



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

The Grapevine

January 2013

Message from the Rev. Dr. Harlon Dalton, Interim Priest-in-Charge

As most of you already know, in light of Mark Pendleton's resignation as Dean of the Cathedral and the many other changes the Cathedral is experiencing, Bishop Douglas (in consultation with the Cathedral Chapter) has decided to appoint a priest-in-charge to guide the Cathedral during this time of major transition. Over the next few months, the Bishop will be working with the Cathedral Chapter and elected Parish leadership to discern who that person might be. In the meantime, I have accepted the Bishop's invitation to serve as an interim priest-in-charge, and to exercise full-time liturgical, pastoral and administrative leadership of the Cathedral.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you in this way, and enormously indebted to all those who held the Cathedral together, by their deeds and with their prayers, during Mark's leave of absence. I am indebted to Mark as well, for his graciousness in easing my transition into this role, and more importantly for all that he has done for the Cathedral. I had a sense of his enormous contributions and commitment to this place before I landed on the hot seat. Now that I have had an opportunity to glimpse the complexity of this Cathedral organism up close, I am in awe of Mark's accomplishments and steadfastness.

One of the functions of a priest-in-charge is to bring fresh eyes to a congregation, and to mirror back to it what he or she sees. One of my first impressions is that this is a congregation bursting with talent. However, these talents do not appear to be utilized to their fullness. In part, this is because of a congregational culture that fosters parallel play (each child with his or her own set of Legos). In part, it is because of a marked tendency to hoard responsibility. And in part, the underutilization of talent is the inevitable result of a top-down approach to leadership that has characterized the Cathedral for decades. Going forward, one of our major challenges is to somehow foster a culture of shared leadership and joyful stewardship of our manifold gifts.

A second early impression is that there is broadly-shared concern within the congregation about how decisions are made for, and on behalf of, the Cathedral. Much of this has to do with the Cathedral's peculiar governance structure which, in my view, must change. And in part the concerns are prompted by practices that go back decades if not centuries. Going forward, we need to be more transparent in our decision-making and to engage in public business publicly.

A third impression is that the Cathedral congregation is blessed with an extraordinary diversity of backgrounds, interests and tastes (including great differences in liturgical preferences). For many if not most of you, this wonderful swirl of humanity is part of what attracted you to the Cathedral in the first place, or keeps you returning here. And it is part of what makes the Cathedral special to and important for the Diocese as a whole. One of our challenges, however, is to live more fully into that diversity. This means, among other things, learning to delight in ways of "doing church" that are not our particular cup of tea because we realize that they help others feel more spiritually connected and more fully embraced.

A fourth impression, and this one saddens me deeply, is that in recent months congregational life has been marked by considerable harshness and sharpness of tongue. This is, frankly, unacceptable in Christian community. We human beings are blessed with emotions and passion, which should certainly be given expression and play a part in our common life. However, if we truly recognize Christ in one another, there is a baseline of kindness and regard that must always be manifested, no matter how upset or frustrated we are.

Finally, I have been struck by how much spiritual hunger there is within the parish. If I do nothing else in my time among you, it will be to encourage each and every one of you to grow more deeply in your relationship with God. The Cathedral cannot possibly grow into the new thing that God has in store for it if its people are not spiritually grounded.

I recognize that much of what I have set forth as the way forward is already under way. I want to acknowledge the considerable strides made under the leadership of Deans past, most especially Mark. However, we are at a turning point in the Cathedral's history. It is therefore important that we proceed with particular purposefulness, and that we balance necessary patience with holy impatience.

I look forward to participating with you in this great venture.

Blessings.
Harlon

About Harlon Dalton

He plays bass clarinet, alto saxophone and upright bass...rehearses with a gospel singers group in New Haven...enjoys tennis, birding and kayaking...has written widely on race matters, including his well-received book *Racial Healing...* was engaged as a scholar, activist and policymaker in the early days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

That's only a glimpse at the many-faceted Rev. Harlon Dalton who has been assigned by Bishop Ian Douglas to be Interim Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church Cathedral.

Harlon earned a bachelor's degree in social studies from Harvard and a law degree from Yale. He is a professor emeritus of law at Yale Law School and an adjunct professor of law and religion at Berkeley Divinity School. Responding to a call to ordained ministry, he received his certificate of Anglican Studies from Berkeley and was ordained in 2002. He subsequently served as associate rector at St. Paul & St. James' Episcopal Church in New Haven, and as interim rector at St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Old Lyme. He also served as acting canon for Mission Leadership for the Diocese of Connecticut which involved overseeing parishes and clergy in transition and the ordination process.

Before taking on his current assignment, Harlon was one of the two chaplains who in recent months served the spiritual needs of Cathedral members. During that time he became better known to the congregation. In addition to his Cathedral assignment, he is the Chair of the Diocesan Commission on Ministry.

Harlon was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and grew up there and in Denver, Colorado. He considers Denver his historical home. He has lived in New Haven for the past 30 years. His wife Jill Strawn, a psychiatric nurse and university professor, currently teaches at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island. Harlon and Jill have a second home on the Rhode Island seashore, and a hound dog named Zach.

Thanks to Soup & Services Volunteers

The Tuesday Soup & Services program, a mission of Christ Church Cathedral, provided approximately 850 meals in 2012 to the hungry of Hartford. We were able to do this because of the generosity and talent of our many volunteers. Meals were provided by Marva Gilkes, Vernelle Davis, the Strong Women, Monica Best, Sheila Greene, Richard Baraglia, Jeffrey Palmer, Anne Bartholomew, Courtney Hanson and St. Andrew's Parish, Rocky Hill. Assisting in prep work and service were the following parishioners: Martha Carlyon, Carol Porter, Ray Robidoux, Gail Willard and members of the Parish Committee.

If you would like more information about the program or would like to provide a meal in 2013, please contact Nancy Jacobs (nancy_jacobs@comcast.net) or Anne Tranberg (tranberg5@yahoo.com). We serve a beverage, salad or soup, entrée and dessert to about 70 guests on the third Tuesday of the month. We have spots to fill for meal preparation on May 21, June 18, August 20, September 17 and November 19.

With thanks, Nancy and Anne

Happy January Birthdays

Paulyna Aryee
David Ayiku
Constance Bain
Rich Baraglia
Anne Barnard
Anne Bartholomew
Angela Benjamin
Wayne Benjamin
Howard Bergman
Kathleen Coley
Robert Coykendall
Barbara Drayton
Timothy Greaves
Arden Gilgiani
Donna Hales
Kenneth Hungerford
Antoinette Ledgister
Michael O'Brien
John Scott
Patricia Walker
Gregory Woodward

If your January birthday is not listed, it may not be in the Cathedral's database. Please e-mail the information to Leslie Jones at leslie.jones@cccathedral.org or call her at 860-527-7231, ext. 101.

Celebration of Misa de Reyes— Three Kings Day

The St. James' Parish at Christ Church Cathedral will celebrate Misa de Reyes—Three Kings Day—on Sunday, January 6, at the Cathedral. At the 12:30 Spanish Mass, there will be a pageant and celebration with song, dance, bilingual storytelling, colorful costumes and traditional holiday music from Latin America by Surcari. A reception will follow.

January Calendar

- 1 New Year's Day, office closed
- 6 Misa de Reyes – Three Kings Day celebration by St. James' Parish
- 12 Parish Retreat, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- 15 Meeting of the Cathedral Chapter
- 15 Soup & Services
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Day, office closed
- 27 Cathedral Annual Meeting

Cathedral Annual Meeting to be Held

The Cathedral's Annual Meeting will be held January 27 after the 10 a.m. service. Bishop Ian Douglas will preside. Along with reports on finances and other matters, elections will be held to fill parish offices and committees.

Come to the Parish Retreat

On January 12, all adults and older youth are invited to join for a day of "Deepening Community and Capacity" as the Cathedral moves through this time of transition. Leaders for the day will be Robin Hammeal-Urban, Diocesan Canon for Mission Integrity and Training, and the Rev. William Kondrath, author of *God's Tapestry*. The retreat day has been designed to promote communication and community while also developing concrete practical skills as the Cathedral family moves forward. Bishop Ian Douglas will join us for part of the day.

Date: Saturday, January 12
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Lunch will be provided.

To help with arrangements and food planning, please let the Cathedral Office know if you plan to attend. E-mail Leslie at leslie.jones@cccathedral.org or call her at 860-527-7231, ext. 101 by January 7.

An Invitation to Join the Choir

"O God...be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth...." The Book of Common Prayer, p. 819

Since 1886, the Cathedral has had a vested choir, though it was only men and boys in the early years. Always an important part of our worship, it continues to fill a needed role during this time of transition for the Cathedral.

Under the interim leadership of Paul Fletcher, the volunteer Choir offers anthems and supports the congregation with the singing of music for the liturgy and hymns. Currently the members hold rehearsals on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and also for 45 minutes after the 10 a.m. service.

Paul is a private voice teacher, a choral ensemble coach and consultant. He holds a bachelor of music in education degree, cum laude, from Abilene Christian University, and a master of music in voice, with distinction, from The Hartt School, University of Hartford. He has appeared as a featured soloist with the Hartford Symphony, the New Haven Symphony, Orchestra New England, the American Classical Orchestra and many others. He has performed as soloist in stage productions and opera, including Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*, Emile deBecque in *South Pacific*, Macheath in *Threepenny Opera*, and in oratorios and other religious works. He also sings with the professional chamber choir Voce, and recently was chosen as one of 24 select singers from across the United States to be founding members of a new professional ensemble, the Yale Choral Artists.

Choir members include Jane Bradley, Jonathan Clune, Jessica Fletcher, Nathan Fletcher, Sarah Higbie, Peter Huntsman, Erica Maas, Enuma Mokel, Viola Mullin, Jasmine Parks, Josh Parks, Sarah Potter, Glenn Scanlan, Emily Uz and Jerry Zimmerman.

If you have the gift of singing, think about sharing it with the Choir in helping enrich the worship experience for everyone. Contact Paul at plfletch@gmail.com or see him on a Sunday.

Meet Our Organist

In December the Cathedral congregation was pleased to learn that Deniz Uz, who began filling in as organist last fall, has been appointed interim organist through June. Deniz is a junior at Yale, majoring in art history. His home is in Orlando, Florida. He started his musical studies at age 4 on the piano and took up the organ in high school. After spending a summer at the famed Interlochen Arts Camp in 2007 in Interlochen, Michigan, he enrolled that fall in the Interlochen Arts Academy, a boarding school where he spent his last three high school years. He graduated as valedictorian in 2010.

Deniz is not the only member of his family who is contributing to the Cathedral's music ministry. His sister, Emily, a freshman voice major at The Hartt School of the University of Hartford, is a member of the Cathedral Choir.

Speaking for the congregation, *The Grapevine* welcomes them both.

Sale at the Gift Shop

Stop by the Gift Shop after the 10 a.m. Sunday service and take advantage of the 50% off sale on Christmas-related items. Be sure to take a look at the items carrying the Cathedral's name and promoting the 250th anniversary of the founding of Christ Church. The shop is also open by appointment by calling Monica Best at 860-286-0569 or Rose Fichera-Eagen at 860-523-8700.

A Salute to Our Acolytes

The word "acolyte" comes from the Greek word that means "companion" or "helper." In the Episcopal Church, an acolyte, typically a young person but not necessarily, assists during worship services by carrying the cross and torches, receiving the offering, lighting and extinguishing candles and doing other tasks for the clergy as needed.

The acolytes currently serving at the Cathedral include Timothy Greaves of Windsor, son of Heather Jordan-Greaves, a culinary arts student at Manchester Community College; Courtney Hanson of East Hartford, daughter of Greg Hanson and Anne Bartholomew, who is working toward a master's degree in library media science at the University of Pittsburgh; Katie Ingram, in the seventh grade at the Henry James School in Simsbury; Sarah Ingram, in the ninth grade at the Classical Magnet School in Hartford; Thomas Ingram, in the eleventh grade at the University High School of Science and Engineering at the University of Hartford; all three Ingrams are children of David and Dawn Ingram and live in Simsbury; Jordan McBride of Enfield, son of Mark McBride and Melissa Best-McBride, a senior at the CREC Public Safety Academy in Enfield; and Amber O'Brien, daughter of Michael and Luisa O'Brien of Glastonbury, a freshman at Temple University in Philadelphia.

250 Years



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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/January2013Grapevine.pdf

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