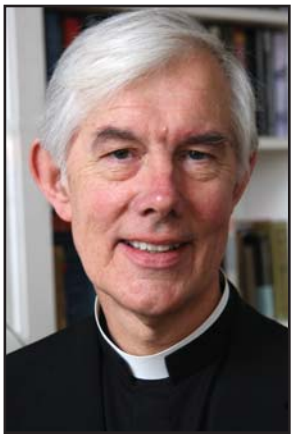
focus
Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States
February 2011

LETTER FROM THE VERY REVEREND DR. ROBERT A. WILLIS DEAN OF CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL



Dear Friends,

At the end of December the local newspaper in Canterbury asked several of us for predictions for 2011. One of my easiest predictions to make was that Canterbury Cathedral would be a blessing to hundreds of people every day of the year. I had no doubt about this prediction since every day I meet people who have come from all parts of the world, some to discover the place for the very first time and others to make a return journey or to bring members of their family or their friends who have never been here and to share with them what they experienced in former visits. The impact of Canterbury is something which it is hard to describe simply since people receive it at a multitude of different levels. It is, of course, first and foremost a place of prayer and those who come here add to that sense of prayerfulness, many by lighting candles or writing prayers and leaving them on the intercession boards in the Crypt. At the same time, Canterbury is perceived as a community or as a place of great beauty or history whose architecture or whose story causes the pilgrim or tourist to pause in their own life and ask questions about themselves. It is a place of many meetings as so many of the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States have discovered.

As another year begins I feel enormous gratitude to the members of FOCCUS, not only for their support but for the way in which they resource those who would never be able to come here for an extended stay without their help. As I write this we are preparing to receive newly consecrated Bishops from across the Anglican Communion for their annual course. This year we are to receive 33 bishops from 10 different nations and I know that they and we shall all be enriched by the days they will spend here in early February. We expect as many as 100 applications for the Seminarians Course this summer. Such courses can only be balanced if those from the developing world can count on the resources and support of FOCCUS to enlarge that which the Dean and Chapter are able to contribute. In mid June, we are looking forward to a Pilgrimage from FOCCUS itself sharing our life here at Canterbury. It will be led by the Rev. Matthew Corkern who is a recent addition to the FOCCUS Board of Trustees but no stranger to Canterbury Cathedral. He has been leading pilgrimages here as long as I can remember. That will be a time for us all both to enjoy and also to learn more of this place together.

FOCCUS supports and enriches the lIfe of Canterbury Cathedral in myriad ways, allowing so many different people to be blessed by its life day by day. It's vitally important to maintain this link between the United States and Canterbury.

The Very Reverend Dr. Robert A. Willis
Dean of Canterbury Cathedral



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.

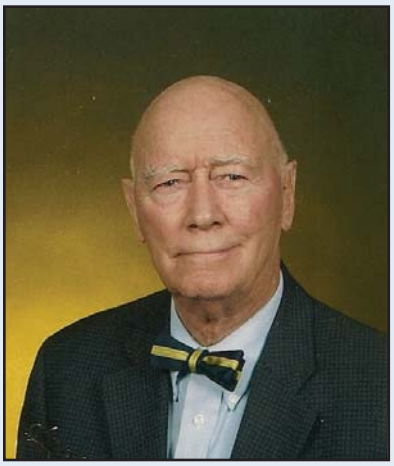
www.facebook.com
http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=90862204701&ref=mf

Don't Forget FOCCUS' Website

A comprehensive website for FOCCUS has been designed for us by the Web Developer at Canterbury Cathedral, and is updated on a regular basis with news and publications. In addition, the website has become an invaluable tool for spreading the word of our mission and information about upcoming events.
The website address is www.canterburyus.org

FAREWELL TO A RETIRING TRUSTEE

Twice-Ordained Lawyer promoted the Canterbury Connection



Milo G. Coerper is stepping down from his positions of formal support of Canterbury Cathedral after 29 years of faithful and fruitful service. His connections with Canterbury go back to 1973 when his son attended the King's School there and he has returned almost every year since. It has been a love affair of place, heart, and spirit, one in which he has combined a life of law and the cloth.

Milo is retiring as a charter member of the Board of Trustees of FOCCUS where one of his major aims has been to raise money for the creation and programs of the International Study Centre at Canterbury Cathedral. He has been both student and teacher at the Centre, giving lectures during several of his many visits.

Before joining the FOCCUS Board, Milo was on the board of the predecessor body, the Canterbury Trust in America, founded in 1980. He joined that board in 1981 and within a year had become Vice Chairman.

His path to Canterbury, however, has been anything but direct. Raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as a Methodist, he went to the U.S. Naval Academy from which he graduated in 1946. Milo had three years at sea and, after fulfilling his service obligation, he set out for law school. The Korean War broke out before he could finish and he was pulled back into uniform for another two years. While there, he met his future wife, Wendy Hicks, a Naval Ensign at the time.

After the war, Milo finished law school and in 1954 the new couple moved to Washington, DC, where he took up his law practice with two large firms. The Coerpers purchased a farm in Clear Spring, Washington County, Maryland, where they attended the local Episcopal church, St. Andrew's, Clear Spring.

There was a problem, though. The church was losing its stipendiary priest. After taking an Education for Ministry course from the University of the South, Milo was ordained deacon and priest by Bishop Leighton of Maryland for limited service in his parish which he then served, even as he continued his law practice. When the need for non-stipendiary priests expanded beyond Clear Spring, Bishop Leighton ordained Milo a second time, then with full powers and authorities to serve the wider church. Thus, Milo holds the distinction of being ordained to the priesthood twice despite never attending a seminary.

In 1985, Milo became a volunteer chaplain at the Washington National Cathedral. He has fulfilled that role for the past 25 years.

Milo Coerper describes himself as flying between two nests, that of Canterbury Cathedral and that of the Washington National Cathedral. The Friends of St. Benedict have helped give him the spiritual wings to do so. It's hard to think of better nests in which to find a home and a roost.

NEWLY ELECTED TRUSTEE



The Reverend Canon Matthew Corkern, a native Mississippian, is the rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Mobile, Alabama. Previously, he served as Canon Residentiary at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, Tennessee, and as Associate Rector for Adult Education at St. John's Episcopal Church, McLean, Virginia.

The University of Richmond awarded Matthew a double BA in leadership studies and history and an MA in British history. He received his M. Div. from Yale University. While in seminary, he was an intern at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Canaan, Connecticut, where, in conjunction with Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, he inaugurated an annual pilgrimage to Great Britain. His pilgrimage ministry continues today through retreats and pilgrimages at home and abroad with specific emphasis on the Anglican Communion's heart at Canterbury Cathedral.

While a committed historian, genealogist, and writer, Matthew enjoys running, sailing, and travel anywhere and everywhere. He is married to Alice Coke-Corkern and they have an eleven year old son, Preston.

The Board of Trustees of FOCCUS welcomes Matthew as its newest member and is particularly grateful for his expertise in organizing and leading pilgrimages to Canterbury Cathedral.

JUNE PILGRIMAGE TO BE LED BY BOARD MEMBER MATTHEW CORKERN



Many of you have been -- or still long -- to visit the sacred heart of the Anglican Communion, the seat of our English-Christian heritage, CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL. This summer there will be the first of many FOCCUS pilgrimages calling each of you to return to this incredible place of breathtaking beauty, simple solace and hearty hospitality.

"You are invited to discover and embrace the concept of pilgrimage." These words are found on the opening page of the guide provided to the travelers who will participate in "Pilgrimage Pathways: Living and Following The Pilgrims' Way," a journey across southern England organized and led on behalf of the FOCCUS Board.

For nine days in June, 16 pilgrims will travel from Chichester and Winchester, along the medieval Pilgrims' Way, to Canterbury. Each year, I challenge fellow travelers to claim their time on the pilgrimage pathways as a unique journey to build upon a personal, prayerful, and passionate relationship with Jesus Christ. I am personally buoyed by the numerous youth and adults who immerse themselves in the legacy and reality of Christian pilgrimages. Each Faith Journey -- carefully crafted with spiritual and cultural events -- encompasses not only the places and liturgies we experience, but the people we meet. Suffice if to say, each of you will hear different stories and perhaps be moved by the sheer intensity of the personal encounters.

If you are not going this year, then know that each of you is invited to join us in the future. Some thoughts for us all: Being a pilgrim is not about the actual travel but about the inner/outward journey of becoming comfortable with an abiding faithfulness in God. We hear Jesus saying, 'Let us go across to the other side.' For modern hearers, this is not just a geographical destination, but a theological premise for encountering one another. As pilgrims and missionaries, we cross a holy threshold to a closer relationship with God, ourselves and others.

Matthew Corkern

The Board of Trustees of FOCCUS

TThe Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, Chair
Barbara Q. Harper, Vice Chair
Eugene T. Johnston, Vice Chair
Barbara B. Creed, Secretary
Henrietta Humphreys, Treasurer
The Very Rev. Dr. Robert A. Willis, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral

The Very Rev. Sam G. Candler
The Rev. Canon Matthew T. L. Corkern
The Rev. Canon Carlson Gerdau
Col. C. Powell Hutton
The Rev. Andrew C. Mead
Brigadier M. J. Meardon, RM
The Rev. Gideon L. K. Pollach
The Rev. Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie
Elizabeth F. H. Scott
The Rev. Canon Samuel Van Culin
Mr. William A. Ziegler

FOCCUS Board of Trustees' Meetings

The fall Board of Trustees meeting was held on Thursday, October 21st, 2010 at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, DC. The meeting was led by FOCCUS Chair, The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, newly appointed Interim Dean of General Theological Seminary in New York City. The Very Rev. Dr. Robert A. Willis, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, was also in attendance, along with eleven trustees. Two additional trustees participated via conference call.

The Dean presented an informative summary of recent happenings at Canterbury, as well as an update on restoration at the Cathedral. Reports were presented from the Alumni, Communications, Development, Financial, and Nominating Committees. Board member Matthew Corkern outlined plans for his June 2011 pilgrimage to Canterbury and the surrounding area.

The spring Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at General Theological Seminary in New York City.



Members of the FOCCUS Board of Trustees pictured here:

Left to right, front row: Peter Lee, Robert Willis, Barbara Harper, Eugene Johnston

Back row: Debby Hailey, Gideon Pollach, Barbara Creed, Powell Hutton, Henri Humphreys, Anne Ritchie, Matthew Corkern, Milo Coerper, Sam Van Culin, Carl Gerdau

WORKS PROJECTS AT CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL



The following is merely a peak into the ongoing challenges of preserving Canterbury Cathedral. To the uninitiated, it includes mystifying technical information and reference to unknown parts of the Cathedral building. By reading these excerpts from the January 2011 Report on Current Projects, you'll gain an appreciation of the enormity of the task of maintaining the fabric of this aged edifice and the significant progress that has already been made. FOCCUS gifts contribute greatly to the conservation of the Cathedral which is so important to the entire Anglican Communion.



Introduction

Since the stone fall on the SW transept resulted in the need to put up yet more scaffolding on the Cathedral, we have concentrated on completing the south side of the Corona and the work to the libraries. We have also removed scaffolding off the east elevation of the SE transept which has exposed, in all its splendour, a significant stretch of newly conserved work from the Corona to the Transept.

South West Transept



Our investigations into the movement of the Transept are now concluded. We have excavated to below the base of the Transept foundation either side of the staircase tower, carried out a digital survey of the entire crossing, investigated for any latent dynamic blast effects resulting from WW2 bombs, and squeezed a mechanical access crane inside the Cathedral to inspect the vaulting close up. The necessary remedial work will soon be underway.

Howley Harrison and Wolfson Libraries

All work to the libraries is now complete and the books have been returned. The adjacent lift shaft has been re-clad in masonry.



Corona – North Side

First phase conservation and cleaning has taken place on all levels except the top which will require extensive stone replacement. Archeology, stone identification, measurements and templates have taken place. This information has been used by the masons to cut and bank the stone ready for fixing in the spring.

CANTERBURY AND THE FRENCH CONNECTION

We are accustomed today to thinking of Canterbury Cathedral as a uniquely English monument to faith, and so it has been since 1529, when King Henry VIII declared himself the head of the English Church. But following the Norman Conquest in 1066, three of the first five post-Conquest Archbishops came from the Benedictine Abbey of Bec, and among them, they served 57 of the next 91 years at Canterbury, leaving a deep imprint from France on the faith (and the politics of the faith) as it evolved in Britain.

The first of these was Lanfranc, where his teaching soon raised Bec to be the foremost school in Christendom. His ability was so great that King William I appointed him Archbishop of Canterbury in 1070, and Lanfranc immediately began a program of reform and reorganization, focusing on educating the clergy and stamping out endemic corruption. His energy and direction led to a dispute with the Archbishop of York over the authorities, responsibilities, and accountabilities of the two primates, an argument settled in 1072 by the Accord of Winchester, which gave the Archbishop of Canterbury primacy over that of York.



Lanfranc sought to extract monasteries out from under local feudal and secular control and to reestablish the authority of the papacy in church matters, such as the selection of bishops. In effect, however, because of the distances involved, this meant that the clergy in England could be virtually independent. His legacy includes standing up to the worst abuses of royal power and raising the standards of discipline and learning within the English church.

The next Archbishop (from 1093-1109), Anselm (later Saint), a student of Lanfranc's at Bec and subsequently Abbot, wrote the works there for which he is most famous, including one establishing the ontological argument for the existence of God. As Archbishop of Canterbury under William II, Anselm consistently sought to retain Canterbury's authority as an independent entity, even as William tried equally continually to assert his royal authority, a struggle that continued under the next king, Henry I. By the end of Anselm's life, he had freed Canterbury from submission to the English king and secured Canterbury's primary status within the papacy and as primate over other English bishops.

The fifth Archbishop of Canterbury after the Norman Invasion was Theobald, also a former Abbot of Bec. Primate from 1139-1161, he was a disputatious man, who nevertheless survived civil war, papal schism, and several exiles to secure the rights of his see. He has been overshadowed by his protégé and successor as archbishop, Thomas Becket, murdered at the Cathedral in 1177 for being too "meddlesome."



These three powerful and outspoken archbishops all developed their intellectual gifts and political skills at the small yet profoundly important monastery at Bec. Some years ago, a formal agreement of mutual support was signed by the Abbot of Bec and the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral. The French Connection is alive and well … and now carved in stone a thousand years after it began.

Col. C. Powell Hutton
FOCCUS Board Member

Photo credits: 1) Abbey of Bec Stamp: www.normandygite.org.uk; 2) Personal photo by Eugene Johnston

CANTERBURY SCHOLARS' PROGRAM - A GROWTH STORY

The Canterbury Scholars' Program continues to grow. We are now oversubscribed for all the courses. In the case of the program for seminarians and new priests, we now have more than double the number of applicants for the bursaries we have and for the number of beds in the Centre.

In the last two years, since Lambeth 2008, the numbers have grown significantly. In 2009 we had 55 applicants for the summer course and we were able to welcome 34. In 2010 we had 75 applicants and we were able to grant 36 places. In each case, about two thirds of these students were on bursaries. We have already had nearly a hundred expressions of interest for next summer's course.

In round terms it costs $3,000 to receive one student on a full bursary of which $1,200 is for airfare, visa and internal travel costs. We have welcomed participants from 60 countries from all over the world. We are trying to encourage Bishops from all parts of the Communion to send women seminarians and priests to the summer courses as, at the moment, they are male dominated. Last year all the women on the course were from the US.

The continuing growth of the Scholars' Program is good news. Funds from FOCCUS have been critical to this success and to ensuring that the courses have representatives from all parts of the Anglican Communion.

The Rev. Canon Edward Condry, Director of Education at the International Study Centre

Shortly after overcoming the shock of finally arriving in Canterbury for the multi-week scholars' course, Anglicans from across the global communion are introduced to one of the core concepts of the ongoing work of the International Study Center – friendship and partnership. It is when Dean Willis admits that, although the building and its setting are impressive, the real gift that Canterbury Cathedral offers to its children throughout the world is an ongoing community life of prayer, study and mission that lies at the heart of its ancient Benedictine foundation.

This is the lasting gift that scholars receive from the Cathedral as they depart. A sense of belonging. Of fellowship. Of common commitment to Jesus Christ and to one another that extends beyond the short time spent in the precincts. The community of Canterbury Scholars alumni return home each year to find their lives and their ministries focused and purposeful because of the relationships formed at the Cathedral, but many find it difficult to remain in touch once the course has ended.

This need not be so. One of the great opportunities that the Internet affords each of us is the opportunity to be in regular communication despite geography. We, the alumni of the Canterbury Scholars program, hope to use that gift to enhance the community life of Canterbury alums.

In the coming months we hope to enhance the Canterbury Scholars website (http://www.canterburyscholars.org/) with an active and dynamic set of social networking tools that would allow Scholars to be in regular communication with one another. We hope that these tools will allow scholars to maintain the very vibrant life experienced as part of the community of Canterbury Cathedral. We also hope that it will become a tool for increased global partnership of prayer and support for clergy throughout the world.

These relationships are the very core of what it means to be in communion with one another and we hope that they will quickly become an instrument of support, encouragement and mutual prayer allowing us to make "every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3) regardless of time and distance.

The Rev. Gideon Pollach
FOCCUS Board Member

CANTERBURY TALE

A masters of theological studies student at Duke Divinity School, I was one of four women out of 35 students attending the annual Canterbury Scholars Program.. Participants came from around the globe: India, Canada, Australia, several African nations, and the United States. The identities of the scholars, ethnically, economically, and linguistically represented well the realities of a worldwide communion. The Canterbury program confronts the fact that creating inter-personal relationships within the Anglican Communion means wrestling with the very real political, social, and linguistic boundaries that diversity makes manifest. Yet we were given the space and time to explore worship and pray with people who we could never have imagined meeting.



Leigh Edwards attended Duke University as an undergraduate, and is currently a second-year MTS student at Duke Divinity School.

The instructors for our daily classes were top-rate; a professor from Virginia Seminary, a Bishop from Nigeria, and Canon Ed Condry from Canterbury Cathedral. We scholars varied widely on worship practices, theological education, prayer lives, ethical stances, and doctrinal beliefs. This was evident both in class discussions and in private conversations. The point of the program was not to gloss over the differences we held but to confront them in relationships and friendships with people we came to know and respect. Canon Condry and the Cathedral provided some of the best hospitality available and, more importantly, the space to grow, talk, and be honest with one another. There were painful conversations but also many laughs.

Living in a worldwide Communion does present challenges- not only those dealing with visas and language. The greatest challenge that I see is to understand what diversity in unity means for Anglicans. Yet the Eucharist that we partake of does judge us, and it demands that our relationships, our Communion, be spiritual and not immaterial. The Anglican Communion is challenged now with questions of what the scaffolding that supports the Communion is and what are the boundaries that allow us to be free as God intends.The beginning and end of this quest is always charity and charity was found in the friendships begun at Canterbury. The brothers and sisters I shared the Canterbury experience with give me reason to say in all circumstances in the Communion, with genuine thanksgiving, "Thanks be to God."

AN INVITATION FROM CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

You are warmly invited to join the Canterbury Cathedral congregation to journey through Holy Week and Easter together.

Holy Week offers a rich variety of liturgy, worship and music. In addition to daily celebrations in the Cathedral of Morning Prayer, Evensong, and the Eucharist, it includes evening lectures by the Archbishop of Canterbury and lunchtime discussions. There will be special services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve, and Easter Day when the Celebrant and Preacher will be the Archbishop of Canterbury.



The Cathedral as seen through the windows of a Lodge bedroom

Accommodation is offered at special rates in the Cathedral Lodge (International Study Centre), immediately next to the Cathedral. For more details, contact Cathi Martin, cathim@canterbury-cathedral.org

The FRIENDS of CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL in the UNITED STATES

888 17th Street, NW, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20006
202-822-8994

Addresss Service Requested

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WASHINGTON, DC
PERMIT 434

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 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 220 - Washington, DC 20006
202-822-8994 - Email: canterburyus@gmail.com
Website: www.canterburyus.org