

## Department of Lifelong Christian Formation, Youth, College Campus and Young Adult Ministries

2022 has been a re-energizing year in Christian Formation Ministries in the Diocese of East Carolina. Though there are still some challenges related to the pandemic, many people across the diocese have been engaging in new, and some old, Christian Formation opportunities.

### **Lifelong Christian Formation**

Lifelong Christian Formation includes five age group divisions 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.

We were able to host fully in person gatherings in 2022 along with continued offerings online, allowing us to engage with many people from around the diocese without the worry of travel or germs!

#### **Diocesan Formation Leader Gatherings**

Rebooted in August, diocesan formation leaders began gathering quarterly online. These online gatherings are offered twice per quarter once in the evening and once during the day. They are more informal, with participants sharing resources and offering support, on zoom.

#### **Formation Resource Updates**

Emails are usually sent quarterly 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.

#### **Supporting LGBTQIA+ Young People**

Hosted on November 5th Susan Peek, LCSW joined leaders from around the diocese at Diocesan House for a resource and training day. This day was designed specifically to provide leaders and parishes with support and resources to better serve LGBTQIA+ young people and their families. Susan gave an outstanding workshop filled with superior resources.

#### **Children's Ministry**

In 2022 parish leaders in children's ministry were focused on rebuilding in their local contexts. Many ideas about sharing resources were brainstormed and coming in 2023 will be a VBS like day for children and families from around the diocese to participate in. More details will be coming in February 2023.

## **Youth Ministry**

We have learned to be creative and to modify our Youth Ministry Events during COVID times. No matter the platform, in person, or online, the 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 2022-2023**

#### *Members:*

Tayleigh Carpenter - At Large (Christ Church, New Bern)

Alison Ezzell - Trinity Deanery (Christ Church, New Bern)

Holden Ford - Albemarle Deanery (St. Paul's, Edenton)

*Emily Gowdy Canady – Missioner for Lifelong Christian Formation*

*Tracy Hanson – Adult Member (St. Andrew's on the Sound, Wilmington)*

Madi Hengst - Trinity Deanery (St. Mary's, Kinston)

Baker Hudson - At Large (Christ Church, New Bern)

Piper Johnson - Pamlico Deanery (St. James, Belhaven)

*Xena Markine-Morrison - Adult Member (St. Stephen's, Goldsboro)*

Lillian McLamb - Lower Cape Fear (St. Andrew's on the Sound, Wilmington)

Bryson Perry - Albemarle Deanery (St. Paul's, Edenton)

Bennett Sanborn - At Large (St. Andrew's, Morehead City)

Daniel Sharp - Trinity (St. Stephen's Goldsboro)

Betsy Shepherd - Upper Cape Fear (St. John's, Fayetteville)

Lauren Simmons - At Large (Christ Church, New Bern)

The East Carolina Youth Council currently includes 13 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.

In 2022 we were able, with the help of health and safety protocols, to have in person events. Online events were also hosted given that all have not been comfortable meeting in person.

## ***Diocesan Offerings***

### **Finding Balance**

This 3 part series for middle and high school young people was facilitated by Susan Peek, LCSW. Offered on Zoom, it focused on helping young people balance the stress in their every day lives by providing tools for mental, physical and spiritual wellness.

Young people attended both as individuals and in a hybrid format as parish youth groups.

### Happening 77 & 78

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 #77 was March 4-6 and Happening #78 was October 21-23.

Happening Coordinator - Cookie Cantwell

Spiritual Directors - The Rev'd Tom Warren, The Rev'd Deacon Carol Eaton, The Rev'd Philip Craig

### New Beginnings

April 1st-3rd at Trinity Center

This event is for middle schoolers run by high schoolers and middle schoolers who have been participants before. New Beginnings seeks to help middle schoolers navigate the emerging world of changing relationships with friends, significant others, family and the world through the lens of their faith.

*Youth Leadership Team for New Beginnings #55*

Anna Haddad, Shepherd - St. Mary's, Kinston

Daniel Sharp, Archdeacon - St. Stephen's, Goldsboro

Tayleigh Carpenter, Guide - Christ Church, New Bern

*Coordinators:*

John Kells, Holy Trinity, Fayetteville

Xena Markine-Morrison, St. Stephen's Goldsboro

*Spiritual Director:*

The Rev'd Michelle Bullock, St. Peter's by the Sea, Swansboro

*Musician:*

Alex Norwood, Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill

### yOUTHREACH 2022

*September 17th*

Youth and adult leaders gathered for this regularly calendared youth event at St. Paul's Beaufort for a day of community service. This year Sound to Sea the Environmental Education Program based at Trinity Center brought their program to yOUTHREACH. The group of 50+ young people and adults from around the diocese spent the day learning about creation, specifically focused on keeping the oceans and waterways clean. After a morning exploring a life sized

whale, the large group divided into smaller groups and did a litter pick up around down town Beaufort.

*Event Coordinators:*

Liz Hengst, St. Mary's, Kinston

Meg Jones, Christ Church, New Bern

*Design Team:*

East Carolina Youth Council

*Chaplain:*

The Rev'd Ashley Simpson

Fall Conference for Middle Schoolers

*November 18th -20th*

Designed for Middle Schoolers by the ECYC. ECYC members served on team along with other High School Young People. This year's theme was Perfect Pieces: Put together for good. The young people engaged in a program built around Romans 8:24-30 and focused on how each of us are pieces of a giant puzzle made in God's image and each piece has it's own place to belong. Throughout the weekend, the participants engaged in activities and programs that helped them examine the ways that are created in the image of God with gifts to share, even if sometimes we feel like we don't fit in, we always have a place with God.

*Coordinator:*

Hannah Hutchens, St. Timothy's, Greenville

*Design Team:*

East Carolina Youth Council

*Chaplain:*

The Rev'd Paul Canady, Christ Church, New Bern

*Musician:*

Alex Norwood, Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill

## **Adult Formation**

In 2022 offerings for adults were made available.

### **The Good Book Club**

2022's study was the first 20 chapters of Exodus. Begun on Epiphany and continuing through to Shrove Tuesday, this daily Bible reading curriculum has been taken on by Forward Movement. Initially launched by Presiding Bishop Curry a few years ago, this annual study encourages Episcopalians and others to begin the new calendar year by reading a different book of the Bible. The Diocese of East Carolina hosted 5 online/hybrid study offerings led by clergy around the diocese.

#### *Study Facilitators:*

The Rev'd Chris Adams - St. Peter's, Washington

The Rev'd Michelle Bullock - St. Peter's by the Sea, Swansboro

The Rev'd Nan Cekuta - Holy Trinity Fayetteville

The Rev'd Paul Canady - Christ Church, New Bern

The Rev'd Nathan Finnin - St. Andrew's by the Sea - Nags Head

### **Holy Lent 2022**

A collaborative effort between five congregations with support from the diocese, adults around the diocese were invited to participate in an online forum each Tuesday evening during Lent. Using the prayer from the Ash Wednesday Service participants were invited to learn more about what it means to engage in the practice of a Holy Lent. Why do we spend this time in Lent? How do you make your observance of Lent not just "routine"? How can we challenge ourselves this Lent? Are there cues or places in the Bible or Book of Common Prayer we can use? How do these changes we make in Lent help us continue to live a changed life after Easter?

The series was kicked off by the Rev'd Jay Sidebotham of Renewal Works. All 5 sessions are available for view and use on the diocesan website.

#### Series Coordinators:

Royster Hedgepeth - St. Paul's, Wilmington

Meg Jones - Christ Church, New Bern

Emily Gowdy Canady - Diocesan House

### **AdventWord 2022**

This year the Diocese of East Carolina participated in the annual global Advent Calendar, AdventWord, by highlighting different ministries, commissions, and committees of the diocese. 26 different commissions, committees and ministries of the diocese were highlighted from 19 different congregations.

## University and Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry in the Diocese of East Carolina has continued to meet the continued challenges of ministering to college students with flexibility and pastoral support. Ministries in Greenville and Wilmington are creative and committed to engaging students in faithful communities in the midst of these unprecedented times.

### The Well: Episcopal Lutheran Campus Ministry Annual Report - *Submitted by The Rev'd Donna Kraus - Campus Minister*

The Well Campus Ministry supporting students at East Carolina University and Pitt Community College has had a busy year. Our highlight was our Spring Retreat at Trinity Center with ECCO campus ministry. Easton Davis led our retreat. Our activities helped us grow in our faith. We also had lots of fun making a movie.

Our meetings were and are on Thursday evenings at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville. One of our three supporting churches makes a wonderful meal for us. After dinner, we focus on a topic or activity. We always enjoy a night of pumpkin carving and an evening of cooking our own dinner. We are grateful for various members of the community who share their insights with us. Occasionally, a Well alumnus joins us to share meaningful campus ministry activities he or she encountered as well as life after graduation. Together we have been blessed by God and others.

#### *Officers:*

President: Gabrielle Fontenog

Vice President: Abe Willis

Secretary/Treasurer: Madison Bode

#### *Advisory Council:*

Dennis McCunney, the Rev'd John Porter-Acee, Kimber Roche', Barb Kern

### ECCO (Episcopal Campus Christian Organization)

*Submitted by Mrs. Alfreda Gee, Campus Minister*

ECCO celebrated a year of growth and exploration of a few new things. We completed the "Measure and Means" program in spring that followed the seven principles of The Way of Love. We returned to Trinity Center in April for the first retreat with our sister ministry, The Well, in three years. The retreat theme focused on the 7th principle, Rest. It was led by Easton Davis, who kept things moving, meaningful and memorable.

“Summer ECCO” returned to meet informally at local restaurants or the beach for those students who remained in town. This is a great way to keep the community connected through the summer months.

This fall, the campus minister began building relationships at the Mohin-Scholz LGBTQIA Resource Center on the UNCW Campus. This is a hopeful beginning toward new possibilities for relationship and ministry.

A new initiative from UNCW is the Interfaith Advisors Community. This gathering of campus ministers and advisors gives an opportunity to join with other ministries to recognize the work of the programs and stay connected to the staff at UNCW.

Volunteers for ECCO have offered extensive hours and labors of love to provide and host meals, serve on the Advisory Council, provide worship and music opportunities and support the campus minister in the business end of the ministry. As a result, ECCO reaches out to students with Episcopal roots, various other denominations and unchurched students. There are transfer students making new social networks, continuing students for whom ECCO is a constant in their college and graduate school careers, and those who come for a season and find connection. It is an open and welcoming community that loves each other, their neighbors and God.

*Officers:*

President - Elijah Dalton

Vice President - Jonathan Sturdivant

Secretary - Indiana Wiley

Treasurer - Alice Paul

*Advisory Council:*

Ashlyn Kuykendall, Larry Cahoon, Tracy Hanson, Justin Smith, Gray Hodson

**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, M.Ed.  
Missioner for Lifelong Christian Formation