

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

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY OCTOBER 29th

October 29 is stewardship dedication Sunday. Please bring your pledge card to church that day. All pledge cards will be collected at the various services and placed on the altar for blessing. Our goal is 100% participation in the Congregation's pledge campaign.

Stewardship committee

Phyllis Murray (co-chair)

Marsha Ra (co-chair)

William Cassarini

Vaughn Folkert

Carole Wilkins

Wayne Yankus

Crossings

The Cathedral Congregation's Newsletter

October 2006

Reflections on Giving

As we enter our annual stewardship drive and we each think about what we will pledge for 2007, several members of the congregation were asked to tell their stories, to share with us why they give. The responses were as diverse as our wonderful congregation.

Themes of thanksgiving, commitment, love, connection, involvement were prominent. We come to church week by week to worship God, to give Him thanks, to petition for loved ones and for our own needs. Prayer and praise is what we do here. Each of us in this most secular of towns comes to the Cathedral because it is what we want to do. We all feel called to love God, to love His Church, to worship, to live out a Christian life as best we can. Giving is a big part of this love. We give, as my friend and co-chair Phyllis Murray says, not until it hurts-but until it feels good.

On October 29 we will celebrate Stewardship Sunday. Pledges will be brought to the altar and blessed as part of the Divine Liturgy. Please read what other members of the Congregation of St. Saviour have to say about why

they give as you consider your own pledge for 2007.

Marsha Ra
Stewardship Committee Co-Chair

"...several members of the congregation were asked to tell their stories, to share with us why they give. The responses were as diverse as our wonderful congregation."

WHY I GIVE

Catherine Scott

I was looking for a Birthday card the other day and one that struck my fancy had on the front from Friend to Friend and when you opened the card it read, from Heart to Heart.

I think giving is from the Heart to the Heart. The Cathedral is the center of Love for all people and when I give to the congregation/cathedral I am giving from my heart.

But why do I give? I could just sit at the back every Sunday and watch the collection plate go by. But that would indicate a disinterest in my surroundings. Bishop Roskom once said, "Look at your

(Continued on page 6)



Letter from the Vicar

My Dear Friends,

*Lord, make me an instrument of
your peace*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow
love,*

Where there is injury, pardon,

Where there is discord, union,

Where there is doubt, faith,

Where there is error, truth,

Where there is despair, hope,

Where there is sadness, joy,

Where there is darkness, light,

*O Divine Master, grant that I
may not so much seek*

To be consoled, as to console,

*To be understood, as to under-
stand,*

To be loved, as to love.

For

It is in giving, that we receive,

It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned,

It is in dying, that we are born to eternal life.

The Prayer

Ascribed to St. Francis of Assisi

One of the highlights of a continuing education course in Rome last summer, was a day trip to the historic town of Assisi. At age 16, I had the honor of viewing the movie *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*, depicting the life, conversion, work and witness of St. Francis. This was clearly the beginning of God's call to serve God through ordained ministry.

Therefore, my trip to Assisi was a pilgrimage of immense intensity and deep emotion. I sat at the tomb of Francis for about two hours, quietly praying, giving thanks with bubbling joy in my spirit, silently singing the famous canticle, *Brother Sun and Sister Moon*.

The "upper basilica" depicts in elaborate beauty the work and life of St. Francis in

the most complex series of frescoes. I spent more time focusing on one particular depiction called *The Sermon to the Birds*. In this delightful fresco, Giotto presents an integral portrait of St. Francis attentive to God, attentive to humankind, but also attentive to the whole of creation. Franciscan existence is an immense space where God, humankind and the world of nature harmoniously find their place. In Assisi, even the sun, moon, stars, fire, water, and wind feel at home, because St. Francis dared to call them 'brothers' and 'sisters'. Francis calls all of God's creation into a thriving relationship of wonder and hope.

As we enter a new program year, I would encourage you to embrace the prayer of St. Francis as a mantra of renewal and a deeper relationship with God in Christ Jesus! It is out of our renewed relationship with our Holy God that we will be empowered to:

"Continue in the Apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the Bread and in the prayers."

"Persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord."

"Proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ."

"Seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself"

"Strive for justice and peace among all people. And respect the dignity of every human being."

The Baptismal Covenant, *Book of Common Prayer*

Our life together at our Cathedral, em-

powers us for service in extraordinary ways. It is in this context that the financial resources with which God has blessed us so abundantly, are indeed necessary in order to bear the fruit of our mission. I sincerely believe that God empowers us to embrace an attitude of abundance. However, I am starkly aware that it is not always easy when we live in a culture that assumes an attitude of scarcity.

The generosity of God is powerfully overwhelming as we learn to celebrate abundance in all its fullness.

Saint Francis reminds us that as we give freely, we are indeed empowered to celebrate our call to Renewal, Refreshment and Reconciliation.

As we are empowered to worship, living the Gospel and Peacemaking, God will engage us in surprising ways, as we give of our substance.

Empowered to be 'evangelist' God will increase our giving of time, talent and treasure.

Empowered to be 'reconciler' God will increase our growth in Grace, touching the lives of all around us.

Empowered to be 'healer', wounded as we are, God will increase our faith, as we work for Justice, Peace and Reconciliation.

I conclude with a prayer for renewal:

Lord God,

Renew our hearts that we may share your love.

Renew our church that we may share your joy.

*Renew our land and our world that we may
share your peace;*

through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

With God's Blessing of Reconciling Peace and Prayer

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



WARDEN'S REPORT

Summer Reading, by Bob Carey

Amartya Sen is not a theologian; he is an economist, the winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1998. He currently teaches at Harvard and has the happy talent of thinking clearly about a range of issues that vex us in these slogan ridden days. The book I want to recommend to you is: Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny. It is one in a series of titles-Issues of our Times, the senior editor of which is Henry Louis Gates Jr.-dealing with "ideas that matter in the new millennium." In Sen's case, he is dealing with issues that have mattered in the past millennium and that will continue to matter in the new.

Editor's note: this is part of a regular series of reports from your two Wardens. On alternating months, Sandy & Bob will write on a variety of topics to give you some perspective from the Warden's viewpoint.

In his discussion of identity, he uses a strikingly helpful phrase, "the miniaturization of people," to describe the compulsive use of single titles, single markers to describe individuals and cultures that differ from our own. His immediate target is the simple minded argument of Samuel Huntington, whose "clash of civilizations" has been invoked to explain, in far too simplistic a way, the troubles and disturbances of the present. Such an approach, by masking the history of policies, maneuvers and machinations-the stuff of historical analysis, serves, as he puts it "as a major intellectual barrier to focusing more fully on prevailing politics and to investigating the processes and dynamics of contemporary incitements to violence" (Identity, 43). In short, shout "cultural differences" and "ancient preju-

dice" and march resolutely away from inquiry into the politics of who gets what in the current shuffle.

Sen is most helpful to religious types, those who hold out the hope that we can, somehow, learn to get along by holding to the best of our respect traditions, by offering a thoughtful cautionary reading of the use of religion and identity in today's world. This is the where the idea of miniaturization bites the deepest and is most helpful. Miniaturization is a kind of reductionism, a confining of a person to a single identity, a way of assuming "that any person preeminently belongs, for all practical purposes, to one collectivity only--no more and no less." (20). To reduce a person to only being a Muslim, only being a Jew, only being a Christian, is to reduce the individual, to confine him or her to a single dimension of experience and community. The world becomes a collection of us versus them-and makes confrontational politics and bravado posturing fatally easy. If anything, we should be insisting on richer reading of how individuals belong and matter.

We know something about the simple-mindedness of this kind miniaturizing people in the United States: think of the history of racial and sexual stereotyping, the ease with which those in power presumed to dictate what being African American or a woman amounted to. Such stereotypical commonplaces were taken for granted by those who profited from seeing the world that way and who shed them reluctantly in the face of protest to the contrary.

Though Sen is covering a considerable amount of ground in this book, his reading of the present is immediately applicable to our own personal and communitarian concerns. Keep the book handy as an antidote to the easy, unanchored generalization about ~"those peoples, those cultures" and other gotten up slogans.

Robert B. Carey, Ph.D.
Warden

wardens@stsaviour.diocesen.org

Find Out What's Up

It's back by popular demand: the Welcoming Committee's four-part series for newcomers, which just about everybody else will find enlightening as well.

On four successive Sundays in October we'll discuss the Cathedral, the Congregation, our Anglican liturgy and the Episcopal Church USA. Last presented two years ago, the series will run from October 8 through October 29 at 1 PM in Cathedral House.

In two years a lot has happened: the Cathedral has made substantial progress in its plans to develop the Close, a new priest has taken charge of the Congregation, and a new threat to the unity of the American Episcopal Church has arisen. Dean Kowalski, Sub-Dean Dennis, and Canons Miller and Luce will lead the discussions. We'll be fortified with bagels, cream cheese, and juice.

Joan Ogden, Welcoming Chair
welcoming@stsaviour.diocesen.org



Canon Dennis Leads Fall Retreat at Holy Cross, Nov 17-19

The Rev. 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 Oct. 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 info, call Marsha Ra
212-865-9246
marsha.ra@mail.cuny.edu

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!

In memoriam:

We are very sad to announce the death of the Reverend Wiley "Jack" Merryman, who died on September 10 at the age of 89. Father Merryman was a frequent visitor to the Cathedral from Amsterdam House, and was much loved in the diocese. Diane Reiners writes, "We saw him only a few weeks ago, but he has been too weak to come to service. Still, he was as gracious and welcoming as ever. I will miss him."

In celebration:

We give thanks to God for the following birthdays:

- Harry Johnson—October 2nd
- Jennifer Johnson (Chris Johnson's Goddaughter) - October 10th
- Raquel Granda—October 12th

Send us your announcements – birthdays, wedding announcements, births, new member announcements – something you want to see in Crossings. Send to Chris Johnson at; cjohnson@linley.com

Open Vestry Meeting October 16th—6:30pm

Have you ever thought about running for Vestry? Or would you like to see how we operate? The Congregation traditionally holds an "open vestry" meeting in October. This is your chance to observe a real Vestry meeting, see how things run, and assess whether this work is for you. The meeting takes place in Cathedral House Dining Room. For more information, contact;

The Rev. Cn. Alan G. Dennis
Sub – Dean and Vicar
adennis@stjohndivine.org
or Wardens; Sandra Schubert or Bob Carey
wardens@stsaviour.diocesen.org,

Retreat at Holy Cross, November 17-19,2006

Name _____

Phone numbers:
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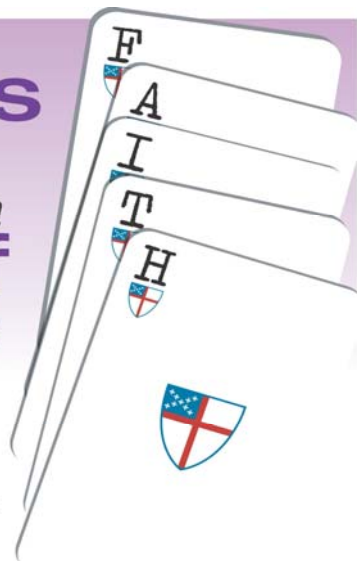
e-mail: _____

_____ 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

Asking
Questions of Faith
doesn't have to be a
Game of Solitaire



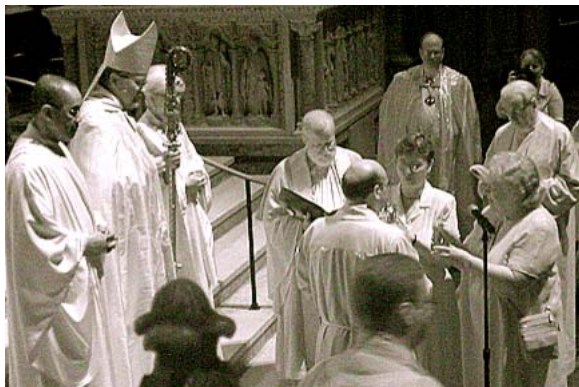
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR ALL!!!

- November 5 God and Creation - The Abundance of God's Goodness
- November 12 God in Jesus - An Incarnational Faith
- November 19 God the Holy Spirit - The Breath of New Life
- November 26 The Bible - The Word of God for the People of God
- December 3 Sin - Roadblocks to Abundant Life
- December 10 Thy Kingdom Come - The Promise of Christian Hope So What?

Sundays 1-3 pm, Lunch Included, Cathedral House, All Welcome

Adults interested in being baptized, confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church are particularly invited.

CANON DENNIS INSTALLED AS NEW SUB-DEAN AND VICAR



Warden Sandra Schubert and past Warden Marsha Ra represented the Congregation by presenting gifts of the Bread & Wine, symbolizing the central ministry Canon Dennis brings to the Congregation in the Eucharist, and the centrality of the Eucharist in our life in Christ together.

On the second Saturday morning in September, the Rev. Canon Alan Dennis was installed as Sub-Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and Vicar of the Congregation of St. Saviour by The Rt. Rev Mark Sisk, Bishop of New York.

Our deepest congratulations to Alan and his wife Jenny in their new life with us on The Close.

The Vestry

Photo credit; Hal Weiner



The Congregation Web Page has a new look! We just went "live" with a new and updated version of the web page. The new technology is part of an upgrade to the systems we are using to manage the whole Congregation data base. This new web page system will enable different committee heads to manage their own portions of the site, allowing us to keep you better informed with more current information. This is a work in progress, and we welcome your input as we continue to perfect it. There's a survey on the front page, so please visit the site, and tell us what you think!

www.saintsaviour.org

Reflections on Giving

(Continued from page 1)

checkbook. What is important to you is reflected in the checks you write.” That had a profound impact on me. I looked at my checkbook and realized I wrote checks for things that I later threw out or forgot about. My spiritual life and home is important to me in a way that I never imagined. The Cathedral is with me every day and I give because that is what is important to me.

GIVING BACK

Wayne Yankus

Giving and giving back are part of life. Giving builds community, provides support for vision, and allows organizations the ability to function. Personal philanthropy plays an important role in our commitment to the church. I give a pledge yearly to the Congregation in order for it to sustain its role in my life and develop its mission. It seals my annual commitment to those of you who support me in my life.

WHY I GIVE

Peter Christiansen

I give first to repay in a small way the amazing blessings that God has given me. I'm working towards tithing because I want my gift to be a small sacrifice, something that I have to plan—an important part of my fiscal life. I give to the Congregation and the Cathedral because

this where I meet God through my fellow congregants and our soaring building. Our community is so human, full of frailties and human foibles. Yet through that humanity the Spirit shines so clearly. The Cathedral, both earthy and ethereal, makes a living testament. On Sunday, the music fills the Cathedral with song that drowns out the sounds of the everyday. This is my spiritual family and home and I give because I can do nothing else than support its care and continued vitality.

WHY I GIVE

Theresa Ellis-Reich

Why do I give? There are many references in the Bible that relate to tithing, but the most beautiful can be found in the book of Malachi, chapter 3, verse 10. It reads, “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord Almighty, “ I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you!”

Since I've been a member of this congregation, I've increased my offering a little each year. With each increase, God has truly increased my blessings. In the past 9 years, I have traveled in safety, I've enjoyed job security, found a wonderful husband, became

closer with family and friends, and formed a priceless, spiritual bond with my father during his last years on this earth. God has also blessed me with good health, and an appreciation for simplicity and a quick wit. The list of blessings in my life go on and on.

Blessings are the simple things that we take for granted. By tithing, we are showing God that we are willing to share with Him the fortune that He has bestowed upon us in the first place. Try it! Let God pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in!

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

Carole Wilkins

Why do I give? I had to pause for a moment to consider why I give to the Congregation and indirectly to St. Johns.

In one way the answer is easy: I can't say that I “own” St. John's if I don't participate in or contribute to upholding its worldly needs and furthering its mission; I can't sit in this magnificent space and feel fully a part of it unless I commit myself in some small way.

On the other hand, it is also easy for me to think that the size of the Close can only be supported by large contributions from multinational corporations, non-profit foundations and individuals with deep trust funds, and that my contribution can not have any noticeable impact on what it takes to sup-

port all the physical needs and programming offerings of the Cathedral and Congregation. But I want to think differently.

Money is a vehicle of change – a transformer. However variously earned or gained, one dollar has the same transformational capability as another even if applied to a small cause. Yet together multiple dollars can have an exponential impact on the community. I don't know what opportunities or new ideas for programming will arise in the coming year, but I want us to be able to take advantage of them. The amount I've pledged may allow us to have just one more program or event, it may provide some assistance to someone in need, or may enable us to extend our publicity a bit more. I'd like to think so.

Finally, while I feel that certain acts should go unnoticed, the act of giving regularly using my green envelope is a visual act of voting to support what we do at the Cathedral and with each other. I'm hoping that those that may come regularly but are not members of the Congregation will see the number of green envelopes as a sign of our expansiveness and will want to be a part of it. As the Congregation grows I feel I grow.

Although tithing is not the price of admission into this wondrous space or the cost of participating in the fellowship and growing that occurs here, it is in my mind a fair trade and recognition of what I value in life.

Fall Events around the Cathedral

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 11:00 a.m. – 4 p.m. Space in the Cathedral is extremely limited for this free event due to restoration work.

I lift my lamp beside the golden door: Embracing the Immigrant

Sat. Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Cathedral
A Day of Education, Celebration and Renewal

A lecture by Daniel Hillel on his new book *The Natural History of the Bible: An Environmental Exploration of the Hebrew Scriptures*

Tues. Oct. 17 from 7p.m. to 9 p.m. in Cathedral House
Professor emeritus of environmental sciences, Univ. of Mass., Hillel is also senior research scientist in the Center for Climate Systems Research, Columbia Univ. Free admission.

****Shomyo Chant for Peace**

Fri. Oct. 20 at 8 p.m.
Twenty monks from Japan's Tendai school provide a rare opportunity to hear shomyo, one of the world's oldest musical forms. These Buddhist chants have been preserved by the Tendai school, which is now celebrating its 1,200th year. Presented by the World Music Institute, the Tendai Buddhist Charitable Foundation and the Tendai Buddhist Institute. Tickets: \$35. To purchase, please visit www.ticketweb.com or call toll free (866) 468-7619.

****Halloween Extravaganza & Procession of Ghouls**

Fri. Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
This year's feature is *Nosferatu*, the 1922 silent film classic. Tickets: \$15; \$7 for students and seniors. Seating is limited this year so order early through www.ticketweb.com or call (866) 468-7619. For more information about this and other Cathedral events, please call (212) 316-7540.

Poets' Corner Symposium on the Works and Legacy of Emma Lazarus

Sat. Oct. 28 at 3 p.m., St. James Chapel
The poet's life and work will be celebrated with a panel discussion and readings of her poems with musical offerings. Presented in association with the Academy of American Poets. Free admission.

Poets' Corner Induction Ceremony

Sun. Oct 29 at 6 p.m.
Emma Lazarus is this year's inductee at Evening service. Cathedral Dean The Very Rev. Dr. James A Kowalski will officiate; Cathedral Poet-in-Residence Charles Martin and other poets will read from Lazarus' works.

For additional information about location of events and daily services, please check the Cathedral website, www.stjohndivine.org; the Visitor Center at (212)316-7490; or call (212) 316-7490. Families wishing to visit the Columbarium, please call (212)-316-7497 for an appointment.

Fall Recital Series

Prepare to be delighted and surprised by exciting young soloists and lively new ensembles brought together by the love of making music. Sundays, Oct. 15 – Dec.10 at 3 p.m. in St. James Chapel. Check the Cathedral Website, www.stjohndivine.org, for information about specific recitals. Sponsored by The Baisley Powell Elebash Fund. Free admission. Suggested contribution: \$5.

Art Exhibits

Pat Lipsky: Les Vitraux
Thurs. Oct. 5 through Tues. Nov. 14. Opening Reception: Thur. Oct. 5, 7 p.m.

American Pat Lipsky's paintings of lancets from stained glass windows of 12th and 13th century French and German cathedrals. Show coincides with exhibit of Lipsky's recent abstract paintings at Elizabeth Harris Gallery. For more information, please visit www.eharrisgallery.com or www.stjohndivine.org

Crossings

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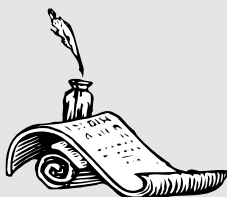
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The Numbers

Running any endeavor requires a prudent management of resources. At the beginning of each year, your Vestry uses its annual budget as a planning and control tool to set our priorities. Then, during the year, much time and effort is spent to live within this budget to be as good stewards of your gifts as we can.

While the majority of the year are represented in the tables below, our spending pattern is not evenly spaced. Our actual programs are very slow in summer, but begin again in earnest in the fall. Therefore, the program spending is much higher during the last 3 months

of the year than any other single time. As a result, we are entering both a busy period, but also a more expensive one.

As you can see, we still manage to keep our spending within our income, but we look to your continued support to allow us to provide the important fall programs mentioned in this issue of Crossings.

And your pledge for next year (see article page 1—Stewardship Sunday, Oct 29th) will allow us to prepare a budget for 2007. Blessings and thanks,

The Wardens
wardens@stsaviour.diocesenyny.org

Congregation of St. Saviour Financial results through the first 8 months January 1—August 31, 2006

EXPENSES	YTD2005	YTD2006
Cathedral & Diocesan Payments	\$ 98,872	\$ 101,474
Congregation Programs	\$ 32,041	\$ 26,741
Administration	\$ 6,836	\$ 5,349
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$ 137,749	\$ 133,564
INCOME (less dep osits for Crafts Fair)		
Pledge & Plate	\$ 132,577	\$ 130,673
Other Program	\$ 7,802	\$ 7,131
INCOME TOTAL	\$ 140,379	\$ 137,803
Surplus over expenses	\$ 2,630	\$ 4,239