

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

Please plan to attend
the Annual Meeting
of the Congregation
on
February 4th, 2007
at 1 pm in
Cathedral House

Featuring
*Presentation of the
Annual Report
and
Elections of Officers*

We hope to see you
there.

(see article p. 2)

Crossings

The Cathedral Congregation's Newsletter

January 2007

Thank You For Your Pledge!

As of December 7 the following Congregation members and Cathedral clergy had pledged to the Congregation for 2007. The list continues to grow. The Stewardship Committee deeply appreciates the commitments you have made. We are being challenged to increase our contribution to the Cathedral for 2007 by over 30% and every pledge will help. If you haven't yet made your pledge it is not too late. You may pick up a pledge card at the Congregation table on Sunday or even pledge on-line at the Congregation website. If you are unable to make a pledge, your on-going contributions are deeply appreciated.

Marsha Ra, for the Stewardship Committee

Cecilia Andrini-Nwufoh	Fred Imbimbo	Cynthia Quao
William Ankenbrock	Robert & Mary Jacobs	Nathaniel Queen
Cecile Arkhurst	Christopher L. Johnson	Deborah Quoma
Sylvia Bellusci	Floyd Johnson	Marsha Ra
Luz C. Betancourt	Lorenda A. Johnson	Velma J. Reeb
Elizabeth E.Boe	Margaret A. Karle	Mary Rodgers
Alisa A Callender	Muriel Kneeshaw	Karen Rothmeyer
James R. Campbell	The Very Rev. J Kowalski	John Rumley
Robert & Patricia Carey	& Dr. Ann Brewer	Camille Ryan
William Cassarini	Gloria Lawrence	Douglas Schoettle
Lisa Chin	Anthony Lecour	Sandra Schubert
Peter Christensen	David & Pamela Leeming	Catherine & Chris Scott
& Mark Hummell	Susan & Joseph Liddicoat	Karen D. Scott
M. Elaine Combs-Schilling	Thelma Malle	Robert Sirota
Yolanda Concepcion	Marshan I. Mason Gainer	Catherine Skopic
Ruth Curtis	Theresa McCanlies	John Slorance
Isabelle Curtis	Ramsey &	Robert E. Smith
Kevin del'Aigle	Courtney McGrory	Sally Sobolewski
Robert Deming	Paula G.McKenzie	Benjamin Speaker
Rev. Canon Alan &	W. B.McKowen &	Dr. G. Lorraine Springer
Jenny Dennis	The Rev. C. Coles	Phoebe R. Stanton
Diane & Peter Dillon	Al Mickens	Dawn & Murray Stegelman
Mary Donovan	Patricia Miranda	Sonya Summerfield
Donna Doyle	Thomas F. Moore	The Rev. Storm Swain
John Cieslewicz &	John Morelli	Mary Ann Tait
Alisa Eagleston	Caroline &	Daphne Thomson
Theresa Ellis-Reich	Robert Morrisseau	Hubert Watson
K. M. Faust	Ruth Mueller-Maerki	Hal Weiner
Albert Feix III	Phyllis J. Murray	Richard Smith
John Felbinger	Name Withheld	Rachel Wildman &
Minita Finger	E. Napier	David McGee
Aili & Austin Flint	Joan Ogden	Carole Wilkins
Vaughn Folkert	Terriss W. Ohl	Ron & Barbara Williams
Farris Forsythe	Sonia Omulepu	Wayne Yankus
Lanice B. France	Robert Bowles &	Heidi Zenz
Patrick Hammer	Roberta Parkey	
Vivian Davidson Hewitt	Raymond & Virginia Paske	
Joyce M. Howard	Bruce & Barbara Paulsen	
Tom Hurwitz	Matthew Pritchard	



Letter from the Vicar

Election Process Update; Annual Meeting & Election February 4th

Dear Friends,

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling.”

Jude 24

“At the center of the Christian faith is the conviction that in the universe there is a God of power who is able to do exceedingly abundant things in nature and in history... Theologically, this affirmation is expressed in the doctrine of the omnipotence of God. The God whom we worship is not a weak, incompetent God. He is able to beat back gigantic waves of opposition and to bring low prodigious mountains of evil. The ringing testimony of the Christian faith is that God is able.”

“Strength to Love”, Martin Luther King, Jr.

At the start of a new year, I am starkly aware of the fact that predictions about the state of the world finances, about world events or about the state of our church often fail. At the same time, I am confident that we do indeed serve and worship a God who is able, competent, compassionate, caring and loving.

We have so much to be thankful for at the Cathedral that testifies to God’s powerful working through our faith community. We have so much to celebrate, despite and in spite of our doubts, fears or anxieties about the world, the church or life itself.

It is my very sincere hope that each of us will take time this year, to be seriously intentional about our worship, our study, our giving, fellowship and our spirituality. There are a plethora of opportunities to deepen faith and our congregational life. I invite you to take the time, indeed make the time, for God and the things of God.

I have no doubt that we may face challenges in the year ahead, however, armed with a deepening faith and a loving, able God, we can turn challenges into creative and exciting opportunity.

In his Presidential address to the General Synod of the Church of England in London on November 15, 2005, Archbishop Rowan Williams concluded with these words:

“Pray with people you might not otherwise pray with. Show that you are ready to learn from each other and from God, not least in how you think about ministry. Keep asking what visible difference (it doesn’t have to be a huge difference, just a real one) any discussion or ideal or plan will make for the Kingdom of God-and if you can’t answer, look again at the importance you’re giving it. Find a voice to challenge younger disciples into deeper faith and fuller ministry. Above all, remember that you-we-are a community of people committed to seeing and hearing Jesus Christ our Lord in one another.”

As we enter a time of refreshing, renewal and restoration of our Great Cathedral, may our hearts and minds and spirits be renewed and revitalized as we are repositioned for mission and service to the world.

May the gift of Love banishing all fear in the Hope of the Incarnate Jesus, fill you with Joy and Peace during 2007 and always.

Every Blessing.

The Rev. Canon. Alan Dennis
Sub-Dean & Vicar
adennis@stjohndivine.org

It is election time in the congregation. On February 4, 2007 in Cathedral House at 1:00pm, your congregation will host its Annual Meeting and hold elections for Vestry. This is your chance to pick the leadership in your congregation, and to have a say in how your congregation is run.

We have five positions open for Vestry and one for Warden. Your Election Committee has put together a slate of candidates for these positions. We encourage you to review their Election Statements prior to the Annual Meeting on Feb 4th. All congregation members will receive them in the mail, or you can view them online by going to the congregation web page at

www.saintsaviour.org

According to the bylaws, members are qualified to vote as follows, *“Persons of the age of eighteen years or more belonging to the congregation, who have been baptized and are regular attendants of its worship and contributors to its support for at least twelve months prior to an annual election or a special meeting of the Corporation at which they are in attendance, shall be qualified voters thereat.”*

In addition to the elections which take place on February 4th, the Annual Meeting will be used to review the progress of the Congregation over the past year, and a presentation will be made of the finances and Annual Report of the Congregation. If you have any questions about this process, please ask!

The Rev. Canon. Alan Dennis
Sub-Dean & Vicar
adennis@stjohndivine.org

The Rev. Mark Hummell
Election Committee Chair
mhummell@dioceseny.org



Letter from the Warden

Timing by Sandra Lee Schubert

Time flies doesn't it? You hear that all the time. Even as a child my summers went by too quickly. I hated August most of all. It meant September was not far behind and school would begin again. It was also the hottest month, the time when mosquitoes would bite my sunburned flesh and my allergies would have me hating mornings. There are times I wish I could push the pause button on life. Just so I can think a little bit. I could rewind some parts and review, see where I made mistakes. Maybe I could see where I also did some good.

Time flies. It rushes past me, faster and faster, making my head spin. It was more than 30 years ago when I first walked into the Cathedral. I remembered it being dark, and a bit cold. At that time it was not for a church service but for a talk by a woman named Hilda. As I remember she was a medium of some sort. Back then I was a spiritual dabbler, rebelling against my Catholic upbringing. I think it would have been better if I could have built upon my religious foundation. But occasionally you need to wander off into the wilderness and see what there is to discover. I would come back to the Cathedral for an occasional event. But finally after years of exploring I settled down here ready to root someplace and hopefully grow.

The trouble for me in this spiritual exploration was that it had left me un-tethered and aimless. I was a spiritual airhead of sorts, my head always in the clouds. Settling here was the only thing I could do. Its roots were built of living stone forged deep into the ground. Here I could begin to find my bearings.

People have talked of going home for the holidays. As you may remember my childhood home is now just rubble, and my parents gone many years. Home is where the heart is. At the cathedral I have found a new kind of home. And even if I were to leave, I would no longer be un-tethered in the same way as when I arrived. I have become bound to something powerful. The stone goes deep.

Time does fly. But there are those things that remain eternal. Even as we speed through this life we are not alone. I can say I am still growing and exploring, following some old paths and forging new ones.

This is the last of my Warden's letters to appear in Crossings. Come February I will step down and a new warden will write in this space. The two years have gone quickly. They have been filled with all sorts of interesting things. I can only hope I have done some good for the congregation. In the meantime, I thank all of you who have supported me, and those people who continue to support the work of the congregation and the cathedral. I know how hard we all work. But we have this lovely stone to support us and the spirit of God who sustains us through all we do.

Happy Holidays to all and the may the very best of things come to you in 2007.

Sandra Lee Schubert
Warden
wardens@saintsaviour.org

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

~Matthew 2:1-2~

Three Kings! Celebrating the Epiphany



JANUARY 6TH

10 am–Noon: Family event
Families gather to explore the story surrounding the famous journey of the three wise men, celebrated around the world. In the workshop, children and their caregivers will create gift boxes, sparkling crowns and royal costumes, which can be worn at the free festive performance in the Cathedral at 1 p.m. Recommended for ages 4 and up. \$5 per child with adult.

**1 pm–Cathedral
Community Three Kings Day Celebration**
Join Cathedral Artists-in-Residence Omega Dance Theatre and other special guests for a festive afternoon celebrating the Epiphany that will draw upon multi-ethnic traditions. Free admission.

JANUARY 13TH

**Manhattan North IPC Epiphany Party,
from 2PM to 5 PM in Cathedral House,
2nd Floor**

The congregation hosts the venerable community of Anglican/ Episcopal churches which comprises the Manhattan North Inter-Parish Council of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. This is your chance to observe a short meeting of the IPC, meet great people, have fun, and eat great food! Learn more about the needs we are meeting in our inner-city neighborhoods and the Episcopal Urban Caucus.

Admission is free. However if you wish to participate in the famed round-robin grab bag please bring a NEW gift, wrapped, of a value of \$20.00 retail that is suitable for male or female.

For more information, please contact Hal Weiner, Delegate to the MNIPC at the congregation office: 212-316-7483.

Martin Luther King, Jr., and Prison Ministry

January is the month in which we celebrate the feast day of Martin Luther King, Jr., probably the only saint many of us will see in our lifetimes. He dreamed that this country would truly become a land where all Americans were “guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Unfortunately, that dream is still far off. Over 90% percent of all men and women incarcerated in our jails and prisons are either Afro-Americans or non-white Latino Americans. This is the heritage of slavery.

The congregation’s Mission and Outreach Committee contributes to one very important prison ministry, a college program at Bedford Hills Correctional Institution for women. Women prisoners suffer from low self-esteem, small expectations, and a foreshortened horizon. College not only expands their world, it gives them self-confidence, equips them to earn a good living, and probably most important, turns them into a role models for their own children. Graduates receive their degrees from Marymount Manhattan College, which runs the program. Mission and Outreach has given \$1,000 in each of the last two years for the purchase of textbooks.

I am personally involved in two other prison ministries, again involving women, but comparable programs surely exist for men prisoners too. One of the groups I volunteer with, WomenCare, run by the Women’s Prison Association, pro-

vides mentors to women in prison on a one-to-one basis. As a mentor you attend monthly training sessions at the WPA offices in Brooklyn, write to your assigned prisoner, visit her, and then, when she is released, get together with her over coffee or a meal from time to time as a counselor and friend. Warning: A mentor makes a 11-month commitment, but at the end, you become so invested in your mentee’s success, you don’t want to stop.

Mentoring is a good ministry for people with full-time jobs. You can fit it in to your schedule. Now that I am no longer tethered to an employer, I am free to volunteer also with the Women’s Advocate Ministry, which sends me to the Rikers Island jail two or three times a month to interview women there who have asked for help with a variety of problems. Most often, they hope to win a place in a drug abuse program as an alternative to a prison sentence. I wear a small wooden cross, and sometimes if it seems appropriate, I recommend a psalm for a prisoner to read. Otherwise, I do no preaching. But I am always mindful of Matthew 25: “...In as much as you have done it to the least of my brothers and sisters, you have done it unto me.”

Joan Ogden

Prison Ministry Program
missionandoutreach@saintsaviour.org

The NY ICARE Campaign

You would think that once a person has served his sentence and reentered the community, he would have all the rights the rest of us have. Not so, say some quirky little laws on the books in New York. Most egregious is lack of immediate access to Medicaid. Men and women leaving New York State prisons are given only two weeks of medication for serious mental illnesses and severe physical pain, but they cannot apply for Medicaid until *after* they are released. Medicaid then typically takes several months to come through.

You might also think that prisoners should be able to place collect calls to their families at the same rate that the rest of us would pay. Again, not so. The average person receiving a collect call from a prison can expect to pay 630% more than if the call came from someone outside the prison system. It costs \$3 to initiate the call and 16 cents per minute. Need I add that prisoners are only permitted to call collect? If you are a woman in Albion Correctional Institution near the Canadian border, and you have a three-year-old daughter in upper Manhattan, your contacts will be very fleeting—to the detriment of both of you. Both Verizon/MCI and New York State make a handsome profit from this arrangement—largely at the expense of New York’s most impoverished families.

To learn more about these and other discriminatory laws, log on to nyicare.org, which is headed by Rima Vesely-Flad, a former member of the Congregation and Cathedral acolyte. Rima’s organization is lobbying our state senators and representatives to make some changes in these laws.

Crafts Fair Gate Increases by 20%

The 11th annual Crafts Fair succeeded in garnering an attendance increase of 20% and bringing in \$12,000 under the joint leadership of **Brian Nelson** and **Barbara Hohol** with **Marsha Ra**, Chair-emeritus, shepherding the leaders!

This year's fair was a great success all round, made possible by the tremendous efforts of all the volunteers involved. Barbara Hohol, a regular soup kitchen volunteer, brought her exceptional and extensive crafts experience to bear on many aspects of the event. Brian Nelson, vestry member, had the pleasure of designing the graphics and website, serving on the jury and helping to administer the show. The large job of volunteer organizing fell to **Rich Whaley** who charmingly and efficiently solicited the many volunteers needed at the entrance and in the Café. **Lisa Chin**, our stalwart Café coordinator and chef, worked tirelessly with **Will and Susan Baldwin** and their daughter **Emily**, to create yet again the annual culinary feast looked forward to by many! Adding to, or should I say adding for, the excellent cuisine was a new cash register donated by Will. And we were fortunate to again have **Mario Hamblin** expertly wire and monitor the show's electricity and also provide music to shop and sell by.

Perhaps some of the increase may be attributed to the unusually warm weather, but the hand distribution of 8000 postcards and also Barbara

and Marsha's slogging through the local stores and buildings to put up posters certainly helped attract more attendees.

Most important of all: **Great thanks go out to each of the unheralded volunteers** who serve on the jury, helped layout out the show, staffed the front desk, and in the Café served food and manned the cash register. Each person's effort and cheer made the day brighter, the event more successful, and displayed the hospitality of our congregation and Cathedral. Thank you! Thank you, too, to the Cathedral and its staff for contributing so pleasantly and professionally to the success of the event.

Marsha Ra not only ran the Fair for its first 10 years but also in its 11th joined the ranks of exhibitors as painter exhibitor. She has promised to return to the active management again for the Fair's 12th year and will work with Brian and Barbara as the "Managing Troika."

We look forward to next year's Fair and hope that we can offer everyone an opportunity to participate in this truly exciting event.

Brian Nelson
Co-Chair
Crafts Fair Committee

AT THE CATHEDRAL

Spotlight Tours

Register at the Visitor Center inside the Cathedral. For further information call the Public Education & Visitor Services Department at 212.932.7347. \$10 per person; \$8 per student/senior.

Saints and Signs: Spotlight on Symbols
Sat. Jan. 6, 12:45 p.m.

Explore signs and symbols in the Cathedral and discover the unique attributes that characterize saints, martyrs, and angels. See ancient symbols in paintings, glass and stone, and learn how the legends have inspired artists through the centuries. Led by Cathedral Guide Becca Earley.

Diversity United: Spotlight on the Chapels of Tongues

Sat. Jan. 20, 12:45 p.m.

The Cathedral's Chapels of Tongues honor the diverse immigrant groups most represented in New York City at the turn of the twentieth century. Built in Norman, Gothic, and Renaissance styles and the product of two building campaigns and four architectural firms, the seven chapels form a beautiful and harmonious whole. Explore these unique sacred spaces with Cathedral Guide John Simko.

How Did They Do That? Spotlight on Architectural Innovation

Sat. Feb. 3, 12:45 p.m.

The construction of a stone structure as immense as the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine posed numerous challenges in the early 1900s. This tour will look at engineering and architectural secrets behind the enormous cathedral, especially the eight massive columns framing the high altar, whose voyage illustrates the imagination and "can-do" spirit of builders of that era. Binoculars recommended. Led by Cathedral Guide Lee Caron.

Crossings

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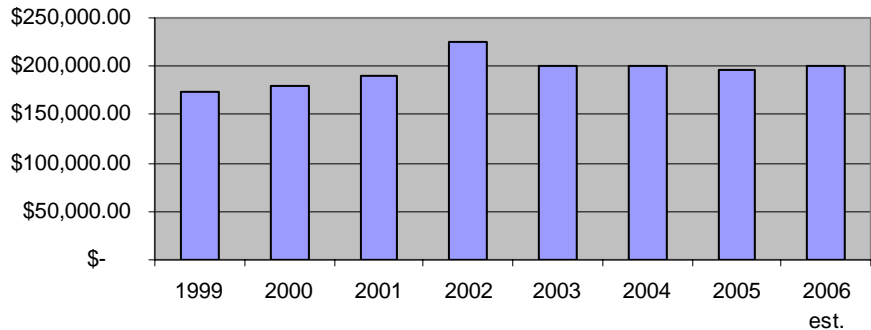
The Need For Growth

For most of our recent history, our pledge & collection plate revenues have remained remarkably constant (except just after the fire, when in 2002 we received special gifts to pass onto the Cathedral). Regardless of revenue, any organization faces increased costs of salaries and other fixed expenses. The pressure this puts on your Congregation leadership is that each year, there is

less and less money available for programs after the fixed expenses are paid. Our Congregation faces the need to grow both spiritually and numerically, both to support our own programming, and to be relevant in our support of the Cathedral. This continues to be one of our primary goals for the new year.

The Wardens wardens@saintsaviour.org

Pledge & Plate: History Since 1999



Congregation of St. Saviour Financial results through the first 11 months

EXPENSES	YTD2005	YTD2006
Cathedral & Diocesan Payments	\$ 129,124	\$ 141,381
Congregation Programs	\$ 42,684	\$ 31,164
Administration	\$ 10,940	\$ 10,323
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$ 182,748	\$ 182,868
INCOME (less deposits for Crafts Fair)		
Pledge & Plate	\$ 172,832	\$ 176,389
Other Program	\$ 11,172	\$ 13,620
INCOME TOTAL	\$ 184,004	\$ 190,009
Surplus over expenses	\$ 1,256	\$ 7,141