



Christ Church Cathedral Catedral Iglesia de Cristo

The Grapevine

September 2016

Welcoming and going!

This year so far has been a combination of welcoming and going. In April, our Cathedral Congregation was sent out as apostles of Jesus to Trinity, Lime Rock. In July, our Cathedral welcomed other Cathedral members, who regularly worship in parishes from across ECCT. This took place in the context of our Jazz Mass where we welcomed Trinity, Hartford, St. Monica's, Hartford, and St. John's, West Hartford.

On September 25 at 3 p.m. we will welcome members of ECCT as we will celebrate a concert against gun violence. That same day, later in the day, we are invited to join St. Monica's, Hartford for their Harvest Festival.

Now, in a few weeks, we will welcome Old St. Andrew's, Bloomfield, Trinity, Collinsville and St. Alban's, Simsbury, to celebrate with us our bilingual Homecoming Service. Then on November 20, we are going out to join our greater ECCT congregation as we hold the Celebration of the Spirit during Convention.

See, my dear saints, the movement of the Spirit is encouraging us to engage with other faithful from ECCT inside and beyond our walls. This movement is encouraging us to build new relationships and

strengthen old ones. A movement that is inviting us constantly to embrace new ways of seeing and doing church, new ways of participating in God's mission. As this movement materializes in the form of liturgies, conversations, gatherings, service and joint meals, I continue to see an evolving theme of living into a Cathedral in the 21st Century. This is evident to me as I notice your similar level of excitement when welcoming others or going out as a Cathedral.

Both, welcoming people from across ECCT into our midst and being sent out, are essential in our role as a Cathedral and in our journey of growth as we, with God's help, forge a renewed identity and history.

Thanks be to God for your willingness to explore new ways of being a Cathedral. Thanks be to God for the overall renewed structure of ECCT that fosters collaboration and community. This is an evolving journey. We may not know the final destination, but I am sure that we will continue to grow in the process. May God give us vision, wisdom and grace to become the Cathedral God has called us to be.

In God's loving service,

The Very. Rev. Miguelina Howell, Dean

Joining God in the Neighborhood: A Workshop

"Living Local: Joining God" is the theme of a workshop to be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford on Saturday, September 24, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. People from across the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) 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 ECCT parishes will join like-minded people from dioceses in 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 members interested in joining this grand experiment are invited to attend. To pre-register, email Tim Hodapp at thodapp@episcopalct.org

Young Woman Offers Healing Prayers at Church by the Pond



A journey that began in Iran in 2000 and ended in Connecticut has brought a young woman to serve as an unusual volunteer at Church by the Pond in Bushnell Park. She is Melina Dezhbod who came with her family—parents, a grandmother, sister and brother--to Connecticut as refugees. They were supported by St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Woodbury in getting settled in the United States. The family now lives in Naugatuck.

Talking about her life in Iran where she was born, Melina explains that her paternal grandmother had been a Muslim. “She converted to Christianity and my father eventually became a deacon.” Today he is a Missional Priest at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Bristol.

Melina herself is on two career tracks: a senior at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford majoring in social work, and a postulant for priesthood supported by St. James’s Episcopal Church in West Hartford where she is a member. “I have not yet decided what I will do after graduation in 2017. I can either go on to get a master’s in social work, or go first to a seminary. I do plan to have both areas in my future.”

As part of her postulancy endeavor, she needed a missional project. “Prayer is very important to me and I thought about doing public prayer—not inside a church. My priest [the Rev. Robert Hooper] told me to look into Church by the Pond. I went on a Saturday, met Dean Lina and also Rose Fichera-Eagen. Both have helped me so much.”

Melina now goes on two Saturdays a month to offer healing prayers during the Eucharist at Church by the Pond. It has been a slow start since it was not something the visitors had experience with. She herself has grown through it. “I needed to get out of my own shell -- out of my comfort zone—be able to work with persons I don’t know and who certainly don’t know me. I am so grateful for the opportunity given to me.”

Rose, a lay healing minister at the Cathedral, has always been a strong advocate for extending the benefits of a healing ministry. It was easy—as well as lucky for Melina—for Rose to become a mentor to Melina.

Looking Ahead: Homecoming Day October 2

A single bilingual service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on October 2 for our annual Homecoming Day. It will be followed by a bounteous reception featuring many kinds of ethnic foods.

Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism and Reconciliation. She holds 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*.

Old St. Andrew’s, Bloomfield, and other parishes will join us on that day!

Welcome the Choir on September 10

Though the post of Music Director has not yet been filled, our fine Choir will be back in full voice on Sunday, September 10, at the 10 a.m. service. Be there to welcome them!

Our Healing Ministry

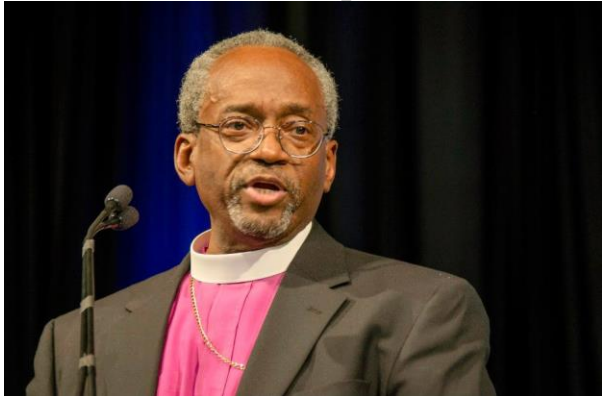
The Cathedral is home to one of the oldest healing ministries in the state of Connecticut. Consistent with Biblical teaching, the Cathedral's healing ministry understands healing broadly, to include not only physical healing but also emotional and spiritual healing. Each Sunday at the 10 a.m. service, lay ministers of healing are available at the Chapel and the Baptistry to offer prayers for healing, laying on of hands and anointing.

On the second Sunday of each month, the opportunity to receive healing prayer and anointing is included as part of the Prayers of the People at the 10 a.m. service. People may come forward asking for prayers for themselves, for a friend or loved one, or even for a situation in the world. Any concerns that are brought forward are held in the strictest confidence.

The Cathedral's Healing Ministry Team also collaborates with the Adult Christian Formation Team to offer educational opportunities about healing. The 2016 Lenten program, which included sessions on physical, psychological, spiritual and social wellness, is an example.

The Cathedral's library has a large collection of books on healing. Many of these books were given as memorials for the late Julian Perry who was one of the Cathedral's first lay ministers of healing.

“Celebration of the Spirit” at XL Center on November 20



The 233rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut will include a diocesan-wide Eucharist on Sunday, November 20 at 10:30 a.m. at the XL Center in downtown Hartford. The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop, will be the preacher.

Because of the limited number of seats, anyone interested in attending must contact Peggy Ornell at peggy.ornell@cccathedral.org by September 1. Seats will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Important: On November 20 there will be only one service at the Cathedral: Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m.

Invitation to Harvest Festival

The parish of St. Monica's Church in Hartford has invited Cathedral congregations to its Harvest Festival on September 25 at 4 p.m. Dean Lina Howell will be attending. Mark your calendars now to meet, eat and have a good time with fellow Episcopalians!



Offering Altar Flowers Year Round

Easter and Christmas are the popular times for offering Altar Flowers but, except for during Lent, the Cathedral's main and Chapel altars are made even more beautiful every week with flowers. You can remember loved ones or express thanksgiving for a special blessing, birthday or anniversary at other times during the year. It's easy to do. Just contact Peggy Ornell, Assistant to the Dean, at peggy.ornell@cccathedral.org or at 860-527-7231, Ext. 2. If possible, it's best to allow at least four weeks' notice of when you wish to have the flowers on the altar. Acknowledgement in the Sunday bulletin will be made if the information is available by Wednesday noon before the desired Sunday.

Uyeki Forum and Bible Studies to Focus on Racial Reconciliation and Inclusion

In July, prompted by tragic events involving African- Americans and law enforcement, Cathedral members who had been active in the Uyeki Forum for social justice, held an open session following the 10 a.m. service. Powerful thoughts and feelings were brought out by those who attended about the emotional and spiritual impact such events have on individuals.

In early August, repeated vandalism occurred to the Black Lives Matter sign on the Cathedral's Church Street fence. The incident resulted in an article in the *Hartford Courant* and a news story carried on Channel WVIT, the NBC affiliate in Connecticut.

Since then clergy and lay leadership have been working on developing programs and seeking other ways of helping congregation members strive, as Christians, to understand ourselves in terms of racial reconciliation and love of neighbor.

On August 21 another open Uyeki Forum was held with Pat Wrice and Jilda Aliotta facilitating the discussion. Among the "rules" to be followed by the attendees were these two: listen actively and don't judge. The Cathedral's diversity was emphasized as significant to the role it plays in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. A rector at the forum from another town noted that, like many other parishes, hers is all white. Having Cathedral members visit other parishes for discussions was one of the ideas brought out.

Future **Uyeki Forums** will meet on the third Sunday of each month, beginning on September 18 following the 10 a.m. service.

In addition, **Sunday Bible Studies**, beginning on September 11 at 9 a.m. in the Cathedral Auditorium, will focus on the theme of "*Love Thy Neighbor: Social Justice and Reconciliation.*" The series will be geared toward short readings and Bible stories that speak to inclusion and reconciliation. Future sessions will be on the second Sunday of each month at 9 a.m.

Together with Dean Lina Howell, the Rev. Jay Cooke, Priest for Pastoral Care and Congregational Life, Thomas Smith, Coordinator for Christian Formation, Patricia Wrice and Jilda Aliotta, have been instrumental in developing a dynamic program for the Cathedral congregations. They welcome hearing thoughts and comments from Cathedral members on a subject that matters greatly not only to Christians but also to our nation as a whole.

Happy September Birthdays

Victor Adams
Jeffrey Baraglia-Palmer
Tamika Barnett
Ashley Colon
Damien Cregeau
Thomas Eisenlohr
Deahna Fisher
Pam Hall
Charles McBride
Jordan McBride
Gloria Mengual
Dionne Morris
Robert Mueller
Kenton Pusey
Aleksandra Scott
Bernard Senior
Roberta Walmsley



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
45 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103
860-527-7231 • www.cccathedral.org

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/September2016Grapevine.pdf

Deadline for October issue: September 15

Contact: Lillian Kezerian
860-242-5239 • lkezerian@gmail.com