



# CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

## *The Grapevine*

April 2013

### From the Interim Priest-in-Charge

Happy Easter! Or in the words of the Easter Acclamation, Christ Church Cathedral style: "Yaaay! Christ is Risen!" (If you weren't at the 10 o'clock service on Easter morning, track down someone who was for an explanation.)

We welcome into the fold our newest sister and brother in Christ, Maya and Grant Scott, one-year-old twins who were baptized Easter morning. We also celebrate Sarah and Tom Ingram, Ray Robidoux, Aisha Russell, and Lorena Garay who were confirmed at the Vigil.

Thanks so much to all who worked tirelessly so that we as a community could march triumphantly with Jesus into Jerusalem, dine with him at the Last Supper, sit fitfully with him in the Garden of Gethsemane, walk with him on the Way of the Cross, bear witness to his crucifixion, be filled with awe as the light of Christ reappeared, recount the broad sweep of salvation history, and open onto the Resurrection with joy and delight. It was an amazing eight days. So many people contributed mightily to it, including (in alphabetical order): acolytes, the altar guild, chalice bearers, the choir, clergy, the hospitality team, lectors, ushers, vergers, and the worship committee. I am undoubtedly missing some folk. Please chalk it up to fatigue rather than to a lack of gratitude. There were, as well, several people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. I want to mention one in particular, Leslie Jones, the Cathedral Administrator, who on top of her many other responsibilities, managed to produce seven different bulletins in the space of a single week. Please add your thanks to mine the next time you see her.

Over the next several weeks, the Cathedral will be blessed with the presence of the Rev. Dr. Molly Field James. Molly has agreed to lead an

Adult Forum Series entitled:

"Reflections on Living as an Easter People in a Good Friday World." The sessions will be held after the 10 o'clock service on April 21, May 12, May 26 and June 2. You can read more about Molly elsewhere in this issue of *The Grapevine*.

Speaking of forums, on April 28, following the 10 o'clock service, the Uyeki Forum on Unlearning Racism will be revived after a hiatus of several years. There is more information in this issue of *The Grapevine*.

Switching gears, I'd like to say a word or two about staffing at the Cathedral. This month Bishop Ian Douglas will present a proposal to the Leadership Team and to the Cathedral Chapter concerning ongoing clergy leadership. Although he has the authority as Bishop to determine who will provide pastoral oversight for the Cathedral, he has made it quite clear that he will not proceed without the advice, concurrence and support of the Cathedral's leadership. There may be more to say after the Chapter meeting on April 23.

In addition to its "regular" clergy, the Cathedral is blessed to be served by "associate" clergy. Unfortunately, the time has come to say good-bye to two of them. Later this month, the Rev. Geoff Ward will be moving back to Wisconsin for personal reasons. As many of you know, Geoff is a bi-vocational priest, which means that the priesthood is not his only profession. Because of changes in the insurance industry, and in particular in the institution where he has been employed for nearly 30 years, Geoff and his family need to re-imagine their lives. This is best done, in Geoff's view, from the comfort and security of their family home in Wisconsin. April 7 will be Geoff's last day at the Cathedral. If you would like to pass a message along

to him, please let me or Leslie Jones know. I will surely be in touch with him—he has become an indispensable conversation partner for me.

The Rev. Canon John Mitman has also left the Cathedral. He and his wife Ruth have decided that for personal reasons the time is right for them to find a new church home. This is a matter of considerable sadness for me as I deeply value John's wisdom and counsel, and shudder at the prospect of trying to find my way without his guidance. Fortunately, I know where he lives. More important, I know where he often hangs out during the day, so I may just stop by a certain West Hartford diner from time to time for a bit of advice. John has graciously agreed to return to the Cathedral on May 5 to celebrate the Eucharist and to give us a chance to say "thank you" and "good-bye." Please make every effort to be in church on the fifth, and at the Fellowship Hour after the 10 o'clock service.

It is sometimes said that when one door closes another opens up. Whatever the truth of that maxim, I am pleased to report that the Reverends Audrey Scanlan and Joan Phelps have agreed to become a more regular part of the Cathedral scene. Both have other commitments that keep them from wanting to take on the "priest associate" designation, but they will help to lead worship whenever they are available. Looking at the near term, Audrey (who was with us on Palm Sunday, at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday) will be with us twice in April and once in May. Joan will be with us one Sunday in May.

Finally, I want to say just a bit about stewardship. Ordinarily, stewardship campaigns are conducted in the Fall of the year. Because of the

*(continued on page 2)*

### From the Interim Priest-in-Charge

(continued from front page)

many dislocations the Cathedral was undergoing this past October and November, it did not make sense to try to mount a campaign. In January, the stewardship committee sent out a very honest and thoughtful appeal letter. Unfortunately, it became virtually impossible to follow up on that promising beginning, given a whole series of intervening events including the need to prepare for the Annual Meeting, Lent (which arrived unconscionably early this year), and Holy Week. Therefore, the Cathedral's Leadership Team has decided to join with the stewardship committee in pressing forward with the campaign during Eastertide. You will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, I am thrilled to report that with little more than an initial letter, and despite the many uncertainties that abound, 65 people or families have already pledged a total amount of \$98,000. While that dollar figure is slightly less than half of the pledge target in the budget, it is an impressive showing under the circumstances. I thank God for these incredibly faith-full disciples, and am confident that their example will be a spur to us all.

May you continue to bask in the joy of the Resurrection!

Harlon Dalton +

### Happy April Birthdays

Janet Belval  
 Luke Belval  
 Rose Fichera-Eagen  
 Camryn Fisher  
 Theresa Greaves  
 Carol Gilbert  
 Arden Giligian  
 Paige Hanson  
 Eleesia Hill  
 Bonita Jones  
 Walter McKenney  
 Cynthia Mellon  
 Jasmine Parks  
 Helen Ross  
 Terence Tinker

### April Calendar

- 1 Cathedral Crafters, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- 2 Worship Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- 2 Leadership Team Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 13 Faith Behind Bars & Beyond Forum, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 21 Forum on Trauma, 11:30 a.m.
- 23 Cathedral Chapter, 6 p.m.
- 28 Uyeki Forum meeting, 11:30 a.m.

### Welcome to New Acolyte

Under the leadership of Timothy Greaves, the number of acolytes has grown to 10. The newest member is Khari Montague, daughter of Kathy and Alonzo Montague of Manchester. She is in the sixth grade at Bennet Academy in Manchester.

### In the News

- The Cathedral's organist, Deniz Uz, performed at Adolphus Busch Hall in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in March as part of the Harvard Organ Society's lunchtime organ recital series. He is a junior at Yale University.
- The Rev. Canon Jervis Zimmerman celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination as an Episcopal deacon, and subsequently a priest, during the 10 a.m. service on March 17. At the fellowship hour, his two sons delighted the gathering with personal stories about their father. Jerry was a Presbyterian minister for several years before joining the Episcopal Church.
- Paintings by Dolores Howard, Cathedral member and well-known area artist, are on display until June at The Investors Center, Inc., 70 East

Main St., Avon. The company is open weekdays 8:30-4:30.

### Married 50 Years or More?

A 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration sponsored by the Diocesan Committee for Aging and Life Planning will be held on May 5 at 5 p.m. at the Cathedral for couples throughout the Diocese. All three bishops will participate. A reception will follow. If you were married on or before December 31, 1963, mark your calendar for the event and let the Cathedral office know if you plan to attend. E-mail [leslie.jones@cccathedral.org](mailto:leslie.jones@cccathedral.org) or call 860-527-7231, x101, by the end of April.

### Uyeki Forum to Be Revived

From 1993 until a few years ago, one of the Cathedral's most remarkable ministries was the Uyeki Forum. The Forum was dedicated to facilitating open, honest dialogue about racism, encouraging discernment about the role individuals can play in opposing racial injustice and providing support for the work of racial reconciliation. The Forum was named in memory of the Rev. Lloyd Uyeki, popularly known as Lloyd, who was a beloved member of the Cathedral congregation, a retired priest of Japanese heritage, and a leading member of the core group that started what was originally called the Forum on Unlearning Racism. The son of naturalized Japanese-Americans, he was among the several thousand persons of Japanese birth or heritage who were interned in "War Relocation Camps" during World War II. Before coming to Connecticut, Father Uyeki served at four parishes in the Diocese of New York. He was Special Assistant to the bishop for clergy Deployment for the Diocese of Connecticut. In addition to his funeral service at the Cathedral in August 1995, a memorial service was held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. An icon of Lloyd is displayed in the Cathedral near the door that leads to the sacristy and choir room.

A working committee for reviving the Uyeki Forum will hold an informational meeting on April 28 in the Cathedral House following the 10 a.m. service. The purpose is to discuss

(continued on page 3)

## Uyeki Forum

*continued from page 2)*

how a revitalized Forum could fit into our discernment of what God may be calling us as a community of faith to do. One of the activities under consideration is organizing a summer reading group starting with the book *Racial Healing: Confronting the Fears Between Blacks & Whites* written by our Interim Priest-in-Charge the Rev. Harlon Dalton. As we think about the future of the Cathedral, building on our legacy as a place that welcomes and encourages diversity of all kinds seems to the committee a good place to start, and there is no doubt much to talk about. Currently the members of the working committee are Jilda Aliotta, Camille Alleyne, Tim Cole, Rose Fichera-Eagen, and Dolores and Milton Howard. Others interested in this ministry are heartily welcome to join. For more information, talk with a committee member, and plan to attend the April 28 meeting.

## Meet The Leadership Team: A Series

*Patricia Wrice, Chair, Parish Committee*

A Cathedral member since 2001, Pat Wrice has served previously on the Parish Committee but not as an officer. When asked why she agreed to take on the role of Chair during a challenging time for the Cathedral, her answer was simple: "Because they asked me." That direct response is typical of how Pat is able to work well with others.

Pat's background is in social work. She holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Connecticut and teaches part-time at its School of Social Work. She has a bachelor's degree from Central Connecticut State University in political science and is an admitted political wonk and history buff. Her full-time job is executive director of Operation Fuel, the nonprofit organization that coordinates with fuel banks to help households throughout the state that are having a hard time paying fuel bills. This has been a severe winter with high fuel costs, notes Pat, and the money is running low. To date, Operation Fuel has given more than \$3 million to those in need.

She describes her skills as being like those of a community organizer—able to get people to work together. "I try

very hard to listen and especially to hear what people are not saying." She believes that the Cathedral members who have stayed during the recent difficult months are truly committed to moving forward.

"We've gone through a big loss and we need to rekindle the spirit," Pat says. "I am confident we'll be able to put our past differences aside and work together to make the Cathedral a beacon for the city and the region. We have a special location and resources. Our diversity enriches our lives together and is needed to help the city."

Pat is a Lay Eucharistic Minister and a lector and volunteers for Church Street Eats. She lives in Hartford and has a daughter and grandson who share her home.

## Meet the Leadership Team: A Series

*Melinda Robidoux, Vice Chair, Parish Committee*

Melinda Robidoux, an active member a little over two years, has earlier connections with the Cathedral. She was confirmed here, and her mother, ShirleyAnn MacDonald, who had grown up here, was the catalyst for having Melinda and her family join. [Note: ShirleyAnn's horticultural skills have beautified the Main Street gardens of the Cathedral.]

Melinda has been active with the Hospitality Committee and helped with the Walk Against Hunger for two years. She and her oldest son have worked at the Tuesday Soup Kitchen, recruiting his high school friends to help.

Taking on the post of Vice Chair was not an easy decision. "It was upsetting to watch what was happening. I was disheartened by how quick people were to judge others and to point blame. I'm in the sandwich generation, helping with my mother's needs, raising my boys, working full-time—wasn't sure I could handle the job. It was my oldest son who said, "Mom, I think you should do it."

Sharing her hopes for the Cathedral, she said, "I want people to move beyond the mistakes made, learn to let go and focus on the future and the role we can play in the city. We need to connect better with the community. The idea of providing tours of the Cathedral is

great. I'm a history buff and am inspired by the Cathedral's history. I feel there are people in the area who, if they had the opportunity to see who we are and what we offer, would also be inspired."

Melinda is a graduate of the University of Hartford and works as a director of Prudential Retirement. She lives in Newington with her husband, Jim, and their two sons, Ray and Scott. An avid gardener like her mother, she enjoys selling perennials grown from her family's gardens under the name of Gilead Girls in honor of the farm she grew up on in Hebron, Connecticut.

## Forum: "Reflections on Living as an Easter People in a Good Friday World"

On April 21, following the 10 a.m. service, there will be a Forum in the Cathedral House auditorium on the subject of being Easter People in a Good Friday World led by the Rev. Molly F. James, Secretary of the Diocese of Connecticut, formation consultant to the Commission on Ministry and a priest in the Middlesex Cluster. She holds a master's degree from Yale Divinity School and a Ph.D. in theology jointly conferred by the Hartford Seminary and the University of Exeter. Her thesis was on the history of suffering and grief. She has taught ethics and pastoral care at the Hartford Seminary and the University of St. Joseph. This will be the first in a series of four Forums with others on May 12, May 26 and June 2.

250 Years



1762 2012  
faithfully

*The Grapevine* is a monthly newsletter for the Christ Church Cathedral audience. Copies are available in the Cathedral, in the Cathedral House, via e-news and online at [cccathedral.org/documents/April2013Grapevine.pdf](http://cccathedral.org/documents/April2013Grapevine.pdf)

**Deadline for May issue:**  
April 15

**Contact:** Lillian Kezerian  
860-242-5239  
[lkezerian@gmail.com](mailto:lkezerian@gmail.com)