



Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

The Grapevine
September 2015

Message from the Vicar

Living in between times...

Transitions are an inherent part of life. The moment we are born, we start to experience changes and transition, from the comfort of our mother's womb to the hectic scene of a delivery room, from being fed by the umbilical cord to receive nourishment from our mother's chest or a foreign object we soon learn to appreciate. Then, we spend an enormous amount of time in our parents' and other peoples' arms, we start crawling and walking, seeking our independence to explore the new world around us. As we grow, we experience different layers of transition and change in our childhood and our teenage years. Adulthood brings its own set of joys, challenges and experiences as we embrace transitions, change and a new sense of being as individuals.

Some people are built in a manner in which change is not threatening, and actually could be life-giving and exciting. To others, change and transitions are times of anxiety, fear and discomfort. The same is experienced in communities or groups. Some communities are accustomed to face changes and transitions and do so seamlessly; others are overwhelmed by the transition journey and are not able to see beyond the present time or discern who God is calling them to be in the midst of change and creative chaos.

The Cathedral congregation has been living in a time of transition and discernment for quite some time; particularly so since the appointment of the Discernment Task Force in 2014. During this time, the Discernment Task Force engaged the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT), studied cathedral trends, discussed and discerned their view and hopes of a cathedral in the 21st Century and how a cathedral may respond to God's mission in an effective and creative manner. Parallel to the process of the Discernment Task Force, we, as a worshipping community, have been listening to presentations, preliminary reports and living in between times as we waited to receive the preliminary conclusions of the Discernment Task Force.

It seems to me, considering what was perceived to be at stake, that the Cathedral congregation has handled this experience in a spirit of curiosity, trust and hope. I do not dismiss that, at times, anxiety and concern took the best of some of us. Now that the curve of the transition is coming to an end, we are called to faithfully discern, discuss and respond to the recommendations in front of us. This is a time when we are invited to either reaffirm our commitment to serve God, God's people and ECCT as a cathedral or to relinquish that role, allowing ECCT to make a decision of a place and space for that ministry to take place. Our response will be
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drafted by members of the Parish Committee, taking into consideration the feedback from the congregation, and will be presented to our Bishop Diocesan and Cathedral Chapter at the October Chapter meeting.

I believe that the Task Force made a marvelous job outlining what I consider a guideline and platform for the mission of God in this place as we face the realities of society and our calling as disciples and apostles furthering God's mission in our midst. I thank God for this time of transition. I thank God and each one of you for creating a sacred space to review and renew our calling.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I commend the Parish Committee and its chair, Lucy Groening, for leading the engagement process with our congregation, facilitating a series of conversations and creating opportunities for one-on-one conversation and questions.

These, my sisters and brothers, are exciting times. These are times given to us as an opportunity to reinvent ourselves in the Lord. It is a time to step in audacious faith, open to the Spirit and the extraordinary future God has in store for us.

Independent of the structural or institutional decisions that Christ Church Cathedral's congregation, Chapter or ECCT may make, we trust that God's mission will continue to thrive in this corner of God's kingdom.

I conclude with the collect for Sunday, Proper 17, which this year is the collect said on August 30th:

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ

our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

It is my prayer that God graft in our hearts a passion and love for God's name and mission, and that we, as a community and individuals, experience an increase of true religion in a profound way as we bring forth the fruit of good works to his honor and glory.

Happy discernment my beloved Saints, happy discernment!

Lina+

The Rev. Miguelina Howell, Vicar

The Cathedral's Finances: A Report from the Treasurer

By Robert Coykendall

Here are highlights of the Cathedral's financial status at mid-year 2015:

- Our endowment has declined only slightly, despite our withdrawals
- Our cash inflow is above budget
- Our cash outflow is below budget
- Withdrawal from our endowment for the year will be under 7%

Donations and Bequests for Churches (D&B), the investment service provided by the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, holds and manages our endowment. We began the year at \$10,947,181. The value at the end of June was \$10,910,390. We have withdrawn \$362,972 to support the Cathedral's operations and mission.

Based on the value of the funds at the start of the year, our "take-out rate" for the year is 6.6%. Though still high, it represents progress in reduction from the 7-plus percentage of previous years.

The value of "Beneficial Trusts" held at Bank of America at the beginning of the year was \$5,718,241, and \$5,675,384 at the end of June. As of June, we have received \$135,628. We have no

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control over these funds; the bank must distribute a minimum amount to satisfy applicable tax laws.

Total outflow for the six months was \$620,964 versus budget of \$648,467. Inflow was \$688,824 versus budget of \$604,566: a surplus of \$67,859.

Income from pledges was \$64,000 versus \$75,000 pledged. We hope that this is just a seasonal dip.

Contributing to the cash inflow are these items:

- Refund of \$24,353 in property insurance premium
- “True-ups” from Bank of America from the “Beneficial Trusts” to bring us up to the minimum required level.
- Spreading the word by our Vicar Lina and Cathedral Administrator Annie Ames of available usable space, resulting in \$7,675 for “rentals” in the half year.

Damage caused by flooding of the church’s basement produced a “cash crunch” as we paid for needed repairs. The Chapter approved our establishing an emergency checking account to use in case of such unexpected needs.

The account has been funded by insurance proceeds for the flood claims and holds \$60,320.

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut requires that the sale of parish-owned houses be dedicated to support clergy housing. Proceeds from the sale of the Deanery of \$394,725 have been placed in a new fund specifically for that purpose. The proceeds from the sale of the Vicarage, \$168,768, have also been placed in that new housing fund.

We thank our clergy, our Cathedral Administrator Annie Ames and our Bookkeeper Cindy Hursty for their careful and dedicated attention to our expenditures and sources of income.

Cathedral Congregation Response Process: Cathedral Discernment

The Cathedral Discernment Task Force Report was made available to the Chapter at its July 14 meeting. Copies have been distributed to the congregation by a variety of methods. Extra copies are available in English and Spanish at the rear of the narthex.

Now we are ready, as a congregation, to take a good hard look at those 18 recommendations! This is a pivotal time in our life as a community. It is the time we actively discern and recommit to our calling as a cathedral. It is a time to live into the 21st century, responding to God’s mission in the world and to what God is up to in our context as the Cathedral of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, or a time to live into a new life as a parish. This is our decision to make. We have an important task at hand.

Forums have been organized by the Parish Committee on the following Sundays after the 10 a.m. service:

- August 30
- September 13
-

Both forums will be the same: if you can’t get to one, plan to be at the other. **Rumor has it there will be an Ice Cream Social at the Forum on August 30!** An abbreviated version of the Task Force Report and Recommendations is being prepared for the forums to help facilitate the discussions. Discussions will be at the tables with a Parish Committee member at each table to lead the discussion and take notes.

These discussions are really important as the Parish Committee will take into consideration the feedback of the congregation in the process of preparing a report to present to the Chapter at its October meeting. The Chapter wants to know what you think! A draft of the Parish Committee’s Report to the Chapter will be presented at a forum on September 27. Mark these dates:

**August 30 or September 13
September 27**

*Lucy Groening, Chair
Parish Committee*

Cathedral Leadership Transition: Your Feedback Requested

At the Cathedral Chapter meeting on July 14, Bishop Douglas announced his intention to form a Transition Committee to work with Canon Tim Hodapp as we prepare for the next phase of clergy leadership for our faith community. In the event that Christ Church remains the Cathedral—as recommended by the Cathedral Discernment Task Force in their report—it is Bishop Douglas’ intention to nominate our Vicar, the Rev. Miguelina Howell, as our Dean. The Transition Committee’s role is to spend some time together discussing the work we’ve all done through the Priest-in-Charge process, and, in light of where we believe God is calling us, identify the characteristics and skills of the person whom we desire to serve. With this in mind, the Transition Team would proceed in interviewing our Vicar for the call to serve as Dean.

The Transition Committee is composed of six members, three from the Chapter and three from the

Parish Committee. The latter are Bernard Senior from the 8 a.m. service, Lucy Groening from the 10 a.m. service, and Elba Rios from the 12:30 p.m. service. In preparation for the upcoming Transition Team meeting, our Parish Committee team members would appreciate receiving feedback from the congregation about Lina’s ministry.

There are two meetings scheduled of the Transition Committee with Canon Hodapp in September, on the 9th and the 29th. The first meeting is a discussion of our life as a Cathedral parish and an evaluation of Lina’s ministry. The second will be a standard clergy interview—Transition Team and Lina, facilitated by Tim.

Over the new few weeks, please take time to visit with Bernard, Lucy and Elba in regard to how you’ve received Lina’s ministry and leadership in her time as Vicar. Let them know—through stories and comments—how you feel about calling Lina as our next Dean.

Commitment to God the Giver: Stewardship in Our Spiritual Journey

A Message from Robert Mueller, 2015 Stewardship Committee Chair

For many churches, the fall season and stewardship campaigns go together. There’s nothing wrong with that, but too often the true meaning of stewardship is lost in the efforts to obtain pledges—that it’s only money that matters. In 2015, our stewardship focus is this: “Commitment to God the Giver.”

Put simply, “Stewardship is living out our lives with the belief that all we are and have is God’s, entrusted with us to share.”

We plan to communicate that message in different ways—through letters, *The Grapevine*, personal testimonies, email posts, and sermons. As a start, here are excerpts from a letter written by Levi Harris, an Episcopalian and attorney in Chicago,

who writes about our stewardship of that precious gift from God: time. “Time may be the most extravagant gift of all. We can always earn more money and buy more things, but we can’t make more time. Once it is spent, it’s gone forever. That’s why we shouldn’t spend time on meaningless trifles: We don’t have time to waste.

Jesus is a busy man on the road to Jerusalem and the Cross. He doesn’t have much time. Yet again and again he shows us that sharing time with others isn’t wasteful. Strangers and friends, young and old, whole and infirm, rich and poor: people are worth our time. They’re worth the effort it takes to make memories with them; to touch, serve and bless them.

Playing with children, or Christmas caroling at nursing homes, or serving food to the grateful hungry, or laughing with old friends, we may find ourselves transported again and again, to those “thin times” in which time stands still, and for fleeting moments, we’re able to glimpse eternity.”

To think about: What activities occupy most of your time? What does Jesus teach us about how we use our time?

Meet Ann Perrott: Cathedral Intern

With the oversight of the Cathedral's administration and finances placed under Vicar Lina Howell, our Priest-in-Charge Harlon Dalton in recent months has focused on helping the Cathedral more fully engage the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and the City of Hartford. One of his activities is the Onesimus Project developed in response to helping inmates back into the community once they are released from prison. That is the kind of work that Ann Perrott, an intern at the Cathedral, is undertaking.

Ann is a postulant for priesthood. She has a Master of Divinity degree from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge and her internship is the next step to being ordained, first as a deacon and subsequently as a priest. She divides her time between Beverly, Massachusetts, where she lives with her husband, Godfrey, and Connecticut where she has an apartment in Manchester.

She has served as a parish chaplain at the Osborne House of Corrections in Somers, and is now working in the Reintegration Program in Enfield. "Harlon had the idea of getting the faith communities to open up their spaces to former inmates, making them feel welcome and providing services in helping them find jobs and places to live," Ann said. She noted that Governor Malloy of Connecticut has strongly supported such efforts,

citing the need to reduce recidivism among released inmates.

Ann earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Emerson College in communications disorders and worked as a speech therapist with multiply-handicapped adults in a sheltered workshop. "It was hard work," she says, "but it was there I came face-to-face with a God that I had for years worked hard to find." Brought up as a Roman Catholic, she drifted away. It was the liturgy of The Book of Common Prayer that brought her into the Episcopal Church. She cites these Eucharistic prayer words, "In him you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you," as telling her that she was loved, accepted and worthy. Her years as a social worker led her to consider becoming a deacon out in the world where the Church is needed. She also participated in a prison program called Houses of Healing. That led to serving for four years in a low-security, pre-release program for men. "The inmates I worked with had never felt worthy of much at all, especially in receiving the body and blood of Jesus Christ."

Her work in Hartford will be on weekdays but she plans to be at the Cathedral one Sunday a month, and has accepted the invitation of Vicar Lina to preach about her work and experiences. She looks forward to getting to know the Cathedral family.



Best Wishes to Tom Whitestone!

Tom Whitestone, our gifted organist, has left the post he's held since August 2014 in order to spend more time with his family. We hope to see him occasionally as a guest organist and also as a Choir singer. He will be greatly missed.



HAPPY SEPTMEBER BIRTHDAYS

Victor Adams
Jeffrey Baraglia-Palmer
Tamika Barnett
Stephen Bezrucik
Paul Belval
Ashley Colon
Damien Cregeau
Thomas Eisenlohr
Deahna Fisher
Pam Hall
Milton Howard
Charles McBride
Jordan McBride
Gloria Mengual
Dionne Morris
Robert Mueller
Elaine Nelson
Kenton Pusey
Audrey Scanlan
Aleksandra Scott
Bernard Senior
Roberta Walmsley

September Calendar

- 10 Asylum Quartet, free concert on patio at noon
- 13 Return of Choir; Backpack Blessing, 10 a.m. service
- 13 Parish Forum on Discernment Task Force Report, following 10 a.m. service (*see separate item*)
- 15 Soup & Services, 5 p.m.
- 19 Grant Writing Workshop, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (*see separate item*)
- 27 Parish Forum on Parish Committee's Report to the Chapter on Discernment, following 10 a.m. service (*see separate item*)

Looking Ahead - October

- 3 Blessing of the Animals
- 4 Homecoming Sunday, 10:30 a.m., single bilingual service
- 18 Asylum Quartet at 10 a.m. service
- 22 Asylum Quartet concert in Cathedral
- 25 Bach Sunday
- 30 Halloween Event



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

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Deadline for October issue: September 15

Contact: Lillian Kezerian
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Free Grant Writing Workshop Offered

An introductory workshop in how to write grants for causes and organizations is being offered by Maggie Gunther Osborn, Cathedral member and president of the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy. The workshop is free for Cathedral members. Others will be asked to make a \$25 contribution to support the ministry of Church Street Eats.

The workshop will be held in the Cathedral House on Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A light lunch will be served. Participants will be able to submit a grant narrative for review and editing by Maggie during the month following the workshop.

Registration deadline is September 12 by email: peggyornell@cccathedral.org