



Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

The Grapevine

MAY 2014

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Easter greetings in the Name of the Risen Lord!

As part of our Easter season journey our Stewardship Ministry Team in partnership with the Cathedral's Ministry Coordinators will be hosting our 2014 Spring Time and Talent campaign. The campaign will be launched on Sunday, May 4, concluding on June 8, Pentecost Sunday. The objective is to encourage all members of the body of Christ at the Cathedral to embrace their calling and carry out God's mission in our midst. It is an opportunity to listen to God's voice, hear one another's testimonies and discern a specific call to serve

We strongly believe in the ministry of all baptized members, all who have said "yes" to God and to God's church at the moment of their baptism or confirmation or at a crucial time in their life's journey. This stewardship campaign of Time and Talent gives all of us an opportunity to recommit ourselves to service, dedication and ministry in a concrete way. It also provides a way for our returning members or newcomers to identify and discern their gifts, and at the same time to assess their availability for service in the various ministry opportunities that the Cathedral Parish Community is undertaking.

The campaign will include testimonies, electronic messages, sermons, Time and Talent surveys and much more.

Time is a precious gift, a gift we receive each day from the Lord. It is a blessing to be able to dedicate time to God's work in return for thanksgiving for all our blessings.

As you think about offering your time and talent, remember each of us has something to give that no one else can. Each gift is different, unique and much needed to continue expanding God's Kingdom in our midst. Each ministry is important, special, valuable. It is not about duty—it is about a thankful, joyful response to God's love and grace to us, his children.

For more information about the 2014 Spring Time and Talent Campaign, contact Anne Bartholomew, Stewardship Ministry Team Coordinator, or members of the team: Marcia Barnett, John Robinson and Michael Wells.

Have a blessed and joyful Easter Season.

Lina+

The Rev. Miguelina Howell, Vicar

Seventh Annual Presentation on May 30 of The Canon Clinton R. Jones Award

On Sunday, November 13, 2005, the *Hartford Courant* carried a major article under the headline "A Quiet Pioneer in Gender Counseling." A second headline read "Low-Key Cleric Works at Vanguard of Social Change." The pioneer cleric was the Rev. Canon Clinton R. Jones who had served on the staff of Christ Church Cathedral for 40 years. The article noted the establishment of an award in his name that in future years would recognize other persons whose life and work exemplify the values, accomplishments and passions of Canon Jones.

Six months later Canon Jones died at the age of 89, but his legacy of outreach to people on the margins of society remains strong. He had become a legend not only in the Greater Hartford area but also across the nation through his books, articles, papers and lectures at dozens of schools, colleges, churches and social institutions. Though a significant part of his work was in research and counseling on sexual orientation, he was always available to anyone in need. At the time of his death, the *Courant* quoted a friend as saying, "He had just an amazing gift to bring the compassionate face of God into the lives of people who were having travail in their lives."

Past recipients of the award have included Rose Fichera-Eagen, Cathedral member, as well as persons involved in prison ministry,

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Canon Jones Award*(continued from page 1)*

helping handicapped children in Haiti, and providing support services to those experiencing mental illness, homelessness and poverty.

This year's award will be presented on May 30 during a Festival Evensong service at 6 p.m. that will include music from the rich Anglican tradition. The service is open to all.

Following the service will be a reception and dinner in the Cathedral House at \$40.00 per person. Checks payable to Christ Church Cathedral should have "Canon Jones Award Dinner" on the memo line. Mail to the Cathedral at 45 Church St., Hartford CT 06103, Att: Canon Jones Award Team by May 23. Validated parking will be available at the MAT Garage across from the Cathedral House. For further information, contact one of the Awards Team members: Miguelina Howell, Rich Baraglia, June Aziz or Rose Fichera-Eagen.

**"What is a Cathedral?"
Parish Forum Set for May 18**

Over the past year, motivated by the various changes affecting Christ Church Cathedral's leadership and structure, opinions have been expressed, formally and informally, about the role of a cathedral in today's religious and secular cultures. In a letter sent to all members of the Cathedral parish, the Rev. Harlon Dalton, Priest-in-Charge, has outlined the beginning of a Diocesan-wide conversation on that very topic. The conversation will begin in earnest on May 18 following the 10 a.m. service.

There are three sets of questions to be reflected upon. In summary, they are: 1) what is it about the Cathedral that makes you want to be part of it? 2) Does it matter that today it is a Cathedral? and 3) looking toward the future, should there be a cathedral in the Diocese? If so, should it continue to be associated with Christ Church on the corner of Church and Main?

Harlon notes such questions may create anxiety within the congregation but also stresses the importance of putting all options on the table, and that we begin the conversation by offering answers that make sense to us.

Bishop Ian Douglas will be convening a Cathedral Future Task Force to work with Harlon to organize and facilitate a series of Diocesan-wide conversations. This effort will continue for 12-18 months after which the Task Force will present its findings. Throughout, the Christ Church parish will be kept abreast of what the Task Force is hearing and learning.

In the meantime, Christ Church Cathedral will carry on as a parish and as the Cathedral, taking on new initiatives as appropriate especially in the world that lies beyond our red doors.

Mark your calendar to be at the forum on May 18. Every voice is needed.

Uyeki Justice Forum Sets a Planning Session

The Uyeki Justice Forum will meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, in the Cathedral House for a planning session dealing with next steps and dates for future meetings. A video featuring Martin Luther King's last campaign will be shown. The Forum focuses on exploring and providing insight into social justice issues, with a key aim of broadening individual understanding. All interested persons are invited to attend. For further information, contact Pat Wrice at patriciawrice@gmail.com

Happy May Birthdays

Anne Barnard
Virgen Bonilla
Richard Buika
Timothy Cole
Susan Dalrymple
Mykal Gardner
Marva Gilkes
Dawn Hutchins-Ingram
Hugh Jackson
Reade James
Richard Mansfield
Emmanuel Mokol
Madison Osborn
Alzi Platts
Margaret Romanik
Rayfield Scott
Melissa Watson
Carly Woodward

May Calendar

- 1 Spanish Home Bible Study, 6 p.m.
- 8 Spanish Home Bible Study, 6 p.m.
- 8 Women's Global Mission, 10 a.m.
- 10 Newcomers Dinner, Reception Room, Cathedral House, 6 p.m.
- 15 Spanish Home Bible Study, 6 p.m.
- 17 Uyeki Justice Forum, 10 a.m., Cathedral House
(see separate item)
- 18 Parish Forum, Cathedral House Auditorium, 11:30 a.m.
(see separate item)
- 20 Soup & Services, 5 p.m.
- 22 Spanish Home Bible Study, 6 p.m.
- 29 Spanish Home Bible Study, 6 p.m.
- 30 Festival Evensong, 6 p.m.
- 30 Canon Clinton R. Jones Award Reception/Dinner, 7 p.m.
(see separate item)

From the Register**Confirmation - April 19**

Luke Harris Douglas
Isaac Assis Teles-Rosario
Tianna Ivette Teles-Rosario
Joshua Irving Anand Slater

Baptism - April 20

Stephany De Leon
Alyssa Lynn Rose Laurary,
daughter of Nicole Felician
and Kamel Laurary
Carmen Santana-Gomez

UNSUNG VOLUNTEERS: SEEING A NEED AND FILLING IT

Michael O'Brien and Louis Ruddock

Ten years ago, led by a determined member, Rose Fichera-Eagen, the Cathedral started offering a simple sandwich lunch on Sundays to the homeless. Soup kitchens held at many churches, including the Cathedral, typically offer food only on weekdays. But hunger doesn't go away on a weekend. Two men, Michael O'Brien and Louis Ruddock, understood why the program—called Church Street Eats—was and continues to be needed. They are two of the volunteer unsung heroes who make it work. *The Grapevine* talked with both of them after they had finished their work on a recent Sunday.

Lunch is served at noon in the lower level of the Cathedral House, but the work starts well before then. "I come a little later than Michael—about 10:30. He's here around 8," says Louis. "I also spend time on Saturday picking up food," adds Michael. "We get a lot of donations but there is still quite a bit we have to buy."

The menu has grown over the years. "Our guests are getting more now than when we began," notes Louis. "In the beginning we never knew what we'd have from Sunday to Sunday—we just did what we could." "Pretty much all we made were bologna sandwiches," Michael remembers. "Now we have ham and turkey sandwiches, hot soup, other hot items like macaroni and cheese, nachos, desserts, beverages. Today we had stuffed bread and meatballs along with the sandwiches."

Other volunteers make the sandwiches [see box] but Michael is usually the one cooking the hot foods. He also used to make and bring in brownies each week. "I don't need to now. Others bring in desserts. And we don't have to worry about having enough."

"We've come a long way," says Louis. "We used to keep the ends of the bread loaves and make bread pudding. We've been really blessed."

Among outside groups that donate food are the Three Angels volunteers from the Seventh Day Adventist Church who once a month make tuna fish sandwiches. Unitarian Church volunteers bring in pots of chicken soup enough for two to three Sundays. As needed, vegetables or other items will be added to the soup.

At least 100 guests can be expected to be served every week, and often the number goes to 200. "The first Sunday is the smallest because that's when those who receive aid get their checks," notes Michael. "Then every Sunday after that the number grows. If there is a fifth Sunday we really have to plan for many. And of course our outdoor picnics are very popular."

Michael has worked 43 years as a mechanical engineer at Stanadyne. He and his wife, Luisa, live in Glastonbury and have a family of a daughter and three sons. Louis works with the State Department of Social Services assisting disabled persons and others get the help they need to take care of themselves. He and his wife, Sonia,

live in East Hartford, and have two daughters.

Both men have been with the program from the beginning. "It was doing something that was needed and practical and that appealed to me," says Michael, "and I didn't have to go to meetings!" For Louis, "It was an opportunity to help people and I like working with food." For him a hobby is baking cakes and cookies, often taking them to his colleagues at work.

"It still feels the right thing for me to do," adds Michael. "Not only do I enjoy our guests, I also enjoy working with all the volunteers. We have a great team and every week we have groups who come, like the kids today from the South Kent School."

At 2:30 p.m., a visitor to the dining room would see no hint of what went on earlier. The kitchen, floor and tables have been cleaned, chairs are up on the tables and leftover food is packaged to go to a homeless shelter. Church Street Eats has done it again.

Mark Your Calendars! Join the Tenth Anniversary Celebration for Church Street Eats on June 22.

THE SANDWICH MAKERS

Every Sunday, between the 8 and 10 a.m. services, a team of sandwich makers is quietly and efficiently at work in the Cathedral House kitchen. They are making 200 sandwiches—ham and turkey—for the Church Street Eats guests who will be there at noon. The regular volunteers are **Monica Best, Sylvia Brown, Maureen Davidson, Heather Jordan-Greaves, Betty Jenkins** and **Richard Wilson**. They are a key part of the many volunteers who keep the CSE program going week after week.

FROM THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

*My brothers and sisters in Christ—
Happy Easter! The Lord is risen!*

I'd like to briefly report to you on a couple of decisions reached by the Cathedral Chapter at its April 2014 meeting. The first has to do with the repayment of a decade-old loan. As many of you know, in 2002 the Cathedral agreed to loan Hands on Hartford (known at the time as Center City Churches) \$300,000 to facilitate the purchase of Peter's Retreat, a home for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The agreement specified that the loan would be interest-free, and that it would be repaid at such time as Hands on Hartford sold the property or ceased to engage in an HIV/AIDS housing ministry.

Last year Hands on Hartford entered into negotiations to sell the Peter's Retreat building to Hartford Hospital. As the deal neared a conclusion, the agency approached the Cathedral with an offer to repay \$100,000 of the loan and to retain the remaining \$200,000 for seed money to use in purchasing a new property. The Chapter considered the request, and decided to insist upon repayment of the full \$300,000 as a condition of releasing the lien that secured the loan. Several months passed during which Hands on Hartford reworked its deal with the hospital and also purchased a sizable facility where most of its operations will be consolidated. This Spring, the agency approached the Cathedral and indicated it was ready to repay the loan in full. Therefore, at the April meeting the Chapter passed a resolution agreeing to release the lien in exchange for the repayment. The paperwork was completed the following week, and a check for \$300,000 was transferred to the Cathedral.

The Deanery

The second decision reached by the Chapter has to do with the disposition of the Deanery (the house where the Cathedral deans have lived since the 1960's). Last Fall the Chapter suggested that the parish take time to reflect on the significant place the Deanery has had in its common life, and to consider what the future might have in store. At a well-attended forum in mid-March, the presence of the Holy Spirit was palpable. Lots of wonderful memories of the house were shared. In addition, the importance of engaging in fellowship that is separate and apart from regular worship was stressed time and again. At the same time, nearly every speaker spoke about the importance of being practical, of financial realities and of changed expectations and desires regarding clergy housing. At the April Chapter meeting, the members who were present at the parish forum provided a richly textured account of what had transpired. Eventually, a motion was made to sell the Deanery. It passed handily.

Clergy Leadership

The other major item on the Chapter's agenda was a report by Bishop Ian Douglas on next steps concerning

the Cathedral's clergy leadership. After reviewing the remarkable progress that the Cathedral has made since December 2012 in beginning to heal from the divisions and ruptures of the past, rebuilding the music program, and calling a gifted and energetic new vicar, he stressed it is now time for me as Priest-in-Charge to focus on the other two big pieces of my portfolio—facilitating more robust connections between the Cathedral and the institutions and communities of Hartford; and facilitating more robust connections between the Cathedral and the broader Diocese. To that end, Ian reported that he had proposed, and that Lina and I had embraced, a recalibration of our roles. Beginning June 1, all of the day-to-day responsibilities for running the Cathedral, including oversight of worship, administration and finance, will be shouldered by Lina. This will free me up to attend to bigger picture questions and to building external relationships, while remaining engaged in the life of the parish. This recalibration of clergy responsibilities will occasion changes in staff lines of reporting and, to some extent, in staff portfolios, the particulars of which are being worked out.

Conference in Florida

By the time you read this, I will be in sunny Florida. Every year Cathedral Deans from across North America gather to share experiences and address issues of mutual concern. This year the Deans Conference will be hosted by Trinity Cathedral in Miami May 1 - 4. I am looking forward to the opportunity to explore with my counterparts what it means to be a cathedral in these challenging times. This, of course, is the very same question we will be exploring across our diocese over the next 12 to 18 months. This pan-diocesan conversation will begin "at home" at a parish-wide forum on May 18 following the 10 a.m service. I look forward to seeing you there.

Blessings.

Harlon+

The Rev. Harlon Dalton, Priest-in-Charge

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

45 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103
860-527-7231 • www.cccathedral.org

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