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Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States

February 2018

Dear Friends,

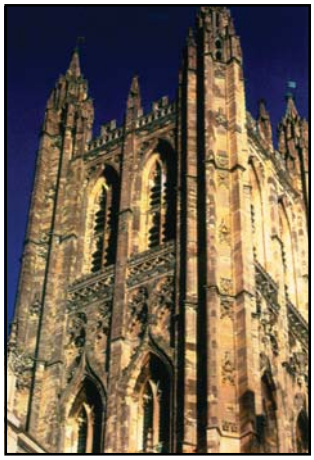


At the opening liturgy of my first Lambeth Conference in Canterbury Cathedral in 1988, I turned at the peace to greet the bishop behind me and recognized the pectoral cross on his chest. It had originally belonged to a Virginia suffragan bishop who had died four years earlier. The bishop's family had given the cross to me to use in the mission of the Church, and I had sent it to an African bishop with ties to Virginia. To see it again in Canterbury Cathedral reinforced for me the place of Canterbury as the spiritual center of the Anglican Communion.

The Lambeth Conference, first held at and named for Lambeth Palace in London in 1867, remained there, summoned by the Archbishop of Canterbury once every ten years, until 1978 when the venue changed to Canterbury, where the next one will be held in 2020.

It is especially appropriate that the conference be held at Canterbury. Archbishop Runcie once observed, "an argument could be mounted to demonstrate that all the achievements of Twentieth Century archbishops can be traced to the thinking, reading, and conversations in Canterbury, and all the mistakes to spending too little time there." Lambeth Palace, across the Thames from Westminster, is a place of power. Canterbury is a place of prayer. FOCCUS remains committed to supporting the global mission of this historic center of Anglican spirituality.

Peter James Lee
Chairman of FOCCUS
XII Bishop of Virginia



Join FOCCUS' Facebook

Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States has a Facebook group. Facebook, the world's largest social networking site, allows users to share ideas, discussions and photos with people of similar interest.

The FOCCUS group is a great way to keep up with the latest news from Canterbury Cathedral. The creators search news sites to bring you news of interest concerning the Cathedral. In addition you can post your thoughts and share photos of your trips to Canterbury.

If you are not a member of Facebook, please consider joining and then become a member of the FOCCUS group. If you are already a member of Facebook, type Friends of Canterbury Cathedral into the site's search box.

www.facebook.com
https://www.facebook.com/groups/90862204701/

CONSIDER A GIFT TO FOCCUS IN YOUR FINANCIAL PLANNING

There are many ways to align what's important to us with our money. One of the most thoughtful ways we can combine these considerations is through Planned Giving. By making thoughtful choices in our estate planning, we can begin to create a legacy for the future. Why not consider a gift to FOCCUS in your financial planning considerations? Whether it's making a beneficiary election on an IRA, annuity or life insurance policy or naming FOCCUS in your trust or will, each of these actions is a way to further FOCCUS' mission of providing scholarships to young clergy and seminarians from around the world to study at Canterbury.

Further, as we approach the end of the year, those over 70 years old have an opportunity to gift up to $100,000 of their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to a charity without having to realize any tax impact. If you fall into this group, consider giving part or all of this year's RMD to FOCCUS. Also, as the stock market climbs, giving highly appreciated stock, bonds or funds to FOCCUS can be a great tax strategy and an additional way for you to support FOCCUS.

Be sure to consult with your tax advisor before taking any action.

The Board of Trustees of FOCCUS

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The Rev. Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie
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The Rev. Canon Carl F. Turner
The Rev. Canon Samuel Van Culin

The fall meeting of the FOCCUS Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at the Washington National Cathedral. The attendees that day are listed below.



Left to right: Sarah Frankland, Chief Executive, Canterbury Cathedral Trust, Peter Lee, Barbie Harper, Eugene Johnston, Anne Ritchie, Powell Hutton, Kathy Grieb, Sam Van Culin, Ralph Olson.

NEWS ON FOCCUS BOARD MEMBERS

The Rev. Canon Carlson Gerdau, a member of the FOCCUS Board of Trustees since 2009, died on May 27, 2017. He was 84. A graduate of Harvard and General Theological Seminary, he was ordained in 1959. In 1998, he was called to be Canon to Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, who remembered him as a "minister of encouragement, who has helped countless men and women and young people, and certainly me as well, to be their best selves and sing their own songs." He was an active supporter of interfaith dialogue and of diversity of ministry within the Church, features that laid the groundwork for how the rubrics of 1928 became the 1979 Prayer Book of today. His work as a parish priest and as a senior administrator within the National Church gave him unique experience and perspective, rendering his counsel invaluable.



The Rev. Dr. A. Katherine Grieb was elected to the FOCCUS board at its spring meeting last May. Professor Grieb was ordained in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington in 1983, and has taught New Testament at the Virginia Theological Seminary since 1994. She is a popular preacher, educator and author, spending many summers teaching seminarians in the Scholars' Program at Canterbury.



The Rev. Canon Carl F. Turner was also elected to the board last May. Father Turner became the thirteenth Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, New York City, in July of 2014. Prior to coming to St. Thomas, he was the Canon Precenter of Exeter Cathedral in England for thirteen years. In addition to being a curate at two Anglican churches, he was also the Rector of a large urban parish in the East End of London. He has a strong love of music, liturgy, and a deep commitment to the communities he serves.



We are pleased to welcome these two new distinguished additions to our board.

CANTERBURY CHOIR TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES

Don't miss a chance to attend a concert of the Canterbury Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys as they tour the United States this spring. The list of concerts and times is:



April 4-All Saints' Church, Beverly Hills, CA 7:30PM
April 6-St. John the Divine, Houston, TX 7PM
April 8-St. Luke's Church, Birmingham, AL 5PM
April 10-Grace Church Cathedral, Charleston, SC 7:30PM
April 11-St. Paul's Church, Greenville, NC 7:30PM
April 13-St. Stephen's Church, Richmond, VA 7:30PM
April 14-Calvary Church, Summit, NJ 7PM

IMPRESSIONS OF A CANTERBURY SCHOLAR

by The Rev. Catherine "Cat' Healy, Assistant Rector for Youth and Family at St. Andrew's Church, Wellesley, MA.

Over last summer, I had the incredible privilege of spending two weeks living, studying, and worshiping at Canterbury Cathedral in England. I was there as a Canterbury Scholar, part of a group of two dozen newly ordained clergy from all over the global Anglican Communion who gathered together for an intensified course in theology and ministry.

The members of our class hailed from 15 countries: Australia, Brazil, England, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Kenya, New Zealand, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Korea, Tanzania, the Philippines, the United States, and Zimbabwe.

Our instructors included seminary professors and several cathedral canons. Each day we attended classes on topics ranging from Christian iconography to the theology of baptism to the causes of poverty in our communities. In the evenings we decamped to the pubs of Canterbury swapping stories that covered everything from "What's your most embarrassing liturgical moment?" to what do you use when your region has a wine shortage?" (Answers to the latter question included Coca-Cola, cough syrup, and a range of homemade fermented concoctions.)

Moving from ancient to modern, we met with the staff of the Anglican Communion Office and had an audience with current Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, in his headquarters at Lambeth Palace in London.

One of the best parts of the entire experience was to talk with the other new priests from around the world and learn how much our context shapes our life in the church. For example, the theology of marriage is a live issue everywhere in the Anglican Communion, but the particularities of the conversation are different. In the United States, the pressing issue is same-sex marriage; in Nigeria, it's polygamy; in Zimbabwe, it's bride price; in India, it's marriage of people from different castes.

I left Canterbury feeling transformed in my ministry, energized in my hopes for a global church, and full of stories to tell!



Cat in Canterbury with women clergy from around the world (Australia, India, South Africa, the Philippines).



Cat Healy, Canterbury Scholar.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S ABBEY AND THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES
by Powell Hutton

In 597 AD, St. Augustine arrived in Britain to fulfill the charge given him by Pope Gregory I to convert the Anglo-Saxons. Canterbury Cathedral credits that year as the year of its founding. Perhaps less well known is that at the same time, St. Augustine also founded a Benedictine abbey just outside the precincts of the Cathedral, an abbey that took his name after his death. It was built on land that housed the pagan temple at which the reigning king, Ethelbert, had worshiped.

The intent was not only to provide a residence for St. Augustine and his clerics, but also to provide a suitable final resting place for the bones of kings and senior church officials. The newly converted King Ethelbert gave the land for a church to be erected of "becoming splendour, dedicated to the blessed apostles Peter and Paul," and he endowed it richly. Though the original church was wooden, a more lasting stone structure was consecrated a few decades later, in 634.

As the abbey and its buildings grew, it developed into a strong center of missionary teaching and learning, with its own scriptorium and a library of some two thousand manuscripts. It survived the invasions of the Danes and thrived under the Normans. From the 13th Century onward, its wealth grew, including almost 20,000 acres of land in Kent and acquiring a "worldly magnificence," marked by "lavish expenditures," royal visits and banquets for thousands of guests.

By the time of King Henry VIII, the abbey was one of the wealthiest in the kingdom. Henry, of course, had a different set of priorities than Ethelbert. To marry Anne Boleyn, Henry broke with Rome and headed his own church. Moreover, as he faced the mounting costs of expeditions on the continent, he and many radical Protestant reformers turned their eyes on Papal wealth, acquired over centuries from pilgrims and benefactors seeking solace at saints' relics and absolution of their sins. In 1534, Parliament was persuaded to give Henry the power, under the Act of Supremacy, to confiscate these rich church properties, and over the next few years he set about dissolving the communities, appropriating their income, disposing of their assets, and providing for clerics remaining under his rule.

According to British historian George Bernard:



A view of Canterbury Cathedral
from the ruins of St. Augustine's Abbey

The dissolution of the monasteries in the late 1530s was one of the most revolutionary events in English history. There were nearly 900 religious houses in England, around 260 for monks, 300 for regular canons, 142 nunneries and 183 friaries; some 12,000 people in total, 4,000 monks, 3,000 canons, 3,000 friars and 2,000 nuns. If the adult male population was 500,000, that meant that one adult man in fifty was in religious orders.

In 1538, the King's Commissioners took over St. Augustine's Abbey. While the royal residence buildings survived for another several hundred years, the treasure was plundered, the library destroyed, and stones were carted off and sold for other use. King Henry ended almost a thousand years of monastic rule at what is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

VOICES FROM CANTERBURY
by the Rev. Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie

Commodore M. J. Atherton is the new Receiver General of Canterbury Cathedral and member of the FOCCUS Board. He agreed to be "e-interviewed" and these are his informative and eloquent responses.

1. **What is your role as Receiver General at Canterbury Cathedral?** *The title has some heritage behind it and has connotations of Treasurer (or even a kind of IRS official), but what it actually means is that I am the most senior lay member of the Cathedral's team and effectively its Chief Operating Officer under the Dean.*

2. **What draws you to the Canterbury community?** *I was coming to the end of a career as an officer in the Royal Navy. That wasn't my original plan: I had wanted to be an academic and teacher of English literature, but thought I should gain some broader experience before settling down, so I signed up for a short, five-year navy commission to expand my horizons. And I ended up staying for over thirty years because it just kept being intensely rewarding in so many ways. After that, I was looking to invest the next stage of my life in something that would demand the same kind of commitment. My first thoughts of Canterbury were as a literature student, filtered through Chaucer, Marlowe, T.S. Eliot and others, but I had always understood the Cathedral as a special place that draws people to it - a place of pilgrimage. So I wasn't surprised to feel powerfully drawn to it myself by the opportunity to take over as Receiver General late in 2016. This astonishing place has drawn people's devotion for centuries, whether through Thomas Becket or the other Canterbury saints or as the Mother Church of the Anglican Communion and the seat of the Archbishop. What is so striking is that the devotion to the place, the love, is as strong as ever and reaches out right across the world.*

3. **When you walk into Canterbury Cathedral, what sights and sounds inspire you?** *The Cathedral is brought alive by its people, who dedicate themselves to it and offer up their talents, crafts and skills across an extraordinary canvas as they go about their business - from clergy to stonemasons to glaziers, carpenters, musicians, guides, hoteliers and more. Everywhere there is originality grounded in tradition, vitality continually renewed, all inspired by its extraordinary heritage. In many ways, it reminds me of life in a ship's company, because it is people that give a ship life and identity. Everyone on board has a part to play and everyone is equally valued, from chefs to seamen to engineers to doctors, all giving of their best. It's the same here, and we are seeing it in an extraordinary form through the work we are undertaking to restore and renew the Cathedral for future generations. Called 'The Canterbury Journey', it includes replacing the Nave Roof, restoring the Great West Towers, re-landscaping parts of the Precincts, building a new Welcome Centre, and giving access through improved exhibition and interpretation spaces to many of the Cathedral's treasures; we are also about to rebuild the Cathedral Organ. It is impossible not to be inspired by the commitment and passion with which this massive programme of work is being undertaken whilst still keeping the Cathedral open as a holy place of worship and pilgrimage. It is a tribute to the power of the place and is what I hoped to find when I came here. I am thrilled to be part of it.*



PILGRIMAGE NEWS

This past year, on behalf of FOCCUS, The Rev. Canon Matthew Corkern, board member and Rector of Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit, NJ, organized and led two of his unique Pilgrimage Pathways.
From June 18-June 27, 2017, travelers toured the English countryside, engaging in worship and cultural experiences as they followed the Pilgrims' Way from Winchester to Canterbury. Following the English trip, Matthew met up with his second group of pilgrims who spent two weeks exploring the western coast of Ireland. These summer trips marked the thirty first and thirty second pilgrimages Matthew has led!
Pilgrimages are Matthew's special ministry in support of FOCCUS and we continue to be immensely grateful to him. His attention to detail and depth of knowledge cannot be overstated. Future trips are in the planning stages and should be seriously considered by anyone looking for a memorable and spiritual time away.

PILGRIMAGE PATHWAYS

A FOCCUS Partnership

3 July ~ 13 July 2018

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CAPTURING LIGHT IN REFLECTION ON WWI:

Art & Remembrance across Northern France and Belgium

WORLD WAR I – fought between 1914 and 1918 – was a conflict on an epic scale and left an indelible mark on the collective memory of the countries forever changed in the course of history.



This twelve-day pilgrimage explores the intertwined concepts of Light and Hope as we are called together by God to be sisters and brothers in faith. It is a beautiful and a demanding calling. Our Archbishop Justin Welby put it in memorable terms in a recent sermon. "The vocation of a Christian community, he said, is to give people an opportunity to recognise two things: (i) the complexity of each other; and (ii) the simplicity of seeking to put Christ at the centre of everything." On this hundredth anniversary of the war to end all wars, our pilgrim conclave travels through France and Belgium equally encountering strangers and witnesses in remembrance of that lost generation of young men, and in celebration of the generation upon generation of art and architecture that buoys us through times of war and peace.

This is a momentous year with the dawn of the 100th anniversary of 1918, and the remembrance of The Great War. We shall explore the battlefields, churches and monuments honoring the end of WWI and the glorious brave who fought. We shall also ponder exquisite art, music and culture in the cathedrals of Strasbourg, Reims, Amiens, Beauvais, Bruges and Ghent, as well as chapels at Ronchamp and Chantilly.

This twelve-day pilgrimage shall cost $4200 (an all-inclusive package of everything except certain lunches, international air-travel and insurance), and a $700 single-fee. This Itinerary does include a $300 tax-deductible donation to Canterbury Cathedral.

Our ancient faith calls us to encounter the contemporary world through friendships formed across these native lands of culture, history and religion. To express interest or obtain further details, please contact Matthew Corkern by email mtlc101@gmail.com or call 908-277-1814.

Please note this pilgrimage is priced as an all-inclusive package of everything except air-travel and insurance. This trip is based on double-occupancy, but singles may be accommodated upon sign-up.

FRIENDS *of*
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL
in the UNITED STATES

888 17th Street, NW, Suite 608
Washington, DC 20006
202-822-8994

Becoming a Friend

Enclosed in this Newsletter you will find an envelope we hope you will use to become a member of Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States. Membership includes such benefits as free admission to the Cathedral and personalized tours, notification of FOCCUS events, as well as priority consideration for a place on future pilgrimages.

FOCCUS - 888 17th Street, NW, Suite 608 - Washington, DC 20006
202-822-8994 - Email: canterburyus@gmail.com
Website: www.canterburyus.org