



Report to the Diocese of Eastern North Carolina - December 2022 -

If 2021 was an intentional but careful step toward welcoming guests to return “home” to Kanuga as we began to emerge from the darkness of the pandemic, 2022 was a sinking into a renewed rhythm of worship and healing—made possible by the Kanuga community’s support and a much stronger financial position.

Kanuga is indeed continuing along a path toward financial health, and has made progress again in 2022. We were fortunate that our fundraising efforts in 2022 resulted in strong annual giving, a trend that has been on the increase since 2020. These funds are now being utilized to move Kanuga forward in programming, rather than to prop up our operations. Operations are now close to a break-even scenario in which expenses are covered, staff are compensated well, and improvements to many areas, including food and beverage, are well underway.

With this renewed focus on excellence in programming, in 2022 we were pleased to host and sponsor myriad events and programs, including Nuevo Amanecer, Winterlight and Youth Week, Camp Kanuga, Awakening Soul, Daughters of the King, dozens of parishes, Kanuga Christian Formation, Renewal, Iconography, Mountain Trail Outdoor School, and many more. We have introduced twice-annual service weekends to the calendar, and developed a new concert series of outdoor performances. We are thankful for these successes, but this list doesn’t begin to describe the depth of spirit that exists on campus as we re-gather to worship in person.

In 2022, as a community grounded in appreciation and empathy, we prayed for each other and the world in a visible way through a new prayer ribbon ministry that began as a response to the invasion of Ukraine. Within days, dozens of ribbons were inscribed with personal prayers and hung in The Chapel of The Transfiguration. And then, one day, we were asked if a prayer could be added for a loved one. Soon, an entire system was developed using ribbon colors to denote specific types of prayer, and a growing rainbow of gently swaying ribbons was suspended from the ceiling.

Indeed, thousands of campers, youth conference teens, adult conference participants, staff members, lodging guests, mountain bikers, clergy and lay leaders, and people from all walks have written prayers on these ribbons. The meditations themselves include everything from prayers for the ill to those who are victims of war, violence, and poverty, to those who govern, those who sin, and those who bring us joy.

In effect, Kanuga’s prayer ribbon ministry has evolved to serve as a visible form of the *Prayers of the People*. When I walk into the Chapel now, underneath these prayers that are lifted high toward the Spirit, thousands of ribbons dancing in the sunlight, I sense the strength of the Kanuga mission in a real and tangible way, and feel the Holy Spirit at work.

I feel hope. I feel gratitude. And I hope you will join me in praying:

“For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.” —from *Prayers for the People*

Thanks to all who have shared their wisdom, voice, financial resources, friendship, partnership, and commitment to Kanuga. Our community demonstrates every blessed day the wisdom and the will to keep Kanuga intact and thriving for many generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael".

Michael R. Sullivan
President / CEO