

COLORADO episcopalian

**CELEBRATING
VICTORIES**

04

**THROUGH
LOVE & SERVICE**

16



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CELEBRATING VICTORIES

"We have learned over the past two years the importance of celebration and gratitude in the midst of struggle. Taking time to celebrate victories as we are working for social justice is an important spiritual practice. If we fail to recognize where we have truly made a difference, we can get lost in despair and fail to see God's hand in our work and ministry."



EXPLORING THE WORLD, MEETING GOD

"A pilgrimage is a journey that invites us to reflect on the deepest questions of our inner lives, our journey with God, and our relationships in community, near and far. And so it was for the Youth Leadership Pilgrims drawn from across the Episcopal Church in Colorado."

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Br. Scott-Michael Pomerenk, BSG, with
daughter Trixie at St. Thomas Episcopal
Church, Denver.

Photo courtesy Fred Mast



WALKING TOGETHER

BY BISHOP KYM LUCAS

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Therefore, be imitators of God as dearly loved children and walk in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God. –Ephesians 4:30-5:2

As I sat down to write this, I was reeling from news about the shootings first in New York and then in California, at the Gilroy Garlic Festival. Then came the shootings at the Walmart in El Paso and the bar in Dayton, Ohio. In two weeks, 35 people have been killed, dozens more injured, and hundreds more terrorized by shootings in public places at public events. For at least two of the incidents, the shooters posted hate propaganda online that slandered people of color and immigrants. The writings used words nearly identical to the disparaging and dehumanizing words our President leveled at the city of Baltimore, a city of rich history and diverse people.

And then there remains the matter that children continue to be held in cages, separated from their parents in horrifying and unsanitary conditions at our border.

Four months into my ministry as your Bishop, I am most aware of the brokenness, virulence, and division that have taken root in our culture. And my prayers have been questions: What is our calling as the Episcopal Church in Colorado in such a time as this? Who are we called to be? Where are we called to go?

This week, it occurred to me that the question is not so much about where we are going. The question before us is: how are we, as followers of Jesus, going to walk?

The temptation to fall into the narrative of “might makes right” is strong. The world would have us believe that power, the power to crush, to oppress, to destroy is the power on which we should lean. The world tells us that shows of force, and walls, and guns will save us. And we, like the very first disciples, want our God to come with a sword and destruction to vindicate us.

But the God who comes to us, comes naked, incarnate in the world. The Christ that calls us, calls us away from violence, from our obsession with power and possessions, calls us to the one thing, the ONLY thing that will deliver us: the grace-filled, abundant, POWERFUL love of God.

Our greatest challenge as the Church is walking in love in these hate-filled times. The Episcopal Church in Colorado encompasses vast distances, and we are not all of the same mind around the pressing issues of our time. Nonetheless, we are called as one body to walk together, to be repairers of the breach, to seek and serve Christ in ALL persons and respect the dignity of EVERY human being. This is not optional; this is what we promised we’d do when we took up the mantle of the baptized.

And because of the rage, resentment, hate, and violence in our country, we must lean even more on the loving way of Jesus. We must practice, with intention, in thought, word, and deed, in our homes, in our schools, at our jobs: loving as Christ loves us. Our love will be manifest in our listening to one another, bearing one another’s burdens, and seeking the welfare, not just of ourselves and ours, but that of the whole community.

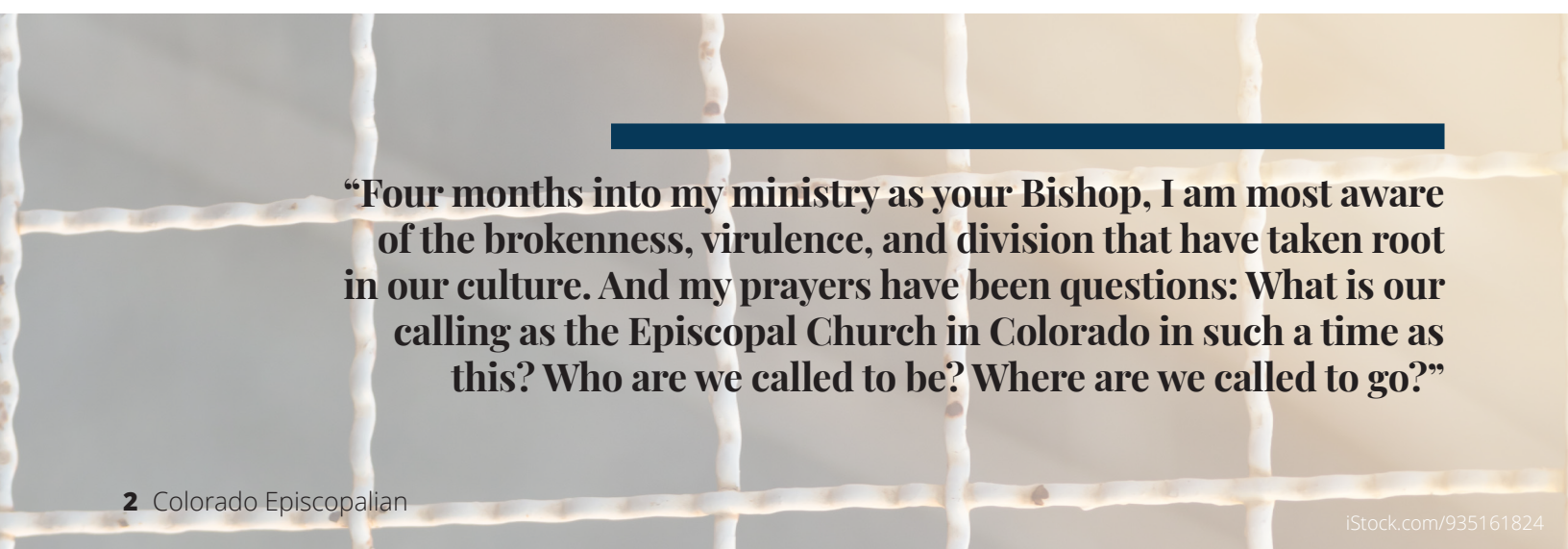
I am encouraged that we, as a church, are working to embody Christ’s love. As I am getting to know the

Church in Colorado, I am learning about the good, gospel work Episcopalians are doing: the feeding ministry at St. George’s, Leadville, the community outreach at both the School of Mines and the prison at Calvary, Golden, and the mighty faith and justice work going on at St. Patrick’s, Pagosa Springs, and all the folks from St. Matthew’s and Nativity who give their time and treasure to support vulnerable teens at The House in Grand Junction. These are but a few examples of how we are showing the life-giving, liberating love of God in our communities, and there is so much more to do.

In the Office of the Bishop, we are working on ways to empower our congregations in this work. WE have been working for the last two years with the immigrants’ rights community to pass legislation in Colorado making life safer for the asylum seekers and undocumented siblings in Christ already living among us. This work continues as I work with Anthony Suggs, our Missioner for Advocacy and Social Justice, and neighboring bishops on how our church can witness for humane treatment of asylum seekers at our southern borders. In support of our call to live more fully into our Baptismal Covenant, our Christian Formation team is building a toolbox of reconciliation and inclusion resources for congregations that need assistance in welcoming others. And this year, “Walking the Way of Love” will be our theme at our Annual Convention as we examine the ways in which we conduct our lives and our work in Godly love.

It is my prayer that we, in all our diversity, will commit to walking in love, always.

We are pressed by the forces of fear, resentment, and hate; they are powerful forces. But the power of God’s love is greater. ■



“Four months into my ministry as your Bishop, I am most aware of the brokenness, virulence, and division that have taken root in our culture. And my prayers have been questions: What is our calling as the Episcopal Church in Colorado in such a time as this? Who are we called to be? Where are we called to go?”



Do you want to increase your impact in the community? Do you want to learn and bring to life the gifts and dreams of your community? If so, the Office of the Bishop is pleased to invite you into the work of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD). We are offering an array of workshops to introduce and deepen understanding of the core concepts and practices of ABCD. These workshops, when possible, will include our full facilitation team of Anthony Suggs (Missioner for Advocacy and Social Justice), Paul Alexander (Diocesan Missioner for Development and Financial Stewardship), and Mike Green (published author on ABCD and community organizer with 30+ years of experience). Please contact us today at Advocacy@EpiscopalColorado.org to set up one of the following workshops for your faith community. We recommend starting with an introductory workshop and then following up with a continuing workshop:

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOPS

- “ABCD 101”: Learn the basics of ABCD including asset mapping, learning conversations, and radical welcome. 2.5 hours or half-day.
- “ABCD in Practice”: Spend time learning and practicing essential elements of ABCD. Participants will leave with a full understanding of assets, asset mapping, and learning conversations, and how to connect them all together in meaningful action and relationship. Half-day or full-day.

CONTINUING WORKSHOPS

- “Community Organizing with ABCD”: Learn how to fully implement ABCD as a community organizing tool with in-depth practice and planning. 2.5 hours.
- “Asset Mapping”: Take a deep look at the assets of your faith community, neighborhood, and broader community in this hands-on workshop. 2.5 hours.
- “Welcoming the Stranger”: Learn who is on the “outside,” both within your faith community and in your neighborhood, and identify practices to build radical welcome into your life as a congregation. 2.5 hours.

ACTIVATING ASSETS RETREAT

November 22-23, 2019. All who have attended one of the above workshops are invited to attend the Activating Assets Retreat at Cathedral Ridge. This retreat will bring together faith communities, jubilee ministries, and nonprofits to meet, connect, and activate their assets in new ways. We will work together to connect the dots so that we can live into fuller life together and create stronger communities of care and support.

To register, please contact Anthony Suggs at Advocacy@EpiscopalColorado.org.

CELEBRATING VICTORIES

BY ANTHONY SUGGS

On September 5, 2017, the current presidential administration announced its intention to fully repeal the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program. DACA offered temporary immigration status to individuals brought to the United States as children. The very next day I started my job at the Office of the Bishop, tasked with building a robust Advocacy & Social Justice Ministry for the Episcopal Church in Colorado. Immigration seemed like a good place to start. Within a week, I was attending an emergency community meeting, where activists, faith leaders, and community members met with and heard from people directly affected by the repeal of DACA. A local DACA recipient was clear: “If we are fighting

only for the rights of those who were brought here as children,” she told us “and not for their parents, we aren’t fighting for enough. If we care only about keeping half a family here while the other half is deported, we aren’t fighting for enough.” We need to dream bigger, she said to us. In essence, we need to dream as God dreams.

In the realm of immigration reform—just one of the many policy areas in which the diocese has ministries—things have gotten even more complicated since September 5, 2017. We have had victories and setbacks. We have learned over the past two years the importance of celebration and gratitude in the midst of struggle. Taking time to celebrate victories as we are working for social justice is an important spiritual practice.



“We have learned over the past two years the importance of celebration and gratitude in the midst of struggle. Taking time to celebrate victories as we are working for social justice is an important spiritual practice. If we fail to recognize where we have truly made a difference, we can get lost in despair and fail to see God’s hand in our work and ministry.”

If we fail to recognize where we have truly made a difference, we can get lost in despair and fail to see God’s hand in our work and ministry. I have no doubt that God has been hard at work in us these past two years. So, I thought I’d take this chance to tell you about the amazing things I have seen God do through our diocesan ministry in advocacy and social justice...so far.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

None of this work would be possible without the strong relationships that we have developed with amazing organizations working for a better Colorado for all. In 2018, we became the first denomination-wide member of Together Colorado, joining them in their ministry and

work of community organizing in Colorado. Our partnership with Together Colorado has focused on state-level immigration reform, intent on creating more oversight and accountability for private prisons like the ICE Processing Center in Aurora, which the GEO Group operates with little outside accountability.

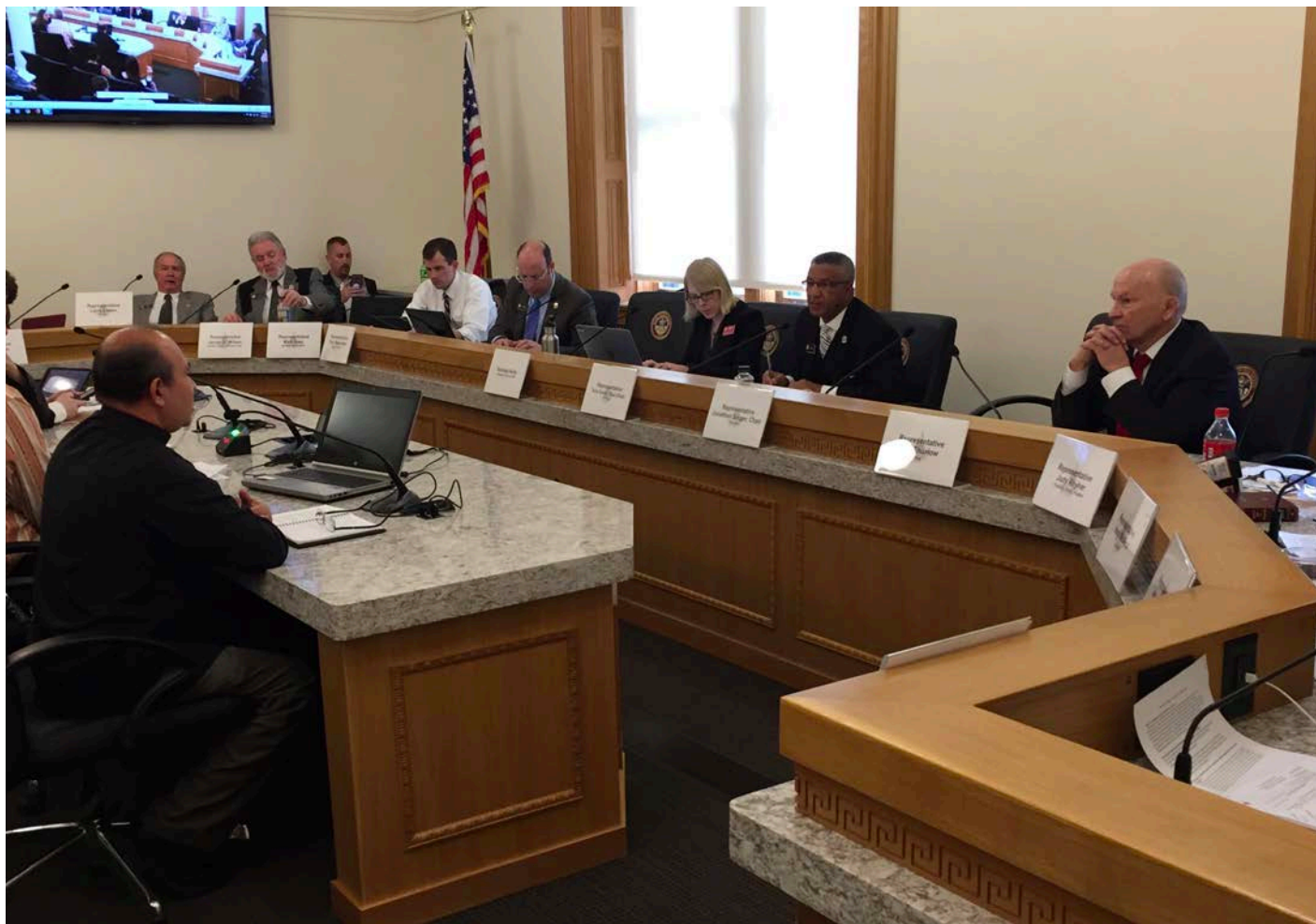
We have also worked closely with the Colorado Council of Churches to form the Voices for Justice group during the 2018 and 2019 legislative sessions. Made up of faith leaders and lay people from many denominations, this group meets every week to track, report on, and analyze policy. In addition, the group identifies major legislation and organizes faith-based testimony at committee hearings in the capitol building.

Many of you may have read in the most recent edition of the *Colorado Episcopalian* that this work has culminated in the formation of Faithful Tuesdays. On Faithful Tuesdays during the legislative session, a coalition of faith groups hosts weekly press conferences and actions in the capitol building to highlight the need for economic justice, equity, and combating racism in our statewide policy. This coalition includes the Episcopal Church in Colorado, the Rocky Mountain Synod (ELCA), Together Colorado, Colorado Council of Churches, Rocky Mountain Rabbinical Council, Colorado Sikhs, the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, the Greater Metro Denver Ministerial Alliance, the NAACP, Mile High Ministries, and more. With an average attendance of 40 to 50 people every week, Faithful Tuesdays offers a public witness to our legislators that the faith community of Colorado wants justice and dignity for all Coloradans.

I'm pleased to say that our ministry brought more than our presence and public witness at the capitol. It brought meaningful legislative results as well.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Our ministry of legislative advocacy has been full of life, community, and connection. The Lent/Easter 2018 edition of the *Colorado Episcopalian* ("Christ Has No Body Now But Yours") explains how all of our legislative advocacy is rooted in the acts of General Convention of the Episcopal Church and the resolutions of Executive Council, which are the governing bodies of the Episcopal Church. This rootedness gives us the full weight of the Church as we pursue policies that bring dignity, justice, and compassion. This rootedness, combined with the community connections I just described, have resulted in some truly incredible victories. I want to give you two examples: a bill and a constitutional amendment. On the heels of the DACA announcement in 2017, the immigrants' rights community in Colorado was hard at work improving the lives of immigrants in Colorado. Our primary focus was SB251, a bill to protect, strengthen, and improve an existing program that allowed certain undocumented immigrants to receive a valid Colorado driver license.



The Rev. César Hernández testifies before a House Committee in support of a bill that would expand a program to provide driver licenses to eligible undocumented immigrants in Colorado. Photo courtesy Anthony Suggs



Episcopalians at the official launch of the Abolish Slavery Colorado campaign. Photo courtesy Anthony Suggs

Access to these identity documents improves access to work opportunities, keeps individuals safe from the dangers of uninsured driving, and reduces overall numbers of detentions and deportations, many of which start with traffic stops. One of our own Latino mission developers, the Rev. César Hernández, testified before a house committee in support of this bill. Ultimately, our coalition was able to secure bipartisan support in the 2018 legislative session and passed the bill through the Senate (controlled by Republicans) and the House (controlled by Democrats), making life easier and safer for our immigrant brothers and sisters in Colorado. Our work continued in 2019 when we successfully passed a bill expanding the program from four to ten DMV offices across the state.

During the same legislative session, we were also laying the groundwork for the full abolition of slavery from the Colorado state constitution. At that time, our constitution prohibited slavery and involuntary servitude except as punishment for crime. We joined many other Coloradans in saying that slavery and involuntary servitude should be prohibited without exception. There are two ways a constitutional amendment can make it to the ballot to be approved by the people: an amendment can be petitioned with signatures or be referred by the legislature. Amendment A was referred by the legislature. Not only that, it passed unanimously through both chambers, an almost unheard of level of bipartisanship.

A similar amendment was proposed in 2016 by many of the same people we are currently working with. But the language included in the Colorado Voter Guide (and the ballot itself) was confusing, and the amendment failed. This time, we decided to make the ballot language a top priority. I chaired the legislative subcommittee responsible for fine tuning the language and worked with the Legislative Council to ensure that Colorado voters could finally end slavery in all circumstances. In the end, we won, and the Church played its part in passing a constitutional amendment.

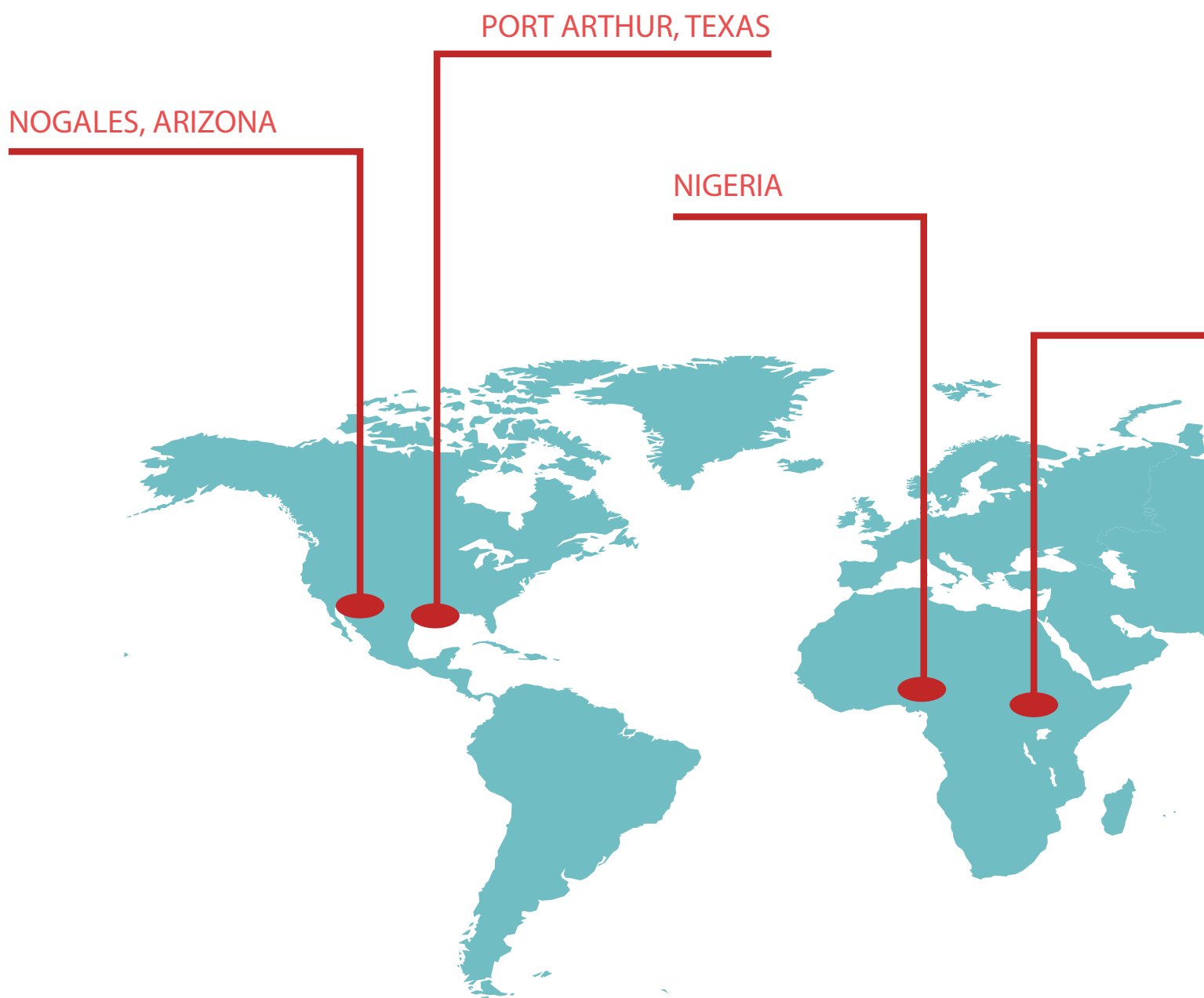
So, as you can see, we have much to celebrate, and it is in celebrating this achievement that we can discern the next steps of our ministry as the Episcopal Church in Colorado. What gifts are you already bringing to the table? How can I better involve you, your loved ones, and your community? I look forward to hearing from you because, as amazing as the last two years have been, I'm sure it will be nothing compared to what we can do together going forward. ■

ANTHONY SUGGS is the Missioner for Advocacy & Social Justice for the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Advocacy & Social Justice Ministry in the Episcopal Church in Colorado, please visit episcopalcolorado.org/advocacy.

Mission Trips Around the World

BY BUCK BLANCHARD



“In God’s world, there are no lines that separate local from national, from international. We are all God’s people. And if we are called to love the other, we have to go and meet them, no matter where they live.”

SOUTH SUDAN



Churches throughout the Episcopal Church in Colorado are involved in a wide variety of local outreach efforts. Some have ministries helping the homeless, or working with at-risk youth, combatting climate change, or improving race relations. The list goes on. Local outreach is critical to the health of our churches and our communities, and the backbone of our commitment to serve others.

Many of our churches also have developed relationships with others outside of their local contexts. Some of these are around the state, across the country, and throughout the world. Several are featured below. It is inspiring, and humbling, to see the ministries in which people from the Episcopal Church in Colorado engage around the world.

When we connect to others throughout the world, we put ourselves in a position to respect the dignity of every human being. Because humanity does not stop at a city, county, or state border. In God’s world, there are no lines that separate local from national, from international. We are all God’s people. And if we are called to love the other, we have to go and meet them, no matter where they live.

NIGERIA

by Terrie Abbot

Trinity Episcopal Church in Greeley recently sent three parishioners on a medical mission to Egbelu, a small village in Nigeria. Terrie Abbot and two doctors, Michael Sturm and Stewart Abbot, her husband, brought with them six large suitcases filled with eyeglasses, prescription medicines, and medical supplies. The team is part of the Beatitude Care Foundation, a Colorado nonprofit whose goal is to establish a maternity and children’s health center in Egbelu. Their mission was supported by Trinity Episcopal Church and a grant from the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

The team spent five days offering free medical care to the people of the area surrounding Egbelu.



Dr. Stewart Abbot meets with a patient in Nigeria.
Photo courtesy Terrie Abbot

Dr. Mike, an optometrist, examined over 250 patients and gave out over 100 pairs of eyeglasses. He was struck by the number of severe cataracts he saw. He treated people for infections and glaucoma and gave out vitamins.

Dr. Stewart was joined by Celine Orji, a nurse midwife who works for the Health Center, and Chika Ejekwu, a medical student. They treated patients for maladies ranging from malaria and typhoid to hypertension and diabetes. Terrie dispensed over 76,000 pills, all of which had to be counted and packaged once they arrived in Nigeria. Overall, 1,000 people received care during the week.

The Beatitude Care Center is the dream of Fr. John Nkwocha, a priest from Egbelu serving in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pueblo, Colorado. In April 2017, the Abbots started the Beatitude Care Foundation to fund the building of the center. In April of this year the first building was completed and will house a maternity center and clinic. The complete story can be found at BeatitudeCareFoundation.org.

SOUTH SUDAN

by Buck Blanchard

Project Education South Sudan (PESS) is an organization supported by several Episcopal parishes in Colorado, as well as numerous individuals throughout the state. PESS seeks to

empower young women in Bor, South Sudan, by providing funding for them to attend secondary school. While primary education is free in South Sudan, most secondary schools in Bor are private. The cost to educate one young woman is \$1,000 per year.

I recently traveled to Bor to better understand the situation there. My host was Daniel Majok Gai, the executive director of PESS. A former Lost Boy, Daniel immigrated to the United States in 2001 and became a U.S. citizen in 2017. After receiving his education in the Denver area, Daniel returned to Bor to help empower women there. Fifty-three young women are being supported by PESS and many others have completed the program. Some graduates now work for NGOs in town, while others have gone on to vocational-training school. One graduate now attends medical school. Daniel reports that more than 200 women are waiting for support, unable to further their education.



Daniel Majok Gai, Executive Director of PESS.
Photo courtesy Buck Blanchard

Daniel will visit Colorado and present at Saint John's Cathedral on Thursday, September 12, to raise awareness of the need for education for young women in South Sudan. As Daniel put it: "Educated women are better members of society. And they understand the importance of educating their children. It's not just about getting an education to find a better job. It's about building a better community."

NOGALES

by the Rev. Bruce Swinehart

This past June, St. Mary Magdalene, Boulder, sent a delegation of 11 adults and teenagers to learn about conditions along the U.S.-Mexico border in and around Nogales, which spans the Arizona-Mexico border. The group was hosted by Deacon Roger Babnew of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Nogales, Arizona, and the Rev. Mateo Chavez, a Lutheran pastor from Tucson. They work



The St. Mary Magdalene team meets with U.S. Border Patrol agents at the Nogales Border Patrol Station. Photo courtesy the Rev. Bruce Swinehart

intensively with an ecumenical border ministry called Cruzando Fronteras (Crossing Borders).

The team visited migrants and did service work at a shelter recently established by Cruzando Fronteras. Families at the shelter were from Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico and had been waiting for up to 12 weeks for an opportunity to present themselves at the Port of Entry to claim asylum. The St. Mary Magdalene team also assisted at a monthly Children's Health Clinic operating at St. Andrew's for 47 years. As many as 250–300 children travel with their families from Mexico each month to receive pediatric care. The team also visited with Shura Wallin, a founder of Green Valley Samaritans, which provides humanitarian assistance to migrants traveling through the nearby Sonoran Desert. She showed the team left-behind items that told compelling stories of the harrowing journey.

The team met with two U.S. Border Patrol agents at the Border Patrol Station in Nogales. The agents provided an overview of their mission and gave the group tours of the station and the border fence. They also visited with a group of 35 migrants at a church in Tucson; they had just the night before been released from detention, having been judged to have credible cases for asylum. Area churches provide these folks with food and short-term shelter and help to arrange transportation to their U.S. destinations.

PORT ARTHUR

by Tina Clark

In June, YES (Young Episcopalians in Service) traveled to Port Arthur, Texas, for continuing Hurricane Harvey recovery work. During the week, the group of 20 high schoolers and six adult leaders learned that as the two-year anniversary of the storm approaches, hundreds of families have still not been able to return to their

homes. In the meantime, nonprofits are running out of funds and volunteers.

The team's work for the week centered on projects to finish a house and return it to the family who had owned it for over 60 years. Every member of the group was able to spend time with the family matriarch, listening to her relate stories of faith and community in the midst of trauma and loss.



The YES Colorado Hurricane Recovery Team. Photo courtesy Tina Clark

As always, the youth team's hard work was matched in equal measure with fun, friendship, laughter, music, dancing, and gratitude for their time together and the chance to connect in meaningful relationships with the community they served. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION about mission trips organized or supported by the Episcopal Church in Colorado, please contact Buck Blanchard, Missioner for Outreach & Mission, at Buck@EpiscopalColorado.org.

RADICAL GENEROSITY

A service at St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church, Aurora, with the Rev. Shelley Ryan, Rector.
Photo courtesy Barbara Thomas

Forward in Love

Speaking the Language of the Spirit

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. –Mark 12:30

BY PAUL ALEXANDER

Do you often feel as if you are speaking different languages when you engage with others? Maybe you've led a stewardship effort and wondered why those sharing the pews with you don't understand the importance of your church's work and the need to fund it? Are people missing the message? Or is the message getting lost in the way it's being communicated?

Scripture, when we are open to it, often gives us an entry point to listening deeply and meeting others where they are.

We are called to love the Lord our God and our neighbor with all our heart, soul, mind, and

strength. If we reach out in love and speak intentionally in a holistic way, we can more readily connect with each person and have a better chance of moving forward with a common understanding of our purpose and the work ahead.

What does it mean to love our neighbor with our heart? Heart is about relationship. Do our words and actions show that we care about the people in our midst? Those approaching the world from their heart center want people to be treated with compassion and understanding. Their key needs are to know with whom we are engaging and how we are going to meet them in a positive way. Empathy is key. Loving with our heart means we have to feel what the other person is feeling: connect to

“What does it mean to love our neighbor with our heart? Heart is about relationship. Do our words and actions show that we care about the people in our midst?”

their joy, sadness, anger, and fear. Our heart seeks connection with other human beings.

To love with soul is to enter into life with the fullness of one's being. Our soul wants to know our purpose here on earth, to find meaning in our lives and in our shared community. Those approaching life from their soul center want to know why we are doing the work we are doing. What is our purpose? How will this relate to our mission? Our soul seeks connection with God and the divine trajectory of the universe. How will our work together make the world a better place, with more possibilities for everyone?

To engage with mind calls us to be thoughtful and analytical: to use the best of our intellectual reasoning. People approaching life from their mind center want to know if our work stands up to good logical analysis. Can we prove through measurement and evaluation that what we are doing actually will make a difference? Is there a clear path from point A to point B? Do the facts and the data add up? Is it clear that we have looked at the issue from every different perspective possible, weighing the pros and cons of each?

To operate in strength is to act, to show boldness, to get things done. And also, to set clear hard boundaries that will guide our work. Those approaching life from a perspective of strength want to know when work will begin and end. They want a chance to be involved and share their skills. They rise to a challenge. They want to know that our work will make us the best church we can be, better even than that other church next door. They will ensure that we remain true to our traditions, canons, and underlying structures.

As we enter the planning season for our fall stewardship campaigns, we can apply these messages in our communications and how we engage others. If we structure our messaging

and the way we explain our budgets to address these ways of being in the world, we increase our chances of meeting our needs and fulfilling our mission. More important, we meet people where they are and engage them in a way that is most meaningful to them.

FEELING FROM THE HEART

Does our message show that we care about those in our congregation and those in the surrounding neighborhood? Do we show understanding that our parishioners might be in debt over their heads or struggling with their rent? Or that this year they might be caring for elderly parents or struggling with a health issue. Does it show that we walk in solidarity with those in the detention center or on the streets? Have we paid attention to staff and the rector who appear tired and overworked? Do our words express how we feel?

UNDERSTANDING FROM THE SOUL

Does our message have a clear purpose? Does our budget have a direct tie to our work as disciples of Christ? How does it reflect our church's mission? In what ways does it meet the needs of our parish community, the poor and the homeless, and change the very nature of our society and way of being in the world? Is it grounded in discernment and prayer? Do our choices reflect our understanding of God's word and what we believe about money? Has the message and work been blessed by our rector, our bishop, and/or by our Presiding Bishop Curry as reflecting the Way of Love? Is there a champion for the way forward? Is it clear that the budget and programming have come from the voice of the people, reflecting their wants? Did we make space to hear what the parishioners care about? And have we made plans for celebrating and recognizing everyone for their particular gifts?

OBSERVING FROM THE MIND CENTER

Have you laid out a clear case for next year's needs and plans? Was a clear analysis done? Can you show that you have researched the costs, including a regional analysis of price increases? What was the

reasoning behind choosing new technology over a new administrative staff or fixing the leaky roof? Can you show that the youth program is making a real difference in our kids' lives? Do you have a graphic explaining where the money is going and where it needs to come from? Have you addressed parishioners' fears by walking them through the different ways to give? A common means of looking at giving is by discussing blended gifts, explaining how the gift could be done through cash, stock gifts, annuities, or some other vehicle. Does the latest tax bill make it more practical to give in alternate years? Have you been transparent, helping them understand that there are no hidden motives in the budget?

MOVING FORWARD FROM A PLACE OF STRENGTH

Can you show clear movement in the work of the church? If you are hiring a new staff member, will the search begin now so you can hit the ground running when the new year starts? Can others participate in the search by calling other churches to find out what they are paying or conducting other research on salaries? Have you set boundaries on the scope of the new staff position and the work so there will be no surprises? Are you living within the bylaws and canons of the church? Is it guided by our Episcopal traditions and liturgy?

Make space for everyone to participate and to feel heard. Heart people can help with social events and care visits. Soul members can speak to the vision of the church and hold the prayer center. Mind congregants can guide strategy, help with the analysis, and do your spreadsheets. Strength bearers can help with accountability and the day-to-day work.

Love, engage, and communicate with heart, soul, mind, and strength. You shall be blessed and receive a hundredfold more. ■

PAUL ALEXANDER is the Missioner for Development and Financial Stewardship for the Episcopal Church in Colorado.





WALKING THE WAY OF LOVE

TURN • LEARN • PRAY • WORSHIP • BLESS • GO • REST

2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 3-5, 2019 • MARRIOTT, DENVER TECH CENTER

 THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN
COLORADO

MISSIONAL LIVING

THROUGH LOVE & SERVICE

BY DEACON JAN PEARSON





Deacon Jan Pearson (center) at REMAR orphanage in El Salvador.
Photo courtesy Deacon Jan Pearson

Almost 30 years ago, a priest in our diocese asked me to accompany a group of young people—eight teen-aged girls, it turned out—on a mission trip to Texas, just a few feet from the Mexican border.

There we would be working on a building project, mostly putting up walls and installing floors for an orphanage school. Most of the children, from infants to teens, had been abandoned on the streets of Juarez.

The prospect of leaving family and work for 10 days was daunting. So I did what I do with major decisions: I prayed that God would give me clarity and direction. Yielding to the prodding of the Spirit and my friend, I said yes.

This first mission, thirty years ago, was the beginning of many opportunities to share the Gospel with others through love and service and another step in my journey to ordained ministry.

Since that first trip, I have led other mission trips with groups composed of adults and teens. Our groups have built affordable housing in Mexico and in Colorado, remodeled a worship and meeting facility for substance abusers in New Mexico, and remodeled several Episcopal churches on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota while building relationships with our Lakota brothers and sisters. The best part was being able to bring my own children on many of these trips, watching them gain a greater understanding of cultures different from their own and learning from their peers and mentors, people who had responded to the call to serve others. With careful planning and preparation, mission trips can make a positive impact on all involved.

Thirty years later, with 16 mission trips under my belt, I can report that a group of adults and teens from St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, where I serve as deacon, just completed its third mission trip to El Salvador. Considered a dangerous destination for most Americans, El Salvador is beset with gangs. Every business, store, and mom-and-pop

shop in San Salvador, the capital city, is guarded by armed guards. Yet the orphanage, REMAR*, feels safe in the midst of turmoil. Mari Gonzales, director of REMAR, explains: "The gangs know who we are and what we do and leave us alone."

REMAR is an orphanage, home to 120 children, each of them survivors of neglected communities and homes. Newborns to teens (up to the age of 16) are welcome at REMAR, which has the goal of helping its children claim their lives through nurture, education, and rehabilitation. REMAR's school is also open to the youth in its home village of El Tunco.

Our three trips to REMAR have involved physical labor. We helped to build a dormitory and a guest house. This year's project was building pigpens for REMAR's next enterprise, raising hogs for food and selling pigs to the community. We surmounted a



Members of the St. Ambrose Episcopal Church mission team help build walls that will house 30 hogs at the REMAR orphanage. Photo courtesy Jan Pearson

significant challenge on this trip. The pigpens were to be built at the top of the compound, requiring us to hand carry all our materials up the hill at about a 45-degree angle. Did I mention that the path up the hill was muddy from the monsoon rains? Then there was a magnitude 6.6 earthquake, offshore, at 4:00 am. Local schools were cancelled for two days for fear of tsunamis.

In addition to our construction work, we spent time with the children on a number of arts-and-crafts projects, math activities, health classes for girls and boys, and just relaxing and playing games with the children.

My mission work has had an enormous impact on my life and my ministry. Each trip has helped me develop relationships, some of them only brief encounters, while others have resulted in lasting relationships. It has been my objective to lead mission groups into servant ministry, offering opportunities for adults and teens to stretch their comfort levels while serving the least in the world. My hope and prayer is that the work done on these 16 mission trips has served others with love, respect, and compassion. ■

THE REV. JAN PEARSON serves as the deacon at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in Boulder and as the General Manager of the 32nd Avenue Jubilee Center in northwest Denver.

***REMAR ORPHANAGE** is one of four organizations that works with children for which the Rev. Peter Munson, former rector of St. Ambrose, is raising money through his walk across America. More information about Peter's walk and his efforts to raise funds for REMAR can be found at <https://www.6millionstepsforkids.org/>.



Members of the St. Ambrose Episcopal Church mission team help build the foundation and walls for a guest house at the REMAR orphanage. Photo courtesy Jan Pearson



Walking the Camino to Spain

OCT 20-NOV 3, 2020

FOLLOWING THE FRENCH WAY TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

A Camino Pilgrimage for Episcopalians across Colorado

Have you dreamed of making a pilgrimage walking the Camino to Santiago, Spain? For 2020, we have created an inspiring Camino Pilgrimage open to all Episcopalians across Colorado. On this journey we will experience the life-changing power of walking the Camino, build relationships across the Church in Colorado, and deepen our bonds with the Reformed Episcopal Church in Spain.

We will encounter God in the awe-inspiring landscape of France and Spain and witness the power of the Spirit revealed in pilgrims we will meet along the Way.

Our Camino journey will begin in France in the faith-inspiring village of Lourdes, before traveling north to join the French Way, walking the Camino to Santiago, Spain. This pilgrimage invites pilgrims to experience their faith like never before.

Contact the Reverend Canon Greg Foraker, Missioner for Faith Formation, at Greg@EpiscopalColorado.org, or learn more at EpiscopalColorado.org/CaminoPilgrimage.



Journey Pilgrims meet with Bishop Carlos López Lozano of the Spanish Episcopal Church in front of Cathedral of the Redeemer, Madrid. Photo courtesy the Rev. Canon Greg Foraker

Exploring the World, Meeting God

BY THE REV. CANON GREG FORAKER

A pilgrimage is a journey that invites us to reflect on the deepest questions of our inner lives, our journey with God, and our relationships in community, near and far.

And so it was for the Youth Leadership Pilgrims drawn from across the Episcopal Church in Colorado. In June 2019, young people from Cortez, Westminster, Englewood, Broomfield, and Denver embarked on an inspiring journey to Spain to walk the Camino—their goal, Santiago. Their pilgrimage was the culmination of a three-year training program, formerly known as the Colorado Youth Leadership Initiative (COYLI) and now

known as Journey. Building on personal growth and leadership skills gained in prior summer residencies at Cathedral Ridge and on a cultural exchange in Haiti, the youth now engaged, like all Camino pilgrims in Spain, in the intense work of integration—body, mind, and spirit—while encountering the profound spiritual realities and landscape of Spain.

Arriving first in Madrid, Bishop Carlos López Lozano of the Spanish Episcopal Church warmly welcomed the pilgrims at the Episcopal Cathedral of the Redeemer. The bishop related the stirring history of the Spanish Episcopal Church and then

shared his vision for a future Anglican Centre for Pilgrims in Santiago. After sharing breakfast and providing a tour of the cathedral, Bishop Carlos gathered the pilgrims for prayer, then blessed and gave each of them a treasured shell, the ancient and enduring symbol of the Camino.

Canon to the Ordinary Spencer Reece of the Spanish Episcopal Church accompanied the pilgrims to Ávila, where they learned about radical reformer Teresa of Ávila. They visited the place Teresa was born in 1515, convents she founded, and even the room where John of the Cross served as her spiritual director. They learned about her great writing, *The Interior Castle*, and her imagery of the spiritual life as a journey through seven rooms or “mansions.”

Traveling to the village of Alba de Tormes, the youth visited the basilica where Teresa’s heart and elbow are venerated in glass reliquaries in a chapel over her tomb. In this thought-provoking and soul-stirring place, the pilgrims became more deeply aware of Teresa as a powerful leader whose life and teaching brought both renewal to prayer practice and radical reform to a church and society caught up in the horrors of the Spanish Inquisition.

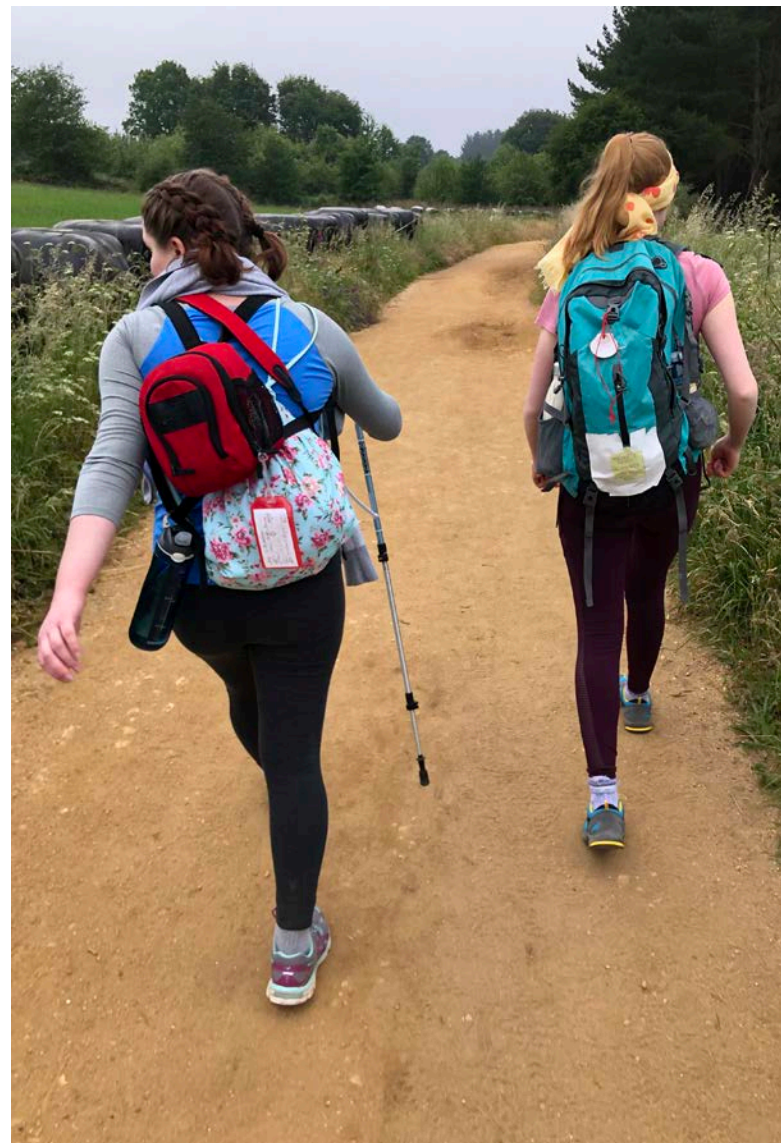
Back in Ávila, Canon Spencer invited the pilgrims to remember the profound and quiet places where God speaks to each of us, especially in the many steps walking the Camino. The young people visited a unique place, the Mysticism Interpretation Centre. Empowered by what they had learned about Teresa and their quiet reflection in this holy place, the youth were ready to begin their Camino walk.

And walk they did. Over five days these resilient pilgrims walked from Sarria to Santiago. They began their walk near the emblematic Cruz de Ferro, the Iron Cross, making their way across mountains and through valleys, walking a path that pilgrims have taken for over 1,300 years. At Cruz, they joined countless pilgrims through the centuries, pausing in reflection, leaving a stone from home, and remembering those who have gone before and who have inspired their life and their faith.

Further on, the pilgrim band gathered on top of the mountain in the ancient church at O Cebreiro, where they reaffirmed their baptismal promises and offered an intention to walk with Jesus on the Camino ahead. Over the next days, the pilgrims traversed widely varying terrain and every surface imaginable: cobblestones, rocky trails, marshy bogs,

small bridges, and hard pavement along highways. Along the Way, the pilgrims learned about aches and blisters and about overcoming pain to carry on. They learned how to take care of themselves, and in the same moment, offer compassionate care to those walking the Way with them.

These young people met fellow pilgrims from all over the world, places as far away as Taiwan and Brazil, and all across Europe. They encountered families with young children in addition to other youth groups. These future leaders, like countless pilgrims before them, found transformation on the communal Camino, discovering the ways God was calling them into young adulthood. They engaged in meaningful conversations with pilgrims along the way, sharing stories and reflections of their journey.



Journey Pilgrims walk and reflect on the Camino.
Photo courtesy the Rev. Canon Greg Foraker

They began to realize they were not walking only for themselves in an act of personal achievement, but were being called to be ambassadors of faith for the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

Over five days, the pilgrims walked 20 to 25 kilometers a day, from Portomarin, through the ancient village of Ribadiso, and over the Galician hills into O Pino. They encountered sudden thunderstorms, fog and mist, but thankfully no excessive heat. Just as it seemed the journey was without end, the pilgrims were energized as they arrived at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. They visited the pilgrim office, collecting their Compostelas, evidence that they had indeed completed the arduous 115-kilometer walk from Sarria to Santiago.

Arriving in Santiago, the pilgrims found Bishop Carlos there waiting for them with a warm smile and congratulations. Their first Camino friend from Madrid was there in Santiago to welcome them and celebrate the Eucharist with them. The pilgrims listened while the Bishop of Spain set out his vision for a new Anglican Centre for Pilgrims in Santiago, a place of welcome, hospitality, and study. They could now imagine this possibility in a new way, after they themselves had received the gift of welcome from so many along the Camino, especially their new friends from the Spanish Episcopal Church.

Renewed and refreshed, they entered the cathedral and prayed at the tomb of the Apostle James, remembering one of the sons of Zebedee and imagining what it must have been like to be one of those first Twelve, called to walk the Way with Jesus. Finally, they made their way to Fisterra, for centuries known in Europe as the end of the known world, to gaze across the Atlantic and to listen where God would next call them on their life journeys. Sharing the Eucharist at the end of their pilgrimage at Fisterra, the Colorado pilgrims were reminded that they were now ambassadors of faith and hospitality, leaders called to share the gifts they received in Spain as their Camino continued at home in Colorado.

Nourished in body and spirit, these leaders made their way back to Denver, where they were surprised to be welcomed at their late airport arrival by Bishop Kym Lucas, who blessed them and called them to continue their Camino here at home, walking the Way with Jesus, listening for God's call, and offering generous hospitality and compassion in their Colorado communities. ■

THE REV. CANON GREG FORAKER is the Missioner for Faith Formation for the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about Journey, visit EpiscopalColorado.org/Journey.



Journey Pilgrims gathered following the Eucharist at Santa Susanna in Santiago, Spain at the end of their walk. Photo courtesy the Rev. Canon Greg Foraker



Above: Pilgrims gather at Cruz de Ferro to pray and leave stones in memory of those who have gone before.

Below: Journey Youth walk the final day on the Camino approaching Santiago.

Photos courtesy the Rev. Canon Greg Foraker



TAKING THE JOURNEY!

Journey is the new youth leadership course for rising ninth to eleventh grade students from across the Episcopal Church in Colorado. We recognize that youth and their families are unique, and leadership and service is not one-size-fits-all. This three-tiered, self-selective course is a flexible and accessible journey for those wanting to develop leadership skills, put those skills to practical use in service to others, and discover more about themselves as they start across the bridge to adulthood. The Journey course can be completed in as little as two years or can be drawn out to span several years as students take their time to learn and participate in several projects in Tier Two. Journey is led by dynamic adults from around the state and is designed to adjust and best fit each participant's gifts and interests in leadership as well as each individual's timeline. For information and to join the Journey next summer, contact Elizabeth Cervasio, Director of Children & Youth Ministry, at Elizabeth@EpiscopalColorado.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Spanish Episcopal Church is an indigenous, autonomous church of the Anglican Communion, formed in the late 19th century for reasons of biblical conscience, and desiring episcopacy and an ordered, vernacular liturgy. This small, resilient church counts 26 parishes and missions across Spain. With limited resources, the Spanish Episcopal Church has nevertheless grown its mission and ministry dedicated to welcome and hospitality. In living out this mission, they are working to create an Anglican Centre for Pilgrims in Santiago, a place to welcome Episcopalians and Protestants from around the world with an open and inclusive altar, a place for retreat and renewal at the end of a Camino journey, and a place for intensive residential Spanish-language study.

FUTURE PILGRIMAGES TO SPAIN

The ancient tradition of walking the Camino to Santiago has continued for over 1,300 years. In November 2019, a group of 24 adult pilgrims from across Colorado will walk the Portugués Way north to Santiago. Plans are now underway for the next Camino Pilgrimage for adults of the Episcopal Church in Colorado in October 2020 along the French Way through the Pyrenees and the Basque region. For information about future Camino Pilgrimages, contact the Rev. Canon Greg Foraker, Missioner for Faith Formation, at Greg@EpiscopalColorado.org.

An Invitation to Sabbath

BY THE REV. KIM SEIDMAN

I am a better version of myself when I rest.

The word rest can mean a lot of things: sleep, obviously, as important to our wellness as nutrition and exercise; relaxing with a favorite show or surfing channels can be restful at the end of a day; but the kind of rest the Way of Love invites is Sabbath rest. This kind of rest is holy, restoring us to unity with ourselves, God, and one another.

There is something about laying aside the to-do lists for a time that recalls the truth that God made human beings, not human doings. God rested

after the work of creation, and we, too, made in the divine image, are designed for this rhythm of creative work and rest.

As I've grown in the practice of Sabbath rest, I've noticed its observance takes some measure of discipline—a dedication of intention, time, and space.

INTENTION

Sabbath rest doesn't just happen. It needs to be calendared as any other important appointment. Sabbath is not a reward when the to-do list is complete (when is that, anyway?!). Rather, Sabbath can give the to-do list meaning. Holy rest is not an

“There is something about laying aside the to-do lists for a time that recalls the truth God made human beings, not human doings. God rested after the work of creation, and we, too, made in the divine image, are designed for this rhythm of creative work and rest.”

absence, but a presence; not an emptiness, but a fullness. It is a turning to God to restore our souls.

TIME

“No one ever looks for clergy on Mondays,” someone told me in my first parish. As a general rule, that’s been my experience. For a while I tried Fridays, but the end of the week became a day to catch up or write a sermon that hadn’t yet matured. Mondays, during school hours, are ideal for me. I step away from technology and to-do lists and immerse myself in something non-productive and recreational. Walter Brueggemann and others have urged the observance of Sabbath as a counter-cultural resistance to a society that places economic value on ceaseless productivity. Remarkably, I’ve found that the world keeps spinning without me actively contributing for a day. Making time for Sabbath reminds me that I am Created, not Creator, and that life is a gift to be enjoyed. My core identity as a beloved child of God rests in who I am, not what I do.

SPACE

Being intentional about my location helps me enter more readily into a spirit of rest. My soul is renewed in God’s creation, so I spend most of my Sabbath time outside, as far away from traffic and connectivity as possible. The slower pace of the natural world helps me reconnect with my body and remember that I am a living being, not a machine. Sometimes I’m drawn into museums to enjoy created beauty. Other times I seek out sacred spaces: chapels, labyrinths, retreat centers—thin places that restore the soul.

INVITATION

For the last nine years I have experienced Cathedral Ridge as a place of Sabbath. Just approaching mile marker 81 on Hwy 67 and making the turn onto

County Road 342, I can feel myself relax and enter into a different quality of time and space.

There is something about getting away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life—from the instant connectivity of our smartphones to the slower pace of nature; having healthy delicious food prepared; and settling in peaceful accommodations that provide rest for all the senses. Natural beauty and gracious hospitality enable me to listen more deeply for the quiet voice of the holy—in myself and in my neighbor.

However you can make room in your life for Sabbath, I hope you will reclaim the gift of holy rest. May its practice remind you who you are, and to whom you belong. And if Cathedral Ridge can provide that time and space for you or your community, I can’t wait to welcome you to your home away from home. ■

THE REV. KIM SEIDMAN begins as Vicar and Executive Director of Cathedral Ridge on October 1.

COMING UP AT CATHEDRAL RIDGE

Living Our Baptismal Covenant Retreats

- LGBTQIA Inclusion, December 6-8, 2019
- Creation Care, January 10-12, 2020
- Racial Reconciliation, February 7-9, 2020

Women’s Retreats

- Rest & Renewal, September 6-8, 2019
- Balance & Beauty, January 3-5, 2020

Lenten Retreat, February 6-8, 2020

FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE REAL WORLD

BY THE REV. CANON GREG FORAKER

Following Jesus has never been easy. The first disciples heard Jesus' transforming message of love and redemption in the Galilean countryside and left everything to follow him. They could not resist the power of Jesus' preaching and witnessed acts of unimaginable healing when Jesus ministered among them. Experiencing their faith as never before, they were compelled to proclaim Jesus' message of hope to the world around them, carrying out Jesus' Great Commission to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you," with the promise that, "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

For these earliest Christian disciples, living out the promises they had made in baptism and carrying their faith into world was never easy. The world in which they lived was broken and wracked by violence, discord, and conflict. The Roman Empire oppressed the religious authorities and, as a result, this fledgling tradition rooted in Jesus struggled to take hold. So it has been for disciples of Jesus through the centuries, as empires rose and fell, and as the faithful were persecuted and oppressed. Through the centuries, disciples held fast to the faith in Jesus, first planted in them at baptism.

Living out what it means to be a follower of Jesus, a Christian, is rooted in baptism, that transforming gift through which God's loving grace is abundantly poured on every believer and each believer in turn makes a promise, a covenant, affirming faith in Christ and promising to live fully their new life in Christ. As Episcopalians, we make these promises at baptism when we affirm the Baptismal Covenant (*Book of Common Prayer*, pg. 304).

Living the faith we proclaim at baptism is not always easy. In the last of the promises we make at baptism, we are asked, "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? Will you strive for peace and justice among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?" We respond in faith, "I will, with God's help."

A short assent to faith: simple to say, but not so simple to live. For we do not live our lives of faith in the abstract, but concretely and in reality. In seeking to follow Jesus in the real world, a number of congregations from across Colorado have reached out to request additional support and resources. In response, the Faith Formation Team at the Office of the Bishop has curated an extensive range of resources. We have created robust webpages to support congregations and individuals as they seek to grow closer to God and one another, and as we all reflect on and respond to the realities of today.

“Living out what it means to be a follower of Jesus, a Christian, is rooted in baptism, that transforming gift through which God’s loving grace is abundantly poured on every believer and each believer in turn makes a promise, a covenant, affirming faith in Christ and promising to live fully their new life in Christ.”

LGBTQIA EXPERIENCE: RESOURCES FOR WELCOMING & INCLUSION

Many congregations have made a decision to grow in their ability to provide a safe and welcoming place for our LGBTQIA siblings to explore their faith and deepen their relationships in Christian community. Others have already followed the process to become “Believe Out Loud” congregations, discerning as congregations to fully welcome and affirm individuals of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Some are ready to begin this process. Others have begun celebrating same-sex marriages. Discover resources for congregations and resources in this work: <https://episcopalcolorado.org/welcoming-lgbtq-people/>

RACIAL DIVERSITY: RESOURCES FOR RECONCILIATION & JUSTICE

Many congregations are responding to the compelling need for greater justice and reconciliation within and among our racially diverse communities. As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we dream and work to foster Beloved Communities where all people may experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves and others as beloved children of God. Together, we are striving to grow as reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers in the name of Christ. Resources for this life-giving work are currently being curated.

CREATION CARE: RESOURCES FOR HONORING & HEALING THE EARTH

Some congregations are dedicated to deepening their commitment to caring for God’s creation, reverencing the Earth and working to reverse climate change. Caring for creation means striving for justice and peace among all people by living in mindful, ethical, and humane relationship with the earth, its resources, and the life it supports, and by seeking to restore a healthy environment in the face of problems such as environmental degradation and climate change that harm the health, safety, and economic well-being of

people. Find resources to meet these realities here: <https://episcopalcolorado.org/caring-for-creation/>

The work of living more deeply into our faith and widening our circle of welcome is not linear in nature. It is a rich and complex journey of ongoing transformation as we live still more fully our baptismal covenant. Conflict and violence arise when people of diverse experiences and perspectives lose connection with one another and the bonds of our common humanity are broken. Across the Episcopal Church in Colorado, congregations are seeking new ways to reach out and become agents of reconciliation and healing in their communities.

Mentors, coaches, and advisors from across the Episcopal Church in Colorado have joined in this work and are available to assist congregations in growing in their ability to respond faithfully to the realities of our day. You can connect with mentors on each of the Living Our Baptismal Covenant resources pages: <https://episcopalcolorado.org/living-out-our-baptismal-covenant/>

Over the next several months, retreats at Cathedral Ridge will be offered to support congregations in building skills and strengthening their ability to respond in each of these realities. ■

THE REV. CANON GREG FORAKER is the Missioner for Faith Formation for the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

The Faith Formation Team is ready and available to support this work in congregations. Please reach out to anyone on the Faith Formation team:

The Rev. Canon Greg Foraker
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Greg@EpiscopalColorado.org

Tracy Methe
Faith Formation Coordinator
Tracy@EpiscopalColorado.org

Elizabeth Cervasio
Director of Children and Youth Ministry
Elizabeth@EpiscopalColorado.org



DISCOVER EMBRACE BECOME

BY THE REV. CANON GREG FORAKER & TRACY METHE

How do we feed and nurture the seeker in our midst? The seeker may be the one who comes to church not quite sure what brought her there, the person who has been away from church but now feels the need to return, or the steady parishioner suddenly called to go deeper into his faith. *Discover, Embrace, Become* is about helping others get at the heart of Christianity—revealing to them the main thing, which is the undiluted, unconditional Love of Christ and the call to share this love with one another.

In ancient times this work evolved into what became known as the catechumenate. Christianity (The Way) was new to the world and the catechumenate was a (three-year!) process for forming people in the faith in a world unfamiliar with Christianity. Since the time when the earliest Christians gathered, seekers came asking questions, searching for meaning, and yearning for an experience of the risen Christ in their lives.

We find ourselves in a similar position now, with many people either having no personal experience of the Christian faith, or a narrow and perhaps misleading view of Christianity seen through the

lens of the media. What is our process for bringing these individuals into the faith in modern times?

A MODERN-DAY CATECHUMENATE

Discover, Embrace, Become invites seekers into a way of faith-exploration that allows them to:

- Discover the heart of our Christian faith
- Embrace a new way of being while beginning to understand what it means to be Episcopalian
- Prepare spiritually to become knit to the Body of Christ

The three modules of *Discover, Embrace, Become* mirror the phases of a traditional catechumenate with a time of inquiry, catechumenate period, and sacred preparation for baptism.

The process will be welcoming, flexible, and open-ended in order to create a space where seekers can explore the questions stirring in the depths of their hearts. It will take advantage of current technology and learning innovations, allowing it to meet the diverse needs of parishes around the state.

DISCOVER:

A MODERN-DAY CATECHUMENATE

This is a time for seekers to begin to tell their own stories, exploring the questions: *Where have I experienced God in my life? How can I tell my story? How do we make meaning in our lives? Is there something greater than ourselves?* In-person or online groups will gather each week for a time of learning and sharing. All groups will be facilitated and nurtured by trained mentors.

EMBRACE:

THE RITE OF WELCOME

This initial rite, for seekers desiring to enter the catechumenate period, will be celebrated on the first Sunday of Advent, marking the passage of seekers into the catechumenate and welcoming all who are preparing for baptism, reception, or reaffirmation of their Christian faith.

THE CATECHUMENATE PERIOD

Embrace builds on the work of *Discover*. This is a time for seekers to hear the Church's story, and to begin to understand what it means to be an Episcopalian. Throughout *Embrace*, participants explore the most important beliefs and practices of the Christian community.

BECOME:

THE RITE OF ENROLLMENT

This second rite will be celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent, when catechumens are welcomed and received in the congregation. Celebrating this

rite at the Cathedral recognizes both the ancient tradition of seeking faith in the Church and affirms the bonds that reflect life in the Episcopal Church.

PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM

The third module builds on the spiritual work of *Embrace*, as participants enter a time of extended retreat and spiritual preparation for baptism, delving more deeply into the questions arising for them, and integrating all they have been experiencing and learning into what it means to live the Christian life.

ON-SITE OR ONLINE: TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

The needs of individual churches around the state are wonderfully unique. *Discover, Embrace, Become* is flexible and adaptable to the diverse needs of parishes.

- Many parishes may have a large enough group of seekers to have in-person sessions, but may choose to follow the *Discover, Embrace, Become* hybrid process and use the weekly teaching videos and other resources found online.
- Parishes with individual seekers, or a small group of seekers, may find the online version of *Discover, Embrace, Become* is a meaningful way to be in community with seekers from other parishes across the state.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about *Discover, Embrace, Become*, contact any member of the Faith Formation team in the Office of the Bishop at 303.837.1173 or Faith@EpiscopalColorado.org. ■

THE REV. CANON GREG FORAKER is the Missioner for Faith Formation for the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

TRACY METHE is the Faith Formation Coordinator for the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

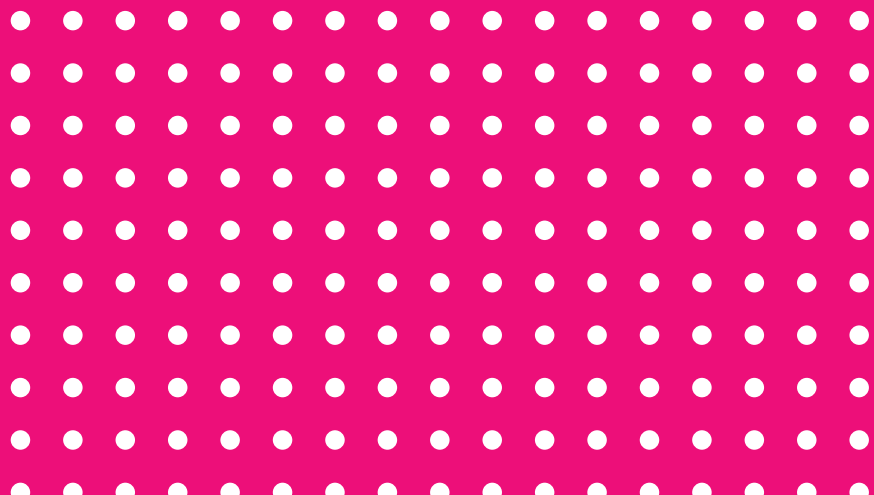


#BLESSED

Quest youth retreats help our young people grow deeper in their relationship with God. Quest incorporates general sessions led by entertaining and powerful speakers, interactive small group time, an engaging band, and plenty of community-building activities to help foster spiritual growth throughout the weekend and beyond. Youth are encouraged to explore, ask questions, and dive into each theme in hope that the weekend will help them grow individually in their faith and corporately as a member within the Church. 225 adults and youth attended the Spring Quest weekend.

Fall Quest, October 25-27, 2019 at Frontier Ranch, Buena Vista

What does it mean to be blessed? Jump on Instagram and you'll see #blessed everywhere you look. We as a society have become comfortably numb to the phrase. Join us at Frontier Ranch as we take back the sacredness of the word blessed and explore what it means to receive God's blessing and carry it into the world to give to others.



Journey camp kids resting and playing with the youngest generation between leadership sessions at camp.
Photo courtesy Elizabeth Cervasio



KIDS NEED THE CHURCH

BY ELIZABETH CERVASIO

“So, if our children are benefiting from a religious upbringing while church attendance is declining, what do we do? We keep offering church—in every shape and form—from traditional Sunday School, to weekly youth-group, to youth retreats, to church-based summer camps.”

Summers chaplains know it. So do Harvard epidemiologists. Religious upbringings are good for you.

I was lounging on the couch, scanning Facebook late Friday night, thinking of things to do with my family over the weekend, when an article caught my eye. “Religious upbringing linked to better health and well-being during early adulthood.” I paused, smiled to myself, and thought, yes, truer words were never spoken.

Just ask the youth leader who watches kids in youth group bloom like flowers, growing each Sunday in self-confidence and poise, or the summer camp chaplain who sees kids hard at play, cheeks glowing from exertion, grinning wildly—apparently without a care in the world. They too will tell you about the wisdom of this finding. Anyone who works in children and youth ministry would read that statement and think, yes, this is absolutely true.

But we also know that attendance among younger generations in the church is declining. So, church is good for you, but people are going to church less. Why is that? I've heard many people claim that it is because as generations change, they want different things and have a shift in values. And for the most part, I agree with them. You can see the shift in our values whenever you turn on the news. But I believe there is one thing that everyone wants, no matter what generation you are from; one value that is being reclaimed by the Episcopal Church: love. And I believe love makes all the difference. Kids who grow up in the church grow up in the way of love. And when kids feel loved—truly loved—they thrive, and they continue to thrive into their adult years.

The study, first published online in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, showed that people who attended religious services at least weekly in

childhood and adolescence were approximately 18 percent more likely to report higher happiness as young adults (ages 23–30) than those who never attended services. They were also 29 percent more likely to volunteer in their communities and 33 percent less likely to use illicit drugs.

So, if our children are benefiting from a religious upbringing while church attendance is declining, what do we do? We keep offering church—in every shape and form—from traditional Sunday School, to weekly youth-group, to youth retreats, to church-based summer camps. Kids absorb everything, observing the world and learning from it fast. God is everywhere and can be found everywhere. Our responsibility is to help our kids see that. I asked this year's summer camp director, Mary Bach, why camp is so important to her. She said that as a skeptical middle and high schooler, camp allowed her to have a safe space to explore God and come back to faith on her own. She went on say how thankful she was for having summer camp through her church. She now wants to be a role model for the next generation of Episcopal youth, helping them to have that same safe place to explore their faith.

There you have it. When kids grow up feeling valued, seen, and loved by a faith community, their lives change. They become happy, grounded young adults. And if we believe that the youth are the future of our church, then we have to commit to raising them in faith and rooting them in tradition, as well as sending them to retreats and summer camps to show them God in new and inspiring ways. We have to love them, and we have to take them to church. I for one know where I will be with my family this Sunday. ■

ELIZABETH CERVASIO is the Director of Children and Youth Ministry for the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

TO READ MORE about the Harvard study, visit <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/religious-upbringing-adult-health/>.

Youth practice teamwork and community building skills with parachute games at Quest.
Photo courtesy the Rev. Brian Winter





CAFFEINATED CHURCH

— *Conference* —

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, OFFICE OF THE BISHOP & ONLINE

Caffeinated Church Conferences are centered around creative church collaboration for churches and organizations of all denominations. Increase your creative output through hands-on training in the areas of communications strategy, branding, graphic design, marketing/advertising, layout/design, and website development. We will discuss best practices, budgeting and resources, challenges that communicators and administrators face, and more.

This conference will be live in person at the Office of the Bishop, Denver, as well as available via a Zoom video conference for those who live a long distance from Denver.



LEARN MORE AT [CAFFEINATEDCHURCH.ORG](https://caffeinatedchurch.org)

"The work of the Caffeinated Church has not only deepened the life of St. Timothy's, but also the shared ministry of the people of the diocese. The Caffeinated Church workshops have already met profound needs in our churches by challenging us to rethink our understandings of ministry and evangelism."

—The Rev. Nick Myers

"As the priest at a 'transitional size' congregation, there are many needs and ministries that need to be filled, and limited resources, both in leadership time and financially, to be able to train people and empower them for increased leadership roles. Caffeinated Church offers some amazing training and resource time for me and some of my staff/volunteers that has proven indispensable."

—The Rev. Brian Winter



LEGACY GIVING: GOOD FOR YOU, GOOD FOR YOUR CHURCH

In the past decade, numerous parishes in the Episcopal Church in Colorado have organized legacy giving programs as a vital part of funding future ministry. Churches with strong stewardship ministries know that planning for the future and having a vision for the future inspires their parishioners to give. It's all about relationship building.

SIMPLE. CONSISTENT. ACCESSIBLE.

The Foundation has resources available to help your church establish a Legacy Society and Planned Giving program. We offer a variety of customizable marketing templates and example policies for parishes of all sizes.

SOME MYTHS ABOUT LEGACY GIVING

- 1. Only wealthy people can leave a legacy gift.** Individuals of all income levels can make plans to carry out their charitable intentions. This type of giving is more about generosity than net worth.
- 2. It's complicated.** There are simple ways to make a legacy gift. Many gifts are bequests

in a will or beneficiary designations from a retirement plan or insurance policy.

- 3. Talking about end of life planning and giving isn't something the Church should do.** Legacy giving conversations and ministries are pastoral in nature. These conversations are about faith, meaning, and the values we want to pass on.
- 4. Legacy giving will reduce annual giving.** Most legacy gifts come from long-term assets while annual giving generally comes from income and current assets. The desire to make a difference is universal and making a legacy gift is a way to make a permanent difference in the church's future.
- 5. Legacy giving will leave my family hurt and confused.** What is important to you and what legacy will you leave? Leaving a gift to your church reminds your family and loved ones what gave meaning and purpose to your life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit our website at COEF.org or contact Scott Asper at Scott@COEF.org.

The purpose of the Colorado Episcopal Foundation (COEF) is to strengthen capacity for mission and ministry by stewarding the financial resources of the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

Now in our 35th year of service, the Foundation supports the financial stability of Episcopal congregations and institutions so that vital ministries can be sustained.

Over the past five years, the Colorado Episcopal Foundation has handled over 460 stock gifts, totaling over \$5.7 million, to benefit congregations across Colorado. Stock gifts processed by the Foundation continue to grow year-over-year and offer our churches support in ministry, capital campaigns, and special giving.

PERSPECTIVES



Above: Cathedral Campers at Cathedral Ridge pose for a group shot.

Left: Cathedral Campers participate in team-building exercises at the ropes course at Cathedral Ridge.

Photos courtesy Kae Morgan



Right: Cathedral Campers pieing their counselors in the face during carnival night.

Photo courtesy Kae Morgan





Left: A camper gets her face painted at carnival night.

Below: Cathedral Campers play a game of HORSE on the court.

Photos courtesy Kae Morgan



Left: Campers beat the heat at the waterslide at Cathedral Camp. Photo courtesy Kae Morgan

Right: A camp counselor is dressed up by her campers to represent the cabin theme; the ocean. Photo courtesy Kae Morgan



Left: A camper on the ropes course at Cathedral Ridge.

Below: Cathedral Ridge is a great place to make new friends.

Photos courtesy Kae Morgan





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COLORADO
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