
The State of the Church Since 9/11

**An article from the *Cathedral Times*
by the Very Reverend Samuel G. Candler,
Dean of the Cathedral of St. Philip**

This Sunday, September 11, 2011, will mark the tenth year since the coordinated terrorist attacks that brought down the World Trade Center towers in New York City, and that crashed two other airliners into the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania. Most of us will never forget where we were that morning, and we will never forget the sheer bewilderment and outrage of the following days.

Writers and analysts and preachers will use this weekend to offer all sorts of perspectives on that event. We will remember those who died. We will remember those who survived. We will remember heroes. We will remember lessons learned, and we will remember mistakes. Though lots of other issues and events are occurring in our churches, especially on this first Sunday after Labor Day Sunday, the tenth anniversary of 9/11 will inevitably be the predominant news item of the day.

Thus, on this Sunday, I will devote the Dean's Forum—the first Forum of the Fall—to similar remembrances and perspectives on 9/11. However, I will focus on the Church—the Cathedral of St. Philip, the Episcopal Church, and the Christian Church. I want to review the State of the Church since that awful day, September 11, 2001.

The Church, too, at every level, has much to remember from the past ten years. Some of what we have learned has come as a consequence of the terrorist attacks. We have prayed and lived through other conflicts that may have had nothing to do with 9/11 at all. And some of the issues we have faced in Church are related to the same issues that 9/11 made real to us.

The world got smaller on that day ten years ago, September 11, 2001. But the world got farther away, too. Many of us Christians came face to face with the moral questions we have been struggling with throughout our faith: Who is our enemy? Who is our neighbor? How should we then live?

Join me this Sunday, September 11, 2011, in Child Hall at 10:10 a.m., for both presentation and discussion. The Dean's Forum will be titled, "The State of the Church Since 9/11."

Sam Candler signature



The Very Reverend Sam Candler