



Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

The Grapevine

July-August 2016

A Message from the Dean: More than a liturgical vestment

Gestures of caring build relationships in unique and strong ways. Small gestures such as a smile, a gentle pat on the back or an attentive listening approach in a conversation can touch someone's life in ways that are unimaginable. I know this first hand as a recipient (and provider) of mindful caring actions from my family and loved ones and as a caregiver in my participation in God's mission as a pastor.

Since my arrival at our Cathedral in October 2013, I have experienced the gentle care and support of



our unique, diverse and blessed community.

At a meeting convened way before my arrival during the exploring stages of my calling as Vicar, lay leaders expressed their hopes and expectations for the life of the Cathedral congregation. At that meeting, a seasoned leader looked me straight in the eyes and said: "We love and take good care of our clergy."

Now, after serving with you all this time, I

know that the comment made almost three years ago was an understatement. Your love and care for your clergy, for one another and for our sisters and brothers in Christ who are in need is remarkable.

Our Cathedral is a community woven in love and compassion, expressed in its own unique ways.

You have shown to me (and I know to our Bishops and Associate Clergy) great love and care in a healthy and spiritual way. You have shown the love of God in profound and yet subtle ways. In the past three years such love has been shown through open and honest conversations as we lived through our discernment process, speaking truth with love, sharing your input about what is going well in our midst and what needs further attention and care, and most important, by responding to God's call for us to live into a renewed life as a cathedral of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

On the occasion of my installation as your Dean, a small group of you had the initiative to organize a "welcome gift" for me. The minds and spirits of Rose Fichera-Eagen, Lucy Groening and June Aziz make a terrific combination! No doubt! After following proper process, receiving consent from our Bishop Diocesan, working with the Parish Committee, contacting our auditors and ultimately contacting each one of you, they started an appeal to make the idea of a welcome gift a reality.

Months later, I found myself teary and emotional at the C.S. Almy Store selecting the fabric for a cope (that fits and combines both passions of mine: liturgy and fashion!) to wear on special occasions as I participate in God's mission liturgically in my role as your Dean. **This cope, to me, is more than a liturgical vestment.** It is a token of love, growth, mutual ministry and a symbol of our evolving and growing relationship as we work together seeking the welfare of the City of Hartford, serving as a resource for apostleship in the Episcopal Church in

Connecticut and as we, together, worship God Almighty on a weekly basis. Truly, I do not have enough words to express my gratitude. I am thankful to Rose, Lucy, June, members of the Parish Committee, Bishop Ian for supporting this initiative, and most important to each

one of you for your generosity! I will simply say, "Thank you, my dear saints!" Faithfully,
Lina+
The Very Rev. Miguelina Howell, Dean

Racism and Social Justice: A new start for the Uyeki Forum

On Sunday, July 10, following a week of killings in Louisiana, Minnesota and Dallas, Dean Lina Howell invited Cathedral members to join in a forum after the 10 a.m. service to explore what we as individuals and as a Cathedral can do to heal a nation that is impacted by prejudice and oppression.

Patricia Wrice, who has been instrumental in the Cathedral's currently inactive Uyeki Forum for Social Justice, accepted the Dean's invitation to lead the meeting.

All voices were heard, many different opinions were expressed. Agreement was definite that more efforts like this forum are needed. The Uyeki Forum is a place to start in offering understanding about the causes of racism and how social justice can be obtained.

In the weeks to come, look for more information on these critical subjects through various communications media. Share any ideas with the Dean or members of the Parish Committee on what you'd like to see your Cathedral do.

Workshop: Joining God in the Neighborhood- *What does all this talk about God's mission really mean?*

On Saturday, September 24, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford, there will be Diocesan-led workshop on "Joining God in the Neighborhood." Together with people from across the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, attendees will try on what it means to "step into our neighborhoods where we live and work" and make a real difference as followers of Jesus.

Over the next two years six parishes will join like-minded people from dioceses of East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia and Maine to practice and learn together what it means to be a follower of Jesus in the 21st century.

Any Cathedral member who is interested in this effort and would like to attend the workshop should contact our Dean Lina Howell for information on registration or visit ECCT website at

www.episcopalct.org

Happy July Birthdays

Isaiah Amora-Dixon
Evan Ayiku
Barbara Belden
Roberto Burgos
Karen Bussiere
Zoe Casey
Euna Coleridge
Nagda Echevarria
Jean Gould
Lucy Groening
Beverly Moncrieffe
Viola Mullin
Yasmin Nelson-Berry
John Robinson
Melissa Scinto
Joseph Seltzer
Thomas Smith
Jennifer Taylor
Paulette Ward
Alexander Wells
William Yebram

Happy August Birthdays

Emhart Aziz
Joslin Barnett
Yanisha Benjamin
Yondel Benjamin
Nehemiah Brown
Matthew Dingee
Harry Fine
Mk Mokol
Sylvestus Nelson
Grace Newport
Siddhartha Newport
Ana Ortiz Flores
John Quiroga
Delano Romano
Sonia Ruddock
Lisa Scarola
Ardyce Spence
Muriel Spooner
Anne Tranberg
Michel Victor
Natalie Wells

From Bishop Laura Ahrens



On July 8, Bishop Ahrens sent an online message to all Episcopalians in Connecticut on the violences experienced in our nation and urging our prayers for those who were killed or injured and for their families and loved ones.. Here is an excerpt from that message:

Our prayers are lived through our actions as well as our words. We have work to do. Participating in God's Mission calls us to build bridges of love, justice and peace. Grounded in God's love for us and our love for God, we are called to reach out to those around us who are hurting and those in need, extending God's love with ears that seek to listen, words that seek to comfort, touch that seeks to heal and hearts that seek to love. We are called to the work of peace and justice, building bridges that connect us where we are still divided by "isms" of prejudice, oppression and difference. Fear cannot build these bridges but we can—when we are not trapped by our fears but rather freed by God to walk in love. May we be about this work today and every day.

Looking Ahead: Homecoming Day October 2



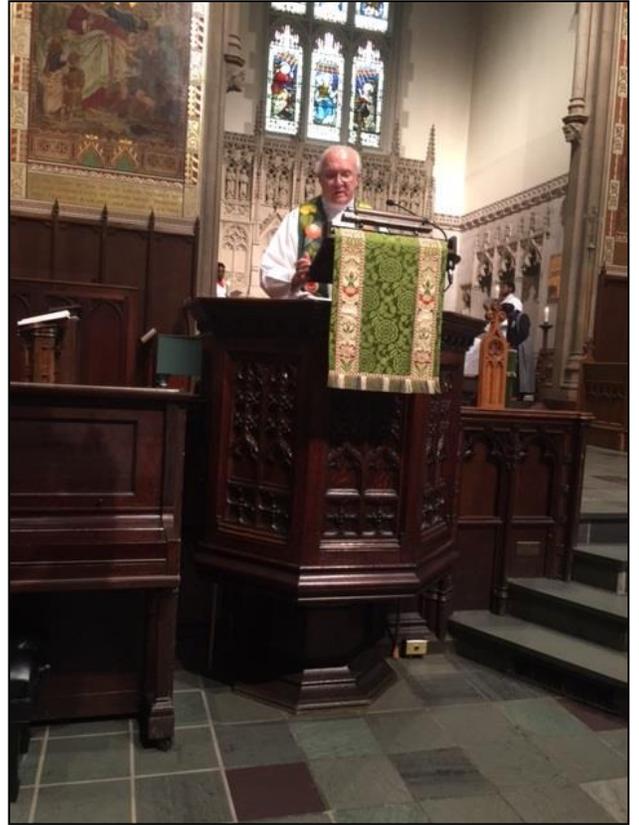
Mark your calendars now for our annual Homecoming Day on October 2. A single bilingual service will be held at 10:30 a.m. followed by a bounteous reception in the Cathedral House.

Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism and Reconciliation. She is the holder of degrees from the Episcopal Divinity School, Harvard Divinity School and Wake Forest University where she began efforts for Organizing for Justice and Peace. She is the author of several books including *Radical Welcome*.

Jazz Mass2016

On July 17, our Cathedral celebrated our traditional Annual Jazz Mass in a renewed way. Three congregations from the Greater Hartford area joined our Cathedral congregations for a service filled with joy, thanksgiving, great music and fellowship. Guest participants were the Rev. Susan Pinkerton, St. John's, West Hartford, and the Rev. Tracy Johnson Russell, St. Monica's, Hartford, co-celebrants; the Rev. Don Hamer of Trinity, Hartford, preacher; the Rev. Walter McKinney, St. John's, deacon; the Rev. Bonnie Matthews, Trinity, deacon; Jeremy Ifill, St. Monica's, chalice bearer; Janet Wilkinson, Trinity, Psalm leader; and Carmy Brown, Jason Harvey, Tyler George, and Julie-Ann Williams, acolytes from St. Monica's.





The Rev. Don Hamer, Trinity Church



From left, the Rev. Walter McKinney, St. John's; the Rev. Tracy Johnson Russell, St. Monica's; and the Rev. Bonnie Matthews, Trinity



The Hot Cat Jazz Band



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