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September 29, 2015

Dear Canterbury School Community,

A little over five years ago, I made the drive from Kinston to Greensboro, in order to meet with the head of a place called "Canterbury School." All I knew was that I was going to an Episcopal day school, and needed to make sure to turn right on Church St. off Wendover. As I was driving up Church St., I remember crossing Pisgah Church Rd., and almost immediately, seeing a towering cathedral in the distance. "Well, that's not it," I said to myself. I was wrong.

More than five years later, I continue to be wowed and amazed by Phillips Chapel. We have one of the finest worship spaces of any day school in the country, and its use and presence continues to shape who were are, how we live, and what we believe. If anything, my only complaint is that we aren't able to use it more than we do. To that end, I was thrilled when I first heard murmurings about our community using that space for the 2016 Auction.

From the early days of Christendom, churches and cathedrals were places of community. They were used for meetings, meals, parties, commerce, politics, entertainment, and yes, worship. They were a place to gather in good times and bad, bringing together people from all classes, and providing a place for community to form and be formed. Thus, it is in that tradition that Canterbury School will be using our worship space (which, I must admit, I do sometimes refer to as "our cathedral") this spring.

Please know that using our worship space this way is not being done without purpose, nor is it being done without intentionality. Though it is appropriate to use such a space in this way, it is being done with respect to the sanctity of the space. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the use of Phillips Chapel for the auction, and know that I am excited to see that space transformed and used in a way that it, and churches, chapels, and cathedrals have always been intended.

With gratitude for this community, and your support thereof, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Nathan M. Finnin Chaplain