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Dear Friends,

May 2024

“Hope is love, stretched into the future.”

When the Very Reverend Dr. David Monteith shared these words during our May 2023 FOCCUS gathering at the home of The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner and his wife, the Reverend Alison Turner, the room resonated in warmth and accord. Nearly one year later, I reflect on these words again as I consider all that Canterbury Cathedral offers through a rich history, a present vibrancy, and a promise for tomorrow.

How does one stretch love into the future? Love stretched into the future sounds like the girl choristers celebrating their tenth anniversary, or the full season of orchestral and vocal musical concerts, and the resounding voices of those gathered in worship and workshops. Love stretched into the future looks like history held in stained glass, and it feels like Stories Set In Stone in the hands-on demonstration and exhibition on stone carving techniques. Love stretched into the future smells and tastes like the delicious offerings at the Lounge at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge or at the Foundry Brewery & Pub in town.

Strategic planning will ensure that Canterbury Cathedral continues to inspire the many ways we encounter Christ in one another and in the educational and mystical experiences that can happen only at Canterbury. Mission endeavors, pilgrimages, scholars' residencies, expansions of the music program, and mindfulness about our carbon footprint all point toward greater purpose and sustainability of this center of Anglican life. The potentials continue to unfold for personal formation and meaningful encounters of friendships and hospitality and all these blessings bring us all closer to holiness.

Please consider all that Canterbury Cathedral does to enrich the lives of those near and far. While your support is essential, who else might you invite to be a part of FOCCUS? It might be a relative, a friend, or a seminarian just beginning to answer God's call. The inspiration of Canterbury stretches not only into the future, but across the waters to our cities. We thank you for being part of this story, and we thank you for your support.

Faithfully, in hope and love,



Thomas Martin Conroy