



Dear Friends of Canterbury,

The adventure continues here at the Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center. In the month since I have taken the role of Executive Director there have been some changes in our operations and staff; changes include our programs and rate structures for churches in the diocese. One of the major additions to Canterbury is the partnership with Church of the Incarnation. Incarnation is moving its ministry and operation to the Canterbury campus on January 3, 2010. You can read about these changes on our website: [www.canterburyretreat.org](http://www.canterburyretreat.org)

As I consider this new calling and understand the mission of Canterbury in our diocese I would define it as the place where the Church gathers to grow in our love and knowledge of Christ. There are lots of places you can do this: in rural, rustic settings, mountain top retreats, beach resorts and other camps and conference centers some with fabulous amenities often much more than we have at Canterbury. It begs the questions: What makes Canterbury unique? What is it we offer that many others do not? As I have pondered this I feel deep inside the Lord spoke to me and said our ministry is one of **Sanctuary**. We provide a place on hallowed ground where people can encounter Almighty God. In a world that often beats us down and wears us out Canterbury brings a sacred space where you can hit the pause button, take a breath and as the psalmist would say... A place where you can *Be Still and know that He is God* (Psalm 46:11) We accomplish this in many ways but chiefly by offering quality hospitality to our guests, great food, comfortable accommodations and attention to their needs. It is living into the promises of our Baptismal Covenant: proclaiming by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself, striving for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. We will do this all with God's help.

I think our sense of Sanctuary will grow as the Church of the Incarnation takes up residence here as a worshipping community. I see these ministries sharing this space and a Kingdom Outpost being established anew in Oviedo, Florida. A Kingdom Outpost is defined as a place where people in this world see and experience the Kingdom of God through the People of God in a specific place; a place where the saints gather to love God and love each other (The Great Commandment) and to share, spread and proclaim this love to a world in desperate need of Good News (The Great Commission).

I am excited to announce to you an opportunity to join in this mission and to advance the Kingdom of God into the hearts and lives of men, women and children by participating in ***The Sanctuary Campaign***; a capital campaign to improve the facilities, enlarge the sense of sanctuary and increase the ministry of Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center. This is a critical time in our life as the past few years have been very difficult in terms of finances and much of Canterbury's infrastructure is in dire need of capital improvement. Canterbury's physical plant must be repaired and renovated. I have outlined three specific areas where the situation is critical and we need to make investments.

**New Roofs:** We need three new roofs: The Folwell Building, The Chapel, and The 300 Building (the one story lodging building). These roofs must be replaced as we are experiencing leaks and other structural problems due to the disrepair.

**Room Renovations:** Most of the rooms in the two story lodging building have been renovated. To complete this building and to renovate the one story lodging building we have a total of 23 rooms to be finished at an estimate of \$3000.00 per room which will provide new furniture, fixtures, flooring and more. This will bring the lodging at Canterbury up to a level where we can offer excellent hospitality to all of our guests.

**Other Projects:** There are other areas needing attention: refurbishing and updating the meeting rooms; audio / visual needs; furnishings, landscape buffers and more as we seek to regain the beauty of our facilities which has worn thin with years of use.

This Sanctuary Campaign will run throughout the coming year and I hope we can accomplish all of these repairs and improvements in 2010. The funds raised in this campaign will be for capital improvements (not operations). When you consider we are eighty-seven churches in the diocese and some fifteen thousand plus households in addition to the hundreds of supporters and people outside of the diocese who love and use Canterbury, I believe the finances needed are achievable. Canterbury is a resource we all share and I invite you to help with the stewardship of this essential diocesan asset. Join with us in the mission to see Canterbury grow into its next phase of ministry. Please pray for us as we move forward and consider how you might contribute to and invest in this ministry of our diocese.

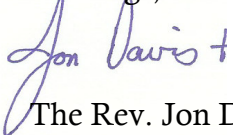
You are essential to realizing this mission. Please consider making a personal retreat at Canterbury. Can you create a retreat at Canterbury for your vestry, special group, or entire congregation? We would be eager to assist you in such an endeavor. I, also, ask you to participate in one or more of the five diocesan sessions scheduled for 2010. For more information on these and on Canterbury as whole please look to our website.

I ask your church designate funds for Canterbury from its outreach budget to assist us in the operational side of our ministry. Conference centers must have regular support from donors to make ends meet. Many conference centers have upwards of 20% of their budget from contributions. Canterbury in the last five years has received an average of 2% of our budget from contributions. It is the nature of this type of venture to rely on donations in order to make our services affordable to churches.

I hope you will make an immediate response to this request and additionally that you will make a pledge to this ministry for 2010 and beyond, as well. It is a critical time and your contribution is much needed and much appreciated. If you have any questions concerning this capital campaign please feel free to contact me personally.

I believe that good things are on the horizon for Canterbury. I responded to this calling to see Canterbury grow. I hope in years to come we will see lives changed and the Kingdom of God expand in us and through us. I hope the dream of a greater sanctuary will be realized and I humbly ask for your prayers and support.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the end of the name.

The Rev. Jon Davis / Executive Director