



Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

The Grapevine

May 2015

8 days walking in Jesus's footsteps... a meeting and a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Dear Cathedral family,

It is with a heart overwhelmed with awe and thanksgiving that I return home from what I would describe as a unique, profound and delightful experience.

The Annual Conference of North American Deans took place in the context of an adapted course similar to the Palestine of Jesus Course provided by St. George's College in Jerusalem. All participants had opportunities to visit Holy Sites as well as engage in lectures, conversations and interactions with local religious and civic leaders. We were blessed with an opportunity to visit the Princess Basma Centre, a Rehabilitation Center for Children with special needs, which is run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Each day brought its own remarkable set of experiences and encounters. Deciding which the most relevant experience was would be a difficult task to undertake, one which I honestly prefer not even entertain. However, I would like to share with you several aspects of this trip that connected me deeper with a sense of mission and "cathedralness" in a very distinctive way.

The Fellowship and networking with my colleagues deans (and their spouses) from the United States, Canada and Bahamas was a blessing in itself. The diversity of gifts, perspectives and personalities set the tone for a rich and positive experience. Our time together provided informal spaces for sharing of best practices and of the various aspects Cathedrals embraced as part of its unique nature as catalyst, convener and connector.

The visits to the Holy Sites evoked in me a constant flow of spiritual experiences, reframing of theological perspectives and seminary learnings, as well as a new sense of holy connected to the current state of the Holy City. We visited sites such as the Chapel of the Ascension, Mount of Olives, The Garden of Gethsemane, the Upper Room, Capernaum, The Sea of Galilee, Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Annunciation, among others. The visit to the Upper Room, where historians place the first gathering of Pentecost, brought the Pentecost story to a new level for me. The Pentecost experience continues to happen as people from all over the world and of many races, cultures, languages and theological perspectives travel to Jerusalem to have a spiritual encounter with the mystery of the Incarnation and Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. At the end of our visit to the Upper Room, our group gathered to sing hymns and closed in prayer in the patio, which other groups walked by, recorded our chanting, absorb the lyrics or simply went about their own journey.

Our course director, the Rev. Rodney Aist, PhD, had a significant topographic, archeological and theological knowledge, delineating clearly the differences between commemorations sites based on tradition and factual sites, evolved through history. This brought to me a realistic perspective of my journey in the Holy Land and a better understanding of Jesus's life and legacy as a Palestinian. I recognized that Rodney's

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accurate accounts of the places designated to commemorate (rather than specific historical places) was very helpful to me and that connecting at those levels did not make the experience less spiritual, on the contrary, it allowed me to meditate in the dynamic and consistent relationship of God and women/ men . I reminded myself that we, as human beings, tend to seek and/ or create concrete visuals in order to articulate the most abstract aspects of our faith. The majestic buildings were remarkable pieces of architecture and symbols of the faith of God's people and the journey of God's church throughout the centuries.

The Diocese of Jerusalem as a catalyst for Inter-faith and peacemaking conversations was one way in which I experienced the living church in the Holy Land.

The Very Rev. Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George's Cathedral is deeply connected to the context of the community and its leaders. The Church in Jerusalem has a strong relationship with other denominations and faiths. One example of the deep bond fostered by these efforts is the connection and relationship of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem with the Orthodox Church, particularly with their leader, his Beatitude Theophilus III, Patriarch of the Holy City of Jerusalem and all Palestine, Syria, Arabia, beyond the Jordan River, Cana of Galille and Holy Zion. We had an opportunity to visit with his Beatitude Theophilus III at the Headquarters of the patriarchate, located in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. This encounter was filled with grace, wisdom, hospitality and generosity. The Patriarch shared stories with us about his ministry, especially in the area of peacemaking and social justice. I was flabbergasted by a distinctive combination of wisdom, humor and humility, which emanated from his beatitude as he shared remarkable stories with all those present. Indeed an example to emulate.

Thanks to the profound and healthy connection of the Diocese in Jerusalem and the community, we were blessed to listen to lectures from Rabbi David Rosen and Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway on a Jewish and Muslim perspective of the current context and

providing us a space to discuss and meditate on the social responsibilities of other nations and worldwide religions in working towards peace, reconciliation and justice.

Two female leaders of Parents Circle, a joint Palestinian Israeli organization of over 600 families, all of whom have lost a close family member as a result of the prolonged conflict in the Holy Land, shared with us the stories of violence and fear that their community experience as well as the work of this organization towards reconciliation and increased level of awareness. For further information on this remarkable initiative, please visit their website at <http://www.theparentscircle.com/>

I mentioned earlier the Princess Basna Centre, The Diocese of Jerusalem is doing a remarkable job in serving the community. This was a place where I experienced God's mission and the commitment of God's people in a very palpable, effective and caring manner. It is my hope to explore further how to contribute to the growth of this institution.

I would say that for me, this journey to the Holy Land reflected the human and the divine intertwined to provide a spiritual experience where the ethereal, profound and basic joint in a seamless dance of harmonic encounters.

It was indeed a journey to the heart of the sacredness of my faith in Jesus of Nazareth as my savior and messiah at the same time a journey to witness the work and mission of God in the living Church in that part of the world.

Shalom,

Lina+

The Rev. Miguelina Howell, Vicar

With the Vicar in the Holy Land



My feet in the Sea of Galilee



A view of the Holy City from the Mount



*His Beatitude Theophilus III
Patriarch of the Orthodox Church.*



Deans' Conference in Jerusalem 2015



Calling All Gardeners!

The Cathedral's front yard on Main Street is small but very important visually to people passing by. It also gives pleasure to parishioners. Richard Baraglia and Jeffrey Baraglia-Palmer are heading up an effort to improve that space by establishing a Cathedral Garden Club. If you have a green thumb or are simply willing to help maintain our front yard, talk with either Rich or Jeffrey, or contact them at snugharbor@snet.net.

Eighth Annual Presentation of The Canon Clinton R. Jones Award Set for May 15

Since 2005, the Christ Church Cathedral has annually recognized individuals whose life and work exemplify the values, accomplishments and passions similar to those of the Rev. Canon Clinton Jones during 40 years of active ministry at the Cathedral. When he died at age 89, Canon Jones left a strong legacy of outreach to people with travail in their lives. Past recipients of the award include persons involved in prison ministry, helping disabled children in Haiti, and providing support services for those experiencing mental illness, homelessness and poverty. This year's award will be presented during an Evensong Service on Friday, May 15, at 7 p.m. with the Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas, Bishop Diocesan, celebrating. The service is open to all. It will be followed by a reception and dinner in the Cathedral House.

Exciting Celebration on May 24 for Pentecost and International Day

The Day of Pentecost and International Day will be celebrated with a single bilingual service at 10:30 a.m. At Christ Church Cathedral, the day reminds of us of our diverse community and of the many blessings we enjoy.

Pentecost—which in Greek means the 50th day and occurs 50 days after Easter - commemorates the birth of the Christian community as described in the Book of Acts. There we have the account of the pouring of the Spirit over all believers gathered to receive Jesus' promise of the One who was to come after him, the Comforter. A main sign of Pentecost is the color red, symbolizing the joy and fire of the Holy Spirit.

The service will feature special music by the Asylum Quartet and Surcari. The Asylum Quartet, composed of four saxophonists, is the Ensemble-in-Residence at the Cathedral. Surcari, an instrumental group led by Lorena Garay, the Cathedral's Spanish Music Coordinator, features Latin-American, Andean, Afro-Caribbean and Spanish music. Take the word of Joshua Slater, Music Director of the Cathedral, "The music will be fabulous!"

The Fellowship Hour will offer a feast of different kinds of food brought in by parishioners to represent their own culture or country of origin. To add to the festivity, all attending are encouraged to wear something red to symbolize Pentecost Day—even if just a scarf or tie. Plan now to be part of a wonderful celebration! For further information, contact Peggy Ornell, Associate for Parish Life, or Heather Jordan-Greaves, Hospitality Team Coordinator.

The Future of Christ Church Cathedral: Report of the Discernment Forum

In July 2013, Bishop Ian Douglas appointed a Cathedral Discernment Task to consider what kind of cathedral, if any, is needed to support the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, and to submit its recommendations to the Diocesan Convention in November 2015. On April 19, the latest in a series of forums specifically for the Christ Church Cathedral congregation was held to update members on the Task Force's work.

Task Force members who participated were Tim Cole and Pat Wrice of the Cathedral; the Rev. Whitney Edwards, Holy Trinity, Westport; the Rev. Jack Gilpin, St. John's, New Milford, and the Rev. Harlon Dalton, our Priest-in-Charge, in his role as Task Force convener. Over the past months, they and two other members—the Rev. Everett Perine, St. Peter's, Hebron, and Anne Watkins, St Paul's on the Green, Norwalk-- have held "listening" sessions around the Diocese.

The Task Force members had joined the parish earlier for worship, and both Whitney Edwards and Jack Gilpin presided at the Eucharist.

Harlon began the session by reviewing what have been the traditional purposes of a cathedral:

- A symbol and embodiment of our common identity
- A public face and voice
- A house of prayer and devotion
- Extension of the Bishop's apostolic call to extend our faith into the world

Do such purposes require a special building?

Could there be a "cathedral without walls?" When in 1784 Samuel Seabury became the first Bishop of the Diocese of Connecticut, the first in the United States, wherever he was, was also the "seat" of the Diocese. It was not until 1919 that Christ Church in Hartford became the Diocesan Cathedral.

The functions of a cathedral were today described by Harlon as the four C's:

Convener - bringing people together in one place

Connector - presenting the church's perspective on public policy in light of our faith traditions

Catalyst - serving as a spark in identifying meeting broader needs in our communities

Capability builder - developing people and resources to fulfil those functions

Several members of the congregation spoke of their feelings and convictions about Christ Church Cathedral. Here is a sampling:

"The Cathedral provides a sense of continuity. We can't dismiss our history."

"If we are no longer a cathedral, we will lose the respect built up over the years that enables us to do so much good."

"The openness and diversity of this place that welcomes everyone—especially spiritual refugees from places that don't want them—are what make this Cathedral so important and needed."

"We're good at what we do—we need to brag about that. No one else is doing it."

"Cities need cathedrals. It's where the work for the people gets done. It would be a loss for Hartford."

The next step is for the Task Force to draft preliminary recommendations and conclusions for comment by the Cathedral Chapter in July. In September it will present draft recommendations to the Cathedral parish and invite feedback. In October the Chapter will comment on the final proposal for presentation to the November Convention. To become better informed and to volunteer your own opinions and concerns, parishioners are encouraged to contact the Task Force via a single email address: cathedralsdiscernment@gmail.com

The Cathedral's website-www.cccathedral.org- has a link on its home page to the Preliminary Report on the Discernment process. In addition, a click on the tab for "Resources" shown at the top of the home page, will bring up several background articles including the PowerPoint presentation used when engaging in conversations around the Diocese, an essay by Harlon on how the Cathedral is "discerning by doing," and items on the history, nature and purpose of cathedrals.

From the Priest-in-Charge

Helping Released Inmates Go Into a New Life

On a Tuesday morning in late April, Leslie Jones and I were privileged to attend the dedication of the new Cybulski Community Reintegration Center in Enfield CT. This “grand opening” represented the first step in an ambitious effort by Connecticut’s Department of Corrections to break the cycle of recidivism. In essence, a traditional prison has been converted into a learning community where inmates nearing the completion of their sentences acquire the skills and access the resources needed to make a go of it on the outside. In marking the occasion, Governor Malloy spoke movingly of the importance of not giving up on anyone, and of reclaiming the notion that even the most wayward can be reformed. Drawing in part on religious ideals – “We go to church on Sundays because we pray for a second chance” – the Governor said “We are doing this to save lives.”

It is no accident that the Center features the term “community” prominently in its name. Our common life depends on broad adherence to shared norms. Those who commit crimes tear at that social fabric. Therefore, when convicted they are exiled from society. Upon their return, they reenter society, and the biggest question on the table is whether they will embrace, and be embraced, by the social order.

How This New Center Will be Different

In recognition of the centrality of shared values and social commitment, the Reintegration Center at Cybulski is a study in the formation and nurturing of community. In contrast to what happens in a typical prison, inmates housed at the Reintegration Center help set the ground rules and define the norms that govern their daily lives. The men who populate the initial unit at the Center have christened the unit E.N.O.U.G.H., which is short for Embracing New Opportunities and Upholding Good Habits. They have spelled out their unit philosophy as follows: “On this common ground we embrace new opportunities, while upholding good habits and breaking the cycle of recidivism.

Persevering as a community, learning from one another and helping each other take the necessary steps towards ensuring a successful future, we begin our second chance to change and to follow new pathways to a better life.”

There are 110 men housed in E.N.O.U.G.H.. Soon, a second unit will be established for military veterans. Eventually, Cybulski will house six units, with some 600 men in toto occupying the entire complex. In addition, by the end of this year a community reintegration unit for women will be established at the York Correctional facility in Niantic. By the end of next year, the Department of Corrections hopes to open a unit for youthful offenders at the Manson facility in Cheshire and one for inmates with significant mental health issues at Garner in Newtown.

How the Cathedral Fits In

In previous editions of *The Grapevine* I have written about the Onesimus Project, a fledgling Cathedral effort to encourage and equip congregations to integrate prison inmates into their communities of faith. As initially conceived, the Project focused on making it possible for inmates to be released from prison on a routine basis in order to participate in regularly-scheduled church activities. The basic idea was that if an inmate became actively engaged in a worshipping community while still incarcerated, s/he would most likely gravitate to that community and be supported by it upon release.

Now that the Cybulski Community Reintegration Center is up and running, with additional units to follow, the arc of the Onesimus Project has changed. The ultimate goal remains the same – to encourage and equip congregations to embrace the exile – but we can now do so in a way that is more organic and that allows parishes to proceed at a pace that works for them. By first engaging with inmates at the Reintegration Center, congregations will have an opportunity to get to know them, to work through cultural complexities in a structured environment, and to develop confidence in their own abilities. I recently heard it said that “ministry proceeds at the pace of relationship.” Pairing the Onesimus Project with the Cybulski Community Reintegration Center (and its eventual satellites) creates an opportunity for that to happen.

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I cannot yet say what the specifics of that pairing will be. It is clear, however, that the Cathedral's role will be to lay the groundwork with the center, and to then connect faith communities to it and to one another. The administration and staff at Cybulski are eager to have faith-based organizations participate in the Center's day to day programming. In part that is because the staff is charged with keeping unit members actively engaged in learning and growing for upwards of 12 hours a day. And in part engaging faith communities is seen as vital because without strong community support outside the prison walls, all the preparation in the world will come to naught

Next Steps for the Cathedral

Therefore, one of the first orders of business for the Cathedral is to meet with Cybulski staff and inmates to explore what kind of program support would be most useful. Since one of the learning tracks for each housing unit will be faith-based, there is at least one obvious area of common interest. It will be important, however, to also identify non-religious programming support that congregations can provide. For example, courses in photography or basic computer skills or advanced web design might prove to be a good match. Or perhaps there might be interest in creative writing or pen and ink drawing or working with clay. Once we have a sense of what kinds of program support is most desirable, we can reach out to congregations to help them assess what they have to offer and whether this mission field is for them. We would then provide whatever resources each congregation needs to ready itself for the undertaking.

Once a match is made and a community of faith becomes established at the Reintegration Center, opportunities to engage beyond the prison walls will unfold on their own. If a genuine relationship begins to form between an inmate and the members of a congregation in the city or town to which he or she is likely to return, then it will make sense for them to explore whether the inmate can be released on furlough to participate in church activities.

If so, the prospects for a smooth transition will be greatly enhanced since many of the fears and concerns that might arise between strangers – i.e. between a congregation and an inmate that did not know one another, or a congregation and a facility – would long since have faded.

The speed at which this has unfolded, and continues to unfold, is remarkable. Truly God is up to something, and we are called to be a part of it.

Easteride blessings.

Harlon+

The Rev. Harlon Dalton, Priest-in-Charge

MAY HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Anne Barnard
Virgen Bonilla
Timothy Cole
Richard Buika
Susan Dalrymple
Mykal Gardner
Marva Gilkes
Dawn Ingram
Hugh Jackson
Reade James
Richard Mansfield
Emmanuel Mokol
Madison Osborn
Alzi Platts
Kathleen Register
Rayfield Scott
Melissa Watson

Free Noontime Outdoor Concert by the Asylum Quartet on May 28

Welcome the warm weather after a miserable winter by having your lunch on the Cathedral patio while listening to the amazing music of the Asylum Quartet on Thursday, May 28 at noon. The Quartet, composed of four saxophonists, is the Ensemble-in-Residence at the Cathedral. They play a variety of music ranging from classical to jazz with a lot in between. *Mark your calendar now to be there!*

FROM THE REGISTER

Baptism

Johnie Brewer - 2/8/2015
Edwin Jaxiel, Jr. - 4/5/2015
Michael Anthony Ortiz - 4/5/2015
Julia Angelisse Ortiz - 4/5/2015
Jay Than Ortiz - 4/5/2015
Patricia Perez - 4/5/2015

Confirmation

Rosalee Figueroa - 4/4/2015

Reception

Christopher Lind Miller -
4/4/2015

MAY CALENDAR

- 3 Walk Against Hunger, 12:30 p.m., Hartbeat Park
- 4 Cathedral Crafters, 10 a.m.
- 15 Canon Jones Award Presentation, Evensong service followed by reception and dinner, 7 p.m.
- 19 Soup & Services, 5 p.m.
- 24 Pentecost - International Day (*see separate item*)
- 25 Memorial Day - Office closed
- 28 Asylum Quartet free concert, noon, on patio



Looking Ahead: Newport Flower Show

Mark your calendars now for a day trip to Rhode Island on Saturday, June 20, for the famous Newport Flower Show. More details to come. Richard Baraglia is in charge of arrangements and can be reached at snugharbor@snet.net



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

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