



# Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

*The Grapevine*

November 2016

## A Message from Our Dean

*A season of gratitude, generosity and compassion*

Surfing social media has become a fun practice for me to decompress after a long work day. I find myself looking for cute pictures of dogs, of course, or re-posting ads about rescued Boston Terriers who are looking for their forever homes. While it is true that in the process of surfing social media I encounter posts that are disturbing, particularly during this election season, I also have found inspirational quotes, comments, pictures that have triggered my imagination, memory or creativity. I confess that social media is increasingly becoming one of the various sources I use for sermon preparation.

Most recently I saw a post quoting Anne Frank that says "no one has become poor by giving." It reminded me of a posture my parents have, and instilled in us, about life, generosity, stewardship and compassion: the more you give, genuinely and from the heart, the more you are blessed by God and others. I grew up experiencing my parents giving generously out of love and compassion, even in the context of financial limitation. I also noticed that their principle for giving was rooted in Scripture and their relationship with God.

Their abundance approach to pledging and helping others taught me and my siblings our responsibility and privilege to support God's mission with ten percent of our income as well as to be mindful of sharing our blessings with others. This month we begin our fall pledge campaign season. A season of thanksgiving and commitment to God and God's people. It is a season in which we are reminded that we are God's hands in the world. By sharing our God-giving gifts, including our treasure, we participate in a movement of transformation and growth. No one has become poor by giving; on the contrary, as we read in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7: "The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." As you prepare your hearts and minds to engage in a process of discernment about your financial pledge to God's mission at Christ Church Cathedral for the year 2017, I invite you to count your blessings. I invite you to meditate on the multiple initiatives we are undertaking as a cathedral community. Your support, financially and otherwise, is essential for our effective participation in God's mission. Please be generous. May this season of thanksgiving and stewardship become an opportunity for renewal, joy and growth.

In God's service,

*Lina+*

The Very Rev. Miguelina Howell



## ***Meet Robert Jan August: Our New Director of Music and Organist***



He's a native of Holland. Knew at age 12 that music would be important in his life. Earned advanced degrees in music from Brigham Young University and the New England Conservatory of Music. Held organist and choirmaster posts at The Memorial Church at Harvard University. Has come to Hartford from Fort Worth where he was a director of music at a 2,000-member church.

Those are just a few of the facts about Robert Jan August, Christ Church Cathedral's new Director of Music and Organist. His ministry here began on October 12 but his musical journey started at age 7 when he learned to play a small harmonium\* in his home in northern Holland. He was one of six children, with three brothers and two sisters, and his siblings are still in Holland. "It was in early middle school when I realized I loved music," he remembers. "When I was close to finishing high school my organ teacher warned me it would be hard to make a living doing church music in Holland. At most churches an organist shows up on Sunday morning and is given a list of hymns. There is usually no choir and you play whatever you want. The pay is small."

He was already thinking about moving elsewhere in Europe when in 1997 he met a professor from Brigham Young University in Utah who was researching old instruments. "We hit it off," said Robert, and together visited churches. At that time, following studies after high school, Robert held the equivalent of a bachelor's degree. The professor offered him a scholarship for a master's program at Brigham Young. "I spent three years there and had a really good time. I earned money by teaching organ, piano and harmony and also played the carillon in the University's bell tower."

After getting his master's degree and while still in this country on a student visa, he went in 2000 to the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston for his doctorate. He also started working at The Memorial Church at Harvard University where he met his wife, Dolores, who goes by the name of Dee. She is a flutist with bachelor's and master's degrees in flute and a bachelor's degree in Music Education. Her home was in Miami Beach but realizing that classical music wasn't happening in southern Florida, she moved to Boston. Robert and Dee were married in 2004 and lived in different places, but none seemed quite right until Robert became director of music and organist for the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth. "It was a wonderful place with a huge staff and several choirs—adults and children's, hand bells, and instrumental ensembles. I was just a week shy of having served 10 years when I came here."

Coming back to New England was something Robert and Dee had wanted to do. She is now studying on a scholarship for a doctorate at Boston University in historical performance. "New England feels like home to us," says Robert. "We have the best of all worlds here—both old and new. We love the diversity of people and the intellectual stimulation that is here." They are living in a Boston suburb and have two children, Robert John (RJ), 10, and Melody Grace, 6.

When asked if either child is interested in music, Robert told how RJ started taking piano lessons with classmates who were being taught by Dee at their home. "He flew through the books," notes Robert, "and in one year played better than any of his buddies. But that was enough. He beat everybody and quit." Melody shows interest in the piano but also likes movement such as dancing.

Beyond music, Robert likes to read, travel and play chess, among other interests. The commute from Boston to Hartford provides an unexpected bonus. "I'm able to listen to books on tape. Right now I'm listening to wonderful lectures on Beethoven symphonies." His part-time schedule calls for him to

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be at the Cathedral on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. A key goal for Robert is to build up the choir. “It may be slow but I’m confident it will happen. The Cathedral has an amazing library of choral music obtained over the years.” He and his wife definitely want to get involved in the city. “We’re planning a recital soon using various instruments. We have to be creative in our programming and marketing. In Texas we put up posters for a concert featuring the music played at Beethoven’s funeral. Seven hundred people came!” Because people today can hear all kinds of music 24/7, Robert points out that a church has to offer a varied repertoire. “You can’t do the same thing week after week. We need to provide the unexpected.”

Though the Cathedral is the first Episcopal church for which he has worked, he is familiar with and likes Anglican liturgy and music. “The Episcopal liturgy is beautiful and is well known in the organ world,” he says. “I was happy with the Presbyterian church but I’m just as comfortable here. There will be a learning curve for me—there are musical things I haven’t done before.” For members who have already heard Robert play the Cathedral organ, there’s little doubt that his learning curve will be very short.

*\*Harmonium: keyboard instrument in which notes are produced by air driven through metal reeds by pedals or a built-in blower*

## Happy Birthdays

Marcia Barnett  
Natalie Best  
Stephen Brathwaite  
Scott Calloway  
Haley Carusone  
Derek Chmielorz  
Lindsay Chmielorz  
Clarence Coleridge  
James Cooke  
Vernelle Davis  
Claire Fonseca  
Kari Ann Greaves  
Inez Hales  
Courtney Hanson  
Daniel Howell  
Elizabeth Jenkins  
Sydney Mokol  
Andrew Nelson  
Orfa Ocampo  
Lucy Ossa  
Nathan Rawlins  
Juan Rivera  
Sherry Senior  
Shyann Sinclair

## FROM THE REGISTER

### Burials

October 1 ~ Daniel Perry  
October 15 ~ Jane Wickson Bradley

## *A Message from the Rev. Jay Cooke*

**Dear Cathedral Community,**

Over the past nine months, I have served as your Priest for Pastoral Care and Congregational Life. During this time I helped create programs in Christian Formation such as the Lenten Forum on Wholeness and most recently for the Uyeki Forum on Racial Reconciliation and Inclusion. I have also assisted in developing Bible studies and a book reading program. I have helped in the formation of young people for confirmation and those wishing to be baptized into the Episcopal Church. Recently I assisted in the development and conducting of a Sunday school program for our children, utilizing a curriculum from Heifer International.

Another aspect of my ministry has been the pastoral care of those in our congregations who have been hospitalized and those who need visits in their homes. It has been a blessing for me to share in the lives of these people who are dear to me. In terms of the liturgical ministry of our Cathedral, I have presided at services for most of our congregations, including the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services, Church by the Pond and the Wednesday noonday service. This last service has been particularly important to me as I took on primary responsibility for its development. I have presided at baptisms, weddings and funerals.

As I look over all that has been accomplished in partnership with many of you, I am thankful for how God has sustained us during this time together. It is clear to me that God is moving among and through us. It has been a pleasure to serve you in this way.

As you may know, I have had the opportunity to return to the kind of ministry I was a part of at Hartford Hospital. Now at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System at the West Haven Campus I am functioning once again as a hospital chaplain and educator of chaplains. As our Dean has mentioned, this has been a year of transition for the Cathedral

and me and I will forever be moved by the Spirit to know how God works in the midst of transition. I had not spend a significant amount of time in a parish setting for over 15 years and being with you all has been more of a blessing than you could ever know.

I have very much enjoyed working with the



Cathedral staff. They all made me feel welcome when I arrived and were of significant support while I engaged in ministry with you. Most of all it has been a privilege to serve with Dean Howell. She recognized an opportunity for the

Holy Spirit to move in my life and the life of the Cathedral. She is a very thoughtful and inspiring leader and has modeled for me how to be an effective and devoted priest.

I will miss serving as your Priest for Pastoral Care and Congregational Life.

I know God will continue to bless the Cathedral congregations as you move into the future,

May God's peace be with you.

The Rev. Jay Cooke

***Note to Cathedral congregations:*** On Sunday, December 4, Jay's dedication and work during this time serving at the Cathedral as Priest for Pastoral Care and Congregational Life will be celebrated. Details to come.

## **REPORT FROM THE CATHEDRAL'S TREASURER**

On September 1, we made the final payment, the “Balloon Payment” of \$1,306,647.86, to Webster Bank on the loan taken out to renovate the external fabric of the Cathedral and the Cathedral House. For this payment we withdrew \$1,296,703.26 from our investments as approved by the Chapter on April 26. (The difference, the final regular monthly payment, had already been budgeted.) Though we will miss the \$1.3 million, paying off the loan eliminates a yearly cash outflow of \$119,000.

The value of our investments started the year at \$10,101,753. At the end of the third quarter, after the payment of the “Balloon” and the normal budgeted withdrawals, it stood at \$8,952,054. These withdrawals add up to \$1,837,171. Positive investment gains of \$687,472 cushioned the net decrease to \$1,149,699.

Cash flow out for the nine months is below budget, and cash flow in is over budget. The Dean and staff have been careful stewards of our resources.

*Robert Coykendall, Treasurer*

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## **UYEKI FORUM HEARS A UCC MINISTER ON RACISM**

On October 6, the Uyeki Forum for social justice heard the Rev. Da Vita (“Day”) McCallister, a member of the United Church of Christ, talk on how Christians are committed by God to eradicate racism and to use the Bible as a source for such work. Within the Connecticut UCC Conference, she is the Associate Conference Minister for Leadership Development and Congregational Vitality.

A Southerner and an African-American, the Rev. Mc Callister noted that the membership in Connecticut UCC churches is predominantly white, a situation that can lead to cultural and interpersonal racism. She stressed the importance of understanding both “intent” and “impact” in personal dealings, and the damage that silence on the part of well-meaning persons can cause. As we seek for a moral compass in directing our lives, she reminded her audience of the words from the Bible: “In the beginning God created humanity in his image, both male and female.”

In November the Uyeki Forum will not meet on its usual third Sunday because of the ECCT “Celebration of the Spirit” on November 20 at the XL Center in Hartford. Stay tuned for information about its next session.

### *CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS*

It's that time of year again – the time to remember loved ones in a special way by offering Christmas altar flowers and decorations. Email your names for memorials or in thanksgiving to Peggy at [peggy.ornell@cccathedral.org](mailto:peggy.ornell@cccathedral.org) **by December 12** for inclusion in the Christmas service bulletin. Send donation checks payable to Christ Church Cathedral with “Christmas Altar Flowers” on the memo line to the Cathedral at 45 Church St., Hartford CT 06103.

*To help our staff at a very busy time,  
please observe the December 12 deadline for submitting names.*

### *FREE CONCERT ON NOVEMBER 3*

Cuatro Puntos, the chamber music group that is an Ensemble-in-Residence at the Cathedral, will perform a free concert on Thursday, November 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral. The event will celebrate Hartford's heritage as the birthplace of American Sign Language, and will feature a collaborative performance with students from the American School for the Deaf. Donations will be on a free-will basis.

*Come and enjoy an unusual concert by remarkable musicians!*



## *IT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER*

**EVERY WEDNESDAY, 12 NOON – HOLY EUCHARIST**

**WEDNESDAYS FROM NOVEMBER 2 THROUGH DECEMBER 21**

*Gift Shop open 11 a.m~2 p.m.*

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 7 P.M.**

*Free concert by Cuatro Puntos (see separate item)*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 ~ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY**

*Submit names to [peggy.ornell@cathedral.org](mailto:peggy.ornell@cathedral.org) of those who are with God to be remembered at the 10 a.m. service*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 3 P.M. ~DEACONS' RENEWAL OF VOWS**

*Service at the Cathedral*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, FOLLOWING 10 A.M. SERVICE ~HARVEST FESTIVAL**

*A day for coming together to give thanks for our blessings and to share our favorite traditional dishes. Our Spanish-speaking congregation will join prior to their service. Our preacher will be Deacon Walter McKenney.*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 10:30 A.M. ~ “CELEBRATION OF THE SPIRIT”**

*at the Convention Center in Hartford concluding the 233<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop, preaching.*

**REMEMBER:** *Only one service on November 20, at the Cathedral at 8 a.m. with music.*

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 10 A.M. ~THANKSGIVING DAY HOLY EUCHARIST**



**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**  
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*The Grapevine* is a monthly newsletter for the Christ Church Cathedral audience. Copies are available in the Cathedral, in the Cathedral House, via e-news and online at [www.cccathedral.org/documents/November 2016 Grapevine.pdf](http://www.cccathedral.org/documents/November%202016%20Grapevine.pdf)

***Deadline for December issue: November 15***

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