



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 21

DECEMBER 2017

CHARLES KAMANO: A UNIQUE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

By Matthew DaCorte, Staff Reporter

Published November 01, 2017.
East Haven Courier



Rev. Charles Kamano has traveled from his African homeland to East Haven in a unique religious journey from Muslim to Catholic to Episcopalian faiths. (Photo by Matthew DaCorte/The Courier)

Following a fascinating journey from his African homeland to East Haven, Reverend Charles Kamano celebrated his first worship services at Christ and The Epiphany Church on Oct 1.

Raised in Sierra Leone in West Africa, Charles grew up in the Muslim faith, with his mother

the first of his father's multiple wives.

Charles had friends from school that were Christian, and says he became drawn to that way of life and the world-view of Christianity. Specifically, he says the concepts of "do no harm" and "love your neighbor as yourself—even love your enemy" attracted him to the religion. Charles became involved in local Christmas and Easter pageants and says he "could feel a special spirit and connect with people."

"I was in love with that," Charles says, "All that, I was doing undercover because my father would not allow me to be part of all those things, let alone go to church."

Before he finished high school, Charles had developed a love of the religion and his friends, and wanted to be a part of it. He felt God was calling him to Christianity and

he was officially baptized at age 16.

He called his father a "fanatic" Muslim who "took everything to the letter." Charles says it was seen as a betrayal to convert to another religion, and he was thrown out of his home and almost disowned by his own family.

Charles sought refuge with his local priest and nuns, who helped him complete his school education.

"I went into hiding. I explained my situation to this priest and the nuns," Charles says, "When they go to do missions, they bring scholarships, so I benefited from that to complete my high school."

After that, Charles began exploring his options and decided to become a priest.

“I have received so much from Christianity, and how can I give back?” was his rationale.

With war raging in Sierra Leone, Charles went to Guinea and Mali for seminary. He was ordained as a Catholic priest in 2001, serving for almost four years in Guinea.

Charles says that joining the priesthood was a way for him to translate the love, compassion, and help he received from the church when he was suffering with a challenging transition.

“I was being driven by that, so I also, in my ministry, try to translate that help,” Charles says.

He received a scholarship to go to Rome for further theological study, however, during that time Charles grew conflicted about his desire to become a Catholic priest. He disagreed with some of the “stringent” rules of the church.

“I said, ‘I’m going to quit, but quit to come to be part of a church that is more inclusive, more welcoming,’ which I did,” Charles says.

He moved to the U.S. to find a church because of the diversity and freedom in the country. Charles was welcomed into the Church of the Holy Spirit in West Haven and the pastor helped facilitate his transition to Episcopalian, connecting him with the diocese and authorities. In March of this year, he was received by the Episcopal Church.

“It wasn’t easy,” Charles says.

Christ and The Epiphany is his first assignment as a missional priest, which Charles says is like a part-time priest and spiritual leader, with all the other aspects of the church handled by someone else.

His first concern is to help those in the church live spiritually and religiously, to support them translate what they believe in. Since he’s

new, Charles says he’s giving himself some time to see what the traditions and practices are and focus on the strengths, and if there are things he can add that will increase spirits, those will come.

“It’s a church that doesn’t condemn—(it’s a) church that is willing to embrace, to welcome, to help, to guide, and to lead,” Charles says.

He also wants to bring awareness to how the church can reach out to people who are not engaged. He says if the church is involved in “every aspect of human life,” that help parishioners really connect with people.

Also currently serving as chaplain at Yale New Haven Hospital, Charles holds services at the Christ and The Epiphany Church, 39 Park Place, East Haven on Sundays at 8 and 10 a.m.

Senior Warden Report

Barbara Parsons

Stewardship Sunday was November 26th. We need to take Stewardship very seriously as it affects our finances, building, surroundings and our time. I hope we have prayerfully considered how we give.

Rich Schiavone has started a new study beginning on Sunday November 26th at 9:00 a.m. in the library. It's based on Max Lucado's book "Because of Bethlehem". Anyone familiar with Max Lucado knows that there will be humor and teaching that meets us in our everyday life. Please join us. The more the merrier!

The Finance Committee will meet on December 3rd at 9 a.m. in the Great Hall to set a budget to be presented to the Vestry at our December 17th meeting. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Vestry as well as leadership roles will be elected at the annual parish meeting.

Please consider participation in the Vestry membership. If anyone is interested, feel free to contact me.

Junior Warden Report

Janet A. Cianelli

Building and Grounds

I am pleased to announce that our building is utilized every day of the week and without any major issues. The diverse organizations that use our building and facilities have been diligent in keeping it clean and offering to help in various ways. A parishioner from Refreshed New Wine Church has graciously offered to replace the loose tiles in the Great Hall at no charge. We need only to wait until his time allows for this repair work.

We have switched from Petro Oil to Libretti & Son, a local oil supplier, who stated that they would

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 2

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Annual Christmas Fair

December 1-31

Hat and Mitten Tree - to benefit our neighbors served by the East Haven Food Pantry.

Bring your donations to the Good Shepherd Thrift Store, Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-11 a.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. or Sunday worship services.

Sundays in December,

10:00 a.m.

Join us as we light the Advent Candles during

Worship Services

Dec. 3 - Hope

Dec. 10 - Love

Dec. 17 - Joy

Dec. 24 - Peace - Note: one Worship Service at

9:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 24, 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service

If you need a ride or can offer one, sign up on the sheet in the Great Hall.

Sunday, January 28, 2018

The Annual Parish Meeting for the purpose of electing Wardens and members of the Vestry and transacting other business as needed, will be held following a single combined Eucharist Service at 9:00 a.m. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held February 4th.

In the event of worship services being cancelled due to weather conditions, a notice will be posted on Fox 61, News 8 and MYTV9 TV stations and can also be viewed at www.fox61.com/closing and www.wtnh.com as well as on our website at www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org.

provide us with a discounted cost on the oil price because we are a church.

The fallen tree limbs caused by the last major storm were collected and discarded by both the Town of East Haven and Steve Langlan. Once United Illuminating trims the large tree in front of 47 Park Place we will be able to have the remainder of that tree removed.

Our cleaning service will be changed after the 1st of the year.

A special thanks to Steve Langlan and Ken Dougherty who have been there whenever I need to seek advice or need something done to the building.

Outreach

Midnight Run

Kathy Alison

We continue to participate with the Midnight Run outreach mission. We were

relieved in that we did not encounter any children standing outside in line in the cold during our last visit. Prayerfully this indicates that their families had found shelter.

Our struggles to meet the needs of the homeless for the upcoming cold winter months include Chapstick (2 or 3 pack for \$1 at Dollar Tree), gloves, and knit hats. These items are very precious to the homeless.

Worship

Diane Villano

On Tuesday, November 21st, East Haven United, a faith-based community, presented an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Clare Catholic Church, East Haven. Clergy and representatives from Christ and The Epiphany Church, Old Stone Congregational Church, Refreshed New Wine Church and St. Pio of Pietrelcina Catholic Parish, led the Scripture readings, prayers and reflections.

Episcopal Church in Connecticut 2017 Convention

Diane Villano

Missional Priest Charles Kamano, Senior Warden Barbara Parsons and I, attended the 233rd Annual Convention November 17th and 18th at the Hyatt Regency in Old Greenwich. Former Missional Priest Andrew Osmun joined us on the second day. This was my first time at Convention and with knowing only our small group, I still felt welcomed by the organizers and other attendees.

ECCT is taking full advantage of digital resources and social media - smartphones and tablets were in use everywhere. A Convention app for Apple and Android devices which detailed the complete schedule and venue information made it possible to require very little printed material. The app was the only way to elect representatives to the

Standing Committee and Mission Council. Daily summaries were emailed to attendees and are on ECCT's web site (www.EpiscopalCT.org) and our Facebook page. If requested, I'll post a copy in the Great Hall. Four workshops were offered prior to the official start of Convention. I sat in on "Church Live: Effective Social Media Practices" which covered becoming a digital disciple and spreading the God's Word on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Fourteen resolutions, all adopted with some amendments, were covered over three legislative sessions. (Knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order is very helpful!) I especially enjoyed the brief table discussions offered at each resolution, listening and responding to other's viewpoints. The resolutions are available on ECCT's website and are posted in the Great Hall.

During each legislative session, prayer and reflection periods were led by members from Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, MA (www.bethanyhousearlington.org). We were also treated to six one-minute video interviews presenting a ministry in each Region*.

On Friday, Convention Worship was co-celebrated by Bishops Laura Ahrens and Ian Douglas. Bishop Ahrens' sermon about the road to Gaza (Acts 8:26-40) is on ECCT's website and is posted in the Great Hall.

An option for Friday dinner was a Food Truck Festival; two food trucks parked at St. Paul's Church in Greenwich, just ten minutes away from Convention. St. Paul's offered us a place to sit in warmth and comfort enjoying our meals with live piano music playing softly in the background. Their gracious hospitality included cheese and fruit

platters and coffee and cookies.

In his Annual Address* on Saturday, Bishop Douglas encouraged us to change the focus from the “end of Christendom” to the beginning of a new apostolic age with new understandings and practices for participating in God’s mission.

Also on Saturday were Region Breakout sessions, and we met with delegates from other South Central Regional churches and our missionary, Rev. Rachel Field.

I’ve always enjoyed seeing how things work. Watching laity and clergy work together gave me a fascinating look at how the Episcopal Church in Connecticut responds and adapts in this new age of mission.

We will elect 2018 representatives at our Annual Meeting on the 4th Sunday, January 28th.

*Please let me know if you’d like to view any of these videos at Coffee Hour.

Random Acts of Christmas Kindness Advent Calendar

Diane Villano

Thanks to everyone who contributed Random Acts of Christmas Kindness suggestions! The completed calendar is included here and is also posted on the main bulletin board in the Great Hall.

Seek and ye shall find

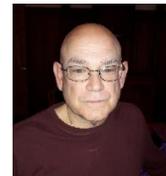
Diane Villano



Congratulations to Diane Rowley, our Parish Administrator, who correctly identified the Narthex as the location of the “where am I?” image! She wins a \$5.00 Stop & Shop gift card.

Series of Romantic Composers

Tony Lamberti



Out with the old productions and in with the new!

What is an opera company without a new production? This month I was able to see two productions at the New York Metropolitan Opera. One I knew very little about and the other was completely unknown to me. To my surprise they were both outstanding.

My first choice was “The Magic Flute” since Mozart is considered one of the greatest in the music world. I confess that typically I find Mozart a bit too light but to my surprise I was extremely impressed with the new production, music and action. It was this afternoon that I became an authentic follower of Mozart.

The second production is a new and powerful opera on stage for the first time by Thomas Ades called “The Exterminating Angel”. His first opera was staged in 2012 and called “The Tempest”. The Opera is based on a classic film by Luis Burvel about a fantasy dinner party in which the guests cannot escape. Though the concept was discomfoting I was still greatly impressed by the performance. I truly enjoyed this opera. I must say it was indeed a tour de force by the cast and orchestra. A must see!

Next month I will again have the pleasure of attending two operas at the Met. The first is the great works of “Verdi” on December 2nd and the second is Franz Lehar’s “The Merry Widow” on December 30th.

Wednesday Evening Prayer Services Time Change

Please join us at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel for a mid-week “faith lift”. Prayers, songs, and reflections help us center our thoughts on God and our connection with Him.

Area Christmas Events

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts: Trees of Hope, Maritime Center, New Haven, December 2-10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Diane Villano’s artist group, the Southern Connecticut Polymer Clay Guild, will once again donate a Christmas tree fully decorated with

CHURCH LIFE in photos

(L to R) Rev. Sebastian Kochupurackal and Deacon Wayne Sandford (St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish) and Rev. Charles L. Kamano (Christ and The Epiphany Church)



handmade ornaments to the RMHC for their 28th annual Trees of Hope event. Admission and weekend parking are free and raffle tickets are only \$1.00 each.

Sister's Christmas

Catechism:

The "Mystery of the Magi's Gold", is at the Long Wharf Theater, New Haven, December 5-17, 2017, starring Nonie Newton Riley. It's CSI: Bethlehem in this holiday mystery extravaganza, by the author of the Late Nite Catechism series, as Sister takes on the mystery that has intrigued historians throughout the ages—whatever happened to the Magi's gold? Retelling the story of the nativity, as only Sister can, this hilarious holiday production also includes a live nativity scene like no other.

Peace on Earth:

Creches of the World, Knights of Columbus Museum, New Haven, November 18-January 8.

The 2017 Christmas exhibition features nativity scenes from across the globe.

Christmas Concerts:

Barbara Coulombe and Susan Shultz will be singing in two different Christmas concerts in December. The Greater New Haven Community Chorus concert is Saturday Dec 9, 7:30 p.m. at Battell Chapel in New Haven. "From Skies Above" will be a holiday choral concert with 18 piece orchestra. Selections include Mendelssohn's Vom Himmel hoch, works by Bach, Randall Thompson, and others. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Tickets can be acquired from Barbara or Susan or purchased online at www.gnhcc.org.

Also on Sunday Dec 10, 5 p.m. at Branford Free Evangelical Church both singers will be singing portions of Handel's Messiah in a free-will concert. After the concert

the church will be serving refreshments.



December Birthdays

1-Dec Connor Reynolds
15-Dec Gail Beck
16-Dec Astrid Swanson
20-Dec Susan Shultz
25-Dec Joan Shaffner



©wondercliparts.com

December Anniversaries

12/26/1993
Ron and Janice Blevins

Intercessory Prayers

Beverly W. - Bill Hodge -
Bradley D. - Bruce Langlan -
Bunny W. - Carol - Carol C.
- Cheryl Link - Chester
Chappuis - David - Dennis
Family - Devin K. - Diane -

Eleanor N. - Eric S. - Faith and Family - Father Eddie - Gale - Goodfellow Family - Greg T. - Harry Bruneau, Jr. - Helen - J.D. - Jay - Jim C. - John A. - John D. - Joseph - Judy DeFeo - June W. - Karl - Kasch T. - Katherine Burdick - Katrina R. - Ken Wortz - Lage Family - Lucas Sundwall - Sister Madonna D. - Mark Conti - Marty - Matt - Melissa D. - Olivia and Family - Rachael - Richard - Robert J. - Sean - Vi S. and Family - Vidar H. - Vivian S.

To submit names for the Intercession Prayer list please call or email the

church office. Names will be kept on the list for 3 months unless longer time is requested. If a person you have placed on the list recovers in less than 3 months or passes away, please update the church office.

December Newsletter

The deadline for the January 2018 issue of the newsletter is Friday, December 22, 2017.

If you have any contributions for the newsletter, or an update to the Birthday or Anniversary list, please call

the church office at 203-467-2310.

-Kathy Alison & Susan Shultz, Editors

TREASURERS REPORT

Susan Shultz

		OCTOBER	UNDER/OVER BUDGET		YTD	UNDER/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$	9,160.10	\$ (211.23)	\$	89,928.14	\$ 4,449.84
EXPENSES	\$	9,129.50	\$ 1,172.41	\$	85,188.52	\$ (7,624.38)
NET	\$	30.60	\$ 1,383.64	\$	4,739.62	\$ (12,074.22)

Notations: Expenses were up because we paid a heating bill earlier than we had budgeted.

Year-To-Date heating costs should still meet budget.

Year-To-Date expenses are still low since we still haven't spent some budgeted building repairs.

CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY CHURCH

10:00 AM December Worship Schedule

	<u>December 3, 2017</u>	<u>December 10, 2017</u>	<u>December 17, 2017</u>	<u>December 24, 2017</u> <u>10 AM</u>	<u>December 24, 2017</u> <u>4 PM</u>	<u>December 31, 2017</u>
Welcomer	Carol Link-Ude	Barbara Parsons	Joyce Aurelius	Carol Link-Ude	Barbara Parsons	Joyce Aurelius
Crucifer	Ricky Alexander	Charlie Langlan	Brooke Dennis	Ricky Alexander	Charlie Langlan	Brooke Dennis
Chalice Bearer	George Coulombe	Ron Blevins	Hal Levi	Kristina Langlan	Steve Langlan	George Coulombe
Lector	Ron Blevins	George Coulombe	Susan Shultz	Joyce Aurelius	Audrey Sundwall	Steve Langlan
Usher	Kristina Langlan	Audrey Sundwall	George Coulombe	Ron Blevins	Susan Shultz	Gail Schappa
Lead Counter	Pat Walters	Astrid Swanson	Susan Shultz	Diane Villano	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Counter	Sally Alexander	Fred Bowden	Joyce Aurelius	Ron Blevins	George Coulombe	George Coulombe

Random Acts of Christmas Kindness 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
How many Random Acts of Christmas Kindness can you do?					Bake goodies and create items for our Christmas Fair	Volunteer at Christ and The Epiphany's Christmas Fair
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Send a Christmas card to someone serving in the military	Bring pet supplies to the East Haven Animal Shelter	Donate a book to the Hagaman Memorial Library or local hospital	Tape change to a vending machine	Buy coffee for the next person in line at Dunkin' Donuts	Call a far-away relative and sing a carol over the phone	Help out at the East Haven Food Pantry
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Drop off a book at the Little Free Library on River St.	Give a gift card to the next person in line at Stop & Shop	Bring non-perishable food to the E. H. Food Pantry	Leave a happy note or kindness stone for someone to find	Bring Christmas cards to patients at the V.A.	Compliment a stranger	Volunteer at the Good Shepherd Thrift Store
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Donate to our Hat and Mitten Tree	Compliment a parent on how well-behaved their child is	Leave an encouraging note for someone to find	Candy cane bomb a parking lot	Brush snow off someone's windshield	Wrap presents for someone	Give treats to your postal carrier
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Give someone a ride to the 4:00 Christmas Eve service	Merry Christmas! 					
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Happy New Year!		These Random Acts of Christmas Kindness were contributed by the parishioners of Christ and The Epiphany Church, 39 Park Place (on the Green), East Haven, CT.			

