



Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

The Grapevine
February 2016

A Message from Our New Dean



On Sunday, January 24, Jay Cooke and I met with the team coordinators of the Christian Formation and Healing Ministries to discuss details of our upcoming Lenten Series. The theme of this year's series has been resonating in my mind for quite some time. A Lenten Journey to Wholeness will focus on our holistic health, centered in God. I am looking forward to joining our beloved Cathedral congregation in this journey and enjoying the program Jay, Jilda Aliotta, Tom Smith and their team members are putting together. I am confident it will be a blessing to us all.

Lent is a time when we are invited to engage in an intentional process of introspection and meditation. It is a time when we recall Jesus's journey to the cross to give us salvation and reconciliation with God and one another. Jesus' sacrifice brings us to wholeness of life.

As a faculty member of CREDO, a wellness program for clergy sponsored by the Church Pension Fund, wellness and wholeness is a permanent theme of reflection and actions in my life as a Christian and as an ordained minister. A journey to wellness is an everyday choice, one we cannot make alone, but with the help and

guidance of the Holy Spirit and our immediate communities, whatever shape or form those take.

As we focus on wellness and wholeness during this season of Lent, we are highlighting Jesus' mission of reconciliation and restoration for God's beloved children. We are also holding each other accountable to live a life in which God is at the center, a life in which we are good stewards of the blessings bestowed upon us by God Almighty who from the beginning of creation desires and seeks our well-being, thus inspiring us to desire and see the well-being of our brothers and sisters in our communities and in the world.

In this fast-paced world, Lent is providing us an opportunity to slow down and meditate in vital aspects of our lives (physical, emotional and spiritual health). **Most important, it is an opportunity to see our lives through God's eyes. It is, my dear saints, an opportunity to once again come closer to God.**

The picture in this article was taken during my time in Jerusalem last year. While many who look at this picture may only see a lonely and dry desert, the wilderness, I see opportunity, growth, and preparation. I see through this wilderness God's creative love.

My prayers and wishes for each one of us as we approach this Lenten Season is that we open our hearts, minds and souls to God's transforming love, allowing God to use the wilderness as a path of preparation for the journey ahead as we live in the world as restored, reconciled and healed children of God.

I conclude by sharing a prayer I say each morning which is a priceless gift packaged in each edition of the Day By Day booklet, a gift that helps me start my day centered in God and to be mindful of the need of wellness. I offer it to you and encourage you to use it during your personal Lenten journey.

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A Morning Resolve - (Day by Day Forward Movement)

I will try this day to live a simple, sincere and serene life, repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity, and self-seeking; cultivating cheerfulness, magnanimity, charity, and the habit of holy silence; exercising economy in expenditure, generosity in giving, carefulness in conversation, diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust, and a childlike faith in God.

In particular I will try to be faithful in those habits of prayer, work, study, physical exercise, eating, and sleep which I believe the Holy Spirit has shown me to be right. And as I cannot in my own strength do this, nor even with a hope of success attempt it, I look to thee, O Lord God my Father, in Jesus my Savior, and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessings,
Lina

The Very. Rev. Miguelina Howell Dean

Response of the Bishops of Connecticut to Communique from Anglican Communion Primates

On January 17 a letter was sent to all Episcopalians in Connecticut by Bishop Ian T. Douglas and Bishop Laura J. Ahrens concerning a communique released by the primates of the Anglican Communion sanctioning The Episcopal Church in the United States. The communique stated that the church will be barred for three years from voting in Anglican meetings on issues of church doctrine or organization, and from representing the Anglican church in interfaith or ecumenical gatherings. The primates were prompted by the decision of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in July 2015 to consider changing our canons allowing for the marriage of gay and lesbian persons.

The action by the primates has raised concerns, sadness and prayers. Here are excerpts from the letter written by our Bishops:

“While discussions and debates in inter-Anglican bodies are important, we must never lose sight of our baptismal vocation to participate in God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation. The Episcopal Church is deeply committed to the full inclusion of gay and lesbian people in the life of our church and we affirm the dignity of every human being created in the image of God. In Connecticut, we are fully supportive and stand behind the positions taken by The Episcopal Church with respect to LGBT sisters and brothers. We are grounded in the love

of God who invites all people, and all creation, to the fullness of life in Jesus. Our passion for sharing the vastness of God’s love for all people is at the heart of our participation in God’s mission. “As bishops we appreciate that the structures of the Anglican Communion...provide important venues for conversation, prayer and discernment among the churches of the Anglican Communion. We believe, however, that the real ‘instruments of unity’ are the countless ways that parishes, dioceses, and individual Christians in the Anglican Communion connect across our differences through common participation in God’s mission. The real unity of the Anglican Communion is embodied in our connection and common action as together we serve God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation in Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. “As your bishops, we are acutely aware of how blessed we are to serve with you in the mission of God wherever God is calling us to be missionaries of Christ’s redeeming love. Please do keep the Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church, and The Episcopal Church in Connecticut, in your prayers that we will always be faithful to God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation walking together as Anglican sisters and brothers.”

To read the full letter, which also explains the structure of the Anglican Communion, go to the website of The Episcopal Church in Connecticut at www.episcopalct.org

Ash Wednesday Services and Ashes to Go

The observance of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10. Four services of Holy Eucharist and imposition of ashes will be held: 8 a.m., 12 noon, 5 p.m. in Spanish, and 7 p.m. The imposition of ashes on our foreheads is an outward sign of our repentance-of being sorry for doing the wrong thing -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. During mid-day Cathedral clergy will offer Ashes to Go in various downtown Hartford locations.

Thoughts on Pastoral Care from the Rev. Jay Cooke

I am excited to begin my time with you as the Priest for Pastoral Care and Congregational Life. As I transition from being a Priest Associate to this new position, I look forward to working with those of you who serve in the areas of pastoral care and Christian formation. To be serving in these areas is an exciting venture and one of discovery for me. I will be providing leadership and look for assistance along this path of discovery for me in this new position.

As many of you know, pastoral care has been an area of ministry to which I have dedicated much time and commitment. Starting in 1995, I began my journey as a hospital chaplain in the role of chaplain intern and resident at Cincinnati Children's Medical Center. Training to be a chaplain has as much to do about learning about oneself as it does about developing skills as a chaplain. So over the years, I've gotten to know myself more than I ever imagined! This includes my formation as a Clinical Pastoral Education [CPE] Supervisor, who is a teacher of chaplains. Over the past 20 years, I have become a board-certified chaplain through the Association of Professional Chaplains and a Supervisor in the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. In terms of Christian formation, most of my attention has been in the context of helping people who are Christians learn how to be a chaplain. This is a process that involves gaining knowledge of oneself and

skills development as a chaplain. Eventually these two areas intertwine and the student becomes more and more of an informed and competent pastoral caregiver. With this said, I believe there will be some transferable skills as I work with all of you in your formation as Christians. Again, however we proceed, I imagine formation of all of you as Christians will be an ongoing process of self-discovery and equipment of skills to engage in the work of God's mission and reconciliation in the world.

As you know, I am serving in a part-time position here at the Cathedral. The rest of my work week includes serving as a CPE supervisor at Griffin Hospital in Derby, Connecticut. There I will be teaching students how to become chaplains. I consider myself fortunate to be able to both serve as a priest with all of you and to continue my work as a CPE Supervisor at Griffin Hospital.

So, I am looking forward to what the year will bring. I will be serving you as a priest of pastoral care, Christian formation, liturgically on Saturday at Church by the Pond and on Sunday for our day of principal worship. I'm very much looking forward to working with our Dean and the vision for the Cathedral. It is such a blessing for me to be a part of this community of faith. I'm excited to get to know each of you some more and especially, your journey of faith.

~ Jay

Candlemas Observance and Pancake Brunch on February 7

Candlemas is the traditional Sunday in the church when the Altar Guild presents candles to be blessed for the coming year. 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 after a child's birth. According to the Gospel of Luke (2:32), a Jewish man named Simeon held the baby in his arms and said the child would "be the light to lighten the Gentiles." His words are the reason for calling the event Candlemas. Candlemas occurs in the period between the December solstice and the March equinox, a halfway point between winter and spring. Following the 10 a.m. . . .service on February 7, another tradition will be observed a delicious Pancake Brunch in the Cathedral House auditorium with great food and fellowship. Mark your calendars now to be at the Cathedral on the 7th of February!

The Scottish Connection: Aberdeen and Connecticut

On February 18, as part of the installation service of our new Dean, the Very Rev. Miguelina Howell, another seating will take place. The Very Rev. Dr. Emsley Nimmo, Dean of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney of the Scottish Episcopal Church, will be made Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral as voted by Chapter in 2015. The event carries forward a 241-year historical connection between the Episcopal Diocese in Connecticut and the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney.

We in Connecticut share a rich history with St. Andrew's Cathedral, the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, and the Scottish Episcopal Church. We recall with thanks giving the consecration of Samuel Seabury as the first Bishop of Connecticut in Aberdeen in 1784, thus inaugurating the contemporary world-wide Anglican Communion. Throughout the years our cathedrals have fostered ongoing and lasting relationships. The Provost of St. Andrew's Cathedral will be accompanying Dean Nimmo and both will participate at the Sunday worship on February 21.

Palm Sunday and Holy Week

March 19 - The Liturgy of the Palms at Bushnell Park-Church by the pond

March 20 - Palm/Passion Sunday - The Liturgy of the Palms and the Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m. *Combined bilingual service*

March 23 - Tenebrae 6 p.m.

March 24 - Maundy Thursday 6 p.m. Agape Meal, 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist (*bilingual*)

March 25 - Good Friday 12 p.m. Stations of the Cross; Veneration of the Cross, 4 p.m. (*in Spanish*), and 6 p.m.

March 26 - The Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 p.m.

March 27 - Easter Day Holy Eucharist 8 a.m., and 10 a.m. 12:30 p.m. (*in Spanish*) Music at all services

February Calendar

- 7 Candlemas Observance at 10 a.m. service followed by Pancake Brunch in auditorium
- 10 Ash Wednesday Services: 8 a.m., 12 noon, 5 p.m. in Spanish, 7 p.m.
- 15 Presidents' Day holiday, office closed
- 16 Soup & Services, 5 p.m.
- 17-20 Meeting of the Council of Advice for Latino/Hispanic Ministries in the Episcopal Church
- 18 Installation of the 10th Dean of the Cathedral and Seating of Honorary Canon, 6:30 p.m. (*see additional information*)

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

The Bishops of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and the Cathedral Chapter request the honor of your presence at the Installation and seating of The Very Reverend Miguelina Howell as the Tenth Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 6:30 o'clock in the evening

Installation Service to include the seating of The Very Reverend Dr. Emsley Nimmo, Dean of Aberdeen & Orkney, as Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

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