

foccus

Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States

Volume 2, Issue 1

June 2008

In This Issue

- **A Letter from Bishop Peter James Lee — FOCCUS Chair**
- **A Communiqué from the Canterbury Scholars' Programme (Summer 2007)**
- **Pilgrimage of Anglican Discovery: Normandy and Canterbury**
- **Dean Robert Willis Visits California**

A Year of Progress

The past year has been a joyful and productive one for FOCCUS. First, we are delighted with our progress in three important areas — contributing to important cathedral programs; helping 20 American pilgrims experience the magic of Canterbury and associated locales; and telling the Canterbury story in five United States locations, through visits with Dean Robert Willis.

In addition, we are pleased to welcome two outstanding Trustees to our Board, Henrietta Humphreys of Edgefield, South Carolina, and Eugene Johnston of Mobile, Alabama.

This newsletter will highlight these activities, discuss our organization, and remind you how you can participate.

The Scholar's Programme: A Report

We take particular pleasure in our ability to continue and expand our financial support to the International Scholars' Programme. In addition to ongoing contributions to operating expenses, it was our great pleasure to establish a scholarship fund in the name of the Very Reverend Robert Willis, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, who has been a great friend and tireless supporter of FOCCUS.

The Scholars' Programme, one of Canterbury Cathedral's major outreach efforts, enables seminarians and young priests from all over the world — many from the poorest and most dangerous places in the Anglican Communion — to come together in the Cathedral Precincts each summer to share their experiences, their understanding of faith, and the diversity of worship among their communities.

In their communiqué (page 2), the scholars elegantly testify to the meaning of this program in their lives.

Canterbury Cathedral and the Lambeth Conference

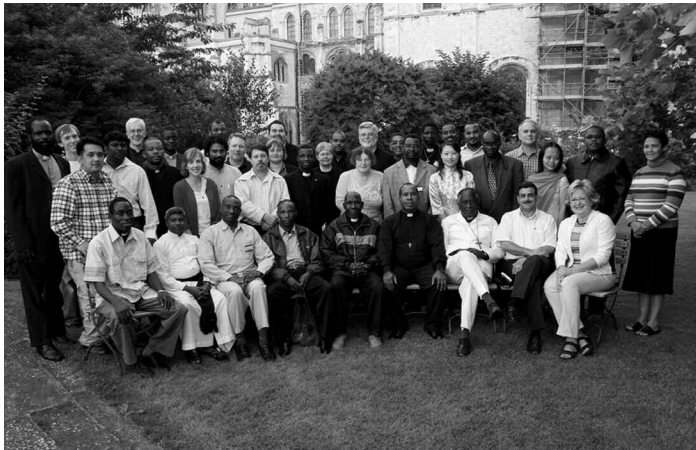
This summer, as has happened every 10 years since 1867, bishops of the Anglican Communion will gather in Canterbury at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. They will consider the state of the Communion and ways in which it can advance the Kingdom of God. During this time, Canterbury Cathedral will figure vitally as a location in which to praise God, to celebrate the Eucharist, and to be reminded of the richness of both the Christian heritage and the diversity of current Anglican practices. On three occasions, the bishops, their spouses, and guests will travel from the University of Kent, site of their administrative and deliberative sessions, to Canterbury Cathedral to experience the richness of its worship. Our expectation, hope, and prayer is that the holy and enriching worship experience will inform and guide the bishops' discussions that go on outside the Cathedral Precincts.

A Communiqué from the Canterbury Scholars' Programme (Summer 2007)

In the shadows of Canterbury Cathedral and with the blessing of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Dr. Rowan Douglas Williams, our pilgrim community gathered to pray and to discover.

With daily discipline and searching diligence, we read Holy Scripture together. That is, we stood shoulder-to-shoulder in joyful obedience and encountered Christ. Gathered around the book, we studied the Bible and we reported from the intersection of cultural accident, personal story and life-giving truth. Eternal truth is glimpsed in temporal fragments. Even better, in the dense kaleidoscope of culturally shaded interpretations, light eternal bursts forth in vivid array.

In the matrix of meals, lectures, daily common prayer, sincere protest and abundant laughter, the fellowship of this pilgrim community disclosed the shape of the Eucharist. Taken from particular contexts, we gathered here in the Cathedral Precincts. In table fellowship, at matins and evensong and through serious — and sometimes unconcerned — conversation we were blessed. Or rather, we blessed one another. And along the way, walls were broken and façades fractured. These fragments revealed vulnerable hearts and gentle hands to handle these holy gifts.



The attendees of the 2007 Scholars' Programme gathered in the Cathedral Close.

At the conclusion of this pilgrimage, another begins. The Eucharistic bread is distributed and shared and, however briefly, the joy of Christian unity is tasted. Soon and now comes the sorrow of dismissal and the sting of incompleteness.

We return to the scattered fields and dispersed hillsides of our homes with hearts full of hope and a fervent prayer on our lips:

Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. And may the Anglican Communion be a wide and hospitable space for this prayer to be fulfilled. In the spirit of thanksgiving, we commend to you this prayer and one recommendation: that in its mission to be a cathedral for all Anglicans, Canterbury continue to invite and shape generations of Canterbury Scholars. In this investment is a yield of unknown and untold promise.

Each participant in the Scholars' Programme has a unique history.

Here are but three of them.

Annette Allies (Namibia) was ordained as a priest just before her departure for England, and celebrated her first Eucharist in Canterbury Cathedral. She has been posted to a remote parish which will include diamond mining areas.

Gradwell Fredericks (Cape Town, S Africa): At the age of 15, Gradwell was picked up, tortured and threatened with burning by apartheid police. He found peace through the works of Desmond Tutu. He is a rugby enthusiast as both player and spectator.

Victor Prabhakar (student at the United Theological College Bangalore) works towards the indigenization of Anglicanism, therefore wears traditional clothes as opposed to clerical wear. Victor quotes from Gandhi and Buddha.

The Home Countries of the 2007 Scholars

2007 Seminarians hailed from:

Brazil	Burundi
Canada	Hong Kong
India	Jamaica
Kenya	Madagascar
Namibia	New Zealand
Nigeria	Papua New Guinea
Papua	Philippines
South Africa	Seychelles
Sri Lanka	Tanzania
USA	The West Bank
Zambia	

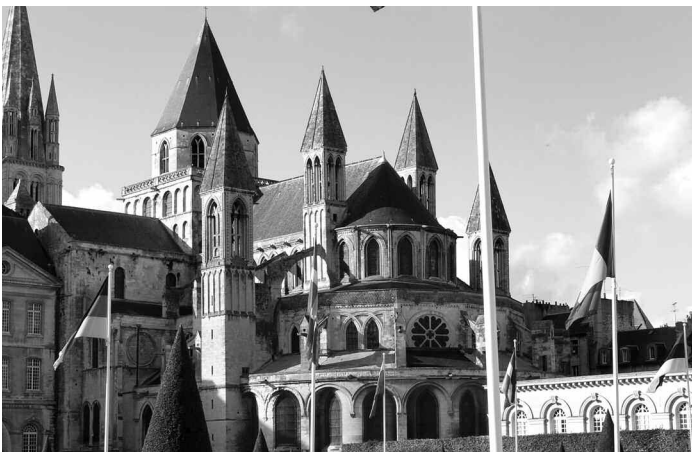


An artisan at work in the Stone Conservation Workshop.

Pilgrimage of Anglican Discovery: Normandy and Canterbury

In late October 2007, 20 pilgrims, embarked on a ten-day pilgrimage to Normandy and Canterbury, FOCCUS members deepened their knowledge of English-speaking Christianity, its antecedents, and Canterbury's central role.

In Normandy, led by former Canterbury Canon Peter Brett, the pilgrims studied some of the greatest centers of medieval Christianity in Western France, visiting cathedrals, churches, and monasteries in Rouen, Caen, Liseux, Bayeux, Bec, and Amiens. They explored the role of William the Conqueror prior to 1066 and viewed the Bayeux tapestry, commemorating the Norman conquest of England. They learned the importance of Norman thought and Norman church leaders in early English-speaking Canterbury.



Abbaye-aux-Dames, built in Caen during the 11th century, is considered to be one of the most notable Romanesque buildings in Normandy.

From France the party traveled to Canterbury and its celebrated cathedral, the mother church of English-speaking Christianity since St. Augustine arrived in 597 a.d.

At Canterbury, the participants stayed and had meals in the very comfortable Canterbury Cathedral Lodge of the International Study Centre where every room has a view of the Cathedral. Morning and Evening Prayer framed each day.

Robert Willis, 39th Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, hosted the pilgrims at the historic Deanery, home of every Dean of the Cathedral since 1514. Using the Deans' portraits as an aid, Robert told a rich story of history and the continual struggle to reconcile often opposing views to common goals.



The pilgrims take a guided tour of Rouen, the historic capital of Normandy.

Other senior cathedral staff members also spoke. Talks covered Anglican traditions, the Benedictine role, and Canterbury's challenges in today's world.

Our pilgrims toured the cathedral roof, the Stained Glass Studio, and Stone Conservation Workshop. These talented staffs both occupy themselves with their tasks of conservation and teach young artisans their crafts.



Nancy Mead, Christopher Creed, and Barbara Creed on the roof of Canterbury Cathedral, where repair work continues.

The pilgrims left Canterbury spiritually refreshed and filled with a renewed sense of pride in a rich history that remains a living, vital center of Christendom.



Dean Robert Willis Visits California

Soon after hosting FOCCUS pilgrims in Canterbury, Dean Willis made one of his periodic visits to the United States, as part of a program to broaden awareness of Canterbury's mission and activities. On this trip, The Dean visited three dioceses in California, generously giving his time to seminarians, priests, bishops, and lay leaders of the church.

The Dean first preached at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco and participated in a forum broadcast over grace.com. Later, he attended a dinner in his honor at St. Francis Episcopal Church in San Jose. On the following day, Trustees Barbie Harper and Barbara Creed accompanied the Dean to the cathedral in Sacramento, where a service of choral evensong was given in his honor. The words of the closing hymn had been written by Dean Willis.

Returning to San Francisco, the Dean attended a reception at Grace Cathedral, which was catered by CHEFS (Conquering Homelessness through Education in Food Service), a program of Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco.

The following day, October 31, Dean Willis headed to Carmel, where he went on a tour of the historic Carmel Mission founded in 1771 and which is the home of the National Shrine of the Blessed Junipero Serra. And, on the last day of his visit, the Dean traveled to Berkeley where he lunched with Donn Morgan, President of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) and Jim Donohue, President of the Graduate Theological Union. Afterwards, he preached at the CDSP worship service and participated in a forum following a community dinner.

In all, a total of almost 500 people attended these events. As always, Dean Willis' enthusiasm and openness, his lively engagement with his audiences, and his passion for the work of a great cathedral vividly evoked our common bonds.



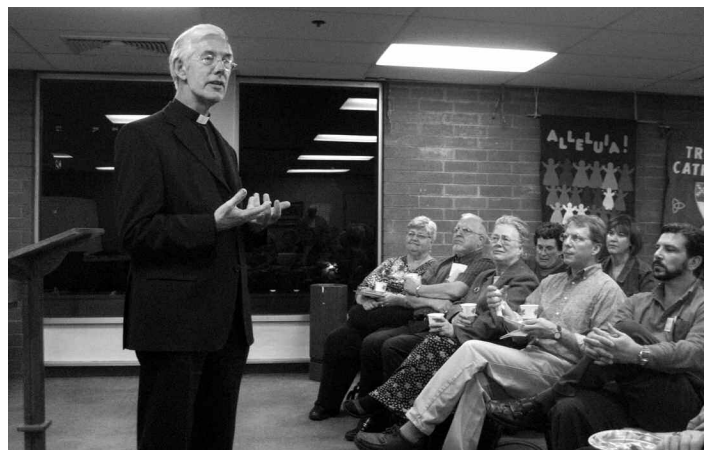
All in all, FOCCUS has had a busy and productive year, that has energized our Board of Trustees to find ways to continue the exciting and challenging work of forging a link between friends in the U.S. and Canterbury and the Anglican Communion—opening doors of communication, articulating as best we can the importance of Canterbury and its heritage to all of Christendom.



Barbara Creed, Robert Willis, Marc Andrus, the Bishop of California, and Peter Lee.



Christopher Creed and Barbara Harper.



Dean Willis holds a forum with seminarians at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

From Bishop Peter James Lee — FOCCUS Chair

Dear Friends:

I am very pleased to send you this newsletter describing a wonderful year for the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States. As this report on our activities indicates, FOCCUS continued to contribute to Canterbury programs and sponsored a number of Canterbury-centered events, greatly enriching those Americans who participated.

We built our administrative strength with the election of two new members of Board of Trustees: Ms. Henrietta Humphreys of Edgefield, South Carolina, and Eugene Johnson of Mobile, Alabama. Ms. Humphreys, long considered one of America's top financial planners, has assumed the duties of Treasurer. Mr. Johnston a young Episcopalian active in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast joined us to facilitate the transition of leadership to a new generation. Barbara Creed and Barbie Harper were appointed Board Vice Chairs, with Alan Blanchard remaining Chair of the Development Committee.

We hope this summary of our work will both deepen your pride in being an American heir to the Anglican tradition and move you to formally join FOCCUS. Contributions of any size, including memorial gifts, are both needed and greatly appreciated, with those of \$50 or more conferring membership with appropriate benefits. Gifts to FOCCUS are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

On a personal note, as I prepare for my 3rd, and last Lambeth Conference as a Diocesan Bishop, I am deeply mindful of the importance of Canterbury Cathedral's work and its role in my own spiritual journey. Canterbury Cathedral is the spiritual home of all who value the Anglican tradition. In fact, it is the founding home of all English-speaking Christians, and it now embraces Christians from all corners of the earth. In these days of pain and confusion arising from profoundly differing views on a number of issues, I believe Canterbury has even become even more important to the Church. It stands as an essential and beautiful reminder of the common threads, nurturing the spiritual life of all of us.

Thank you and may God be with you as you pursue your own journey.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee
Bishop of Virginia
Chair, Friends of Canterbury Cathedral
in the United States

The Board of Trustees

The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee
Chair

Barbara B. Creed, Esq.
Barbara Q. Harper
Vice Chairs

The Rev. Dr. Mark S. Anschutz
Chaplin B. Barnes
Alan F. Blanchard

Milo G. Coerper
Henrietta Humphreys
Eugene T. Johnston

The Very Rev. Dr. James A. Kowalski
The Rev. Andrew C. Mead
David R. Pitts


The Rev. Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie
The Rev. Mark K. J. Robinson
Elizabeth Scott

The Rev. Canon Samuel Van Culin
The Very Rev. Robert A. Willis
William A. Ziegler, Esq.

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, pre-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: friends@foccus.us

The  FRIENDS of
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL
in the UNITED STATES

888 17th Street, NW, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20006
202-822-8994
friends@foccus.us