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June 2012

Dear Friends,

The soaring sounds of Canterbury Cathedral's Choir are likely still ringing in the ears of the many who heard the choristers on their recent US tour in Texas and along the West Coast. Even as the choristers were making the rounds of major cities here, we were planning a pilgrimage from the US to Canterbury this fall.

Both visits, albeit in opposite directions, remind us of the deep roots of our faith and our Anglican traditions, preserved through the ages with Canterbury as a major focus.

Canterbury is a lasting monument, a welcoming spiritual home, and a vibrant international community all in one. The current building, started by the Normans in 1070 AD, is in the midst of a needed major restoration, yet it still opens its doors to over a million visitors each year and hosts more than 30 worship services a week.

Its International Study Centre, with the Canterbury Scholars Program supported by the Harper Scholarship Fund, draws bishops, priests and seminarians from around the worldwide Anglican Communion. It offers them a place to study, pray, reflect, and discuss what it means to be a committed Christian, growing in faith and community and respect for others even when they disagree on basic issues.

Like all enduring and living monuments, however, it takes funds to maintain the reach and embrace of the Canterbury experience. Earlier generations of the faithful have passed the gift of Canterbury on to us, and now we have the obligation to preserve it, keep it relevant to issues of the day, and pass it on as a gift to those who follow.

I hope you can join me in giving generously to support our efforts. Even if you cannot give something at this time, please share our good work with others. And as always, please keep us and the whole of our Communion in your prayers.

Faithfully yours,



Peter James Lee
Chairman

A Pilgrimage to Canterbury, following Chaucer's famed path, is planned for this fall, October 13-22, 2012. Led by the Rev Canon Matthew Corkern, it starts in London (including Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, Lambeth Palace, and Parliament), visits country homes and the cathedrals of Southwark and Rochester, and ends at Canterbury, focusing on its historical and religious roles at the center of the Anglican Communion. Details at <http://www.canterburyus.org>