

The Congregation of
Saint Saviour at the
Cathedral Church
of Saint John
the Divine

Installation of The Rev. Canon Alan G. Dennis

Saturday, September 9 at 10 am

The Cathedral community celebrates the installation of The Reverend Canon Alan G. Dennis as a Cathedral Canon, Sub-Dean and Vicar of the Congregation of St. Saviour at the Cathedral on Saturday, September 9 at 10 am. The Right Reverend Mark S. Sisk, Episcopal Bishop of New York, will officiate at the joyous ceremony to which all are invited. Reception follows.

Dennis began his tenure at the Cathedral July 1, and prior to his joining us, was Dean of The Cathedral Church of St. John in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Crossings

The Cathedral Congregation's Newsletter

September 2006

The Children's Abbey begins September 10

We welcome Erica Mapp as the new Director of the Children's Abbey. The mission of the Children's Abbey is to teach the children ages three to twelve the Judeo-Christian tradition through religious ritual, story telling the medieval arts and exploration of the sacred spaces of the Cathedral. Erica originally comes from Trinidad and is an artist and teacher in the metropolitan area. She enjoys working with children and is very happy to be at the Cathedral.

Many thanks to Judith Scott who has been the Abbey Director this past year.

Due to construction the Abbey will be held in the Chapel of Saint Saviour. Enrollment begins September 10. The first session begins at 8:45 AM for the nine o'clock service and at 10:45 AM for the eleven o'clock service.

Contact

childrensabbey@stsaviour.diocesenyo.org

Phone: 212-316-7483

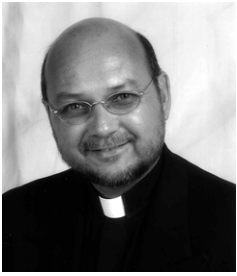
Sunday, September 24 is Congregation Homecoming

The monarch butterflies and the robins are preparing to leave for the south. Students and teachers are back in the classroom. At the Cathedral the volunteer choir and choristers are singing again. The program year is about to begin. It's time for the Congregation Homecoming!

Join the Congregation of St. Saviour after the 11:00 a.m. service for lunch on the bishop's green at the annual Congregation Homecoming. The homecoming celebration on the green has become a lovely tradition. It gives us all a chance to greet old friends, make new friends, welcome new members, and learn about how to become more deeply involved in the life of the Cathedral and of its faith community.

This year we will officially welcome our new Vicar, the Reverend Canon Alan G. Dennis, Sub-Dean of the Cathedral and his wife Jenny, and we will formally show our appreciation to Canon Storm Swain for her years of service to the Congregation. In case of rain lunch and festivities will be in Cathedral House.

We hope to see you there.



Letter from the Vicar

My Dear Friends,

My wife Jenny, and I are delighted to be part of the Cathedral community, and we are thankful to all who have welcomed us so warmly and embraced us as we transition! I sincerely look forward to serving our great Cathedral community as Sub-Dean and Vicar of the Cathedral Congregation in the years to come. Thank you one and all for your gracious welcome!

In his book *Glorious Companions* Richard H. Schmidt covers 29 of the most influential Anglican figures from the 16th century to the present. One of them is the great spiritual writer Evelyn Molehill (1875-1941). He includes an excerpt from her book, *Life of the Spirit* describing 'the two essentials'.

"Love then, which is a willed tendency to God; prayer which is a willed communion with and experience of him; are the two prime essentials in the personal life of the spirit. They represent, of course, only our side of it and our obligation. This love is the outflowing response to another inflaming love, and this prayer the appropriation of a transcendental energy and grace."

Despite the humidity, I enjoy the wonder and beauty of summer days, now slowly ebbing to a close.

I guess the African in me is drawn to the warmth of the sun and glorious sunsets and the adventurous spirit within me celebrates opportunities to explore new pathways in the parks or along the Hudson River. As we enter autumn and embark on a new program year, we may consider using these weeks to re-evaluate how we love and how we pray. It is my experience that while the regular program year has its own measure of 'stuff', 'things to do', 'programs', 'meetings', and 'activities' it is so easy to ignore the eternal gifts that really define so much of life. To this end, intentionally make the decision to love and pray.

Celebrate the glorious gift of life within you as you make the decision to love. The 9/11 experiences in this life are indeed horrendously evil and debilitating, to say the least; yet at the same time we should be starkly aware that 9/12 represents the gift of new life and a new day. Jesus coaxes us into this reality and joy in his promise 'to send another, the Comforter' to be with us to the end of the very age, giving new hope and new vision.

We are entering that new day as the Cathedral Church of John the Divine. We can look toward the dawning of a new age as we seek to embrace a new vision for our community. We will enter an exciting program year this fall,

enthused and renewed to be the leaven for our community, City, our Diocese and the world.

As we make the decision to love and be loved as the beloved of God, let us be equally as intentional to offer our lives in prayerful obedience to the Holy One.

Saint Augustine of Hippo, the great African Bishop and theologian reminds us "may our souls be restless until we find our rest in thee O Lord." 'Pray without ceasing' is certainly a recipe for us to work tirelessly for justice, peace and reconciliation. Right now the world and our church needs the gift of love and prayer as never before.

The backdrop of creation pulsing around us calls us to 'be still and know that I am God.' Make the decision to pray; it is indeed the lifeblood of the soul. Our Provider God Blesses us with wonderful spaces and places - the hills, the rivers, parks, ocean and valleys - to rest in the power of our creator, God. Pray for peace, pray for healing, pray for an end to war and violence, pray for justice for all God's people!

Celebrate God's love for you with your love, as you rest in the Holy One through and in the power of prayer.

Blessings of peace and with my prayers,

The Rev. Canon Alan G. Dennis
Sub - Dean and Vicar



WARDEN'S REPORT

by Sandra Lee Schubert

Who am I?

I have been thinking a lot about identity. What defines a person? Is it our DNA, where we grew up, or is it the family we are born into?

I have written about growing up in Astoria. The rats bigger than cats, the major heroin ring run from a local diner, the porn ring exposed across the street. A Satanist lived upstairs for a bit and a minor league drug dealer lived next door. The local chicken joint was in trouble for using the more voluptuous river rats instead of fowl for deep fry. I was surrounded by factories and lower and middle class families. The apartment building where I grew up was already a hundred years old. It was one of the first apartment buildings built with gardens in the back. Originally it had gas lighting and no bathrooms. The bathrooms were added later and formed columns in the back of the building. There was no insulation to speak of and winters we chipped the ice from inside our windows. In some ways it was like living in the Wild West; rough and untamed. But it also was the place where I grew up. Behind the yards there used to be stables that my father worked in as a boy. Later he would plant a tree there just outside set into the sidewalk was a horseshoe marking the spot

A couple of weeks ago I brought my niece to see the building where her mother and aunt had grown up. Patrick Hammer was there too. He had wanted to see the river rats I written about in the Wild Angels classes. I

had heard rumors the place may have been torn down. My old apartment took an active place in my dream life. At times holding all the fear I felt there and other times the memories. Often I would dream of my mother, sick and frail and my first dog Bella, living there alone and forgotten in the back room. In the dream I would live near by and with horror realized I had left them alone. I found them OK but could never get over the horror of forgetting them. The dreams began to change and suddenly this dark and desolate place began to shift and I was living



*photo of where Sandy's home was,
taken from PS 126.*

there again. The apartment now nice and livable and my mother and dog finally at rest as they should be. The dreams prepared me for the rumors but the reality did not. We came upon a desolate landscape bordered by plywood walls. Nothing remained of my former home except a couple of scattered rocks. Even the tree my father planted as a child was gone. Not a root was left for me to dig up and take home. We wandered down to the river just a couple blocks away where friends and I would sit on the abandoned docks watching the river rats play and the

green and foamy water of the East River slap against the shore. Even here time had moved on and the old pilings mostly demolished to form instead a nice walkway. A park had been constructed and the dock where we sat held equipment. The old Steinway piano factory building was still there and the other familiar factory buildings still dotted the landscape. The memories and stories so anchored to a place were now dug up and rearranged. The flattened landscape was like experiencing the death of my parents all over again. Soon something new will be built on the ruins and other people will come, live and dream and create new memories.

Who am I? Where does the story of who I am live? I thought it resided in the wood and stone of an old building. Now un-tethered I struggle a bit to find my bearings.

I am struck by the question of what is an identity. Who are we without the people, places and things that surround us? Does my name define me, the place I live or the family I come from? Does my country or the planet define me? Who does God say I am? Will that answer suffice when all around me seems changed? Here I am wobbly, questioning and unsure of my place in the world.

Even at the Cathedral we ask the same questions. I can imagine as the first cornerstone was placed the question was considered. Some of us find our place here in different ways; through worship, classes, groups or fellowship. We may not come or even stay for the same reasons but we all end up here together. Together we gather and discover who we are. I look forward to it.

Sandra Schubert
Warden

Wardens@stsaivour.diocesen.org

Sub-Dean Alan Dennis to Lead Fall Retreat at Holy Cross, November 17-19

The Reverend Canon Alan G. Dennis, Sub-Dean and Vicar of the Congregation will lead this year's retreat at Holy Cross Monastery Friday evening, November 17 through Sunday, November 19. Desmond Tutu's book, *God has a Dream* will be the basis of the Canon Dennis's reflections. All attending are encouraged to read the book before coming on the retreat. The book is in print and readily available on-line and at local bookstores. The retreat fee is \$150 (made payable to the Congregation of St. Saviour) and includes two nights and all meals at Holy Cross. Check-in is any time after 3:00 p.m. on Friday. The retreat ends Sunday after lunch.

Holy Cross is a quiet and beautiful monastery on the banks of the Hudson easily reached by train (Metro North) or car. It is a place to enjoy real Christian hospitality allowing

you a safe space to just be yourself. At Holy Cross you enter into the rhythm of the Benedictine life. You are free to participate in any or all meditations, daily offices, take walks along the river or just sleep! Visit the Holy Cross website for maps and directions:

www.holycrossmonastery.com/

We have reserved 25 spaces and they are filling up fast. Reservations and payments are required by October 17. To reserve your space, fill out the form attached and send to Congregation Office with your check. If you've never been on a congregation retreat, why not give it a try?

For more information, call

Marsha Ra
212-865-9246

marsha.ra@mail.cuny.edu

Angels Gone Wild – Living large and creatively in the Big City

The Wild Angels begins a new season exploring ways to take our creativity to new levels. What does an Angel Gone Wild do? Join us and find out.

Our Instructors for this series will be Sandra Lee Schubert and Patrick Hammer. Included in this season will be some special guests to enlarge our creative vision.

We began each class with a short lecture, looking at some piece of writing, our homework and then workshopping as the center of all creative writing courses.

When: Thursdays - October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 9, 16, 30 December 7

Time & Place - 6:45 to 8:30 P.M. in room 118 of the Cathedral House. There is a \$40 suggested donation for the eight-week series. Proceeds benefit and support the work of the congregation.

To register: 212-642-5042. For more information- email us at wild_angelsgroup@yahoo.com or call (212) 316-7483. Visit the Wild Angels

Retreat at Holy Cross, November 17-19,2006

Name _____

Phone numbers:
day _____ Evening _____

e-mail: _____

_____ I plan to drive and have room for _____ passengers

_____ I plan to take the train _____

Return form to: Cong. of St. Saviour 1047 Amsterdam Ave. New York, NY 10025

Spirit of the City Dinner

The Trustees of the Cathedral request the honor of your presence at the Twenty-eighth Anniversary Celebration, "Spirit of the City Award Dinner," in the Great Choir and Chapels, on Monday 25 September 2006, 6:30pm. The Cathedral of St. John the Divine will honor Shirley and Vernon Hill, and Regis Philbin at the 28th Annual Spirit of the City Award Ceremony & Benefit Evening. This award recognizes individuals and corporations whose enduring commitment to the City and its people have set the standard for community service. Individual tickets range from \$500 to \$5,000 each, and tables of 10 are priced from \$5,000 to \$50,000. For reservations and information, please call the Benefit office at 212-972-2268 or fax 212-953-1592.

AT THE CATHEDRAL

UN Sunday
Sun. Sept. 17

A Tribute to New York Theatre

Mon. Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Come celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Broadway Blessing, an interfaith liturgical service that blesses the opening of the Broadway season and celebrates all forms of theatre in New York. Special guests include acclaimed composer Elizabeth Swados, and others. Free admission.

The Seventh Annual Hobart Lecture

Wed, Sept. 20

10:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist and Seating on International Cathedra
11:45 a.m., Hobart Lecture
1p.m.; lunch

This year's speaker is The Rt. Rev. & Rt. Hon. Richard J. Chartres, Bishop of London. Tickets are \$30. For more information and tickets contact Arlene Bullard at (212)-932-7363 or abullard@diocesenyc.org

Feast of St. Francis

Sun. Oct. 1 at 11 a.m.

The annual Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Animals.

Fair on Cathedral grounds from a.m. - 4 p.m. Space is extremely limited for this free event due to restoration work in the Cathedral.

20-30-Connection

As co-convener of the 20s/30s Connection, I'd like to welcome you to our fall brunch series. On September 10th, we will meet after the 11am service at the Congregation Table for our first brunch. After that, we will meet every first Sunday of the month for brunch. Last year's brunch series was a huge success thanks to Bowie Snodgrass' efforts to get members of the clergy to join us to share their thoughts on ministry with us.

In 2003, Bowie Snodgrass and the Reverend Mark Hummell both agreed to help revive the congregation's 20s/30s connection. They've done a tremendous job bringing the group back to life. Unfortunately, both Mark and Bowie are heading their call to ministry in new directions and will not be able to continue in their formal roles with our group. I want to thank them for all their diligent work and let them know that we will miss their efforts very much. I'd like to invite you to attend a brunch on October 8th if you would like to get involved with our expanding group. We'd love to hear your ideas on how we can make the 20s/30s connection an even more integral part of the ministry of the Congregation of St. Saviour. You may email me at 20s30s@stsaviour.diocesenyc.org or let me know at the congregation table sometime if you want to get involved or if you need more information about the brunch.

For the time being, we are working on lots of exciting events for the fall. We hope have our new Sub Vicar, Alan Dennis, attend with us in the fall to discuss how he sees where the congregation will go in the future. We also are looking to find an expert on the environment to join us so that we can find out how we can help in the ministry of caring for our sacred planet. I will be organizing another day of volunteering for C.C.C. in our Soup Kitchen, too.

We had so much fun on our recent trip to Bear Mountain that we will be going again in October during the fall.



Fellow members in Christ, we hope you had a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you again this fall.

Matthew Pritchard
mpritchard1@nyc.rr.com

Visit your group on the web.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/20-30-Connection/>

To subscribe from this group, send an email to:

20-30-Connection-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Crossings

A newsletter published monthly by the Congregation of St. Saviour at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
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The Cost of Growth

Our vision for the congregation is to have it grow healthfully. We have many tasks ahead of us. To better encourage our growth we are working on laying the foundation with a good infrastructure. For the last couple of years we have struggled with an ineffective software program for our member and financial database. After some research we will be moving to ACS Technologies for our database, financial and website needs. Chris Johnson has been our faithful webmaster, hosting our website. The new feature will be on an independent server and allow more people to update the site and thus freeing up Chris to do more even more

wonderful work for us.

But progress doesn't come cheap. Even with steep discounts generously provided by ACS the setup cost will be \$2,812.00 and monthly fees and maintenance will be approximately 204.95 per month and \$2,459.40 for the year. We are excited to have fully functional programs that will support our growth and increase our value.

In the meantime your financial support is appreciated.

The Wardens
wardens@stsaviour.diocesenyny.org

Congregation of St. Saviour Financial results through the first 7 months January 1—July 31, 2006

| EXPENSES | <u>YTD2005</u> | <u>YTD2006</u> |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Cathedral & Diocesan Payments | \$ 88,788 | \$ 90,224 |
| Congregation Programs | \$ 30,383 | \$ 21,832 |
| Administration | \$ 5,987 | \$ 5,138 |
| EXPENSE TOTAL | \$ 125,158 | \$ 117,194 |
| INCOME (less deposits for Crafts Fair) | | |
| Pledge & Plate | \$ 121,935 | \$ 119,498 |
| Other Program | \$ 7,235 | \$ 6,868 |
| INCOME TOTAL | \$ 129,170 | \$ 126,366 |
| Surplus over expenses | \$ 4,012 | \$ 9,172 |