



The Grapevine

a bimonthly publication of Christ Church Cathedral
Hartford, Connecticut

From the Dean...

July/August 2009

Sabbath Ceasing, Resting, Embracing and Feasting

Living nearby to several orthodox and conservative Jewish synagogues, I often watch the faithful walking to their synagogue each Saturday morning with a mix of curiosity, respect and a more than a tinge of jealousy. No matter what kind of weather – snow or rain – people who have intentionally purchased houses within walking distances of their places of worship, walk: grandparents, mothers pushing strollers, and teens keeping up the rear. Forbidden by their religious laws to drive to worship, they remind me of what many in our society has forgotten.

In today's society where fewer families eat regular meals together around a table – let alone worship together – I can only wonder what it is like to grow up in a home where celebrating the Sabbath involves what it was always intended to be: giving thanks to God, resting, walking, gathering and eating.

By early July I will be well into my sabbatical leave. The word sabbatical derives from Sabbath--the Biblical day of rest. Mine will take me away from the Cathedral for almost four months – with the choir and youth trip to England as a brief August interlude. It will be the first such leave in 18 years of ordained ministry. From what I have learned about such times away, the experience can be deepened if the congregation also shares in some way in rediscovering the value of Sabbath-keeping in their lives.

In her book *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly*, Marva Dawn speaks of *ceasing*:

“We cease not only from work itself, but also from the need to accomplish and be productive, from the worry and tension that accompany our modern criterion of efficiency. Sabbath-keeping involves *embracing*: We choose to embrace time instead of space, and giving instead of requiring. Finally, Sabbath-keeping comes round to *feasting*. When we've ceased to work and worry, when we've renewed our body by resting, and embraced what we truly value, comes the fun of the feast. Company, laughter, and welcome.”

I am thankful that this Cathedral has allowed me this time away to deepen my relationship with God and my family. My prayer is to resist the temptation to accomplish and be productive. I hope to re-learn what it feels like to linger and explore. And to leave room for surprises. Although you cannot accompany me on this journey--it is one I must walk alone--I do hope that you will keep my family and me in your prayers, and, with God's help, may we all come to know again what it means to be a Sabbath people.

Mark B. Pendleton

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

In this issue...

• Page Two - Cathedral News

• Page Four - Sabbatical Q & A

• Page Five - Bishop XV Search Update

Cathedral News...

YES! Program News

submitted by Canon St. Louis

The summer YES! program will begin on July 19 with eight new participants. To accommodate this larger group, we will be using a new format. Specifically, I will continue to serve as the presenter, but members of the first Yes! Group (Summer, 2008) will serve as group facilitators.

For those who are not familiar with the Yes! Program, it's a small group process aimed at helping participants discern, create and live into their God-given purpose. The Yes! Program, which is based on Appreciative Inquiry principles, was developed by a husband and wife team of psychologists, Drs. Rob and Kim Voyle. To learn more about Yes!, feel free to visit www.clergyleadership.com.

Persons who are interested in the Winter 2009 program are invited to be in touch with me before this November (astlouis@cccathedral.org or 527-7231 x111). With the exception of a \$15-\$31 fee for those who are interested in completing an optional personality profile, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), the sessions are free. (Those who decide to complete the MBTI also will need to meet with me for about ½ hr. to 45 mins. to review and discuss their profile). We generally meet after the 10 a.m. service on Sundays, although we will likely need to have some evening sessions for the Winter 2009 program.

Plans for the Youth & Choir Pilgrimage in High Gear

The Youth & Choir Pilgrimage to the United Kingdom is in its final planning stages. Excitement is mounting as our August 8 departure moves ever closer. 49 travelers will embark from Bradley airport on Saturday evening, August 8th, flying to Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C., and then onto an overnight flight to London's Heathrow. Arriving in London, the group will be met by tour organizer Peter Baldwin of Charter Travel. Mr. Baldwin's family-run business serves to bring American choirs to sing at the great cathedrals and churches of England.

With over 35 years of experience, the Cathedral Choir and Youth are in good hands. In addition to singing daily Evensong at Ely Cathedral (www.elycathedral.org) and Evensong on Wednesday at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Mr. Baldwin has laid out a number of morning excursions for the group. The historic educational city of Cambridge (including a personalized tour of King's College Chapel) will be visited, along with the much-loved country retreat of Queen Elizabeth II, Sandringham Estate, and Burghley House, the largest and grandest house of the first Victorian age. A day in London to see the sights is also planned.

On Wednesday, August 12, after a day with the choir in London, Dean Pendleton will lead three Cathedral youth and five adults to the ancient seat of the Church of England and the mother church of the Anglican Communion: Canterbury Cathedral. The group will spend three nights at the Cathedral Gate Hotel, located at the entry of the great Cathedral. It has been the site of pilgrimages since the year 1170 when then Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Becket was murdered by knights of King Henry II, who famously proclaimed: "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" Cathedral pilgrims will take in the daily round of services and explore the ancient city.

Both groups will come back together on Saturday in preparation for their final days together. Sunday is the last singing day for the Choir and, after a group meal, we all board our coach in Ely for the return trip to Heathrow and the subsequent flights home. We will arrive at Bradley on Monday, August 17, at approximately 6:40 p.m.

Thank you, Cathedral community, for supporting our efforts in mounting this trip which will bring such richness of experience and fellowship to our travelers!

Summer Choral Evensongs

Two choral evensongs will be held this summer in preparation for the Choir's pilgrimage to Ely.--Wednesday, July 26 and Wednesday, August 5, both at 6:45 p.m. in the Cathedral. The Choir will present some of the music they will be singing while in England. Please join us on either or both of those evenings to bid the Choir a happy *bon voyage!*



From Renee Hamel...

Swinging to Another Grapevine

It has been 10 months since I started my work as the communications and youth group coordinator for Christ Church Cathedral. Time flies when you're having fun, but it can also pass quickly when you are learning with experience. Sadly, my apprenticeship ended in June, but it has not been without triumphs, challenges, self-discoveries and uncovering hidden passions.

I still remember my first day settling down in my oversized, high ceilinged office decorated with stained glass windows. I had no idea what was in store for me working in a church, especially since I come from a Muslim background. I was very nervous how others would see me and I could not get past my images of strict and serious proselytizing priests who would serve as my working superiors.

After reading a note from Canon Allison welcoming me to the church, I noticed she used the words joy, laughter and growth in her future hopes for what was to come and suddenly I began to feel at ease. With each passing day, the Cathedral became more familiar to me as a support system and cultural center for parishioners and the community that was more than a place of worship.

Beyond learning the language of the Episcopalians such as acolyte, canon, diocese, (a vocabulary test should have ensued) I also learned that being an Episcopalian means to be compassionate, nurturing, proactive, supportive (and sometimes sarcastic), all of which are characteristics we essentially desire. I have witnessed each and every one of those attributes in action throughout my time here.

The first example that comes to my mind that fits all of those features is Rose Fichera-Eagen. God has only made one of her and I am so thankful to have met her. Church Street Eats has been an integral part of my learning experience. I am so inspired with the work that is done and the people that are not only happy to be nourished, but also are elated in our presence as volunteers, acquaintances and friends. When I am working in the soup kitchen in the company of such great people and we say a brief prayer before the meal begins, I am always enriched by the feeling of

unity so pure and liberating.

Christ Church Cathedral youth are very special and different from other kids. Their well-rounded attributes as well as their dedication to the choir and helping others with volunteer projects is remarkable and commendable. I have the utmost faith in their growth as leaders in the church and community and believe they deserve much recognition for their efforts. All have touched my life in some way and I will be taking a little piece of each of them with me.

The last feature I would like to recognize is the staff here at the Cathedral. Those who work behind the scenes are funny, open and wise. Without their guidance and support, I would not have enjoyed these past 10 months. I will truly miss sharing personal celebrations during our staff meetings and coming in on Mondays knowing I had a lot of work ahead of me, but feeling relaxed when seeing the staff and sharing stories of our weekend.

Other things I will miss include Allison's dog Faith being my protector and buddy, although I am not sure if the friendship is mutual or based on a love of Cheerios crumbs sprawled under my desk. The music of the choir and organ have flowed as a soundtrack to my daily working regimen and every Wednesday night I did not feel so bad working late if it meant I could hear them sing and pick out Cynthia Mellon's opera-like range. Along with my humongous and luxurious office space, where else could I find something like that at any other organization?

There are few opportunities that exist out there for positive interactions with people that include work that is enjoyable, creative, and significant. I am very privileged to have been given this, and I appreciate the chance of seeing the many new developments of a parish church, a Cathedral and a community focal point for the city of Hartford. It has been an amazing journey. As Canon Allison said in my welcoming letter, "I hope your time here will help you to dream big dreams and work alongside others to make those dreams a reality," I thank you all for being a part of it and helping me to fulfill that reality.



Sabbatical Q & A...

† *What is a sabbatical?* †

The word sabbatical has its roots in the biblical concept of Sabbath (“to rest” or “to cease”). Sabbath-keeping is setting aside time that God consecrates and makes holy. Sabbaticals allow time for a clergy person to shift gears in order to rest, disengage, study, reflect, and travel in order to return refreshed and renewed in body, mind and spirit. Dean Pendleton’s Letter of Agreement with the Cathedral allows him a three-month sabbatical after five years of service. Sabbatical is more than a vacation from meetings, budgets, sermons and people in need. It is a time for Mark to receive spiritual nourishment and a change in perspective, to deepen his relationship with God, himself and his family. We hope that this time will also be a season of growth for the entire congregation.

† *How long will the Dean be gone?* †

Dean Pendleton will leave on Monday, June 29, and return for the start of Diocesan Convention on October 23. His first Sunday back will be October 25. From August 8-17 he will accompany the Cathedral choir and youth to England.

† *What will the Dean be doing on his sabbatical?* †

The month of July will be spent with Leslie, Will and Lydia for a month of vacation and a cross-country trip by train that will include stops in Chicago, Sante Fe, the Grand Canyon, Los Angeles, Monterey, Yosemite National Park, Napa Valley, Portland, Glacier National Park in Montana, and ending in Minneapolis before a flight home to Hartford.

In September Mark will travel to Louisiana for two weeks to explore the role of food and recipes in the rebuilding and healing of the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. Mark will spend a week at St. Joseph’s Benedictine Monastery to witness their Bread for Pennies bread baking ministry to benefit the poor.

While at home, Mark will read and study the works of Hartford’s own Wallace Stevens, who lived in the current Deanery at 118 Westerly from 1932 to 1955.

† *Who will cover the Dean’s Responsibilities during his absence?* †

The Rev. Canon Allison St. Louis, Vicar will oversee the daily workings of the administration of the Cathedral. The Cathedral Chapter will meet once during the Dean’s absence and will be presided by the Canon St. Louis will be assisted by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish Committee, and thanks to the grant awarded to the Cathedral from the Lilly Foundation, Inc., the Rev. Canon John L.C. Mitman will be working part-time from late August to late October to assist with pastoral, program and preaching duties. The associate clergy of the Cathedral will also help with preaching and the leading of Bible study.

† *Who do I call if I have a family or personal crisis?* †

For pastoral concerns, contact Canon St. Louis on her cell phone 860-324-1668.

† *Who will pay for the sabbatical?* †

The Cathedral received \$15,000 to cover clergy supply help during the Dean’s absence from the Clergy Renewal Program of the Lilly Endowment Inc. The Dean also received \$30,000 towards travel and other expenses.

† *How can I learn more about the sabbatical?* †

You can follow the Dean in his travels at his blog at <http://cookingupasabbatical.blogspot.com/>

(Outline from *Clergy Renewal: The Alban Guild to Sabbatical Planning* by A. Richard Bullock and Richard J. Bruesehoff)



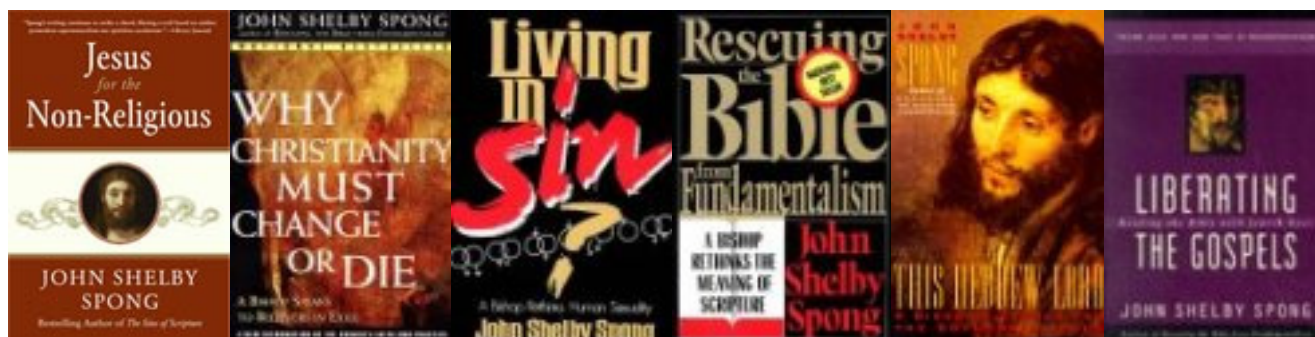
Annual Friends Dinner...

Friends Annual Dinner Scheduled for November 14

On November 14, 2009, the Friends of the Cathedral will gather for its Annual Dinner to honor the Rt. Rev. John S. Spong for his leadership--in the words of the award's criteria--in "pursuing research or dealing with issues that are 'cutting edge' and 'ahead of their time' and understanding and honoring God's gift of human sexuality." 2009 will mark the fourth award made to an individual whose life and work exemplify the values, accomplishments and passions similar to those of Canon Jones during his 40 years of active ministry at the Cathedral.

Bishop Spong, for those who may not have heard of his name or known of his ministry, was the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark for 24 years before his retirement in 2001. He has been called many things from both within and outside the church: iconoclastic, a champion of progressive theology, controversial, provocative, divisive; even heretical. He is the most published member of the House of Bishops--his books having sold over a million copies. They include *Jesus for the Non-Religious*, *Why Christianity Must Change or Die: A Bishop Speaks to Believers In Exile*, *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism: A Bishop Rethinks the Meaning of Scripture*, and *Living in Sin? A Bishop Rethinks Human Sexuality*.

In preparation for Bishop Spong's visit, several book study groups will be forming. Watch for more specific announcements in the September/October edition of *The Grapevine*.



The Grapevine

Published by Christ Church Cathedral, the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. Please submit articles for the September/October issue by **Tuesday, August 4**. Text files should be in WORD format. If you are submitting photos, please email the raw picture file for proper editing. All submissions should be sent to dvancamp@cccathedral.org

The Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith, *Bishop of Connecticut*
 The Very Rev. Mark B. Pendleton, *Dean*
 The Rev. Canon J. Allison St. Louis, *Vicar*
 Richard Baraglia, *Parish Committee Chair*
 Amy Beveridge, *Parish Committee Vice-Chair*



Bishop Search Update...

The following is taken from the Diocese of Connecticut on-line blog, which seeks to, in an informal way, keep the Diocese informed about the search for the XV Bishop of the Diocese of Connecticut. (For more information, see <http://ctbishopsearch.blogspot.com/>)

“First a word about the individuals that make up the Search and Nomination committee: Our names and parishes are listed on the diocesan web-site, but who exactly ARE these folks that are examining our potential candidates for the 15th Bishop of Connecticut? The Standing Committee, in consultation with Bishop Smith, selected the members of our committee from representatives submitted by the Deaneries. We have five active priests, two retired priests and a vocational deacon. We have a high school student, two high school teachers, an IT Geek, a lawyer/entrepreneur, a state employee and some Moms/”full time volunteers”. We are men and women, Afro-American, Hispanic, Chinese and various flavors of white/Europeans in background. We live in cities, suburbs and rural areas. We come from rich and poor parishes and from parishes in between. We root for the Yankees or the Red Sox, but we all root for UCONN Women’s Basketball! Theologically we are liberal and conservative, and right in the middle. We are the diocese of Connecticut and we are united by the Holy Spirit in selecting the best possible candidates to be our next Bishop.

And, as we break into smaller groups for the current interview processes, we try to make each sub-group as diverse as possible.”

The search committee is now completing its initial work in developing a slate of candidates. They have worked tirelessly in reviewing applications, completing phone interviews, further honing the list, and visiting the final seven candidates. As of this writing (in mid-June), they look forward to announcing the initial slate of candidates on July 1. After that time, they will accept petition candidates which have to be reviewed and certified by the Standing Committee.



Let us pray.

Lead us to the person who will shepherd us in the mission to which you call us.

Diríginos a encontrar a nuestro pastor que nos llevará por los campos de misión que tú designes.

Conduisez-nous vers la personne qui saura être un bon Pasteur et qui nous guidera vers votre mission.

The Diocesan Convention will elect our new bishop on October 24, 2009, and the 15th Bishop of Connecticut will be consecrated at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, April 17, 2010.



Calendar...

July

- 03 – Fourth of July Holiday, Cathedral & Cathedral Office closed
- 19 – Annual Dixieland Jazz Mass
- 21 – Chapter Meeting
- 26 – Ely Choir rehearsal
- 29 – Ely Choir rehearsal & Evensong

August

- 02 – Ely Choir rehearsal
- 04 – *Grapevine* deadline
- 05 – Ely Choir rehearsal & Evensong
- 08-17 – Youth & Choir Pilgrimage to the U.K.

Holidays

The Cathedral and Cathedral Office will be closed on **Friday, July 3, in observance of the Fourth of July.**

Scholarship Recipients Named

The Scholarship Committee honored graduating high school seniors, Jacqueline H. Georgis, John W. Habersang and James V. Romanik with a \$250 high school award and a college scholarship. Continuing scholarships are awarded to sophomore Paige Hanson; juniors Courtney Hanson, Andrew B. Huntsman and Elizabeth B. Sicard, senior Natalie Wells and 5th year engineering student Carly Woodward. Congratulations to them all for their continued achievement!

The Dean would also like to thank John E. Robinson, retiring chair of the committee for the last six years, for his dedication and service to the youth of the parish.

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The Right Reverend James E. Curry, M. Div., D. D., *Bishop Suffragan*
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The Very Reverend Mark B. Pendleton, M. Div., *Dean*
The Reverend Canon J. Allison St. Louis, M. Div., Ph.D., *Vicar*
Canon Kevin Jones, M.M., *Precentor & Director of Music*
The Reverend Canon John L.C. Mitman, S.T.B., *Priest Associate*
The Reverend Stanley C. Kemmerer, M. Div., *Priest Associate*
The Reverend Geoffrey F. Ward, *Priest Associate*
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John Scott, *Sexton*
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Amy Beveridge, *Parish Committee Vice-Chair*