

DIOCESAN DIGEST



SUMMER 2022

The Diocese of East Carolina

705 Doctors Drive

Kinston, NC 28501

Phone: (252) 522-0885

Website: www.diocese-eastcarolina.org

Bishop

The Rt. Rev'd Robert Skirving

Editorial Director

Sara Tavela, Coordinator of Communications

Contributors in this Issue

Vernell Hamilton, Mary Duane Hale, Deacon Carol Eaton, Towel Ministry Leaders of St. Peter's By-the-Sea, Dencie Lambdin, Rev. John Pollock, Rev. Nancee Cekuta, John Koch, Mary Beth Bradberry, Mindy Furrer, Chris Mohr Grenier, Vicki Kennedy, Rev. Michelle Bullock, Lucia Mondragon, Lisa Richey, Thomas Loveth Warren, Betty Fulton, Susan Hussan, Rev. Fred Clarkson, Cookie Cantwell, Erin Becker, Rev. Tom Warren, Deacon Ashley Simpson, Rev. Caleb Lee, Lucia Peel, Lloyd Brinson, Rev. Canon Heather Melton, Debbie Luke, Frances Jenkins, and Sara Tavela

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DIOCESAN DIGEST

SUMMER 2022

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *Diocesan Digest*, a magazine that shares the stories of the Diocese of East Carolina. In this issue, you'll find stories of ministries, parishes, and the people of our diocese. From celebrations, to anniversaries, to ministry features, I hope you'll enjoy these stories as much as I have! It has been a true joy to hear, learn, and discover the stories of our large and varied diocese. May God's peace and blessings be with you and those whom you love, and may this reading experience exploring our shared life in Christ inspire and bless you in your walk with God here in the Diocese of East Carolina.

In Christ,
Sara

*Sharing our stories,
Sharing our life in Christ.*





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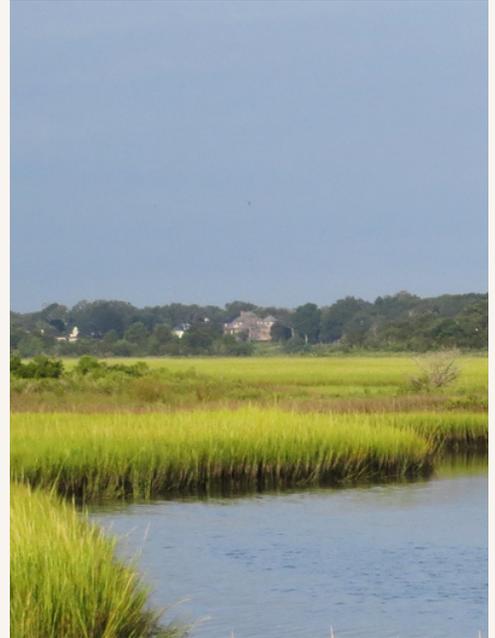
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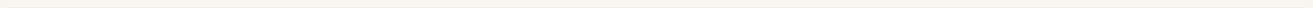
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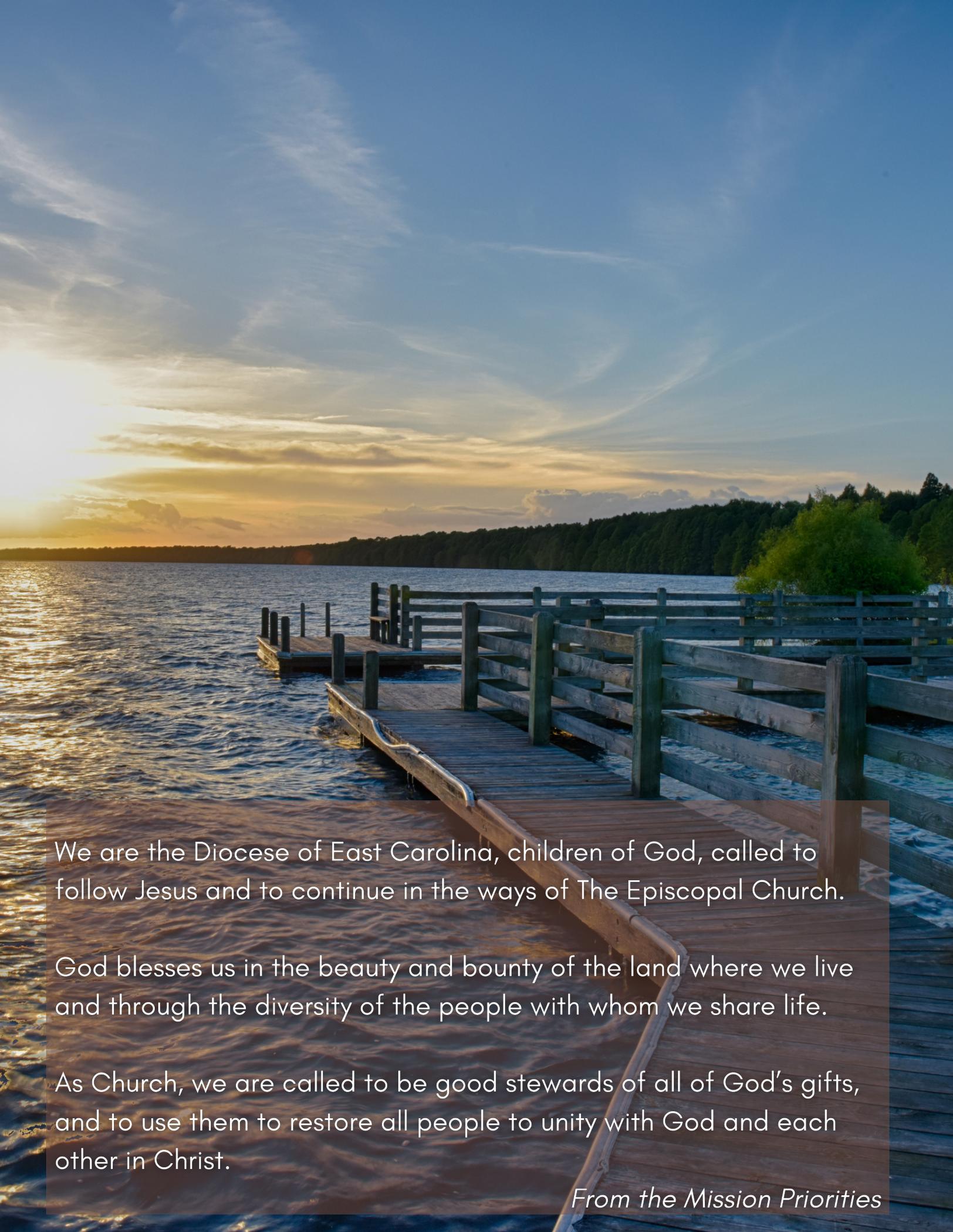


ST. FRANCIS BY THE SEA CELEBRATES THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

A brief history of this Salter Path parish's journey to their permanent home

UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS

See what's coming next from the Diocese of East Carolina



We are the Diocese of East Carolina, children of God, called to follow Jesus and to continue in the ways of The Episcopal Church.

God blesses us in the beauty and bounty of the land where we live and through the diversity of the people with whom we share life.

As Church, we are called to be good stewards of all of God's gifts, and to use them to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

From the Mission Priorities

ST. JOSEPH'S JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

BY VERNELL HAMILTON

BY GLORIA MANNIS

St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, the second oldest Episcopal church in Fayetteville, NC and historical African American Episcopal church in the Diocese of East Carolina, hosted a special service commemorating Juneteenth, Sunday June 19, 2022.

Juneteenth, June 19, honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest celebrated African American holiday. It was on June 19, 1865 when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed.

The choir made up of St. Joseph's and other local churches were dressed in African attire. The many in attendance enjoyed the soulful music provided by the choir, directed by Ms. Sharon McNair, especially "I've Been Burked"

Guest speaker Reverend Skip Walker, Associate Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville, delivered a powerful message challenging the Church to make liberation and justice a reality. Reverend Walker spoke profoundly about the power of the "real" Jesus who delivered the Good News of salvation and freedom to all versus the belief in a "counterfeit" Jesus whose message of love and grace is limited to a select few. Reverend Walker also spoke about the ongoing work of the Episcopal church in becoming a Beloved Community through racial healing, justice and reconciliation.

There were many in attendance for this service; and those of us who did not know much about Juneteenth were better informed about this federal holiday, signed into law 2021. The Juneteenth celebration service concluded with communion and a fellowship meal in St. Joseph's Butler Hall.



PROVINCE IV RETREAT: EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

By Mary Duane Hale



“ *Becoming Beloved Community*”

The Diocese of East Carolina was well represented at the Episcopal Church Women, Province IV Retreat and Meeting at Kanuga Conference Center June 6-8, 2022. Annie Jacobs (St. Marks, Wilmington) is serving as President and planned the retreat. The theme was "Becoming Beloved Community" and the Rev. Cheryl Brainard (St. James, Wilmington) was the keynote speaker and presenter.

The retreat offered time for worship, singing, workshops, business, fellowship, learning and enjoying the beauty of the mountains. The Rev. Katherine Mitchell (St. Peters, Washington), Chaplain for ECW Province IV, led worship throughout the retreat.

Province IV is the largest province, and we had women attending from twelve different dioceses from Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama and North Carolina.



Pictured above (From Left to Right): Rev. Katherine Mitchell, Mary Duane Hale, Vernell Hamilton, Rev. Cheryl Brainard, Annie Jacobs, Dencie Lambdin, Zona Tounsleyt



Attendees at ECW Province IV



President Annie Jacobs thanks keynote speaker, The Rev. Cheryl Brainard



TOWEL MINISTRY

Towel Ministry is a longstanding, youth and community-oriented ministry that specializes in housing repair and refurbishment for the elderly, physically challenged, and economically disadvantaged. Teams of youth and qualified adults spread the Good News of the Gospel by participating in work projects, such as building handicap access ramps, painting, roofing, weatherproofing, and other needed housing repairs. Towel began about 40 years ago in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, and over the years, it became planted here in East Carolina through Deacon Carol Eaton at several parishes in our diocese. St. Peter's By-the-Sea, Swansboro was the first and longest-standing Towel location, followed by St. James the Fisherman, Shallotte, and now at St. Andrew's, Morehead City.

History of Towel Ministry

Towel Ministry was created by Deacon Cris Greer and Rev. Gene McDowell almost 40 years ago, and this mission ministry grew out of the observed need for community needs for small and large home repairs and accessibility features that can be managed by a small group. A team of adults and teens participate in work projects that come to Towel Ministry through agency, family, and community referrals. Towel Ministry grew with seeds planted in both the mountains of North Carolina for "Mountain Towel" and here in East Carolina "Beach Towel," and this week-long or long-weekend mission camp consistently provided fulfilling experience to all participants, with the added benefit of being "Christianity outside the box you're comfortable with, out in the community."

Work, Play, Pray: Experiencing Towel

Towel Ministry is based on the model of servanthood shown by Jesus in John 13: 1-17, where he wraps a towel about his waist to wash the disciples feet. It is with that servant heart that the members of a Towel Ministry team approach each day. They work at job sites and form relationships with each other and the homeowners in fellowship. They play at the beach, kayak, and play games together for fun downtime. And, they pray: they refresh their minds, bodies, and spirits with ongoing worship times, planned by the youth themselves with the resources provided by clergy; it's an opportunity to connect with God and to learn the varieties of worship available in the Episcopal Church.

The Future of Towel Ministry

The beauty of Towel Ministry is that it is ripe for collaboration. All a church needs to begin a Towel Ministry is a youth and an adult, and a few churches coming together creates a Towel team in no time! St. Peter's, Swansboro, is also at work considering the ways in which Towel can grow and transform; they are looking at ecumenical and partnerships in our diocese to sustain and grow the ministry. Your parish can get involved too! If you have interest in participating in or starting a Towel Ministry, you can reach out to Deacon Carol Eaton at eatonbce@aol.com or to the folks at St. Peter's By-the-Sea at stpeters503@gmail.com. All are excited for the ways in which this ministry can continue to flourish, grow, and transform.



TOWEL MINISTRY GALLERY

Serve like Jesus (John 13:1-17)



Learning new hymns after worship in Saluda, NC



Building a porch in Onslow County



Gathering at St. Andrew's for the drive to Saluda



Towel Ministry can be messy work!
Painting the exterior of a home in Saluda

REPEAT PERFORMANCE THRIFT SHOP

AN OUTREACH OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
LUMBERTON

By Dencie Lambdin

Repeat Performance Thrift Shop, started by members of Trinity Episcopal Church in 1982, is in Lumberton. The Thrift Shop recently celebrated its 40th Anniversary of providing low cost, gently used clothes, household items and reading materials. The Thrift Shop was founded to fund the Trinity Soup Kitchen begun the following year as an outreach ministry of the church.

The Shop was initially managed and run by volunteers from the church and community. As the shop has grown, it now has a manager and assistant manager, who along with a host of volunteers has the shop open four days a week. Community donations are accepted, processed and displayed in a downtown Lumberton retail location.

Through the years the proceeds from the Thrift Shop have funded numerous local non-profit organizations and programs as well as the Lumberton Christian Care Center formerly the Trinity Soup Kitchen. The Center serves as the downtown soup kitchen and shelter. This Trinity Church ministry along with the downtown churches Lumberton First Presbyterian, First Baptist, and Chestnut Street United Methodist Church came together as an ecumenical outreach to form the non-profit in the late '80s.



Reception Joy at Trinity, Lumberton on May 20, 2022

Monthly sales from the Thrift Shop provide a monthly donation to the Christian Care Center of \$500. Through the 40-year history, the Shop has provided a total of \$437,000 in donations for the community.

The Thrift Shop celebrated this anniversary milestone by hosting a reception on May 20, 2022 for their customers, volunteers and the community. Pictured above, from left, at the reception were: Thrift Shop Board Members Clyde McKee, Dodie Taylor, Sharon Leary, City of Lumberton Mayor Bruce Davis, Board Chair Candy Borbet, and Manager Tina McLamb.



WHAT IS YOUR PATH?

By Rev. John Pollock

IF YOU ARE WANTING TO LISTEN
MORE DEEPLY TO GOD'S CALL AND
DESIRE FOR YOUR LIFE, THEN
PATH IS FOR YOU.

In April this Spring, clergy and laity from around the Diocese of East Carolina and beyond filled the Nave of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Kinston to witness the ordination of four persons as Deacons. Rhonda Thomas having discerned a call to be Deacon, was ordained as "Vocational Deacon." Greg Smith, Ashley Simpson, and Whit Stroud were ordained as "Transitional Deacons," having discerned a call to the Priesthood. All four of these persons stood before Bishop Skirving, as their Presenters said with confidence, "Rob, Bishop in the Church of God, on behalf of the clergy and people of the Diocese of East Carolina, we present (Rhonda, Greg, Whit, Ashley) to be ordained a deacon in Christ's holy catholic Church." The weight of the responsibility in presenting anyone to be ordained was felt by all in attendance. The Bishop asked us, the whole gathered congregation, "Is it your will that these persons be ordained a deacon?" Which was followed by a thunderous, "It is!"

Discernment of God's will and call in our lives is a lifelong part of the Christian journey of faith. We are all called to ministry in our own way, and with our own unique gifts. These four were called to ordained ministry. Others are called to other ministries as The Spirit wills. All are called to ministry for the whole Body of Christ. Prayerful discernment and formation is not an individual endeavor. As we gathered in Kinston for the ordination service, no doubt could be left in anyone's mind that this was the result of years of faithful listening among many people. Many people were a part of the process leading to this moment. Conversations with their priests, spiritual friends, family members, their local congregation, as well as interviews by diocesan committees and representatives, all are centered on careful and prayerful listening for God's will for and with each of these persons.

Intentional discernment takes time, and it takes community. Discernment can be aided by taking time to listen more deeply in a retreat setting. One opportunity for such a retreat in our diocese is PATH, a discernment retreat held each Fall at beautiful and peaceful Trinity Conference Center. This overnight retreat will be held Friday and Saturday, September 23 and 24. Sponsored and led by the Commission on Ministry, Path is an opportunity to listen more closely and intentionally to what you might be sensing as a call. While some may be sensing a call to ordained ministry, others may be sensing a shift of focus in their lay ministry in their local parish or community. Participants will listen to talks given by clergy and laity on discernment of call. They will have a chance to talk with others, including a spiritual director, all of whom will prayerfully listen and help clarify what may be next in their journey of faith. And, of course, there is time to enjoy the peaceful setting of Trinity Center in silence and prayer.

One participant in a previous PATH retreat said that it was the first time he was able to say out loud to others that he felt called to be a priest. Another was wondering if God was calling her to start an outreach ministry in her community and how she should approach this idea with her priest and her congregation. Stirrings in people's spirits were given space and time to rise to the surface to be honored, heard, pondered, and clarified. While PATH is not intended to answer all the questions, it will be helpful in taking the next step in the journey and will give you a few more items in your backpack.



DELEGATES AT CONVENTION

So, you said, “Yes.” You said yes to being a delegate at Diocesan Convention, representing your church in the work of governance. Whether you’re a cradle Episcopalian or newer to the Episcopal Church, perhaps you wonder: “What did I agree to? What does it mean to be a delegate at the Annual Diocesan Convention in the Diocese of East Carolina?”



I talked to delegates from our 139th Diocesan Convention that took place June 3-4, 2022 at the Hotel Ballast in Wilmington to learn more about what their experience was like and what was meaningful to them. Every delegate I spoke to highlighted how wonderful it was to see their friends, new and old, from around the diocese. Mother Lisa Erdeljon of St. Philip’s, Southport, noted how comfortable she felt at her first Convention in this diocese, because she got to know so many fellow clergy through the clergy Zoom calls begun in the pandemic. Forming connections at Convention across the diocese highlights our shared life in Christ in East Carolina.

The Opening Eucharist held at St. James Parish was a beautiful experience. Sue Lynn, a delegate from St. Peter’s By-the-Sea in Swansboro noted how powerful it was to see clergy from all around our diocese process into worship, citing how it showed us all to be part of a larger church body. Others found it “deeply moving,” enjoyable, and an experience to remember (not only for the “indoor waterfall” that emerged from the sanctuary ceiling in the midst of the service). The opportunity to worship with fellow parishioners and new friends, as a representative body of the Diocese of East Carolina was a special moment.



From workshops to the matters of the business meeting itself, there are a number of chances to see the wider diocese in action at Convention. Janet Heath of Emmanuel, Farmville, who has served as a delegate for 26 Conventions, relates, “I enjoy hearing of all of the various projects going on throughout the Diocese. It lets me know that we have a great deal to give to the Diocese and the surrounding community.” Exhibits and vendors showcase ministries and groups of the diocese and wider church community, as well as the books, goodies, and wares they may sell to support their work in ministry. Storytelling abounds at the ministry and vendor tables, as delegates and ministry representatives come together to talk about their shared life in Christ and what is fueling their faith and outreach.



During our business session, delegates elect people who will oversee the work of the diocese for the next year, present resolutions, share opinions, and vote on resolutions. Attendees, with the wider diocese included via livestream, hear from our Bishop about the vision for the mission of our diocese and from speakers about the work God has given us to do through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Resolutions are of several types:

- Policy Resolutions, urging the Convention and/or congregations to act on matters of study and ministry or to take stands on matters of social and economic justice
- Resolutions to amend the Constitution and/or Canons of the Diocese
- Courtesy Resolutions, to express appreciation for the service of individuals or groups to the life of the Diocese, or to extend the greetings of the Convention

Our 139th Convention had the most resolutions voted upon in years, and more than Bishop Skirving had seen presented to a single Convention in his eight years here (and a welcome surprise). Indiana Whaley, a Lay Student Delegate from ECCO at UNC-Wilmington, contends, “Despite the sheer amount of resolutions we had this year, I think all of them were important to the life of our diocese. The discussion on changing the days of Convention was of particular interest to me, though; it spoke to deeper issues of accessibility, both for our youth and for those who can't necessarily take off work for a weekend. It's of vital importance that everyone in our community has a voice, and while it's almost impossible to find a solution that works for everyone, I hope that continuing the conversation will allow for more equity in terms of representation at Convention.

Jan Comfort of St. James the Fisherman, Shallotte, found the gun control resolution to be the most meaningful, noting that all resolutions carried the weight of these times with a push for action, saying, “I will be giving a report to the parishioners who voted to send me to represent them, and I am hopeful that others will also find the resolutions timely and useful.”

At the heart of it, being a delegate means to represent your parish and to participate in the larger church work of governance: the policies and infrastructure that help guide and inform the work of ministry. This governance work also includes electing officers and members for leadership bodies in the diocese. At Diocesan Convention, delegates serve as a representative membership of the Episcopal congregations in the Diocese of East Carolina and as the link between their congregation and the wider diocese through their votes and through their reports back to their fellow parishioners.

Rev. Robert Alves of St. John's, Fayetteville succinctly captured the delegate experience I heard from so many: “Ultimately, it was great to be together for worship, fellowship and discernment in a new and renewing way.” Our next Annual Diocesan Convention is February 3-4, 2023 and will be held at the Greenville Convention Center. We thank delegates, long-term and new, for their service in the holy work of governance; we are grateful for those who hear the call and answer it so that we can stay well-organized and enjoy being the church in community!

HOLY TRINITY, FAYETTEVILLE CHOMPED THEIR MORTGAGE!



Holy Trinity, Fayetteville, paid the last of its \$2,891,618 mortgage on June 15, 2022. Carrying such a heavy debt was a burden on the congregation and a distraction from envisioning future ministry. With the call of their most recent rector, the hope was to pay the remaining \$500,000 in the next five years. However, after addressing several building and grounds challenges and feeling a surge in energy throughout the parish, a vision was created that would help the ministry of the church and energize new interest in paying off the debt.

A program for an intentional curacy program was designed. Such a program would utilize the resources already present within the parish. For example, being so close to Ft. Bragg, the congregation is regularly familiar with hellos and goodbyes, so welcoming a curate for a 2-year assignment would not be exhaustive for the congregation. Also, many parishioners have teaching backgrounds, so understanding patience and growth through mistakes comes naturally to this congregation. So, the push to pay the remaining \$424,000 mortgage took on new energy in late January 2022 when the plan was revealed. Pay the mortgage off by December 2022 to make room in the budget for the new curacy program.



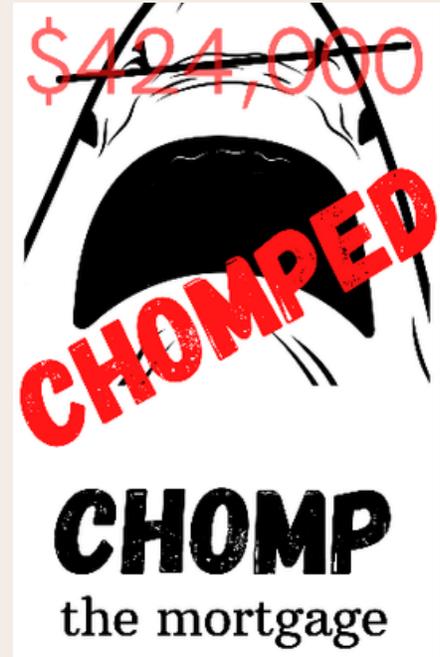
From \$424,000

The remaining mortgage
amount as of February 2022



To \$0

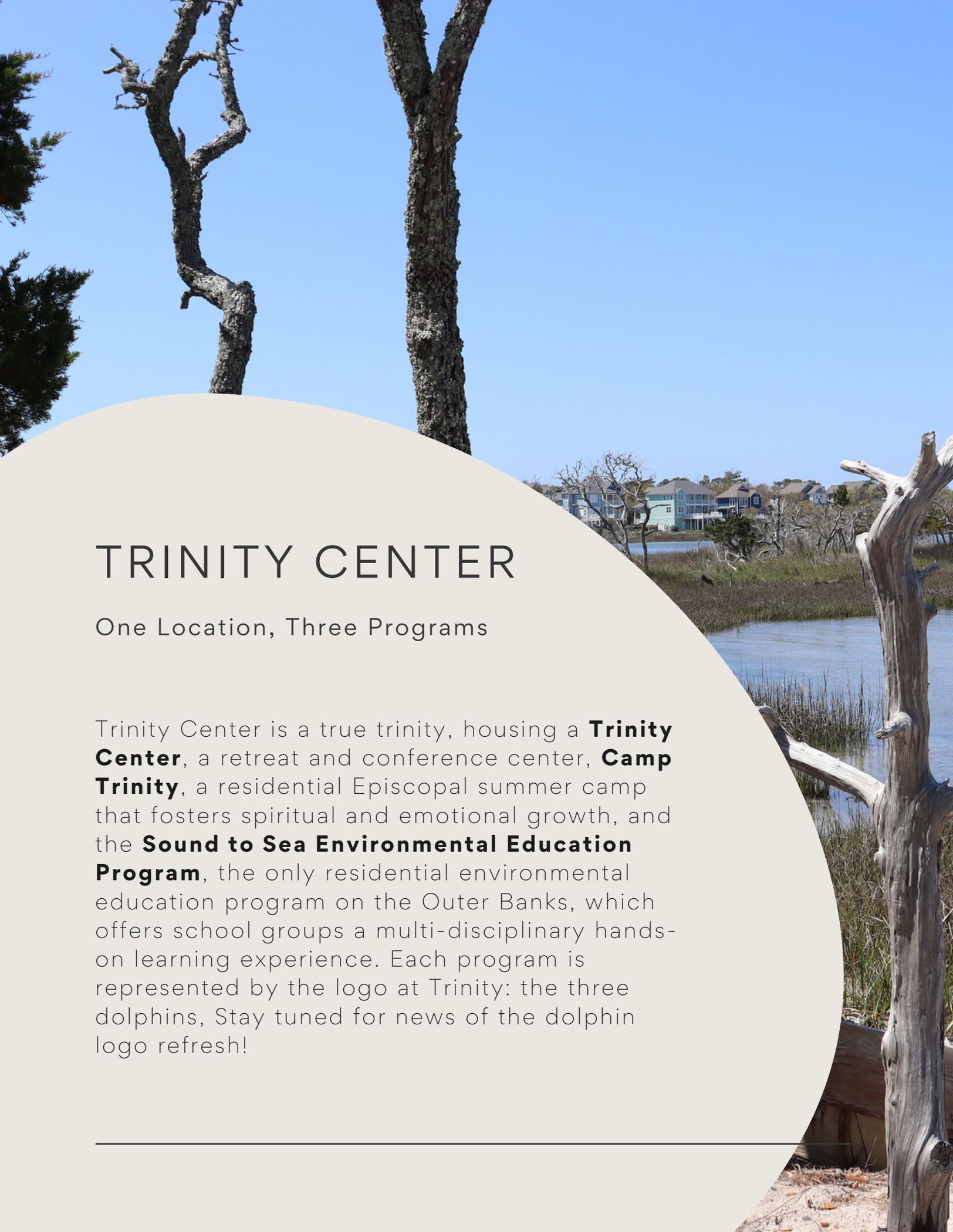
To the financial freedom to fund
a curacy in June 2022



Although this seemed like an impossible challenge, the leadership put a comical spin on their design. The theme was “Chomp the Mortgage,” and a shark’s mouth was the progress gauge. Each tooth was equivalent to about \$20,000 and would be removed when that reduction was achieved. Early into the effort, a new verse of Baby Shark was written...toothless shark, da, da, dada, which was sung many Sunday mornings as a Segway for the mortgage balance update.

Each Vestry member contributed, which helped show support and unification. The message was that no gifts were too small, so children contributed their allowance. The more progress we made, the more energy and excitement vibrated through the congregation on Sunday mornings. The last payment was made almost six months before the original deadline, and we continue receiving donations that will be used to renovate the parsonage, which will house the curate.

What we have learned from this experience is that paying off the mortgage for our benefit was not enough; we needed to focus on a bigger vision than our security. Designing a curacy program that will further the formation of new priests helps the diocese and national church. Although it was a serious endeavor, keeping it light-hearted and silly made it fun and engaging for all ages. Clear communication and weekly updates helped to keep everyone engaged. Lastly, making the ask multi-dimensional (pay the mortgage, contribute to the renovation costs, create a salary reserve) invites folks to contribute to the area(s) that align with their passions, which serves as an open invitation to participate.



TRINITY CENTER

One Location, Three Programs

Trinity Center is a true trinity, housing a **Trinity Center**, a retreat and conference center, **Camp Trinity**, a residential Episcopal summer camp that fosters spiritual and emotional growth, and the **Sound to Sea Environmental Education Program**, the only residential environmental education program on the Outer Banks, which offers school groups a multi-disciplinary hands-on learning experience. Each program is represented by the logo at Trinity: the three dolphins, Stay tuned for news of the dolphin logo refresh!



TRINITY CENTER

THE MAKING OF TRINITY CENTER

From the Archives



Did you know that Trinity Center was created from two separate camps: Camp Leach and Camp Oceanside? In 1930 under Bishop Darst, a property was acquired on the Pamlico River in Washington to build Camp Leach as the Diocese of East Carolina's first camp and conference center. Camp Leach was home to the first Summer Camp for youth that was initially only for white children.

In 1955 at Ocean City Beach on Topsail Island, leadership from Historically Black Congregations in the diocese opened Camp Oceanside for two weeks in rented facilities. This camp for black children grew between 1955 and 1959 outgrowing its original rented facilities. In 1960 a permanent space for Camp Oceanside was dedicated, built on land donated to the diocese by Ocean City land developers.

In 1949, a sixty-two acre piece of land that now comprises Trinity Camp and Conference Center was given to the diocese by Alice Green Hoffman. In 1985, both Camp Leach and Camp Oceanside were closed to make way for an integrated camp built at Trinity Center.

Alice Hoffman gifted the sixty-two acres of property to the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina with the following deed stipulation: the property was to be used for a camp site and conference center for young people and adults and for other religious purposes.

Further stipulations included the Diocese had five years from the conveyance date to "put the property in condition for some of the uses herein before set out". This was a tall order for a poor diocese in rural, Eastern Carolina. The Layman's Association of the Diocese asked to build a small place on the beach side of the site, and the diocese added a motel-type building for a sleeping area. This structure satisfied the terms of the deed and was all the Diocese could afford at the time. It was not until 1986 that Trinity Center became a reality, with further additions being completed in 1997.

Two decisions made at the outset of construction of Trinity Center have helped to account for the success of the Center: 1) great care was taken to save large oak trees and preserve the maritime forest, and 2) the camp and conference center was designed to be large enough to attract non-profit groups in order to financially support the programs offered there by the Diocese of East Carolina.

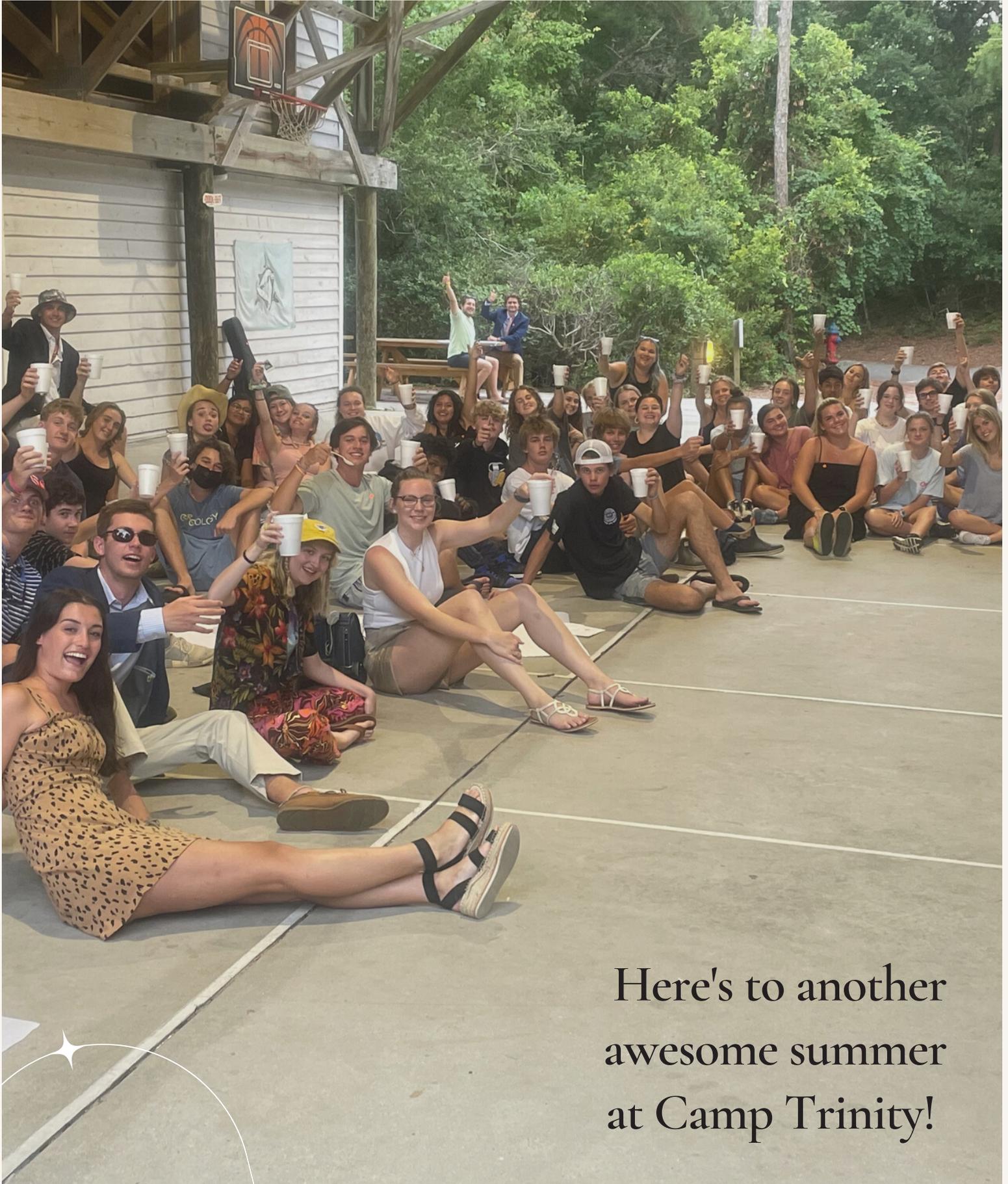


CAMP TRINITY ✨

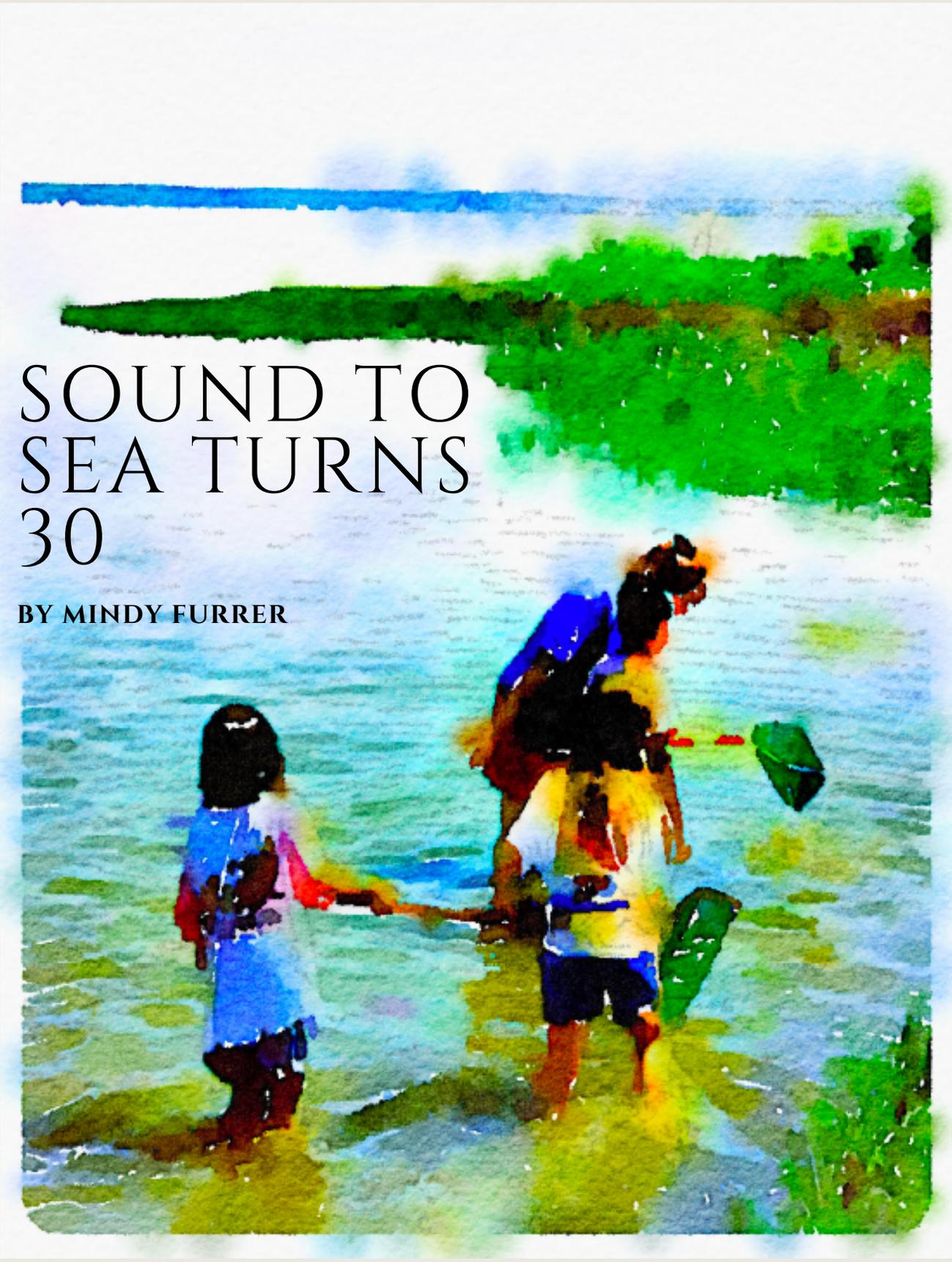
Camp Trinity has finished our 2022 summer season! Camp Trinity practices essential hospitality and provides camping experiences that are diverse, inclusive, loving, and affirming, while challenging each person to be responsible to and for the other. Campers have the chance to build and live in an intentionally Christ centered community so that each camper might gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for his or her own skills, abilities, and gifts as a child of God. We are grateful to the campers, staff, families, and the diocese who have supported camp this summer and plan to soak up all the wonderful memories from 2022. Enjoy a few pictures of our summer fun!







Here's to another
awesome summer
at Camp Trinity!



SOUND TO SEA TURNS 30

BY MINDY FURRER

This year the Sound to Sea Environmental Education Program at Trinity Center will celebrate 30 years of offering hands-on science curriculum to schools from all over North Carolina and beyond. The Sound to Sea program was the brainchild of one of our original Executive Directors, Mike Morgan. In 1992 he brought on B.J. White to help develop, staff, and run the program. She started her job in January with plans for the program to be up and running by September. They projected 800 students that first year and ended up with 3,000! Since then a conservative estimate would put Sound to Sea at over 150,000 students who have had the opportunity to hike our trails, create community, and learn all about the habitats on the barrier island.



Although the basic schedule has remained the same, the programming has evolved with the changes in school curriculum standards. In those first years, Sound to Sea curriculum, although science based, had many cultural components as well. Students might learn about how furs were tanned, and used by early settlers or how whalers spent their time on the water. Those programs still exist today; however, The Whales and Whalers Program is much less a show about whaling and more about the biology of the whales themselves. One of the ways we keep our program fresh is by giving our staff the time and resources to develop new activities. Due to this, we now have a 50-foot blow up whale students can climb inside, as well as life-sized replicas of the Right Whale's organs.



As Sound to Sea continues to grow and evolve, be on the lookout for new and exciting programming. We recently developed a new evening program called “Icky Creatures”. In the last couple of years, our staff has built housing for a new animal ambassador. We hope to welcome two opossums this school year. These non-releasable animals will come from area animal rehab centers. Our opossums will be used to teach about their amazing adaptations during Maritime Forest class as well as be featured in our “Icky Creatures” evening program. In addition, eight years ago a Dwarf Sperm Whale washed up on Trinity Center’s beach. We are at the tail end of the project to clean the bones and rearticulate them so we will have our very own whale skeleton to use during programming.

If you know of a school that would benefit from coming to Sound to Sea for a hands on science field trip, have them call Trinity Center and our Education Director can help them book their experience. Sound to Sea also offers a la carte experiences for your parish, group, or family visit to Trinity Center, so you, too, can learn about our extraordinary environment here in Eastern North Carolina!



Making a Joyful Noise

HOOTENANNY

In the Great Outdoors

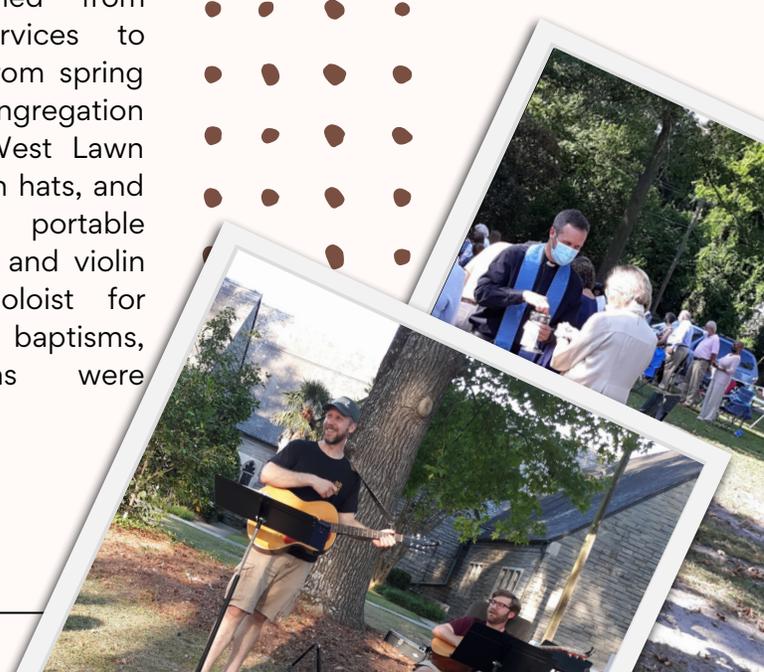
By Vicki Kennedy

This summer, St. Mary's, Kinston, is holding a monthly "hootenanny" in the beautiful outdoor space next to the church building. Originating in Appalachia and popularized in the '60s by folksingers like Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie, the "hootenanny" is an informal get-together to share music and fellowship.

At the June 26th sundown gathering on "the West Lawn," Father Tom Warren and Vestry member Jess Edwards strummed guitars, Senior Warden Vicki Kennedy followed with the fiddle, and kids and families chimed in with rhythm instruments, from tambourines and maracas to the spoons. With shared music sheets parishioners joined in traditional hymns like "Come thou fount of many blessings" and newer selections.

The summer hootenannies evolved from St. Mary's commitment to outdoor worship. Starting almost a decade ago, the church held an annual "Mass on the Grass" with Celtic music and liturgy. Eventually, seasonal Compline services around a firepit were offered. When the pandemic forced the church's Worship Commission to re-think face-to-face gatherings, the church gradually transitioned from strictly online services to outdoor worship. From spring 2021 into fall, the congregation gathered on the West Lawn with lawn chairs, sun hats, and hand fans. A portable keyboard, recorder, and violin accompanied a soloist for hymns. Eucharists, baptisms, and confirmations were celebrated.

with the special experience of outdoor worship," commented Worship Leader Jo Parrott. "It's always good to worship through full immersion in God's creation," added Rector Tom Warren. "Our Hootenanny time together is not only fun, but also a way that we're seeking to encourage a culture of joyful singing."



INTRODUCING

ROOTED TRADITIONS

EPISCOPAL FARMWORKER MINISTRY
WOMEN'S GROUP



Preparing the herbs and molds



Rooted Traditions soaps



Preparing soap

The Women's Group of Episcopal Farmworker Ministry (EFWM) has been busy! The Women's Circle continues to meet for prayer and has many opportunities to learn and serve together. EFWM's Spanish-Lanugage Facebook Page showcases how active the group is, with pop up prayers, information about upcoming classes, and Rooted Traditions news.

The women have recently formed an LLC, called "Rooted Traditions" that uses the aloes and herbs grown at EFWM to produce and sell soaps, shampoos and lotions. From farm to shower, these products smell and feel amazing! In June, Rooted Traditions had a popular table at East Carolina's Convention that sold tons of products.

Leader Lucy Mondragon says, "we are very grateful for the support of the Churches at the East Carolina Convention." Reach out to Lucia Modragón (lucia@efwm.org) if you'd like to support Rooted Traditions by buying some of their product!



By Lisa Richey,
East Carolina Diocesan EfM Coordinator

There are years that ask questions and years that answer.
– Zora Neale Hurston

If I have learned anything in the past few years, it's that questions seem much more plentiful than answers. And sometimes, that's a good thing. In my faith journey, I find sitting with a profoundly powerful spiritual question much more rewarding than being handed someone else's clear-cut answer. Education for Ministry (EfM) taught me that.

EfM is a unique four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education built on small-group study and practice. Since its founding in 1975, this international program has assisted more than 120,000 participants in discovering and nurturing their call to Christian service. More than 3,000 of these have lived or currently live within the Diocese of East Carolina.

Here's how some of them describe the impact of EfM on their walk with God:

The Reverend Deacon Mary Mac Shields - Fayetteville EfM Graduate

EfM gave me four years of discernment to answer God's call to ordain ministry. The community formed during this study strengthened my resolve to "not shrink back."



Mike Roberts - Wilmington EfM Participant

I was looking for a Bible study. What I found was so much more. Education for Ministry introduced me to concepts of Christian thought that were new to me and challenging to my view of God, in general, and scripture, specifically. In my two years with the program, I've grown spiritually and, I believe, matured in my understanding of God and his creation.



Mary Lynn Guidage - New Bern EfM Graduate

EfM was engaging and inspiring by insightful material in the history of the Gospels, the Hebrew Bible, religions, and stories of time but also challenges of humanity that accepts poverty, war, and hate. Now the Holy Spirit invites me in racial reconciliation, Sacred Ground, and other anti racial practices.



Susan Deans - Online EfM Participant

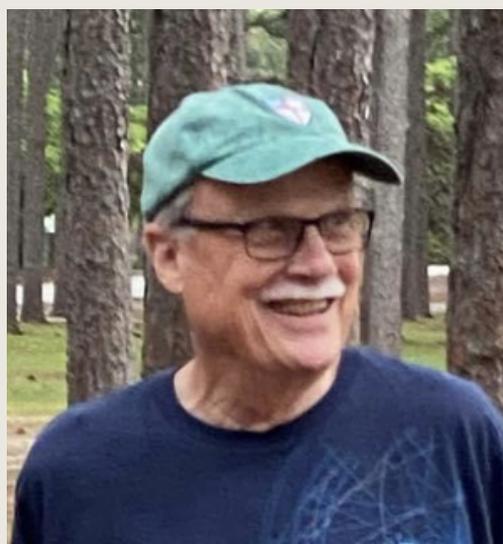
Several years ago, I lost my mother, who was a wonderfully kind human being, to an unexpected and painful death. This left me wondering where God was. A friend recommended EfM as one way to sort through my feelings. I hesitated, but joined anyway. I'm so glad I did. Through my EfM studies and the friendships I made, my relationship with God was restored to a more healthy place. I soon remembered He is very present in all times, good and bad. I was also reminded how He comes to us in varied way, such as through other EfM members.

Spencer Weig - Wilmington EfM Mentor

EfM has been a great way to blend worship, fellowship, learning, and reflection as part of a small loving community. Learning how to reflect on events in your life, events in the community, passages and people in Scripture, all from the perspective of "where is God in this?" and "what does it mean going forward", can be a real game changer."

Jo Parrott - Kinston EfM Participant

One of the most challenging and rewarding offerings from EfM is an in-depth group process called Theological Reflection (TR) that, in a broad and multi-faceted context, brings insight to daily life, cultural issues, experiences and our own beliefs. TRs help us recognize where God is in light of our individual beliefs, spiritual practice and Christian tradition - an opportunity not often found in everyday life. This discipline of TR is a spiritual gift that connects us individually and in relationships with others. Time and again it reveals new wisdom and insights as together we discern and reflect on God's presence in our world and perceive God's specific call to action, ministry and vocation for each of us.



EfM helps participants encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together. EfM invites participants into small, mentored groups that provide the framework for understanding life and shaping actions as Christian faith is deepened. Seminar groups meet in local settings and online, providing a four-year curriculum (*in which participants enroll one year at a time*) that develops a theologically informed, reflective, and articulate laity.

Many of the ten East Carolina EfM groups are in the process of registering for their 2022-23 session, beginning this September. Others, however, welcome new participants for their 2023 session, which will begin in January. There are also online groups that welcome new members throughout the year.

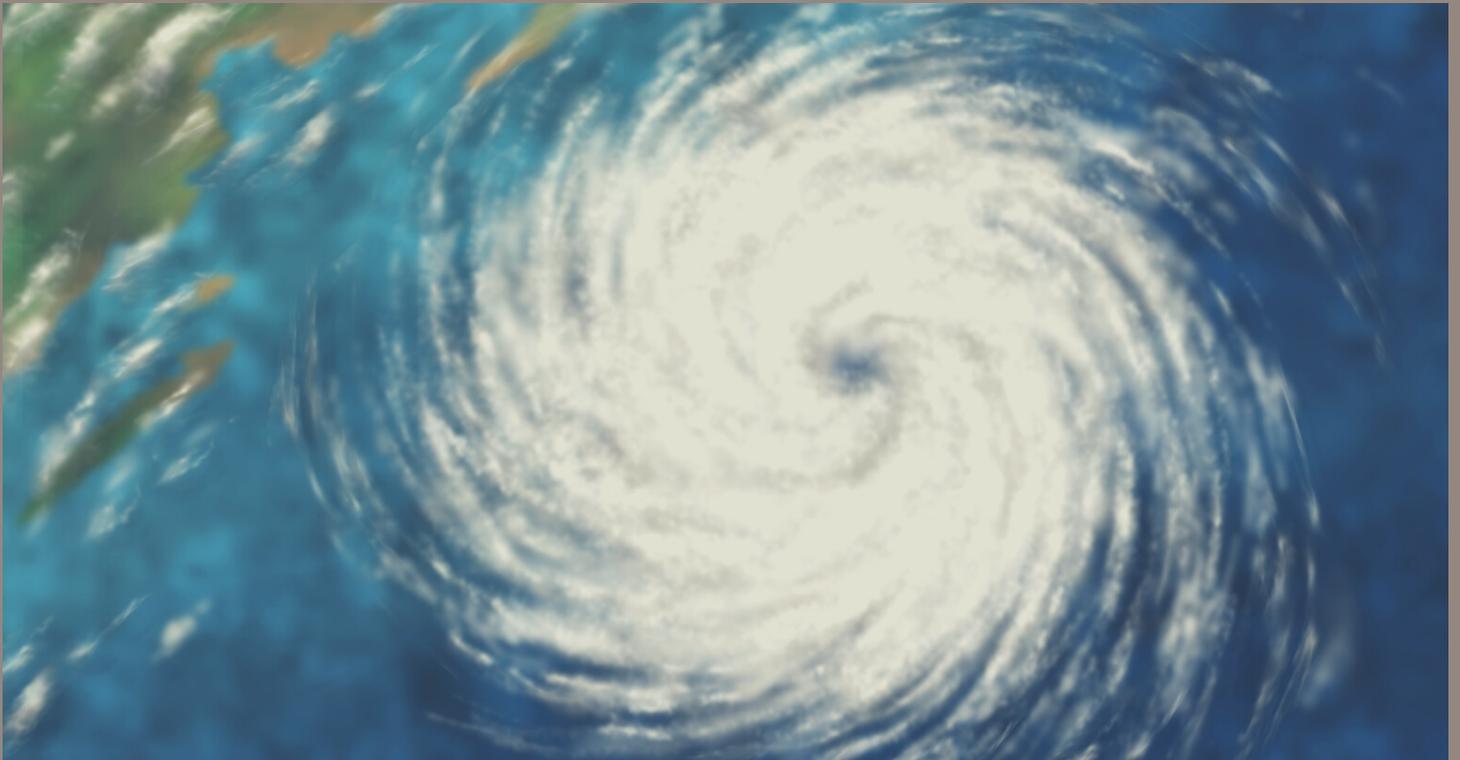
If you're interested in joining an EfM Seminar Group, or want to explore starting EfM in your congregation, contact Lisa Richey at piergazer@gmail.com or (910)840-3682. You can learn more about the program and more on our website: <https://dioeastcarolinaefm.wordpress.com>



HOW WE GOT HERE: DRRPC

DISASTER RELIEF, RECOVERY & PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION

BY THOMAS LOVETH
WARREN



Saturday, October 15, 2016 was a sunny day at East Carolina Diocesan House in Kinston, NC. The bright warm sun was peeking through a few puffy clouds to make this a gorgeous, peaceful fall day.

But, inside the conference room was an assembly of Clergy and Lay reviewing their experience of Hurricane Matthew's devastating flooding, strong winds and moderate storm surge to the coast on October 8th and 9th. The main legacy of Hurricane Matthew in Eastern North Carolina were river floods not seen since Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

Midway through this assembly, Bishop Skirving explained the importance of bringing together a commission who would be at the ready to assist parishes and to partner with other denominations and nonprofit groups in Disaster Relief and recovery.

This was the birth of Diocese of East Carolina's Disaster Relief, Recovery, & Preparedness Commission. The Commission has been active during every disaster since 2016.

The DRRPC exhibited an awareness table during the Diocese of East Carolina's 139th

Convention. Our display had a variety of pamphlets, posters and refrigerator magnets to remind Parishioners of 10 essential things to remember when preparing for a disaster.

Members of the Disaster Commission conducted two lectures with demonstrations on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery. Both presentations were well-received, with positive feedback and an expressed interest in more similar training sessions.



Consequently, we will be exploring the possibility of future workshops for Deans and Deanery members on ways to keep their Parishioners prepared for future Disaster. Although planning is in the early stages, the goal is to identify the most recognizable needs within the Deaneries and then seek out Disaster experts to conduct the training. The search will include local emergency managers and Episcopal Relief & Development Staff of the National Church to facilitate the training. At this point, we are in the early planning stage, but remain optimistic that this will be a successful undertaking.

The Disaster Relief Recovery Preparedness Commission (DRRPC) team is comprised of:

- Dr. Thomas Warren,
- LeRae Umfleet,
- Jacquelyn Warren,
- James Hayes,
- Henry Mallard, and
- Jimi Paderick, Ministry Coordinator for Diocesan Life.

In closing, please consider this an invitation to Parishioners throughout the Diocese of East Carolina to join this Ministry where one can witness and play a infinite role in helping to change lives of Disaster victims in affected communities.

DRRPC Mission

Heeding God's call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being with whom we come in contact, the Disaster Relief, Recovery, and Preparedness Commission, hereinafter referred to as the DRRPC, assists in the coordination of the Diocese's compassionate response to natural disasters (e.g., hurricane, ice storm, fire, flood) and helps ameliorate human suffering in every possible way.



JUNETEENTH & 153RD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

By Betty Fulton

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Wilmington had our Anniversary, Juneteenth, & Father's Day Celebration on the weekend of June 18 & 19th. Saturday, we hosted a variety show & talent show for the youth of the community & church. The kids thoroughly enjoyed themselves! We continued our celebration Sunday with Rodney Anderson as our guest speaker. He spoke on togetherness, family, & loving each other as God loves us. We also honored Mrs. Isabelle Grantham for her commitment to serving others in the church & community. Our youth choir sung during the service, which added that much more praise & worship to what we were celebrating. The celebration was concluded with a big repast after service. Also, our church youth made us very proud by being the ones who served food to the congregation. Everything was a success, and we at St. Mark's hope to make this an annual event.



ST. MARK'S



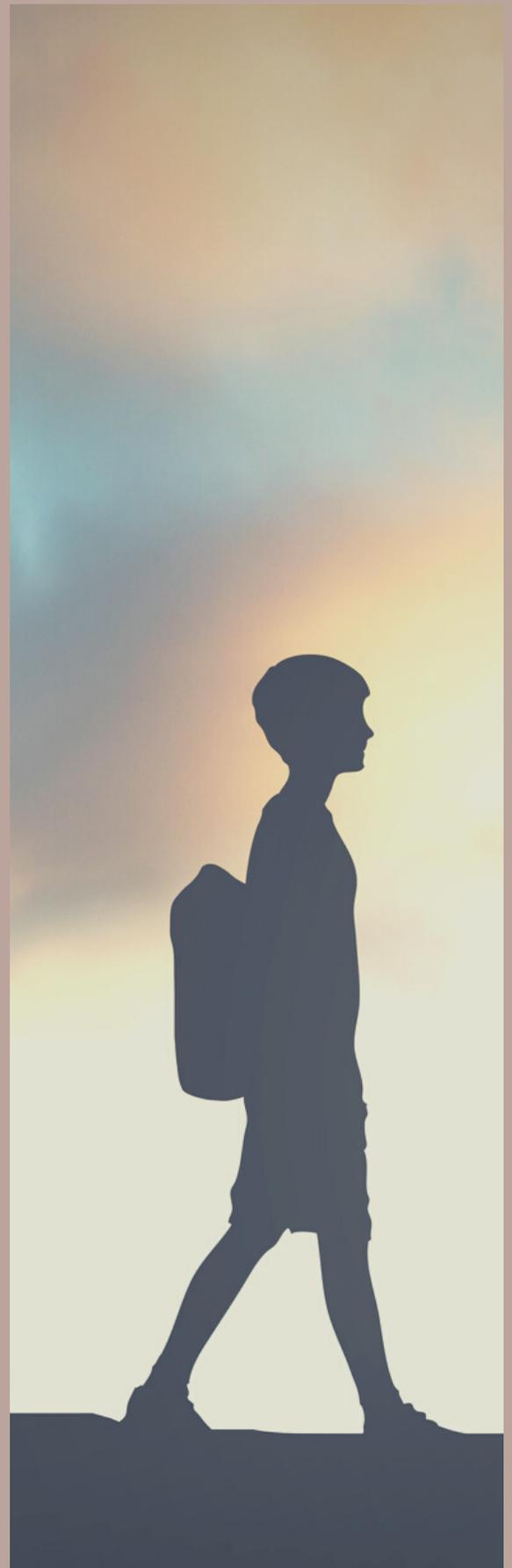
A REFUGEE STORY

INTERFAITH REFUGEE MINISTRY HAS BEEN RESETTLING REFUGEES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD SINCE 1992. REFUGEES HAVE MANY STORIES, BUT MOSTLY IT'S THE ADULTS WHO TELL THEM.

BY SUSAN HUSSAN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
INTERFAITH REFUGEE MINISTRY,
INC.

In 2012, a high school student decided to interview refugee children so that their stories could be heard. It was something that hadn't been done before as far as we knew. **Here is one of those stories from a refugee who was in middle school at the time of the interview:**

When I arrived in America, the biggest change for me was the freedom and having to go to a school and learn English. I did not think I was going to be able to come to America so I had no idea what it was going to be like. I never thought about it. Learning to speak English has been very hard. In Burma we always had to be very respectful to the teacher and all people who were older than us. It is not always like that here. In Burma we could not call a teacher by their name, we had to call them "Teacher" so I was surprised when I heard people call teachers by their names here. I did not know what to think. In my class here, it is noisy and people do not always listen and the teachers just tell them to be quiet, but in Burma, the teachers would hit or kick the students, so the students were always quiet. I do not know yet if I ever want to go back to Burma.



A REFUGEE STORY, CONT.

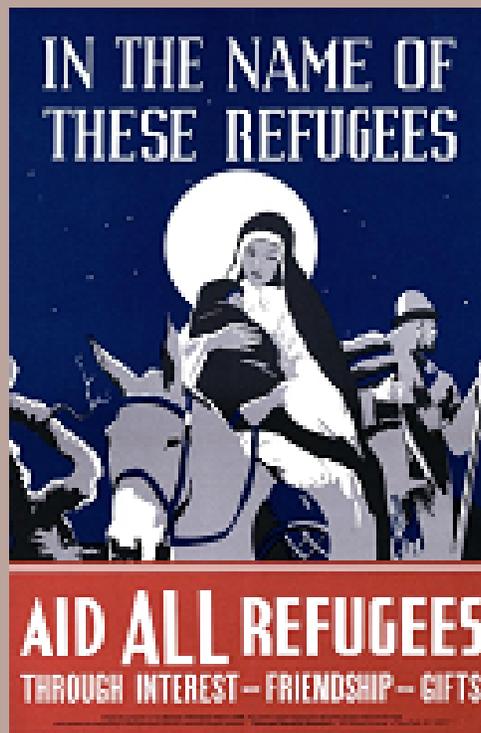
My dad went to jail while we were in Burma, because he did not have a card and the police caught him. He was in jail for three or four years. He told me that the police hit him and there was hardly any food and only a little bit of drinks. The drink was not clean water. The police almost sold him to gangsters so that we would have to pay to get him back. If we did not have money, they would have been able to kill him or sell him to another country. The UNHCR got him out of jail and helped us. The jail that he was in was not near us.

I am very happy to be in America. I feel very safe. I do not have to worry about going to jail for no reason. If I do not do anything against the law, I will not be sent to jail.

The story continues:

After graduating from high school, I attended UNC-Charlotte and received a degree in Finance and Accounting. I became an American citizen. Looking back at where I came from and where I am now, I'm proud of what I've achieved. I intended to visit Burma two years ago, but there was a military coup then and also COVID so I couldn't go. I still hope to visit one day. Sometimes I still feel like I am between cultures – not quite American and not quite Asian.

I'm working now helping to resettle other people arriving as refugees. I am glad I am able to help them the way many people helped me.



THE QUINCEAÑERO IN THE KINGDOM

By Rev. Fred Clarkson



"Death ends a life, not a relationship.

—Morrie Schwartz

Quinceañeros are not nearly as common, but they are a growing trend since boys are discovering that there is no point in missing out on a celebration. Yet, the celebration of Andres' 15th birthday was unique, because he had died a few months before. He had always looked forward to his birthday with such excitement and relish that his mother insisted on doing it just as he had requested. She was not part of a parish at the time, so her friend, who is part of the La Sagrada Familia parish family, told her to call so there would be a religious component to the celebration that late April Saturday.

The sky was blue that morning, and the celebration started at the cemetery, where items befitting a birthday boy lay on his grave.



A crowd had gathered without the customary canopy denoting a funeral amid the tombs shaded by Oaks, after which the cemetery was named. Andres' mother stood in the center by his makeshift marker. She had not been much older than 15 when Andres was born, and losing him was devastating, but she drew comfort from the community that had answered her invitation and honored his wishes. They wore shirts with his name, and we prayed, thanking God for his life just before releasing red balloons into the sky.

The second part of the celebration was back at the house where his family had set up a canopy and where they shared his story.

Andres had died of a freakish medical event that began on New Year's Eve when he was at his dad's house, since his parents were separated and each remarried. She could never explain what killed him, only that he had had seizures after a shower at his father's house, who rushed him to the hospital. She arrived at the hospital, and shortly after that, he was gone, and part of her heart with him. In her grief, when asked, she allowed some of him to remain by consenting to donate his organs. Amid her grief, others she would never know received some good news that night, giving her a measure of solace.

But, while people mentioned that night at the celebration, folks began to share stories of Andres: how he watched out for his sister, what Andres hoped for when he grew up, and the music he liked compared to his mother's music. All in all, it was a wonderful celebration of Andres in which everyone spoke of him just as his mother had hoped. Once again, there was a release of more balloons.



As the body of Christ, we are present in all manner of times. All churches do funerals, but if a church adopts the Latino custom of the 15-year celebration, we get to celebrate birthdays too. And when the faithful come together as a community and friends, those birthday celebrations do not need to follow their usual order on life and death, which, as the liturgy reminds us, is but a change and not an end.



THE RHYTHM OF THE RIDGE

MINISTRY AND MEMORIES AT GLORY RIDGE

To talk to those who have gone to Glory Ridge is to hear a consistent refrain: Glory Ridge is an amazing and special place. Nestled in the mountains in Western North Carolina near Marshall, Glory Ridge is a multi-denominational ministry camp familiar to several parishes of our diocese that attend every year.

The camp is designed as a space of retreat, where the voice of God can be heard and experienced in the peacefulness of nature, while service work is performed offsite in support of families in need identified by the Housing Coalition of Marshall.

Rev. Caleb Lee of St. Paul's, Wilmington describes Glory Ridge as, "Glory Ridge is a thin place where God speaks simply and clearly to God's children of all ages. The long-term relationships that are fostered and rekindled there every year are priceless."

Possibly Glory Ridge's biggest cheerleader, Cookie Cantwell of St. James Parish, Wilmington, shares the magic of "The Ridge" observing, "It slows down the rhythm of life so people rediscover that part of their faith and relationships - their "whoness" - who it is they really are and who God is calling them to be." Having a week that revolves around worship and work provides space for retreat and community building.

Deacon Ashley Simpson, Associate Rector at St. Paul's, Beaufort, has been going to Glory Ridge since she was in college, both as an adult participant, youth director, and now clergy leader. It's a special place for her, particularly because Glory Ridge is where Simpson accepted the call to pursue ordination.

Jennifer Reda, Director of Glory Ridge, shared about her experience working with parishes from our diocese: "As director of Glory Ridge, one of the greatest blessings I experience is seeing the ripple effect of good Episcopal networking across our wider summer ministry community. I get to work with enthusiastic, thoughtful youth leaders and priests who, instead of coveting a place that has become special to them, they choose to share about it with others. The human connections and the spirit of being one collective family of God's people just keeps growing here thanks to so many who make the pilgrimage westward from Eastern North Carolina."

Reda continues, "St. James, Wilmington has not only helped teach other churches the traditions and ways of community life & outreach at Glory Ridge, but their loyalty over the last 4 decades means adult leaders of other churches arrive at camp with personal stories of being campers years ago with St. James. And then there is the joyous strategy of joining forces like St. Paul's, Wilmington and St. Paul's, Beaufort have done with Grace Cathedral in Charleston to share in the same week at Glory Ridge. Youth programs at St. Paul's, Edenton and St. Mary's, Kinston led to us hiring many incredible young people to serve on our summer staff over the years. " East Carolina parishes came to Glory Ridge organically, by word of mouth, and they keep going back for what Rev. Tom Warren of St. Mary's, Kinston calls the "Parish Family and Youth Group Vacation": a time of connection and service that these communities find at Glory Ridge.



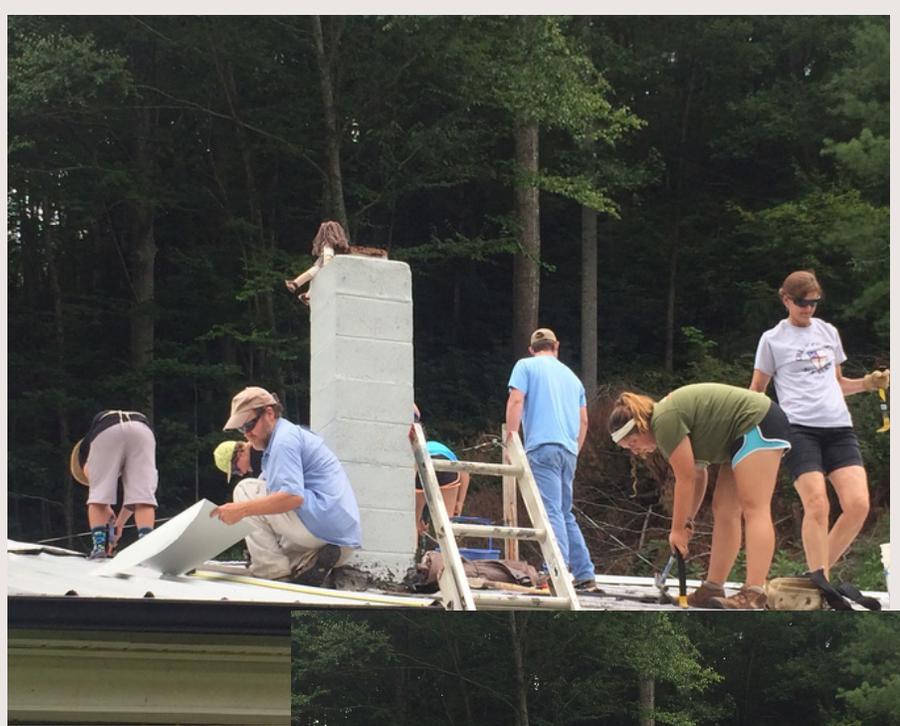


GLORY

RIDGE

GALLERY









EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF THE DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

BY LUCIA PEEL

Over 75 men and women gathered at Trinity Center last Wednesday for a day of singing, Holy Eucharist, laughs, shared memories, and knocking the dust off of old, precious friendships. This was the first such gathering since before COVID. The morning started with a quick report from Mary Beth Bradberry of Trinity Center and an introduction to John Koch, the new Executive Director. Kit Reddick, our Diocesan ECW Mission & Outreach Chair, presented the staff with our humongous collection of office goods for the Trinity staff.

Debbie Luke, Chair of the Diocesan ECW United Thank Offering, reported that our Diocese was #3 within Province IV in collecting UTO funds and that Province IV was #1 in the country. Our Treasurer, Mary Duane Hale, shared that, at Convention we gave \$500 scholarships to each of our Seminarians and \$200 to each of our three Diaconates. This was a very generous group, and the energy in the room was contagious.

We also learned about "On Sacred Ground" from Rev. Cheryl Brainard of St. James, Wilmington, featuring a video of singing children and comments from Bishop Curry. At Holy Eucharist, we collected over \$600 to go towards scholarships next year. Following a nice lunch provided by Trinity, we introduced our Keynote Speaker, Sheri Castle.

Sheri Castle has a natural gift for storytelling, has published numerous cookbooks, is an Associate Editor at Southern Living magazine, is an award-winning professional food writer, is a recipe developer, and has cooked on *A Chef's Life* on PBS and *Home & Family* on the Hallmark Channel. Sheri now has her own popular TV show on PBS called *The Key Ingredient*. For the next hour, Sheri Castle spoke from the heart with no script about cooking and community. She had us laughing out loud, and everyone left with something to take home that lifted their spirits immeasurably. Her cookbooks sold out in minutes.

STORIES THAT SHED LIGHT AND OPEN DOORS

By Lloyd Brinson

“At what age did you become aware of what we call ‘race’? Please write that age on the cover of the folder you found on the table where you are seated.”

Ginny Woodruff, co-chair of the Racial Healing Commission of the Diocese of East Carolina, posed the question as an icebreaker to begin two workshops at the diocesan annual meeting in Wilmington in June.

As Mrs. Woodruff, a parishioner of St. James Episcopal Church of Wilmington, called out age ranges, 46 participants and facilitators gradually stood holding displaying the folders on which they had written the age when they became aware of race. Several were called upon to share the experience of the event that triggered their first realization of discrimination.

Following the icebreaker, three speakers briefly recounted work being done in their parishes to promote racial healing. Dr. Rick Stovall, the senior warden at St. Andrew’s, Goldsboro, described how collaboration among the churches in Goldsboro has been working to achieve a Becoming Beloved Community in that area. Mary Ellen Wahab from St. James of Belhaven spoke about the Hispanic ministry and described how churches around Belhaven are working across racial lines. The Rev. Daniel Cenci of Christ Church, Elizabeth City, talked about racial healing efforts in Elizabeth City, especially after the shooting death of Andrew Brown, Jr., by Pasquotank County deputies while serving a warrant relating to drug charges.

The workshop participants then shared experiences at individual tables, each having time to discuss their feelings about opportunities and/or activities that encourage racial awareness and understanding. The conversations ranged from intense to profound to humorous. There was a lot of sharing about what seemed to work best and what didn’t.

As the workshop facilitators listened to the participants open their hearts and minds, we heard things like:

- *“...made me hungry for more conversations like this...”*
- *“We started talking while eating together...”*
- *“...find ways to make people feel welcome...”*
- *“A major key is leadership...”*
- *“We’re going to try Sacred Ground, again...”*
- *“We may start again by reading Waking Up White first.”*
- *“I always thought angels were white! Now I know better!”*

In part due to the isolation resulting from the pandemic, the Diocesan Convention workshops were the first public event for the recently reconstructed Racial Healing Commission.





The draft mandate re-forming the commission emphasizes that the new commission is to do more than build on simply what the former commission had achieved. Not to be bound by the past, it should be creative looking into the future in order to effectively address modern issues. Under Bishop Rob Skirving's direction as interpreted by his staff in May of 2020:

"Rooted in the Baptismal Covenant and grounded in the Eucharist, the mandate of the Racial Healing Commission is to provide and/or assist in Racial Equity trainings, continuing education for commission members and others, diocesan formation opportunities, resource/equip leaders... and to participate in relationships and missions both inside and outside the Diocese of East Carolina."

The timing of the new mandate would have appeared to doom any chance of a successful start for the new commission as the COVID-19 pandemic began shutting down normal meeting possibilities and most indoor activities became impossibilities. Instead, the then commission co-chair, The Rev. Adam Pierce, associate rector of St. Paul's of Wilmington, found ways to begin the work. He set up meetings on Zoom and communicated by telephone to get organized and set priorities. Three Planning/Action Committees were set up and began meeting by Zoom between commission meetings. They are: Diocesan Formation, Promoting Equity Across Diocesan Structures and Stories to Promote Racial Healing. Commission members set up a website, accessible via the Diocese of East Carolina home page.

In accordance with Bishop Skirving's mandate, the commission developed the following vision and mission statements:

"Our vision is to promote the healing of the wounds of racism by truth-telling, demonstrating love for all of our neighbors, and striving for justice and peace among God's people."

Our mission is to identify and share the harsh truths of our racial history and legacy here and across the nation. We aim to promote repentance and reconciliation for the wrongs of the past and find remedies for the continuing biases and inequities of the present. We commit to action to change our society into an equitable and healthy home for all people so that God's will is done on Earth as it is in Heaven."

COVID-19 resurgences have prevented attempts for the commission to have retreats, but commission members have been gathering resources, attending training such as Sacred Ground and Absalom Jones sessions, making contacts, and searching for opportunities to share information and to learn from others. The commission website is easily accessed from the diocesan website.

After Rev. Pierce left to become rector of a parish in Indiana, Ginny Woodruff stepped in as a co-chair with Rachel Williamson. Lloyd Brinson has taken on the co-chair position now that Rachel Williamson has rotated off the commission. The commission has planned the Wilmington workshops, submitted a resolution to diocesan convention that was approved, and has planned a retreat for the end of August for training and strategic planning.

Racial Healing Commission members pictured above: Ginny Woodruff (Co-Chair), Lloyd Brinson (Co-Chair), The Rev. Richard Elliott, The Rev. Michelle Bullock, Tyrone Francis, Dr. Rick Stovall, The Rev. Skip Walker, The Rev. Fred Clarkson, Meg Jones, Deacon Ashley Simpson, and The Rev. Mary Reese.

UNITED THANK OFFERING IN EAST CAROLINA

By Rev. Canon Heather Melton,
Officer for the United Thank Offering

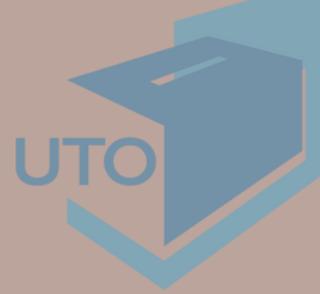
Many of you have probably heard of the United Thank Offering or UTO, but you might not know much about this almost 140-year-old ministry of The Episcopal Church. It started off as an answer to a problem, a missionary priest in Alaska needed a church for his community to gather in so he sent a request to the Women's Auxiliary asking for help to fund building one. The women gathered for the Eucharist, and when it came time for the offering, they asked those gathered there to reflect and give thanks prior to making a thank offering. That offering not only built the church in Anvik, Alaska, it sent the first female missionary, a teacher, to serve in Japan on behalf of The Episcopal Church. From this humble beginning, the United Thank Offering was created with the mission of encouraging Episcopalians to practice gratitude daily and make a thank offering to God through UTO. UTO collects those thank offerings from across the world and disburses grants to support mission and ministry for which the church budget could not afford.



Our founding mission continues to this day, as we support congregations encouraging members to live more grateful lives - not only as a way of noticing God's blessings, but as a sign of God's love in a world often surprised by the simple act of giving thanks instead of criticism. UTO has a wide variety of resources to help congregations, individuals, and families start or deepen a gratitude practice. From materials created in collaboration with Illustrated Ministry to highlight the General Thanksgiving in the Book of Common Prayer, to materials and liturgies to help focus the month of November on gratitude, we are here to help congregations weave gratitude throughout the work of the church and the lives of its members.

Practicing gratitude changes us from the inside out, and UTO has more than a century of experience in turning that personal change into life-changing projects around the world. We are proud of our long tradition of encouraging gratitude in Episcopalians and sending out the financial results of that gratitude to create even more change. Since 1969, UTO has funded 36 grants to the diocese of East Carolina. From supporting the ongoing work of the diocese through Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry to Ruth's House, we're grateful for the ways you've invited us to be a part of the amazing things God is doing in your diocese.

UTO IN EAST CAROLINA



From 2010 - 2021, the Diocese of East Carolina: received three grants from UTO, totaling \$71,842, and gave \$263,892 to the UTO Ingathering, which supported projects in The Episcopal Church and around the globe through the Anglican Communion. Congregations are encouraged to pass out and collect UTO Blue Boxes at a time that makes the most sense in the life of your congregation. Boxes are available for free from our distribution center, you just need to pay for shipping, or can be downloaded and printed locally. Individuals can also contribute to UTO even if your congregation doesn't participate.

To learn more about UTO, or to look at the application for the 2023 grant cycle focusing on the worldwide incarceration crisis, please visit www.unitedthankoffering.org or email Heather Melton, Staff Officer for the United Thank Offering at hmelton@episcopalchurch.org; she can help connect you with resources or support you in getting UTO started in your congregation, Sunday School or simply in your own life.

From 2010 - 2021, the Diocese of East Carolina received:

3 grants from UTO, totaling **\$71,842** in supported projects



Ruth's House, 2013

To learn more and apply for a 2023 UTO grant, visit:



Special Edition UTO Blue Box

THANK YOU
for contributing
\$263,892
in thank offerings to
the UTO Ingathering.

*Almighty God, I give you praise
for blessing me in many ways.
Create in me a grateful heart
And with this gift, a blessing start.
Amen.*

UTO Blue Box Prayer

ST. FRANCIS BY THE SEA CELEBRATES THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

By Frances Jenkins

St. Francis by the Sea, Salter Path, recently celebrated being in the church building for twenty years.

From 20 Years Ago....

“Good Morning, Good People!” “Peace and All Good!” These are two of St. Francis of Assisi’s favorite greetings, and we at St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church, Bogue Banks, echo the greetings of our patron saint on the occasion of the Consecration of this newly constructed church building. Whether consciously or not, St. Francis of Assisi has been a guiding force in many of the decisions made regarding this building. Our attention to the ecology of our area, our respect for the fields and the forests, and the openness of our beach setting influenced our many decisions.

In honor of our patron saint, we exalt his way of life, his philosophy, his writings and his prayers in our offerings. St. Francis brought together people from different socioeconomic levels, people from different countries, and people with different philosophies to form a common group dedicated to Christ and the forward movement of the Christian faith, with a “new” direction - JOY!

It is in JOY that personal handkerchiefs were gathered and sewn together to symbolize the friendship, love, history, gratitude, and peace to those who enter the doors at St. Francis by the Sea, which by tradition, has become a welcoming sanctuary to visitors from all over the world. It is meaningful that this “fair linen” helps celebrate the consecration of St. Francis by the Sea with edges touching in strong stitches.

Welcome Good People! A Brief History

From Home

In 1992, after a summer of planning, the first service of what was to become Saint Francis by the Sea was held at the home of Libba and Scott Shelton, with seven adults and eight children in attendance.

To Borrowed Chapel

From there, the church family moved to the Julian Chapel at Trinity Center. At the August 23, 1992 worship service, there were ten adults and eight children in attendance. King McGlaughan was the Priest in Residence serving every other week. Scott Shelton, then Skip Kemp, served as treasurer. With 35 people attending weekly Sunday services, the new church quickly outgrew the chapel at Trinity Center.





To Rented Spaces

The Salter Path United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall became the new home of St. Francis by the Sea in December 1992. Bob Holt became the first interim priest. Bob agreed to preside every other Sunday and Matt Stockard, the priest at St. Paul's Church, Beaufort, agreed to be our emergency priest. We continued to have Morning Prayer on the Sundays we did not have a priest. Bob Holt played the recorder while Libba Shelton played the xylophone for music. Dr. Eve Ann Elchorn became the first music director. Six adults were presented for confirmation during the church's first year of existence. On the church's first anniversary, 61 people attended the Sunday service. Reverend Holt retired in 1993. Reverend Frank Fagan became the interim priest and served for almost three years.

Under Reverend Fagan's guidance, Saint Francis by the Sea was granted parish status in February of 1994. The Reverend Mike Cogsdale followed, and in June 1999, the Reverend Renfro Sproul, D. Min accepted the call to be the limited-tenure priest and to lead the parish through fund raising, planning and construction of the new church home. By this time, the church membership grew to 72 adults and 35 children.

For six weeks beginning in May 2000, the parish members met at the Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium while waiting for a new space to be completed at the Atlantic Station Shopping Center. On March 15, 2000, the church moved to Atlantic Station where the parish remained until the current permanent church building was completed. The first Sunday service was held in the new building on July 7, 2002.

And Now, Our Permanent Home

Just under three acres located on Salter Path Road near Trinity Center, we now worship in our permanent church building envisioned by the original families in the dream for St. Francis by the Sea. Through the years we were served by Rev. George Kyle, Rev. Margaret Neill, Rev. Jack Wilson, Rev. Bill Brettmann, and Rev. Chris Carlin. Reverend Everett Thomas joined us in 2008 and remains our rector. Reverend Chris Carlin is our Priest in Residence.

Planning for the addition of the Columbarium and Memorial Gardens began in 2006 and construction began for the expanded parking lot and the Labyrinth in 2010. The addition of a chapter of Daughters of the King began in 2017. During the entire time of the existence of the church building, mission outreach has and continues to be a main focus of this parish. Our goal is simply to continue to inspire others to walk closer with Christ through our love for each other and our community. We hope to continue to serve others by being that beacon of light on the coastal shore of Bogue Banks for generations to come.



UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS

[HTTPS://WWW.DIOCESE-
EASTCAROLINA.ORG/EVENTS/](https://www.diocese-eastcarolina.org/events/)





DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA - ADMINISTRATOR'S DAY

LaTonya Smith, Director of Finance and Administration invites all Parish Administrators, Treasurers, and Wardens to attend this engaging seminar. This day will be filled with knowledge and empowerment to grow each parish in the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina.

Register today and come ready to learn, laugh, and encourage each other in the work we're called to do.

Lunch will be served. No charge to attend.

Other highlights:

Workshop topics offered:

- What to know about becoming a churchwarden
- How to prepare your parish for an audit
- Web creativity for everyone to know
- The Do's and Don'ts of being a Treasurer



Guest Speaker



The Rev Canon Mollie Roberts

Canon for Diocesan Life and Leadership



Thursday, September 15th
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Register no later than
August 31st.**



St. Mary's Episcopal Church
800 Rountree Street, Kinston

Registration

<https://dioec.regfox.com/2022-administrators-day>

More Info Contact: LaTonya Smith or Litisha Dawson

252.522.0885

A DISCERNMENT RETREAT

PATH

SEPTEMBER 23 - 24, 2022
AT TRINITY CENTER, SALTER PATH

How Are You Called?

Discernment is a lifelong journey as we walk as we listen to God's will for our lives, trusting God's Love. Many times on this path it is good to have others listen with us. This is the purpose of the PATH Discernment Retreat.

You are invited to an overnight discernment retreat at beautiful Trinity Center. This retreat is for anyone sensing a shift in their call to serve Christ. Are you wanting to serve God in your local parish as a Worship Leader or Lay Preacher? Are you wondering how to serve in an outreach capacity in your local community or called to start a new program. Are you sensing a call to ordained ministry, either as a deacon, or a full-time or bi-vocational priest? Then PATH is for you!

During this discernment retreat, you will journey inward to more fully and authentically align your purpose with God's vision of your life.

To attend you are required to contact your parish priest, senior warden or The Rev'd Dr. John Pollock at rector@standrewsmhc.org. There is no charge to attend; however, space is limited.

Register at:

<https://dioec.regfox.com/path-2022>

2022 - 2023 Christian Formation Highlights



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Youth Event Information
and Registration



Sept 17

yOUTHREACH

6th - 12th Grades & Adult Leaders
10:00 - 3:00 · St. Pauls, Beaufort

Oct 4 & 5

Formation Leader Gathering

4th · 7:30 - 8:45 PM
5th · 3:00 - 4:15 PM

Oct 21 - 23

Happening

9th - 12th Grades & Adult Leaders
Trinity Center

Nov 5

Supporting LGBTQIA+ Youth

Youth Leaders & Clergy
10:00 - 3:00 · Diocesan House

Nov 18 - 20

Fall Conference for Middle Schoolers

6th - 8th Grades & Adult Leaders
Trinity Center

23

Jan 13 - 15

Winter Retreat

8th - 12th Grades & Adult Leaders
Trinity Center

Jan 31 & Feb 1

Formation Leader Gathering

31st · 7:30 - 8:45 PM
1st · 3:00 - 4:15 PM

Feb 10 - 11

Youth@Convention

9th - 12th Grades
Greenville, NC

Feb or Mar

Faithful Disaster Mental Health

Formation Leaders for All Ages
Date TBD · 10:00 - 3:00 · Diocesan House

Mar 3 - 5

Happening

9th - 12th Grades & Adult Leaders
Trinity Center

Apr 21 - 23

New Beginnings

6th - 8th Grades & Adult Leaders
Trinity Center

May 2 & 3

Formation Leader Gathering

2nd · 7:30 - 8:45 PM
3rd · 3:00 - 4:15 PM

Formation Leader
Gathering Information





SHARING OUR STORIES, SHARING
OUR LIFE IN CHRIST.



Diocese of East Carolina
705 Doctors Drive, Kinston, NC 28503
Phone: (252) 522-0885
Email: communications@diocese-eastcarolina.org

www.diocese-eastcarolina.org