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CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL  
*in the* UNITED STATES

May 2018

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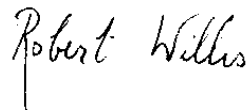
The Rev. Canon Samuel Van Culin  
Washington, DC

Dear Friends,

I write this having just returned from taking part in the very successful Cathedral Choir Tour of seven different locations in the United States and also from our spring meeting of the committee of FOCCUS in New York on 18th April. At that meeting I was able to report on the progress of the extensive works of restoration which are being accomplished at Canterbury Cathedral throughout this year and also the progress of the new landscaping at the west end of the Precincts, the building of the new Visitors Centre for access and interpretation which replaces the present facilities and also the dismantling and restoration of the grand organ. You can imagine that this causes some problems with our determination to carry on as usual with all Services and activities.

The meeting also was significant in that we elected the Rev. Canon Matthew Corkern, Rector of Calvary Church in Summit, New Jersey, to be our new Chairman with effect from the October 2018 meeting of FOCCUS. Matthew is a constant visitor and pilgrim to Canterbury and it was universally agreed that he would be the ideal choice to succeed Bishop Peter Lee who has been our Chairman since 2002. Bishop Peter has graciously agreed to become the President of FOCCUS in a non-executive role, a role that will keep him in touch with FOCCUS and also will honour the enormous contribution he has made to the life of Canterbury Cathedral.

The singular mission of FOCCUS is to give needed financial aid to seminarians and young clergy from all parts of the globe to attend the Scholars Program at Canterbury, two weeks of intensive study of ministry and theology. These future leaders of the Anglican Communion gain an understanding and respect for one another despite their differences of opinion. Your generosity is very important and FOCCUS is grateful for it.



The Very Revd Dr. Robert Willis