From our vicar

Dear Faithful and Friends
of the Cathedral Community,

I just returned to my office, having participated in the ordination of two new priests in the Cathedral, ordained by Bishop Mariann and numerous clergy who all laid hands upon each deacon, making them priests, as the *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* (Come Holy Spirit) was beautifully sung by a cantor and all present. This is a moment in the liturgy that brings one close to God, to an interior silence—a place of wonder and awe, as God’s Holy Spirit fills and indwells the newly ordained—*and all assembled*.

In Bishop Mariann’s homily, she referenced the reading from the book of Numbers. Moses was told by the Lord to assemble 70 elders at the tent of meeting. The Lord would then take some of the spirit that was upon Moses and put it upon this gathering of elders—those who would bear the burden with Moses in leading the Israelites. Bishop Mariann spoke of the moment which was soon to occur in the ordination liturgy, when we would pray for God’s Holy Spirit to come to us. She said this same Spirit will also come upon all of you here today.

It is true. God’s Spirit is always coming to us, and when you participate in an ordination, or any service where priests are present, they are an important reminder and call to us all that we are meant to be a priestly people: God’s people—to be channels, witnesses, and participants in God’s work in creation and within the human family, human history, and the future before us.

As I prepare to depart the Cathedral as your vicar, it is *your presence and devotion* to this place, the many ministries that you
carry out, and all that this Cathedral church stands for, that I will remember most. You have so clearly been touched by God’s Spirit. From the day I arrived, I was completely taken by the love, devotion, and dedication you all show in the common life we share as the Cathedral Congregation and in the wider Cathedral community. This takes more forms than I can list but includes worship, hospitality, stewardship, Christian formation and education, community life, pastoral care ministries, and outreach and social justice ministries.

All have survived and even thrived in a time of multiple transitions and contraction of resources. I told the Cathedral Chapter in a report delivered a few weeks ago that your steadfast loyalty, tenacious spirit, and ongoing love and devotion to this Cathedral church was an amazing thing to both witness and experience. I hope and pray you will stay committed to making the stones of this magnificent and dynamic Cathedral church continue to live and breathe with the life to which God is calling you. Be bold, always thankful, and joyful for your place and part in the life of this large, complex, and dynamic Cathedral church. Continue to welcome all who come to us, and search for ways to walk with one another in deepening your discipleship to Jesus Christ who is the one who gathers and blesses us, daily and weekly, and who then sends us from here to be a blessing to others.

I have nothing but the deepest gratitude for having shared this path of life and faith with you these last 13 months. Thank you for your welcome to Fran and me, your friendship along the way, and for so generously supporting me as your vicar. Thank you to Bishop Mariann who, along with Dean Gary Hall, called me here. Thank you to my dear friend and priest colleague Jan Cope, who loves and wants nothing but all good things for the Cathedral Congregation now and for the future. She was a loving and strong leader all the years she was your vicar, and I greatly appreciated her friendship and counsel from the moment I arrived last June 1, 2015. Jan is a strong force for good, compassion, and stability in this place and community.

It was a gift as well to share this ministry with the Reverend Preston Hannibal, a seasoned, wise, and very good priest who has been a wonderful pastor to many people associated with the Cathedral. We will depart the Cathedral on the very same day. For that I am also grateful because I greatly respect Preston and value his friendship. Carry him in your prayers as he too begins a new life ahead. You will very likely be seeing him down the line.

And, of course, we are all thrilled to welcome the Reverend Rose Duncan, as Canon for Worship. She is a very gifted priest—loved and respected across the diocese. Her understanding and sensibilities surrounding liturgy and worship are perfectly matched for this pivotal time in the life of our Cathedral. Besides all of that, it’s just great to be in the same room with Rose!
It goes without saying that we are very blessed and fortunate to have the Reverend Kelly Brown Douglas, now as Canon Theologian of the Cathedral. I first got to know Kelly as we were both “adjunct clergy’ last year at Easter. I am so grateful for the friendship that emerged almost immediately and has continued to grow. She is such a gifted and articulate theologian and prophetic voice in the church. And what a presence at the altar!

And finally, a word of thanks to Rob Sokol, the Cathedral Chief Operating Officer, who carries more weight and freight in this place than most could imagine. We have shared many hours and weeks in meetings. Rob has helped me understand the complexity of the Cathedral. He is a strong and steady presence here. And when things really got intense and pressured, we helped each other find a laugh and a perspective, knowing there would always be another day.

Bishop Mariann has worked incredibly hard since September to prepare the Cathedral for a new future and a new dean. It was work that required daily attention, endless meetings to think through how to begin to turn the course and trajectory of this “mighty ship” toward an even greater witness for Jesus Christ in which all hands are working in collaboration, cooperation, common purpose, and with delight and even joy. This is happening right now. And because of all of this, there is a new, secure, and dynamic “landing platform” on which our new dean will touch down. I was privileged and grateful to join her in this endeavor. She is an extraordinary Bishop in the Episcopal Church and we are so blessed that God has brought her to this Diocese. And now we await with much anticipation the arrival of Dean-elect, Randy Hollerith. I know you will welcome him warmly and support him in every way as he begins to enter and learn and lead this great Cathedral Church.

I know it is risky to mention too many names because there are always those who ought to be mentioned but are not. However, I thank Wayne Fowler, the Cathedral Congregation Administrator, for all he does to keep the engines running here. Quietly, steadily, and with a wonderful kindness, he keeps all the things in order that are necessary for any congregation. And, lastly, my great thanks for Bonnie Willette, who has been very close throughout my entire time here. Bonnie is all things communication for the Cathedral Congregation—and so much more. She has wisely, deftly, and steadily been a trusted guide and reference for me along the way in so many aspects of our life as the Cathedral Congregation. She is an advocate for the congregation but also understands that we are part of a larger “universe.” And like so many of you, she is always there to help move ministries and our common life forward. Thank you, Bonnie.

I know, in leaving this temporary post as Vicar, that I will miss all of you in the Cathedral Congregation (and Committee), the wider Cathedral community, and the Cathedral staff up and down the entire chain, who work so hard to keep this “mighty ship” steady
and moving forward for God. You, in God’s grace and power, make these Cathedral stones live, as you strive to glorify God and serve as Christ’s heart and hands in this beautiful and broken world. For all of that I give thanks.

God be with you all. God bless you and keep you, now and always.

In Christ’s love,

[Signature]

The Rev. Stuart A. Kenworthy
Vicar

**Community Fellowship**

On Sunday we tried out a new “venue” for our potluck. Suspecting that the numbers might be smaller, we moved the food and beverage tables into the Garrett Lounge/exhibit space on the 7th floor. Members dined in the tour and tea area of St. Paul’s Lounge and Pilgrim Observation Gallery (POG). We enjoyed conversation, sunlight, and views of the city and beyond. An added treat was the gift of music from two talented young musician visitors from North Carolina. The Bullard family heard about the potluck at the 9 am service and offered to play a few minutes of bluegrass for us. They were quite good musicians—with Ben (age 9) on fiddle and mandolin and Cage (age 11) on fiddle and banjo. The two Boy Scouts had a lot of poise. Brian, the boys’ dad, said that their whole multi-generation family gets together on Sunday afternoons and makes music together. Heartfelt thanks to the Bullard family. It was quite festive out in the POG and tourists loved it too! Our next fellowship event is the Hymn Sing and Potluck Reception on June 23. See you there!

**Hymn Sing and Potluck Reception**

*Thursday, June 23, 6:30 pm*

Kick off the summer with Cathedral organist Benjamin Straley as he takes hymn requests in Bethlehem Chapel. A reception follows in the South Aisle in the adjacent Visitor Lounge area. We will have an opportunity to thank Stuart and Preston during the festivities. Contributions of finger fare and beverages are welcome. Volunteers are needed to help with the hymn sing and reception. If you can help, please note your availability when you RSVP. To help in planning the event space, please [RSVP](mailto:RSVP) by June 20.
Community Conversations

Survey extended to June 20

What does it mean to be a member of this congregation? What are our expectations and responsibilities? These are just two of the questions that more than 120 of us have discussed on recent Sundays. Please take a few moments to add your voice to the 96 members who have already taken this online survey. Our “results” will be shared with the Dean, the Bishop, and the membership to further extend our conversations. Take the survey »

The Drama of Jesus Christ in Three Acts According to St. Mark

Sundays, July 17, 24, 31, 11:30 am–12:45 pm
Harvey Bale designed a 3-part Sunday Bible study focused on the Gospel of Mark and perfectly suited for the timeslot after the Sunday 10 am service. Though the gospel of Matthew precedes Mark’s gospel in our New Testament, Mark’s is the earliest gospel account of the life, work and death of Jesus Christ. Gather for a lively discussion of this earliest “good news” of Jesus. Download the flyer »

Members have been asking for more short-term courses and one-time discussions like the recent Bonhoeffer and King; The Sermon on the Mount afternoon. If this timeslot proves popular, look for some more “pop-up” discussions!

Hearing the call

In his message today, our vicar underscores the importance of our work within and beyond the Cathedral community. There are many ways to be the “living stones.” Please visit the Congregation homepage and explore the various aspects of our community life and ministries. What facet draws you in? If you are looking to fill an immediate niche, the hospitality ministries are looking for additional greeters and, in particular, new coffee team members. You know how important coffee hour is for many. Help make coffee hour happen. The Outreach and Social Justice (OSJ) ministries offer weekly, monthly and seasonal avenues to serve. Perhaps helping with one
of the special collection projects, such as the Thanksgiving, Advent or winter clothing drives fits your interests and schedule? Contact the individual ministries listed on the Outreach page or email the OSJ committee.

Nelson Mandela Day

Saturday, July 16, 10:30 am–2 pm, St. Stephen & the Incarnation, 1525 Newton Street, NW, Washington, DC

Southern Africa Partnership Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington will be preparing and sharing hot lunches to feed the hungry in our community. This annual service day honors Nelson Mandela’s life-long commitment to serve all people. Sign up today »

Nursery Services Suspended

Starting Sunday, June 26

As members may know, our Nursery Care Coordinator has moved to North Carolina. Several attendants will be away in the coming weeks for a variety of reasons. Although the coordinator and attendant staff positions have been advertised for many weeks in numerous places, we have not received any applicants that could do this work. Therefore, starting on Sunday, June 26, nursery services will not be offered until we can properly staff the facility. We are sorry for this inconvenience but it is better to suspend operations rather than take any risk with the children.

The Nursery Care Coordinator manages the Sunday morning nursery for the Cathedral and is responsible for scheduling and managing nursery care attendants. If you know of a qualified candidate, visit cathedral.org/careers. »

In memorium

Thursday, June 16, 10:30 am
Washington National Cathedral joins in mourning the passing of J. Reilly Lewis, musical director of the Cathedral Choral Society, who entered into eternal rest on Thursday, June 9. Lewis was a constant presence at the Cathedral, a gifted musician and a humble servant of Jesus Christ. The Cathedral Celebrates the Life of J. Reilly Lewis »

Steps on the Journey
Pastoral Care News

With the retirement of the Rev. Preston B. Hannibal, Associate for Pastoral Care on June 30, Mary Wright Baylor, our former Pastoral Care Nurse, will serve in a volunteer role 3 days per week, July 5 to September 2. Mary will be in the pastoral care office on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. If you or someone you know in the congregation would like to discuss a pastoral concern or wish a hospital or home visit or to receive Communion, please contact the Pastoral Care Office, at (202) 537-3127 or pastoralcare@cathedral.org. And if you have a prayer request, please email: prayers@cathedralcongregation.org.

Stephen Ministry: Companionship in Crisis
Are you going through a difficult time in your life? A Stephen Minister can provide a listening ear and spiritual support for a period of weeks or months, as needed. Stephen Ministers are members of the congregation who have gone through extensive training and who have been commissioned by the Cathedral. They maintain absolute confidentiality.

To explore having a Stephen Minister, or to discuss training to be a Stephen Minister, email chair Dave Deal at StephenMinistry@cathedralcongregation.org

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