



# Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

## *The Grapevine*

NOVEMBER 2014

### From the Priest-in-Charge

Dear friends: Last month I used this space to bring you up- to- speed on conversations that are happening around the Diocese regarding the roles and responsibilities of cathedrals. Today I would like to catch you up on what has been happening “on the ground” at Christ Church Cathedral, as we live into our best understanding of what it means to be a cathedral, right here and right now. As noted below, the Diocesan-wide conversation and the lived reality of Christ Church Cathedral are interconnected. Each informs the other.

Even a brief summary of the ways in which Christ Church Cathedral has been seeking the welfare of the City of Hartford, engaging the arts in their many manifestations, and serving The Episcopal Church in Connecticut would tax the page limits of a monthly newsletter. I have therefore decided to post my report online. It is entitled “Portrait of an Engaged Cathedral.” Here is the link.

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

In order to whet your appetite, here are the opening three paragraphs.

*“The Episcopal Church in Connecticut is engaged in a Diocesan-wide conversation about the nature of Cathedrals in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. At the center of this exploration is a deceptively simple question: How might a Cathedral help the church address the challenges presented by our changing world in order to more faithfully participate in God’s mission of reconciliation and restoration?”*

*It is critically important that the conversation proceed without any presuppositions. At the same time, “what is” should not be ignored. On the contrary, it is important that the conversation be informed by the ways in which Christ Church Cathedral has been living into its best understanding of the role cathedrals ought to play in the here and now. I have prepared this summary of Christ Church Cathedral’s ongoing efforts to serve the Diocese and engage the wider world on behalf of the whole church and for the sake of the Gospel.*

*Some of these efforts are exploratory. Others are well underway, and some have been in existence for years. I have sorted them into three overlapping categories that correspond to roles cathedrals have traditionally played throughout much of Anglican history – Seeking the Welfare of the City; Engaging the Arts; Engaging the Diocese.”*

Peace, Harlon+

The Rev. Harlon Dalton, Priest-in-charge

### NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 3 Crafters, Cathedral House, 10 a.m.
- 6 Spanish Home Bible Study, 6 p.m.
- 8 Women’s Global Mission Group,  
Cathedral House, 12 noon
- 9 Post-Convention Forum, Cathedral House,  
11:30 a.m.
- 13 Spanish Home Bible Study, 6 p.m.
- 16 Requiem Service for Veterans, with Choir  
and soloists, 4 p.m.
- 18 Soup & Services, 5 p.m.

## From the Vicar, The Rev. Miguelina Howell: Walking the Way

*Walking the Way* is the theme for the Stewardship Narrative Series sponsored by the Episcopal Network for Stewardship for the Fall of 2014. As a worshipping community we are preparing ourselves to embrace another cycle of the Stewardship Campaign.

This year's campaign focuses on exploring principles and practices that help congregations to embrace the Way of Jesus in regard to giving and generosity. As we did last year, we will invite members to share a testimony of their own stewardship journey. Electronic messages will be sent to encourage meditation and prayer. We will conclude with a Commitment Sunday on December 14, a time in which we are invited to submit our pledge cards.

I am particularly moved by the theme of this year's campaign as its focus is an invitation to look into our spirituality of being, not only the spirituality of giving. Early Christians were known as People of the Way. They were recognized for a particular way of being, which stood up as unique and remarkable, and which was defined by love for God and for neighbor, expressed in the breaking of the bread, in readings of Scripture and caring for one another. The spirituality of the Early Christians and their sense of community, solidarity and fellowship serve as inspiration for us Christians today, particularly in this time where the practices and messages we hear and experience in society each day often contradict the core message of the Gospel.

The introduction to TENS Stewardship series says that *"Jesus shows us that the way to life abundant is through the practices of prayer, forgiveness, giving, and unconditional positive regard and respect to all, especially to those who live on the margins of society. Jesus shows us The Way into the heart of God."*

In essence, our lives as believers, as people of the Way, are shaped by our connection with Christ-- his love, mercy and compassion in our lives and our active engagement in spiritual practices that draw us closer to our Creator, God of love and life abundant. The act of prayer, giving, forgiving and showing positive regard and respect for all ought to be nurtured on a daily basis, allowing us, through the Holy Spirit, to open spaces for Jesus to lead us straight to the Heart of God.

That journey to God's heart starts in our hearts. Sometimes the longest journey is from our heads to our hearts. The Holy Spirit guides us to gain insight, clarity and purpose of what it means to be People of the Way. That journey can be experienced through the simplest things in life such as sharing a smile with a friendly stranger, or complicated ones like showing positive regard to those who harm us. At the end of the day, the Protector of our Souls is side by side with us. Being People of the Way also means that the one who is the Truth, the Life and The Way is center stage in our lives and the model to follow.

As reflected in one of the Epistles several weeks ago, the Apostle invited us to grow to the stature of Christ. The stature of self-giving, forgiving, caring and faithfulness that reflects the Way we have chosen to follow. It is paramount to remember always that God chose us first, God who knew us by name even before we were in our mother's womb, called us to follow the Way and live in a reconciled state with God and God's creatures.

It is my hope that this Stewardship Campaign will serve as a reminder that God blesses a cheerful giver and that giving is just one aspect of what it means to be a disciple. It is my hope that as a community we fully embrace the understanding of God's providence, the importance of giving and receiving in gratitude, and our own pilgrimage as we continue this journey of faith on earth, living into God's mission as People of the Way.

Blessings on the path, *Lina*+

### Happy November Birthdays

Marcia Barnett	Carol Bergeron
Natalie Best	Stephen Brathwaite
Scott Calloway	Hayley Carusone
Derek Chmielorz	Lindsay Chmielorz
Clarence Coleridge	James Cooke
Vernelle Davis	Emily Dingee
Jennifer Dingee	Claire Fonseca
Kariann Greaves	Inez Hales
Courtney Hanson	Ann Henderson
Daniel Howell	Elizabeth Jenkins
Sydney Mokel	Andrew Nelson
Paul Newport	Orfa Ocampo
Lucy Ossa	Nathan Rawlins
Juan Rivera	Sherry Senior
Shyann Sinclair	Thomas Wassell

## **Cathedral Staff Members Hold a Productive Retreat Day**

On October 23, members of the Cathedral Staff participated in a one-day retreat facilitated by two consultants: the Rev. Tim Hoddapp and Ms. Robin Hammeal-Urban. The event was hosted at St. James's Episcopal Church in West Hartford.

Cathedral Staff had an opportunity to discuss strengths and opportunities as well as engaging in small group discussions and practical helpful exercises on topics such as teamwork, accountability and collegiality. A portion of the retreat focused on outlines of roles and responsibilities, particularly as they relate to our Clergy Leadership, providing further clarity about lines of communications, and areas of collaboration and oversight. At the conclusion of the day, many staff members described the day as helpful and productive.

Canon Hoddapp and Robin Hammeal-Urban, who are on the staff of The Episcopal Church in Connecticut at The Commons, continue to provide consulting services to our clergy leaders, Priest-In-Charge Harlon Dalton and Vicar Miguelina Howell.

### **A Requiem Service in Honor of Veterans**

On Sunday, November 16, Christ Church Cathedral will honor all of our military veterans and their sacrifices by offering a Requiem Service dedicated to them. The service will feature the beautiful music of the *Requiem* by Gabriel Faure. Joshua Slater, the Cathedral's Music Director, will lead the Choir accompanied by our organist Thomas Whitestone. Olivia Miller will be the soprano soloist and Steve Valenzuela, baritone soloist.

The service, open to all, will last about an hour and a quarter and will begin at 4 p.m. Plan now to attend and give homage to our veterans.

### **Serendipity at the Assisted Living Home**

*Serendipity: the luck of finding valuable or pleasant things that are not looked for*

As the Coordinator of the Pastoral Care Team, I often accompany our Vicar, Lina, on visits to members in assisted living or nursing homes. We've had the pleasure of spending time with Carol Bergeron who is in an assisted living home in Avon.

When she was able, she usually came to church with Martha Fine, one of our faithful greeters in the months when she also is in residence in Avon.

Looking through a scrapbook that Carol has in her room, we saw photographs taken at her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration held about five years ago. One of the remembrances is a poem written by Martha that at the end mentions "cookbooks by Carol." My curiosity was aroused. Rather nonchalantly, Carol nodded—she had indeed written and had cookbooks published.

Back home, I did a computer search on Amazon books. Immediately an image of a white and paperback book popped up on the screen: *Wait a minute...I'll get you my recipe: A Personal Collection from the Kitchen of Carol Brandon Bergeron*. Copies were available. I ordered two, one for me and one for Lina. The book is entirely written and illustrated by Carol and was published by The Berkshire Traveller Press in 1974.

Carol's charming personality shines through the book. She includes short stories with some of the recipes such this introduction to *Flu Stew*: "This evolved from necessity—a well husband and a sick me." She offers tips for creative use of ingredients and simple ways to make life easier in the kitchen. One of my favorites: "Have you ever thought of...strawberry shortcake for a summer breakfast? With biscuit mix in the refrigerator, it is a snap to do."

On our next visit, I asked Carol to sign the books for us. She opened one to a quotation in the introduction, read part of it, and laughed.

*[Man] may live without books—what is knowledge but grieving? He may live without hope—what is hope but deceiving? He may live without love—what is passion but pining? But where is the man that can live without dining? Owen Meredith*

I will remember that day as Carol sat with her cookbook on her lap and reminisced about the origin of the recipes and how her nieces kept reminding her of dishes she should include until she exclaimed, "No more!" Her book is a labor of love, and Lina and I each have a tangible remembrance of this lovely lady.

--- by Amy Beveridge

### **Painting Recalls Choir's Beginnings**

In the fall of 2013, Director of Music Joshua Slater, newly arrived at Christ Church Cathedral, undertook

the rather grubby task of inspecting the organ blower room, where the fan supplying air for the organ is housed. He found there a seriously damaged oil painting with a torn canvas and a frame that was falling apart. This painting of a young male chorister robed in a black cassock and white surplice has proved to be an important window into the history of the Cathedral and our music program.

Joshua took the painting to Priest-in-Charge Harlon Dalton, who turned to parishioner Dawn Ingram, an independent historian and museum consultant serving as the Cathedral's volunteer archivist. As part of her ongoing assessment and cataloging of the Cathedral collection, Dawn researched the history of the painting, conducted a conservation assessment study, and finally wrote a persuasive case for conservation that led to the restoration of the painting to commemorate the 130th year of the Cathedral choir, established in 1884. On Trinity Sunday, June 15, 2014, following restoration of the canvas by David Kimball and restoration of the frame by Michael Shortell, the painting was unveiled in the choir room.

The painting measures 17" by 30", and the style is reminiscent of James Whistler. Dawn's research began with the signature in the lower right, "M. Watson," and a plaque mounted on the period frame bearing the inscription "Choirboy by Minnie Watson."

Who was Minnie Watson, and what was her connection to the Cathedral? As Dawn discovered, Amelia Montague Watson (1856-1934) was born in East Windsor and was a descendant of several founding members of Christ Church. In 1878, after studying art in Hartford and New York, she was hired as one of the first instructors at the Hartford Society of Decorative Arts, which eventually became the Hartford Art School and one of the founding schools of the University of Hartford.

Originally known professionally as Minnie M. Watson, by the late 1880s Watson began to sign her paintings as Amelia M. Watson and her sketches as A.M.W. She is best known as a watercolorist, but two of her oils are Hartford scenes in the collections of the Wadsworth Atheneum. Based on the materials and frame, "Choirboy" dates from the 1880s, when Watson was teaching at the Society of Decorative Arts.

On March 10, 1884, a vested choir of men and boys was established at Christ Church, making it one of the first Episcopal churches in New England to adopt one. As Dawn notes, "For a 19th century Connecticut Episcopalian used to a simpler church, the thought of having a robed choir filling the front of the church was almost heresy."

In 1887, when the choir's founder, Dr. G. Edward Stubbs, left Christ Church to become choirmaster of Grace Chapel in New York, a photograph of the choir was taken to present to Stubbs. A copy still hangs in the choir room. Several of the boys bear a resemblance to the model for the painting, and it is possible that the painting is a composite portrait of these boys.

"Many questions about this painting may never be answered," Dawn says. "Was it commissioned to commemorate the founding of a vested choir? Did Amelia Watson give it to Christ Church in 1915 when she gave the Wadsworth two works? Or has it been here since the beginning of the vested choir?"

-- by Carolyn Dorais



**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

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