



Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

The Grapevine

FEBRUARY 2015

From the Priest-in-Charge

In my portion of the State of the Cathedral Address that Lina and I delivered prior to the parish annual meeting, I said the following:

“As you know, we here at the Cathedral are in the midst of a two-pronged effort to discern just what [the future has in store for us]. There is a Diocesan-wide conversation going on concerning whether and how a cathedral might serve the needs of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut in a changing world. And there is a renewed effort, right here at home, to live into our best understanding of what it means to be a cathedral. These two endeavors go hand in hand. What we are doing here at Christ Church Cathedral is bound to influence the larger discernment conversation, and that larger conversation is bound to influence what we do here.”

I went on to describe some of the ways in which the larger conversation has already affected how we carry out our responsibilities as a cathedral. In particular, the belief (passionately expressed at a gathering of 60 or so Diocesan leaders) that cathedrals should address hard issues and speak prophetically has quickened our pace and solidified our resolve to serve as a catalyst for those who seek “to transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence of every kind, and pursue peace and reconciliation.” (See The Five Marks of Mission, www.episcopalchurch.org/page/five-marks-mission). One example of this renewed resolve is our recent invitation to area clergy, halfway house directors, and Corrections Department officials to explore ways in which churches might play a role in helping former prison inmates reintegrate into society. A second example is our decision to host a series of “Moral Monday” events in which engaged citizens rally at the Cathedral and then demonstrate in public places to draw attention to societal failings and social injustice.

In order for our efforts to be fully informed by the larger Cathedral discernment conversation, AND in order for the larger conversation to be informed by what we are “discerning by doing” at Christ Church Cathedral, it is important that parishioners participate in the discussions that are taking place beyond our walls. I therefore urge all of you to take part in one or more of the “listening sessions” that will be held all across the Diocese during the month of February. Each session begins at 7 p.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

February 11: Grace & St. Peter’s – 2927 Dixwell Avenue, HAMDEN
St. John’s–628 Main Street, STAMFORD
Trinity –220 Prospect Street, TORRINGTON

February 12: St. John’s – 523 Hartford Turnpike (Route 30), VERNON

February 25: Grace – 336 Main Street, OLD SAYBROOK
The Commons – 290 Pratt Street, MERIDEN

Cont. on page 8

From the Vicar

At our 2015 Annual Meeting when presenting my report, I started thanking the Cathedral staff and volunteers for their remarkable support during the program year 2014. I said “*things don’t just happen ex nihilo.*” Our Cathedral staff, Team Coordinators, members of our Parish and the numerous volunteers who served God and God’s mission at the Cathedral have lived passionately into their roles as baptized members of the body of Christ. It is thanks to God’s help, guidance and blessing that we have come this far.

As I repeatedly say: to God be the Glory! The hard work and the dedication of many in this corner of the Kingdom should come from a clear understanding of our devotion to God and as a result of our Christian responsibility to be present and active in the ministry of reconciliation. It is my prayer and hope that we continue to grow closer to the One who gave his life for us.

2015 already promises to be a year filled with distinctive opportunities to connect deeply with our Creator, to nurture our collective and individual spirituality and to serve those who are less fortunate. From a robust music program for Lent and Easter Seasons to forums about Social Justice and Human Trafficking to providing intentional spaces for worship and formation for our youth, we are going to be surrounded with opportunities to experience *encounters with the Divine* in a way, which I hope, transcends our expectations.

The spiritual growth of our community of faith is an important part of our collective journey. As we approach the Season of Lent, **I invite you to make every effort to set time aside in your busy schedules to attend and participate in the wonderful liturgies and events designed to help us foster our communion and relationship with God and one another.**



On Lent I and IV, our Associate Priest, the Rev. Molly James, PhD, will facilitate conversations titled “*An Easter People in a Good Friday World*” about hope and joy in the midst of pain and suffering. There will be opportunities for storytelling and sharing on a safe and deep level. Please consider attending and experiencing powerful storytelling and sharing of life-changing events and God’s intervention along the way.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and this year falls on February 18. We are going to continue our practice of offering Ashes to Go. This time it is our hope that lay leaders join us at the various stations, marking the beginning of your Lenten journey by giving public witness of your faith.

For your personal devotionals during the upcoming Holy Season, I invite you to explore the website of The Society of St. John the Evangelist: <http://www.ssje.org/>

Their Lent 2015 Campaign focuses on time as a gift from God. In a series of short daily videos, the Brothers invite us to embrace that gift and experience the joy of the present moment, giving to God all anxiety and stress produced by lives driven with a polluted notion of time. If you decide to sign up to receive these daily offerings, I assure you that your Lenten experience will be enriched by their wisdom.

Let’s join this blessed journey and walk together in faith.

Paz, Lina

The Rev. Miguelina Howell, Vicar

UPCOMING EVENTS

February Calendar

- 2 Candlemas Procession (*see separate item*)
- 17 Soup & Services, 5 p.m.
- 15 Pancake Brunch, 11:30 a.m.
- 18 Ash Wednesday (*see separate item*)
- 22 Lenten Conversation, 11:30 (*see separate item*)



Candlemas Observance on February 8

The observance of Candlemas will be done with a procession preceding the Holy Eucharist on February 8. It focuses on an episode in Jesus' early life when Mary presented him to God at the Temple in Jerusalem. This was done after the traditional 40-day period of purification (of mothers) following Jesus' birth. According to Scripture, a Jewish man named Simeon held the baby in his arms and said the child would "be the light to lighten the Gentiles." (*Luke 2:32*). His words are the reason for calling the event Candlemas. Candlemas occurs in the period between the December solstice and the March equinox. Many people traditionally mark that time of the year as winter's "halfway point" while waiting for spring.

Ash Wednesday Services and Ashes to Go



The observance of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, with Holy Eucharist and imposition of ashes at 8 a.m., 12 noon, 6 p.m. in Spanish, and 7 p.m. The services at noon and 7 p.m. will have music.

Ashes are a symbol of repentance –of being sorry for doing the wrong thing. The imposition of ashes on our foreheads is an outward sign of our repentance as we begin our journey through Lent and prepare for Easter. The ashes remind us of our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The sign of the cross reminds us of our baptism and our covenant or promise to love God and each other.

From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 2 to 4 p.m., clergy will be offering Ashes to Go at the front of the Cathedral on Main Street, at the Soup Kitchen, near the Old State House on Main Street, and in Bushnell Park.

Lenten Conversations: Easter People in a Good Friday World

Being an Easter People in the midst of pain and suffering can be a great challenge. Yet as Christians we have so much for which we can be thankful and so many ways to find hope. Just as the resurrection is all the more meaningful because it follows the horrors of Good Friday, so too do we come to know hope and joy more profoundly through our own suffering.

Come join the Rev. Molly James, PhD, one of our Associate Priests, in conversation on the challenges of suffering and the way in which those experiences can fill us with hope.

The sessions will be in the Cathedral House Auditorium following the 10 a.m. service on February 22 and March 15.

Meet The Rev. Lois Keen: Associate Priest

Her husband asked: “When are you going to seminary?” The dean of the Cathedral of St. John in Wilmington, Delaware, said: “I’ve been expecting you.” Thus began the final part of the journey for Lois Keen to become an ordained priest after being in secular jobs. Lois recently joined the community of Associate Priests at Christ Church Cathedral. She will serve at the 12:30 Spanish service as needed and on occasion at the 10 a.m. service.

Originally from Delaware, Lois earned a bachelor’s degree in two majors, history and English literature, from the University of Delaware. She gained valuable experience working in a variety of posts: in retail, as a social worker in the Delaware state department of welfare, and as a credit manager.

An important step in her spiritual development was enrolling in Education for Ministry (EFM), a four-year distance learning program that helps lay persons fulfill their vow for ministry made at baptism. EFM is provided by The Beecken Center of the School of Theology of the University of the South (Sewanee.) Though EFM is for lay people, it is not unusual for participants to go on to a seminary. Lois went to Seabury Western in Evanston, Illinois (now Bexley-Seabury in Chicago). In her last year she was an exchange student for a term at Westcott House in Cambridge, England. At graduation she won the Casserly Prize in Contemporary Theology and shared the Hebrew Prize.

She held clergy leadership posts in Delaware and Connecticut before becoming in March 2014 half-time Priest-in-Charge at Trinity Episcopal in Wethersfield. She has a facility for languages—speaks both French and Spanish. She and her husband, Newlin, live in Bethany. He is a professional free-lance photographer specializing in photography for high performance auto clubs. When Lois has some leisure time, she enjoys cooking, gardening, playing piano and—beginning from the age of 6!-- reading murder mysteries.



Human Trafficking Issues to be Explored

On Sunday, March 1, at 11:30, the Women’s Global Mission Group of the Cathedral will hold a meeting in the Cathedral House Auditorium to explore the issues of human trafficking in Connecticut and beyond. The largest growing criminal industry in the world, human trafficking has inflicted 27 million victims, including many children and young girls.

A representative of Love 146, an international human rights organization, will be the main speaker. The discussion will focus on what is happening now and how we can respond effectively. In addition to Cathedral members, the invitation has been extended to clergy and lay persons in area churches. To learn more about Love 146 go to www.love146.org and plan to attend on March 1. For more information, contact Amy Beveridge at amyknits.ab@gmail.com

Happy February Birthdays



Olga Adams	Joan Bolton	Megan Boyles
Victor Brathwaite	David Carlson	Judith Cooke
Kate Dixon	Carolyn Dorais	Christine Dunn
Anthony Gilkes	Carolyn Gilkes	Terrence Greaves
Gladys Gummer	Wilbert Hales	Sarah Higbie
Dolores Howard	Miguelina Howell	Jake Ingram
Nancy Jacobs	Heather Jordan-Greaves	Aidan Johnson
Lillian Kezerian	Mark McBride	Enuma Mokol
Marnie Mueller	James Platts	John Rogers
Samuel Scinto	John Spence	Rousseau Taylor
Mark Warner	Elizabeth Yebram	

2015 Parish Committee

The Parish Committee is comparable to the vestry in other parishes: it represents the interests of the congregation, advises the clergy and provides leadership to the congregation. All members of the Parish Committee are also members of the Cathedral Chapter, the legally constituted board of trustees of the Cathedral. Following the elections at the recent Annual Parish Meeting, these are the members for 2015:

Lucy Groening, Chair
Elba Bonnie Rios, Vice Chair
Joan Bolton
Janice Rawlins Ferguson
Courtney Hanson
Daniel Kingman
Bernard Senior
Carlene Taylor
Pat Wrice

Church Street Eats Lenten Reflection - *By Maggie Osborn*

We celebrate a holy Lent both by taking on those things that bring us closer to God, and shedding those indulgences, habits, and practices that steal our attention. Ironic as it seems, we sometimes are fed only by fasting—by denying ourselves that which distracts us from the truly nourishing. When we fast, we clear out space for God. We forego the diversions that keep us occupied and instead make room inside for an expanding spirit, one that is nurtured on prayer and worship and the feast of love that is offered to us.

No other day in the year do Christians express their faith more boldly than on Ash Wednesday when we live with the starkest symbol of our humanity awkwardly pressed against our flesh.

We are asking members of Christ Church Cathedral to also remember your brothers and sisters served by Church Street Eats as you are in this time of keen awareness of your flesh; to feel your hunger or deprivation with a compassion and understanding of your choice recognizing your brother's and sister's constant state of existence. Please make a Lenten contribution as a witness to the stark reality of the hungry amongst us whom we feed in bread and spirit through this ministry, and Jesus will be in the midst of us this season.

Adapted from <http://episcopalcredo.org/publications/credo-reflection-series/lent-2013/>



**Meet Joanne Ames:
Cathedral
Administrator**

Though her legal name is Joanne, she has never been called that. Our new Cathedral Administrator, who started in the position in late January, says “I’ve always been just Annie.” She succeeded Carol Taylor who resigned for family needs that included travelling to Maryland.

A lifelong resident of Southington, Connecticut, Annie attended Eckerd College for three years in St. Petersburg, Florida, but came home to help her mother after her father’s death. She has been studying at Wesleyan University for a degree in business administration.

After returning to Connecticut, Annie and a friend opened a bridal shop, The Wedding Collection, with locations in Farmington and Cheshire. They traveled to New York, Paris, and Italy to obtain exclusive designs that built a fine reputation for their stores. After 11 years, Anne and her partner decided to close: the Internet and online shopping had changed the retail environment for small businesses. “It was the right time to close.”

Annie then became the Financial Center Manager for a bank in Northford, Connecticut, and remained in banking management posts for the next several years. An opportunity came for her to handle financial and marketing services for a catering company based in Bristol which expanded into Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Canada. As the company grew it changed, and Annie, feeling it was no longer the place for her, returned to banking. And then it happened: a person in West Hartford who knew her and also about the Cathedral Administrator opening got in touch with Annie. She and Vicar Lina met, and since late January Annie has been learning the many varied and complex aspects of her job.

Annie is a communicant at St. Dominic’s Roman Catholic Church in Southington and is active in functions helping the wider community. Her favorite leisure activity is kayaking. She had been looking for a sport she could do by herself, and “kayaking is perfect. I’m on the water from summer until the first frost, going out in the early morning to the Sound or to a lake in Southington.” She also has a workshop where she builds things like doll houses. A suggestion for a Christmas gift for her is likely to be a drill! She is also an avid reader of biographies.

When asked for her impressions about the Cathedral, she quickly responded, “It’s great how involved everyone is, and how much the parishioners love their church. I was looking for a position in which I felt I could make a difference. This is what I have wanted.”



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD’S MISSION

3rd Annual Spring Training & Gathering

Saturday, March 21, 2015

9:00am - 4:00pm

Lincoln Middle School

164 Centennial Avenue

Meriden, CT 06450

Join other Episcopalians from across Connecticut and enjoy a day of fellowship, learning, prayer and fun. All are welcome — from people in the pew and vestry members to parish leaders and staff. (And for those vestries attending this event as your annual retreat, materials created especially for you are available!) [Register Online](#) at www.ctdiocese.org

ANNUAL MEETING 2015

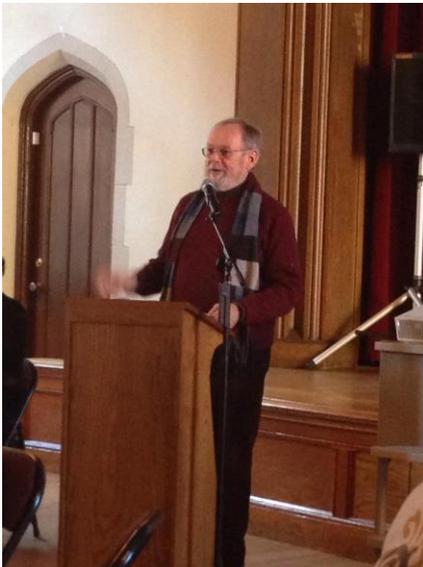
The Annual Meeting held on January 25, 2015, was the 209th or the CCIX meeting. According to Dr. Gordon W. Russell's "The History of Christ Church Hartford" prior to 1807 "the annual meetings of the parish had been held somewhat irregularly." The actions of those meetings were thus not valid. To correct this, the Warden, John Morgan, petitioned the Connecticut General Assembly to authorize a meeting to confirm all previous acts. On December 7, 1807 the parish met, confirmed their past actions and voted on an annual meeting date. - Dawn Ingram, Archivist



The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas address the Cathedral Congregation



The Cathedral Congregation



Tim Cole presenting Outreach Ministries Report



Marnie Mueller presenting report on behalf of The Mansfield Youth Education Committee

Continuation- From the Priest-In-Charge

The goal is not for parishioners to serve as “cheerleaders” for Christ Church Cathedral. Nor should you take umbrage at the fact that most listening session participants will have little knowledge of the history of Christ Church Cathedral, or of the ways in which we are currently engaged with the world around us. That is only natural. I daresay that most members of the Cathedral congregation know very little about the many interesting things that are happening at St. John’s Stamford, St. John’s Bridgeport, and St. John’s New Haven, to name just three of our 168 parishes.

The important thing to remember is that there is something about “the idea of a cathedral” that has led the participants to devote a weekday evening to the conversation. We should therefore listen attentively to what they have to say. Sometimes the most stunning insights, especially when we seek to discern what might be, come from people who are not overly burdened with knowledge about what is. And, of course, each of you should offer your

insights as well, using the listening sessions as an opportunity to “dream dreams.”

I close by once again quoting myself, this time drawing on my written report to the annual meeting.

“The year ahead is time of great promise for Christ Church Cathedral. It is also time of great anxiety. I therefore invite your prayers. For our bishops; for Lina, Donald and me; for the associated clergy and staff of the Cathedral; for our parish leaders; for the members of the Cathedral Chapter; for the members of the Cathedral Discernment Task Force; for our sisters and brothers across the Diocese who join with us in the good and important work of discerning how cathedrals can further God’s mission in these challenging times; and last but not least for all who delight in calling Christ Church Cathedral their parish home.”

Harlon

The Rev. Harlon Dalton

Looking Ahead: Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter

The most important season in the Christian Year starts on March 29 with Palm Sunday with a combined service at 10:30 a.m. In Holy Week there will be *Tenebrae* (meaning “darkness”), Wednesday, April 1; *Maundy Thursday* (bilingual, mostly in English), 6 p.m. Agape Meal preceding the service at 7 p.m.; *Good Friday*, 12 p.m. The Stations of the Cross, 4 p.m., Spanish service; 6 p.m., Veneration of the Cross. The Easter Vigil will be at 7:30 p.m. on April 4, and on Easter Day, April 5, there will be the Holy Eucharist with music at each service at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., and in Spanish at 12:30 p.m.



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

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