

Episcopal Diocese *of Northern California*

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At least two of our young people stated to Camp Administrator Emily Buck that Camp Living Waters is the only place they don't feel like an outsider. That is, as they say, a big deal. She saw and felt growth, joy, and relief at this year's camp.

Camp Living Waters is a ministry of the Semper Virens Deanery based at St. Alban's in Arcata and held at Cookson Ranch. Our week is based around a daily schedule including crafts, outdoor activities, swimming, Bible discussion, worship and nightly campfire, with additional special activities like stargazing. The support of the Bishop's Appeal in 2021 allowed us to provide scholarships ("camperships") to everyone who applied for financial aid.

This year we had an online reunion in February, and were blessed to be able to hold an in-person camp, with a vaccine requirement for staff and campers and care packages that were sent to kids who were too young to be vaccinated. Because of this requirement and the general uncertainty of the year, our camp was a bit more intimate than usual with 22 campers and about 15 overnight staff. We are so grateful to have teaching and sermons throughout the week from our Deanery clergy, this year including the Rev. Geri Cunningham, the Venerable Pam Gossard, the Rev. Daniel London, the Rev. Deborah Magdalene, the Rev. Deacon Cindy Woods, and all coordinated and brilliantly led by the Very Rev. Sara Potter. This year we were again blessed by the presence of our Bishop, the Right Rev. Megan Traquair!

While it was a joyous and particularly gratitude-filled camp, we also became aware of the burden of fresh grief borne by our kids. While the Camp Administrator was leading some nighttime prayers, one of our kids shared that she had personally witnessed a loss of life. Following this admission, two other kids brought up losses they had experienced very recently. We all have far too much grieving and healing to do. Kids (all of us) need to be able to talk about these things, and I hope we were able to provide some of that space.

Our theme this year was Christmas in July! and we had a great deal of fun with music, "fancy" sweaters, Secret Santas and exploring lesser-known aspects of the Christmas story. We learned the story of ol' St. Nicholas, the annunciation to Joseph, what we know about the mysterious Three Wisemen, and the Mother of Christ who had no way of knowing she would become an ancient and multifaceted archetype of womanhood.

We work to be a very special place where kids can just be kids as well as part of an intentional Christian community where the values of love, compassion, cooperation and faith are lived. The love, hope and resilience of our Camp kids is a testament to our future, and to the importance of financial support in providing opportunities for them to experience the love of Christ and grow into their potential. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support!

We would like to thank those who support Camp Living Waters from throughout the Northern California Diocese. The Office of the Bishop, Bishop's Appeal, Episcopal Community Services, parishes and parishioners particularly in the Semper Virens Deanery.

Submitted by:

Emily Armstrong Buck | Coordinator
Diana Harris Cooper | Camp Living Waters
Steering Committee & Craft Director

In 2021, Trinity Cathedral hosted a pathways event for youth in the diocese. We had hoped it could be a hybrid event, but the shifting dynamics of COVID-19 did not allow for this. We held our conversations online between Monday 21st and Friday 25th June. A number of young adults presented material on the theme inspired by: Jesus and the Disinherited, a book written by the work of theologian Howard Thurman.

We talked about Sacramento as a city, the impact of colorization here, labor patterns, and the modern challenges of race relations and homelessness. We sought to see all of this through a lens of faith in Jesus, who was disinherited himself.

A strong team of young adults led this activity, and at the end of the week we gathered as much as we were able to debrief, share our stories about the history of the Pathways program, and explore hopes for the future. COVID-19 has affected many of the programs in the Diocese, and in our parishes. Pathways has been an exciting way for youth to gather and explore their faith in the world. It is hoped that in the fullness of time, this program can continue to do just that. Just how this fits into Diocesan life is under discussion currently, with a possible institutional home at the Cathedral, with oversight and funding from the Office of the Bishop.

Particular thanks goes to Elizabeth Potts and Shelby Larkey for their leadership in this program.

Submitted by:

The Very Rev. Matthew Woodward | Dean
Trinity Cathedral

The Commission works to create the Beloved Community in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California by supporting relationships among all people.

RACIAL HEALING AND RECONCILIATION TRAINING

The Commission is coordinating the Diocesan effort to provide Sacred Ground Dialogue Circles throughout the Diocese. Approximately 20 circles have been provided to date which has educated nearly 250 individuals throughout the Diocese.

A new one-day workshop has been developed with the guidance of Dr. Catherine Meeks from the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, and funded by a Becoming Beloved Community grant. The workshop will be piloted at St. John's, Roseville on November 20. In 2022 the workshop will be available throughout the Diocese.

The Commission completed a collaboration with the Commission on Ministry to review available anti-racism programs and recommend programs for the Diocese.

LATINO/HISPANIC MINISTRIES

The task force is developing ways to reach out to Latino/Hispanic communities in the Diocese. Worship toolkits have been developed for three Latino/Hispanic services and have been published in the Diocesan ENews.

Inspired by Sacred Ground, St. Patrick's Episcopal in Kenwood applied for and was awarded a grant from the Becoming Beloved Community grant program to fund essentials for a primarily low-income LatinX community school in Kenwood.

INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES

A Becoming Beloved Community grant was awarded to the Commission to fund consultation for two churches (Trinity Cathedral and Church of the Incarnation) through a process to develop relationships with their local Native communities to draft a land acknowledgement together. Rev. Canon Tina Campbell, Indigenous Missioner for the Diocese, is a leader in this effort.

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE MINISTRIES

A new Afghan Resettlement Team (ART) has been formed to partner with St. Matthew's Center and other agencies (World Relief, International Rescue Committee) to coordinate Diocesan efforts to support resettlement of refugees in Sacramento.

ADVOCACY TEAM

The Commission for Intercultural Ministries Advocacy Team was formed to address public policy and its impact on justice within our communities. It is developing an organized process for bringing legislation to the attention of the Deaneries and congregations within the Diocese along with tools to advocate.

RACIAL JUSTICE AUDIT

The Racial Justice Audit of Episcopal Leadership was conducted by the Mission Institute in partnership with The Episcopal Church's Racial Reconciliation and Justice Team. The report provides information about the impact of racism on leadership within The Episcopal Church. The Commission is considering ways to support a Diocesan effort.

COMMUNICATIONS

Effective communication is critical for engagement with clergy, lay leaders and other lay individuals. The Commission publishes a monthly newsletter and submits articles to the Diocesan e-news.

ENGAGEMENT - A FOCUS FOR 2022

The Commission is inviting Deaneries and churches to identify individuals to represent them directly in the work of Building Beloved Community. This engagement can be with the Commission itself or with one of the ministries within the Commission. For more information contact Lynn Zender (ZenderLynn@gmail.com) or Miriam Casey (mlcasey7@yahoo.com).

Submitted by:

Lynn Zender and Miriam Casey | Co-chairs

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- I. Continue support/resources/consult for 27 congregations with hope, healing and health ministries. Most requested areas of requests are about covid precautions/changes, promoting COVID vaccinations, mental health, recovery, & grief/bereavement.
- II. Multiple health ministries coordinated Lenten Studies via zoom on utilizing Living Compass Wellness resources. Living Compass Advent Meditation booklets are being ordered for any interested congregations. Advent studies are being developed.
- III. Mentoring developing ministry at St. Paul's Sacramento called "Hope Space." This is a ministry to offer complementary healing practices e.g. yoga as well as spiritual care to those receiving medical care from local healthcare providers. In addition, there will be a focus on providing spiritual support for healthcare providers suffering prolonged stress due to COVID-19. The Rev. Karen Lawler MFT is the visionary and coordinator of this developing ministry. We assisted in obtaining a 3 year Episcopal Community Services Warren Dunning Grant for seed funds to develop this ministry.
- IV. Continued support of Epiphany-Vacaville's Friday Meal Program ministry by having Student Nurses providing assessment/referrals for attendees. Also exploring the possibilities of Student Nurses at St. Matthew's Center.
- V. Recovery Webinar was presented on September 11th. A recording of the webinar is being distributed. Mental Health Webinars available on the Diocesan website.
- VI. Continued collaboration with Episcopal Community Services and Bishop's Task Force on Regathering as needed.
- VII. Planning for Exhibit for our virtual Diocesan Convention.
- VIII. As with many entities of the Diocese, we are working to revision our committee's mission moving forward living with COVID.

Submitted by:
Susan Wahlstrom RN | Coordinator
Diocesan Partners In Ministries of Health

Fourteen parishes in the diocese currently host Education for Ministry groups.

EfM is a seminar certificate program developed and sponsored by The Beecken Center at Sewanee Theological Seminary in Tennessee. Created in 1975 it is now a worldwide program. Through study, prayer, reflection, and fellowship and guided by mentors, EfM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom and their relationship to it. A four-year program, each year is a complete unit of study much like a college course. Participants may choose to take a year (or years) off and reenter in the future, however each year must be completed to move on to the next one. The group of six to twelve members meets weekly in their community over the course of a nine-month academic year. Members usually find EFM through their parish website, clergy or fellow parishioners.

STUDY

Participants are given weekly study assignments and resource guides. In the seminar members have an opportunity to share their insights and discoveries as well as to discuss questions arising from the readings. The readings are designed to contribute to the wholeness of the experience of EFM. Though the readings can be lengthy, members can read and study as simply or deeply as they choose. EFM is not strictly-speaking a bible study program.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

By using the tools of Theological Reflection, participants learn to think theologically by examining their own beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the tradition of our Christian faith. Each week a new piece of scripture, topic, object or concept is examined and discussed. This is one of the most beneficial aspects of the EFM program. EFM is a sanctuary environment where everyone speaks freely and respectfully. Contributions and opinions are not shared outside of the group meeting.

PRAYER

The seminar is supported by a life of prayer and regular worship. In some groups participants contribute prayers for worship from all over the world.

FELLOWSHIP

One of the most important blessings of EFM is sharing the seminar with others. As the year or years progress deep understandings and friendships can develop between members sometimes with differing points of view. It's a wonderful way to get to know others in a manner that is not common in today's busy and conflicted world.

MENTORS

EFM groups are under the leadership of mentors who serve as guides and administrators, not educators. Mentors attend yearly training to enhance their EFM group leadership skills as well as to deepen their own understanding of their relationship to God and humanity.

THE COURSE

Year One: The Hebrew Bible

Year Two: The New Testament

Year Three: Church History

Year Four: Theology, Ethics, and Interfaith Encounter

Cost: \$375 -\$475 per year depending on the number of participants. Books and study materials are included in the cost. Scholarships may be available on an individual basis.

The groups typically meet September thru May. With the advent of the COVID pandemic, many groups are meeting online or a combination of in-person and online.

The day, time and place of the meetings vary depending on the schedules of the the mentors and participants.

For information:

<http://efm.sewanee.edu> or contact your parish office to find a mentor in your parish

or contact:

Barbara Phillips-Barrett
Diocesan EFM Coordinator
bpb@napanet.net
707.529.1329

During the past few years, donations from individuals and congregations in this diocese have continued. This generosity supports the work of Episcopal Relief & Development both worldwide and for disasters in our own country. Our diocese has received funds to aid fire victims and has been given a grant to support the services of a disaster coordinator.

Much has changed in the last year and a half. The former title of “Diocesan Coordinator” has changed to Ministry Partner. The staff, which formerly worked in New York, now works remotely from various locations around the country. The gatherings of diocesan Ministry Partners, and meetings with staff are now on Zoom. It has been reassuring to see the faces and have conversations with these people I have met with over many years and hear about what is happening around the country. (The partners in both Massachusetts and North Carolina, reported experiencing smoke from California wildfires.)

The 1000 Days of Love program to reach childhood development programs in a number of countries is beginning its 3rd year. The title comes from research which shows that the first 1000 days (3 years) of a child’s life are critically important. We have learned that it has reached 2/3 of the goal of funds raised for this. There is one year left to reach the final goal. Overseas programs are continuing.

Episcopal Relief & Development received a 4 star rating on Charity Navigator this year. It should be noted that this rating changes by the amount of money we raise for special programs, and then the funds may drop when the program is finished, which can then lower the rating and cause misunderstandings.

Gifts of Life, still receives many donations, as people and congregations make purchases, especially during the holiday season. Some of the Gifts for Life selections are also credited for the 1000 Days of Love.

Episcopal Relief & Development, which began in 1940 to aid refugees from the war in Europe, was formerly known as The Presiding Bishop’s Fund for World Relief. It continues as a major outreach of the Episcopal Church now 81 years later. The work has expanded.

Prayer from Episcopal Relief & Development

O God, our refuge and strength, our help in times of trouble.

Have mercy on the lands damaged by fires.

Have mercy on the lands where the weather has destroyed livelihoods.

Protect those who evacuate houses, and strengthen those who rebuild hope

So that entire communities may face the future without fear.

Amen

The Rev. Jane Snibbe | Ministry Partner for The Diocese of Northern California

...to “recognize and welcome Native people into congregational life, develop culturally inclusive liturgies, and support the spiritual, cultural, and social values of the Indigenous Nations of Northern California.” (Resolution, Diocesan Convention 2007)

In October 2020 I was invited by Bp. Traquair to serve as Indigenous Missioner. Later that month we held a Commissioning Service at Trinity Cathedral. The outgoing Missioner, Dn. Lew Powell, was invited to participate and the service featured Native American elements in the liturgy including a Four Winds Prayer and Eucharistic Prayers from the Native church. My sermon can be found among the Cathedral’s archived sermons (Oct.11, 2020). In it I referenced the above Diocesan Convention Resolution as a guiding principle for my work in this ministry.

As a participant at Wintertalk I was invited to a weekly Zoom meeting of the Indigenous Missioners from across the Church. Our gatherings are led by the Rev. Dr. Brad Hauff, the Episcopal Church Missioner for Indigenous Ministries. These conversations have proved most helpful in that they have strengthened a sense of collegiality among the participants. The group has been a wonderful source of support, information, and ideas for ministry.

Just prior to my joining the Zoom group they had completed a study of Bp. Steven Charleston’s book, *The Four Visions Quests of Jesus*. I read the book on my own and then offered a Lenten Study on it to the diocese. Fifteen participants from around the diocese participated and I hope to offer it again in 2022.

In April I was invited to join our group of Indigenous Missioners in participating in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Our group hosted a session on the lasting effects of the Doctrine of Discovery on Native people, and I offered a paper on Land Acknowledgements.

About that time the Indigenous Ministry Task Force began to be active under the leadership of Miriam Casey, a parishioner of St. Patrick’s Church, Kenwood. She made the acquaintance of an em-

ployee of a consulting firm called Redbud Resource Group. This Native-owned organization works with non-profits and others to learn about, and build relationships with, local Native American groups. They also assist groups in crafting meaningful Land Acknowledgements. The Task Force entered into conversation about our efforts to write a Land Acknowledgement for the Church of the Incarnation in Santa Rosa, which had requested assistance with this, and for Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento. The Task Force then applied for a Building Beloved Community grant from The Episcopal Church to fund this work. In July we learned that we would receive a grant of \$7500. With an additional \$2500 from the Indigenous Ministry budget, we were able to enter into an agreement with Redbud and the work is beginning this fall.

The process involves gathering teams of parishioners from each of the two congregations which would meet with Redbud staff to grow in cultural competency, to learn about the history of Indigenous people in Santa Rosa and Sacramento and consider how to enter into relationship with local Native groups. At the present time we are finalizing the two parish groups and planning our meeting schedule.

As I complete my first year as Indigenous Missioner, I am thankful for the work of the two previous Missioners, the Rev. Canon Debbie Royals and the Rev. Lewis Powell. It is also heartening to be working on the Indigenous Ministry Task Force with Miriam Casey (St. Patrick’s Church, Kenwood) and Patricia Heinicke (Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento). I am also appreciative of The Rev. Dr. Stephen Shaver, Rector of the Church of the Incarnation, and the Very Rev. Matthew Woodward, Dean of Trinity Cathedral, for their support in our grant application and their ongoing support of Indigenous Ministry in their parishes.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon Tina Campbell
Indigenous Missioner
Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

The Center at St. Matthew's is an innovative community service ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California. The Center serves neighbors in need in the Arden Arcade area of Sacramento County, one of the most poverty-stricken communities in the state's capital region that is also home to the largest community of Afghan refugees in the nation. On its campus, the Center hosts a large food bank and an adult school offering language and literacy education to refugees and immigrants. Beyond its campus, the Center's leaders are active in collaborative efforts to provide local resources for the homeless and to promote Latino/Hispanic ministries across the diocese. At the spiritual heart of the Center is the Mission at St. Matthew's, a bilingual congregation offering Episcopal worship, fellowship, and pastoral care in both Spanish and English.

PERSEVERING THROUGH THE SECOND YEAR OF PANDEMIC

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center and its partner programs have persevered in our shared mission. River City Food Bank at St. Matthew's has remained open without interruption, doubling its capacity and re-inventing its operations to feed the hungry. Highlands Community Charter School re-opened for in-person instruction on our campus in May 2021. In January and February 2021, Arden Arcade HART (Homeless Assistance Resource Team) organized eight local faith communities to prepare and deliver meals to our unhoused neighbors in their encampments—a successful interfaith initiative that has now become a permanent year-round program. The Mission at St. Matthew's has grown in virtual community through bilingual worship and fellowship on Facebook Live and Zoom.

LIFT UP HEARTS: THE MISSION AT ST. MATTHEW'S

The Mission at St. Matthew's continues to offer weekly online worship via Facebook Live, enriched by weekly fellowship hours on Zoom and monthly shared home communion. Since January 2021, the Mission congregation and its Phoenix Chapter of the Daughters of the King have distributed meals to the homeless through Arden Arcade HART.

In June 2021, the Mission bid a fond farewell to the Rev. Canon Anne Arthur. We continue to be blessed by the volunteer ministry of the Rev. Grant Bakewell (Priest Associate), the Very Rev. Rik Rasmussen (Priest Associate), and the Rev. Babette Haggenjos (Vocational Deacon).

TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS: DIOCESAN TASK FORCE FOR LATINO/HISPANIC MINISTRIES

As home to one of just two congregations in our diocese that currently offer bilingual worship in Spanish and English, the Center at St. Matthew's seeks to foster wider outreach to people of Latinx heritage and culture. Jim Schaal (Executive Director of the Center at St. Matthew's) and the Rev. Grant Bakewell are active on the diocesan Task Force for Latino/Hispanic Ministries, a working group of the Commission for Intercultural Ministries. In 2021, Jim Schaal updated the Congregational Toolkit for El Día de Los Muertos that he wrote in 2020, while the Rev. Grant Bakewell contributed to the new Congregational Toolkit for Via Crucis. We encourage parishes to avail themselves of these resources.

FEED THE HUNGRY: RIVER CITY FOOD BANK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

After doubling its capacity and moving its food distributions outdoors in 2020, River City Food Bank now serves about 700 households per week at St. Matthew's. Following 19 months of outdoor food distribution, the food bank was able to move its distributions back indoors in October 2021. The food bank feeds a wide variety of guests including the working poor, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, homeless neighbors, and a large number of Afghan refugees as well as recent immigrants from other countries.

WELCOME THE REFUGEE: HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL AT ST. MATTHEW'S

After 14 months of distance learning supplemented by outdoor outreach events, Highlands Community Charter School re-opened for in-person instruction in May 2021. In preparation for re-opening, the Center at St. Matthew's worked closely with Highlands to renovate two underutilized rooms for use as a new classroom and a new welcome

office. The adult language and literacy programs immediately filled to capacity, making St. Matthew's the fastest-growing of Highlands' nearly 40 campuses in the Sacramento region and the leading campus for service to Afghan refugees.

WELCOME THE REFUGEE:

DIOCESAN AFGHAN REFUGEE RESPONSE

Strategically located in the largest Afghan community in the nation, the Center at St. Matthew's has served Afghan newcomers for several years through its partnerships with Highlands Community Charter School and River City Food Bank. Following the 2021 crisis in Afghanistan, the Center has become a focus of diocesan response to the plight of new Afghan evacuees. Several leaders from St. Matthew's serve on the diocesan Afghan response team, and in September 2021 the Center co-hosted a legal assistance clinic for Afghans seeking to re-unite their families under the Humanitarian Parolee program.

SHELTER THE HOMELESS:

ARDEN ARCADE HART (HOMELESS ASSISTANCE RESOURCE TEAM)

Launched at the Center at St. Matthew's in January 2019, Arden Arcade HART continues to grow as a nonprofit community organization, joining nine other HART organization in Sacramento County. CeeCee Coleman (Warden of the Mission at St. Matthew's and a Homeless Navigator with Sacramento Self-Help Housing) serves as President. In 2021, Jim Schaal co-organized eight congregations for a new initiative to distribute meals to the homeless in their encampments, while the Rev. Babette Haggenjos coordinated the Mission's meal distribution team.

THANKS TO OUR PARTNER PARISHES

We are grateful to all the parishes that have provided financial support or shared clergy with the Center and the Mission in 2021: All Saints Episcopal Church, Sacramento; Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis; St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church, Rocklin; St. John's Episcopal Church, Roseville; St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Carmichael, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sacramento; and Trinity

Episcopal Cathedral, Sacramento. To learn more about becoming a partner parish, please email us at: stmatthewsepiscopal@gmail.com

Jim Schaal | Executive Director

The Center at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
A Community Service Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California