



# Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

## *The Grapevine*

Special Edition- December 31, 2015

For the Christ Church Cathedral family, the year of our Lord 2015 began with uncertainty and ended with conviction. For many months we and the Episcopal Church in Connecticut engaged in a process examining the nature of cathedrals in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and, specifically, our own future. But before the end of the year, any doubts had vanished: we would be the Cathedral of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut with renewed strength and resolve to serve God's mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This special issue of *The Grapevine* honors two persons to whom we have said farewell.

We express our gratitude to the Rev. Harlon Dalton and Deacon Donald Richey for serving God's mission at the Cathedral, in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and in the world.

### *A Tribute to the Rev. Harlon Dalton*

*On December 16, a Holy Eucharist was held in thanksgiving for the ministry of the Rev. Harlon Dalton, our recently retired Priest-in-Charge, who led the Cathedral during a time of crisis for the Cathedral. Bishop Ian Douglas gave the following sermon on that occasion.*

**Holy Eucharist honoring The Rev. Harlon Dalton  
As Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church Cathedral  
Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 84, II; Corinthians**

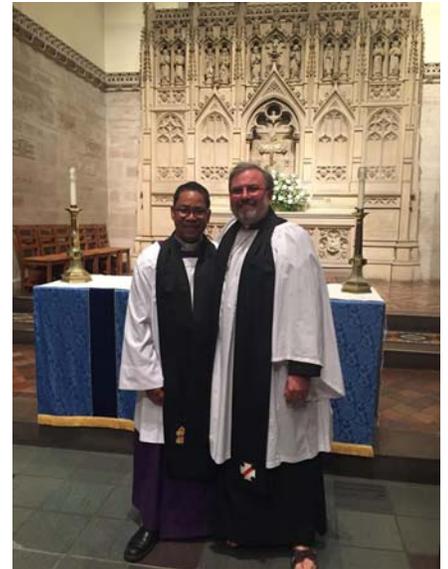
**5:17-20; Mark 1:9-11**

**Christ Church Cathedral – Hartford, CT**

**16 December, 2015**

+In the name of the One, Holy, and Triune God. Amen "In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself . . . and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ." You knew I was going to preach on II Corinthians, didn't you?

We are indeed ambassadors of Christ and his mission of restoration and reconciliation in the world. And tonight we are here to honor, and say thank you, to one who has been an ambassador, in so many ways, of Christ's reconciling love in this



Cathedral community, in this city of Hartford, in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, and in the wider world. Amen?

I'll do my best, Harlon, not to embarrass you too much in this short homily by heaping accolades on you for all that you have done, and continue to do, for the reign of God. But I do want to take a few minutes simply to recall and celebrate all the many and varied ways you have been a blessing to the Episcopal Church in Connecticut generally, to this Cathedral, and to me personally as bishop.

Some of you might not know that Harlon's and my relationship goes back over thirty years, when we were parishioners together at what was then St. Paul's Church (now St. Paul's and St. James' Church) in New Haven. I had just moved to New Haven from being a missionary in Haiti to join

with my wife Kristin who was at Yale studying to be a midwife; and Harlon had recently arrived at Yale Law School.

Together we were part of a community of young adults and academics who found St. Paul's to be a spiritually dynamic, and somewhat offbeat, Christian community. When Kristin and I departed for Boston in 1986 Harlon (and Jill) remained in New Haven where he would eventually become a senior professor at Yale Law School. Over the decades, we both would become ordained priests, although I do not recall discussing this possibility together when we were member St. Paul's (where he would eventually go on to serve as Associate Rector.)

When I returned to Connecticut in 2010 as your Bishop Diocesan, one of the wonderful gifts was reuniting with Harlon as brothers in Christ. Although I must admit that I was a bit put out that while I had grown older, grayer, and heavier, Harlon seemed not to have changed a bit. He looked the same as he did in 1986 with the same youthful, energetic, and loving demeanor! How do you do that?

Shortly after I became bishop in Connecticut, Harlon and I sat down at Diocesan House to get reacquainted and to find out a bit more about his current and future ministry hopes. Harlon probably regrets having had that conversation with me on that day. I learned that he was anticipating retirement from Yale Law School and was thus open to serving the Episcopal Church in new ways. Oh did I have ideas for him!

In the next five years Harlon would become, in many ways, my "go to guy": a kind of firefighter, or maybe even a superhero, sent in to difficult circumstances to help individuals and communities in their distress. And Harlon has never failed to come to the aid of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut when asked. He first stepped into the breach becoming "interim Interim" at Saint Ann's in Old Lyme when the Interim Rector experienced medical difficulties and had to leave. Then in 2011, in the wake of the downsizing of diocesan staff because of budget cuts, Harlon stepped up taking on two portfolios: clergy transitions and the ordination process. While working at Diocesan House with all its heavy administrative work and responsibilities might not have been exactly Harlon's cup of tea, he

did both jobs with faithfulness, an unflinching generosity of spirit, and incredible creativity. When it became clear that the whole ordination process in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut needed to be rethought and reconceived for the realities of the 21st century, I turned to Harlon once again and invited him to lead what would become known as the Title III Task Force. With his leadership and vision, the Episcopal Church in Connecticut developed one of the most innovative, responsive, and mission-focused ordination processes in The Episcopal Church.

So three years ago, when this community was so hurting in the wake of the difficult departures of the dean and the music director, the loss of many faithful parishioners and choir members, and worries about the Cathedral's future, who else was I going to turn to? You guessed it.

And Harlon stepped up in the heat of the moment, once again, serving first as chaplain along with The Rev. Joan Phelps. And then, soon thereafter, he became our Priest-in-Charge.

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." Doesn't that exactly describe Harlon's leadership here at Christ Church, here in the city of Hartford, and across Connecticut? Calling us to be a new creation in Christ's ministry of reconciliation.

For Harlon indeed loves the Lord our God with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, (as our first reading from Deuteronomy reminds us to do.) He knows and believes, deep down in his core, that God in Jesus, fully human and fully divine, has overcome the divisions that alienate and divide us from God and one another. He lives the truth that in Christ all people can be restored to unity with God and each other. And he invites all of us to join in this mission of God, this mission of restoration and reconciliation.

So Harlon's time here at Christ Church Cathedral has indeed been "the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself." He has constantly held before us the truth that Jesus has entrusted all of us with the message of reconciliation to us. Like Jesus, who was baptized in the river Jordan by John, (as we heard in

the Gospel tonight) we too are baptized into God's mission of restoration and reconciliation. In and through our baptism, we are commissioned, commissioned, in God's mission to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. Each and every one of us is thus an ambassador for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us, entrusting us with the message of reconciliation.

So as much as Harlon has helped us to be a new creation here at the Cathedral in Christ's ministry of reconciliation, he has also challenged us and prepared us to be the ambassadors of God's reconciling love that God wants us, and needs us, to be. He assisted in raising up our Dean-elect, traveling initially to Newark, New Jersey, to recruit Lina; and then working alongside her in helping the Cathedral to move forward. Then, with administrative assistance provided by Leslie Jones, Harlon led the work of the Cathedral Discernment Task Force resulting in a new vision for the Cathedral in the 21st century. And, as I think we all know, the recent Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut has embraced the vision of the Cathedral Discernment Task Force positioning the Cathedral to be a key resource to

assist all Episcopalians in Connecticut to be sent into the world as apostles, ambassadors, of God's mission. Thanks be to God.

And now Harlon you take your leave of us. While we are sad about your departure, our hearts are filled with love and gratitude for all you have done to help us heal and become a new creation in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. And we thank you, and thank God, for all you have done to prepare us, this Cathedral community and the whole Episcopal Church in Connecticut, to be ambassadors of God's mission of restoration and reconciliation in the world.

I know that you want a bit of space in this "time of retirement" to reconnect with Jill, to spend time together at your beach home in Rhode Island with your puppy, and to reconnect with your music and your poetry; so I promise not to call you with another rescue project. At least not right away!

So we send you on your way with our love and thanks. Go with God, dear friend, dear colleague, dear brother in Christ's mission of reconciliation and restoration.

### ***A Letter from Deacon Donald Richey***

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

I guess the best place to begin is by thanking all of you for welcoming me into your parish. You have shown me genuine kindness and patience during my tenure at the Cathedral. From my first Sunday back in June 2005, I have felt like I was a part of this very special community.

The list of accomplishments that the members of Christ Church Cathedral have made over the past 10 years is too long to list. But I need to point out that even during some very challenging times, the people here never lost sight of their ministries and continued to serve the Church and the community in the best ways possible. I consider it a blessing and a privilege to have witnessed the selfless commitment shown by all of you.

I was recently asked, "What is the hardest part of being a deacon?"

At the time I didn't really have a good response to the question. I enjoy what I do and I enjoy being with the people whom I serve. As I write this letter

I now know the answer. The hardest part of being a deacon is having to say good-bye.

When I start a new assignment, I try to be mindful that it is temporary and eventually I will be moving on to my next ministry. But it isn't always that simple. When you work side by side with people doing God's work, a bond is formed. Whether it was in the sanctuary, the basement, in the park or on the street, we as disciples attempted to carry out Jesus Christ's commandment to love one another as He loved us. The joy that I experienced from serving God with all of you will not be forgotten.

Today, when I close my eyes and envision my fellow ministers, the first image I have is of all of you. Together we have served God well. And I am pretty sure we all had fun while doing it.

Thanks again, and may God's peace be always with you.

Yours in Christ,  
Donald

## **Enjoy More Lessons and Carols on January 3**

At the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, January 3, there will be a festive recap of Lessons and Carols led by Music Director Joshua Anand Slater together with cantor Kelley Kelly and guest organist Stephen Camboa. Even if you came before, enjoy it again!

## **Three Kings Day/Tres Reyes Magos on January 10**

We will joyfully once again celebrate the traditional Latino custom of Three Kings Day/Tres Reyes Magos with a combined bilingual service and pageant on Sunday, January 10, at 10:30 a.m.

The pageant this year will be directed by the Spanish Music Coordinators, Nelson Mena and Pedro Cirilo Coral, with the assistance of choir member Maria Mena. Children, youth and adults from both the English and Spanish-speaking services will participate. Theresa Greaves and Roberto Burgos will serve as narrators.

Mark your calendars to attend the first bilingual service of the new year. A special reception for children and adults will be held during the Fellowship Hour.

## **Cuatro Puntos Musical Group to Perform at Free Concert on January 15**

A Hartford-based musical group, Cuatro Puntos, will offer a free concert in the Cathedral House auditorium on Friday, January 15, at 7 p.m. A collective of chamber musicians, the group is dedicated to global cooperation and peace through the performance, writing and teaching of music worldwide. Their name means “four points” in Spanish.

Last summer the musicians traveled to Kabul for a special project with children of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM). Their concert at the Cathedral will be a multi-media performance, integrating music performed on video by the girls of ANIM into a larger piece by UK-composer Sadie Harrison titled *The Rosegarden of Light*. An album of the music will be released on the UK label Toccata Classics and distributed internationally. The album is meant to show solidarity between Afghan and Western musicians and to encourage

women and children struggling in the face of oppression.

Cuatro Puntos musicians identify themselves as Musical Warriors celebrating those who create in the face of adversity. Come and enjoy a very special concert!

## **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance**



*The Rev. Dr. Sandye Wilson, guest preacher on January 17, 2016*

The annual observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at Christ Church Cathedral will be on Sunday, January 17, at the 10 a.m. service. The Rev. Canon Dr. Sandye A. Wilson, rector of St. Andrew and Holy Communion Episcopal Church in South Orange, New Jersey, will be the guest preacher. Canon Wilson is active in both the local and national Episcopal Church, serving as, among many other capacities, a member of the Steering Committee for 20/20, the national movement to increase church participation and membership. She was a consultant to Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie on Racism and the Church.

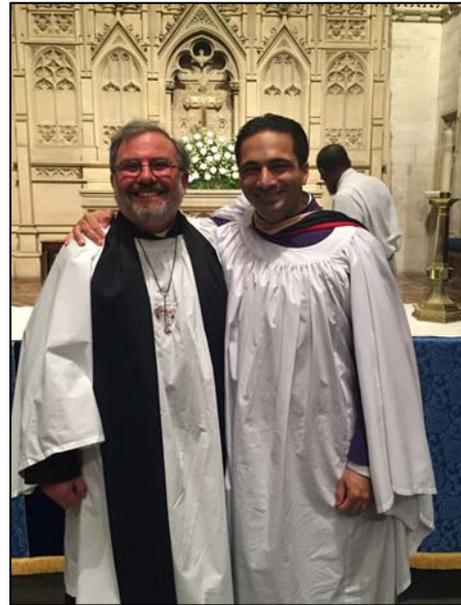
Canon Wilson has served for 18 years on the Episcopal Church Executive Council and is a member of the Episcopal Church’s Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. She was National President of the Union of Black Episcopalians from 1997 to 2004. She is on the Board of Trustees of Vassar College, of which she is a graduate, and a trustee of the South Orange-Maplewood Coalition on Race. Her commitment to social justice, racial reconciliation and equality has been fruitful and inspiring within the Episcopal Church and beyond.

A luncheon will follow the service. For more details on the observance, check the weekly E-news.

## December 2015 Farewell services and other occasions at a glance!



*Bishop Douglas, Deacon Richey, Harlon Dalton and Lina Howell at the Lessons and Carols Service in Honor of Donald Richey*



*Deacon Donald Richey and Music Director Joshua A. Slater*



*Deacon Donald Richey receives gifts from Church Street Eats leadership*



*Farewell Service in honor of the Rev. Harlon Dalton*



*Children from the Rawson School's Music Matters Program*



*Cathedral Staff presenting gift to the Rev. Dalton*



*Lucy Groening, Parish Committee Chair, presents gift on behalf of the Cathedral congregation*



*The Rev. Miguelina Howell, Dean-Elect, presents picture frame with the Rev. Dalton's portrait.*



*The Rev. Harlon Dalton administers communion at his final service as Cathedral Priest-In-Charge*



*From left to right, Priest Associates Jay Cooke, Tim Hodapp, Dean-Elect Miguelina Howell, retired Priest-In-Charge Harlon Dalton, Bishop Diocesan, the Rt. Rev. Ian. T. Douglas, and Priest Associate Molly James and Canon for Mission Leadership Lee Ann Tolzmann.*



*Members of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut joined the Cathedral congregation at the Rev. Dalton's farewell service.*



*Verger Peggy Ornell during the procession of the Farewell Service in honor of the Rev. Harlon Dalton*



*Deacon Donald Richey, Leslie Jones, Andrew May, Steve Gray, Andrew May and Walter DeClaybrook at Donald's and Leslie's commissioning service at Church By The Pond*



*At their last service at Church By The Pond, Donald and Leslie are sent in prayers to their new calling to serve God's Mission in New Britain*



*Katie Ingram being admitted as Chorister*

## Annual Parish Meeting on January 31

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of Christ Church Cathedral/Catedral Iglesia de Cristo to be held on Sunday, January 31, 2016, in the Cathedral House auditorium immediately following the 10 a.m. service.

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Ian Douglas, Diocesan Bishop, will preside. All parishioners are urged to attend to hear about programs and the budget for 2016. Elections will be held for members of the Parish Committee and other positions. Details will be in the January 2016 issue of *The Grapevine*.



*Deacon Richey and Bishop Ahrens with clergy and lay leaders of Church By The Pond*



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