



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

The Grapevine

May 2013

From the Interim Priest-in-Charge

I have always thought that June was “the” month for weddings. Apparently Christ Church Cathedral did not get the memo. Either that or we figured we would get ahead of the curve. Whatever the reason, May is definitely wedding month at the Cathedral this year. On May 3, Bernard Senior and Sherry Vallee (mainstays at the 8 a.m. service) will be married at a lovely outdoor spot in South Windsor. On May 5, the Cathedral will host a Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration at which couples from across the Diocese who have been married for at least 50 years will renew their wedding vows. And on May 18, Amanda Sheetz (who grew up at the Cathedral under the watchful eyes of her mother Nancy and her grandparents June and Em Aziz) will wed Scott Trahan at the Cathedral.

The month of May also kicks off graduation season. If you or someone in your family is graduating this month or next (from elementary school, graduate school, ballet school, you name it) please pass the details along to Leslie Jones, the Cathedral administrator (leslie.jones@cccathedral.org). We would like to invite the entire Cathedral family to celebrate with you.

As it happens, one of my favorite feast days, the Day of Pentecost, falls during May this year—May 19, to be precise. To commemorate the palpable presence of the Holy Spirit, please wear red on that day so that we can, in essence, decorate the Cathedral with our bodies. In addition, if you are comfortable reading out loud in a language other than English, please let me (harlon.dalton@cccathedral.org) or Peggy Ornell (pkornell13@gmail.com) know. On May 19 we will do our best to reproduce the great cacophony that erupted on the original Day of Pentecost “when suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the

Spirit gave them ability.” (Acts of the Apostles, 2:2-4). We already have Dutch and Turkish covered for the 10 o’clock service. The more languages, the merrier.

Looking ahead a bit, we will soon be dusting off the tables and umbrellas and readying the patio so that we can move the Fellowship Hour outdoors as soon as the weather permits. And while we are at it, we will once again invite those who work in downtown Hartford to use the patio at lunchtime during the workweek. Several of you have asked whether we will be hosting a jazz mass again this year as part of the Hartford Jazz Festival. The answer is “yes,” and the date is July 21. Stay tuned for more information.

I will soon be convening the Worship Committee to explore additional ways to make our summer-time worship particularly engaging. I know that there is already a move afoot to hold at least one service in a nearby park, followed by a picnic. One of my suggestions for the committee will be that we invite members of the parish to submit a list of their favorite hymns so that to the extent possible we can include them in our summer worship. I realize there is danger in issuing such an invitation. Deacon Donald Richey has already been pressuring me to add “God Rest Ye Weary Gentlemen” to the list. Pray that the committee and I exercise good judgment.

Last, and certainly not least, I want to add my voice to the chorus of welcome for the members of St. James’ Parish who have now joined the Cathedral. Even though a couple of formal steps still need to be taken (most significantly a Standing Committee resolution dissolving the Parish of St. James’ and directing that its assets be transferred to the Cathedral), I use the phrase “have now joined” deliberately. Given the enthusiastic embrace of this new reality by the Cathedral Chapter at its April meeting, we should immediately begin living into this wondrous opportunity to more fully reflect the Kingdom of God and the unity that is ours in Christ Jesus.

Blessings, Harlon Dalton +

Happy May Birthdays

Susan Dalrymple
Hugh Jackson
Richard Mansfield
Richard Nolan
Reginald Paige, Jr.
Robert Pingpank
Alzi Platts
Carly Woodward

Elections to Finance Committee

Vernelle Davis and John Robinson have been elected by the Cathedral Chapter to serve on the Cathedral’s

Finance Committee. They join Robert Coykendall, Treasurer; Donna Downs, Assistant Treasurer; the Rev. Harlon Dalton, Interim Priest-in-Charge; and Pat Wrice, Chair, Parish Committee.

May Calendar

4 St. Barnabas Guild (*see separate item*)
5 Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration and Reception, 5 p.m.
6 Cathedral Crafters, 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
12 Adult Forum on Trauma, 11:30 a.m.
21 Soup & Services, 5 p.m.
26 Adult Forum on Trauma, 11:30 a.m.

Task Force Named To Evaluate Clergy Staffing Recommendations

*Message from Pat Wrice
Chair, Parish Committee*

At its April meeting, in response to a proposal put forward by Bishop Douglas, the Cathedral Chapter created a feasibility task force to work out details for clergy staffing that would comprise a part-time priest-in-charge and a full-time vicar, both of whom would serve a three-year term, renewable if circumstances warrant for up to an additional two years.

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Our current Interim Priest-in-Charge, Harlon Dalton, is a candidate for the ongoing priest-in-charge position. As we move forward in the integration of St. James' Parish into the life of the Cathedral, we plan to have the post of vicar filled by a priest who is bilingual in Spanish.

The task force consists of Chapter members June Aziz, Robert Coykendall, the Rev. Donna Downs, Peggy Ornell and Pat Wrice. We have been charged to submit our recommendations to the Bishop within a month. The Diocese is providing consulting assistance to the task force.

We intend to make the process an open one for the congregation and welcome comments and suggestions. I personally want to note that during the past several months, we have been privileged to have the stabilizing presence of Harlon. The Cathedral has weathered a difficult period but I am confident and excited for our future.

Adult Forums on Trauma

The Rev. Molly F. James will lead two more in a series of adult forums on trauma under the heading "Reflections on Living as an Easter People in a Good Friday World." She is Secretary of the Diocese of Connecticut, formation consultant to the Commission on Ministry, and a priest in the Middlesex Cluster. The forums will be on May 12 and May 26 following the 10 a.m. service. The last forum in the series will be on June 2.

St. James' Parish Update

In February, the St. James' congregation passed the following resolution at their annual meeting: "Resolved, that the Parish of St. James' Episcopal Church, Hartford, shall cease to exist as an independent congregation and merge its membership and assets with Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford."

In April, the Cathedral Chapter, the governing body of the Cathedral, enthusiastically agreed to receive St. James' into the life of Christ Church Cathedral. A transition team has been formed to ensure a smooth and seamless transition between the two congregations. A couple of formal steps still need to be completed, but when that has been done, the Cathedral's Worship Committee will plan a festive liturgical event to celebrate

a wonderful new moment in our common life.

Former Dean Dies in Florida

The Very Rev. Stephen H. Gushee, Dean of the Cathedral from 1978-91, died April 6, 2013, in West Palm Beach, Florida. In his obituary, he was described as "a fiercely independent thinker [who] never shied away from controversial opinions" and as "a man of deep spirituality. His family and many friends also knew a compassionate, loving man with a marvelous sense of humor." For many years he wrote a weekly opinion column, "On Religion," that was distributed to newspapers across the country by the Cox News Service.

St. Barnabas Guild Meeting on May 4

The Hartford Chapter of The Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses, based at Christ Church Cathedral, will meet on May 4 at 11:45 a.m. at the Connecticut Historical Society Museum and Library in Hartford, and have lunch following at the Pond House Café in Elizabeth Park. At the museum, a special event that day will feature handweavers of Connecticut demonstrating their craft on various looms and spinning wheels. Persons interested in attending the lunch should contact Susan Dalrymple at 860-569-1306.

St. Barnabas Guild is an international and ecumenical organization of nurses and those in related fields. Meetings include worship, education, fellowship and service.

Meet the Leadership Team: A Series

June Aziz, Cathedral Member, Chapter

A lifetime member of the Cathedral, June Aziz was baptized, confirmed and married here. Though most members associate her primarily with the Altar Guild, she has been active in other ways as well, including being a church school teacher and choir mother. Currently she is on the transition team for the St. James' parishioners.

She was recently elected to be the Cathedral member of Chapter, the legally constituted board of trustees that is responsible for all major decisions affecting the Cathedral. Other members include the Cathedral's Parish Committee and persons from the Diocese of Connecticut.

June served on the Chapter years ago when the Rt. Rev. Walter Gray was Diocesan Bishop. "The meetings were

run like those of a corporation," June remembers. "You did what you were asked to do and you approved his recommendations. Each meeting was followed by a very formal dinner."

June's service to the Cathedral began with the example of her mother whom she describes as "something of an evangelist. She was always looking for children to bring to our church school. We had more than 200 children here." Among the children brought in was Emhart Aziz. When both June and he grew up, they married—naturally, at the Cathedral. They are proud grandparents and live in Wethersfield.

People know June to be a no-nonsense person and a story she tells demonstrates that. "When I was quite young, one Sunday the dean saw me taking money out of the collection plate. Of course, I was chastised. My reason for doing so? In the sermon I was told that the Baby Jesus was coming, but I didn't see Him. So I took my pennies back."

Reflecting on her many years of Altar Guild service, June notes that her early solid training came from Sadie Baker, the sacristan. "She knew exactly how everything should be done, but also taught us how to be gracious in our work, especially when we took flowers from the altar to persons in hospitals. I learned from her how to do flower arrangements."

"My greatest joy has been the number of wonderful clergy who have been associated with the Cathedral—e.g., curates, canons, vicars, deacons, deans and others—who in so many ways have made us the wonderful church we have become."

She is confident about the Cathedral's future. "We need to be better listeners and to listen for what people are not telling us—most important for solving problems in the right way. We're going to be all right. It will take time."

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/May2013Grapevine.pdf

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