



Christ Church Cathedral

The Grapevine

SEPTEMBER 2013

From Harlon Dalton, Priest-in-Charge

It is hard to believe that it is already September. The past few months have been rich, productive and inspiring. God does not take summers off, and neither did we. Our weekly worship was spirit-filled, welcoming, and reasonably well-attended at all four services (Saturdays at 2 in Bushnell Park and Sundays at 8, 10 and 12:30 in the Cathedral). In June, we played host to the ordination of transitional deacons, and in July to the closing concert of the American Guild of Organists regional convention. Throughout the summer we maintained our commitment to mission, most particularly in our efforts to feed the hungry and provide clothes to those who need them, but also in some new initiatives directed at addressing violence in the City of Hartford.

At its meeting in June, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Connecticut approved the request of St. James' Hartford to dissolve the parish and transfer its assets to the Cathedral. The Diocesan Bishop has added his approval which means that our Cathedral family has officially become larger and more diverse. We have set October 1 as the administrative date for this "marriage" (i.e., the date on which funds are transferred, insurance accounts adjusted, etc.) and will mark the occasion liturgically during our grand homecoming service on October 6.

At its meeting in July, the Chapter of the Cathedral unanimously approved a proposal put forward by Bishop Douglas to appoint me as Priest-in-Charge (thus removing the "interim" label) for a period of three years, and to call a Vicar who will serve for the same length of time. Although

this is an oversimplification, in addition to overseeing worship and administration, as Priest-in-Charge I would focus my energies on guiding the parish and the larger Diocese as we explore together what it means to be a Cathedral in the 21st Century. The Vicar would participate in that larger exploration, but would focus her or his energies on the internal life of the parish. You can find a copy of the Vicar position description online by going to www.cccathedral.org/documents/VicarJobDescription.pdf. You will note that in addition to serving as the principal priest and pastor for the entire congregation, the Vicar will lead the Spanish-language Mass, and oversee the Cathedral's mission efforts insofar as they are directed at Hartford's Latino communities.

In the months leading up to the Chapter's decision, the Bishop's proposal was vetted by the parish's Leadership Team. Its due diligence included engaging me in a formal interview process which I found to be meaningful and clarifying. In addition, the Bishop established a feasibility committee (composed of Parish and Chapter leaders) to determine whether the proposal was financially viable. The committee concluded that by stepping out in faith the Cathedral could responsibly support a half-time Priest-in-Charge and a full-time Vicar. It established the financial parameters for the positions, and the Chapter affirmed the committee's conclusions at its July meeting.

Following the Chapter meeting, I began searching for a Vicar in earnest. I had begun to put out feelers in anticipation of the Chapter vote, but was careful to communicate that my efforts were

purely exploratory. Although the search process invited input from diocesan transition officers across the Episcopal Church, and the position was posted far and wide, it quickly became apparent that the Rev. Miguelina ("Lina") Howell of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey was a perfect fit. Any number of people – including Bishop Curry, who had come to know Lina through his engagement with the wider church, and Gay Jennings who is the President of the House of Deputies of the Episcopal Church – all came to the same conclusion. The only difficulty was that Lina was not looking for a new position. Fortunately, she was paying attention when Tim Hodapp, our Diocesan Canon for Mission Leadership, said to her, "You may not be looking, but just maybe the Holy Spirit is."

Thanks be to God, and to the efforts of many, Lina eventually realized that in fact the Holy Spirit was leading her to a new call. Among the important steps along the way were an "incognito" visit to the Cathedral in which Lina and her husband Daniel visited all four of our regular worship services and felt very much at home at each. A two-hour conversation with a dozen parish leaders enabled her to see first-hand the strength and the passion that is the Cathedral at its best.

You can read more about our new Vicar elsewhere in this *Grapevine*. Her first official day is October 1, although she will begin to lead the Spanish-language Mass in mid-September. Her first Sunday with the congregation as a whole will be at the October 6 Homecoming.

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From Harlon Dalton, Priest-in-Charge

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In addition to the search for a new Vicar, I spent the latter part of the summer searching for and calling a new half-time Interim Music Director. You can find a copy of the position description online by using the following link www.cccathedral.org/documents/ChoirDirectorJobDescription.pdf Once again I was heavily reliant on the Holy Spirit, both because she is the source of all inspiration, and because it was not humanly possible to find the right person during the brief window between the Chapter meeting in July and the beginning of the program year in September. Fortunately, through God all things are possible.

Several good candidates magically appeared or were recommended to me by some of the leading figures in the small world of sacred music. Two candidates seemed especially well-suited for the Cathedral at this moment in our common life. They had the right combination of musical gifts, directorial experience, pastoral sensitivity, spiritual depth, self-confidence, gentleness of heart and toughness of mind. I therefore invited them to come to the Cathedral and meet with former members of the choir. In essence, I asked the candidates to lead a mock choir rehearsal, followed by an opportunity for questions and answers. Both candidates acquitted themselves extraordinarily well, and the members of the pick-up choir were very generous and thoughtful in the feedback they provided me. They, and I, were in agreement that we would be well-served by either candidate. And we were in agreement about the particular gifts that each brought to the table.

I gave myself a deadline to make a decision, and on the appointed morning knew that Joshua Slater was the one. Josh comes to us from the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts where he served for several years as the music director at the Church of Our Savior in Brookline, and as a teacher, administrator and staff conductor at the Boston Archdiocesan Choir School at St. Paul's parish in Cambridge. Josh has recently moved to the Hartford area so that his wife, Chelsea, can begin doctoral studies in Developmental Psychology at the University of Hartford. He learned the Cathedral might be looking for a church musician while in conversation with Bill Czelusniak, whose organ restoration and maintenance firm sponsored the American Guild of Organists concert that the Cathedral hosted in June. Bill then invited Josh to visit the Cathedral while the organ was being tuned for the concert so that he could get a sense of the instrument and the worship space. Six weeks later, when Josh's upcoming move began to feel imminent, he sent me a letter of inquiry. He said he hoped he was not too late. I assured him that his timing was perfect.

You can learn more about Josh in next month's issue of the *Grapevine*. He is already hard at work

straightening up the choir room, familiarizing himself with our music library and auditioning potential section leaders, even though he is not yet on the payroll. His first Sunday with us will be September 8. He will conduct general auditions during his first two weeks. The plan is for the choir to be back in the chancel and leading music by the last Sunday of the month, if not before. Stay tuned.

As I said at the outset, it has been a rich, productive and inspiring summer. Just imagine what the fall will be like! Great things are on the horizon. I do hope that you will be an active and integral part of this grand adventure as we explore together what God has in store for us.

Blessings.

Harlon+

New Vicar On Board in October

A native of the Dominican Republic who is a cradle Episcopalian will be the new full-time Vicar of the Cathedral as of October 1. She is the Rev. Miguelina Howell who comes to us from Orange, New Jersey, where she has been rector of the Church of the Epiphany. Even from a young age Lina had a strong connection with her church and was caught one day in the sacristy "playing" at celebrating the Communion. When he found her, her priest realized why his supply of Communion bread seemed to be decreasing.

Her parents insisted that their three children—Lina, a sister and a brother—receive a good education. In addition to their regular schooling, Lina and her siblings went to three other centers to study English, French and computers. "We protested that we had no time to play," Lina remembers, "but my father was determined we'd have what he and my mother did not have. He is my hero!" Today all three have professional careers.

An early job that gave her valuable experience for her later work was as executive assistant to the Bishop of the Dominican Republic. She knew him initially as her local parish priest and in large part he kept her on a track to ordination. Lina thought about being a veterinarian (she loves dogs) or an architect, but the church calling was stronger, and her education in psychology—she holds graduate and post-graduate degrees and is a licensed therapist—was the right path to three years of studies at the Centro de Estudios Teologicos, the Episcopal seminary in Santo Domingo. She also completed a course in Clinical Pastoral Education at San Lucas Hospital in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

In 2002 Lina was ordained first a deacon, then a priest, and became priest-in-charge of a parish in the Dominican Republic that was in decline. "The bishop wanted to give it a last shot and chose me," she says. Her good work there led to a double challenge as executive director and administrator of an Episcopal

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New Vicar On Board in October

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camp/conference center and rector of the local church. It was a strenuous task—splitting her time between the camp and the church—but she was determined to build up both and succeeded, despite the fact that people in the area mostly went to Evangelical and Fundamentalist churches. In part she did it by establishing an Episcopal school on available camp land that would attract families. The bishop gave permission if she could raise money to match what the diocese could provide. She raised \$20,000 in three weeks. The school is thriving, is up to grade 4 and adds another grade each year. “It’s my most satisfying achievement so far,” she says.

In the States her first job was as Associate Program Officer for Young Adult Ministries at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City. She was also serving as part-time Associate Rector at St. Paul’s Church in Paterson, New Jersey. Two years later, in 2010, she became priest-in-charge, then rector at the Church of the Epiphany.

She believes strongly in building a “missional” church—going back to the essence of what it means to be a church as found in the Book of Acts of the Apostles. “We need to work to understand what God is up to in our own neighborhood, to move from ‘just doing’ to being. The familiar red door of the Episcopal Church is no longer enough to bring people in. We have to go to where the people are. In the Dominican Republic, we start a church under a tree, then put up a building.” Lina experienced an example of “reaching out” when on a visit to Hartford she attended the Cathedral’s Saturday Church at the Pond service in Bushnell Park.

Lina’s passion and skills have been recognized by the wider Church. She has been named by the Presiding Bishop to serve on the Task Force for Restructuring the Episcopal Church. As Vicar, she has a list of duties and responsibilities that include pastoral care, Christian formation, lay leadership identification and development, fellowship and stewardship. She will work closely with Priest-in-Charge Harlon Dalton on setting priorities, and expects that pastoral visits to members in need will be emphasized. On Sundays she will be the primary celebrant at the Eucharist in Spanish at the 12:30 service.

“Christ Church Cathedral is in a deep and serious time of transition, but everything that’s needed is here—it’s just that the pieces are not yet together,” she says. “We have to plan church-wide and engage everyone, lay and clergy. It’s hard work but it can be joyful and exciting.”

Lina and her husband, Daniel, will reside in West Hartford. He is a free-lance production assistant in lighting design for theater work, television commercials, films and videos. They have two dogs,

Tallulah, who is in Orange, and Peggy, a boxer, who has been living in the Dominican Republic. They will all now be together.

50th Anniversary of the March on Washington:

Memories and Thoughts by Pat Wrice

This year marks the 50th anniversary of an unprecedented march on Washington. Fifty summers ago during the period of the civil rights movement, a national conversation about race and democracy engaged people of all races and sectors of American life. Religious leaders, labor activists, welfare mothers, students, prisoners and politicians all were drawn into the discussion. Street protests often led to passage of watershed legislation. The collective activism and action drove citizens from across the country to participate in the August 28, 1963, March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

The march united different political factions into a powerful and unifying call for racial justice, economic equality and democracy that was multicultural. This historic event served to heighten social, political and cultural awareness of racial injustice and helped to change public policy through passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act in 1965. The marking of the anniversary of the march should be a time of reflection to assess how far we have actually come.

But those of us who believe in freedom and justice should go beyond reflection and develop a plan of action that builds on Martin Luther King’s Dream of a just society that benefits all regardless of race, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or class. Remember, Martin wasn’t killed for dreaming. It was because he was a threat to the status quo.

Editor’s note: please also see related article in this issue on the Uyeki Justice Forum.



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/September2013Grapevine.pdf

Deadline for October issue:

September 15

Contact: Lillian Kezerian
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Take Part in the New Uyeki Justice Forum

For several years, a special ministry at the Cathedral was the Uyeki Forum on Unlearning Racism dedicated to facilitating open, honest dialogue about racism and providing support for the work of racial reconciliation. It was named in memory of the Rev. Lloyd Uyeki, a beloved priest of Japanese heritage who was among the thousands interned in "War Relocation Camps" during World War II.

In recent months a working committee has been seeking to revive the Forum, and in August an open meeting of Cathedral members and guests discussed making the Forum relevant to the needs and challenges of 2013. In every subject that came up—among them race, class, economic inequality, immigration—the dominant theme was injustice. This led to the recommendation that the new forum be called the Uyeki Justice Forum. As part of a faith-based institution, the Forum will aim to discover and bring attention to issues affecting people today, and how to lend support to existing social justice groups and organizations.

Its initial activity will be to sponsor a discussion of the book *Racial Healing: Confronting the Fear Between Blacks and Whites* by the Rev. Harlon Dalton, the Cathedral's Priest-in-Charge. The first meeting on the book, to discuss Chapters 1 and 2, will be Sunday, September 8, in the Cathedral House Reception Room after the 10 a.m. service. The book will be available in the Cathedral Gift Shop. All interested persons are invited to come. For further information, contact Dolores Howard at howarddynasty@scbglobal.net or 860-243-0812, or Pat Wrice at pat@operationfuel.org

"The Jack is Back" Cathedral Trip to Providence

A bus trip is being offered to Cathedral members to the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular in Providence, RI, on Saturday, October 26. Included

are a Harvest BBQ buffet dinner, admission to the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular at the Roger Williams Zoo, and all gratuities. Departure will be from the Cathedral at 2:30 p.m. with arrival in Providence at 4:30 for the 5 p.m. buffet. Popular items on the menu include pulled pork, roast turkey, hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken tenders, salads, vegetables, potatoes, breads, dessert and assorted beverages.

After the buffet you will be escorted to the start of the Spectacular, an amazing experience that includes a night-time display of 5,000 illuminated jack-o-lanterns along a beautiful wetland trail. Bring your walking shoes! It takes 45 minutes to one hour. Many of the pumpkins are works of art, presented in themed scenes with music.

Departure from the park will be at 8 p.m. with arrival in Hartford at approximately 9:30 p.m. The cost is \$60.00 per person. Make checks payable to Christ Church Cathedral and note "Roger Williams Zoo" on the memo line. Tickets are limited to 22—first come, first served! Don't be disappointed. Payments are due by October 5. For more information:

Rich Baraglia at 860-584-5608 or e-mail him at snugharbor@snet.net

Calendar for September

- 8 Uyeki Justice Forum 11:30 a.m.
- 17 Soup & Services, 5 p.m.

For an up-to-date list of events and meetings, please go to www.cccathedral.org and click the "Calendar" tab at the top of the page. If you'd like to add an event or meeting, send your request to office@cccathedral.org

Happy September Birthdays

Tamika Barnett
Paul Belval
Stephen Bezrucik
Austin Black
Deahna Fisher
Milton Howard
Jordan McBride
Duncan Morris
Robert Mueller
Evelyn Noonan
Gail Paige
Jeffrey Palmer
Kenton Pusey
Roberta Walmsley
Nicholas Woodward

HOME COMING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2013

Celebrate new beginnings with
the Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Bishop of Connecticut

+

Welcome our new Vicar, the Rev. Miguelina Howell

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Officially welcome the members of the former Parish of St. James'

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Participate in a single bilingual service of the Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.

+

Rejoice through music offered by combined Cathedral
and former St. James' musicians

+

Hear a prelude, anthem and postlude by J. S. Bach celebrating the
beginning of BACHtoberfest marking the 70th Season
of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra

+

Enjoy a special Fellowship Hour in the Cathedral House
following the service