

DIOCESAN

DIGEST

DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA



SPRING 2023

DIOCESAN DIGEST

SUMMER 2022

The Diocese of East Carolina

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Happy Easter, and welcome to the Spring 2023 issue of the *Diocesan Digest*. In this issue, you'll find stories of things growing in our diocese. From ordination highlights, to new programs (and buildings!), you'll hear the Good News happening all around East Carolina. Our coming revival is also a cause to get excited, and I can't wait for you to dive right into this issue!

In Christ,
Sara



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

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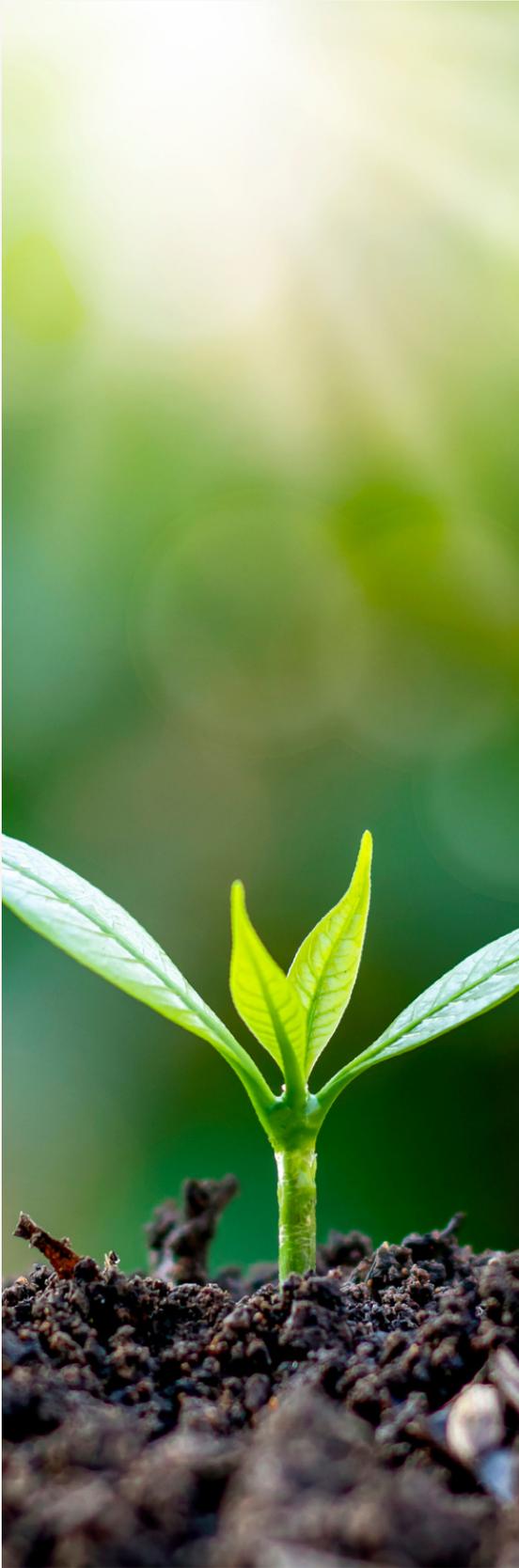
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GET READY FOR A REVIVAL!

COMING OCTOBER 21, 2023

Get ready, East Carolina, because a revival is on its way, and it's time to get excited! Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be with us all on Saturday, October 21, 2023 for an Episcopal revival gathering filled with inspirational worship, powerful preaching, vibrant music, stirring prayer, and community engagement.

Much like we heard in Bishop Skirving's Easter sermon, this coming gathering is an opportunity to live into 'Resurrection Faith,' the invitation from God to step outside of our comfort zones and embrace our calling to be agents of transformation while we are transformed ourselves. During our worship service when Presiding Bishop Curry preaches, you can expect to hear that call to the faith of Jesus, that faith that transforms us and leads us to transform the world.



GET READY FOR A REVIVAL!

It is our hope that all will come away from this revival refreshed, empowered, and equipped for ministry in our communities. We can expect to feel the energy of the Holy Spirit to move through us before, during, and after this event. The revival festival may happen on a single day in October, but the power of this revival will continue on with the resources and connections we form and share as a diocese.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry says of Episcopal revivals: "What we have got to keep in mind is that revivals, throughout history and right now, are not just events—they are movements. My deep prayer is that we come to see ourselves not simply as The Episcopal Church, but as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement: a community for whom Jesus Christ and his way of love is our way of life and the heart of our witness in the world. A revival movement means this becomes ever more true and real for us." Jeff Rockey, an attendee at San Diego's Good News Festival, joyfully expressed: "There's so much to take in, to use in my own ministry [from this revival]. I feel fed, wonderfully fed. I wish it wasn't over." Our East Carolina revival will be a time where we connect to the sustaining power of God with opportunities for deepening faith and service.

We're excited to announce the location of our revival, because it is a place very special to our diocese where many of our congregations have poured in their support, time, and energy: we'll be at Episcopal Farmworker Ministry in Dunn! We rejoice at getting to share this special place and its even more special people with Bishop Curry, and we hope to have many of our Spanish-speaking friends partnering with us in this event. You may remember fondly the festivals that have been held at Farmworker Ministry in years past with tents, food, and social services organizations all at that gathering.

Our East Carolina revival will be a time of celebration, with booths, ministries, music, fun, and dancing for all ages. The revival will be free and open to all members of the Diocese and the general public. Mark your calendars, and invite your friends and neighbors to what promises to be an inspirational event with Presiding Bishop Curry. Let's embrace what God has in store for us!

REVIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: ARE YOU CALLED TO SERVE?

With our revival coming up, there are a number of teams who need volunteers, and we'd love to have you with us! You'll find team descriptions listed below, and if you feel the Holy Spirit pulling you in the direction of serving, click the link below to volunteer.

Follow Up Team: Will work with diocesan staff and leadership, and with churchwide staff and consultants, to develop and support a plan to assist congregations and individuals to “lean into the movement of the Spirit” after the Revival.

Liturgy Team: Oversees all creative, technical, and practical aspects of the worship experience and other main stage presentations. Leads in creation of the liturgy outline, and in the coordination of all liturgy participants, following the lead of the Presiding Bishop’s team.

Local Arrangements Team: Manages all matters related to hosting the Revival on the property of the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry, including food and hospitality. In coordination with other teams, arranges for the rental and set up of all necessary equipment. Oversees and coordinates all volunteers relative to set up, event staff, and clean up.

Ministry Fair Team: Coordinates presence and participation of all Diocesan ministry leaders and others who will create the “festival environment” in the midst of which the Revival worship will take place. Support these leaders in the offering of cross-generational activities for those who attend the Revival, and in the offering of “take home” resources that will encourage them in their ongoing transformation and in their readiness to become agents of transformation.

Prayer Team: Provides prayer resources for use in advance of the Revival. Oversees recruiting, training, and coordination of those who will serve on Prayer Teams at the Revival. Oversees practical arrangements for Prayer Station(s).

Promotions Team: Responsible for development and implementation of all aspects of a communications strategy that will draw people to the Revival event, provide critical information to the congregations and people of the diocese, and engage volunteers for all tasks related to this event. Team will be responsible for all social media engagement and for engagement with local print, radio, and television media.

[**CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER**](#)

Save the Date for an

EAST CAROLINA

REVIVAL

With

PRESIDING BISHOP

MICHAEL CURRY

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 21

AT EPISCOPAL FARMWORKER MINISTRY



We Invite Your Prayers for our Upcoming Revival

REVIVAL PRAYER

Holy and amazing God,

We ask you to open the hearts and minds of the people of East Carolina to what your Holy Spirit is preparing for us.

Remind us of your presence in our everyday life so that we can see your hand at work in the world around us.

Strengthen the leaders of our upcoming Revival and show them the path you are laying out.

Help us let go of the things that distract us from your purpose, and show us where our focus should be.

Sustain our energies before, during, and after this Revival so that we may be the agents of transformation you have called us to be.

Empower us to engage our neighbors so we can share the loving, liberating, life-giving Good News of Jesus.

In his holy name we pray. Amen.





UNCOVERING AND HONORING OUR HISTORY: MEMORIAL MARKER FOR THE GRAVES OF FORMERLY ENSLAVED PERSONS WHO BECAME MEMBERS OF ZION, WASHINGTON

By James Hackney

Zion was always a diverse congregation. Bishop Atkinson, third bishop of North Carolina, noted one African-American as part of the membership at the time Zion's present church building was consecrated on November 14, 1856, and this number had grown to five by the beginning of the Civil War in 1861. The church building was used during the Civil War by the Union forces as an administrative building and hospital during their occupation of Washington in 1863-64.

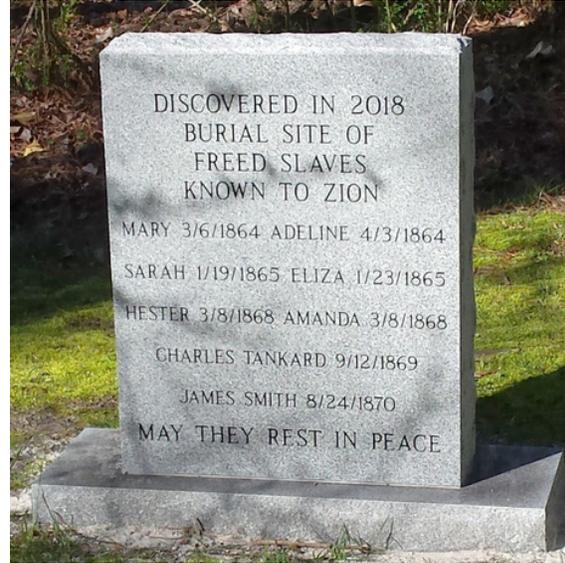
Recent research suggests that Zion Church was subsequently used as a "Union Freedman School" for formerly enslaved persons who became free. The adjoining graveyard was neglected in the years following the War, and many temporary markers were lost. Regrettably, Zion's written records were destroyed by the occupying forces, so current parish records only date from 1864.

The Rev. Sarah Saxe, who became Zion's rector in 2015, had a consuming passion for the Church's history. She had been told that there were remains of African-Americans interred in front of the present sanctuary, but she believed this to be an illogical location. She pored through all of the old records she could find. Sarah discovered that a number of formerly enslaved persons had been freed by local plantation owners, even before the end of the Civil War and, indeed, baptized and sponsored for membership in Zion Church.



CONSECRATION SERVICE AT ZION, WASHINGTON

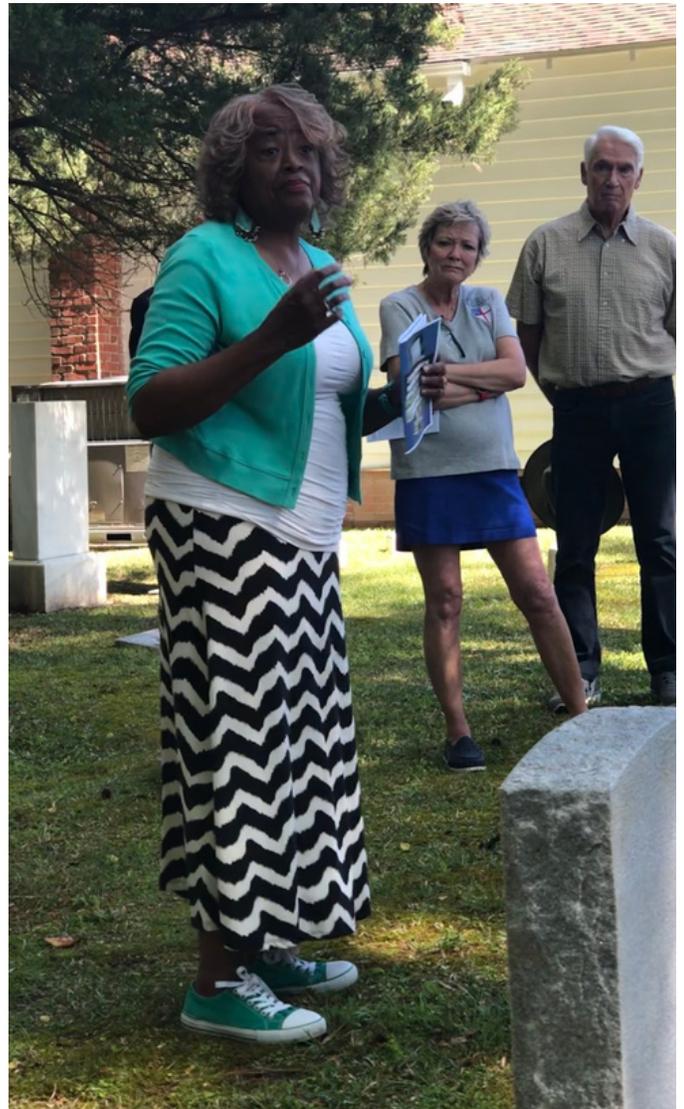
*How good and pleasant it is when
God's people live together in unity! (Psalm 133)*



Rev. Sarah found records of the burial of eight formerly enslaved persons during the years 1864–1870. Their grave markers were presumably wood that had been lost with me, although records indicated a general area in the Church’s graveyard for these interments. Sarah had ground-penetrating radar used to explore this location and found an area with remains, which she concluded must be those of the freed slaves.

With the approval of Zion’s Vestry, a monument was purchased and installed over the remains in 2018, with the names and burial dates of these eight African-American parishioners who are such an important part of Zion’s legacy. Six were recorded by first name only. Those interred were: Mary and Adeline, 1864; Sarah and Eliza, 1865; Hester and Amanda, 1868; Charles Tankard, 1869; and James Smith, 1870.

As part of the bicentennial celebration weekend, Zion held a consecration service to memorialize the grave marker honoring the eight deceased parishioners. Special guests for this service included Bishop Skirving and Leesa Jones (Executive Director of the Washington Waterfront Underground Railroad Museum). William Faust (a member of Mt. Zion AME Church, Washington) sang an introductory and closing spiritual. Because no liturgy for such an occasion was found, the Rev. Alan Neale composed a liturgy for the consecration with music, history telling, and prayer.



ORDINATION HIGHLIGHTS

On April 15, 2023, we welcomed Tara Bartal, Lucas Crossland, Tommy Drake, and Robin Smith to the order of deacons. Here we're sharing snapshots from that joyful day. Stay tuned: we will be sharing our new deacons' transitions soon!









COMMUNITY AT ITS KINDEST: THE WELL AND ECCO CAMPUS MINISTRIES

By Rev. Donna Kraus and
Alfreda Gee

Usually rivals in sports, the Campus Ministries of UNCW and ECU are anything but rivals in the Diocese of East Carolina. The Well (Episcopal and Lutheran ministry) at ECU and ECCO (Episcopal Campus Christian Organization) at UNCW enjoy the benefits of both independent and collaborative operations. They are sibling groups at heart, with plenty of flexibility to meet the needs of the ever-changing gathering of students.

Each program has similar weekly routines contributing to growing faith and building community. Meetings are at local churches with home cooked meals lovingly prepared by parishioners. Students share from their weeks and make plans for coming events. Campus Ministers bring a variety of programs, speakers, and activities created to connect students to living into their faith, wherever they may be on that journey. Students say they come to campus ministry for the food, but they stay for the people. This is 'community' at its kindest!







Mikaela, an ECCO student says, “ECCO has been a fantastic experience for me. I joined ECCO as Covid restrictions were beginning to ease, and after a year or so of feeling separated from people and from the church, it was a breath of fresh air. I think what made the experience of ECCO so nice was how open and nurturing it was. It was acceptable to ask questions and have discussions I didn’t have in my church growing up, and it was helped by how welcoming its members were. It felt as though I was having discussions about God rather than sitting in an echo chamber, and I found that very refreshing. The care demonstrated by ECCO in reaching out to students, even when I hadn’t been in ECCO long, was very touching and Christ-like.”

While the idea of a joint retreat happened a year earlier, Spring of 2016 was the first Cross Campus Retreat held at Trinity Center and led by the current ministers. Brainstorming, planning and creating the retreat helped create the collaboration that continues today. Planning for weekly events is generally solo work, but the opportunity to work together opened up more possibilities. Familiarity with both groups helped create experiences that were more personal to the larger group.

In more recent years, the retreats have been led by gifted retreat leaders chosen for their commitment to growing faith and the energy they brought to the weekend. Rev. Sarah Smith (formerly of St. Andrew's On-the-Sound, Wilmington), Easton Davis of Atlanta and Juniper LaNunziata (St. Paul's, Greenville) each brought their own special sauce and love of God and God's people.

Trinity Center has become the backdrop for these retreats and is now iconic in students' lives. Those who have been will become almost wistful telling others about the calm or energy they found there. Each student will have a favorite tiny spot or speak of how amazing the beach feels to walk crowded only by birds, sand and ocean. The three year gap caused by COVID was soul draining for all.



For the students, combining schools for retreats feels like a win in many directions. They meet new people in a safe, caring place. Since both groups are relatively small, it expands the church community to open their hearts and minds to different thoughts and beliefs. Students often keep in touch through social media and invite each other to outside events in their lives. They see each other at Diocesan Convention and reconnect. And having a larger group for activities can simply be more fun.

Here is what one student had to say about our 2023 retreat. Tim Gentsch, a Well student, said, "Our retreat was a breath of fresh air. Being close to the beach allowed for a rejuvenating get away to stare at the stars at night. Also, the crafts we were led in not only boosted these effects while on retreat, but continued once I was home and back to a normal routine. This retreat was truly a blessing."

When the pandemic hit us all in March of 2020, Campus Ministry struggled along with every other community. Having the bond already formed through the retreats and other joint gatherings gave the ministries a home base. The ministers were able to rely on each other for support, ideas, and commiseration. Out of this, they built some attempts that may have helped keep the ministries afloat.

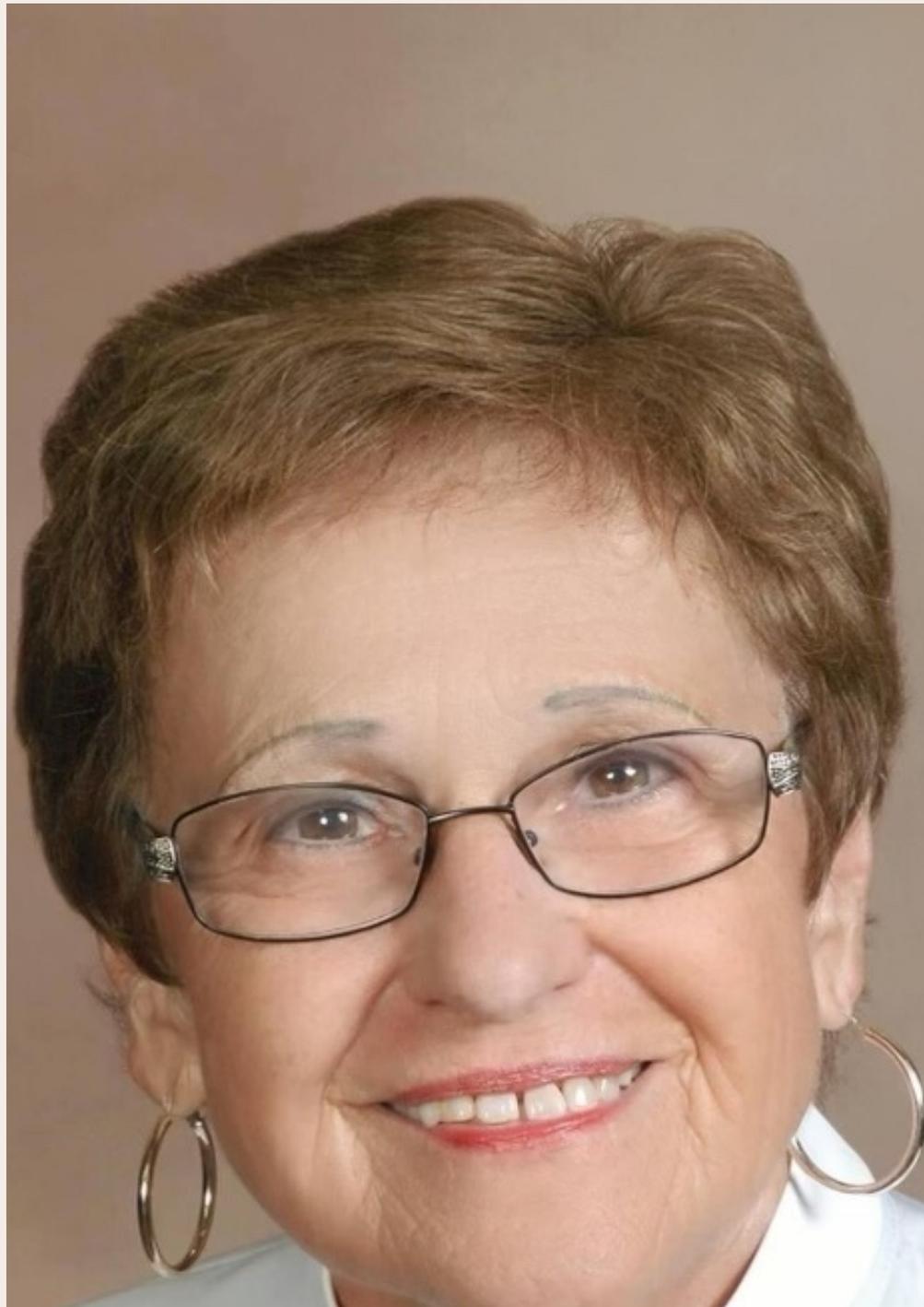


A BITTERSWEET ENDING: DONNA KRAUS RETIRES FROM THE WELL CAMPUS MINISTRY

By Emily Gowdy Canady

Following a 2-year transition, growing from an Episcopal Campus Ministry to a partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), in the Spring of 2014 The Well: Episcopal Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greenville was just getting its feet back underneath it. From 2012 through 2014, Pastor Drew Goodson of Our Redeemer Lutheran, Greenville served as the 6-hour-a-week Campus Pastor to The Well. Coming out of that time, in discernment with students and others, it was determined that 6 hours a week was simply not enough time to create and foster the kind of community both the Diocese of East Carolina and the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA knew the ministry needed if it were to continue.

Gratefully through grant writing, as well as some escrowed funds, the Diocese of East Carolina with support from the North Carolina Lutheran Synod was able to make the position 60 hours a month. Following a search process that included local and out of state candidates, Pastor Donna Kraus applied and was called to this ministry. Donna moved to Greenville from Ohio, taking the Campus Ministry position in semi-retirement. This summer Donna plans to move fully into retirement, staying in Greenville, but stepping away after nine years as The Well's Campus Pastor.





Pastor Donna, as she is known to her students and around the ECU campus, has had a tremendous impact on campus and in Greenville. Her leadership and pastoral presence have been exactly what this mission-shaped ministry needed. In her time as Campus Pastor, Donna served as the President of East Carolina University's Religious Life Council for three years. For several years she and staff from St. Paul's, Greenville have offered "Ashes to Go" on campus for Ash Wednesday. She has been a bridge and a conduit for love and acceptance with the LGBTQ office on campus, including serving on several panels over the years through ECU's mental health services. It is this particular connection that landed her on the planning committee for the University's "Love One Another" Symposium, which took place earlier this Spring.



Donna is ecumenical and open. She has invited students at The Well into conversations and gatherings with Hillel, the Jewish Student group, as well as the Muslim Student Association. She has helped organize retreats and mission experiences with the Presbyterian and Methodist Campus Ministries too! Donna has brought in speakers and programs from mental wellness to financial responsibility, tying them all back to the students' faith. She has supported student leadership, and most importantly, she supports and cares for and about her students.

Episcopal and Lutheran Campus ministries are not always the largest on campus. In fact, they are often reflective of what a lot of parishes are like. However, that does not outweigh the impact and importance of their presence on campus. At a Campus Ministry retreat just before COVID, a student shared a story.

For a year they had gone to a large non-denominational Campus Ministry. When they returned to campus the following fall and went to that ministry's opening gathering, no one in leadership remembered them. Soon after, a friend invited them to The Well and they went. A few days later on campus, Donna recognized them, calling them by name. This student remained a part of The Well until graduation.



Many of the students who are part of The Well have said they love that Pastor Donna knows their name when they are out and about on campus. Not only does she know their name, but she knows what they are studying, who is working where, and of the graduating seniors where they are moving and what kind of jobs they have. Pastor Donna has even kept in touch with a group of students, all who ended up in Raleigh who have formed an alumni group there of The Well.

As with any ministry, there will be some transition time for The Well and we are hopeful for the next chapter. Donna has built a solid foundation for this partnered ministry. The future is full of hope for The Well. Though the students and many in the campus community will miss her, they all wish her well in her full retirement!

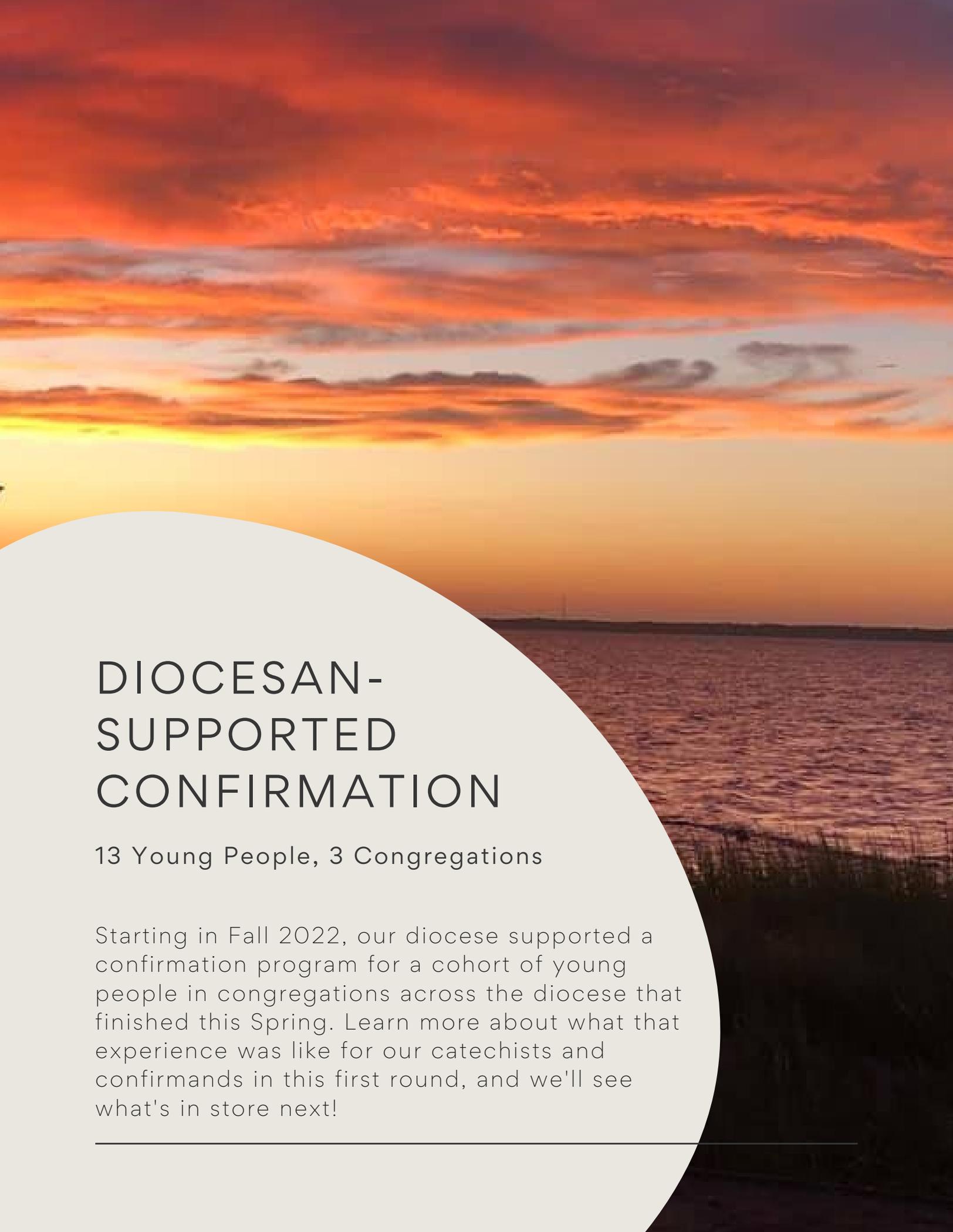


High school seniors and current college students headed to universities and colleges across North Carolina can connect with the Episcopal Campus Ministry through "Just One Thing." This one-page form will send contact information for the student to the Campus Ministry on college campuses where there are ministries. In the Diocese of East Carolina, this includes ECU in Greenville and UNCW in Wilmington.

Click [here](#) (or the graphic above) to fill out the form for "Just One Thing" and get connected with an Episcopal Campus Ministry near you. Want to connect a student to a campus ministry beyond North Carolina? Contact Emily Gowdy Canady for assistance!







DIOCESAN- SUPPORTED CONFIRMATION

13 Young People, 3 Congregations

Starting in Fall 2022, our diocese supported a confirmation program for a cohort of young people in congregations across the diocese that finished this Spring. Learn more about what that experience was like for our catechists and confirmands in this first round, and we'll see what's in store next!



A CATECHIST'S PERSPECTIVE

A CATECHIST'S PERSPECTIVE

By Rev. Lisa Erdeljon



Every other Sunday, starting last September, I had the pleasure of meeting with about a dozen teens on Zoom. Along with Hannah Hutchens and Buddy Payne, I was a catechist for the Diocesan-Wide Confirmation Class.

It took me a few weeks to remember to turn my alarm off—the one on my phone that would remind me to log onto Zoom. At first, I was grateful to have a bit more time in my work week, although that did not last for long (the gratefulness, that is)

Now, a month after the final retreat and Confirmation service, I'm sad. I miss it. I miss the teenagers, and Hannah, and Buddy, and Emily. I miss the silliness and the camaraderie and the unified goal. No, the goal was not to get these teens confirmed (although that would be an obvious goal).

The goal was to allow these teens the time and space to grow in their faith—to ask questions and learn more about The Episcopal Church, their individual parishes, their personal faith, and how all of that can combine into a beautiful spiritual journey to Christian adulthood.

In the Confirmation class, we had teens from four different churches. A lot of the teens knew Hannah and Buddy (from camp and their own youth programs), but none of them knew me. Despite the nervousness that caused for me, the time I spent with these teens became a huge gift! A gift for me, especially, as I was able to bond with people from other parts of the diocese, as well as minister to a part of my call that isn't in my own parish.



Since this was the first time any of us used this Confirmation program (called CREATE Online Confirmation out of The School for Christian Faith and Leadership), we had the opportunity to experiment a little bit, too. One session (covering the Bible), we played Bible Jeopardy. One session (covering the Mission and Ministry), the catechists shared our own faith journeys. Twice, we were able to sit with the Bishop and ask him questions, too.

In addition to the ten online modules with Zoom discussions, we also had two retreats. It was a great time for the teens to get to know each other, too, through basketball and foursquare and prayer and outreach. And, at the end of the second retreat, as we all sat around the bonfire, we shared our favorite parts. Each and every teen said their favorite parts were getting to know each other and spend time together. We knew this Diocesan-wide Confirmation class would engage teens from across the Diocese, but I don't know if any of us realized how securely formed the relationships became.

I look forward to seeing what happens next—not just with this program, but also with all of the teens who went through it this year. I pray they are inspired to become some of the next leaders of The Church, and I pray we are able to continue offering such unique formation opportunities across the Diocese.

If asked, I would definitely recommend your teens to participate in this program. I would even encourage you to look into how you can get involved, too. All of the teens who participated were confirmed at the end of the program, but the real joy, for me, was getting to work with them at all.



St. Peter's By-the-Sea, Swansboro

A CONFIRMAND'S PERSPECTIVE

BY SAMUEL GRUNKE

My family and I used to live in Beaufort, and we went to a Catholic Church down in Morehead City, and for whatever reason, it never really peaked my interest in learning more about God, though I am not sure why. Then, three years ago we moved to Newport, and that meant going to a whole new church. I will admit: I was really nervous, I had no idea what to expect, but I think I was able to adjust easily.

When we still lived in Beaufort, it was only my dad, my sister, and me who would go to church, because that is the kind of church that my dad grew up in. But now that we live here, and are Episcopalian, our whole family goes to church together, and looking back I think it's important that we all got a chance to go to a church as a family, and a church where we could all feel welcome. I found it to be a much more enjoyable experience, but still I never really had an open mind, I never really took in what was being taught, and it's not that I didn't think that God was real, it is just that I did not have any desire to learn more.

Then one day, my parents told me that they had signed me up for a Confirmation class, and at the time I was not even sure what Confirmation was, so my parents told me a bit more about it. In the first month or so, I did not think much of it, but I took the online classes, and attended the zoom meetings. As time went on I found the lessons more and more interesting - learning more about the history of church, the meanings behind traditions such as Communion and Baptism.

Also, in some of the videos that were attached to the lessons, I got to see a bit more of what the Episcopal community was all about. And one video in particular stood out among the rest. I don't remember all the details, but to summarize, the video was about a Christian organization that had the goal of growing food to give to people less fortunate. To see all these people smiling together, all working together to support a noble cause, it really put into perspective how wholesome the Episcopalian community is, and it was something that I really wanted to be a part of.



Snapshots from the
December Confirmation
Retreat



But it was not just the online lessons that I enjoyed about Confirmation class, it was the people. My favorite part of the Confirmation program was the weekend retreats at the Trinity Center where I got to bond with the others, where we played four-square and basketball together, and where we learned about the Bible together. The other teens were so welcoming, and I enjoyed spending time with them. And the priests, teachers, and other staff were also very welcoming, and were happy to answer any questions I had. As I learned more about God, I started to ask more and more questions, and I have a feeling I'll still have more as I get older, and one reason I finally decided to be confirmed is so that my questions can be answered.

I know some people would expect me to go out into the world and teach others about God, and how much he's impacted me in my life, and how they can have similar positive experiences like I did if they open their hearts to Jesus. But that is not what I'd like to do. There are simply people who believe in things other than Christianity, and I've accepted that. Like I said before, the best thing about my Confirmation process was the people, and how welcoming and open-minded they were to me.

As I move on in my life, as a child of God, what is most important to me is that I show the same friendliness and compassion that they showed me. I hope that I can help people learn that even though the world may seem like it keeps getting worse, it's best to focus on the good things, even if they have the tiniest impact.

If there are any people reading this who are currently debating whether or not they should be confirmed, I really think you should. Trust me, you won't regret it.



Christ Church, New Bern

A CONFIRMAND'S PERSPECTIVE

By Claire Ballard

Our new, unique Confirmation program was a fun experience. I really enjoyed that we were able to meet in person and spend time together at Trinity Center. The most important thing to me was getting to meet new people around the Diocese. It is nice to know teens from the area, because they are relatable and are experiencing the same things I do. I learned that, yes, my faith is new, but it will continue to grow and develop with me.

As military child it is assuring to know that God will walk with me wherever the Marine Corps takes us, and I can use my faith to connect with my peers. When we moved to New Bern last year, becoming an Episcopalian brought new awesome friends into my life. I am so thankful that the majority of them experienced this confirmation journey with me. It is my hope we can all grow together in life and faith. Doing the Confirmation class together has strengthened not only our faith but also our connections.

It was nice to explore that God loves me for who I am. It is very easy today to forget that God created us in our own unique way and that we are enough. Today we are constantly comparing ourselves to everyone else and can forget that we are so loved by God and perfect the way he created us. It is my hope that our Confirmation group can stay connected and be there for one another in our spiritual journey, that we can support each other during life's difficult times and keep us grounded in our faith.

CONSIDERING DIOCESAN- SUPPORTED CONFIRMATION?

Does your congregation have young people looking to create community in a new way in their journey to confirmation? If your congregation is interested in having young people participate in the next program year, please be in touch with Missioner for Lifelong Christian Formation, Emily Gowdy Canady, who can answer your questions and share more about what to expect in the next year's program. To learn more about Diocesan-Supported Confirmation, see here on our website.





CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATIONS ACROSS THE DIOCESE

It's not only through Diocesan-Supported Confirmation that confirmations happen across our diocese. Since the start of 2023 alone, Bishop Skirving has completed over 100 confirmations, 35 receptions, and 15 reaffirmations in congregations all across East Carolina. On this page, you'll find a sampling of snapshots from these joyous occasions





LA SAGRADA FAMILIA'S BIG NEWS: A BUILDING TO COME

By Rev. Fred Clarkson

We have always known that the church is made up of people, not buildings. However, while buildings are not the church, they still play a role in letting people see and understand the church's tangible presence. Most often, we are born into or find ourselves in, parishes that inherited buildings through the faithful work of past generations. These buildings were often built by people who viewed the church as essential to their lives and a home for faith.

In some sense, there is a theology of space, which we often take for granted, but which is emphasized in stories where transcendent encounters lead to actual structures such as the altar that Jacob built, the temple that Solomon built, and the shrine at Tepeyac that the people of Mexico built.



Over the years, we have built many church buildings in response to God's love present in our lives.

As parish members, we often do not think about the church building unless we do not have one. Church plants without a building in order to hold services have to be far more involved, from location to set up, to communications, to even weather. Then there are those with a set home but no set building, like La Sagrada Familia, which utilizes the Farmworker Ministry's facilities but has no church building. La Sagrada Familia faithfully meets but is subject to excessive heat, cold, and a lack of space. La Sagrada Familia might even be perceived as invisible, because while the social work the ministry does is visible, the worship would be missed if one does not know about it or does not see it on a Sunday.

This situation has been the reality for La Sagrada Familia for over 20 years as its congregation worked to raise funds for a building and saw them count for less and less as the years passed and, more recently, inflation took hold. But the time has come to spread the word that La Sagrada Familia is present on the property it shares with the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry. It is time to build a home for La Sagrada Familia!

In 2020, the vestry finally approved a building plan and began moving forward until inflation squashed the possibility of a steel building that had been ordered but never delivered. La Sagrada Familia then started over, working with friends of the parish with a design from scratch. Now our permit has been granted for what is technically called a commercial building. This permit allows us to proceed with a building that will serve as an earthly home for the Church of the Holy Family (La Sagrada Familia).

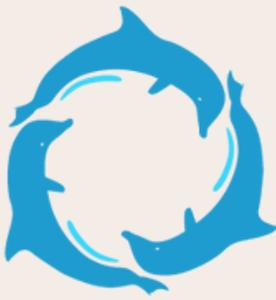


God willing, and with God's help in the community, the building will have a space of slightly more than four thousand square feet, a worship space to seat 150, a chapel to seat thirty dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and office and storage spaces. We hope it will complement the facilities and allow us to better serve the farm workers who have served as purveyors of the food essential for life. We invite all members of the diocese and other friends beyond to witness our journey, for it is a journey that will only be possible with fellow Episcopalians.

UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS

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





TRINITY CENTER

The Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina

June 4th is Trinity Sunday!



Bulletin Inserts, Prayers of the People, and More Resources Available on Trinity's Website:

 www.trinityctr.org/blog/first-annual-trinity-sunday/

Join us as we celebrate the first annual Trinity Center Sunday here in the Diocese of East Carolina! We are excited to lift up Trinity Center and its ministries on this coming Trinity Sunday.

A DISCERNMENT RETREAT

PATH

SEPTEMBER 8 - 9, 2023
AT TRINITY CENTER, SALTER PATH

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 sensing a call to ordained ministry, 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 Nathan Finnin at nathan@saintandrewsobx.com. There is no charge to attend; however, space is limited.

Register at:

<https://dioec.regfox.com/path-2023>

The Racial Healing Commission
and the Diocese of East Carolina
invite you to

Save the Date

First Annual Jazz and
Race Symposium

September . 16 . 2023

at St. James, Wilmington

look for more details in
News & Notes



Guest Speaker:
Dr. Catherine Meeks
Musical Performance:
Skip Walker

Jazz and Racial Healing intersect in many ways. Join us as we hear jazz music and some African-American History. Dr. Catherine Meeks will also speak about her involvement in Racial Healing in the larger church. There will be a chance to have a discussion with those around you and hear what your neighbors are doing to work towards a beloved community.



SHARING OUR STORIES, SHARING
OUR LIFE IN CHRIST.



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