



Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

The Grapevine

DECEMBER 2013

From The Rev. Harlon Dalton, Priest-in-Charge

As I write, Thanksgiving is still a week away, and gratitude is in the air. We at the Cathedral are grateful for so many things, not least the ministry of the 20 some-odd clergy from 15 different parishes who have presided at Church by the Pond over the past year. They show up at Bushnell Park every Saturday afternoon, rain or shine, navigate their way to a patch of grass made holy by all who worship there, and make Christ manifest.

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, we will have an opportunity to thank these fine folk for bringing the Word and Sacrament to people who might never enter through a red door, and for helping the Cathedral live into its deepest purpose by engaging clergy from across the Diocese in shared ministry and by "seeking the welfare of the City." (Jeremiah 29:7) As we dine on food prepared by the Kitchen at Billings Forge, we also will have an opportunity to thank Donald Richey, Rose Fichera-Eagan, and Leslie Jones for all that they do to make Church by the Pond a reality. And since there is no such thing as a free lunch, we will tap into the collective wisdom of our clergy brethren and sistren in order to explore ways that we might be an even more effective messenger of God's reconciling love.

I wish I could take credit for proposing this gathering. That honor goes to Donald Richey. And Leslie Jones gets the credit for using the occasion as an opportunity to support and promote the wonderful work of Billings Forge Community Works. (For information on this amazing organization, go to billingsforgeworks.org).

Although Church by the Pond was birthed by Church Street Eats and relies upon CSE to organize its "coffee hour," it is a worship service and not an outreach activity. There is, however, one important distinction between it and the other worship services that we regularly conduct. Unlike the three Sunday services, the reach of Church by the Pond extends far beyond the hardy band of souls who claim Christ Church Cathedral as their "parish." In this way as well, Church by the Pond enables us to live into what it means to be a "Cathedral."

By the time you read this, Advent will be upon us. May your season of watchful waiting and hope-filled expectation be blessed.

Harlon+

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, December 8

Advent Lessons and Carols – 4 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24

A Concert for the Nativity – 10:30 p.m.

Mass of the Nativity – 11 p.m.

(Free parking available in the parking lot at Main and Talcott Streets and for the physically disabled in the Cathedral Alley)

Thursday, December 25

10 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Eucharist with favorite carols

Sunday, December 29

Community Lessons and Carols – 4 p.m.

Bible Study Returns for Advent

As fall verges towards winter, we've been hearing, "When will we have Bible Study again between services on Sunday mornings?" There's more to answering that question than what we'll be doing on the four Advent Sundays. We need to start somewhere and Advent, which opens a new Church Year, is a great place to begin. This year finds our Cathedral's life and ministry in a time of renewal. Advent is a season that looks both back and forward to the coming of our Savior, and will remind us, now as always, we are a People on the Way.

Advent has also been called a "little Lent," and this year we will draw from a Lenten study *A People on the Way* by the Rev. John Barr for an organization called United World. It alerts us to the reality of extreme poverty in our world, and the Bible's call to us to respond. The study is more extensive than we can undertake in 40 minutes on four mornings. But we can select from it with the goal of inviting thought and ongoing formation as Christian disciples. To read the entire booklet in pdf go to <http://www.lentevent.com/wp-content/uploads/Lent-Event-Bible-Discussion-Guide-2013.pdf>

We look forward to seeing you at 9 a.m. in the Cathedral House Auditorium on December 1, 8, 15 and 22 for Bible Study.

*Tom Smith and Tom Beveridge
Christian Formation Ministry Team*

From the Vicar's Desk

Living Into Our Multicultural and Bilingual Congregational Life

It is indeed both a privilege and a blessing to serve in an Episcopal congregation that fully reflects the cultural and ethnic diversity of our society. Christ Church Cathedral is enhanced by a rainbow of races, nationalities and languages. The richness of our diversity brings a deeper sense of unity and God's love among us as we worship together and serve God and God's people in Hartford and its surroundings.

On November 24 we celebrated the Harvest Festival, a popular feast among our West Indies parishioners. Harvest celebrations are a special opportunity to express collectively our thanks to God for the fruits of creation and the many gifts constantly bestowed upon us as God's children. On November 28 we celebrated our national Thanksgiving Day, a tradition that started in the United States in 1863. As we gave thanks to God for our blessings, at our Cathedral facilities Hands on Hartford was offering a blessing to many men and women through a hot meal and fellowship.

This month we celebrate Christmas, a universal feast for all believers. As we rejoice in the spirit of Christmas, we will continue our tradition of the Angel Tree, sharing our blessings with Cathedral children and youngsters in Hartford.

On January 5, 2014, we will have the Feast of the Epiphany with the traditional Three Kings Pageant. The Three Kings Feast, as Epiphany is commonly known in Latino/Hispanic cultures and churches, is a time for the church to celebrate the incarnation and to highlight the role of the Magi in honoring Jesus with gifts. In Latino/Hispanic cultures, children receive gifts from the Magi just as in Western cultures children receive gifts from Santa Claus.

On Pentecost Day 2014 we will have our International Sunday, sharing the flags and foods of many

nations as we rejoice as one family in Christ.

There are many examples of our efforts to celebrate our unity in diversity. As of October 1, 2013, when the former Saint James' Parish was officially incorporated as part of the Cathedral, our diversity has included language. You may have heard Harlon or me referring to our 12:30 service congregation as La Catedral Iglesia de Cristo, the Spanish translation of our name.

Living into a multicultural and bilingual congregational life is a journey in which we ought to be intentional, flexible and open to the Spirit and to one another. A few times during the year we will come together to worship bilingually. Our combined services will be held at 10:30 a.m. to accommodate our 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. congregations. There will be other opportunities for both English and Spanish-speaking congregations to connect and serve through the Cathedral's parish teams, outreach ministries, and social events.

Thanks be to God for who we are and who we are becoming in Him!

Lina+

The Rev. Miguelina Howell, Vicar

News from the Women's Global Mission Group

In February 2013 a gathering at the Cathedral of women from the Diocese led to creating groups in local parishes to focus on issues facing women and girls around the world. Each group would select a concern to learn about and identify ways in which it could make a difference in the lives of at least a few affected women and girls.

A group formed at the Cathedral, met several times during the year, and narrowed its interest to two: providing microloans for women seeking to start a business and improve the lives of their children; and addressing the issue of human trafficking, both a local and global issue.

With the guidance of Vicar Miguelina Howell, three separate working groups have been formed:

- 1) **The Mission Statement Group** – write a mission statement and name specific next steps;
- 2) **Human Trafficking in Hartford Group** – research the issue and provide suggestions for next steps;
- 3) **Microloans and The Faith Collins Fund** – serve on policy and administration of the Cathedral's Faith Collins Fund for women in need and identify potential recipients for help from KIVA, a microloan agency. Members of the three groups include Dolores Howard, Rose Fichera-Eagen, Monica Best, Amy Beveridge, Claire Fonseca, Carolyn Dorais, Pat Wrice, Kimberly Newport, Anne Barnard, Lucy Groening, Camille Alleyne, and Lucy Read.

The three working groups will report on progress and provide suggestions for next steps when the Women's Global Mission Group meets on Saturday, January 22, at 10 a.m. All interested women are welcome to attend. For further information, contact any of the members listed.

2014 COMBINED SERVICES

**Three Kings & The Feast
of the Epiphany**
January 5

Palm Sunday
April 13

Pentecost Day
June 8

*All of the above
will be at 10:30 a.m.*

Christmas Eve
December 24 – 11 p.m.

Invitation:**Write a Lenten Meditation**

"Being Aware of a Lovely Presence in Me." (*Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young)

The idea of writing and sharing our own Christ Church Cathedral meditations for Lent came out of the Cathedral's Plenary Session in November when a spirit-filled parishioner shared ways of knowing and "being in relationship with the Creator of the universe," the One, as Sarah Young writes in *Jesus Calling*, "who is the way, the truth and the life." (John 14:6)

Wow! Writing and sharing Lenten Meditations! Might we do this? With prayer, heart, spirit and pen, might we "encourage [ourselves] in the Lord." (1 Samuel 30:1) **Being Aware of a Lovely Presence in Me** jumped out as the title for our potential 46 Lenten Meditations to create and share.

Meditate. How excellent is our faith. **Testify.** How very excellent our love of Christ Jesus. **Grow, share and live in the spirit.** Your Faith Formation Committee encourages this for us all.

Here are suggested criteria for writing a meditation:

- Length – 250 words or fewer
- Read and think about an Old or New Testament reading or Psalm from the Year Two Lectionary in *The Book of Common Prayer*, pages 951-957 (right side pages—also online)
- Create your personal testimony, focusing on your spiritual growth and/or life
- Consider possible Lenten-appropriate topics: forgiveness, poverty as a response to world suffering, reconciliations (God, neighbor, self); trust, thanksgiving, conviction/transformation

Our Cathedral Lenten Meditations will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014, and will be published on the Cathedral website. Some may appear in *The*

Grapevine. Send your meditation to Leslie.Jones@cccathedral.org by January 31. Create your meditation with yourself as the first audience and as an essential element for continuing your "Yes, Lord! Relationship."

*Tom Smith and Tom Beveridge
Christian Formation Team*

Music Notes

December is a busy month for the Cathedral's music program with two offerings of Lessons and Carols: one for Advent on Sunday, December 8, 4 p.m. and a Community one, Sunday, December 29, 4 p.m. On Christmas Eve a choir concert at 10:30 p.m. is followed by the Nativity Mass at 11 p.m. On Christmas Day favorite carols will accompany the Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.

Joshua Slater, Interim Music Director, has exciting plans for 2014, including a Hymn Festival Evensong in February. The choir is growing, but more singers are welcome! See Josh Slater after a Sunday 10 a.m. service.

Happy December Birthdays

Camille Alleyne
Consuelo Amat
Jonathan Buika
Geoffrey Coley
Adiarys Colon
Jamison Cooke
Harlon Dalton
Yaranaiza Diaz
Aeisha Dixon
Reginald Hales
Gregory Hanson
Jennifer Johnson
Ann Nelson
Kimberly Newport
Maggie Osborn
Alida Rodriguez
Louis Ruddock
Carlene Taylor
Lilibeth Warner
Michael Wells

Calendar

- 1 Communications/Evangelism Team meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 4 Cathedral Crafters, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
- 4 Worship Team meeting, 5 p.m.
- 8 Uyeki Justice Forum, 11:30 a.m.
- 8 Advent Lessons & Carols, 4 p.m.
- 10 Team Coordinators meeting, 6 p.m.
- 14 St. Barnabas Guild Christmas Party, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
- 17 Soup & Services, 5 p.m.
- 25 Christmas Day, office closed
- 27 Church Street Eats dinner, 6 p.m.
- 28 Community Lessons & Carols, 4 p.m.



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