



# Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

*The Grapevine*

SEPTEMBER 2014

## From the Priest-in-Charge

Dear friends:

Next month I will update you on the conversations taking place across the Diocese regarding the need for and purposes of a cathedral in this day and age. First, however, I want to tell you about some of the ways in which we at Christ Church continue to live into our best understanding of what it means to be a cathedral.

I say "continue to live" because it is important to acknowledge and learn from the many ways in which we already exemplify "cathedral-ness." These include facilitating a weekly worship service in Bushnell Park, playing host to Diocesan events such as the recent 40th Anniversary Celebration of Women's Ordination, and serving as a gathering place for networks and organizations that seek to do justice.

Since June, my primary responsibility as priest-in-charge has been to help the Cathedral more fully engage with those in Greater Hartford who seek to make it a better, safer, and more vibrant place, and to more fully engage the Episcopal Church in Connecticut in common mission. With respect to the welfare of the city, over the course of the summer we have rekindled relationships with Capital Community College and the Hartford Stage, and have forged new relationships with a range of organizations and enterprises including the Urban Alliance, HYPE (Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs), the Unified Theater Company, the Connecticut Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the City of Hartford's Marketing, Events, and Cultural Affairs division.

We also have been exploring "in house" ventures that might contribute to the vitality of the city. For example, thanks to the initiative of our Music Director, Josh Slater, we have engaged the Asylum [Saxophone] Quartet as artists in residence. And we have developed plans for participating in Hartford's annual First Night celebration.

As for promoting common mission, we have been laying the groundwork for what I have tentatively dubbed the Onesimus Project. The purpose is to foster the successful reentry into "the free world" of persons who have been incarcerated. This would be accomplished by creating a network of parishes across the Diocese that commit to welcoming and integrating inmates into their communities long before they are released from prison. On a monthly or perhaps even weekly basis inmates would be furloughed for several hours to participate in regularly-scheduled church activities. In designing the project, we are working in collaboration with the Department of Corrections, Faith Behind Bars and Beyond (which is an existing network with our Diocese), the Greater Hartford Reentry Council, and others.

I welcome your input regarding all of the above, as well as any suggestions you have for additional ways that we might continue to fulfill our calling as the Cathedral of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

Harlon+  
The Rev. Harlon Dalton  
Priest-in-Charge

## Happy September Birthdays

Victor Adams  
Jeffrey Baraglia-Palmer  
Tamika Barnett  
Stephen Bezrucik  
Austin Black  
Ashley Colon  
Deahna Fisher  
Milton Howard  
Charles McBride  
Jordan McBride  
Gloria Mengual  
Dionne Morris  
Duncan Morris  
Robert Mueller  
Elaine Nelson  
Evelyn Noonan  
Kenton Pusey  
Audrey Scanlan  
Aleksandra Scott  
Bernard Senior  
Nicholas Woodward

## September Calendar

- 11 Spanish Home Bible Study, 7 p.m.
- 16 Soup & Services, 5 p.m.
- 18 Spanish Home Bible Study, 7 p.m.
- 25 Spanish Home Bible Study, 7 p.m.

### Looking ahead:

- October 3, Asylum Quartet, noon
- October 4, St. Francis Day, Blessing of the Animals, Bushnell Park, 4 p.m.
- October 5, Homecoming Day, combined bilingual Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m.

**Correction:** In the July/August *Grapevine*, the email address for contacting Tom or Amy Beveridge to work on Faith Chests for newly baptized persons was incorrect: it is [tandaosl@yahoo.com](mailto:tandaosl@yahoo.com)

## FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

### *Participating in God's Mission at The Episcopal Church Wider Level*

Many members of our Christ Church Cathedral congregation have asked me to share more about my experience of responding to God's call to service at The Episcopal Church (TEC) wider level. I thought it would be good to share the story in *The Grapevine*.

I felt a call to ordained ministry at a very early age (14 years old), which led to an active local ministry and informal appointment of mentors and the discernment committee in my local congregation, San Andres Episcopal Church in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. As a child, serving God at the altar as an acolyte was an experience I deeply treasured and took very seriously. As I grew older, I became involved in local, regional and diocesan youth and children's ministries, by serving in the Diocesan Youth Commission and supporting the ministry of the Diocesan Summer Camp.

My first interaction with TEC and the Anglican Communion was at the First South to South Anglican Encounter held in Limuru, Kenya, in 1994. This encounter gathered leaders from all over the world, focusing on God's mission and our role and pilgrimage as God's people in the Anglican Communion along the road of faithfulness to our Lord. This encounter gave Anglican Provinces in the global South the opportunity to listen to God and one another, to share their joys and pains, and to

express their hopes and aspirations. Later that year I was appointed to serve as the Province IX Youth Ministry Coordinator, a position I held for over a decade.

As I grew older, my participation in God's church expanded. I served as a member of TEC Executive Council, an experience that gave me a deeper understanding of the structure and governance of our denomination. At General Convention 2006, when our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Shori was elected, I was invited by then President of the House of Deputies, George Werner, to walk as his "youth shadow," accompanying him and his staff in the work behind the scenes of this historical convention held in Columbus, Ohio. Thanks to George Werner and his then Vice-President Bonnie Anderson, I started to explore a new passion, a passion to learn more about church structure, governance and canons. A passion to understand how we function as a denomination and to pay attention to how God is calling us to be and serve God's mission in the world.

In 2007, I accepted a call to serve for the Presiding Bishop's Staff as Associate Program Officer for Young Adult Ministries: Vocational Discernment and Recruitment. My years at the Church Center were a path of growth, joy, collaboration and discernment. It has been a



*26th Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Shori and Lina*

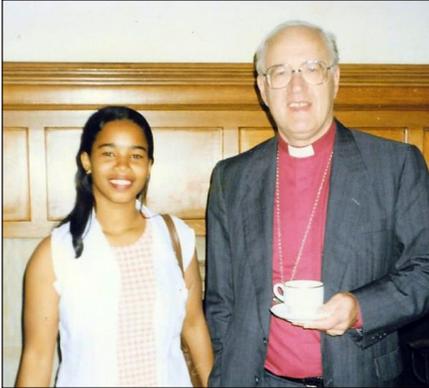
humbling experience to see God's hands at work all across the Church at so many levels and experiencing the mission of God taking numerous shapes and forms as we respond to God's call with audacity, creativity and passion.

My current involvement with God's mission at a TEC wider level is life-giving and exciting. It ranges from serving as faculty for Credo, a Church Pension Fund Wellness program for clergy, to serving as a member of the Council of Advice of the Latino/Hispanic Ministries Office of The Episcopal Church, coordinating the biennial Latino/Ministries event *Nuevo Amanecer* which gathers hundreds of Episcopalians serving Latino/Hispanic communities or exploring to serve them. I was appointed in 2013 to serve as a member of the Task Force for Re-imagining The Episcopal Church (TREC).

TREC was charged by General Convention to create a plan for reforming the church's structure, governance and administration. The powerful part of this experience is that we are doing this and more—we are dreaming, thinking and planning "bold ideas" to be presented to the church. We are thinking out of the box. In addition to proposing technical changes we are looking and discerning what God is calling us to do and be in this world in this time in history. It is evident that the



*South to South Anglican Encounter, Kenya*



*Archbishop Carey and Lina at Lambeth*

current structure and governance of the church are presented with challenges that can be addressed by technical changes, clarification of roles and reorganization. However, the change of culture needed for our Episcopal Church to fully embrace God's mission and call is a process that goes beyond canonical changes and restructuring—it is a process that requires an openness in the Spirit and a level of trust in God and one another that can be achieved when we are open to listen, communicate,

explore, experiment and rejoice in our journey of being instruments of God's grace to one another and to the world we are called to serve.

Experiencing God's mission in the wider church serves a catalyst to renew and re-energize my excitement and commitment to serve God at Christ Church Cathedral and in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. As I wrote this article, flashbacks came to mind. Meditating on this blessed journey, I cannot tell you how blessed and excited I am to serve God and God's people with you in this amazing and special place in God's kingdom.

As we start our program year, I am looking forward to connecting with many of you through our formation program. You will notice that workshops and presentations about The Episcopal Church will be on our calendar, as well as parish forums and small-group conversations addressing current issues of our denomination and of God's love in our midst.

The journey to serve in the



*Vicar celebrating at Church by the Pond*

wider church started in 1994 at age 18 in Kenya, and continues to be an instrument of God's grace in my life and ministry. I pray that the same way in which I was nurtured, supported and encouraged to serve, we will continue to encourage young people to hear God's voice and to respond to God's call in a way that is meaningful and life-giving in the world and in our communities.

With a grateful heart,  
Lina+

The Rev. Miguelina Howell, Vicar

### **Asylum Quartet Becomes Ensemble-in-Residence at the Cathedral**

For music lovers of all kinds, a special treat is in store starting this fall at the Cathedral: the Asylum Quartet will be Ensemble-in-Residence offering free concerts. The Quartet, consisting of four classically trained saxophonists, plays everything from classical works, minimalism and modernism to indie rock, world music and klezmer. The first concert will be outdoors on Friday, October 3, from noon to 1:30 p.m. Mark your calendars now!

With a mission of engaging and captivating diverse audiences, the Asylum Quartet has played in many varied venues including New York City subway stations as part of a special Music Under New York Program, at Hartford Public Schools, the Newport Music Festival, and the International Festival of Arts and Ideas in New Haven.

Its four members—Joseph Abad, soprano saxophone; Tony Speranza, alto saxophone; Max Schwimmer, tenor saxophone, and Andrew Barnhart, baritone saxophone—met as graduate students at The Hartt School in West Hartford. Earlier this year, the Quartet received the Grand Prize in the 2014 International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition in Boston, the first saxophone quartet to receive this honor.

As enthusiastic performers of new music, the Quartet has collaborated closely with composers and has launched a competition for new music to promote a new, unique repertoire for the ensemble. Their concerts have resulted in rave reviews like this from the Newport Daily News: "...evocative, educational, and refreshing...the kind of concert that would cause you to want to hear it again." And from John Dankosky, host of WNPR's "Where We Live" program: "You guys totally made my day, week, month and year! Thanks for such an amazing performance!"

For Christ Church Cathedral, the association with the Asylum Quartet is part of a significant effort to broaden our involvement in and support of the arts in the Greater Hartford community. Joshua Slater, Music Director, played a major role in bringing the Quartet to the Cathedral. The Quartet will rehearse on Thursdays in the Choir Room. Future concerts are scheduled from January through July 2015 as well as for two Sunday services on dates to be determined.

## New Cathedral Administrator Named

Carol M. Taylor has been named Cathedral Administrator effective September 1. She will be assisting the Vicar in managing the business of the Cathedral including the areas of finance and accounting, risk management, human resources, facility management, staff management and communication.

A resident of Falls Village, Carol has been an active Episcopal layperson in New Jersey and Connecticut. Her professional experience includes administrative positions at Rutgers University and as a business owner. An interview with her will be in the October *Grapevine*. She will be in the main office of the Cathedral House and can be reached at carol.taylor@cccathedral.org or at 860-527-7231, ext. 101.

## Meet Our New Organist

An avid skier. A woodworker. A kayaker. Plays the clarinet, the harpsichord and other instruments. Sings both tenor and baritone. Art collector. House restorer. Runs software company. And, oh yes, in August he became Associate Organist at Christ Church Cathedral.

The person with many interests and talents is Thomas Whitestone who started playing the organ in his home at age 4 with a professional teacher. "I couldn't reach the pedals but I could reach the keyboard," says Tom. "I was pretty athletic and would climb up on the organ bench." When the organist at a Congregational church his family attended in Winchendon, Massachusetts, died, Tom, at age 12 became the church's organist and music director.

"The organ playing was easy. The hard part was running a choir. A number of the members were in their '60s or older and suddenly they had a 12-year-old directing them. It was a challenge. A few people, including two teacher colleagues of my mother who were in the choir, helped me. Looking back, I realize how blind I was!" He was in that position for four years, doing regular weekly worship services and special services including weddings and funerals.

When in high school, for three years he became organist and music director of a Roman Catholic church in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Though not a Catholic, he was attending a Catholic high school. He performed three weekly services as well as many special services, and recruited and directed an adult chorus of 16 members.

After high school, he attended Thayer Conservatory of Music of Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, studying sacred music and pipe organ performance. He then went to Worcester State College for courses in chorus, madrigal singers and music history.

Over the next several years, while still very young, he became organist and music director at churches of different denominations in Massachusetts, including Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Congregational.

But music has not been his only occupation. "Church work is mostly at night for rehearsals and weekends for services," he notes, "and I had Monday to Friday to do other things." He took business courses and at age 20 with another person opened a computer store in Fitchburg, serving the computer hardware and software needs of businesses and individuals in the North Worcester County

area. "We utilized the resources of Fitchburg State College which was next door to us. Students in the computer field would work for us part-time."

"Eventually when there was a decline in hardware sales, we closed that store and opened a software business. That was 14 years ago and it's basically my livelihood now. We have employees in various locations—you don't need to be centrally located anywhere. We provide legal software—all the products that attorneys may need for document creation, timekeeping and billing. I'm the President of Promethean Software Corporation."

"My business gives me a platform to do what I need to do but also allows me the time for music and other activities as well—like spending time with my son." His son Tristan is 7.

Among those "activities" for Tom and his wife Danielle has been the task for the past four years of restoring a large 1851 Italianate house with a carriage house in North Brookfield, Massachusetts. He and his wife met during a high school performance of the musical "Oklahoma." Both were playing in the orchestra—he on the clarinet and she on the trumpet. Together they did most of the restoration work. "I love interesting architecture and am into historical restorations of houses. I am very picky about the work." The house, Tom notes, was in very poor shape. "We had to recreate original moldings and other features that were missing. But I love woodworking." He's also enjoying becoming acquainted with notable architecture in Hartford—which of course includes the Cathedral building.

Tom is a member of the Salisbury Singers, a Worcester-based chorus, that performs both classical and pop music. His experience with the various churches he has served has given him a thorough knowledge of music styles and history. He is looking forward to putting that knowledge to good use at the Cathedral. When he was hired to be Associate Organist, there were two other churches also interested in him. The choice was made easy for him when he met Josh Slater, the Cathedral's Music Director. "I liked him instantly," he says, "and felt very comfortable being around him. He was a big factor in my deciding to come here. The Cathedral is clearly focused on growth, doing things correctly and building its music program in exciting ways. Everything I see for the fall looks great. I look forward to the chance to do larger works such as cantatas within a worship service as well as separate recitals and concerts."

Tom's enthusiasm, energy and gifts are a welcome addition to the Cathedral family.

### CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

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**Deadline for October issue: September 15**

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