



Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

The Grapevine

OCTOBER 2013

From The Rev. Miguelina Howell, Vicar

As I unpack boxes, decorate my new office, exchange emails with Harlon, Leslie Jones and leaders of the Cathedral, my spirit grows in excitement anticipating what the Lord has in store for us as we embrace a new phase of ministry for this congregation.

My role as Vicar will be that of your principal priest and pastor. As Vicar, in a uniquely collegial relationship with Harlon as Priest-in-Charge, I will be responsible for providing leadership for the spiritual welfare, overall programming, growth and life of the Cathedral as a worshipping community. Some of my specific responsibilities will include to provide for and oversee pastoral care for all parishioners, including our homebound members, to develop and facilitate parish-based ministry programs, including, but not limited, to stewardship, Christian formation, leadership development, hospitality, and fellowship. To this end, Harlon and I have spent a significant amount of time discerning and planning how to move forward with the initial steps of my transition as your new Vicar. I have scheduled several meetings with key leaders to learn of the wonderful things that you do and to discuss possibilities.

As stated in my job description, I also will share responsibility, in consultation with our Priest-in-Charge, for coordination and communication of vision and for shaping strategy with the Chapter, Parish Leadership Team, staff and lay leaders.

At Christ Church Cathedral we have a unique opportunity ahead

of us. I will be working with all of you in the development of the life, ministry and programs of the Cathedral. Harlon will be leading us to discern through the bigger picture of what it means to be a cathedral in the 21st century.

These are times for shared leadership. These are times to embrace our roles as children of God and to embrace the ministry of all baptized, in which each one of us plays an important part. Each one of us is an important piece of the puzzle of the kingdom of God at Main and Church Streets, in Bushnell Park, and in the Greater Hartford region.

Now that the clergy leadership team, new music staff and other important components are in place, what is next? I suggest that we start by celebrating the amazing combination you and God have put together. That celebration will take place on October 6, 2013, at 10 a.m. when Bishop Ian Douglas will officially welcome our Spanish-speaking congregation, La Catedral Iglesia de Cristo (formerly St. James', Hartford) into this house of prayer. The Bishop also will install Harlon and me as your clergy leaders and will invite you officially to embrace this new stage in your life as a congregation.

And what will happen after Homecoming? Well, that is when things get even better!

We will start organizing ourselves to discern God's call individually and collectively:

- I have and will continue to coordinate a series of meetings with leaders of current teams.

- We will be recruiting members for both current and new teams in preparation for a larger planning day.
- Harlon and I plan to meet regularly with all the clergy who serve at the Cathedral in order to foster collegiality and to strengthen our community. Our first meeting is scheduled for October 16.
- Harlon has convened a meeting of Church Street Eats on October 8 in order for me to learn more about this ministry and to explore ways in which I could contribute in the administrative aspect of this amazing venture.
- Harlon and I will convene a Parish Planning Day on November 9. Its purpose is to gather all current and recruited team leaders in a working session focused on visioning and planning for our life as a congregation. It is our desire that all active associate clergy of the Cathedral participate in this session.

My invitation to you is to start praying and discerning what are your gifts, your available time, and what particular ministry gives you life and passion.

We will start by establishing (or refreshing, if they already exist) six working teams:

- Stewardship
- Pastoral Care
- Communications/ Evangelism
- Outreach
- Worship
- Christian Formation

If you feel called to serve on any

(continued on page 2)

From Miguelina Howell, Vicar
(continued from front page)

of these teams, please contact me by October 13 at lina.howell@cccathedral.org, at the office at 860-527-7231, or my cell at 973-930-7333.

I take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your warm welcome!
See you around!

Shalom,
Lina+

Calendar for October

- 6 Homecoming Sunday, one service at 10 a.m.
- 13 Uyeki Justice Forum, 11:30 a.m.
- 14 Columbus Day Holiday, office closed
- 15 Soup & Services, 5 p.m.
- 25-26 Diocese of Connecticut Annual Convention, Stamford Marriott
- 26 Trip to Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular, Providence RI, departure 2:30 p.m.

Happy October Birthdays

Sylvia Brown
Jonathan Dixon
Martha Fine
JaVaughn Fisher
Norman Graf
Michael Greaves
Sheila Green
Laarni Lucero
Everton McCalla
Laura McCalla
Thomas McGrath
David Marcano
Amber O'Brien
Luisa O'Brien
Michael Navarro-O'Brien
Peggy Ornell
Ruth Perry
Tyler Tinker

Help Wanted on Sundays

Volunteers are an essential part of the life of any church, and at the Cathedral there are many ways to serve. Here are three opportunities that require no special experience or a big time commitment. Each is an important part of our ministry at the 10 a.m. service.

Lectors—the word is from the Latin meaning “reader.” Two lectors are assigned each Sunday, one for each of two designated Bible readings. Typically you will be assigned once every six weeks. You can review

the reading in advance.

Greeters—if you like to meet people, this is the activity for you. Greeters welcome and identify newcomers, assisting them to feel comfortable, pass out the bulletin, help visitors find their way to the Fellowship Hour, and answer questions anyone may have.

Ushers—you will work with the greeters in welcoming people but you will also oversee the collection and offering of gifts at the Eucharist. You will direct how members of the congregation are to go to the communion rail. Ushers are also called throughout the year to serve at ordinations, diocesan special services and other special events.

Both greeters and ushers need to be at the Cathedral comfortably in advance of the 10 a.m. service. For more information, or to volunteer your service, speak to Peggy Ornell on a Sunday or contact her at pkornell13@gmail.com

Meet the Leadership Team: A Series *Robert Coykendall, Treasurer of the Cathedral*

On a Sunday morning, if you happen to be in the Cathedral alley at the right time, you may see a man on a bicycle, often accompanied by a young boy on a bicycle, arrive for the 10 a.m. service. The man is Robert Coykendall and his young friend is Delano Romano—both have ridden to Hartford from across the Connecticut River. *Grapevine* recently talked with Robert about his being named Treasurer of the Cathedral, a position on the Chapter, the board of trustees responsible for all major decisions affecting the Cathedral. The post had been vacant for some time.

A Hartford native and a lifelong member of the Cathedral, Robert graduated from Trinity College, where he majored in physics—which he admits was his worst subject. After college, he got a job in 1960 at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford (part of United Technologies) testing fuel cells—the amazing devices that combine hydrogen and oxygen to produce electrical power. It was a P&W fuel cell that went with the Apollo capsule to the moon, providing not only electricity but also water (through hydrogen and oxygen), eliminating the need to carry bottles of water in the capsule.

After 27 years in the job, he left to have more time for his other activities. In addition to biking, he is a swimmer, has done triathlons, reads many books, and has mentored high school students. He started biking to work during the '70s oil crisis when gasoline was scarce. It was an eight-mile ride from his house in East Hartford to South Windsor where the fuel cells unit had been relocated. Biking saved him time and money—not only on gas but also on auto insurance.

(continued on page 3)

Meet the leadership team

(continued from page 2)

His young friend Delano, age 10, is the son of a student Robert mentored, and the friendship started when the family lived in East Hartford. He now lives in Manchester, but still comes to church with Robert. It involves a car trip by Robert to Manchester and back to East Hartford for their bikes to be on their way.

Robert's response to why he agreed to become Treasurer is simple: "They told me I was needed—and that always appeals to me." He was not unfamiliar with such a responsibility—he is on the board of trustees of the Jacob L. and Lewis Fox Scholarship Foundation that every year gives scholarships to graduates of the public high schools in Hartford. It is his first leadership post at the Cathedral though he has worked on stewardship campaigns.

Under the Statutes of the Cathedral, the Treasurer is responsible for administrating its funds, reporting to the Chapter at its meetings, and to the membership at the annual meeting on the financial status of the Cathedral. "It is watching over, and worrying and reporting about the funds," he says. "Members know we're taking too much out of our endowment, but we've been lucky in the past year—investments have grown more than we've taken out. We should get the withdrawal rate down to 5 per cent or lower. There are three ways to accomplish that: 1) when the market goes up; 2) through careful budgeting on the expenses side; and finally, 3) increased pledging. An additional \$50,000 in pledges is like having \$1 million added to the endowment if you're taking out 5 per cent a year."

Robert believes strongly that better communication about the Cathedral's finances will help members understand the challenges facing us and in helping make prudent decisions on pledging and expenditures. He intends to provide more frequent and easily understood reports not only on income and outgo, but also on how choices can be made that will best further the Cathedral's mission.

Joshua Slater Named Interim Musical Director

Christ Church Cathedral's new interim Musical Director, Joshua Slater, is a person of many talents: teacher, pianist, organist, vocalist, choir director, music conductor, administrator. At the age of three he was fascinated by the piano, "played around it" and started lessons at age five. Being in a religious setting is familiar—his father is a Congregationalist minister in the eighth successive generation of clergy in the family. Since clearly Josh's career is music, he won't be continuing that line. "I'm as close to the pulpit as I'll get," he says.

Born in Cleveland, Josh grew up in Lebanon, New Hampshire, where his father was a minister for 25

years, but a second home is Toronto. His mother emigrated from India and many of her relatives—"hundreds!" according to Josh—live there. "We spent summers and school vacations there, and I still love it."

The real beginning of a life in music came when he was in the sixth/seventh grade and won a scholarship for a piano camp in Bennington, Vermont. "It had all the attributes of a good camp for me—not in the woods! We were in a house with dozens of pianos, lessons every day, practicing at least three hours a day—it was a transformative experience." In high school he started learning the organ, but the church was always kept so cold, practicing was not pleasant.

He went to Vassar College as a music major, transferred after a year to Boston University and its larger music department. Shortly after he developed tendonitis in both wrists, making piano playing painful and difficult. He had begun an interest in orchestral conducting, and another important path soon opened thanks to a friend. "He dragged me to a rehearsal of the Marsh Chapel choir at BU. The choir director was Julian Wachner who is now at Trinity Church, Wall Street. He was the first person I had seen who really brought out demanding music from the choir—he made an instrument of the choir. I had sung in choirs and a choral society, but this was at an amazing level."

Wachner became a mentor for Josh and through his guidance for a year stopped playing the piano. The tendonitis pain eventually let up but in the meantime Josh was learning conducting with Wachner and the chapel organist. He served two years as assistant conductor of the Marsh Chapel choir.

He holds a BA in music, cum laude, and a Master of Music Conducting degree, both from Boston

(continued on page 4)



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 www.cccathedral.org/documents/October2013Grapevine.pdf

Deadline for November issue:
October 15

Contact: Lillian Kezerian
860-242-5239
lkezerian@gmail.com

Joshua Slater, Interim Music Director
(continued from page 3)

University. He has also done degree work in sacred music and theology. Among the varied posts shown on his resume is that of choir director and pianist at a high school where he also taught music history and theory, group and individual piano lessons, voice lessons, and was director of music performing groups. He was the founder and music director of Fujit, a professional chamber choir, and at the Boston Archdiocesan Choir School was music teacher, music administrator and staff conductor.

In 2007, the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour in Brookline, Massachusetts, advertised for a pianist for summer services. Josh sent a resume. The priest had filled the post but liked what he saw in Josh and gave him a challenge: put together a music program for all of Holy Week, the most intense period musically in the entire church year. "It was the hardest interview question I'd ever had," Josh says, "but I did the work." The priest called back, said he had an organist but needed a music director for the choir and administration. I was hired as an interim, and was there until this past August when I left to come to Connecticut." The reason for the move is that Josh's wife, Chelsea, was starting a doctoral program in psychology at the University of Hartford. In Brookline he rebuilt the church's music program with well-regarded adult and children's choirs, a concert series, and a visiting artists program among other offerings.

When asked what he likes most about choral music, Josh's answer is immediate: "The sound. When everything works together—the text, the liturgy, a well-trained choir—when the music hits—it's a thrill! And I get to do it every week!"

Programming is the most difficult task. "Choral music goes back

hundreds of years, and here at the Cathedral we have a huge number of scores. [Editor's note: Take a look in the choir room—you'll be amazed.] You want to give your congregation the best but you need to figure the number of voices available, how many rehearsals, how the music works with the liturgy and the Scripture readings. We have anthems, hymns and the service music as well as organ preludes and postludes—it all needs to work together. And of course, you have to watch the budget."

His favorite composer is the one he's working on at the moment. "I seem to pick some composers by the season—certain ones fit spring or autumn better than others. There is such a wealth of music, and you can do a lot even with a small choir. Size doesn't have to limit the quality of the music."

The congregation can help him by suggesting hymns or other music they would like to hear. "I can't guarantee an immediate response but will certainly consider all ideas. With enough volunteers, I'd like to do what they sometimes do at Trinity Wall Street—have people show up for choir just for the sheer fun of it. We can even have a *Messiah* sing-along with people bringing their own scores. Hymn sings are also wonderful—I remember them from my childhood."

With Josh's professional skills, energy and enthusiasm, the future for music at the Cathedral looks promising and exciting.

Calling All Golfers

The annual Bishops' Open that supports Camp Washington will be held on Thursday, October 10, at Tunxis Plantation Country Club in Farmington. The residential camp and conference center in Lakeside, Connecticut, is owned and operated by the Diocese. For almost 30 years, a benefit golf tournament has supported the camp and provided financial aid to children who otherwise might not be able to attend in the summer.

The tournament begins at 9 a.m. Golfers may register as a foursome or as individuals. The entry fee of \$125 includes a light breakfast, greens fees, 18 holes, a cart, practice balls, use of the practice range and an awards lunch. The cost is \$25 for those wishing to attend only the lunch. For more information or to register, call the camp at 860-567-9623 or go to www.campwashington.org

"The Jack is Back" Trip Still Available

At publication deadline, there were a few seats available to the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular in Providence on Saturday, October 26. The \$60.00 cost per person includes transportation, buffet dinner, admission and all gratuities. Departure from the Cathedral will be at 2:30 p.m. with expected return to Hartford at approximately 9:30 p.m. To sign up or be on the wait list in case of cancellations, call Rich Baraglia by October 12 at 860-584-5608 or e-mail him at snugarbor@snet.net