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in the UNITED STATES

November 2015

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Dear Friends of Canterbury Cathedral,

I have had the privilege of serving on the board of FOCCUS (Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States) for fifteen years. I'm especially honored to support our mission:

We support funding for seminarians and new clergy from developing nations to attend the annual Scholars' Program at Canterbury Cathedral

Why do I feel so strongly? You may be aware of some of the theological differences that seem to separate us within the Anglican Communion. When we disagree, what is often lost in translation is what unites us: our love of Jesus and our liturgy, both of which bind us into loving community.

During the two week Scholars' Program, seminarians and young clergy from around the Anglican Communion pray and study together, enjoy fellowship, all within the wondrous environs of Canterbury Cathedral. In the process, hearts and lives are transformed.

Most participants from western nations can find funding to attend the program. *None* from developing nations can, challenged as they are by the poverty and violence that all too often afflict their homes, families and friends. They need our help to grow into the leadership roles to which God is calling them.

This past summer, twenty-three students from Zimbabwe, South Africa, Burundi, India, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania and Zambia attended the course. Six others came from the West. If past experience is any measure, these students left Canterbury Cathedral with lasting connections and gratitude for the Scholars' Program that brought all of them together.

A full John Harper Scholarship provides \$4,000 to bring a participant to the Canterbury Cathedral Scholars' Program. If you can afford a full scholarship, thank you! If you can afford *any* part of that scholarship, thank you! Your donations to FOCCUS are completely tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated.

Please join us by supporting the future, not only of each new Canterbury Scholar, but of the world-wide Anglican Communion they will serve.

Blessings,



The Reverend Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie
FOCCUS Board Member