

The popular Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race marks the last day before Lent at the Cathedral. Clergy, staff, and students from the Cathedral schools participate.

### through February 16

Exhibit: "A Spiritual Home for the Nation" celebration of the presidential inauguration, main level

### Sunday, February 1

10:10 am - Forum: Dean Samuel T. Lloyd III: "The Secret of Contentment (No Matter the Circumstances)"

11:15 am - Holy Eucharist, Cathedral Vicar Stephen Huber, preacher

1:30 pm - Close Up Tour: "Patriots in the Cathedral," \$5

### Monday, February 2 through Friday, February 6

Residential Retreat: "Approaching God through Poetry;" register at [www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org)

### Wednesday, February 4

7 pm - Cathedral Choral Society Concert: "Celebrate Youth! Annual High School Choral Festival," free

### Thursday, February 5

3 pm - Close Up Tour: "Patriots in the Cathedral," \$5

### Friday, February 6

Pilgrimage: "Kindling the Flame: A Pilgrimage for the Feast of St. Brigid," \$25-\$30, register at [pilgrimages@cathedral.org](mailto:pilgrimages@cathedral.org)

### Sunday, February 8

10:10 am - Sunday Forum: the Rev. Dr. John Polkinghorne, KBE, FRS, "Searching for Truth in Science and Theology"

11:15 am - Holy Eucharist, the Rev. Canon Carol Wade, preacher

### Wednesday, February 11

10 am - Special Tour: "Abraham Lincoln: Whose Lonely Soul God Kindled," \$5

7 pm - Evening with Esther de Waal: "Living Stones: the Power of Architecture," \$10; RSVP to [cathedralcollege@cathedral.org](mailto:cathedralcollege@cathedral.org)

## Learn More

### SHROVE TUESDAY

Also called Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday is the last day before Ash Wednesday. Known as Carnival in some parts of the world, this is a time to remove "fat" foods from the pantry—usually by consuming them! The custom of a pancake supper is popular in many places.

## FEBRUARY 2009

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| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

### Friday, February 13 and Saturday, February 14

Sacred Circles: A Celebration of Women's Spirituality; register at [www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org)

### Sunday, February 15

10:10 am - Sunday Forum: Karen Armstrong, "Why We Need the Golden Rule"

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

### Wednesday, February 18

7 pm - Evening with Esther de Waal: "Living Landscape: the Mystery of the Borderlands," \$10; RSVP to [cathedralcollege@cathedral.org](mailto:cathedralcollege@cathedral.org)

### Sunday, February 22

10:10 am - Sunday Forum: David Selby, "Celebrating Abraham Lincoln's Two-hundredth Birthday"

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

5:15 pm - Organ Recital: "Anglo-Phonic," Scott Dettra, organist

### Tuesday, February 24, Shrove Tuesday

12:30 pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race, following noon Holy Eucharist

6-9 pm - Cathedral Crossroads

### Wednesday, February 25, Ash Wednesday

Pilgrimage: "The Silence of the Desert: an Ash Wednesday Pilgrimage," \$35-\$40, register at [pilgrimages@cathedral.org](mailto:pilgrimages@cathedral.org)

7:30 am - Holy Eucharist with imposition of ashes

noon - Holy Eucharist with imposition of ashes

5:30 pm - Evensong with imposition of ashes

7 pm - Evening with Esther de Waal: "Living Voices: St. Dunstan, St. Anselm, and Thomas Merton as Exemplars of Creativity," \$10

### Friday, February 27 through Sunday, March 1

Residential Retreat: "Faith, Art, and Poetry in a Post-Christian Culture;" register at [www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org)

For a complete listing of Cathedral events, or for more information visit [www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org).



WASHINGTON

## NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

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### The Sunday Forum

10:10 am in the nave  
or streamed live at  
[www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org).

## The Sunday Forum

### SCIENCE, MORALS, AND ABE LINCOLN

#### Searching for Truth in Science and Theology

On February 8, Dean Lloyd engages Cambridge professor John Polkinghorne for a Forum on science and religion.

The Rev. Dr. John Polkinghorne is a renowned physicist, a knight of the British Empire, a fellow of the Royal Society, and winner of the 2002 Templeton Prize for pioneering research at the intersection of science and religion. Polkinghorne is the author of *The Faith of a Physicist; Faith, Science, and Understanding; Theology in the Context of Science*, and others.

#### Why We Need the Golden Rule

On February 15, Dean Lloyd discusses moral values with religious scholar Karen Armstrong.

Karen Armstrong is a world-renowned scholar of comparative religions, bestselling author, and winner of a 2008 TED award for her "Charter of Compassion," that encourages religious traditions to apply shared moral values in support of global understanding. Among her books are *The Battle for God: Fundamentalism in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* and *A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*.

### FINDING PEACE

On February 1, Dean Lloyd concludes his series on Paul's letter to the Philippians with "The Secret of Contentment." This Forum features a lecture-style presentation, followed by questions and answers. Submit questions online at [www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org).

*Earl Stafford and William Raspberry, Forum guests of Dean Lloyd on January 18, 2009*

### Celebrating the Lincoln Bicentennial

On February 22, join actor David Selby in the celebration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

David Selby's long stage, television, and film career includes *The Eccentricities of a Nightingale*, the television series *Falcon Crest*, and the films *Dying Young* and *White Squall*. In addition to acting, he is an accomplished playwright and novelist, whose most recent book is *Lincoln's Better Angel*. Selby stars as Abraham Lincoln in Ford's Theatre's world premiere of *The Heavens Are Hung in Black*, a drama about the challenges Lincoln faced in 1862.