

 **The** FRIENDS of
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL
in the UNITED STATES

May 2017

TRUSTEES

The Very Rev. Dr. Robert A. Willis
Dean, Canterbury Cathedral

The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee
Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of
North Carolina
Chair

Barbara Q. Harper
Washington, DC
Vice Chair

Eugene T. Johnston
Mobile, AL
Vice Chair

Ralph E. Olson
Springfield, VA
Treasurer

Commodore Martin Atherton OBE
Receiver General,
Canterbury Cathedral

The Very Rev. Joseph H. Britton
Albuquerque, NM

The Rev. Ted H. Clarkson
Darien, GA

The Rev. Matthew T. L. Corkern
Summit, NJ

The Rev. Canon Carlson Gerdaue
New York, NY

Col. C. Powell Hutton
Arlington, VA

The Rev. Thomas Purdy
St. Simons, GA

The Rev. Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie
Alexandria, VA

Elizabeth F. H. Scott
New York, NY

The Rev. Canon Samuel Van Culin
Washington, DC

Dear Friends,

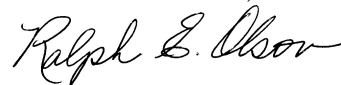
I spent my career as a civilian attorney for the Department of the Navy. Several years ago, my work required me to fly to London on business. While there, I decided I should extend my stay and take the opportunity to go to Canterbury Cathedral. This was to be my first time visiting that Cathedral.

Armed with a backpack and camera and looking like the typical tourist that I was, I spent several hours with other tourists following a tour guide around the Cathedral. We were on a tight schedule allowing little time to linger at any one sacred place. When our tour ended in the crypt, I managed to slip away from the group and spend a few quiet moments in the darkness and quiet of that place. I savored the opportunity of being not just a “tourist” at the Cathedral but a “pilgrim” – finally having the opportunity to put down my backpack and camera and spend some quiet, prayerful time at a place where countless other pilgrims have experienced the presence of God.

I probably went to Canterbury for the sole purpose of seeing a great building. However, while there I encountered not just the building but the presence of God. I believe that Thomas Becket would have wanted people to visit Canterbury not only to revere him but to seek God – the God who is present in the midst of all the tourists, the gift shop business, the hospitality of the Lodge, the stained glass windows and the darkness of the crypt.

If you have not visited Canterbury Cathedral, take your first opportunity to do so. While there, don’t be just a tourist but a pilgrim, enveloping yourself in the presence of God and experiencing the calm and peace that His presence provides. If you are unable to go to Canterbury, please help us with your generous support of the Scholarship Fund. This fund benefits needy seminarians and young clergy from around the world who come to Canterbury as pilgrims.

With best wishes,



Ralph Olson,
FOCCUS Treasurer