



TIDINGS *Together*

Christ Church & St. Paul's & Trinity Parishes

October 2025

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CARITAS FROM CANON JEANNE: CARRYING ONE ANOTHER

*Because he will order his messengers to help you,
to protect you wherever you go.*

*They will carry you with their own hands
so you don't bruise your foot on a stone.*

Psalm 91:11-12, Common English Bible

As a Trustee of our Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, I was present for the recent installation of the Very Rev. Winnie Varghese as the Cathedral's new Dean. The Trustees had wonderful up-front seats for the magnificent liturgy, which included readings by faith leaders from various world religions, glorious global music, and a spirit of genuine joy. The Trustees were invited to process, always exhilarating in that vast sacred space, yet we were seated in time to see the very end of the procession, featuring the Preacher, Dean, and Bishop Diocesan, with their Altar Party, and accompanying the Dean and Bishop, their security guards.

I was moved seeing my long-time friends in the security detail in part because it was the first time I have witnessed one of them, in my experience always a man of color, walking beside a woman, and a woman of color. Dean Varghese is of Asian Indian heritage. Until now, in the history of the Diocese and Cathedral, the Bishops Diocesan and the Cathedral Deans, have always been white men.

At this writing, however, I am also touched by a wider context also manifest this past weekend. On Sunday morning, a gunman yielding an assault weapon open fired on a Mormon congregation near Flint, Michigan and then set the church on fire. Five people died in this act of violence, from gun wounds or smoke inhalation, including the shooter. Meanwhile, on Friday, New York's Second Circuit federal appellate court issued a ruling upholding New York State's Concealed Carry Improvement Act, which among other sensible gun laws prohibits people from carrying firearms in "sensitive locations", including houses of worship.

Thus, a trinity of stories giving pause:

- First, a Cathedral Dean who is a woman of color and who is a bold advocate for social justice. She was called to the Cathedral in large measure for her poetic preaching and prophetic voice, and she will certainly garner the attention of people who might act on their hatred violently.
- Second, the spate of mass shootings and targeted political assassinations happening in the nation just now, along with a new boldness within the political arena, stirred by the current Administration, for those who advocate for Second Amendment gun ownership rights, including, some argue, a right to own assault weapons.

- Third, the commitment of New York State, even so, to keep guns away from places where people gather, not only houses of worship, but also, for example, sports arenas, the New York City subway system, and tourist sites such as Times Square.

Together, this threefold context means that the Cathedral's security guards, my friends, are more on the front lines of risk than ever before.

As are, arguably, you and I. In the aftermath of the mass shooting at the Mormon church in Michigan, a few of you have already expressed, to me and one another, concern and even fear over the possibility of our own parishes someday becoming targets.

Our concern is not unfounded. Even already at the Cathedral, there was a recent shooter: I remember reaching out, in December 2020 while serving as the Bishop's Canon Pastor, to the Cathedral's security personnel after a shooter died by suicide as police shot him on the Cathedral steps, where a concert had just concluded, necessarily outdoors because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The guards had to act immediately to protect the clergy and choirs, including children, assisting them to run and hide inside the Cathedral, as police confronted the shooter. You may be aware, too, that the Rev. Meredith Kadet-Sanderson, the priest for St. James in Hyde Park, not far from us in Dutchess County, recently received death threats from a disturbed individual who then one day rushed her home, screaming harmful intent, yet was detained by police. When the charged-with-crime individual was later released on bail pending trial, Mother Meredith and her family moved to a safe house, and the parish's Vestry decided to hire a security guard to stand outside the church on Sunday mornings.

And yet. While the threats are real, which we as a faith community may wish to offer teaching about, safety training for, and theological reflection in consideration of, I wish, too, to encourage us to guard ourselves from falling into disabling fear, worrying so much about the state and violence of the world that we can no longer choose life, love, and witness. By the story of Jesus, we know already that human life is vulnerable and replete with danger, including that of intentional violence as the Cross reveals. Any one of us could die tomorrow, and violently, whatever safeguards we might put in place. Even so, we do not hide ourselves behind locked doors – the risen Christ will burst through these as he did the door which the apostles locked out of fear on that first Easter Day – but rather we gather and give thanks, break bread and pray, and go forth to witness to what is good and right, and to love God and neighbor, come what may.

I remember once asking one of the Cathedral's security guards, Michael, why he works there, given the risks he faces daily. He smiled and said, as though it was obvious, "It's the Cathedral. It's God's house." That, I believe, is why we need not

fear, too. Our churches, and all of us, and all creation are, indeed, God's house. And whether we rise in beauty to the skies or fall destroyed to the ground, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's possession. Further, we trust, whenever we do fall and die, we shall then rise and live again.

One of the great themes of the Bible is God's comforting exhortation, "Fear not." In the stories of Abraham, Moses, Mary, and so many others, in the psalms and the poems of the prophets, in Jesus' teaching and example, we hear God saying, "Do not be afraid." Psalm 91 bears this theme, while also assuring that God will protect the righteous from "any terror by night," "the arrow that flies by day," "the plague that stalks" and the "sickness that lays waste." I, personally, do not hold a theology that claims the righteous will prosper and the wicked will suffer (this is just one of the Bible's theologies), yet I like praying Psalm 91 for the idea of God sending angels, or messengers, to carry us "in their own hands" through danger. For me, this is spiritual carrying, which we, within a faith community, give to one another. We are God's messengers. Together, instead of holding fear and bearing weapons, we can carry one another into a better day.

Always with love, Canon Jeanne

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 5	At Christ Church of Red Hook <i>St. Francis Festival & Birthday Blessings</i>
October 12	At St. Paul's and Trinity Parish <i>With the Rev. Canon Robert L. Hart, Guest Presider & Preacher</i> <i>Canon Jeanne will be in London as a participant in a Diocese of New York's visit to the Diocese of London exploring twinned parishes</i>
October 19	At Christ Church of Red Hook
October 26	At St. Paul's and Trinity Parish <i>Featuring a Stewardship Sermon for both Parishes</i> <i>Individual Healing Prayers & Anointings</i>

Christ Church is located at 7423 South Broadway in the Village of Red Hook.

St. Paul's and Tivoli Parish is located at 39 Woods Road in the Village of Tivoli.

UPCOMING EVENTS



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
ON THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
AT CHRIST CHURCH OF RED HOOK



Drive-by Blessings, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Liturgy for a Blessing of the Animals, 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Bark, meow, chirp, roar!

Dogs, cats, hamsters, rabbits, gerbils, birds, snakes, spiders, walking sticks!

The clergy will trust God who says: Do not fear!

We will bless every beast and all those who care for them.

Water & treats for dogs & cats!

Drive quickly by or stay a little to chat.

(Shy animals may stay inside vehicles.)

The blessings will be fun and informal, and clergy will be there rain or shine!



The 2025 Hobart Lecture

**Sanctuary:
Space of Belonging and Thriving**



October 15
7pm EST

In-person
and online

The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde
Bishop of The Diocese of Washington

Pádraig Ó Tuama,
Author and Poet-Theologian

Presented by:



In collaboration with:



**STC
200**

Registration required



**GAMES
DAY**

Saturday
Oct. 25
4:00-7:00pm

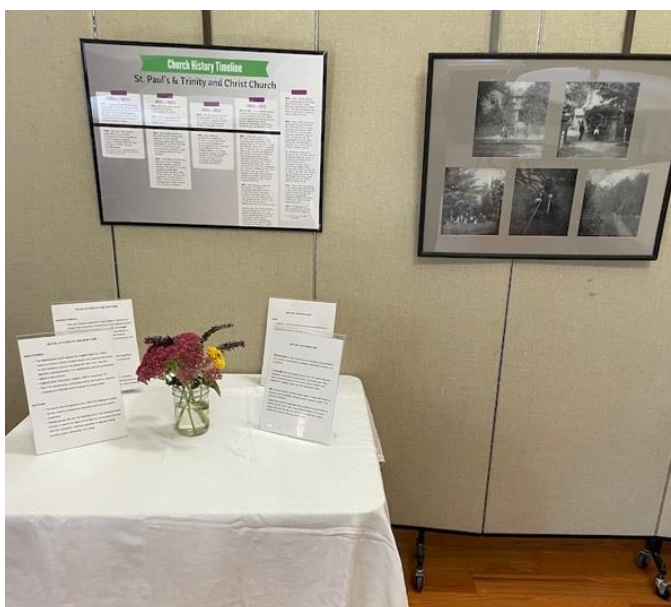
Join us for Games Day on Oct. 25th. We will have
board games and snacks. You are welcome to
bring a favorite game and a friend.
No reg needed. Drop in. Free

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Celebrating Christ Church: 175 years

Thank you to all who helped with the planning, preparation, and clean up for this memorable event to mark the beginnings of Christ Church.

Special thanks to Canon Jeanne for transposing the liturgy of the 1789 Book of Common Prayer to meet contemporary realities. Also thanks to the Thrift Shop team for quickly changing Cartier Hall to a lovely party atmosphere and to Susan Rohrmeier for creating the historic timeline. Our appreciation also goes to Yuchen Zhao, guest violinist and to Wint Aldrich, our historian and friend to Christ Church and his wife Tracie.



DIOCESE LAUNCHES IMMIGRATION LEGAL FUND

The Diocese of New York has inaugurated a new Immigration *Legal* Fund to support immigrant families in the diocese's congregations and served by diocesan ministries. Working through partnership with local non-profit legal providers, the Legal Fund will provide financial resources for emergency legal support for immigrants who have been actively targeted and are facing urgent circumstances of vulnerability.

The Fund has been created by an initial grant of \$50,000 from the discretionary funds of our Bishop Diocesan, the Rt. Rev. Matthew Heyd. The invitation now is to help match this gift through individual and parish contributions. If you would like to make a financial gift, visit the diocese's main giving web page, <https://diocesenyc.org/donate/>, and select "Immigration Legal Defense Fund" from the drop-down menu.

The Fund reflects the Diocese's commitment, as a Sanctuary Diocese, to safety, pastoral care, and social justice. As Christian community, the ministerial settings of the diocese provide safe places of belonging. Our congregations and other settings welcome everyone, every day, without regard to their immigration status. Increasingly, providing safety means offering support for our members and friends to pursue their rights through often confusing and sometimes unjust or illegal immigration processes.

If you would like to learn more about the guidelines for grants – including a referral by a priest or Warden of the Diocese and a willingness of a referring parish to accompany a grantee through the immigration process – please speak with Canon Jeanne, who can send you a link to the guidelines posted online.

New Website For Us

A new website that will serve both St. Paul's & Trinity and Christ Church parishes is in the works. St. Paul's & Trinity is joining Christ Church in using the services of Eric Ovalle. Eric is a local website / communications consultant.

The new website will feature common areas that present information that pertain to both parishes; such as worship times and locations, mission statements and events, contact information, special program announcements, newsletter, etc.

There will also be pages that relate to the individual parish's history and other information that is peculiar to each parish.

Keep your eyes on future newsletter articles about the new website.



Home & Hospital Eucharist Visits

If you are unable to attend worship due to illness or other hardship, Christ Church and St. Paul's can bring communion to you. Simply contact Deacon Linda, who will arrange for a Eucharistic Visit by a pastoral minister.

WHERE I'M FROM POETRY

For the anniversary celebration, and as a way to become more deeply friends with one another today, we hope to publish a small booklet of the *Where I'm From* poems parishioners have been writing this year.

You can write a poem! It's easy using a fill-in-the blank template based on a poem entitled *Where I'm From* by George Ella Lyon. By following the template, you can tell others, with poetic beauty, more about yourself. You can email Canon Jeanne to request a digital version of the template and to send her your poem, canonkjeanne@gmail.com.



POETRY TEMPLATE

Creatively Introducing Yourself! A Lovely & Easy Spiritual Exercise!

I am from _____ (specific ordinary item), from _____ (product name) and _____ (another product name)

I am from the _____ (home description...adjective, adjective, sensory detail).

I am from the _____ (plant, flower, natural item), the _____ (plant, flower, natural detail).

I am from _____ (family tradition) and _____ (family trait),
from _____ (name of family member) and _____ (family name)
and _____ (another family name).

I am from the _____ (description of family tendency) and _____ (another one).

From _____ (something you were told as a child) and _____ (another).

I am from _____ (representation of religion, or lack of it, further description).

I'm from _____ (place of birth and family ancestry), _____ (two food items representing your family)

From the _____ (specific family story about a specific person and detail), the _____ (another detail), and the _____ (another detail and another family member).

I am from _____ (location of family pictures, mementos, archives, and several more lines indicating their worth)

POETRY CORNER

Where I'm From by Nicholas Warren

I am from war-torn Europe, economic recession in the 50's with no public-works spending, and ration books with worse restrictions than during the war.

I am from the bomb sites of the Blitz, from loving to play tennis all weekend, and cycling to get there.

I am from silent evenings, where you could hear a pin drop, with book pages turning, from "study hard" and "keep doing well at school," but "television would interfere" (so no TV!)

I am from a Church of England school, singing in the choir. My mother a former Catholic, nuns wielding rulers to break over her hands, my father a devout agnostic.

I am from London, father English, mother partly Irish ... roast beef, Yorkshire pudding and horribly over-cooked vegetables.

I remember conversations with my grandfather who was gassed in the trenches of the Great War; with my mother the camaraderie on the streets after the bombing during the Battle of Britain; with my father who conscientiously objected to the armed forces, instead serving to quench the flames of London, as his conscience allowed.

I am from the silence of no siblings, next to no relatives, most conversations inside my own head with myself, the extreme carefulness with money, and "all for our boy" making me feel guilty, but I am who I am, this is where I'm from, and God's creation!

Two Earth Stewardship Opportunities This Fall

Skip purchasing chemical-laden, resource intensive, disposable Fall season mums. Instead, buy asters that help indigenous earth creatures sure as butterflies and pollinators! Asters, native to our area, once established, never need to be watered and come back every year (saves \$ over time and nourishes God's earth vs hurting from it with seasonal non-native mums).



Saturday, October 18th on the Winnakee land in Clermont, 9:30am-11:30am

Help celebrate our friend and volunteer Leola Specht's birthday by helping us restore the forest of this preserve! We will show and tell while walking to the forest regeneration plots and manually cut buckthorn resprout.

Wear weather appropriate clothing, closed-toe shoes, and socks you can tuck pants into. Be prepared for insects and ticks. Bring your reusable bottle filled with water to drink. Winnakee will provide tools and gloves. If you have your own loppers and gloves, please bring them in case there are more volunteers than tools.

Volunteers can park along the road at **97 Jug Road in Clermont, NY**, Google pin here: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/rnUe2i9fztq6jJBS9>

Please let Jen Adams from Winnakee jen@winnakee.org know if you plan to come, thank you!

submitted by Leola Specht