



Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

The Grapevine

JUNE 2014

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

Church Street Eats: From strength to strength

Shared ministry, passionate service, generous hearts, understanding and commitment to God and God's mission for God's church are only a few terms I will use to describe the current leadership of Church Street Eats.

Christ Church Cathedral's feeding program has been for the past 10 years a beacon of hope in the community of Hartford and its surrounding areas. This is a year of celebration and at the same time, a year of development. As the Steering Committee of Church Street Eats prepares itself to celebrate on June 22 the 10th Anniversary of this wonderful ministry, the CSE Task Force is working with the Committee to strengthen the operations and administrative platform of this treasured and much needed ministry.

In November 2013, a CSE Task Force was created to facilitate the development of administrative and accountability tools and practices that seek to enhance and simplify the operations of CSE, a ministry that is always "on the move" and engaged with hundreds of brothers and sisters in need as well as a host of volunteers from Episcopal churches throughout the Diocese and other community organizations.

The members of the Task Force are Maggie Osborn, Tim Cole, Rose Fichera-Eagan and Deacon Donald Richey, with direct support and collaboration from Harlon and me as clergy staff. This group has met several times in the course of the past seven months. We have created a working document with proposals, areas of development and next steps, including an intentional discernment and collaboration with the Steering Committee.

On May 3, members of the Steering Committee and the Task Force gathered at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield for a Spirit-filled planning retreat. We had

opportunities to share our stories of engagement with CSE and the Cathedral community. New members had an opportunity to learn the logistics and complexity of this ministry as well as the joys and challenges.

Maggie Osborn facilitated the retreat. She challenged us with powerful questions to guide our discernment as we continue to develop this fruitful ministry: **What is the role of the Cathedral in the 21st century in relation to its outreach ministries and what can each of us bring to bear on building community and serving God's mission through God's Church? How can we be accountable to one another and sustain the important work of Church Street Eats?**



Our working document describes Church Street Eats as "a cooperative ministry providing meals and clothing to people in need. The number of people who depend on Church Street Eats

continues to increase. Likewise, the opportunities to be a part of this caring community also continue to grow."

These words take particular relevance at this time as we experience our 2014 Time and Talent Campaign. Indeed, the opportunities to be part of this caring community also continue to grow as we open our doors, hearts and mind to share the amazing blessings that serving at Church Street Eats can provide, not only to our newcomers but also to members of our Parish who are discerning and looking into how to put their faith in action.

As we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Church Street Eats, I also invite you to celebrate the ministry of so many men and women who serve God through CSE with dedication and singleness of heart. I particularly

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From the Vicar's Desk

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lift up the ministry of our tireless and passionate Deacon, the Rev. Donald Richey, whose commitment and dedication goes beyond the call of duty. It is almost impossible to write or think of Church Street Eats without acknowledging the service and contributions of Rose Fichera-Eagan, lovingly known as "Mother Rose", whose footprints are not only in the day- to- day operations of this ministry but in the hearts of those who



From left to right: Monica Best, the Rev. Miguelina Howell, Maggie Osborn and Heather Jordan Greaves, attending Eucharist at Church By the Pond after the conclusion of the CES Planning Retreat on May 3.

serve and are served by it. I must also give thanks to God for the leadership and ministry of Tim Cole, whose visionary spirit and knowledge of the City of Hartford move us to think beyond our current state and explore ways in which Church Street Eats can connect with the larger picture.

Many men and women serve faithfully and quietly behind the scenes, such as our cooks and volunteer coordinators Michael O'Brien and Louis Ruddock (who were featured in

the *May Grapevine*), our sister Amy Beveridge who dedicates several Sundays a month to working downstairs with Rose distributing clothes at our "Mother's Rose Boutique" or Monica, Heather, Sheila and Betty who faithfully prepare sandwiches Sunday after Sunday, or Christopher Rivers who drives a significant distance to come and serve with a smile that shows God's face to anyone who receives it. This is just a short list, my sisters and brothers, of the amazing mosaic of love and service that represents the ministry of our volunteers and faithful members of our Cathedral Congregation.

An important part of our Stewardship of Time and Talent, as Christians, is to always be open to the Holy Spirit to listen to God's voice and God's will in our ministries. The leadership of Church Street Eats has listened to that voice and has not only affirmed its commitment after 10 years of remarkable service but is also open to discern and implement ways in which its current ministry can better serve the community. That, my beloved Cathedral Parish, is a sign of God's grace in our midst. All are welcome to serve!

In Christ's Love,

Lina+

The Rev. Miguelina Howell, Vicar

Happy June Birthdays

Michael Adams
 Jilda Aliotta
 June Aziz
 Yolanda Benjamin
 Amy Beveridge
 James Bradley
 Lynn Calloway
 Antonio Diaz
 Margaret DelVecchio
 Maria Franceschi
 John Henderson
 Moses Kelly
 Julia Morris
 Christopher McBride
 Kareena McCalla
 Kayanna McCalla
 Ethan Miller
 Juan Rios
 Christopher Rivers
 Michael Sacharko
 Lily Scarola
 Hanna Scott
 Linda Spiers
 Kadeam Ward
 Jacquelyn Wells
 Diane Woodward

June Calendar

- 1 Women's Global Mission
11:30 a.m., Auditorium
(see separate item)
- 5 Spanish Home Bible Study
6 p.m.
- 8 Pentecost/International Day
10:30 a.m., *(see separate item)*
- 12 Spanish Home Bible Study
6 p.m.
- 14 Uyeki Forum for Social Justice
1 p.m., *(see separate item)*
- 17 Soup & Services, 5 p.m.
- 19 Spanish Home Bible Study
6 p.m.
- 22 10th Anniversary Celebration of
Church Street Eats
(see Vicar's message)
- 26 Spanish Home Bible Study
6 p.m.

Combined Service and Celebration On Pentecost and International Day

On June 8, both the Day of Pentecost and International Day will be celebrated with a combined single bilingual service at 10:30 a.m. The theme for the celebration will be "Children from around the world we come. God's love is universal." The focus and prayers will be for the children and youth of the worldwide Anglican Communion, and in particular, for the 276 school girls held hostage in Nigeria.

At Christ Church Cathedral, the day reminds our diverse community of the blessings we enjoy—freedom to pray, study, worship, eat, play and be a part of the wider community of faith in whatever cultural heritage we choose.

Following the service, the Fellowship Hour will offer a feast of different kinds of food brought by members to represent their own culture or country of origin.

To add to the festivity, all those attending are encouraged to wear something red to symbolize Pentecost Day. It can be as simple as a tie or scarf—no need to purchase something new!

Plan now to be part of a very special celebration! For further information, contact Heather Jordan-Greaves, Hospitality Team Coordinator, hylady@juno.com



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

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Deadline for July/August issue: July 1

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Women's Global Mission Puts Focus on Human Trafficking

The Cathedral Group of the Women's Global Mission is giving special attention to the issue of human trafficking, including the outrage of the kidnapping of nearly 300 Nigerian schoolgirls.

On June 1, in the Cathedral House Auditorium following the 10 a.m. service, the group will hold a time of prayer and conversation to reflect on the girls and others like them. Human trafficking that is happening in our city and state will also be discussed and information given on concrete action steps that can be taken. All are invited to attend.

New Piano in the Cathedral — Help Needed

When the Diocesan Offices moved recently from Hartford to Meriden, a lovely Steinway K upright piano found a new home in the Cathedral nave below the pulpit. Though it was manufactured in 1916, no one knows how or when it was given to the Diocese. It is in good shape but needs some work, particularly on the mahogany finish. With restoration, the instrument could serve the Cathedral for many years. Donations for doing the work are most welcome. If anyone wishes to help, checks may be made out to Christ Church Cathedral with "Piano Restoration" noted on the memo line.

Uyeki Forum on Social Justice to Meet on June 14

On Saturday, June 14, the Uyeki Forum on Social Justice will hold a working session to explore future goals and actions for the group. Persons interested in attending should contact Tim Cole tim@westwindconsulting.net or Pat Wrice patriciawrice@gmail.com for further information.

A New Icon of the Virgin Mary Graces the Chapel Entrance

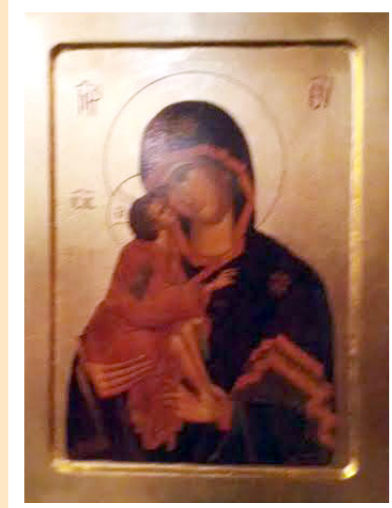
“When I lit votive candles at the Cathedral, I was often thinking of the Blessed Mother but was looking at a blank wall—the experience was a bit too abstract for me!” Christopher Rivers, a Cathedral member, was commenting on the votive candle stand at the entrance to the Chapel of the Nativity. He also noted that the painting in the chapel showing Mary and the birth of Jesus is not prominently visible. He knew what was needed—an icon of Mary—and proposed the idea to Cathedral leadership. The result is that a once-blank wall glows with a beautiful reproduction of a famous Russian icon found in Paris by Chris and donated to the Cathedral.

The search began with help from Josh Slater, Musical Director, who on a retreat to the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE), an Episcopal monastery in Cambridge, had seen an icon he felt was what Chris had in mind. Chris began shopping for that image, looking at some websites, but waited until he was in Paris this spring on a long-planned trip. He knew of excellent religious art stores, and one day walked into a particular store. “I’ve been in it hundreds of times over the years and suddenly saw an icon hanging on a wall in the back. It just jumped out at me. Because of the quality and quantity of gold leaf on it, it was literally shining. I just knew it was the one—and held my breath when I asked how much it cost.” It is now on view for everyone to appreciate.

The inspiration for the Cathedral’s icon goes back to a 14th century icon known as Our Lady of the Don which was probably inspired by an even more famous 12th century icon, Our Lady of Vladimir. Both are known as “tenderness” icons characterized by the position of the Christ Child nestled up against his mother’s cheek. Our icon has been named “Our Lady of Tenderness.” It was made in Greece and has a certificate of authenticating its origin. (See box for more on the art of icons.)

Chris, a native of Charleston, South Carolina, and a “cradle Episcopalian,” lives in Granby, Massachusetts and is a Professor of French and former Dean of International Affairs at Mount Holyoke College. He holds a bachelor’s degree from The American University of Paris, a master’s from Middlebury College, and two other master’s degrees and a PhD from Yale University. All degrees are in French literature.

He paints abstracts and collages, loves to read, travel, and eat. He has been boxing for about 15 years and works out with a trainer once a week. He is just finishing up a research project on the celebrated



High-quality reproduction icons like the Cathedral’s are intended for devotional use in both private homes and churches. The word comes from the Greek “eikon” meaning image or likeness. It refers to the fact that God became visible in Christ and could be depicted. Icon painters dedicated their talent to serve God and did not sign their work. Gold leaf was used to emphasize the significance of the subject as well as reflect the light from candles which symbolizes the light of Christ.

Henri Nouwen, well known for his spiritual writings, has said that icons are created “for the sole purpose of offering access, through the gate of the visible to the mystery of the Invisible. Icons are painted to lead us into the inner room of prayer and bring us close to the heart of God.... There are many times when I cannot pray, when I am too tired to read the gospels, too restless to have spiritual thoughts, too depressed to have words for God, or too exhausted to do anything. But I can still look at these images so intimately connected with the experience of love.”

French boxer Georges Carpentier who fought pre- and post-World War I, and beginning a new project on apparitions of the Virgin Mary in 19th century France. He is a member of the Fellowship of St. John at SSJE and regularly spends time there. He himself owns a couple of icons.

A few years ago Chris was looking for a church in an urban setting not too far from where he lives and found what he wanted in Hartford. He and his partner, Christopher Miller, Professor of French and African-American Studies at Yale, have been together 28 years and became legally married 10 years ago in Massachusetts.