



# CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

## *The Grapevine*

March 2013

### From the Interim Priest-in-Charge

Dear Cathedral family:

As I put fingers to keyboard, February is drawing to a close, Spring is in the air, and we are approaching the midpoint of Lent. I am feeling especially grateful for my time among you. This past month I have seen the Cathedral at its very best – hosting the launch of the Women’s Global Mission Network; welcoming The Rev. Christopher Webber at an adult forum; coming face-to-face with our mortality on Ash Wednesday (in the sanctuary, on Main Street and in Bushnell Park); gorging on pancakes (albeit a week late); planning for Holy Week; beginning to explore the “big issues” facing the Cathedral; engaging in a feisty Lenten bible study on the Psalms; responding generously to the decision of St. James’ to join the Cathedral; and most important, continuing to be God’s people in the world, through our joint efforts (such as Church Street Eats) and in our individual lives.

Grace abounds. Here is just one example. On February 21, the newly-formed Worship Committee met to explore how we will live into Holy Week and Easter. The meeting proceeded smoothly until the conversation turned to Maundy Thursday. Instead of beginning by asking how this service has unfolded in the past, I heard myself describing – you might even say dictating – how the stripping of the altar should happen. Eventually I caught myself in the act, but much too late to “walk it back.” The best I could do was explain why I was being so insistent. A while back I had attended a Maundy Thursday service that drove me crazy because there was way too much business and movement during the stripping of the altar, and it was hard for me to maintain a feeling of reverence.

After giving me a chance to say my piece, a member of the Worship Committee responded softly and gently, “I know how that feels. That is why we remove most of the appointments before the service begins, and leave only those things that are important for the congregation to see being taken away.” “Really,” I said, “that makes so much sense.” She then continued, in the same gentle vein: “I could say a bit more about how we have stripped the altar in the past, but please understand that I am not suggesting that we need to continue doing it that way.” All of a sudden, I was eager to listen as she described a way of proceeding that spoke to my concerns and also to my heart. By the time she was done, I knew that this was one of those times when “the way we have always done it” was way better than any innovation I could propose.

Sheer grace! I received much better than I deserved. The other moral of the story is that although I will continue to push you to explore uncharted territory, please know that sometimes this new dog can learn old tricks, which typifies Christian community. Lenten blessings, as we work our way to the Cross and beyond.

Harlon Dalton

### March Calendar

*(see separate listing for Holy Week and Easter)*

- 4 Cathedral Crafters, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- 10 Healing Ministry, 8 and 10 a.m. services
- 16 St. Barnabas Quiet Day, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., with luncheon

### Happy March Birthdays

Drucilla Conway  
Benjamin Harney  
Deanna Huntsman  
Yvonne Inniss-Brewer  
Merwood Jones  
Mariah McBride  
Sharon Mansfield  
Laurie Scinto  
Gilbeean Scott  
George Spooner  
Norma Wassell

### Church by the Pond Continues to Grow

Every Saturday – with the rare exception of a blizzard that shuts down the state – there is a gathering of men, women, sometimes even children, in Bushnell Park in downtown Hartford at 2 p.m. They are there to worship God in a “church without walls” next to the pond near the carousel. Church by the Pond is offered by Christ Church Cathedral as one of its official services. It has been in existence since June 2011 when a group of volunteers decided to expand the Saturday bagged lunch program in the park for needy persons. The lunch program was itself an expansion of the Church Street Eats meal provided every Sunday at the Cathedral House. A worship service seemed to be the next offering to the community, and precedes the bagged lunch which is at 3 p.m.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Church by the Pond

(continued from front page)

Though ecumenical in spirit, the Church by the Pond service is grounded in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer and is a celebration of the Eucharist. In consideration of persons who may be dealing with addiction, grape juice replaces wine. Volunteer clergy preside along with Cathedral regulars such as Deacon Donald Richey and the Rev. Thomas Beveridge. The people who gather share roles in setting up the altar (a folding table), reading prayers and clean-up.

Every week there are people waiting on the rock wall near the pond for the clergy to arrive to begin the service. Other people in the park often take notice and inquire what is going on. Once they learn about it, many donate money to support the ministry. Others have shown up with coffee and donuts on cold days for the worshippers, who can number more than 50 each week. The record has been 100 who listened to the Faith Assembly of God choir from Hartford who brought their electronic keyboards and other instruments and even helped provide the lunch.

Church by the Pond has the full support of the three bishops of the Diocese of Connecticut, each of whom has been a celebrant. In 2012, 1,920 persons received the Eucharist together with the bagged lunches. During the year 25 different celebrants participated. Many different groups volunteer to prepare the lunches. In addition, various items provided by Panera Bread are available to be taken home. (See separate article on the Panera Bread project.)

There is always a need for volunteers. If you think you may be interested in helping with Church at the Pond, contact Deacon Don at donald.richey@snet.net

## Lenten Bible Study – The Psalms

“Imagine a relationship between two people—friends, family members, lovers—who say only nice, pleasant, positive things to each other. They don’t complain or disagree or argue.

They don’t express anger or grief or disappointment. They don’t talk about the unfairness of the world or the way the bad things that happen affect them. They don’t share their stories of struggle or hurt. They keep their fears and worries to themselves. They both carefully hide their faults and weaknesses and needs from each other. If you can even imagine such a relationship, you’d probably say that it isn’t much of a relationship, right? All that hiding and pretending, so little honesty and sharing—it’s superficial. But that’s exactly the kind of relationship we are often trying to have with God.... The Psalms are here in our Bible to show us another way of being in relationship with God.” -by The Rev. Janet Duggins

To learn about that other way, during the season of Lent the usual 9 a.m. Sunday Bible Study in the Cathedral House will focus on the Psalms. The study pattern to be followed is laid out by Ellen F. Davis in her book *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament*. A few pages of Professor Davis’ book will be made available in advance of each session. No prior knowledge or understanding is necessary—just an open mind and a willing heart. You are invited to just show up and join in as

often as you can.

*Study schedule for March:*

March 3 - the cursing psalms  
 March 10 - psalms of praise  
 March 17 - psalms most meaningful to the participants

## Panera Bread Helps Feed Church by the Pond

Every Saturday a Eucharist is offered in a “church without walls” in Bushnell Park in downtown Hartford. An important ministry of Christ Church Cathedral, the service is open to all people. [See separate article on *Church by the Pond*.] But the ministry goes beyond the worship component: at 3 p.m., following the service, all who need actual food are given bagged lunches. A very special bonus are baked goods from Panera Bread—bread, cookies, pastries, bagels, etc.

Every Friday a volunteer goes to the Panera Bread location at Bishops Corner in West Hartford before its 9:30 p.m. closing to collect, as a donation, whatever goods are left over. If there is anything remaining after the handout on Saturday, it is taken to a local shelter or distributed at the Cathedral at the Church Street Eats meal on Sunday. Nothing is wasted.

(continued on page 3)

## Services for Holy Week and Easter

### Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24

8 and 10 a.m. The Liturgy of the Palms and the Holy Eucharist (incense at 10)  
 12:30 The Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist in Spanish

### Maundy Thursday, March 28

6 p.m. Agape Meal in the Cathedral House Reception Room  
 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, and Stripping of the Altar

### Good Friday, March 29

12 noon Stations of the Cross  
 6 p.m. Solemn Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross

### Easter Vigil, March 30

7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation with Bishop Ian Douglas

### Easter Sunday, March 31

8 and 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Bishop Ian Douglas  
 12:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist in Spanish

### Panera Bread

*continued from page 2)*

This dedicated and little known activity has been going on for a few years and began through one of its volunteers, Jacque Gelpi, who knew that Panera Bread supports socially responsible programs. In addition to Jacqui, those helping to coordinate or do the picking up and delivery are Tim Cole, Jake Harney, Cynthia Mellon, Anne Bartholomew and Kimberly Newport. If anyone reading this would like to help, contact Tim Cole at [teapeasea@sbc.global.net](mailto:teapeasea@sbc.global.net)

### Knox Foundation Supports Church Street Eats

A grant of \$2,000 has been made by The Knox Foundation of Hartford to Church Street Eats for the purpose of providing boots, sleeping bags and backpacks to those in need in Hartford. Deacon Don Richey said the grant has been gratefully received and has quickly made a difference in the lives of the homeless. "I know that for at least one man who lives outside, a new and much better sleeping bag was a lifesaver for him during the severe winter nights," said Don. "We are truly thankful to the Foundation for such a generous gift."

The Knox Foundation was established by the estate of Betty Knox, a Hartford philanthropist and city council member. It has two separate missions: 1) the horticultural "greening" of Hartford through city-wide plantings and beautification programs; and 2) promoting the vitality of Hartford by addressing the city's most pressing social, economic and cultural needs.

### Cathedral Member Composes Eucharistic Prayer for Lent

On Sunday, February 24, worshippers at both the 8 and 10 a.m. services heard the celebrant read the words of a brand-new Eucharistic Prayer for Lent. A simple asterisk in the bulletin (which carried the full prayer) noted that it had been authored by Peggy (Margaret) Ornell. Peggy, a Cathedral member, is the Cathedral's Worship Coordinator, and has previously offered new texts for the Prayers of the People. But this is her first Eucharistic Prayer.

Peggy's affiliation with the Cathedral goes back to the early '90s when she served as Canon Administrator under Dean Richard Mansfield. Her husband, the late Rev. Kenneth Ornell, at the time was senior missionary for the Middlesex Area Cluster Ministry. In 2002, he was called as an interim priest in Texas, and for the next several years, he and Peggy served in interim posts at parishes in Indiana, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Florida. Then in 2009 it was time for the couple to return to New England and to a home in Windsor. Ken was not in good health. He died in 2011 and his funeral service was held at the Cathedral. Peggy, able to become more active at the Cathedral, accepted the invitation from former Dean Mark Pendleton to become Worship Coordinator. The Rev. Harlon Dalton, Interim Priest-in Charge, urged her to continue in that role and it was he who suggested that she try to write a Eucharistic Prayer.

"Frankly, I didn't feel worthy or capable of such a task," Peggy says. She found it a challenge and made little progress. "I thought Harlon would just forget about it, but no, he wanted a new prayer and wouldn't let me off that easy. Then one Sunday I came home from church, sat down at my computer, and the words just came! I had done a lot of reading, both of prayer collections and other books belonging

to my husband, and somehow it all came together."

A young member of the congregation after the service on the 24<sup>th</sup> complimented Peggy on the prayer, telling her that "It reads like real language that people use." For Peggy, no praise could be any higher.

Peggy has a daughter and two sons living in New York, Massachusetts, and Texas, and six grandchildren. She also has a beloved dog, Hildegard of Bingen, named after a famous Benedictine abbess in the 12<sup>th</sup> century who wrote liturgical music and poems.

### From The Register

#### Baptisms

- **January 13, 2013 – Garrett Richard Miller**, son of Michael and Kathryn Miller of Wethersfield
- **January 13, 2013 – Christopher Charles McBride**, son of Charles Johnathan McBride and Karen Bussiere of Hartford
- **January 13, 2013 - Charles Johnathan McBride** of Hartford

#### Funerals

- **January 26, 2013 – Emiliano Amat** of Hartford

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/March2013Grapevine.pdf](http://cccathedral.org/documents/March2013Grapevine.pdf)

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