

Fall 2020



# The North Carolina DISCIPLE

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OF LOVE

THE NEW  
DISCIPLE

NAVIGATING THE DEBRIS IN THE ROAD



 The North Carolina  
**DISCIPLE**

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**COVER PHOTO**

One of the many restored stained glass windows in the Saint Augustine's University Chapel. *Inner cover:* The restoration work *Photos courtesy of Saint Augustine's University*

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**The North Carolina Disciple** is the quarterly magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. Other diocesan communication vehicles, including Please Note, a weekly e-newsletter, and the diocesan website, [www.episdionc.org](http://www.episdionc.org), are used for more time-sensitive, day-to-day news.

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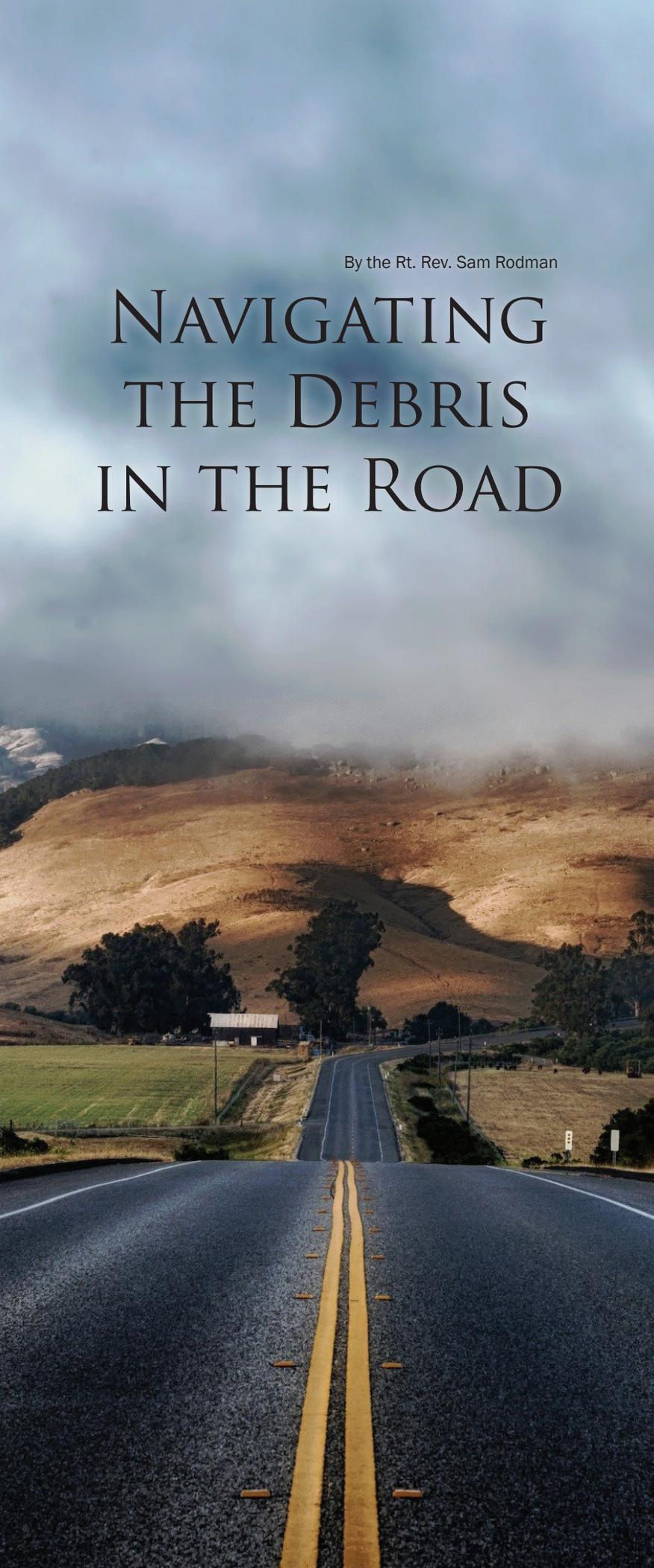


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By the Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman

# NAVIGATING THE DEBRIS IN THE ROAD

On a mild and sunny October afternoon, Debbie and I drove to a nearby park in Durham for a walk. We have been trying to find one afternoon each week to explore some of the beautiful places nearby where we can enjoy the North Carolina countryside, get some fresh air, see other people while maintaining physical distance and learn more about this place we have come to call home.

On the way back from West Point Park on the Eno, we found ourselves passing not just one or two cars pulled off to the side of the highway, but within a short distance, at least 10 or 12 cars. None of them showed any body damage, so it wasn't related to a crash. And then as we got to the last car, the owner was changing a tire. We realized there must have been some kind of debris in the road that had caused all of these cars to get flat tires.

Then it hit me. We know what to do when we get a flat tire. Every car has a spare. You pull over, change the tire, and you continue on your way. But what happens when there is debris in the road and you get not one, but two or three flat tires on your car? Because if there is debris in the road that can puncture your tire, there is no guarantee it will affect only one.

As I thought about this scenario and how that must feel to the driver, I thought about this year through which we have all been living. It feels a little like we are pulled over on the roadside trying to figure out what to do with not one flat tire, but two or three or more.

## **A YEAR TO REMEMBER**

2020 has been a year to remember. It has also been a year that many of us would like to forget. There is a certain irony here. The number 2020 is often associated with perfect vision. Someone with 20/20 vision can see at a distance and read the small print, suggesting both a capacity for big-picture perspective as well as attention to detail. Some have observed that effective leadership needs to be able to balance the two.

The year 2020 might be described as the ultimate test of leadership. Many would make the case that it is an impossible test to pass. On one of our recent weekly leadership calls of clergy and lay leaders throughout the

Diocese, we were asked to describe, in one or just a few words, how we are feeling at this stage as we continue to try to navigate the pandemic. There were, of course, a variety of responses, but there were also some themes: exhausted, inadequate, discouraged, resigned, frustrated, confounded.

One of the things I love most about serving as your bishop in this diocese is that people here are not afraid to be honest about their struggles. And all of us are struggling right now.

Often, when I am struggling, I find myself asking the question, “What can I learn from this?” And while the year 2020 may have many things to teach us, for many of us it is really only after-the-fact, once we have come through an ordeal, that we can turn and look again and see what the struggle has taught us. Perhaps this is where we get the expression “hindsight is 20/20.”

Many of us will be glad when we can finally look back on this year and see it only through the rearview mirror. But what can we do in the meantime? Because this year is not over, and there are some strong indicators that the pandemic that has plagued us, literally, in 2020 is very likely to linger into 2021. And it is not just the pandemic, of course. We are enduring record-breaking natural disasters: hurricanes, floods, wild fires and earthquakes. There is unprecedented social unrest as we face into the history of systemic racism and the deadly, toxic legacy of white supremacy. Political tensions, as we moved toward the election, were at an all-time high.

How do we keep going? How do we provide leadership to our communities of faith? Where do we find signs of hope?

## **SIGNS OF HOPE**

In a conversation with our deacons at a fall online retreat, signs of hope were popping up all over. One deacon who works with people dealing with addiction told us how being forced to switch to the Zoom platform for some of the 12-step groups has been an unexpected gift. She explained that people find it less intimidating to join a Zoom meeting to begin to face their addiction.

“Walking into a room full of people, introducing yourself for the first time and owning your own addiction can be overwhelming,” she said. “But showing up on a Zoom call feels a little more manageable. We have seen a significant increase in attendance and new people joining our groups.”

Another deacon who works as a physician assistant in a surgical unit spoke of how prior to now, just before surgery, the patient could not have anyone with them beyond a certain point. But now, because it has become

commonplace to connect people by phone with loved ones in the hospital who are isolated because of the virus, that practice has extended to the operating room. Now, right before surgery, he can hold up a phone, and the patient can speak with a loved one for some words of encouragement or a prayer. The person could be calling from the waiting room or from some other part of the country.

On November 21, we came together for a daylong online gathering to celebrate signs of hope (page 16). The theme was “Behold, I am Doing a New Thing.” The 205<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention has, as you know, been pushed out to March 2021. But on the Saturday of what would have been our Annual Convention, we gathered online to celebrate the ways we have responded to the challenges of this unprecedented year with creativity, resilience, adaptation, innovation and hope.

It was a wonderful way to prepare us to enter Advent, the season of anticipation. Because, despite our current hardships and challenges, there is much to anticipate with great joy and hope: our work, our faith, our community and a new year with its infinite possibilities.

The road of 2020 had had its share of debris and potholes, no doubt about it. But despite a flat or two, we have responded, we roll on, and we will continue to keep moving forward as we navigate the landscape of what remains of 2020—and what’s to come in 2021—together.

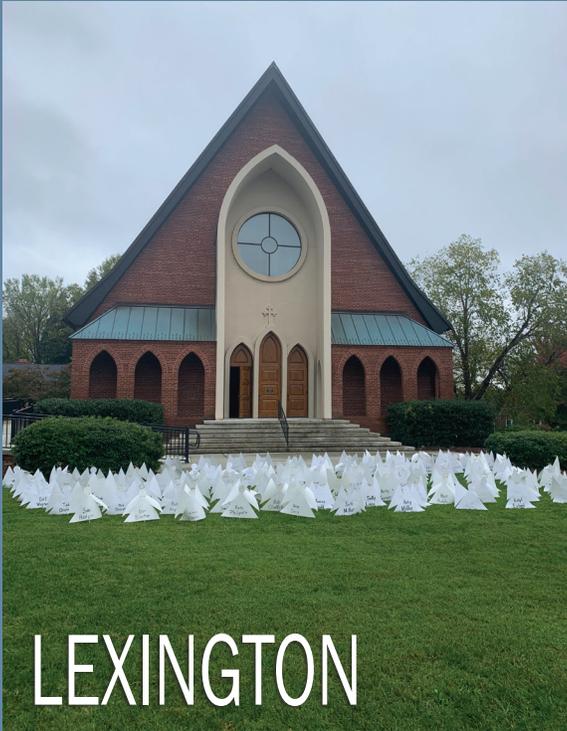
We are building beloved community. While I may need to wait until we are well past this year to learn all that 2020 has to teach me, one thing is clear. In and through these ordeals and our own struggles, one thing has stayed constant. God is still calling us to build beloved community. And we are doing this work beautifully, faithfully, powerfully, effectively, with God’s help, with infusions of the love of Jesus and with a rich variety of gifts from the Holy Spirit.

If you were not able to join us on November 21, I hope you will spend some time enjoying the recordings (available on the diocesan website, Vimeo and YouTube) to see and celebrate the ways we have continued to be faithful disciples in the Jesus movement; the ways we are discovering how to be church and be present for each other, even when we cannot be physically together; the ways we are learning to lean into the love of Jesus and turn toward each other, care for one another and become beloved community.

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*The Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman is the XII Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina. Contact him at [sam.rodman@episdionc.org](mailto:sam.rodman@episdionc.org).*

# AROUND THE



## LEXINGTON

Grace, Lexington, celebrated All Saints' Day with Saints on the Lawn. Photo by Carrie Ingram



## HIGH POINT

The Rt. Rev. Anne Hodge-Copple ordained the Rev. Matthew Addington, the Rev. Amanda Bourne and the Rev. Jonathan Pucik to the Sacred Order of Priests at St. Mary's, High Point, on December 12. Photo by Robin Hardman



## Seven Lakes

(Pre-COVID) Bob Rinaldi, Peoples' Warden at Saint Mary Magdalene, Seven Lake, left, presents Duane Coppeler, President of Chapter 966, Moore County, NC Vietnam Veterans of America, right, with a check for \$1,200. The check was part of the money raised for area veteran groups by the church during a January 2020 golf tournament.



## DURHAM

A Sunday morning livestream from El Buen Pastor, Durham, this spring. Photo by Javier Romero

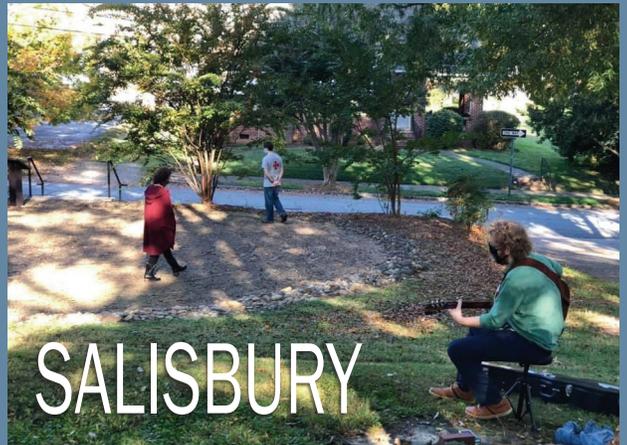
# THE DIOCESE



The Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman ordained the Rev. Paul Daniels and the Rev. Joseph Sroka to the Sacred Order of Priests at Good Shepherd, Raleigh, on December 12. *Photo by Summerlee Walter*



This spring, Historic St Andrew's, Woodleaf, got a new roof of hand-cut shingles, which was probably the original roofing material. The workers took the roof off of the eastern side of the church, allowing the sun to shine through on the gallery. *Photo by Alfred Wilson*



A guitarist leads a labyrinth walk at St. Luke's, Salisbury, this fall. *Photo by Caroline Stephenson*



This year's Wake County Episcopal Build began on Leap Day (February 29) with the Leap of Faith event. *Photo courtesy of Habitat for Humanity of Wake County*

# NEW, NOTABLE & NEWSWORTHY

## DIOCESE CELEBRATES FOUR GRANTS TO CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTRIES

The Diocese of North Carolina had reason to celebrate in October, as we share the news of four grants awarded to diocesan congregations and ministries.

Saint Augustine's Chapel, Raleigh (page 38), was recently awarded a \$18,686 United Thank Offering grant to continue the work of restoring the chapel at Saint Augustine's University as well as renovating it for online worship. Led by university chaplain the Rev. Hershey Mallette Stephens, the work continues a project begun in 2017 by the Rev. Nita Byrd, former university chaplain, who identified the need for renovation and organized the initial campaign that already has contributed to the replacement of the Chapel's stained glass windows.

Saint Augustine's University Chapel is the oldest building on the university's campus and a Raleigh landmark. The grant to assist with its ongoing renovation and upgrade is one of 26 UTO grants awarded during the last cycle to 21 Episcopal Church and five Anglican Communion missions and ministries under a focus of Recovering with Love and Gratitude: An Episcopal Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Local Contexts.

Abundant Life, Greensboro, has been awarded a \$30,000 Growth Grant from The Episcopal Church's Taskforce for Church Planting and Congregational Redevelopment. Led by mission developer and Holy Spirit vicar the Rev. Audra Abt, the ministry is a collaborative "community focused on health, healing, worship and loving service" located in Greensboro. Founded not long before the pandemic began, Abundant Life has nevertheless created collaborative partnerships and community relationships in an online world.

Christ's Beloved Community/Comunidad Amada de Cristo, Winston-Salem, is the recipient of a \$40,000 Harvest Grant from the Episcopal Church, continuing the support of the bilingual, bicultural church plant organized



Saint Augustine's University Chapel received an \$18,686 United Thank Offering grant to continue restoration work. Read more about the ministry on page 38.

jointly by the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. They were welcomed as a mission church during the 203<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention in 2018.

Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill, has been awarded a \$42,000 sustainability grant to continue the work of My Spiritual Awakening (MSA), a project funded by a Lilly Endowment Grant in 2015. MSA works to equip students with resources and opportunities to reflect on the intersection of their faith with their vocational path, providing funding for seven project areas of ministry, including: Vocational Internships, My Spiritual Awakening Speaker Series, Walk in Love Mentors, Veteran Outreach, Transformative Travel, the Finding Your Purpose Conference model and the Namaste (Mind, Body, Spirit integration) projects.

The Diocese gives thanks for and congratulates all of these grant recipients on finding ways to continue the life-changing work they are doing and for being faithful presences in the communities they serve.

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## DIOCESAN WEBSITE AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

Hopefully by now, you've had a chance to visit the new diocesan website, launched back in February 2020. But have you noticed the website is available in two languages? If you weren't asked directly for your language preference

on your first visit, you can switch languages any time by clicking the "Sitio en Espanol" link in the upper left corner of any page, near the diocesan logo. ¡Disfrutar!

## RJRC ANNOUNCES ANTI-RACISM PROGRAMMING FOR WINTER 2021

The diocesan Racial Justice and Reconciliation Committee (RJRC) presents a webinar by author Debby Irving in the first of a three-part anti-racism series. On Monday, January 11, at 7 p.m., Irving, the well-known author of *Waking Up White*, will lead a webinar exploring her story of waking up to discover the racial divide in our nation. Registration opens soon.

The second part of the series, the 21 Day Racial Equity Challenge, begins on Sunday, January 17. The challenge is designed to create dedicated time and space to build more effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege and leadership. Participants will receive daily challenges, such as reading an article, listening to a podcast or reflecting on a personal experience.

Participation in an activity like this helps us to discover how racial and social injustice impact our communities, to connect with one another, and to identify ways to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination. This is an exciting opportunity to dive deep into racial equity and social justice. To help participants reflect on what they discover, on January 17, 24 and 31, at the conclusion of each week of the challenge, the RJRC will host an hour-long Zoom conversation to connect with one another on the topics covered in the previous week and the ways they affect our communities and even our churches. Details and registration are forthcoming.

The third part of the series will take place on February 9 at 7 p.m., when the RJRC will host a webinar featuring the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, president and senior lecturer of Repairers of the Breach. An author, preacher



The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II

and professor, he is the chief architect of the “Forward Together Moral Movement.” A powerful preacher and ardent activist, Barber will speak about the theology of justice and the effects of racism in our communities.

The RJRC expects to offer the three-part series three times in the coming year; as we go to press, registration is not yet open but will be soon as details are confirmed. Keep your eye on diocesan communication channels for more information and to register. (Have the news delivered directly to you by subscribing to Please Note, our weekly newsletter, at [bit.ly/PleaseNote](https://bit.ly/PleaseNote).)

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## TWO NEW OFFERINGS FOR DIOCESAN YOUTH TO START THE NEW YEAR

The diocesan youth department has developed two offerings for the younger members of our congregations to start the new year.

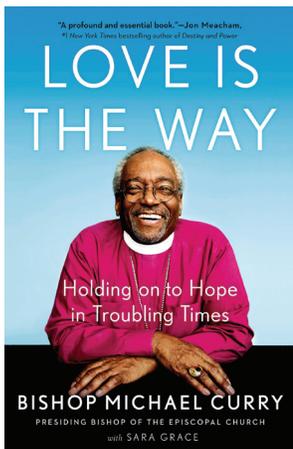
- **January 7, 7 p.m.: “Youth Speak the Truth: Youth Conversations on Self Care in a Pandemic”**

Led by Mollee Reitz, wellness director at Christ Church, Charlotte, attendees will discuss various aspects of self care pertaining to isolation, depression and anxiety. Adults are welcome to join and listen, allowing youth space to discuss and ask questions. Register at [bit.ly/DioNCSpeakTheTruth](https://bit.ly/DioNCSpeakTheTruth).

- **January 11 (start date): Diocesan-wide Youth Confirmation**

This 12-week offering will begin on Monday, January 11, at 7 p.m. and will continue to meet every other Monday at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The class is for youth in grades 9-12 during the 2020/2021 school year. Candidates for Confirmation must be baptized members of an Episcopal congregation within the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. If you are interested, please complete the form at [bit.ly/DioNCCconfirmationJan2021](https://bit.ly/DioNCCconfirmationJan2021).

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION - JOIN THE DIOCESAN BOOK CLUB!



During Lent 2020, the Diocese of North Carolina hosted a Lenten Book Read via Facebook featuring *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving and *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman. Almost 100 people took part, and months after the book read was done, interest in the book read continued.

We heard you, and as a result, we are beginning the new year with a new diocesan book club! (Actually, we're transforming the Facebook Group that hosted the Lenten Book Read into an ongoing book club, but it officially transforms from the Lenten Book Read to the Diocesan Book Club in January 2021.)

Every month, we'll discuss a title that focuses on a diocesan priority in our journey toward Becoming Beloved Community. The reading and the discussion will certainly help us go deeper with each priority, but, as the months progress, we'll gain even greater clarity about just how intertwined our priorities are and how it will take making all of them, together, a part of our lives to build an everlasting beloved community.

We'll kick off the new book club with *Love is the Way*, the newest book by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. What better way to start a new year than with a message of hope and a reminder of the path that's right before us if only we choose to walk it.

If you joined the Lenten Book Club Facebook Group in 2020, there's no need to do anything, as you'll remain a member when the book club takes on its new name. Want to join? You'll find us on Facebook as the "Episcopal Diocese of NC Book Club," or you can join directly at [bit.ly/DioNCBookClub](http://bit.ly/DioNCBookClub).

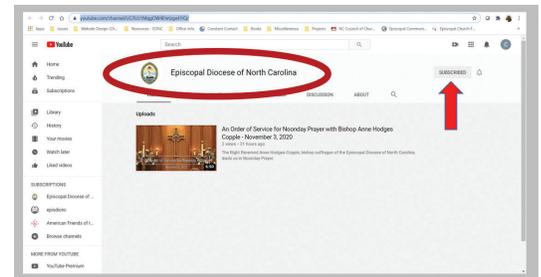
## WE HAVE A NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

If you've ever browsed YouTube and come across the diocesan channel, you may have wondered why we haven't posted there for a while. The short answer is this: The credentials associated with the channel no longer exist, and so we are, for all time, locked out.

But something like that can't stop us, so the Diocese of North Carolina has a new YouTube channel! You can subscribe today by searching "Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina." And, of course, our diocesan Vimeo channel remains a place where you can enjoy all the videos we have

to offer.

The old channel remains as an archive, but for all the content still to come, we hope you'll join us on the new channel.



## REMINDER: PAROCHIAL REPORTS DUE MARCH 1 (WITH NEW GUIDELINES)

The Episcopal Church has released a new form for churches to use in filing their 2020 parochial reports, due on March 1, 2021.

As announced by the Church's Office of Public Affairs, "Releasing the new forms at this time offers congregational leaders time to review the new questions and to begin gathering the information needed to complete the report. The 2020 report includes a new narrative section, which invites congregations to reflect on the opportunities and

challenges encountered in the midst of the pandemic. Also new are questions about online worship and questions on the impact the pandemic has had on congregational life and finances. The report also asks about the congregation's involvement in racial justice and reconciliation work."

The new report can be viewed now in English ([generalconvention.org/forms-and-instructions](http://generalconvention.org/forms-and-instructions)) and Spanish ([generalconvention.org/formularios-e-instrucciones](http://generalconvention.org/formularios-e-instrucciones)). The filing site will be live as of January 2, 2021.

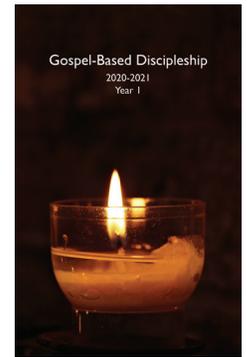
## 2020-21 GOSPEL-BASED DISCIPLESHIP AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

A new year means new resolutions to develop habits good for both body and soul. There may be no better habit for both than that of daily prayer and meditation.

The *Gospel-Based Discipleship* is a fantastic tool to help you make prayer a part of every day. It is intended to provide you with a daily opportunity to encounter the Gospel and to encourage reflection. Each day includes Gospel readings from the Daily Office Lectionary as well as prayers from the diocesan clergy prayer list and diocesan cycle of prayer, for each day of the liturgical year.

This year, the 2020-2021 *Gospel-Based Discipleship* is available for download in both English and Spanish. Find it at [episdionc.org/gospel-based-discipleship](https://episdionc.org/gospel-based-discipleship).

You can also find the daily prayer and readings in English on the diocesan Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels.



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## BELOVED NEIGHBORS FROM THE EPISCOPAL FARMWORKER MINISTRY

The Episcopal Farmworker Ministry invites you to participate in Beloved Neighbors, a training program about history, race and immigration. The training consists of six online sessions, via Zoom, at 3 p.m. on Tuesdays. Beginning February 2, participants will explore:

- February 2: So how did we get here? Exploring the history of farmworkers in the United States
- February 9: Roots of migration
- February 16: What part of legal immigration don't you understand?
- February 23: Our community, our stories
- March 2: Stories Beyond Borders (movie and panel)
- March 9: Solidarity and taking action

Participants will walk away with a new perspective about the issues faced by immigrants and new tools to enact positive social change. Trainings will be recorded for those who can't attend all sessions.



Advance registration is required at [bit.ly/EFWMBelovedNeighbors](https://bit.ly/EFWMBelovedNeighbors). A suggested donation of \$30 will be gratefully received and can be made at [bit.ly/EFWMDonation](https://bit.ly/EFWMDonation). (Please choose Beloved Neighbors on the question: "Would you like to fund a specific program?") For more information, contact Executive Director Lariza Garzon at [lariza@efwm.org](mailto:lariza@efwm.org).

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## GRANT CALENDAR

It can be frustrating: knowing there are grants out there that can help you through tough times or with the happier work of beginning or sustaining a ministry. But how to know which ones? How to keep track of the deadlines?

The Diocese of North Carolina has now made it easier to track both with a new calendar embedded on the diocesan website ([episdionc.org](https://episdionc.org)). All grants offered by the

Diocese of North Carolina can be found at [episdionc.org/grants-scholarships](https://episdionc.org/grants-scholarships), and on that page you'll see all the upcoming deadlines for grants offered by both the Diocese and The Episcopal Church. The upcoming deadlines can also be found on the main diocesan calendar.

Know of a grant that might help others with their ministry? Send it to [communications@episdionc.org](mailto:communications@episdionc.org).

## THE REV. DR. SALLY FRENCH NAMED INTERIM EAST REGIONAL CANON

The Diocese welcomes the Rev. Dr. Sally French as the interim east regional canon for the Diocese of North Carolina.

French joins a team of missionaries and canons dedicated to increasing the vitality and impact of congregational development initiatives at the local, regional and diocesan levels. Together they support congregations in their lives of discipleship as well as encourage and strengthen ministry leadership with a focus on lay vocations. In this work partnerships are formed, engaging congregations and other faith communities in the work of Becoming Beloved Community.

Already well known in the Diocese of North Carolina through her service on Standing Committee, including a term as president, and her most recent position as associate rector at St. Philip's, Durham, in her new role French will be focused on working with worshiping communities in the east region of the diocese, including the Rocky Mount, Raleigh and Durham convocations. She will work to develop increased collaboration and engagement among clergy and laity, and she will help to implement diocesan programming, including congregational development events, in support of mission priorities.

"In her previous role as president of the Standing Committee, Sally was instrumental in developing a strategic process to advance our missional priorities, including work with the Standing Committee to begin a series of conversations on systemic racism," said Bishop Sam Rodman. "Sally is uniquely equipped to generate increased connection, collaboration and engagement among clergy and laity in the east region and as a member of our diocesan staff."

The east regional canon position is being filled on an interim basis as the Diocese continues to discern diocesan needs and challenges. It is the expectation that all congregations and communities will continue to receive leadership support, and French will not only serve the east region in that capacity, she will be part of the ongoing work of diocesan leadership to discern the structure and staffing that will best enable the Diocese of North Carolina to fulfill its missional strategy in 2021 and beyond.

"Sally is an experienced priest with a strong background in pilgrimage, congregational development and collaboration," said the Rev. Canon David Sellery, diocesan canon for congregational mission. "We are excited about the skills she brings and especially her vision of this role as an opportunity to walk alongside parishes as part of our shared pilgrimage."

She began her tenure at the Diocese on November 16.



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## DAN PELLICCIA DEPARTS DIOCESAN STAFF

The Diocese gives thanks and blessings to Dan Pelliccia, diocesan office administrator and personnel administrator, as he leaves the staff of the Diocese of North Carolina to take a new position at Duke Medical Center.

During his tenure, Pelliccia became an integral part of the diocesan team. He will be missed, but we are grateful for his work and his gifts, and we hope you will join us in wishing him blessings, congratulations and good luck on his new journey.

Pelliccia's last day in the office was November 6; for assistance in areas for which you contacted him, please contact Maria Gillespie, diocesan director of finance and administration, at [maria.gillespie@episdionc.org](mailto:maria.gillespie@episdionc.org).



## CONNECT WITH THE DIOCESE

### The Disciple

*The Disciple* is changing in 2021 (page 14), but you can keep it coming in a couple of new ways! Download the new app on Apple, Google Play or Amazon Kindle for your digital subscription, or subscribe for your ongoing print subscription at <https://bit.ly/Disciple1Q2021>.

### Please Note

The weekly diocesan newsletter is a great way to stay connected with everything happening throughout the Diocese of North Carolina. Delivered to your inbox every Wednesday, subscribe at [bit.ly/PleaseNote](https://bit.ly/PleaseNote).

### CAMINANDO WITH JESUS

“CAMINANDO WITH JESUS” (“Walking with Jesus”) is a weekly reflection series featuring voices from around the Diocese. Delivered to inboxes every Wednesday morning, each reflection focuses on the Gospel readings for the upcoming Sunday, and the text is shared in both English and Spanish.

Subscribe at [bit.ly/CaminandoWithJesus](https://bit.ly/CaminandoWithJesus).

### And Also with Y'all

If you haven't checked it out already, now is a great time to explore and become a fan of “And Also with Y'all,” the diocesan podcast created for young adults—and enjoyed by all ages—hosted by the Rev.

James Franklin, the Rev. Caleb Tabor and Eliza Brinkley. Episodes feature engaging conversations about faith, spirituality, discernment, doubt and everything in between. The hosts and their guests talk frankly about the serious and the ridiculous young adults encounter as they navigate their faith. Best of all, “And Also with Y'all” is easy to find, available on:

- the diocesan website,
- Apple podcasts,
- Google podcasts,
- Spotify and
- Stitcher.



## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### January

- 7 Youth Speak the Truth: Youth Conversations About Self-care in a Pandemic
- 10 Wholehearted Parenting: Raising Compassionate, Resilient Children in Beloved Community begins
- 16 Ordination to the Vocational Diaconate

### February

- 1 Green Grants due
- 13 Bishops' Ball

Look for additional events and more detailed event information online at [episdionc.org](https://episdionc.org), or contact the Diocese at (919) 834-7474, toll-free at (800) 448-8775. Upcoming diocesan events and events from around the Diocese are also featured in *Please Note*, the weekly diocesan e-newsletter. Sign up on our homepage.

## STAY IN TOUCH

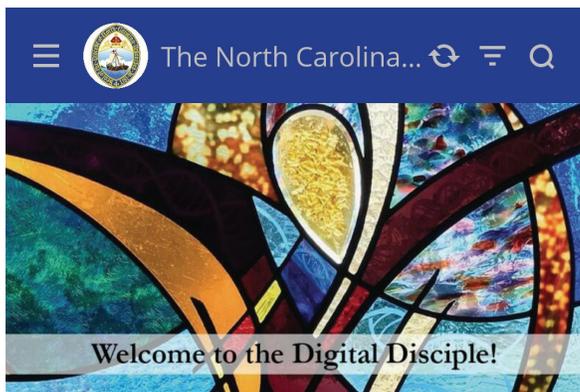
Keep up with our diocese and bishops!

 Episcopal Diocese NC  
Sam Rodman Anne Hodges-Copple

 @EpiscopalNC  
@samuelrodman @bishopannehc

 @episdionc @bishoprodman @ahodgescopple

 [www.vimeo.com/episcopalnc](https://www.vimeo.com/episcopalnc)



# THE NEW DISCIPLE

*A new digital version is available to all readers*

Change can be hard, but it can also bring unexpected gifts and new opportunities. Among all of the changes wrought by COVID-19 this year, we were given one of those gifts.

In the early days of the pandemic, diocesan leadership took a hard look at our budget to identify any adjustments that could be made immediately to help ensure the long-term stability and financial health of the Diocese. It was decided at that time to suspend publication of the *Disciple* for a few issues and explore how we might continue to offer it to all who want it, even with a reduced budget.

This was an exciting prospect. It was a long-held dream of the communications department to develop a digital version of the *Disciple*, one that was produced and designed specifically for online and mobile reading. As is often the case when something is not meant to be at a certain time, the pieces never seemed to come together for the right fit.

But this year they did. The digital *Disciple* is here!

The digital *Disciple* is available to everyone at no cost, and you can find it online, in the Apple App Store, on Google Play and Kindle (for Kindle Fires). Simply go to your favorite app outlet, search “North Carolina Disciple,” download the app, and you’re ready to read!

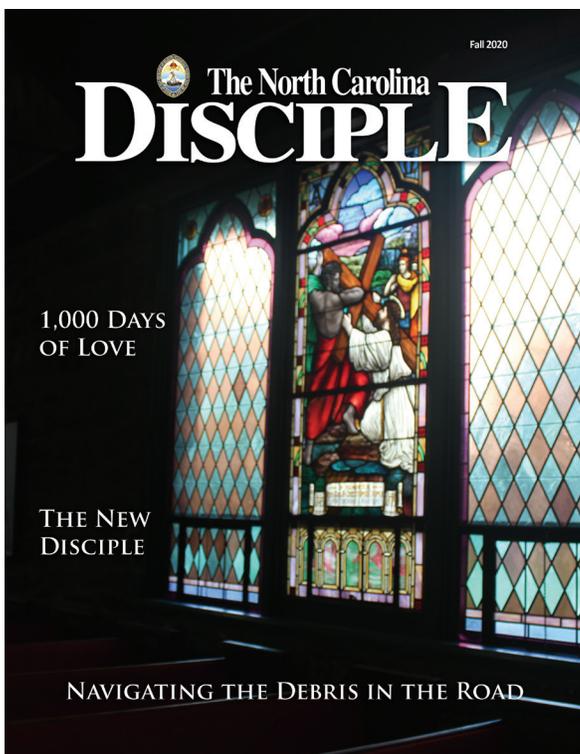
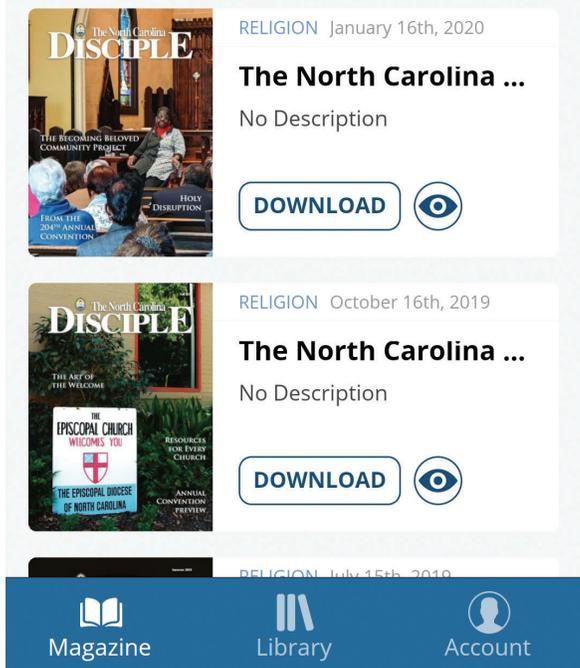
And it’s not only reading you’ll do. Now you can dive into and enjoy all the additional content we can only mention in print. No longer will you have to go somewhere else to find links recommended to you to learn more—simply click the link in the article, and you’re there! Never again will you have to track down your digital device to watch the videos or listen to the interviews offered online—they’re embedded in the article for you to enjoy.

This is the last print issue you will receive automatically. But if print is your preferred format, don’t despair. Limited print copies will continue to be sent to churches at no charge, and those who wish to have a print copy delivered directly to their homes can do so via a new subscription plan.

In addition to an exciting and interactive reading experience, moving to a digital *Disciple* does other good things. It supports our diocesan mission priority of creation care, as we’re reducing the paper, ink, energy and transportation resources necessary to sustain a print-only offering. By reducing the financial cost of producing the *Disciple*, resources become available to support other ministry areas. And with the flexibility of a digital format, we’re able to bring you more resources, news and stories than ever before.

Yes, in a year of challenges and struggle, one dream came true.

Change can be good. Enjoy!



# TWO WAYS TO ENJOY THE DISCIPLE

## The New Digital *Disciple*

The new digital version of the *Disciple* is available to everyone at no cost. You'll find access to it on the diocesan website (episdioc.org), or you can download the app on your favorite reading device.

The *Disciple* is available in the Apple App Store, on Google Play and on Kindle. Simply search for "North Carolina Disciple," and you will find the familiar diocesan seal. We've loaded the last few issues to let you know you're in the right place, but the Fall 2020 issue is the first one designed specifically for digital.

Once you've downloaded the app, if you log in and set up an account (just your name, email and password), we'll be able to notify you when new issues are available.

Now no matter where you are or where you go, you'll take the *Disciple* with you! (And did we mention it's free?)

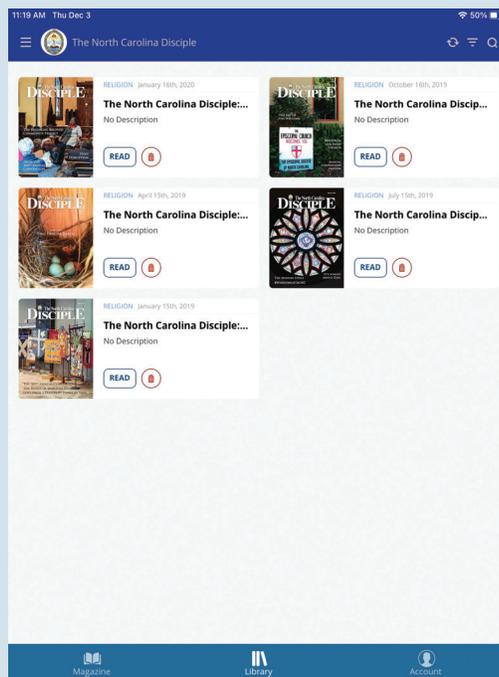
## Keep the Print Edition Coming

We will continue to send a limited number of copies of each issue to every church in the Diocese at no cost. How your church makes those copies available is up to church leaders, and we encourage you to be in touch with them to learn more.

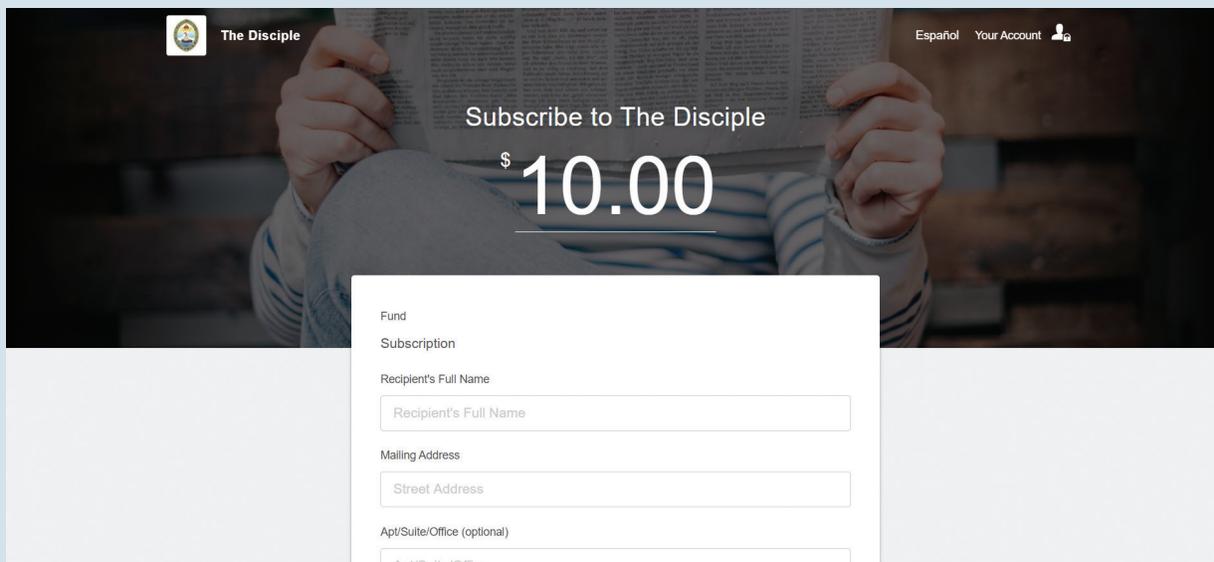
Want a print copy delivered directly to your home? That option remains available via a new subscription option. The cost is only \$10 for a full year, and the cost will be pro-rated as each issue publishes throughout the year, so all subscriptions will renew in December. Simply visit [episdioc.org/disciple](http://episdioc.org/disciple).

Want to give a gift subscription? You can do that, too! Visit the same subscription link and enter the name of the person to whom you want to send the *Disciple*. (Please know that if you are purchasing multiple subscriptions, each transaction will take less than a minute to complete, but they will process separately.)

However you prefer to enjoy it, we thank you for being readers of the *Disciple*!



However you prefer to consume content—on an Android phone, as a paper magazine (*far left*), or on an iPad (*above*), other Apple device or Kindle Fire—you can now read the *Disciple* however you choose





## BEHOLD I AM DOING A NEW THING

*In lieu of Annual Convention, the Diocese gathered online to celebrate its accomplishments this year*

As with so many other events this year, the 205<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina had to be rescheduled in light of gathering restrictions put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19. While we still hope to gather in March 2021 to conduct the business of the Diocese, we could not go an entire year without coming together to celebrate everything we’ve accomplished during the last 12 months and to plan for the work ahead of us. Instead of congregating at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem for an in-person convention, clergy and lay delegates from churches across the Diocese convened via Zoom on Saturday, November 21, for a diocesan celebration, “Behold, I am Doing a New Thing.”

While the gathering could conduct no official business due to canonical restrictions that require all votes take place in person, more than 350 people joined the day-long Zoom call to hear reports about the work happening in our priority areas of Becoming Beloved Community and to brainstorm ideas for expanding that work during breakout sessions. No digital gathering takes place entirely without technological glitches, and this one was no exception, but attendees left energized by the work that continues despite the obstacles we face both as a Diocese and as individual churches.

### BISHOPS’ ADDRESS

After opening with a bilingual Morning Prayer service led by the Rev. Dr. Chantal Morales McKinney of Christ’s Beloved Community/Comunidad Amada de Cristo, participants dove into the ongoing work of the Diocese. The Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman and the Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple delivered a joint address highlighting projects addressing our mission priorities—and a few other areas—that individual churches and other ministries have undertaken in 2020. The bishops interspersed their presentation with videos produced by

the ministries they highlighted—an excellent example of collaboration and a reminder we are all stretching ourselves to learn new skills.

Under the banner of innovative worship, Bishop Rodman shared the work St. Peter’s, Charlotte, has done with hybrid worship and the Zoom-based prayers and music the Advocate, Chapel Hill, create as a community each week. Bishop Hodges-Copple then described two examples of direct services that continue to serve fundamental needs in our communities: El Buen Pastor’s weekly food distribution and the day school at Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount, which has remained safely open throughout the duration of the pandemic.

Bishop Rodman then handed the presentation over to the Rev. Joyce Cunningham and Chuck Collier of the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Committee to talk about the committee’s revision, in partnership with the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing in Atlanta, of the Diocese’s anti-racism training, now called “Dismantling Racism: Reclaiming Our Baptismal Promises.” They also announced some exciting anti-racism programming that will take place throughout 2021 (page 9). The bishops’ presentation then pivoted to collaboration, as Episcopalians and Lutherans involved in supporting the food pantry at Christ’s Beloved Community/Comunidad Amada de Cristo, Winston-Salem, shared how they accomplish their ever-expanding work.

The Rev. Brad Mullis, chair of the North Carolina Episcopal Church Foundation (NCECF), and the Rev. John Gibson, rector of Grace, Clayton, conversed about the support NCECF has offered churches in the form of adaptation grants to fund the equipment necessary to transition online. Bishop Hodges-Copple then introduced the work in Christian formation that happened this year, like bringing Christian Essentials and HUGS Camp online and



The bishops' address during the November 21 online diocesan gathering. "Behold I am Doing a New Thing" featured, among other ministries, the Christ's Beloved Community/Comunidad Amada de Cristo food pantry, the virtual choir at the Advocate, Chapel Hill, the edible landscape under construction at Chapel of Christ the King, Charlotte (shown as an architectural rendering), and the day school at Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount.

the All Saints letter-writing campaign organized by diocesan children and family missionary Amy Campbell that sent more than 100 children weekly letters, written by clergy volunteers, from various saints. Bishop Rodman then transitioned to creation care, highlighting the edible landscape Chapel of Christ the King, Charlotte, is in the midst of creating to serve their gentrifying community and the solar panels St. Andrew's, Greensboro, recently installed to reduce their environmental impact.

To emphasize the ways in which so many of the stories they shared involve intertwining diocesan priorities, the bishops finished their address with a presentation from Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte that explained the ways in which the ministry exemplifies all diocesan priorities.

**JOINING THE CONVERSATION**

Participants did not spend the day passively absorbing information, however. During the afternoon, everyone on the Zoom call had the chance to attend a breakout room dedicated to sharing insights about, brainstorming and dreaming over one of the topics the bishops introduced during their address. With individual breakout rooms reaching up to 50 participants, the discussions were lively and inspiring. While registered participants headed to their breakout rooms, the bishops hosted a town hall for people watching the livestream of the celebration on YouTube or Facebook. They fielded questions about everything from self-care during a time of pandemic to the conversation around various ways to take communion in conjunction with online worship.

Mirroring the collaborative nature of their address, Bishop Rodman and Bishop Hodges-Copple shared leadership of the day with many voices, including the Rt. Rev. William Gregg, who led a bilingual Noonday Prayer; the Rev. Louise Anderson, chair of the campaign committee,

and Josephine Hicks, vice president of Episcopal Church programs for Episcopal Relief & Development, who introduced Episcopal Relief & Development's ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE campaign to support early childhood development and adult caregivers in Zambia and other nations in Africa and Latin America; and the Rev. Rebecca Yarbrough and Sue Guptill, who shared the work of the Diocesan Mission Strategy Task Force and their plans for the future.

**TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS**

Of course, no diocesan gathering is complete without a word from our companion dioceses of Botswana and Costa Rica. The Rt. Rev. Orlando Gómez of Costa Rica delivered greetings via video, and, while we were not able to connect via Zoom, the Rt. Rev. Metlhayotlhe Beleme joined Bishop Rodman in signing the renewal agreement for our companion link covenant with the Anglican Diocese of Botswana.

Although the signing was the only "official" diocesan business conducted on November 21, the gathering did receive an update on the 2021 budget, the short version of which is, thanks to quick action by the finance department and the bishops, the Diocese is on solid financial ground and has been able to make budgetary cuts without affecting programming. In other good news, the fair share percentage is dropping yet again, to 10.65%.

While plans for March 2021 are still on hold pending the COVID-19 outlook in January, the Annual Convention planning group is hard at work brainstorming options for next year. Until then, you can learn about the work happening throughout the Diocese via our Vimeo ([vimeo.com/episcopalnc](https://vimeo.com/episcopalnc)) and YouTube (Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina) channels, where videos from "Behold, I am Doing a New Thing" are archived.



A Time of Challenge and Change  
A Plan for Churches during a Pandemic:

All churches in the Diocese are in Stage 1B  
as of November 16, 2020.  
(No exceptions.)



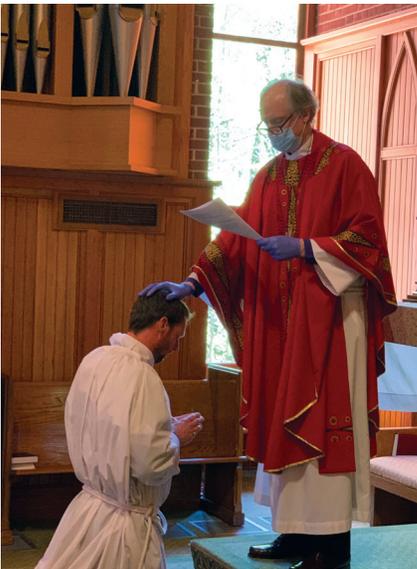
HUGS Camp 2020  
Private group · 108 members



By Christine McTaggart

# RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

*Pulling together in a time of pandemic*



## Becoming Beloved Community

It's been a tough year. No doubt about it. A pandemic, social unrest and a tumultuous election have come together to affect virtually every aspect of our lives.

And yet—some things didn't change.

For the last few years, the work of the Diocese of North Carolina has been focused on five mission priorities in our journey of Becoming Beloved Community. The priorities were built on the foundation of work that came before, and since the pillars that serve as our guideposts were announced in 2017, the work has been unwavering, ongoing and growing.

Sure, 2020 required changes. Some of the work we did in person moved online. Ministries were reimaged. New plans were developed. We adapted worship.

But the work continued.

And it will continue in 2021. Not only continue—

it will grow. It will grow because no matter what else happens in the world, our work, our focus—our mission—does not change. More importantly, it will grow because, throughout 2020, the faithful of the Diocese of North Carolina have proven that in good times and bad, we remain a united and dedicated community.

We've said for years that the Diocese of North Carolina is not an office but rather a collective "we." The gifts and strength of this diocese have always been and continue to be the 120 worshipping communities that comprise it—working together, supporting each other, sharing with each other and moving as one toward Becoming Beloved Community. Especially in a year like this, we have learned to adapt, share the lessons we've learned, teach each other how to do what's working, be honest and open with each other about the

unprecedented road we're navigating, and support one another in every way we can.

It is an extraordinary community—of which we're all a part.

## **A COLLABORATIVE FOUNDATION**

If ever a year has proven the necessity and impact of our diocesan priority of collaboration, it was 2020, for collaboration was at the heart of everything we did and were able to share.

It began in the very early days of the pandemic with the offering of twice-weekly calls for clergy and lay leadership. The calls were a time for church leaders to spend time with the bishops, receive news and updates, share what their congregations were experiencing, discuss ideas about how to proceed, ask questions, offer feedback on evolving policies and provide pastoral support to one another. The calls eventually moved to once a week, and they continue today, with more than 100 church leaders taking part every Tuesday.

From those calls, a task force emerged when it became clear the pandemic was going to last and impact us longer than two weeks. Drawing on expertise from across the Diocese, the task force was called upon to develop recommendations and protocols in several areas, including “All Things Sunday Morning,” encompassing worship, formation, nurseries, acolytes and altar guilds; pastoral care and services, including baptisms, weddings, funerals, unction and lay Eucharistic visits; outreach, direct services and schools; other organizations and meetings, such as Bible studies, vestry meeting and groups that meet on church properties; protection, equipment, safe practices and prevention; and advocacy. The task force researched, gathered and collated information and resources, bringing together recommendations, key information and best practices for moving forward through the pandemic, stage by stage. That information was then shared, discussed, adapted and adjusted, the end result being the comprehensive regathering plan from which we all continue to work today. The plan represents the work of many, both clergy and lay, staff and volunteers.

But the plan is never considered final, and we realized early on constant vigilance and upkeep was going to be necessary. Following the work of the initial task force, the call went out across the Diocese to serve on working

groups and provide ongoing expertise related to buildings and supplies; children, family ministries, schools and daycare centers; COVID-19 learnings; direct services; newcomer ministry; pastoral care; protection, prevention and equipment practices; small and rural congregations; and, of course, worship. During the last six months, these groups have continued to monitor and adapt plans and recommendations to the ever-changing landscape and demands of COVID-19.

In addition to the working groups, member-led affinity groups were organized and created, allowing for those working in specific areas of church life to gather and share ideas, experiences and wishes. Online Worship, All Things Music and Stewardship were the first to be formed, and earlier this month the first Women's Clergy affinity group meeting took place. In each case, the focus of the groups was peer support and sharing, as every one of us has been on a learning curve and having to adapt at high speeds to changing situations.

All of these steps were vital and pivotal to the course of the year. Not just because it is incomprehensible that any one person or small group could absorb and process all of the information and considerations that required attention since the start of the pandemic, but because, from the start, an atmosphere and environment of open and genuine collaboration was created, all of which nourished seeds that grew into fantastic offerings that have brought us together to inform us, entertain us and feed our souls.

## **INNOVATIVE WORSHIP**

Of course, the thing we missed most in our church life is the ability to gather together in person. But our ability to worship together in a different way quickly manifested as churches across the Diocese, large and small, technologically savvy and completely new to the digital world, found ways to worship online. Some did it on Facebook and some on YouTube, while others gathered on Zoom. Some churches livestreamed worship, some pre-recorded the services, but every effort was put forth with the goal of helping us feel connected. It proved to be an offering that yielded unimagined gifts.

As expected, parishioners used to seeing one another each week enjoyed being able to exchange greetings, prayers and other conversations. What came as a surprise to many were those who found the services and joined

*Opposite page, clockwise from top left:* The regathering plan is an ongoing collaboration from leaders and experts across the Diocese. HUGS Camp moved online this year. Direct service ministries continued throughout the pandemic, including hot meals at Galilee Ministry. All of our work remains focused on Becoming Beloved Community. Even ordinations had to adapt during the pandemic.



The Rev. Daniel Robayo, missionary for Latino/Hispanic ministries, livestreams a Spanish-language worship service on the diocesan Facebook page each Sunday at 1 p.m.

worship: former parishioners that had moved away and family members who, because of geographical distance, for years hadn't been able to worship with fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles. Strangers entered the virtual doors and decided to stay because of the warmth and fellowship they found there. Families who found it a struggle to make it to church on Sunday found themselves attending together while staying at home.

What seemed strange and new at first became a constant source of inspiration. Over the last eight months, churches have experimented and innovated, adapted and improved their online worship offerings. No two are alike, each reflecting the unique and wonderful individual personalities of the congregations. Yet all reflect the traditions and liturgies we hold dear and in whose familiarity much comfort is found.

The Diocese first partnered with churches during Holy Week and Easter, recording sermons and pre-recording services with churches to offer on the holy days. Diocesan canons and missionaries recorded sermons for churches to use in their own services and to support congregations currently without full-time clergy. The Rev. Daniel Robayo, missionary for Latino/Hispanic ministries, began livestreaming a Spanish-language service every Sunday for Spanish-speaking congregations, a service still shared each week. The partnerships proved so fruitful that the collaboration expanded throughout the spring and summer, when the weekly diocesan morning worship featured churches from across the Diocese volunteering

to share their worship with us all. As we moved through the fall and the bishops' visitations resumed, the Diocese began sharing their visitations each Sunday morning.

Throughout it all, we found collaborative support. On the weekly leadership calls, we exchanged ideas and experiences so that we could learn from one another. Webinars and one-on-one assistance took place to help those getting started and learning their way. Resources were shared. Affinity groups expanded. Silos broke down. Our sense of community grew.

## BUILDING FORMATION

Online worship was only the start of the adaptations made during the pandemic, for it is only part of the formation practices that truly feed the soul. Formation is the heart of Becoming Beloved Community, and all those who serve in this area worked incredibly hard to adapt in-person offerings to pandemic-friendly formats and to incorporate our mission priorities, keep our efforts moving forward and help us remember that the work we do in the world is rooted in the tenets of our faith.

The diocesan youth department provided myriad examples of this kind of creativity. The first-ever diocesan-wide confirmation class was held for high-school students using a hybrid of self-study, online meetings and one-on-one sessions with mentors. Led by Leah Dail, assistant youth missionary, and Amy Campbell, children's and family missionary, those who came together to make the offering happen included bishops, congregational clergy, youth leaders and youth mentors. The next class begins on January 11, 2021.

The younger members of the diocese were also encouraged to take part in "Speaking the Truth," a five-week series of youth conversations, and a youth edition of Dismantling Racism, the newly adapted anti-racism training developed through a partnership between the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Committee and the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing in Atlanta. Youth ministers and other leaders developed and shared resources, and the momentum continues as plans develop for annual events, like Bishops' Ball.

For those in the young adult community, campus missionaries worked with each other and their local communities to support those navigating their first years of adulthood. Ecumenical and community partnerships created ministry and worship events, expanding the number of young adults reached. Campus ministries supported food banks when it became clear how many, especially students, were experiencing food insecurity after they lost part-time jobs. Even the young adult podcast “And Also with Y’all” did a special series, “The Pandemic Diaries,” to give voice to the struggles facing that particular age group, from those in college to recent graduates to young families.

The Christian Education and Formation Committee was also central to creating new formation offerings and adapting others to online and at-home versions as we adjusted to life during a pandemic. One notable collaboration offered an online version of Christian Essentials, a multi-session offering that invites participants to explore, grow and deepen their faith and life with God. In a partnership among the Diocese, the committee and Christ Church, Charlotte, the course was offered to those interested in becoming Christian Essentials trainers themselves. More than 30 people from across the Diocese took the training, both for themselves and in the hope of being able to bring it to their churches, and training continued after the course ended.

Several webinars exploring topics like praying in a pandemic, exploring the gospel manuscripts of John, Christian/Jewish conversations on resurrection and a multi-faith exploration of divine inspiration and anti-racism activity informed and engaged us, leading our minds and spirits in new and invigorating directions.

The ways formation was reinforced in our lives this year are almost countless, and every one of them demonstrated the importance of faith practices in our lives as well as the strength they can provide. The diocesan commitment to formation will continue and be well affirmed in 2021 as the search is underway for the new diocesan missionary for adult formation and lifelong learning, a position that will include a focus on learning in an online world and the creation of digital offerings for at-home formation use.

## THE WORK OF RACIAL RECONCILIATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTINUES

The need to continue the work of racial reconciliation and social justice was as great as ever this year, and continue it we did.

The Rev. Kathy Walker, missionary for Black ministries, began her tenure at Diocesan House only weeks before

it closed for the pandemic. But she enthusiastically began building relationships with the congregations she serves most closely, helped by fellow clergy who participate in the Clergy of Color clericus.

As mentioned earlier, the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Committee, in partnership with Dr. Catherine Meeks and the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, was already hard at work on redeveloping the former “Seeing the Face of God in Each Other” anti-racism training course into “Dismantling Racism: Reclaiming Our Baptismal Promise.” Intended as in-person training, the new curriculum was released just as the pandemic took hold. The committee was not deterred, and its members went back and redesigned the curriculum once more as an online offering.

We continued beloved traditions as well. The annual celebration of the feast of the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray has been held in recent years at St. Titus’, Durham, and it was this year, too, gathering participants to offer prerecorded music, a sermon by the Rev. Hershey Mallette Stephens of Saint Augustine’s University Chapel and a special video presentation by the Pauli Murray Project of Durham. The Diocese was invited in and celebrated the service together online.

The Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman shared the work of this mission priority when

The Episcopal Diocese of NC presents

# Dismantling Racism

6 Session Offering for High School Youth

From the Absalom Jones Center in Atlanta, this curriculum is designed specifically for youth in Christian community. Participants must plan to be at all sessions.

Oct 17	9:00 AM	In-person (GSO/HP Area)	Intro/Covenant/God, the Artist/History
Oct 26	7:00 PM	Via Zoom	White Privilege
Nov 02	7:00 PM	Via Zoom	Internalized Oppression
Nov 07	10:00 AM	In-person (GSO/HP Area)	Repentance, Healing, and Reconciliation

For more info, visit [www.episcopaldioceofnc.org/children-youth/](http://www.episcopaldioceofnc.org/children-youth/)

- Mix of in-person and zoom gatherings • Cost \$15 •
- Register at <http://bit.ly/DisRacism> •



A youth version of Dismantling Racism and an online version of Christian Essentials are just two examples of the ways we’ve adapted formation offerings to our new reality.

he took part in a Province IV webinar on reimagining policing, hosted by the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing. He and the Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple held a special service in July when the nation lost in the space of a single weekend civil rights icons Rep. John Lewis and the Rev. C.T. Vivian, celebrating their lives and reaffirming our diocesan commitment to racial equity and justice.

Several projects around racial equity and justice were inspired, proposed and put into development throughout the year, projects about which you will hear more in the coming months.

## TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

The business of the Diocese remained vigorous in 2020, too. Both Diocesan Council and Standing Committee worked closely with diocesan staff from the very beginning of the pandemic, not just on business-as-usual matters, but on issues that would ensure the long-term health and strength of the Diocese and its ability to provide support to its churches and ministries.

The diocesan finance department and the congregational missioners and canons worked with countless congregations and vestries to navigate

pandemic support programs, including the Paycheck Protection Program, the CARES Act, EIDL loans and clergy pension waivers and the creation of online giving programs.

The 205<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention was rescheduled for 2021, and the Dispatch of Business team not only planned a celebration in its stead (page 16), Diocesan Council and Standing Committee activated an option in the Constitutions and Canons to move forward with the elections

of new council and committee members, who will begin their service on January 1. When the word went out for nominations, more names were submitted than there were spots to fill.

The North Carolina Episcopal Church Foundation (NCECF) has partnered particularly closely with the Diocese this year. When the Diocese proposed the ideas of adaptation grants to assist with salaries and insurance premiums for clergy and lay employees, and the new innovation grants to help churches gain the resources they need to build community in a new online world, NCECF didn't hesitate to fund the grants, recognizing that helping churches reach their communities in online ways was the "bricks and mortar" building blocks of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century church. To date they have committed more than \$300,000 to these support efforts.

NCECF was not alone in their efforts to expand their efforts to include as many applicants as possible. Every one of the funding committees administering the 11 diocesan grants and scholarships put forth extra time and energy to find new and innovative ways to walk with our congregations.

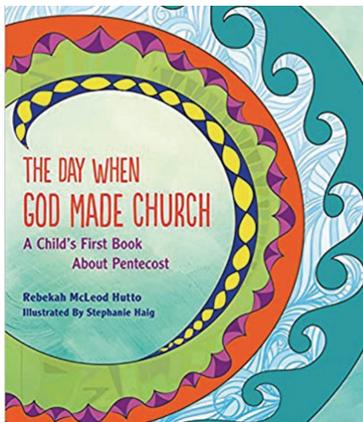
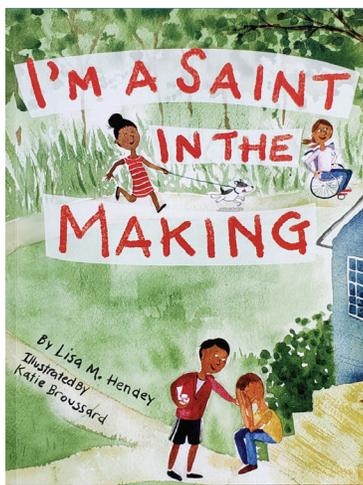
## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

As serious as this year could be, it had its lighter moments as well. Two book reads were created for Pentecost and All Saints. Bishop Sam Rodman and the Rev. Daniel Robayo partnered to read *The Day When God Made Church* by Rebekah McLeod Hutto in both English and Spanish, and Robayo returned again to partner with Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple for the All Saints' book read, *I'm a Saint in the Making* by Lisa Hendey.

The younger members of our diocese put our bishops to the test with the summer video series, "Ask the Bishop," in which each week the bishops answered the questions sent to them about God, the world and everything else on the hearts of our youth.

One of the most beloved and anticipated events of the year, HUGS Camp, took place as an online adaptation, where campers gathered in a special Facebook Group to enjoy crafts, music and worship together. Helper campers who haven't been able to participate since they became adults returned to take part, recording worship and songs and rejoicing to take part again. The campers themselves ensured the camp-favorite talent show went on, creating videos showcasing their talent, the things they love and glimpses into their lives at home.

Churches from across the Diocese shared photos and stories of inspiration and joy for #EveningGoodNews, the daily diocesan offering intended to end every day with a reason to smile. Look for it again in the new year!



## **MOURNING TOGETHER**

This year has not been all about the celebration of collaboration, adaptation and innovation, of course. It couldn't be. The very nature of the circumstances that necessitated the things we're celebrating brought with them pain, heartbreak, stress, insecurity and grief.

Partners across the Diocese produced two key series to help navigate the grimmer realities of pandemic life. The end-of-life webinar series helped with advance directive planning, holding the difficult conversations associated with end-of-life situations and planning, providing care for those tasked with the role of caregiver and, finally, understanding what happens to our bodies when we die. Informative and more comforting than you might expect, these webinars remain available to those for whom the information may be valuable.

Families with children, too, faced special challenges, especially in dealing with the grief and anxiety the upheaval of 2020 brought to young lives. The diocesan Children's and Youth Mental Health Committee created a series of webinars to offer perspective, understanding and easily implemented tips tailored especially for children of different age groups. The webinars for assisting children were so well received that requests for similar guidance for parents and all adults were answered with additional offerings just for them. The series returned to help us reimagine the holidays as they took a new shape during these last several weeks.

Just as we've been there for each other as we lived into our new reality, so, too, have we been there for each other as illness affected our families, friends and even our neighbors we don't know. As the pandemic has progressed, we've held closely in prayer those whose names were shared with us, and countless hours have been spent in pastoral conversations to comfort and share the burden.

We grieve as recent days have brought more and more news not just of those falling ill but also those who have lost their lives to COVID-19. To honor them, memorial prayers are now included in the weekly Noonday Prayer service shared online every Tuesday. (If you'd like to submit a name for inclusion, please send it to either Bishop Sam Rodman, Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple or the Rev. Canon David Sellery.)

As many words as we've dedicated to sharing the impact working together has produced this year, we've still only scratched the surface. If we were to dedicate this entire issue of the *Disciple* to all the contributions made by clergy, lay leaders, parishioners, partners, allies, colleagues and friends, even then we couldn't capture how much was so freely given to us and to each other to make this most-challenging year not just bearable, but one that leaves us feeling grateful and truly blessed.

## **STILL HERE FOR YOU**

One of the benefits of having so much of the year take place online is that much of what happened is still available for you to access, revisit or enjoy for the first time!

### **WEBINARS**

All webinars are available on the diocesan Vimeo channel. We encourage you to browse the collections, as they are arranged by topic and easy to navigate.

### **WORSHIP**

Also on Vimeo is the complete collection of worship and sermons shared this year, including Noonday Prayer, Sunday worship, and special offerings, including the recent Advent Lessons & Carols and Christmas Lessons & Carols.

### **PASTORAL CARE**

Among its many coronavirus resources, the Diocese offers a number of resources related to pastoral care, including resources related to isolation, mental health, substance abuse, domestic abuse and suicide prevention. Visit [episditionc.org/coronavirus-pastoral-care](https://episditionc.org/coronavirus-pastoral-care).

### **GENERAL CORONAVIRUS RESOURCES**

The portal to all diocesan resources related to COVID-19 begins on the general resource summary page: [episditionc.org/coronavirus](https://episditionc.org/coronavirus). From there, all resources related to worship, formation, financial assistance, staying connected and pastoral care are easily accessed.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCE REQUESTS**

The diocesan staff remains ready to assist you however we can. If there is assistance or a resource you need, please let us know, and we'll do our best to connect you with it.

## IN IT TOGETHER

If you want an idea of how many diocesan churches played a role in helping this diocese not just survive but thrive this year, whether through participation in the weekly leadership calls; serving on a diocesan council, committee, task force or working group; taking part in an affinity group or being active in the communicators network; sharing worship; representing a congregation at the November celebration or simply staying in conversation or offering a word of support, feedback or encouragement, take a look at the list:

Abundant Life, Greensboro	Grace Church, Weldon
All Saints', Concord	Grace Mission, Clayton
All Saints', Greensboro	Holy Trinity Church, Greensboro
All Saints', Hamlet	La Iglesia De La Guadalupeana, Wilson
All Saints', Roanoke Rapids	La Iglesia El Buen Pastor, Durham
All Souls', Ansonville	LEAF (Elon Campus Ministry), Elon
Calvary Church, Tarboro	Saint Augustine's University Chapel, Raleigh
Calvary Church, Wadesboro	San Jose Mission, Smithfield
Chapel of Christ The King, Charlotte	St. Alban's, Davidson
Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill	St. Alban's, Littleton
Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Ridgeway	St. Ambrose, Raleigh
Chapel of the Transfiguration, Southern Pines	St. Andrew's, Greensboro
Christ Church, Albemarle	St. Andrew's, Haw River
Christ Church, Cleveland	St. Andrew's, Rocky Mount
Christ Church, Charlotte	St. Anne's, Winston-Salem
Christ Church, Raleigh	St. Barnabas', Greensboro
Christ Church, Walnut Cove	St. Bartholomew's, Pittsboro
Christ's Beloved Community/Cominidad Amada de Cristo, Winston-Salem	St. Christopher's, Garner
Church of the Advocate, Chapel Hill	St. Christopher's, High Point
Church of the Ascension Fork, Advance	St. Clement's, Clemmons
Church of the Epiphany, Eden	St. Cyprian's, Oxford
Church of the Good Shepherd, Cooleemee	St. David's, Laurinburg
Church of the Good Shepherd, Raleigh	St. Francis', Greensboro
Church of the Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount	St. John's, Charlotte
Church of the Holy Comforter, Burlington	St. Mark's, Huntersville
Church of the Holy Comforter, Charlotte	St. James', Mooresville
Church of the Holy Family, Chapel Hill	St. John's, Battleboro
Church of the Holy Innocents, Henderson	St. John's, Henderson
Church of the Holy Spirit, Greensboro	St. John's, Wake Forest
Church of the Messiah, Mayodan	St. Joseph's, Durham
Church of the Messiah, Rockingham	St. Luke's, Durham
Church of the Nativity, Raleigh	St. Luke's, Eden
Church of the Redeemer, Greensboro	St. Luke's, Salisbury
Church of the Saviour, Jackson	St. Luke's, Tarboro
Davidson College Campus Ministry, Davidson	St. Margaret's, Waxhaw
Emmanuel, Warrenton	St. Mark's, Halifax
Emmanuel Parish, Southern Pines	St. Mark's, Raleigh
Episcopal Campus Ministry-Raleigh	St. Mark's, Roxboro
Episcopal Center at Duke University, Durham	St. Mark's, Wilson
Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, Charlotte	St. Martin's, Charlotte
Galloway Memorial Church, Elkin	St. Mary Magdalene, Seven Lakes
Good Shepherd, Asheboro	St. Mary's, High Point
Grace Church, Lexington	St. Mary's, Speed
	St. Mary's House (Greensboro Campus Ministry)

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# THANK YOU!

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St. Mary's School, Raleigh  
St. Matthew's, Hillsborough  
St. Matthew's, Kernersville  
St. Matthew's/San Mateo, Salisbury  
St. Matthias', Louisburg  
St. Michael And All Angels', Charlotte  
St. Michael's, Raleigh  
St. Michael's, Tarboro  
St. Patrick's, Mooresville  
St. Paul's, Cary  
St. Paul's, Louisburg  
St. Paul's, Monroe  
St. Paul's, Salisbury  
St. Paul's, Smithfield  
St. Paul's, Winston-Salem  
St. Peter's, Charlotte  
St. Philip's, Durham  
St. Stephen's, Durham

St. Stephen's, Erwin  
St. Stephen's, Oxford  
St. Stephen's, Winston-Salem  
St. Thomas', Reidsville  
St. Thomas', Sanford  
St. Timothy's, Raleigh  
St. Timothy's, Wilson  
St. Timothy's, Winston-Salem  
St. Titus', Durham  
Staff – Diocese of North Carolina  
Trinity Church, Fuquay-Varina  
Trinity Church, Mount Airy  
Trinity Church, Scotland Neck  
Trinity Church, Statesville  
UNC-Charlotte / Central Piedmont / Johnson & Wales  
University Campus Ministry  
UNC-Chapel Hill Campus Ministry, Chapel Hill  
Winston-Salem Campus Ministry, Winston-Salem

You are correct. We're all on there.

It has been a year to remember—not only the challenges, but the way we—all the worshiping communities of the Diocese of North Carolina—came together to face and overcome those challenges. We did it because we are a community, and none of us walks alone. Great work was done in 2020, and the work will continue and grow in 2021 and beyond. We are committed to our journey of Becoming Beloved Community because we are the Diocese of North Carolina.

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*Christine McTaggart is the communications director for the Diocese of North Carolina. Contact her at [christine.mctaggart@episdionc.org](mailto:christine.mctaggart@episdionc.org).*

By the Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman and the Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple

# WE PRESS ON

**WILL YOU SEEK AND SERVE  
CHRIST IN ALL PERSONS,  
LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR  
AS YOURSELF?**

**WILL YOU STRIVE  
FOR JUSTICE AND  
PEACE AMONG ALL  
PEOPLE,  
AND RESPECT  
THE DIGNITY OF  
EVERY  
HUMAN  
BEING?**

**I WILL,  
WITH GOD'S HELP.**

*I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.* *Philippians 3:10-16*

As you read this edition of the *Disciple*, Election Day has come and gone. It was a season of uncertainty and anxiety, yet, firmly acknowledging the challenge ahead regardless of who holds any elected office, we, the bishops of the Diocese of North Carolina, are hopeful and determined to press on in the firm belief that we follow a God who goes before us.

We are grateful for all those who made their voices heard at the polls and volunteered somewhere in the election process so that no voice would be suppressed. We stand resolutely—always—for free and fair elections, for the time, energy and resources necessary for a transparent and reliable examination of the fairness of the process, and for a peaceful affirmation and acceptance of the certified results.

Regardless of one's feelings about the outcome of the election, we are aware that a state of anxiety still exists for varying reasons. As President-elect Joseph Biden prepares to assume the presidency in January 2021, the moment we stand in as Christians in the United States feels unprecedented in our lifetimes. We remain in an exceptionally hard season of coping with, addressing and surmounting obstacles to building beloved community. We recognize the continued suffering of so many from all walks of life due to COVID-19. We see the continued systemic marginalization of racially subordinated persons; women; lesbian, gay and transgender, immigrant, and poor people; the homeless and the housing insecure, all pre-existing conditions that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

This has been and continues to be a period of lament, when we collectively mourn what this time has revealed and take ownership where we are complicit.

While we take no partisan position, we are mindful of the words of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry that political neutrality is not the same as moral neutrality. As forces of good and evil wrestle for our attention and embrace, we emerge from prayer with these convictions:

- When the world challenges our very understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus in a broken and violent world, we look to our Baptismal Covenant:
  - Will you persevere in resisting evil?
  - Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
  - Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?

Our affirmation to these questions—“I will, with God’s help.”—is no less important now than when we first said we believed. The Church’s call and our response is one of daring, dangerous discipleship. It is the sacrificial work Jesus commissioned us to do with a fierce love that fulfills the law of God. It is the work of being courageous and encouraging others to join us.

- Unhealed wounds must be tended to. This is our reality at all times. The Church stands as a reminder that we are called to confront the world with Good News and terrible truth. The Good News of Jesus Christ lifts us toward the redeeming love of God and assures us that we are not alone in the pursuit of God’s dream of beloved community. To heal wounds and repair the breach means to be willing to tell the truth. The terrible truth is that we have been complicit in settling for good enough while evil persists and spreads.
- We must continually, honestly acknowledge the trauma that has fallen disproportionately on our marginalized siblings. We seek unity on the principle that God’s love is for everyone. We understand there will be diversity of views in how to incarnate and best express this love for all. In this regard, with great humility, we must admit that The Episcopal Church, including the Diocese of North Carolina, has historically fallen short of full accountability. However, we continue to learn and to grow, and while we look forward to times of collegiality, we will not do so at the expense of those who continue to suffer. We recognize that it is not the responsibility of the wounded to heal themselves. It is the duty of those who benefit from such harm to do right in restitution for these injuries. This includes those caused by the Church.
- We call upon every person of faith to stand as both advocates and as healers: advocates who lead the continuing fight against the crushing blows of poverty, racism, sexism, anti-gay bigotry, xenophobia, ableism and this pandemic; and healers of the deep divides among families, coworkers, neigh-

bors and church members. We recognize that some may be called to public witness as they stand in solidarity with their commitment to bending the arc of the moral universe toward justice. We endorse their right to protest peacefully and call on local leaders to respond judiciously. No one should resort to violence, but, in the words of St. Paul, “overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)

- Our commitment to the public policy priorities of the Diocese continues: to racial justice and reconciliation, to farmworkers, immigrants and refugees, to criminal justice reform, to affordable housing and to creation care. We reaffirm our commitment to be disciples of Jesus Christ, making disciples who make a difference. We exhort our brothers, sisters and siblings to join us in a witness that is unwavering.

The stirring words of the Prophet Micah still hold true:

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to **do justice**, and to **love kindness**, and to **walk humbly with your God?**” Micah 6:8.

Divisions will not be resolved easily or quickly, but we seek the higher ground of God’s beloved community. And so we move forward in faith, steadfast in our convictions. Our hope is not dependent upon facile optimism or pursuing the easiest path to peace. Our hope is “built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness,” as the old gospel hymn by Edward Mote puts it. We engage “the powers and principalities” of this world with love and a living hope. (Ephesians 6:12 KJV).

That hope is rooted and nurtured in prayer. Prayers for our nation, prayers for one another, prayers for justice, prayers to accept the challenge to change the way we have operated and to reject the premises of systemic racism and white supremacy. Prayers to follow Jesus in the way of love. Prayers which transform our actions. Prayers to become witnesses to the living hope God has placed in each of our hearts.

Let this be our prayer: *Lord God almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

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The Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman is the XII Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina. Contact him at [sam.rodman@episdionc.org](mailto:sam.rodman@episdionc.org). The Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple is the VI Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of North Carolina. Contact her at [bishopanne@episdionc.org](mailto:bishopanne@episdionc.org).

# A SEASON FOR ACTS OF LOVE

*Diocese of NC is taking part in ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE*

*Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from God.  
(Psalm 127:3)*

As we celebrate the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, I find myself thinking about children. During Advent we prepare for the coming of the Christ, who comes in the form of a baby born to Mary and Joseph. At Christmas we celebrate Jesus' birth and revel in the sheer joy of children (of all ages) who love the Christmas season. During Epiphany, we remember the journey of the Magi who came to see the child, and we hear stories of Jesus as a baby and young child, knowing what God envisioned for that baby.

We know that Jesus was God incarnate, "God in man made manifest," as the hymn says. We know he grew up to be a miracle worker. A savior. He was all of those things. But he was also a baby and then a little boy. He was just like all the children in our lives. He got hungry. He got sick. He played with other children. He learned and grew. His family took care of him and provided for him until he was old enough to take care of himself.

## A HEALTHY START

Work with children is a top priority for Episcopal Relief & Development's global work because of the transformative opportunity it presents, not only for each child, but for entire communities. Research tells us the most important time to help children become all that they can be is during the first five years of life. If you can't ensure healthy growth, appropriate nutrition, nurture, stimulation and education during those formative years, it is virtually impossible for those children to catch up. If we can help children thrive during that critical period, however, we give them a chance to become everything God dreams for them to be. We can also transform their communities, because 15-20 years from now, those children will be healthy, productive adults who contribute to those communities.

Capitalizing on this transformative opportunity, Episcopal Relief & Development and its partner in Zambia, the *Zambian Anglican Council Outreach Programme*, launched a community-led, holistic approach to address the interrelated needs of families with young children: parenting, health, nutrition, food security and livelihoods. Community volunteers are key to this program, meeting with caregivers in their homes each month to ensure that:

- Mothers get prenatal health care, babies are weighed and measured each month to ensure they are reaching the appropriate health and development milestones, and children are vaccinated. Caregivers are connected with local health clinics to address healthcare needs.
- Families have mosquito nets to protect them from malaria.
- Families participate in nutrition classes, learning how to make nutritious meals from readily available foods in the community.
- Caregivers learn the importance of sanitation and how to access clean water.
- Caregivers participate in peer-to-peer parenting groups to share best practices and support each other.
- Families are given seeds for a garden that allows them to generate income from sales of produce as well as to feed the children nutritional food.
- Children ages 3-5 are enrolled in play groups, where they socialize with other children, learn letters and numbers, and eventually learn to read and do basic math so they are prepared when they start school.
- Women have access to savings and loan groups, called Savings with Education, where they learn the benefits of saving, have access to loans on terms set by the group, and earn a profit from their savings by sharing the interest earned on the loans at the end of the year. Our research shows that participants typically use their earnings to expand small businesses and to cover health, nutrition and education expenses for their children.

One participant in the Savings with Education groups reports, "We thought we were too poor to save, but we learned amounts can't be too small to save. And even with the small amount, we can do something to earn income." Think about the power of that last sentence: "*We* can do something to earn income."

I had the opportunity to travel to Zambia in 2019 to see this amazing work. The bishop of the Diocese of Central Zambia, the Rt. Rev. Derek, told us the real success of this program—beyond the measurable impacts of improved cognition, improved nutritional intake and better health—is the change in mindset. People realize they have abilities and resources and can change their own lives.

This approach—connecting individuals and communities to their capacity to make change happen for themselves—is

at the heart of everything we do at Episcopal Relief & Development. Rather than impose solutions, Episcopal Relief & Development and our host country partners listen to, learn from and work together with community leaders and volunteers to build on local knowledge and strengths. By following this approach, we respect the dignity of every human being, ensuring that our programs are appropriate for the context and drive sustainable change.

Sue Guptill, a member of Diocesan Council for the Diocese of North Carolina and a person with a career focus on child health and development, wanted to ensure that Episcopal Relief & Development's approach to its work with children was "both evidence-based and culturally appropriate." After learning how the program was designed and is implemented, she remarked, "I was particularly impressed there was a strong emphasis on recognizing and supporting the strengths that already existed in the community and that participants had a leadership role in determining the direction of the work done."

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## Our Diocesan Goal : \$198,000

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In a world full of division, we want to help spread some of God's love. The Diocese of North Carolina has joined Episcopal Relief and Development's "ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE" campaign by pledging to raise \$198,000 by the end of Epiphany to nurture and nourish more than 13,000 children and their communities in meaningful, sustainable and culturally respectful ways.

To reach our pledge, we are asking our churches for a pledge of \$15 per member. This will help thousands of children, their families and larger communities in the form of mosquito nets, bicycles, nutrition and parenting programs for young families, economic assistance, and assistance with care for newborns and their mothers.

It may not seem like much, but in the right hands \$15 changes and saves a lot of lives. Please join us in sowing some seeds of grace in a needy world!

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Follow our diocesan progress at [episdionc.org/1000-days-of-love](http://episdionc.org/1000-days-of-love).

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## ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE

Episcopal Relief & Development has launched a campaign to expand this work with children. The campaign is called ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE in recognition of the critical first 1,000 days of a child's life. The goal is to expand the work we launched in Zambia to other countries in Africa and to expand similar work, such as water, sanitation and hygiene programs in Angola. These reduce child mortality by creating sustainable community-led access to water along with Savings with Education groups and kitchen gardens in Latin America.

The Most Rev. Michael Curry, presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church and honorary co-chair of the campaign, says, "Love allows us to bridge great distances so that children an ocean away are as precious to us as the little ones living right down the block. Episcopal Relief & Development's programs with children share our love with thousands of children in Africa, Asia and Latin America. With your help, we can demonstrate God's love to thousands more." Indeed, the goal is to reach as many as 100,000 children by the end of the campaign.

I'm excited the Diocese of North Carolina is embracing this opportunity to help children around the world. Participating in ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE lives into our work to foster beloved communities where all people may experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves and others as beloved children of God. This local campaign also gives our diocese and congregations an opportunity to focus outward during a year that has been so inwardly focused. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the entire planet and reminds us that we are all God's children. Let's reach out and give children across the globe the opportunity to thrive throughout their lives.

The monetary goal for our diocesan campaign is \$198,000 by the end of Epiphany. This represents just \$15

for each person in the Diocese. Fifteen dollars is the cost of a package to nurture children in Episcopal Relief & Development's *Gifts of Life* alternative gift catalog. For \$15, you can transform the life of a child! If we reach our goal, together we can transform the lives of more than 13,000 children and their communities for decades to come.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Foundation in Salisbury is already a proud supporter of ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE. The Rev. Dr. Robert Black shared, "The organizing vision for our Foundation is 'Christian service in the spread of the Gospel message through missionaries or missions, health services or education by nonprofit organizations, particularly those associated with the Episcopal Church.' When we learned about the ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE campaign, we knew it fit perfectly with this framework and fits with our parish's commitment to becoming the beloved community. We like giving through Episcopal Relief & Development because we trust their process and know they are doing good and holy work."

The diocesan campaign launched on November 13, which was World Kindness Day, and it was widely celebrated during the online diocesan gathering on November 21 (page 16). Episcopal Relief & Development designated World Kindness Day as a day of Love, a day to do something kind for others, but we know every day can be a day of love. The tool kit created for the occasion ([bit.ly/ERDDayofLove](http://bit.ly/ERDDayofLove)) can be used any day, as it is a tool kit for individuals and families to reflect and choose an act of love.

Thank you for engaging in this season for acts of love, and thank you in advance for participating in the campaign—giving of your time and treasure to transform lives and communities. Together, we can ensure lasting change.

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*Josephine H. Hicks is the vice president of Episcopal Church programs for Episcopal Relief & Development. Contact her at [jhicks@episcopalrelief.org](mailto:jhicks@episcopalrelief.org).*

## DONATE

The easiest way to take part is to donate \$15 directly to the campaign. You can do this in two ways:

- Online: Visit [bit.ly/1000DaysofLove](http://bit.ly/1000DaysofLove) to make your contribution.
- By check: Send to Episcopal Relief and Development, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058. On the memo line, write the name of your church and the city and state in which it is located so your church will receive credit for the donation

## GIVE A GIFT

Purchase a live-giving gift this holiday season from the Gifts for Life catalog at [bit.ly/GiftsForLife2020](http://bit.ly/GiftsForLife2020).

Gifts designated as contributions to ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE are designated in the catalog, and you can add your church's name to add to your total at checkout.

## RESOURCES

Enjoy the resources from Episcopal Relief & Development:

- Learn about the campaign: [episcopalrelief.org/1000DaysofLove](http://episcopalrelief.org/1000DaysofLove)
- Worship resources for the campaign: [episcopalrelief.org/1000daysoflove/worship-resources/](http://episcopalrelief.org/1000daysoflove/worship-resources/)
- Advent resources: [episcopalrelief.org/1000daysoflove/2020advent/](http://episcopalrelief.org/1000daysoflove/2020advent/)



By Summerlee Walter

## THE ABUNDANCE OF COMMUNITY

Abundant Life Ministries began in 2019 as a health outreach ministry to economically and medically vulnerable people in north Greensboro. Its roots extend back to at least 2017, however, when the Rev. Audra Abt, at the time serving as a diocesan missionary in Greensboro, worked with the people of Holy Spirit, Greensboro, to discern how best to engage their neighbors through a series of neighborhood walks. The walks were intentionally relational; as parishioners met their neighbors, they collected prayer requests and prayed with and for those

who asked for it. As they prayed through the requests after the walks, they noticed health problems arose as a common concern.

The people of Holy Spirit called Abt to be their vicar in fall 2017, and the first Holy Spirit health fair took place on June 23, 2018. That first health fair and those that followed involved volunteers from organizations as diverse as the congregational nurse program through Cone Health System, the Center for New North Carolinians, the Mental Health Association of Greensboro, and volunteers from

Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity and St. Francis, Greensboro. The health fairs served to deepen budding relationships with neighbors, serving as much as fiestas—complete with food and children’s games, crafts and face painting—as serious health initiatives.

Over time, the health fairs transformed into a full-fledged ministry, Abundant Life, which, in addition to health services, provides weekly hot meals and grocery and diaper distribution. At least, it did until COVID-19 led to restrictions on in-person gatherings.

### ADAPTING TO A TIME OF GREATER NEED

Abt needed to find a way to adapt the ministry at Abundant Life. In-person community meals became impossible, so eight to 10 volunteer drivers began delivering food to approximately 60 families in neighborhood clusters each week. Some of those delivery drivers came from the communities—people picking up food for themselves while also taking extra boxes of groceries to deliver to their neighbors—while others were volunteers from other Greensboro Episcopal churches: St. Andrew’s, St. Francis and Holy Trinity, since many members of Holy Spirit are themselves medically vulnerable or do not have access to transportation.

While these modifications allowed Abundant Life to continue meeting neighbor’s physical needs, the heart of the ministry has always been building community, a task which seemed impossible during a time when people are encouraged to socially distance themselves and self-isolate.

Things changed when George Floyd died as a result of police brutality. Through the month of June and into July, drivers reported encounters they were having with neighbors who came to the door to pick up the groceries volunteers had just dropped off on their front stoops.

“[Driver’s] testimonies were about people coming to the door and calling them back from their cars saying, ‘Wait, wait, we need to pray’—for everything from Black lives need to matter, to me and my family are having a really hard time having any space for compassion in our hearts for those police officers.... ‘We need to pray,’” Abt explained.

“And these mostly white volunteer drivers are saying, ‘I didn’t know what to expect, but we stood there and prayed at a distance, and the Holy Spirit was there and moving, and what I thought the problem was, I saw in God’s eyes as so much bigger and so much more fundamental than race or Black and white of any of the things I thought were the problem.’”

And so a new form of community emerged as drivers requested to remain on the same routes each week in order to continue forming prayerful, neighborly community with people who are not their geographic neighbors, and who, in many cases, have very different lived experiences. While Abt knows these communities might grow into something else in the future, for now, she recognizes these encounters as what church—what community—looks like during a time of pandemic.

In addition to changing how Abundant Life admin-



Community take many forms, whether a front-yard Eucharist celebrated by the Rev. Audra Abt in August, a November drop-off of diapers and wipes for Abundant Life’s continuing to host public health fairs, like this one in September, so people continue to receive basic health care like flu shots. *Previous page:* Each week, volunteers

isters direct service, the pandemic has also opened the possibility of in-person worship in people’s front yards as neighbors connected to the ministry miss their own church communities. Abt regularly conducts family or neighborhood worship with community members who have a personal relationship with the ministry. That relationship, too, has evolved as Abt learned about the worshipers’ expectations around time, communication, cancellations for weather and safety arrangements. Abt is, for the time being at least, these families’ priest, but she has not pushed them to join Holy Spirit or another congregation.

“This is what The Episcopal Church needs to learn from and learn about being church in the world,” Abt said. “This is part of Abundant Life, but none [of the community members] would know themselves as Abundant Life church or community. Yet.”

### BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY

Building beloved community is the work of our church, and, while it might seem now is a particularly difficult time to accomplish that work, being forced to let go of what we’ve done in the past and reimagine our life together might be the key to building true community. Below, Abt shares some of her learnings.

- Service among neighbors is not antithetical to building Christian community. There does not need to be a divide between worship and service.
- There does need to be a genuine relationship be-

tween the church and its volunteers and the people they serve before a service relationship can transform into a prayerful relationship.

- Presume the people you encounter bring with them a spiritual integrity—something to contribute, not just receive.
- The fundamental question is one of orientation; if people are objects of need, you cannot build a community of mutuality and respect.
- Seek out ways to interact with people in public encounters that are not church-related or dictated by your title or role. Talk to people in the grocery line or somewhere similar to practice being open and developing relationships. “That’s been one of the most regularly human interaction times I’ve had in this whole pandemic is shopping and having wonderful, open conversations across that little plastic window,” Abt said. “That’s part of where my pastoral ministry is right now.”
- Be willing to experiment and accept not all experiments will succeed.
- Here’s the hardest one: Radically let go of expectations. Now, more than ever, we are forced to grapple with this reality. If we are not naming and claiming what we’re choosing to let go of, we’re not really letting go of it.

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diaper pantry by The Canterbury School, sharing voter registration forms, prayers cards, gasoline gift cards, public health info and more in weekly grocery boxes, or prepare and package both hot meals and grocery boxes, praying over them using the prayer requests tacked to the wall. Photos courtesy of Abundant Life Ministries

By the Rev. Kathy Walker

# ADVENT: THE WAITING TIME

Toni Morrison was a prolific Nobel Prize-winning author, and among her collection of memorable works of fiction is a book called *Jazz*. In the prologue, the character speaks of love. She says, “But I can’t say that aloud; I can’t tell anyone that I have been waiting for this all my life and that being chosen to wait is the reason I can.”

Her story describes an ill-fated love affair, and yet these words can be transported to an expectant relationship with God. Suddenly the meaning shifts dramatically. The idea that “being chosen to wait is the reason I can” resonates lovingly in the season of Advent. It is, after all, a time set aside to ask God specifically to make and remake your heart.

We begin this liturgical year with the season of Advent as we always have, in a posture of waiting. It is no accident the first season of the year sends us into a time of quiet reflection. During these next few weeks, we prepare once again to celebrate the birth of Jesus and look forward to the coming of Christ. In a very short while, we will culminate this season by joyously revisiting the story of a young woman named Mary, who gave birth to the Prince of Peace and placed him in a manger. As we wait, we must prepare.

## THE WORK OF WAITING

One of the great symbols of Advent is the lighting of candles. We light candles for hope, peace, love and joy. Those four words are wonderful guideposts during a period of waiting. As followers of the faith, we are filled with an exuberance for the coming holiday, but wait! There is work to be done first.

2020 has been a year in which the capacity to wait patiently has been challenged often. The word “wait” creates tremendous anxiety and, in some places, downright anger. In a typical year, it is difficult to sit quietly and be at peace

with simple longing. It’s this time of year people are used to finding themselves suddenly hustling to find the perfect gifts—or at least an appropriate token—for the folks on our list. Many plan an array of holiday parties and family get-togethers. We tally up all of the projects we vowed to complete before year’s end. We’re used to having too much to do. Even church calendars brim with activity as we encourage our followers to slow down, to be quiet and to wait.

Some might argue that much of this year has been a time of waiting. People wait for the pandemic to go away. Many wait to return to in-person worship or to worship where singing and communion can take place without restriction. We mourn as we wait to be able to gather in large numbers for baptisms, first communions, confirmations, weddings or funerals. Yet God is calling us to embrace the waiting time and open our hearts to his love and the sense of hope only God can provide.

As people of hope, we acknowledge a pandemic will not last forever, and we will be released from sheltering and distancing. While we wait, God invites us to connect with church friends in ways both old and new. We look forward to the day we can turn away from Zoom and toward in-person encounters with family and friends. While we wait for that day to come, we can express gratitude for the fact we can still see our loved ones at all.

I thought of my mother the other day, who died more than 25 years ago. We used to laugh a lot about how dramatically the world had changed between the time her own mother died and I became a young adult. I look back to that time and know she would be mesmerized by all of the things you can do with today’s phone: watch news, video chat, listen to the radio, play games, pay bills, turn



it into a remote control and yes, even use it to talk with someone. As we yearn for things to return to “normal,” we forget to pause and reflect on how societal changes have created marvelous ways for connection. As people of hope, we can only imagine how new inventions will enhance our quality of life over the next quarter-century.

## FINDING PEACE

In this waiting time, God calls us to sit still and find peace, even when so much in the world feels unsettled and anxiety is at an all-time high. In this year alone, we witnessed strained relationships between law enforcement and people of color. We watched persecutions and a global response from those who grieve. In some places, folks took to the streets with a collective cry for peace through equality and justice for all, while in others, we saw an inability of some to understand the impact of such deadly encounters on communities of Black and brown people.

Peace may feel elusive, but by following the ways of Christ, peace is possible. Peace is attainable if we, as Christian siblings, commit to loving our neighbors no matter how different we perceive them to be. Think of the hymn, “In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.” Peace is achievable when there is a willingness to look at others with a sense of compassion and love instead of suspicion and judgement. Peace will be attained when everyone is moving in unison towards the beloved community with a shared eagerness for the promises of God. God offers peace to his weary people, and it is up to us to adopt that spirit. We should all want to know “that peace which surpasses all understanding.” As your level of peace rises and your sense of hope increases, begin to plan a way forward toward true justice and equality for all. You don’t have to do everything today, but every day you can do something and bring us all closer to the goal.

The Most Rev. Michael Curry speaks often of the greatest ideal in life: love. He often reminds us that Jesus

says, “the greatest commandment is to ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. The second is to love your neighbor as yourself.’” As you light the candle of love this Advent, think of all the ways in which you show your love for God. Let your love shine so brightly it brings others closer to the creator. Your light may be your words, or it may be your actions. It does not matter as long as it is visible. Show your love by a willingness to extend to others the same grace given to you by almighty God.

During this season of Advent, find ways in which you fill your heart with joy. Even in the most stringent of times, there are things for which to be thankful. Maya Angelou told a great story about going to her vocal coach one day and declaring she was going crazy. Life had become a bit overwhelming, and she no longer felt she had the coping mechanism to contain it all. The coach told her to take out a yellow pad and write down all her blessings. Initially, she thought he did not understand her desperation until he began to tell her some of the things she should put on that paper. Blessings that she had paper, that she could hear him talking to her and had the eyesight to see her words. She went home, filled her legal pad and used one from that day on. While you wait, take time to write down your blessings on your favorite pad. Leave nothing out. May your heart overflow with joy as you contemplate all for which you are grateful.

In the midst of swirling pandemics in a tempestuous world, let us be reminded of God’s invitation to pause for Advent. In a secular year that feels very atypical, our new liturgical year remains normal because it is an annual occasion calling us to be still. This may just be the perfect year to give this season its proper due. Let us all allow God to make and remake the hearts of those who have been chosen to wait.

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# REIMAGINING CURACIES: AN UPDATE

A global pandemic is a challenging time to begin a new ministry.

Yet, on June 1, 2020, the Rev. Amanda Bourne, Mawethu Ncaca and the Rev. Philip Zoutendam started their ministries as the first curates in the Diocese of North Carolina's Reimagining Curacies initiative. The three are serving their first year in the program at Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill; St. John's, Wake Forest; and St. Titus', Durham, respectively. All three will spend one year in each congregation as part of the initiative.

Their arrival in these congregations was the culmination of more than two years of work for many of us in the diocese.

In spring 2018, Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment, Inc., announced a significant new grant initiative entitled "Thriving in Ministry," which would provide \$70 million in grants to organizations and institutions working to support and sustain clergy across a lifetime in ministry. Informed by research conducted by Dr. Matt Bloom at the University of Notre Dame, each grant award was intended to help clergy flourish in their vocations.

The need for such a program was evident. Surveys of clergy have repeatedly found that, while most of us are deeply fulfilled in and through our work, the pressures of ministry take a significant toll physically, emotionally and spiritually. Several studies have shown that clergy as a group are less healthy than the population as a whole and have higher rates of moderate-to-severe anxiety and depression. Researchers have spent years studying why clergy experience higher rates of burnout and early departure from ministry than our peers in other professions.

In the Diocese of North Carolina, a small group came together at the invitation of the Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman to dream how we might support clergy here.

The imagination behind the proposal was to work with clergy in the first years of ministry, that pivotal time when new clerics are finding their identity as priests while also

translating the lessons of their theological education into the day-to-day practice of ministry. We wanted these new clergy to be a part of a cohort, a mutually supporting colleague group that would learn together what it means to be in ministry today.

At the same time, we wanted to offer these new clergy the opportunity to immerse themselves in the breadth and nuance of congregational ministry as found in the Diocese. We knew that the curates' learning, growth and development would be enriched if they were to serve in congregations that differed in size, liturgical preference, racial and ethnic composition, community context and missional focus. One of the gifts of our diocese is we have such diverse congregations in close geographic proximity to one another.

As that initial small group continued in conversation with each other, a shape began to emerge for the program. We proposed having three new clerics serve one year in each of three churches in rotation. In imagining this, we knew the curates would have to be remarkable people. They would need to be deeply grounded spiritually to withstand the repeated transitions between parishes. They would also need to be adaptable, curious and willing to learn; they should have pioneering spirits. The congregations chosen for the initiative would need to be much the same—willing to love and support a new cleric fully but also able to let them go at the end of just one year together. They would need to be agile and open to the differing gifts that each curate would bring. The congregations would need to have leaders—lay and ordained—who could mentor the curates well.

In summer 2018, the Diocese received word our proposal was one of 78 funded as part of Thriving in Ministry.

## REIMAGINING THE IMAGINING

Of course, the program was designed with a vision of the curates serving in person at their parishes, meeting, embracing and developing relationships with clergy and congregants alike. Never in all of our work and planning



## Meet the Curate: Amanda Bourne

"I love to read and research, and I've really enjoyed the opportunity to teach. I've led a couple of Bible studies, and it's been great to learn about how to ask questions that will allow conversation and when to sit back and not say anything."



## Meet the Curate: Mawethu Ncaca

“If things were the way they were before, people are going to tell you what to do – this is what we’re doing and how we’re doing it. Now there’s a sense of openness, a ‘let’s try it and if it doesn’t work, it doesn’t work.’ That’s the spirit I’m finding, and I [hope] we will hold to it for a long time.”

did it occur to us that in reimagining the approach to curacies, the curates would live a reality that required them to reimagine the role they’d accepted before they even started.

But that is exactly what they, and the parishes they serve, have had to do. By the time Bourne, Ncaca and Zoutendam began their calls on June 1, the world was deep in pandemic, cut off from in-person interactions and changing the way we all live and work.

They didn’t miss a step. Acknowledging the challenges the new landscape presented, in a recent conversation, all three shared the unexpected discoveries and opportunities their re-imagined curacies have revealed.

“As a curate, I expected to walk into a structure very much set in stone,” said Bourne. But instead she finds herself helping to shape a new future. “One of the gifts has been the ability to partake in long-term strategy for the parish,” she said. “To be part of those kind of sessions, this breaking new ground, is a new experience.”

Zoutendam is experiencing a similar parallel, noting the pandemic has slowed long-term planning for everyone, at least in the traditional sense. But he’s discovered a different way to look at it. “When I find myself thinking about how things may take shape,” he said, “I can think in the short-term or in a more generational time frame. How do we want the church to take shape in the next 10 or 20 years? The things we’re learning [now] and the way the world is changing will affect and call us to be in a new shape in 20 years.”

One of the concerns for the curates was the fact the pandemic prevents them from getting to know their congregations in person. It is difficult enough for established

relationships to adapt to the change, but would the inability to interact personally with one another affect the curates’ ability to develop relationships with their congregations?

Ncaca has discovered an online world can create connections as real as any in-person encounter. “I was never taught to preach in an empty church, but now I find myself in front of a camera, preaching alone,” he said. “It’s the new virtual reality, but people are there. They’re engaging with you. It’s been a new learning, but I’ve managed to connect with people in a real way, in a true sense.”

The Diocese is fortunate to have their gifts among us. The openness and willingness of the curates to adapt to the environments they expected to find is creating a way of thinking that will undoubtedly explore new horizons we can’t yet see. We are also grateful to have the remarkable pilot congregations helping to guide these journeys with such talented clergy mentors as the Rev. Elizabeth Marie Melchionna, the Rev. Sarah Phelps and the Rev. Stephanie Yancy, along with so many gifted lay people.

With all we hope the curates will learn during their time in this program, it’s clear we, too, will be learning with and from them as we continue imagining and reimagining what mission and ministry may look like in the future.

You can continue to follow the journeys of the Rev. Amanda Bourne, Mawethu Ncaca and the Rev. Philip Zoutendam at [reimaginingcuracies.org](http://reimaginingcuracies.org), including a recent conversation about their journey so far.

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## Meet the Curate: Philip Zoutendam

“The move to mostly online worship comes with frustrations, but I’ve been surprised and heartened and encouraged by the sustained level of engagement at St. Titus’, and we’re starting to find and form rhythms, even in this new and unpredictable world.”

By Christine McTaggart

# LIFTING AS THEY CLIMB

*The Chapel at Saint Augustine's University enters a new era*

The oldest building on campus, the Chapel at Saint Augustine's University has stood as a cornerstone of faith and community in the heart of Raleigh for more than a century. The Chapel was built in 1895, and, from the start, students have been more than mere attendees of the church, quarrying the stone for construction under the supervision of quarry master, masonry instructor and future bishop suffragan of the Diocese of North Carolina the Rev. Henry Beard Delaney.

If the Chapel's historic roots provide its foundation, they also continue to enrich and support its ongoing growth. Recently awarded a \$18,686 United Thank Offering grant, the Chapel used this latest grant with others it received for the restoration of the stained-glass windows and pews, the creation of an outdoor worship space and retrofitting the building for modern technology. The work on the windows was completed earlier this year, and the pews and new outdoor space will receive attention in the coming months. The UTO grant provided for the next steps forward, as work recently began on upgrades to the building to give it the capacity to livestream and offer online worship.

## A CONTINUING TRADITION

One of the factors in the Chapel's legacy of strength and endurance has been the leadership of the chaplains charged with its care. That tradition continues today with the Rev. Hershey Mallette Stephens, current dean of the Chapel and spiritual life.

Many readers may recognize her name, as Mallette Stephens has been a part of the Diocese of North Carolina community all her life. Raised in Raleigh, she



The Rev. Hershey Mallette Stephens

grew up a member of St. Ambrose, Raleigh, and, in her new position as dean of the Chapel, she continues a decades-old tradition of family connection to Saint Augustine's

University. Her grandfather taught at Saint Augustine's, and her father attended the university in his own time. "I'm the third generation to be part of the Saint Augustine's family," said Mallette Stephens. "That is such a privilege, and also it feels like a responsibility as the school is trying to navigate the challenges of this time. [But] it's had its challenges in every generation, and it makes me feel like God is not done at Saint Augustine's."

## IT STARTS WITH THE STUDENTS

God may still have plans for Saint Augustine's, but it is not work Mallette Stephens will do alone. As always, the students are at the heart of university life, including the life of the Chapel.

"My students are great," said Mallette Stephens. "The junior class president is an Episcopal student, and they're all leaders on campus. Several are student ambassadors and do the student orientation. I've got about eight of them on the president's honor college. They're great students and give back to the university and watch out for each other. I really appreciate and admire that."

Many of the students most active in the Chapel right now come from an Anglican-Episcopal background, and several hail from the Bahamas and Honduras. For them, the international travel required to go home has added an additional layer of isolation in the last year, as many of those students have not been able to go home during the pandemic. But they are never left to feel alone, as Mallette Stephens checks in regularly with them to ensure they are doing well and have what they need.

That she has connected so quickly with her students is a testament to Mallette Stephens' ability and drive. She started her tenure only in the spring of 2020, her start date followed shortly by the birth of her first child. COVID-19 and its subsequent challenges came only a few weeks after that, taking with it the most common ways a new chaplain connects with students.

But COVID-19 didn't stop Mallette Stephens. Taking advantage of technology, she began creating Sunday Morning Prayer services and involving the students already active with the Chapel. "We [did it] with our phones," she said. "The students recorded themselves doing the readings, I recorded my message and we spliced it all together." She has even had faculty guest preachers be part of it; Dr. Josiah Sampson, III, provost and vice president of academic affairs, recently preached the closing sermon.

The restoration of the stained-glass windows is only part of the work that has been done in the Chapel; livestreaming equipment and pew upgrades will allow it to serve as both an in-person and online gathering space.



When the weather was warmer, they also took advantage of “The Yard,” the large, grassy expanse between the Chapel and Oakwood Avenue. On a few summer days, students could be found playing socially distanced games of croquet and badminton. As the weather holds, “Mass on the Grass” services have also provided spiritual bolsters, with students continuing to watch Morning Prayer via video and then meeting for a drive-by-style communion in The Yard.

“It’s been great,” said Mallette Stephens. “Because I’m new, this fall has given me an opportunity to see the students’ faces in the same place so I can touch base and see how they’re doing.”

### A SACRED COMMUNITY SPACE

Her dream, though, is to use the new livestreaming capabilities provided by the UTO grant to re-introduce the Chapel as a center for both the on-campus and surrounding communities. In days past, the Chapel was a central part of university life, serving as the gathering place for baccalaureates and lectures. And, of course, everyone worshiped at the Chapel: faculty, staff and students. In the case of students, especially, “it was just a part of the university life,” said Mallette Stephens. “Many of the older alumni still talk about going to chapel. It’s how a lot of African Americans were exposed to and became members of The Episcopal Church.”

Stephens hopes to open the doors of the Chapel, figuratively and literally, to expand the ways it can host and be home to its community. With the new livestreaming capacities, she wants to offer it to university staff as a hybrid online/in-person classroom space, perhaps as early as January.

“This is one of the largest spaces on campus, and we can make this a virtual classroom and worship space,” said Mallette Stephens. “Most of the time, churches get used one day a week, and I’m thinking about ways we can make the chapel a larger part of our life together at Saint Augustine’s. [The Chapel itself] is a beautiful stone, Gothic building, but how do we change the atmosphere around it?”

I’m thinking about how—after COVID—to welcome people in. Do we have to be a Sunday morning

congregation? COVID has made it so that the convention and order of things don’t necessarily have to be that way. We could be a Thursday evening congregation, and people who maybe go somewhere else on Sunday morning might want to come and do something different and interesting on Thursday evening. I would love to hold and livestream community conversations in the Chapel and have folks come and talk about faith and race and all the things we’re all wrestling with in this time.

We’re learning more things about what buildings can do and how we can stretch and be flexible. It’ll be interesting to see the sacred space hold learning, which itself is sacred and a real privilege. I’m really hopeful [the retrofitting] will give us the capacity to reach out in new and different ways.”

### DOING IT TOGETHER

The students will be a part of it all, whether through offering feedback in passing exchanges on campus or in deeper conversations during the office hours Mallette Stephens and deacon the Rev. Sallie Simpson maintain even now. It may even be through service on the student-led vestry currently in development. “I want it to be a place where students have input on how we worship,” said Stephens. “I want it to reflect the style and culture of the student body. I’m still just trying to be curious and figure out what is important to our students and how we might be most helpful.”

Her hope is the more people spend time in the space, the more the students put it on their beaten path, the more they will come to know it is their chapel.

“My students are just wonderful people, and I’m excited to see what they will do,” said Mallette Stephens. “They’re focused and want to give back to their communities both here and back home. I really do count it a privilege to join my grandfather and my dad in the legacy of Saint Augustine’s, working with students who are community minded and embody the spirit on which Saint Augustine’s was founded, who are lifting as they climb.”

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