

# DIOCESAN

# DIGEST

DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA



FALL 2023

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# DIOCESAN DIGEST

FALL 2023

SHARING OUR STORIES, SHARING OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

# A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Happy fall! This is an issue of celebrations for ministries, churches, and the rich history in our diocese. Inside, you'll find stories of anniversaries, expansions, and creation care happening all around East Carolina. You'll get to know Episcopal Farmworker Ministry, history from two of our Historic Black Churches, animal ambassadors at Trinity Center, and Interfaith Refugee Ministry's ribbon-cutting ceremony. May you feel the blessings of the Spirit today and everyday, and happy reading!

In Christ,  
Sara



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



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# EPISCOPAL FARMWORKER MINISTRY

**SERVING FARMWORKERS &  
THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1982**

MINISTRY

EDUCATION

ADVOCACY



GET TO KNOW EFWM

# EPISCOPAL FARMWORKER MINISTRY

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By Rev. Michelle Bullock, Chair of  
the EFWM Board of Directors

*"Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. [Deuteronomy 11:13] This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. [Leviticus 19:18] All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands." (Matthew 22:36-40, Common English Bible)*

On a beautiful Sunday in October, my family and I had the honor of attending a church service at EFWM with the people of Iglesia de la Sagrada Familia, the parish that grew out of the EFWM community decades ago. I had been practicing reading aloud from the Spanish Book of Common Prayer since Fr. Fred Clarkson invited me to help with communion a few days prior.

When I stepped behind the altar, all my practice went out the window, but the worshipping community was exceedingly kind and gracious, despite my awful Spanish.

As the church service wrapped up, the property filled with people coming to celebrate the Hispanic Heritage Festival hosted by EFWM's amazing staff and volunteers. My family and I spent the rest of the day was spent soaking in good food, shopping, soccer, traditional dancing, and a lot of Spanish. As we drove home, I reflected with my children on our day. We talked about how different and beautiful everything was, but also how difficult it was to have speak a different language and not fully understand the culture we'd witnessed. We were strangers in the community that day, but thankfully, had been received with utmost kindness and love.

EFWM primarily serves agricultural workers and immigrants who are strangers in this land because they come here from another country, language and culture. EFWM does a lot of things well—food distributions, school supply drives, health fairs, immigration assistance, visits to farming camps, sewing classes, mental health counseling, English classes, holiday parties for children, and so much more—but if you were to ask me what EFWM does best, I'd say that we live out the Gospel of Jesus by providing love and welcome to neighbor and stranger alike. EFWM is a place where strangers quickly become adopted into a loving community of trust and support.

In 2024, EFWM is looking forward to continuing our mission to care for the community by providing programs to assist, advocate, educate and empower those we serve. We have a goal of welcoming a new Executive Director in 2024, made possible with the help of our donors and sustainers. Welcoming the neighbor and the stranger alike is the bedrock of our ministry, and we thank all who help make this possible!

- You can learn more about Episcopal Farmworker Ministry on our website: <https://episcopalfarmworkerministry.org>
- You can sign up for our newsletter and get more information about volunteer opportunities here: <https://episcopalfarmworkerministry.org/get-involved/>
- Members of the Diocese of East Carolina feeling called to on the Board of EFWM should **connect with Bishop Skirving**, who will soon be appointing three new persons to the Board, lay or clergy, each for for a two or three year term

*"You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."* (Leviticus 19:34, English Standard Version)



## EPISCOPAL FARMWORKER MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



On October 22, we celebrated Hispanic heritage with a soccer tournament, food from various countries, traditional dancing, face paint and a inflatable obstacle course for children. Our food sales raised money for the construction of La Sagrada Familia's worship space.

To kick off the school year, we distributed nearly 1500 backpacks, including backpacks to send home with the H2A workers who requested them for their children. We are amazed by the generosity of those who donated money, supplies and volunteer time to help us accomplish this.







Meg teaches a quilting class and the women are advancing quickly! They've recently created a community quilt that we plan to auction off online and in person, to raise funds for EFWM programs.



Lucy teaches monthly sewing classes. The women have been learning how to make clothes.



# EPISCOPAL FARMWORKER MINISTRY





# HOLDING SPACE

## *Holding Space with Sound to Sea Environmental Education Program at Trinity Center*

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One of the staples of a Sound to Sea trip, whether you come on a school field trip or as a Day Camp camper, is viewing our birds of prey. For thirty years Sound to Sea has been home to these magnificent animal ambassadors.

Each of our birds has an injury that prevents them from surviving in the wild. Instead, they are housed here on property in mews, fed and cared for by our Sound to Sea staff. These birds are used to teach participants about their amazing adaptations and what we can do to help them survive in the wild.

We currently are home to a red-tailed hawk, a barred owl, and a screech owl. There are four mews. One sits empty. In the past it was occupied by a small falcon called an American kestrel. Our last kestrel died from old age almost five years ago.



Although it is sad that we cannot use a kestrel in our program, it is good news for the wild kestrel population that it is so hard to find an injured one needing space. So, we will continue to hold that space for a time when it is needed to care for one, much in the same way that Trinity Center holds space for all who need its natural spaces to help heal and renew.

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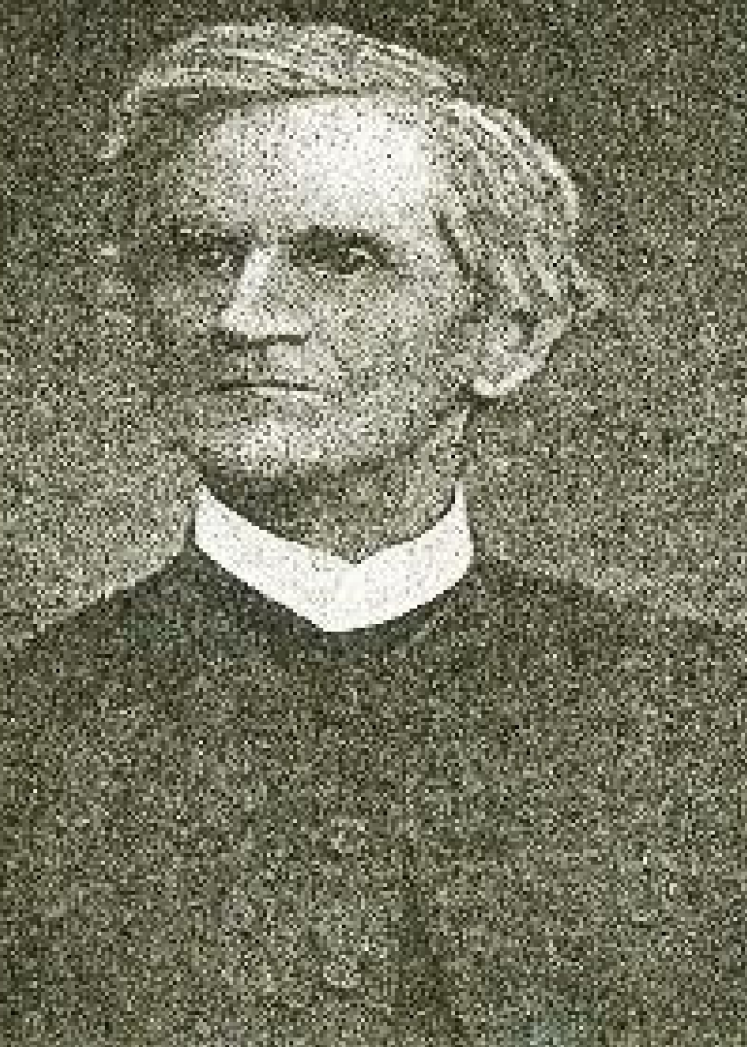
# ST. JOSEPH'S, FAYETTEVILLE CELEBRATES 150 YEARS



On October 22, 2023, St. Joseph's, Fayetteville welcomed Canon Stephanie Spellers as guest preacher for a service celebrating their 150 years of ministry. Canon Spellers' sermon celebrated the idea of "Sing to the Lord a new song" and St. Joseph's rich history.

Joyfully pictured above (from left to right), you'll find The Rev. Skip Walker (Priest-in-Charge at St. Joseph's), The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Tyrone Francis, Deacon Mary Mac Shields (Deacon at St. Joseph's), and Bishop Rob Skirving.

Presiding Bishop Curry was even present at the service in cutout form (PBC was recovering from surgery and sent his blessings); you can see a **photo** here or a **video** here that service attendees shared with Bishop Curry. You can learn more about St. Joseph's history on the following pages.



## ST. JOSEPH'S, FAYETTEVILLE

# CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY

By Samuel Lloyd

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St. Joseph's congregation, having separated from St. John's Episcopal Church, was organized with the help of the Reverend Joseph Caldwell Huske (pictured left), and officially chartered in 1873. It is the second oldest Episcopal congregation in Fayetteville.

The present location is the third one where the congregation has worshipped. The first one was a small rented church at the foot of Haymount Hill. The second one was on the north side of Russell Street between Gillespie and Anderson Streets. Following Reverend Huske's retirement from St. John's Episcopal Church of Fayetteville, he became St. Joseph's first Rector.

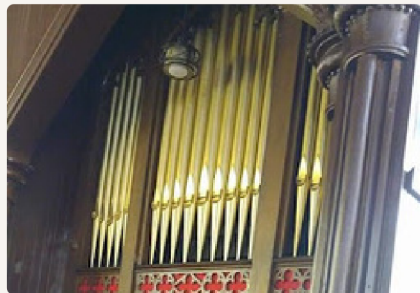
Reverend Huske worked diligently with Miss Charlotte McNeill. They gained financial help from Mrs. Eva Smith Cochran (pictured left) of Yonkers, NY. With her aid and the sale of the property on Russell Street, the present property was bought and the church was built in 1896. On Sunday, March 28, 1897, the church was consecrated by the Right Reverend Alfred Augustine Watson, 1st Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina.



St. Joseph's Church is a jewel of a building. The architecture of the building is a combination of Gothic, Spanish, and Queen Anne styles. There is dark wood paneling throughout. Most of the appointments are the same ones placed in the church prior to its consecration in 1897.

The chancel is the focal point in this beautiful church. Outlining the altar are five exquisite Resurrection Windows, one of the last sets of stained-glass windows produced by Louis Comfort Tiffany of New York. The stained-glass window in the rear of the church has several fleur-de-lis. This symbol represents the Holy Trinity. The small single manual pipe organ (pictured below in the center) was built by Henry Erben of New York. One of the ranks of pipes in this historic instrument is engraved with the signature, "George Hamill," and the date, June 15, 1857. The organ has been powered by hand, water, gas, and electricity. The organ was repaired following fire damage in March 2015.

The beautiful Victorian baptismal font in the rear of the church (pictured below on the right), near the main entrance, was given by the members of St. Joseph's Church as a memorial to Dr. Joseph Caldwell Huske.



There are three plaques on the back wall of the church. One states that the font was given as a memorial to Dr. Huske. Another announces that the church was erected in 1896, to the Glory of God and for the comfort of all who seek Him. The third is in memory of Mrs. Eva Cochran, the benefactress of St. Joseph's Church.





Many of St. Joseph's members were instrumental in service to the community. John S. Leary (pictured bottom left), a member of the original vestry (governing committee) of St. Joseph's, was one of the youngest legislators in North Carolina. He was elected to the state legislature at the age of 24. He was also one of the first blacks elected to represent Cumberland County in Raleigh. The son of Cumberland County's first black county commissioner, Matthew Leary, John Leary attended Howard University and was one of the early blacks to be admitted to the North Carolina Bar after the Civil War. He was Fayetteville's first black lawyer.

Leary, along with Isham Swett, were elected to the general assembly at a time when they were at the forefront of the Republican Party. Leary helped to establish the law school at Shaw University and served as its dean for a time. In 1892, Leary moved to Charlotte, where he devoted his time to the practice of law until his death in 1904 ( Black America Series, Fayetteville North Carolina, Fred Whitted, Arcadia Publishing).

In the late 1860's, several founding members of St. Joseph's were also involved in the founding or operation of the Howard School, which evolved into the first State Normal School in North Carolina. In 1867, Charles Chesnutt (pictured bottom right), a member of St. Joseph's, enrolled in the Howard School, operated by the Freedmen's Bureau.

At the school Charles studied and read widely to gain knowledge in the classics, including French and German. By 1873, Chesnutt was teaching school in rural communities in North Carolina. In 1877, he became the assistant principal of the State Colored Normal School (Howard School). The school trained African Americans to be schoolteachers. In 1880, Chesnutt became the institution's principal. The Howard School evolved to become Fayetteville State University, a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina. St. Joseph's parochial school was separate and one of the first local schools for people of African descent.



Twenty-one ministers have served St. Joseph's as Rectors or Priest-in-Charge. The first Rector in the present sanctuary was The Reverend William Montgomery Jackson, and our last Priest-in-Charge is the Reverend Skip Walker.

The tragic fire in 1917 destroyed the first rectory and parish house. A large gazebo was destroyed by fire in 2005. Our more recent fire on March 25, 2015, severely damage the quarter of the church nearest the main entrance. The entire sanctuary was damage due to water from the fire and was masterfully restored in 2017.

Over the years, St. Joseph's parishioners have made the facilities available to the U.S.O., the N.A.A.C.P., the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, Fayetteville City Schools, the City of Fayetteville Parks and Recreation Department, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, The E.E. Smith Alumni Association, The Fayetteville Senior Ensemble, the Homeless Coalition, and a Breakfast Ministry which provided a nourishing breakfast to the homeless and the needy six days a week from 1987 to 2006.



On June 1, 1982, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church complex was entered on the National Register of Historic Places. On September 12, 1982, at a most impressive service, the Certificate of Listing was presented to St. Joseph's by Dr. John J. Little, Deputy State Historic Officer.

The memorial plaques that line the church walls are a constant reminder of the rich heritage we all enjoy. The current membership is committed to the restoration and maintenance of this Historic and National Treasure. In May 2023, the church held a historic service celebrating 127 years on its present site, and 150 years as a parish.



# A DARK DAY IN THE HISTORY OF WILMINGTON: THE HISTORY OF THE WILMINGTON MASSACRE OF 1898

By Kenneth S. Chestnut, Sr.



*Wilmington, NC c.1898*

*November 10, 2023 marks 125 years since the Wilmington Massacre of 1898. St. Mark's, Wilmington and other Wilmington-area organizations hosted numerous commemoration activities. Learn the history of the event here, and stay tuned for more to come.*

This is a brief account of Wilmington's shameful history 125 years ago. In recent years, several books have been written documenting these events as well as a well-done documentary film called *Wilmington on Fire* by Christopher Everett (2015). This film has been shown in St. Mark's Episcopal Church on two occasions and at other venues.

At the end of the 19th Century, Wilmington was majority black, racially integrated, and the largest city in North Carolina. On November 10, 1898, white supremacists staged a coup, which overthrew the legally-elected local fusionist government. They threatened and removed opposition black and white political leaders from their positions in office. Historians consider this the only successful coup d'état in the history of the United States.

This armed mob of white supremacists also killed an estimated 60 to 300 black citizens and destroyed their property and businesses. This included burning the state's only African American-owned daily newspaper, *The Record*, and running the owner and publisher out of town. This coincided with a larger effort across the state, and the South's white supremacists were working to reverse the advances made by former slaves.

The 1898 Memorial Park on North 3rd Street in Wilmington (pictured right) has an inscription describing the events in November of 1898.

In addition to the coup d'état and the murder black residents of Wilmington and others who were chased out of Wilmington, the properties of many black residents were taken and given to whites.



I can only imagine the fear of the black citizens in these neighborhoods as they were chased and had to hide in swamps along the river or in Pine Forest Cemetery near 16th and Red Cross Streets. We can better understand what an angry, charged up mob can look like based on the insurrection that we saw at the Capitol on January 6, 2021. This provides some insight into what the black citizens of Wilmington faced on November 10, 1898. This is particularly significant to me, because this area where most of the killing and burning took place was on the north side of Wilmington where I grew up, including Red Cross Street and the area where St. Mark's was then, and is currently, located.

However, growing up and attending school here in New Hanover County, neither my classmates nor I knew anything about the massacre and coup. It was kept quiet, and people did not want to talk about it at all. Why is it essential for everyone to know about this dark period of history in Wilmington and other cities during this period? We should all be aware of our past so that it will not be repeated.

We also need to know this history, so we have a better understanding of why some things are the way they are today. What we do know is that this scar on Wilmington has had a severe impact on the city. In 1898, Wilmington was the largest city in the state and had a black population in the majority. Today, Wilmington's black population is less than 20% of the city's population and it is the 8th largest North Carolina city. These changes, as well as others, still impact the city of Wilmington even today.

Everyone should also be aware of this history because if there is going to be healing and reconciliation, this story must be told. The band-aid must be removed entirely so that healing and reconciliation can take place. I consider November 10, 1898, to be Wilmington's Good Friday, and we know that we cannot have Easter Sunday without knowing Good Friday.

This effort towards reconciliation started in 1998 when a biracial 1898 Commission was established, and a park and monument was built near downtown. In addition, the NC Office of Archives and History placed a historical marker recognizing the Wilmington Coup that was unveiled on November 8, 2019. It is located on Market Street in front of the old armory building where the white mob gathered before going into the black communities on the north side of town.

One example of this healing that I witnessed was when *Wilmington on Fire* was shown at St. Mark's the second time in 2018. Descendants of the white mob attended and apologized to the African American Community for what their ancestors had done in 1898. This was a very emotional and moving moment. The photo below shows this event at St. Mark's.



I recommend that everyone read the books on this history and see *Wilmington on Fire* to learn more about the Wilmington Massacre. We should also look at pathways for healing and reconciliation in this community. I believe another pathway event occurred in 2019 when Wilmington City Council agreed to dedicate Third Street as Major General Joseph McNeil Way in honor of an African American Wilmington native who was one of the Greensboro Four that sparked the integration of lunch counters and eating establishments across the Country. Finally, I believe our own Presiding Bishop Michael Curry gives us some pathways to reconciliation in his book *Love is the Way*. As part of the 125th commemoration, St. Mark's hosted Tim Pinnick, a well-known genealogist, who attends St. Mark's on a regular basis, for an event planned by Joshua Halsey's descendants where they identified decedents of some that were killed in the 1898 massacre. St. Mark's has a history of opening our doors to host community events like this and also hosted a facilitated, cross-racial conversation that included several white and black descendants of the Wilmington Massacre.



## INTERFAITH REFUGEE MINISTRY

# MAKING SPACE

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By Susan Hussan

On September 1, 2023, Interfaith Refugee Ministry (IRM) at last removed the panel between our main office and an “annex,” which we had been trying to rent for several years.

This annex added over 1400 square feet of space and means that IRM will be able to hold classes for job readiness, cultural orientation and English in this new space as well as in the old conference office.

As we receive more refugees this year, extra space is more and more important. Our staff worked diligently to remove the landlord’s items to his upstairs office. Paint and labor was donated by a local contractor, and the result has made a huge difference in the amount of space.

The bookcases were donated by IRM Board Chair Sims Wayt. Pictured is Joe Titus, Employment Specialist, wielding the hammer to take down the partition. Amanda Norwood, Outreach Coordinator, and Sims Wayst, IRM Board Chair, who is cutting the ribbon to officially open the new space.





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# UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS

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

GREENVILLE  
CONVENTION  
CENTER

# 141st Annual Diocesan Convention

RESOLUTIONS OPEN SOON: SUBMIT BY DECEMBER 31, 2023  
NOMINATIONS OPEN SOON: SUBMIT BY JANUARY 24, 2024

• FEB. 9-10, 2024 •

**GREENVILLE CONVENTION CENTER**



VISIT OUR CONVENTION PAGES TO LEARN MORE

# 141st Annual Convention - February 9-10, 2024

We encourage and invite young people to participate in the life and work of Convention. Young people in 9th-12th grades can participate in the following ways:

## Youth Representative

**ONE** Young person from their home parish will participate on the floor of Convention sitting with other Youth Representatives, they will have seat and voice.

### Registrations & Fees

- Complete an online application with Clergy or Warden Recommendation
- All Fees Covered by the Parish

## Elected Delegate

**For young people 16 years or older.**

Parishes are encouraged to elect a young person to be part of their parish's voting delegation for Convention. They must be Confirmed Members in good standing. These young people have seat, voice and vote and sit with their parish

### Registrations & Fees

- Register the same way as all other Convention Delegates from their parish.
- All Fees Covered by the Parish

This person counts in a parish's total delegate count.

## Convention Page

**Spaces for four Young People.**

These young people serve on the floor of Convention ensuring the business of Convention flows.

### Registrations & Fees

- Contact Emily Gowdy Canady (egowdycanady@diocese-eastcarolina.org) for info on applying to be a Convention Page.
- No Fees

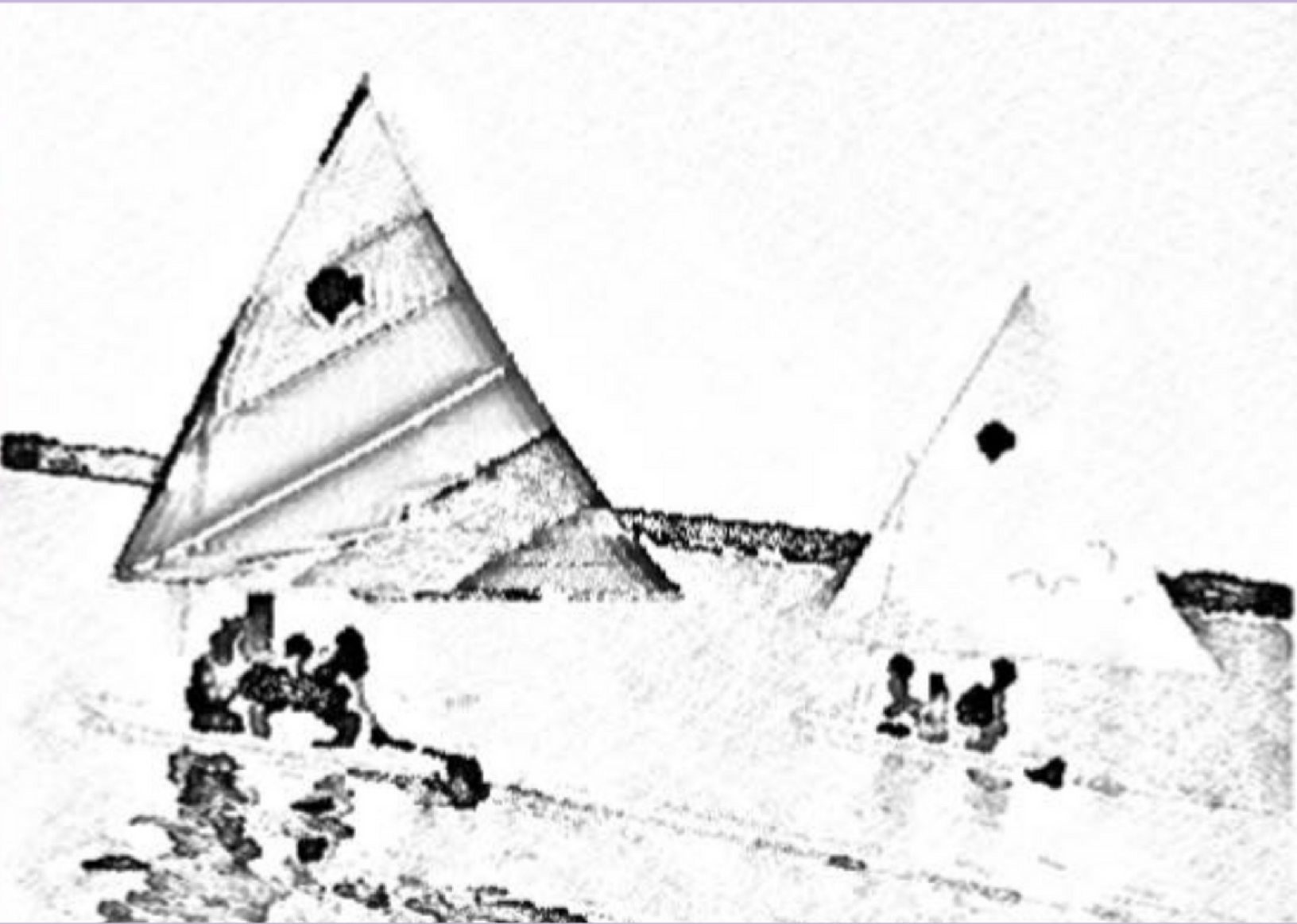
## Youth@Convention Community

Young people who come to Diocesan Convention are part of a unique group! In order to foster community among these participants they typically sit together for worship and share a meal together on Friday evening.

All young people will be hosted overnight by local parishioners. All host home adults will have completed background checks and Safe Church Safe Communities training as required by the Diocese of East Carolina. In compliance with these requirements in the Diocese of East Carolina, young people **MAY NOT** stay in hotel rooms with adults not related to them. Young people may stay in a hotel room **ONLY** with a parent/legal guardian at their own cost. **Please contact Emily Gowdy Canady with questions about housing.**

Questions? Contact Emily Gowdy Canady: [egowdycanady@diocese-eastcarolina.org](mailto:egowdycanady@diocese-eastcarolina.org)

# *Winter Retreat 2024*



January 12th -14th

**8th - 12th Graders**

Open to past Camp Trinity campers and  
young people in the Diocese of East Carolina



**CAMP TRINITY**

The Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina



# THE GOOD BOOK CLUB



**Epiphany 2024 • January 6 - February 13**

**The Book of Genesis**

**Online Diocesan Wide Studies**

**Registration Opens November 20th**



**Scan here for more  
information, including  
days and times.**

# *January Formation Leader Gathering* **2024**      16th @ 7:30 PM • 17th @ 3PM

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## **Tapping into Our Brainpower: Exploring Happiness Chemicals**



**The Rev'd Jess Elfring-Roberts** will be leading this Gathering. Jess is the Executive Director of Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers. She is an award winning improv comedian from Chicago.

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**Scan HERE to learn more!  
Registration Required to join  
the Zoom**



# CREATION KEEPERS

ALL AGES EVENT

Saturday, 27 April 2024

10 AM - 3 PM

St. Mary's, Kinston



**REGISTRATION OPENS  
FEBRUARY 2024**

**SCAN HERE  
FOR INFO**



Sponsored by Lifelong Christian Formation



SHARING OUR STORIES, SHARING  
OUR LIFE IN CHRIST.



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