



Episcopal Campus Ministry 2016-17 News

January 2017

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Contact Us

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ECM Weekly Meeting

Wednesdays at 5:30
p.m.

A Word from the Chaplain

The Episcopal Campus Ministry (ECM) continues to be blessed with active, vibrant and caring students. We have had a significant increase in students with 17 students on roll and 9-11 students attending weekly. We meet for Evening Prayer every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. with the students taking an active part in the service. Father Paul is with us once a month so that we can receive communion.



In June, I was blessed to be the deacon at the ordination of my first ECM student, Ann Urinoski who was ordained priest in the diocese of New Jersey.

The students annually lead a service and this was the third year that the sermon was delivered at both services. They read the lesson, usher, take up the collection, welcome the parishioners and serve as acolytes. It is a very positive way for them to be seen by the congregation and to give back to the church. The students are now leading a service both semesters. They also enjoy taking a turn in providing coffee hour for the congregation and do this twice a year.

My advisory committee has been active this year, we meet every six weeks and they hosted the second Thanksgiving dinner for the students prior to their going home on break. The students and I are thankful and appreciative for the kindness and support of the committee.

I submitted a Young Adult and Campus Ministry (YACM) grant in collaboration with the Lutherans and Presbyterians chaplains through the Episcopal National Church. We were one of 19 to receive a grant out of 55 that were submitted. The grant entitled TOGETHER AT THE TABLE is a series of events that will bring the students who participate in the three chaplaincies to share worship, fellowship, and service with a focus on issues of food insecurity.

The Episcopal Campus Ministry leads the religious groups on campus in providing a food pantry called "Blue Hen Bounty" for students in need, these efforts will support and strengthen ties among the groups and increase a sense of the Christian witness on campus.

I have had several meetings with administrators and faculty at the University of Delaware who are very interested and supportive in collaborating with us

and very pleased that we are providing this much needed service.

We are thankful for our many blessings and support we receive from our parish. The families that make a home cook meal and share it with us, our close ties with the other chaplaincies and our now closer relationship with the university. We pray that the Blue Hen Bounty will be an integral ministry of St. Thomas's and the university for many years to come.

We send a special thank you to our faculty advisor Joy Lynam and also to Sally Price.

May God's Grace, Peace and Shalom be with our diocese, clergy and all its faithful members as we begin a New Year.

Yours in Christ,
Reverend Deacon Cecily Sawyer Harmon+,
LCSW

ECM Student Reflection - Colleen Murray



As a sophomore in college, the everyday stress of college is becoming real. There is always an exam to study for or homework that should be done. But once a week, I have the opportunity to step away from all the day to day stress and go to ECM. It has become a place that I can go and just forget about college for a couple of hours and

catch up with my friends. Everyone has different majors and different things that they're worried about but at the core of it, we are all just college students trying to get our degrees.

Having been in ECM for two years now, I have had the opportunity to do some incredible things. Last year alone, I got to go on a mission trip, go apple picking, enjoy a bonfire with the parishioners, and watch the creation of Blue Hen Bounty. Each one of these experiences was awesome in its own right, and this year there have already been so many that are just as amazing. We have expanded our interfaith relationships on campus and have been working with Presbyterian Campus Ministry and Lutheran Campus Ministry for the past semester and they joined us on the bonfire

this year. I also went to an Advent Party with them which was a lot of fun.

One Sunday a semester, ECM leads the church services on what is called Episcopal Campus Ministry Sunday. I had the honor of preaching this semester. It was an amazing and scary experience because I have been a member of St Thomas's my whole life, so I knew the vast majority of people who attended the service. The opportunity was eye opening because I was forced to look deeper into what makes me who I am and how my faith has developed over the years.

With two more years left in college, I can't wait to see where ECM will take me. I have already done so many incredible things with this group that I can only imagine what else I will do. ECM has done a lot for me and has left me feeling more grounded even in the chaotic college world.

Colleen Murray
Mechanical Engineering
Class of 2019

ECM Student Reflection - Max Holdsworth



On a sunny afternoon in October, friends from all around the campus, including ECM students, took time off from our studies to share an interfaith event. We all met in the LUMOS Presbyterian house to join in fellowship and celebration. Together we baked, shaped and packaged treats for

Labrador puppies that are being trained to assist individuals with special needs. Students train and live with the puppies in their dorms. Some of us also made dogs' toys out of socks and other dog-friendly material.

I brought one of my friends to the event; a Brazilian freshman who had never attended an interfaith event before. Although at first apprehensive, he soon felt right at home joining in with the inclusive environment and friendly crowd. Then we had some puppy love from a visiting puppy from UD's Puppy Raisers! From this interfaith event, I think we all learned an

important lesson: that the communion of faith is not only necessary, but also lots of fun!

Max Holdsworth
ECM Senior

ECM 2016-17 Officers

President - Carson Hanna
Vice President - Hannah Watts
Secretary - Julia Amoriello
Treasurer - Ashlee Autore

“Blue Hen Bounty” Food Pantry

“Blue Hen Bounty” is a Food Pantry that ECM hosts for UD students who are food insecure and cannot provide ample nutrition for themselves. Food insecure students may come to ECM’s food closet every Wednesday from 4-5 p.m. at St. Thomas’s Parish.



ECM has collected many donated food products including garden fresh vegetables that are shared with students in need, who only need to bring their student UD ID for verification as a UD student. Then, ECM students will share whatever amount of food fulfills their need. Please help spread the word!

Worship With Us!

Every Wednesday, we start with Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m. About 6:00 p.m., we enjoy dinners prepared by parishioners. They often stay and join us as you see in the picture!

Depending on activities and agendas, we meet before or during dinner. We share our “God moments” and this is an important, intimate

time where we get to know each other and give thanks or ask for help.

If you know college-age students who are interested, invite them to join us!



ECM Awarded Program Grant from the Episcopal Church

ECM has been awarded a special program grant from the Episcopal Church. See the July 6, 2016 announcement from the Episcopal Church. “These grants help the Episcopal Church live into an expanding understanding of what it means to be in ministry with young adults on and off college campuses,” said the Rev. Shannon Kelly, Episcopal Church Missioner of Young Adult and Campus Ministries. This article is available at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/133000-awarded-campus-ministry-grants>

The Rt. Rev. Wayne P. Wright, Episcopal Bishop of Delaware, shared this good news in his July 20 weekly message saying: “The grant will support an ecumenical feeding program on the University of Newark’s campus. Under the leadership of Deacon Cecily Sawyer Harmon, members of our campus ministry identified the existing need. They developed a plan to address it in partnership with the Lutheran campus ministry. The grant will make this new outreach ministry possible. It is also an important recognition of the good work being done by our ECM.”

February 17, 2016 from The Rt. Rev. Wayne P. Wright, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Delaware: “Campus ministry has traditionally been a strength for the Episcopal Church and for our diocese. The University of Delaware is the largest education institution in our state. It is good to see that St. Thomas’s and our diocese are present to serve the university community.”

Fall 2016 Activities

- Tue., Aug 30, 2016 – had table at Student Activities night at UD.
- Sun., Oct. 9, 2016 – hosted by the Presbyterian students at 157 W. Main Street. We made snacks and toys for service dogs. This service activity was suggested by the Presbyterian students for our Young Adult and Campus Ministry (YACM) collaborative “Together at the Table” grant.
- Sun., Oct. 23, 2016 – After the 10:30 a.m. service, we carpooled to go apple picking at Milburn Orchards.



- Wed., Oct. 26, 2016 - made pies from apples picked at Milburn Orchards.
- Sat., Nov. 12, 2016 – went to Milburn Orchards for a hay ride and bon fire. This fellowship activity is recommended by our Young Adult and Campus Ministry (YACM) collaborative “Together at the Table” grant and is hosted by us – Episcopal Campus Ministry (ECM)!



- Sun., Nov. 13, 2016 – ECM Sunday. We actively participated in the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services by sharing the sermon, leading the readings, ushering, and hosting coffee hour. See Colleen Murray’s sermon at the St. Thomas’s web site.
- Sun., Nov. 13, 2016 after 10:30 a.m. service – students and advisory board

- members enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner, which was hosted by the ECM Advisory Board.
- Wed., Nov 16, 2016 – participated in a relaxation and connection day with other religious student groups.
- Sat., Nov. 19, 2016: Parish Life Day – ECM sold goods to raise \$\$ for our mission trip in April.
- Fri-Dec. 2, Sat-Dec. 3, Sun.-Dec. 4 – St. Thomas’s Christmas Bazaar – ECM sold goods to fund-raise for our mission trip.
- Fri., Dec. 2, 2016 – joint meeting with the Lutheran and Presbyterian students for Advent. Worship led by Lutheran students. This worship activity is recommended by our Young Adult and Campus Ministry (YACM) collaborative “Together at the Table” grant.
- Wed., Dec. 7, 2016 – last meeting for Fall 2016.

Spring 2017 Planned Activities

- Feb. 2017 – ECM, LCM, and PCM students will share a fellowship meal and continue plans for the Hunger banquet as recommended by our Young Adult and Campus Ministry (YACM) collaborative grant.
- March 2017 – Hunger Dinner in collaboration with the Lutherans and Presbyterians
- Spring Break 2017 – mission trip to North Carolina.
- March 2017 – Oxfam America Hunger Banquet – this is the closing activity as recommended by our Young Adult and Campus Ministry (YACM) collaborative grant. It is a memorable and interactive event that brings hunger and poverty issues to life. It is described as “life changing.”
- April 2017 – ECM, LCM, and PCM students will assess this year’s experiences and plan for next year. This event is recommended by our Young Adult and Campus Ministry (YACM) collaborative grant.

2016 Spring Break Mission Trip

During our Spring 2016 spring break, ECM students went to Costa Rica for their mission trip. ECM worked with the people of the diocese and schools in San Jose. We attended Easter Day celebrations at Church of the Ascension and then went to the fresh air market. In the words of ECM student Hannah Watts:



Hola! Day 3 in Costa Rica is complete, and today we wrapped up our work at the Escuela Hogar Episcopal. We finished some painting jobs and

disassembled a flowerless flower bed, giving the children some more color and space to play in their home away from home. We've discussed as a group that it's been very satisfying to have sore muscles and paint-covered hands after a long day of work with such visible results. We also got to enjoy one of the teacher's grateful smiles seeing her newly-painted classroom, and more of us played with some of the children today.

As we tossed balls and shared smiles, the language barriers diminished and it was not long before a class of students shared their English singing songs for us!



No need to worry about us being comfortable and well-fed. It's Costa Rica's "dry season" here, so we've been avoiding any rain, and the highest the temperature climbs is around 80 degrees, but always with a breeze. We're fed beautifully-seasoned, generously-portioned meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and we're always surrounded by the good company of each other, the Bishop, or Sarah and Kate (our guides here).

Tomorrow we're off to another school with similar-aged children, and I'm looking forward to be meeting some new people and serving a new community. Please continue to pray for us and especially for the people we're serving, that we may know how to best support them and show them God's love!

Abroazos y Besos (Hugs & Kisses),
Hannah Watts

About St. Thomas's Parish

St. Thomas's is a diverse community of young and old, different races, languages, and nationalities, cradle Episcopalians and those new to our tradition. We are conservative and liberal, single and married and partnered, socially active, spiritually reflective, deeply committed to being the Gospel in our community, our diocese, and our world. Our parish strives to be a safe and inclusive community of worship that welcomes everyone as a child of God, and values everyone's ministry in the Church and the world.

Our mission statement: Nourished at Christ's table and stepping forward in faith, we are instruments of God's love, serving our parish family, the University of Delaware, our community, and God's creation.

This year we celebrate our 175th anniversary!