

LIFELONG CHRISTIAN FORMATION, YOUTH, COLLEGE CAMPUS AND YOUTH ADULT MINISTRIES

2020 has been quite a year in the life of Christian Formation Ministries in the Diocese of East Carolina. Through a global pandemic, racial unrest, and a harried political season, communities have continued to gather in new and different ways, still seeking to serve Christ in all persons.

Lifelong Christian Formation

Though not officially a department for the entire year, this area of ministry has been growing over time. In October of 2020 the current Program Officer for Youth, College Campus and Young Adult Ministries transition to be the Missioner for Lifelong Christian Formation.

Under the umbrella of Lifelong Christian Formation fall five ages groups for ministry: children, youth, young adults, adults, and older adults. As this ministry area grows there will be more resources and offerings available to all age groups but in particular for those in parishes who facilitate these ministries.

Beginning in early April as the pandemic began to settle in, Formation Leader Gatherings began to be hosted on Zoom. The typically monthly gatherings are available during an afternoon time slot and an evening time slot so as to meet ministry leaders at a time convenient to them. The Diocese has a number of parishes with paid Christian Formation Staff members as well as a number of parishes who rely on volunteer or vestry support for these ministries.

These gatherings will continue online throughout the pandemic, and as restrictions begin to ease, both online and in person options may be offered.

Space for Grace

Late October through early December a 4 part series focused on learning and pastoral support was offered by the department. Each series featured an expert presenter in a faith-based context on how to cope or manage relationships in the midst of an ongoing pandemic:

Session 1 - For Couples: Anne Erickson, LCMHC

Session 2 - For Parents of College Students/Young Adults: The Rev'd Kevin Matthews, College Chaplain

Session 3: For Older Adults and Those Who Care for them: Dorothy Linthicum, Author of Re-deeming Dementia: Spirituality, Theology, Science (Church Publishing)

Session 4: For Single Adults: Missy Morian, Director for Program Ministries at the Parish of St. Matthew, Pacific Palisades, CA

Formation Resource Updates

Emails are sent every 4 to 6 weeks with resources and content for formation leaders, clergy, and any other who are on the email list. These resources include a wide variety of ideas and sources for parish and faith at home use. Anyone is welcome to sign up for these emails.

Youth Ministry

From regular Diocesan Youth Events to support and training for adults who work with young people to curriculum resources, Youth Ministry in the Diocese of East Carolina seeks to serve all young people in grades 6-12, their parents and the adult leaders who work with them on a regular basis.

ECYC (East Carolina Youth Council) Term 2020-2021

Members:

David Brown - At Large (St. Mary's, Kinston)
Tayleigh Carpenter - At Large (Christ Church, New Bern)
Alison Ezzell - Trinity Deanery (Christ Church, New Bern)
Anne Stuart Freemon - *Trinity Deanery (St. Stephen's, Goldsboro)*
Emily Gowdy Canady – Program Officer
Anna Haddad - At Large (St. Mary's, Kinston)
Tracy Hanson – Adult Member (St. Andrew's on the Sound, Wilmington)
Griffin Johnson - Pamlico Deanery (St. James, Belhaven)
Pauline Lind - Trinity Deanery (St. Andrew's, Morehead City)
Xena Markine-Morrison - Adult Member (St. Stephen's, Goldsboro)
Bryson Perry - Albemarle Deanery (St. Paul's, Edenton)
Daniel Sharp -At Large (St. Stephen's Goldsboro)
Betsy Shepherd - Upper Cape Fear (St. John's, Fayetteville)
Sarah Thomas - Lower Cape Fear (St. James, Wilmington)

The East Carolina Youth Council currently includes 11 young people and 3 adults at this time, representing all 5 deaneries in the diocese. The ECYC continues to take on more leadership in the Department by designing and facilitating many of the youth events we offer.

This year the East Carolina Youth Council has had to pivot and shift, creating and offering new ways for young people to be in community online instead of in person.

Diocesan Offerings

Mental Wellness Series for Young People

October 11, November 1st, & November 15th

This 3 part series young people in grades 6 - 12 provided an open and safe space for conversation about concerns around mental health and wellness. Mental health and wellness was and is an important topic in the lives of young people, but COVID-19 has put a strain on many people who have not struggled with these issues in the past.

Session Facilitators:

Emily Gowdy Canady - Diocesan House
Tracy Hanson - St. Andrew's on the Sound, Wilmington
Meg Jones - Christ Church, New Bern
Xena Markine-Morrison - St. Stephen's, Goldsboro
Maureen Clayton, LMFT - Christ Church, New Bern served as Clinical Support

Youth Fall Break

November 7th

This online youth event was created by combining Sr. High Fall Break and Fall Conference for Middle Schoolers. The theme: Tied Together: Unity in Community, Ephesians 4:1-6, focused on even though we are not able to gather in person we can still create community. It also included a mission focused piece, but providing supplies and ideas for participants to engage in their local community in safe ways.

Event Coordinators:

Meg Jones - Christ Church, New Bern

Rebecca Brown - St. Mary's, Kinston

Happening Emerge

October 24th

COVID-19 and the guidelines and restrictions that have followed have the way Happening typically gathers. It was important that the Happening community have an opportunity to gather.

The event was described this way:

“As we emerge from COVID-19, we will all be different. We will be somewhat like a caterpillar that has been transformed into a butterfly. We hope you have found something about this time at a different pace transformative in your own life. Happening will emerge as well and we want you to be part of that process. Our hope is to have Happening in the spring of 2021. We want to take time this fall, in the same way a caterpillar spends inside a chrysalis, preparing to spread our wings and fly in the spring”

Happening Coordinator:

Cookie Cantwell, St. James, Wilmington

Technology Coordinator

Jonathan Graves, Holy Cross, Wilmington

Racial Healing Series for High Schoolers

This was an opportunity for High School young people (rising 9th through graduated 12th) to connect on a journey of understanding race, racism in our culture, and our call as Christians in this world to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly" (Micah 6:8).

This was a 3 part series grounded in the Baptismal Covenant from the Episcopal Church and in "Dismantling Racism: Youth Curriculum" from The Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing

Facilitators for these sessions:

Emily Gowdy Canady - Diocesan House

Meg Jones - Christ Church, New Bern

Ashley Simpson - Seminarian, The University of the South School of Theology

Xena Markine-Morrison - St. Stephen's, Goldsboro

The Rev'd Michelle Bullock - St. Peter's by the Sea, Swansboro will serve as the Chaplain for this series.

The Rev'd Charles L. Howard, Ph.D. - University Chaplain and University Vice President for Social Equity & Community at the University of Pennsylvania joined as speaker and guest for Session 2.

New Beginnings (#55) Compline

Due to stay at home orders and limits on public gatherings we were unable to host New Beginnings #55 at Trinity Center. The leadership of this event was able to pivot and decided to host an online Compline service the Friday evening New Beginnings was scheduled to begin. Over 40 youth and adults who were registered to attend the event participated in Compline.

Youth Leadership Team for New Beginnings #55

Lizzy Rotchford, Shepherd - *St. Andrew's by the Sea, Nags Head*

Abby Dell, Archdeacon - *St. Andrews on the Sound, Wilmington*

Anne Stuart Freemon, Guide - *St. Stephen's, Goldsboro*

John Kells, Holy Trinity, Fayetteville served as Co-Coordinator

Xena Markine-Morrison, St. Stephen's Goldsboro served as Co-Coordinator

The Rev'd Chris Hamby, St. James, Wilmington served as Spiritual Director

The Rev'd Michelle Bullock, St. Peter's by the Sea, Swansboro served as Spiritual Director

The Rev'd Melody Perdue, formerly of St. Anne's Jacksonville served as Musician

Happening #75

This is a renewal based youth event for high schoolers that is run and supported by other high schoolers. Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ. Happening provides a well-structured environment of talks and activities for high school young people to explore, question and deepen their faith. Happening #75 was March 6-8 and Happening #74 was October 18-20

Youth Leadership Team for Happening #75

Rector: Madeline Eckel

Head Gopher: Vance Young

Chaplain: Samantha Jarnagin

Happening Coordinator

Cookie Cantwell, St. James Wilmington

Spiritual Director

The Rev'd Tom Warren - St. Mary's, Kinston served as Spiritual Director

Youth@Convention

February 6th -8th

Young people are part of Annual Convention each year. They participate on the floor and in all Convention proceedings including serving on Bishop appointed committees and participating in drafting resolutions. Parishes are encouraged to send at least one young person as a Youth Representative to Annual Convention and are also encouraged to choose a young person to serve as an elected delegate to Annual Convention.

Pages

Abby Dell - St. Andrew's on the Sound, Wilmington

Allie Earnhart - St. Andrew's on the Sound, Wilmington

Daniel Sharp - St. Stephen's, Goldsboro

Youth Representatives

Anna Haddad - St. Mary's, Kinston

Mairead Benson - St. Andrew's on the Sound, Wilmington

Lizzy Rotchford - St. Andrew's by the Sea, Nags Head

Pauline Lind - St. Andrew's, Morehead City

Shannen Mullen - St. Peter's by the Sea, Swansboro

Anne Stuart Freemon - St. Stephen's, Goldsboro

Youth Guest

Nora Mullen - St. Peter's by the Sea, Swansboro

Elected Delegate (Youth)

Rebecca Brown - St. Mary's, Kinston

Brayden Williams - St. Philip's, Southport

University and Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry in the Diocese of East Carolina has met the challenges presented in 2020 due to COVID-19 with flexibility and pastoral support. Ministries in Greenville and Wilmington have been creative and committed to engaging students in faithful community in the midst of these unprecedented times.

In March the Campus Ministry Coordinators at Episcopal Lutheran Ministries at the University of North Carolina Pembroke met with the Program Officer to discuss the future of this ministry. It was decided at that meeting that ELM at UNCP would be suspended until it seems there might be students interested in restarting this ministry.

In June Mrs. Alfreda Gee, Campus Minister in Wilmington, the Rev'd Donna Kraus, Campus Minister in Greenville, and Emily Gowdy Canady, Program Officer participated in Oasis, a fully online conference hosted by the Episcopal and Lutheran Church's offices for Campus and Young Adult Ministries. This was an opportunity to learn more about partnered campus and young adult ministries as well as to participate in workshops, networking, and worship.

Those involved in the leadership of Campus Ministries across the diocese met monthly this year to stay connected due to COVID-19.

The Well: Episcopal Lutheran Campus Ministry Annual Report

Submitted by The Rev'd Donna Kraus - Campus Minister

Although most of the year has been filled with the pandemic, the Well has enjoyed some very meaningful moments together. One of our safest ways to get together has been through Zoom. We have enjoyed calls with our friends at ECCO in Wilmington. Zoom calls have allowed us to pray together and encourage one another during this difficult time. Online learning has not been a favorite of many students so we have shared our frustrations and vowed to press on.

The outdoors has also allowed us to meet. We are grateful for the churches that support us who have allowed us to use their outdoor facilities. We had several meals outdoors at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and enjoyed listening to the evening hymn sing. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has also allowed us to use their backyard. One of the most fun events was pumpkin carving around Halloween. It is so good to see each other, even though masked.

Although plans for the New Year have not been announced, we will find ways to connect and encourage one another in the faith.

Officers

Gabrielle Fontenot - President

Ashley Ramirez – Vice President

Jeb Thaxton – Secretary/Treasurer

ECCO (Episcopal Campus Christian Organization)

Submitted by Mrs. Alfreda Gee, Campus Minister

Advisory Council members are Larry Cahoon, Sarah Smith, Tracy Hanson, Ashlyn Park and welcomes Martha Whitesides this year.

ECCO met as usual until spring break in March when students went home to complete the year off campus. ECCO continued throughout the year, including summer via Zoom. In fall, when students returned to campus with online and hybrid classes, ECCO was able to meet on a limited basis at Church of the Servant. Alfreda Gee, campus minister, visited campus this fall every other week for lunch outside as opposed to twice weekly "before times".

Zoom became a noun, verb, and adjective. ECCO used it for informal and formal meetings, including Advisory Council.

The impact of COVID-19 on the daily lives of everyone has been vast. For students, it meant giving up much of what it means to be a college student. Campus ministry adapted as much as possible, supporting students through individual texts, group emails and meetings on Zoom. Outreach to new students was minimal, despite efforts.

On the positive, new leadership emerged and maintained basic presence on campus. Our delegate to convention last February was able to participate before shutdown. Support from the diocese has been unfailing and we celebrated 2 graduates in December. All our students have remained healthy. ECCO looks forward to returning to some of the favorite activities and discussions that have made it so meaningful.

Young Adult Ministry

This ministry continues to be one of support and connection of young adults to broader opportunities offered through The Episcopal Church, including the Episcopal Service Corps and the Young Adult Service Corps.

We continue to support parishes actively engaged in ministries with young adults.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Gowdy Canady
Program Officer for Youth, University & Campus, and Young Adult Ministries