

THE SWAN & ELK

The Newsletter of the Cathedral of All Saints

Advent 2011

SERVICE TIMES

Sundays

7:30 am Morning Prayer
8:00 am Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Cathedral Eucharist
3:00 pm Choral Service
as announced

Monday – Friday

8:30 am Morning Prayer
12:05 pm Holy Eucharist

Tuesday

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

Saturdays & Holidays

8:40 am Morning Prayer
9:00 am Holy Eucharist

First Fridays

9:00 pm Sung Compline

THE CATHEDRAL OF ALL SAINTS

The Rt. Rev. William H. Love, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. David S. Ball, *Bishop-in-Residence*
The Rt. Rev. Daniel W. Herzog, *Bishop Retired*
The Venerable David J. Collum, *Dean*
The Rev. Peter H. Pierson, *Priest*
The Rev. Allen D. Carpenter, *Deacon*
The Rev. Richard P. Erickson, *Deacon*
The Rev. Susan A. Plaske, *Deacon*
The Rev. Christine R. Wickman, *Deacon*
Mr. Woodrow Bynum, *Music Director*
Mr. L. Graham Schultz, *Organ Fellow*
Mr. Corey M. Hough, *Sexton*

THE SWAN & ELK

Volume V, Issue 6
Number XXXVI

Send correspondence to:
deancollum@gmail.com

www.thecathedralofallsaints.org

Dear Readers of the Swan & Elk,

I pray that as this newsletter arrives in your homes all is well.

The months of September and October have been rather busy. In the span of eight weeks we held our second annual Bible Symposium with Dr. Kenneth Bailey, honored the tenth anniversary of September 11 with a Solemn Evensong, welcomed all to Invitation Sunday, enjoyed our annual Cathedral Picnic, celebrated our Choir with the annual Garden Party, were privileged to host the Ordination of Nicolás Hernández to the Deaconate, began an exciting new ministry with Fr. Peter Pierson, proclaimed the four hundredth anniversary of the King James Bible at Evensong, had the extravaganza of the Medieval Faire, and raised funds for ministry in Haiti with the Action H20 event. In the midst of that rather fast paced schedule we also are a church family and had the privilege of celebrating three joyous weddings, laying three members to rest and welcoming two new members into God's family through the sacrament of Baptism.

November is proving equally busy with our All Saints celebrations, the Acolyte Festival, offering the Cathedral to Historic Albany for an event and more.

I offer that rather panoramic view of life at the Cathedral to make a point, and in fact to remind myself, that our mission is to proclaim the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. With each event I try to ask myself, "How are we proclaiming this Good News?" Holy services such as evensongs, baptisms, funerals, weddings and ordinations are fairly self evident. Even some special events, such as our Garden Party and the Haiti event, all politely yet clearly make the point that we are believers in God and followers of Jesus Christ. Yet it seems to be the more social events where I get to personally speak personally with people about God. During the Medieval Faire, surrounded by people in costume, I was often approached and asked, "Are you really a priest?" If you have ever been to the Medieval Faire you will understand how that is a reasonable question. The question proved to be the starting point for some wonderful conversations about God. In some instances I was able to hear amid the questions the longing to believe, to take hold of faith and live in hope. In other questions I could sense the sorrow, the hurt and pain that life had inflicted on people, and I was afforded the privilege of praying with people.

I pray you are well, that in the midst of your life you will be reminded that we are all called to proclaim this Good News. Finally I ask your prayers for the Cathedral. I hope you can sense the pace of life here. Pray that we remain faithful to God's call in this wonderful place.

Dean Collum

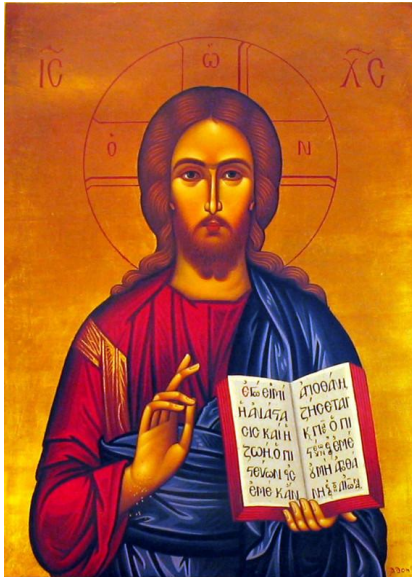
Contact Information for Dean Collum:

Office phone: 518-465-1342

Cell phone number: 518-469-8722

RECENTLY AT THE CATHEDRAL

Bible Symposium



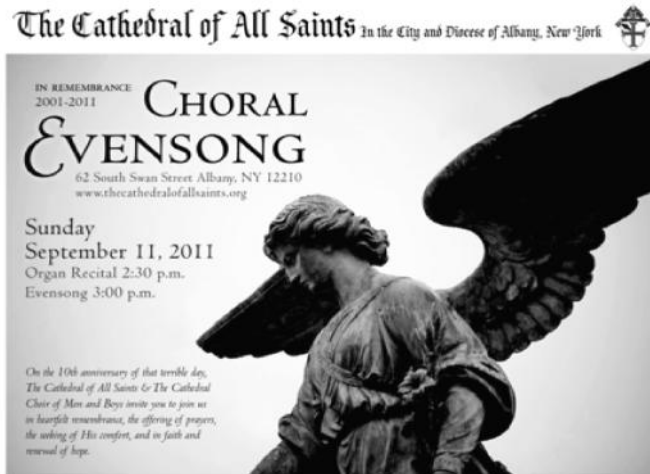
On September 10 noted theologian Dr. Kenneth Bailey spoke on the topic of Jesus as Theologian: The First Mind of the New Testament. Over 180 people spent the day learning from Dr. Bailey. True to his advertised thesis, Dr. Bailey demonstrated how Jesus truly is the first mind of the New Testament. So often the Church in the West sees Jesus as an ethical example and as God's agent in salvation, all of which is true and appropriate. However, for theology we generally turn to St. Paul. Dr. Bailey spent the day unpacking the Scriptures with us and showing us the depth of Jesus' teachings as he helped us understand the cultural background to the parables and dramatic actions.

People from the Cathedral, the Capital District, the Diocese, Connecticut, Vermont, Maryland, and Canada gathered for a wonderful day of teaching and fellowship.

Evensong, September 11

On the tenth anniversary of September 11 we offered Evensong on this especially hallowed day. The afternoon started with an organ recital at 2:30 p.m., the service following at 3 p.m. Bishop Love and both retired Bishops of Albany were in attendance as Dean Collum offered the sermon. The music for the service was taken from New York composers.

Ten years ago on that day, amidst the confusion of our world, many came to church. On this tenth anniversary we were blessed to share each others company and that of our Lord's.



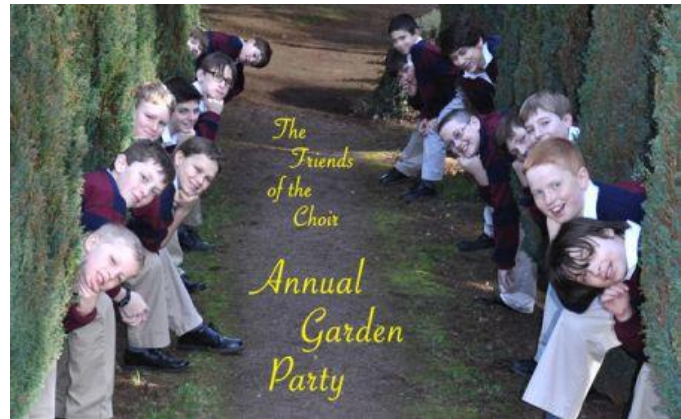
Cathedral Picnic

On September 18 the weather cooperated and the Cathedral Annual Picnic was a great success. Long time members and new members of the Cathedral gathered at Schodack Island State Park for a fun afternoon. Hamburgers and hotdogs flew off the grill, and we feasted on many tasty side dishes and desserts that people brought. Dogs abounded, and a rather vigorous game of kick ball ensued. Thank you to the Stewardship and the Hospitality Committees for organizing the event, coordinating the food, and doing the cooking!

CATHEDRAL EVENTS

Garden Party

On September 25 many supporters of the Cathedral Choir gathered at the historic Buhrmaster Barn on the grounds of the Pruyn House in Colonie, NY for the Annual Garden Party to benefit the Choir and the Lloyd Cast Organ Fellowship. We were blessed by warm weather, delicious food, wonderful fellowship, a silent auction full of delightful temptations, and the singing of the Men and Boys Choir. Thanks to all who made this occasion a wonderful success.



The Cathedral of All Saints' Medieval Faire

at 62 South Swan St. (corner of South Swan & Elk Sts.) Albany, NY



October 22, 2011
10AM to 5PM

Be entertained by madrigal singers, harpists and jugglers

Join knights, nobles, serfs and other characters portrayed by members of the Society for Creative Anachronism

Choose from handmade goods, food and beverages sold by costumed vendors

Admission:
Adults \$10
Seniors/Students \$8
Children ages 4 to 12 \$5
Children under 4 Free

For information:
www.cathedralofallsaints.org or call 465-1342

Medieval Faire

On October 22 the Cathedral was transported in time back to the Middle Ages. The Faire included vendors in costume selling food, beverages and hand made goods. Madrigal singers, harpists, jugglers, dancers, and other performers, including participants from the Society for Creative Anachronism (whose members assume the attire and personas of knights, serfs, nobles, and other characters from the Middle Ages), filled the Cathedral. The Faire occupied our Cathedral's nave similar to cathedral practices of old. Cathedral volunteers prepared a sumptuous feast including "Good Shepherd's Pie." The practice of appointing a child bishop was popular during the middle ages throughout much of Europe. At 2:00 p.m. our own Victoria Hamilton was installed as the child bishop with a grand procession, music, and ceremony.

Haiti Event: Action H2O

On October 25 people from around the Capital District gathered for an event to raise awareness and funds for Haiti. The event focused specifically on the Water Projects that members of the Empire Haiti Coalition are involved in. Our Masters of Ceremonies for the evening were Steve Ammerman (WTEN), Christopher Gloninger (WRGB) and Jessica Layton (WNYT). Over \$8,000 was raised in support of these projects. Thank you to all who supported the event. For more information about Helping Haiti you can go to the Cathedral website and select "Helping Our World".



WATER...the drop of life

UPCOMING CATHEDRAL EVENTS



One of the Cathedral's most popular and poignant services, the Advent Procession, depicts the coming of the Messiah through liturgical motion, congregational hymnody, scriptural reading, and choral artistry. Music will include works by Lloyd, Bairstow, Byrd, Rachmaninoff, Kelly and Manz.

A 2:30 p.m. organ recital by Michael Smith, Organist-Choirmaster at the Shipley School, Philadelphia, PA, precedes the 3 p.m. service. A reception sponsored by the Friends of the Choir follows the service.

Advent is a wonderful season to enter the mystery of God coming to earth. Come and allow this service to move you into this mystery.

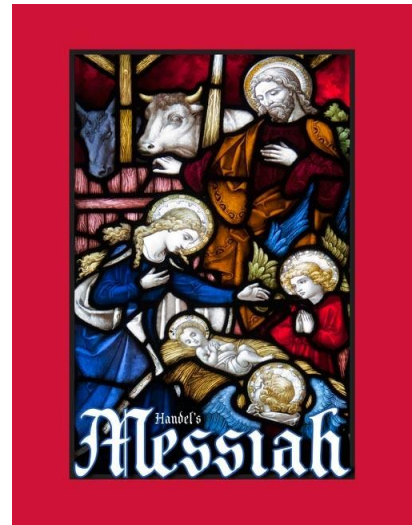
Handel's *Messiah*, December 13

G.F. Handel's hallowed oratorio, *Messiah*, is again being performed by the Choir of Men and Boys in the architectural splendor of the Cathedral of All Saints. The choir, under the direction of Woodrow Bynum, will be joined by a period instrument orchestra and four world renowned vocal soloists.

Many people want to bring their friends to the Cathedral, but wonder when would be best. This event is a wonderful opportunity to bless people with an invitation to the Cathedral. Come at 7 p.m. for a wonderful evening.

Tickets may be purchased at: www.brownpapertickets.com event number 194298

Please make this part of your Christmas tradition; you won't be disappointed.



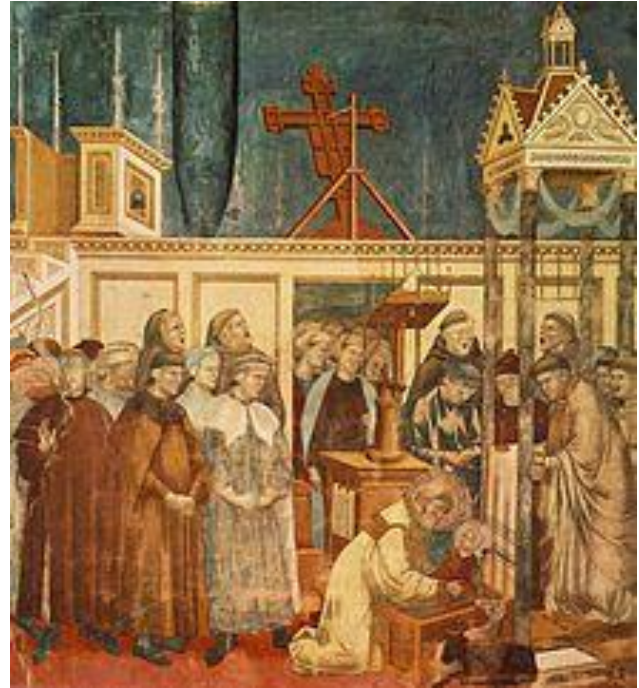
Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, December 18

This service, which originated at the Chapel of King's College in Cambridge, England, will feature the Choir of Men and Boys singing time-honored classics along with other more adventurous settings of traditional carols. The majestic Cathedral organ, together with brass and timpani, will fervently accompany both the congregation and Choir in the finest of seasonal hymnody. Music will include works by Mathias, Boles, Whitacre, Bennett, Bassi and more. A festive prelude of music for Brass and Organ begins at 2:30 p.m.

COURSES AT THE CATHEDRAL

Nativity: The Art and Spirit of the Crèche & The Christmas Pageant

After the cross, the crèche is probably Christianity's most recognized symbol. Its history, art, and spirituality have been embraced by cultures around the world for almost two-thousand years. Over the centuries Christian folk, collectors, and artisans have created and assembled an astonishingly beautiful array of nativity scenes across the globe. We'll begin by looking at the Nativity story from the Gospels and then examine how the crèche and the Christmas pageant developed from this story. We'll then study some of the most unique nativity scenes and pageants ever created. There'll be videos, show-and-tell, discussion, class participation, a visitor or two, and perhaps even a field trip.



Come join us as we have a fun time examining this aspect of the greatest story ever told. 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29; Tuesday, December 6; Friday December 16; and Tuesday December 20, in Pedersen Hall at The Cathedral of All Saints, Albany. Study led by Deacon Allen Carpenter.



The Coming Messiah of the Early Church

During Tuesday afternoons in Advent we will dive into the Bible texts of the Early Church. We will consider how the early Christians viewed the Second Coming of Messiah Jesus. We'll look at some of the prophecies of the Old Testament, as well as doing a quick review of the Bar Kochba Revolt of 135 AD.

On a practical level, we will talk about the significance of the Second Coming for everyday

Christian living. Our modus operandi will be to stick with what the leaders of the Early Church said, and steer away from all that Christians have conjectured in the intervening centuries. We will take a quick look, but not dwell, on Millennialism in its many and varied forms. Class is led by Fr. Peter Pierson and is held on: November 29, December 13, and December 20 (following the 12:05 p.m. Eucharist).

CATHEDRAL NEWS

Christmas Flowers



Each year at churches around the world people give Christmas flowers in memory of loved ones. The Cathedral continues this tradition. Enclosed is an envelope that allows you to give a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. Remembering those who have gone before us is important. Sometimes it can be difficult, but the feelings evoked remind us of our connectedness, our relational nature.

The holidays can be especially difficult as they often bring to mind days gone by. Each Sunday as we recite the Nicene Creed we profess our belief in “the communion of saints.” This year our All Saints sermons reminded us that “all saints” means more than just those in stained glass windows. Saints are those who have gone before in the fellowship of Jesus Christ, those whom we miss; those whom we love.

If you are interested in giving a poinsettia in memory of a loved one please return the enclosed envelope to the Cathedral Office by **December 13** to allow us time to make the necessary arrangements.

Stewardship Discussion

Our Annual Stewardship Discussion was held in October with members returning their commitment cards on October 30. Our discussion focused on *The Cathedral as Family* and examined how our relationship with God is one that is described in familial terms. We call him Father and he calls us his daughters and sons. We explored how families interact; the joys and the challenges.

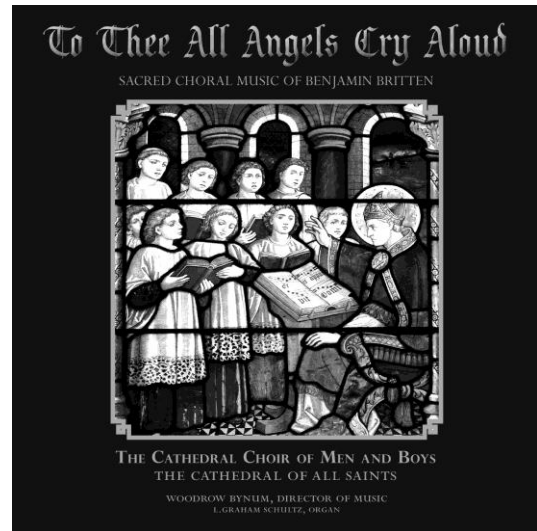
So far the Cathedral office has received more than 50% of the expected response; if you have not yet mailed in your response we would be grateful to receive it. Thanks to all who helped and are participating – the Cathedral truly is family!



CATHEDRAL MUSIC

Cathedral Choir to release new recording

The Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys is excited to announce that they will be releasing a new recording featuring the music of Benjamin Britten. The disc, entitled *To thee all angels cry aloud*, is slated to go on sale on November 27 at the Advent Procession. Britten was one of the most profound compositional voices to emerge out of the twentieth century. His choral works are nothing short of brilliant. The Cathedral Choir's new recording contains Britten's most significant contributions to the genre: *Rejoice in the Lamb* and *Hymn to St. Cecelia*. The disc will also feature *Canticle II: Abraham and Issac* as sung by Nolan Wolfe, treble, and Michael Slattery, tenor.



Chorister Promotions

On November 6 Dean Collum presented four choristers with promotions during the Choral Evensong for the Feast of All Saints. Connor Reilly received his red ribbon signifying promotion to the rank of Senior Chorister. Ian Davis and Sebastian VanDerbeck both received their blue ribbons signifying promotion to the rank of Full Chorister. Peter Horvath was vested in his surplice marking his promotion to the rank of Chorister. The Dean together with the Director of Music wishes to congratulate these young men on their achievements and to thank them for their continued service to this Cathedral.



Photo taken by Nancy Potter: The Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys, Fall 2011

CATHEDRAL PROPERTY

Work Day!

On September 17 students from The College of St. Rose and on November 12 students from RPI joined members of the Cathedral for work days. We painted iron railing, performed outdoor gardening, and cleaned.

On Saturday, December 10 a Cathedral cleaning and polishing day is planned. Please consider joining as "many hands make light work".

The Cathedral is praying to find an electrician able to donate time for some minor wiring repair that is estimated to be two day's work. If you are able, or know of someone that is, please contact the Dean.

The Cathedral is also in need of a plumber for a small project. The installation of a sink and cabinet estimated at three days; again, please contact the Dean.



Damage from Hurricane Irene & Theft

In the last edition of the *Swan & Elk* the damage from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee was reported. Since then the organ has been repaired and the insurance company has approved repairs to the north chimney and an inspection of the roof. As you receive this edition a 120 foot lift is circling the Cathedral for these necessary inspections. No doubt needed repairs will be identified; the challenge will be to distinguish which are a result of the storm and which were pre-existing.

In addition to the storm damage we also have had portions of our copper gutters stolen from the Choir Room; repairs are being effected to these areas as well.

Please continue to ask God's protection upon the Cathedral, both her people and property.

CATHEDRAL WORKS

Interfaith Partnership Meals

Each month the Cathedral provides a meal for Interfaith Partnership. Last month, Deacon Susan Plaske organized some of our young adults to prepare this meal. There is a sign up sheet in Pedersen Hall. You can provide all or a portion of the meal. Please contact Sue McDermott for details. (475-9275; suzmcd@nycap.rr.com)



Overflow Shelter

For the last several years Albany churches have teamed together to provide volunteers to man the overflow shelter that is located at St. Peter's Episcopal Church on State St. The overflow shelter houses men from the Capital City Rescue Mission during the colder seasons as more people are in need of housing. The men are hand picked by the Mission, very respectful and in general a pleasure to be with. As a volunteer you are teamed with a representative from the Mission

and basically function as a safety watch throughout the night. This year the Cathedral needs one person each night for one week beginning Sunday, December 11 through Saturday, December 17. A sign up sheet is located at the entrance to the Cathedral.

Haiti: Supporting the Village of Pouly

We continue to organize in an effort to support our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Simply put, to fully support the school we need to provide approximately \$700 per month. Beyond the school there is the opportunity to provide solar power to the village at a cost of approximately \$3,000. A meeting for those interested in being a part of the Cathedral Haiti team is planned for Wednesday evening, November 29 at 7 p.m. in Oldham House.



CONSIDERING ADVENT



The season of Advent is upon us. As far as seasons go, it is rather short, a mere four weeks.

Personally I find the season to be a challenge; more so than other church seasons. A church season such as Lent has a strong tone, a singular focus, pressing its theme to the fore of my consciousness, making itself as ever-present as the air about me. Advent on the other hand seems more in the recess of my mind. It might be that the hustle and bustle of the world competes more for my attention. It might be that I am trying to have the illusive perfect Norman Rockwell holiday

that absorbs my energy. It might be that I have spent insufficient time pondering and praying and internalizing all that the season offers.

What is it that the season of Advent offers? What is it that this season seeks to invite us to ponder and pray over? The church classically describes the season as one which calls us to reflect upon the coming of the Messiah: both as a child and at the end of time in all his glory.

Many have contemplated Christ's first coming into the world in a manger at Bethlehem. Peter Chrysologos, fifth century Bishop of Ravenna, composed this reflection: "...heaven on earth, earth in heaven, humankind in God, God in human flesh, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body." His words capture best for my mind the radical idea that God indeed arrived.

The idea of the infinite becoming finite, breaking into *his* world in order to rescue it, is for many people unrealistic. My friends who label themselves agnostic worry that I somehow live in an escapist fantasy world. This idea that God cares enough to come to earth, and indeed has this grand plan to put all things right (but only in the future) sounds to them like a story that has the classic "they all lived happily ever after" ending – put simply they would rather not seriously consider the possibility.

Many have also contemplated skeptically the second coming of Christ. While we might not speak often of it, the early Church Fathers did. Cyril of Jerusalem in his *Catechetical Lectures* wrote this about the second coming, "This time, whether we like it or not, we will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity. Malachi the prophet speaks... 'Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who can endure the day of his coming...Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's soap, and he will sit refining and cleansing.'" The early Church Fathers help me; they seemingly do a better job than many in looking at the full sweep of Scripture.

Yet the idea of God coming to judge is even less popular, not just with my agnostic friends, but even with my Christian friends; we don't like judging others. Agnostic or theist, the idea of being judged puts us on edge. Possibly because when we judge we feel as if we are subjecting others to our idea of right and wrong. Possibly because we have this sense of fairness: if we judge others, then in fairness we realize we should be subject to judgment. For any number of reasons, we tend to turn our gaze away from the second coming of Christ.

Regardless of our aversion to being labeled as escapists, or our uneasiness with judgment, the church in her wisdom brings these comings of Christ into our consciousness.

Advent is meant to challenge us, in fact invite us to consider, deeply consider, God's comings into the world.

Many have. Many have pondered both the incarnation and the eschaton. Indeed a great deal of ink has been spilled in philosophical discourse and rigorous logic on the subjects. Before I spill any more ink on either one of these two comings, I want to suggest a different path of deliberation about the arrival of Jesus. Why continue to muse over such things? In each age God calls the faithful to invite him anew into the world, to expect his arrival hopefully, to proclaim, not that he *will be* coming, but that he does come.

The way I suggest is one suggested by Bernard of Clairvaux. He writes of an intermediate coming. It takes place between what has traditionally been seen as the first and the second comings of Christ; it is the coming of Christ to the heart of each human being. Consider his words: "This intermediate coming is like being on the road which we travel for his first coming to his last...Lest anyone think this intermediate coming is our own fancy, listen to what our Lord himself said in the Gospel [of St. John], 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'"

Bernard in this writing does not ignore the first coming; indeed it is because of the first coming that Jesus can speak these words to us. Nor does he neglect the second coming, the eschaton, the end of time. But rather he focuses on the intermediate coming, when God makes his dwelling in us. He holds up the possibility that the most important question we should ask ourselves in Advent is this:

"Have I allowed Jesus to come to me fully? Not as an abstract idea, but as himself."

Jesus in the passage that Bernard quotes from John's Gospel speaks of love, our love for him and his for us. It is a love that draws us down the road of "keeping God's Word," the road of obedience. This obedience yields not some passing grade on an exam, but rather makes room in our hearts for God to come; to dwell.

Isn't that the theme, the idea, the intent of Advent? Not that we merely ponder and pray, or contemplate and consider, or even wonder and marvel, at the coming of Christ. No, we engage and invite anew the coming of Christ, of God, into our hearts.

In each Advent God calls men and women to be captured by the first coming of Christ and to cast their vision forward towards his second coming, all the while refreshing and renewing their own dwelling place for God.

May this Advent be a time when you open your heart's home. Please don't worry about its condition - remember he has already once been born in a manger.

by Dean Collum

This edition of the Swan & Elk is sponsored by: Cathryne Welch

Thank you for your support!

The Cathedral of All Saints
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www.thecathedralofallsaints.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Services at The Cathedral

November 27 First Sunday in Advent
Morning Services at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Advent Procession at 3 p.m.
December 2 Sung Compline at 9 p.m.
December 13 *Messiah* at 7 p.m.
December 18 Service of Lessons & Carols
at 3 p.m.
December 24 Christmas Eve Services
Family Service at 4 p.m.
Midnight Mass at 11 p.m.
December 25 Christmas Day
Service at 9 a.m.

