



# Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

*The Grapevine*

JANUARY 2014

## From The Rev. Harlon Dalton, Priest-in-Charge

As I enter my first full year as a settled (as distinct from an interim) Priest-in-Charge, I want to say a bit about what I understand to be my responsibilities going forward. For openers, much remains to be done to address the dysfunctions that led to my appointment in the first place. This includes identifying the systems issues and dynamics, many of them long-standing, that led to the troubles of the past and that will continue to haunt us until we develop healthier ways of engaging one another and living in Christian community. In addition, there are old wounds to heal and ruptures to mend.

This work of ongoing internal reconciliation and restoration is made all the more complex by the incorporation of the congregation of St. James' into the Cathedral. The members of La Catedral bring with them a whole different set of dynamics, and have suffered a completely different set of ruptures. Moreover, although for a time St. James' and the Cathedral shared space and sometimes clergy, the parishes' lived experience was far from identical.

Now that my position has been settled, a Vicar has been called, and St. James' has become La Catedral, it is time to revisit these issues and concerns. Later this month, Lina and I will meet with the Reverend Bill Kondrath whom the Cathedral Chapter has engaged to work with us as a consultant. By mid-February, we will invite parish leaders to join us in planning how best to proceed.

While this backward look is exceedingly important, much of my work as Priest-in-Charge will focus on the future. I see my principal task as inviting parishioners and the larger Diocese into a conversation about what it means to be a Cathedral in this particular time and place, and about the relationship between the Cathedral and its parish. And as we come to understand what God has in store for us, we will begin to live into it. My hope and expectation is that two years from now we will not only be able to articulate who we are as a Cathedral and as a parish, we also will be able to point to initiatives and accomplishments that embody the identities we embraced.

I want to take a moment to reflect on our dual identity. Even though they are deeply intertwined, it is important to distinguish between Christ Church as a parish and Christ Church as a Cathedral. Viewed from the perspective of everyday life, the parish is host to the Cathedral. However, in organizational terms the parish

is an offshoot of the Cathedral. Both are true, up to a point. Going forward, we will need to rethink the proper relationship between Cathedral and parish, and to be more intentional about the ways in which they support one another. At the end of the day, it is my fondest hope that we will establish a new polity in which the parish has much more autonomy with respect to its internal affairs than is presently the case.

The presence of a Vicar will help us clarify and live into our dual identity. Much like a Rector, the Vicar oversees the parish, whereas the Priest-in-Charge (and eventually the Dean) oversees the Cathedral. This is precisely how Lina and I will function. To be sure, as Priest-in-Charge I will oversee parish administration, and will be actively engaged with the Vicar in worship planning. Otherwise, when it comes to parish affairs I will play a secondary, supportive role, and will take my cues from Lina. As noted above, my principal focus will be on Christ Church as a Cathedral.

I truly believe that together we will discern what it means to be a Cathedral at a time when Christianity, the Episcopal Church and our Diocese are in flux. At a time when society is rapidly changing and the role of religion is up for grabs. At a time when the Cathedral parish increasingly reflects the demographics of the city in which it is located. At a time when urban religious institutions are increasingly called upon to attend to the needs that surround them on every side.

Although the particulars of what God is calling us to be and do are yet to be discerned, I would be less than honest if I did not admit that I believe the broad outlines are already visible. As a Cathedral we are called to be good neighbors to Hartford's many communities, and engaged partners with all who seek the welfare of the city. In addition, our future (like our past) includes engagement with the visual, aural, and performing arts, which in every time and place have served to bind people together and elevate them above their present circumstances. Finally, as a Cathedral we have particular obligations to our Diocese to knit it together, to facilitate collaborations (especially with respect to mission), to serve as an incubator for new initiatives, and to encourage and support joint worship.

I am so excited to be on this adventure with you! I haven't a clue where it will all lead, but that doesn't matter, so long as we are faithful and are guided by the Holy Spirit. Blessings abound.

Harlon+

## From the Vicar's Desk

The festivities of the Christmas season and the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany (Three Kings Day) have come to an end. Gifts have been unwrapped, appreciated or even exchanged for something else, cards have been discarded or treasured as valuable memories. Now we face the joy, sense of hope and excitement that come with the realization that a new secular year has begun.

We now start to be intentional in reminding ourselves that the last number we write in the date slot of our checks and documents has shifted from "3" to "4." In this New Year 2014 may God bring blessings, new life, excitement and joy to each of us and our Cathedral Parish.

In my 11 years as an ordained minister in the Episcopal Church, I have been blessed to experience several congregational awakenings, new life and spectacular commitment from lay leaders to the mission of God in their contexts and ministries. It is with great joy and a sense of awe and gratitude that I observe new life, spiritual and liturgical revival and, most of all, the movement of the Spirit among us. Thanks be to God!

2014 is a unique program year for our community since the start of our ministry cycle on our Cathedral Parish Planning Day back in November 2013. Ministry Teams now in place are not only continuing to discern their particular call and mission goals for 2014, but also have started the movement of activities and engagement with their constituencies. The rhythm of our Cathedral Parish life is picking up, many activities for this year are already designed and scheduled, with many more on the back burner, waiting for our unmercifully busy schedules to give them the attention they deserve. It is an exciting time, it is a time of "busy-ness," a time of "doing," a time of "developing."

Keeping the "busy-ness," the "doing" and "developing" in mind, the Spirit of the Lord continues to remind me, as I now would like to remind all of us, that in the midst of our personal and congregational busy schedules, we must continue to focus in the ONE who has called us and sustains us. In this new year, my pastoral invitation to all of us is to center our "doing" in being grounded in the spiritual life and identity of a Christian community, and in the mission of God and his ministry of reconciliation among us and through us.

As we embrace and engage in the work that is ahead, may the Lord continue to guide and keep us focused in his love and discernment. With God's help we begin to write a new chapter in the history and life of our Cathedral Parish. May God be the One inspiring our narrative and supporting our ministries!

In Christ's love,  
Lina+

## Hymn Festival Evensong

If you love singing hymns, or just listening to them, mark your calendars now for a special event: a Hymn Festival Evensong on Sunday, February 9. Josh Slater, director of music, has come up with an unusual program that begins at 3 p.m. with a master class to help organists in accompanying hymn singing. At 4 p.m. the Evensong service begins. It will be totally based on hymns, including several you'll never hear on a Sunday morning because they clearly relate to evening and the end of the working day.

The master class will be led by Dr. Stuart Forster, director of music

and choir director at Christ Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who has written a book titled *Hymn Singing: A Colloquium* that sets a new standard for organists in engaging congregational song. Directors of music and choirs from area Episcopal churches, including Trinity, Hartford, and St. John's and St. James's in West Hartford, are expected to take part.

Both the master class and Evensong are free and open to all. For further information, contact Josh at [joshua.slater@cccathedral.org](mailto:joshua.slater@cccathedral.org)

## An Invitation to Sunday Morning Bible Study

*Dia de los Reyes: The Day of the Kings* starts the new year for Christ Church Cathedral and all who gather here to worship and serve. As we begin this liturgical year during Epiphany, we extend an invitation to read, think, question, discuss and apply personal meaning to the manifestation of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Faith Formation is open to all through Bible Study sessions held at 9 a.m. between Sunday services. It's one way of making good on what we pray when we remember that Holy Scriptures are God's gift and ask for grace "to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" them, especially as Jesus's divinity shines forth to the world. In January we will meet in the Cathedral House every Sunday except on the 19th and the 26th. Come join us!

Peace,

Tom Beveridge and Tom Smith

## Thanks for Donations of Coats

Church Street Eats thanks the following for donating coats for needy persons: French Cleaners, West Hartford; Becker's Jewelers, West Hartford; UConn Hartford Campus; Connecticut State Departments of Social Services and Revenue Services; Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford; St. James's Episcopal Church, Glastonbury; WRCH FM Radio 100.5.

Extra coats for women and children are given to the Church of the Good Shepherd in Hartford to pass on to families that participate in Foodshare.

## Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 19, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who dedicated his life and work to equality and justice for all persons, a special lunch will be held at 11:30 a.m. to be shared by parishioners and guests of Church Street Eats. It will follow the 10 a.m. service at which the Rt. Rev. James Curry, Bishop Suffragan, will be the preacher.

## January Calendar

- 5 Feast of the Epiphany/Three Kings Day, single combined service, 10:30 a.m.
- 7 Finance Committee meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- 18 Outreach Team meeting, 10 a.m.
- 18 Communications/Evangelism Team meeting, 1 p.m.
- 19 Special Lunch, Martin Luther King Day, 11:30 a.m. (see separate item)
- 21 Soup & Services, 5 p.m.
- 26 Annual Parish Meeting, 11:30 a.m. (see separate item)

## Happy January Birthdays

David Ayiku  
 Constance Bain  
 Rich Baraglia  
 Anne Bartholomew  
 Angela Benjamin  
 Wayne Benjamin  
 Howard Bergman  
 Kathleen Coley  
 Robert Coykendall  
 Winnie Dawson-Pusey  
 Barbara Drayton  
 Timothy Greaves  
 Donna Hales  
 Kenneth Hungerford  
 Molly Field James  
 Daniel Kingman  
 James LeChausse  
 Michael O'Brien  
 Isaac Scott  
 John Scott  
 Joshua Slater  
 Stephanie Taylor  
 Isaac Teles  
 Maximino Vargas  
 Patricia Walker  
 Gregory Woodward

## Annual Parish Meeting on January 26

The Annual Parish Meeting of Christ Church Cathedral/La Catedral de Iglesia de Cristo will be on Sunday, January 26, immediately following the 10 a.m. service and will convene in the Cathedral House Auditorium. The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas, Diocesan Bishop, will preside. 2013 was a transitional year, and was significant for the appointments of both a Priest-in-Charge and a Vicar, and the official inclusion of the parish of the former St. James' Episcopal Church. All parishioners are urged to attend the meeting at which plans for the coming year and beyond will be discussed. A lunch will be provided by the Hospitality Team after the meeting.

Information will be given on stewardship, the budget for 2014 and other financial matters as well as on what has taken place in the life of the Cathedral during the past year. At the parish planning day held in November, teams were formed to work in specific ministries: Worship; Stewardship; Pastoral Care; Hospitality; Christian Formation; Outreach; Communications/Evangelism. They joined the already established Altar Guild team and various outreach ministries such as Church Street Eats, Partnership with Hands on Hartford and others. Reports will be provided on what each team has achieved so far and what needs to be done in 2014. For the teams, recruitment of additional

members willing to work will be a key activity.

Elections will be held to fill the following offices:

- Clerk of the Cathedral – 1-year term
- Parish Committee Members – 3 to fulfill 1-year unexpired terms; 1 to fulfill a 2-year unexpired term; 2 to fill 3-year terms.

Parish Committee members continuing in their positions are Pat Wrice and Kimberly Newport.

The Parish Committee represents the interests of the congregation, advises the clergy and provides leadership to the congregation. Each Parish Committee member is also a member of the Cathedral Chapter. The Chapter is the legally constituted Board of Trustees of the Cathedral. It comprises persons from outside the Cathedral as well as the Parish Committee members. All major decisions affecting the life of the Cathedral require approval by the Chapter.

Mark your calendars now – be at the Annual Meeting on the 26th!

## The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
 When the star in the sky is gone,  
 When the kings and princes are home,  
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
 The work of Christmas begins:  
     To find the lost,  
     To heal the broken,  
     To feed the hungry,  
     To release the prisoner,  
     To rebuild the nations,  
 To make peace among the brothers,  
 To make music in the heart  
 - by Howard Thurman



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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 [www.cccathedral.org/documents/January2014Grapevine.pdf](http://www.cccathedral.org/documents/January2014Grapevine.pdf)

**Deadline for February issue:**  
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