

Winter 2024/25 Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS

ROOTED AND RELEVANT: A CAMPUS MINISTRY WORKSHOP

On January 3rd-4th, nine leaders and innovators in Young Adult and Campus Ministry from Province 3 gathered at the Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD to share with and to learn from each other. We were delighted to invite the Rev. Allen Wakabayashi, Episcopal chaplain to Princeton University and a leader in campus ministry, to facilitate a series of workshops and conversations centered on planting and growing this often-neglected ministry for our Church. Participants in the retreat, ordained and lay leaders of active ministries and seekers hoping to launch or revitalize dormant ministries, all benefited from the time together. We shared meals, worshipped, and made connections. Our hope is that this will lead to deeper connections among those engaged in Young Adult and Campus Ministry in our province and that we can all become effective advocates for robust engagement in this crucial ministry at the parish, diocesan, and provincial levels of our Church.



--The Rev. Dr. Ted Christopher

Descriptions of the workshops Fr. Allen led:

Session 1: Campus Assessment

Rather than coming to a campus to *impose* a ministry, our call is to lead a contextualized campus ministry that fits our particular campus. What can you do to assess and understand your campus?

Session 2: Building Blocks of Campus Ministry

What are we seeking to build on campus with our ministry? This session will propose some building blocks for building a healthy, vibrant, and lasting campus ministry.

PROVINCE III RETREAT / FORMA CONFERENCE

The 2nd Annual Province III Retreat & Forma Conference | "Come Away Together"

Forma is an annual gathering of forward-thinking individuals, industry leaders, and dedicated professionals in faith formation. And for the second year, the dioceses in **Province III** joined together to participate in a radically hybrid 2025 Forma Conference. This innovative approach was designed to provide accessible, top-notch professional development, without losing the important connections that make being in community special.



From January 27-30, 36 formation leaders from Province III spent mornings together in retreat with a focus on prayer. We were led by experienced practitioners in using yoga, music, and nature to supplement our own regular practices of prayer. Afternoons were spent in smaller groups attending online Forma seminars, with other leaders from around the U.S. Topics ranged from presentations on new Godly Play sessions to how to start a Book Group. Evenings were spent in fellowship, with good conversation, games, and food.

Check out some of the photos from our time "away together":

FORMATION MINISTRY DEEP DIVE MARCH 24, 2025

The Joy and How-tos of Budgeting
Join

Jason Kamrath
Province III Treasurer
Former CFO of the Diocese of
Maryland
from noon to 1 pm
as we take a Deep Dive into
BUDGETING!

Learn how to enjoy creating an
accurate budget for your ministry



needs.

Join Zoom Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87325879611?
pwd=cDFuWFVYYVmfibUcrQmkyNlhocmNuUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87325879611?pwd=cDFuWFVYYVmfibUcrQmkyNlhocmNuUT09)

Meeting ID: 873 2587 9611

Passcode: 935103

REPORT FROM PROVINCE III CLERGY REPRESENTATIVE TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Friends,

I have just returned from my first meeting in a 6-year term as a member of the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church. You can read more about the meeting [in this ENS article](#) and [this letter from Council](#).

I'm profoundly grateful for the gifts and vision of our new Presiding Bishop, Sean Rowe. His care and preparation for our meeting offered a glimpse into his leadership style and his focus on process. Our 38-member Council sat at tables, so that we might develop community and build relationships.

We learned and practiced some tools for collaborative leadership. We were invited into discussion about changes in our world and in the Episcopal Church. A presentation on the newly released parochial report data gave us insight into how we count and what we count and the eye-opening (for me at least) news that we can set aside the doomsday narratives of a declining church. Our church numbers follow population numbers and are not a forecast of a sure and certain demise. We're doing pretty well and we can grow together in faith and leadership as we make some changes, clarify our focus, and develop our capacity for sharing the Gospel with one another and the world.

I'm grateful to be your Province III clergy representative. And I'm grateful to your lay representative, Matthew Taylor, for shepherding me along the way. Now, buckle up, Province III: we're going on a ride and it might be bumpy! I am confident, though, that it will be a glorious journey with the Kingdom of God as the destination.

Peace, Nina

DIocese OF WASHINGTON EXPLORES A NEW VISION FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth Visioning Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington worked with a consultant to articulate a new mission and vision statement for youth ministry in their diocese, with a goal of developing and implementing a comprehensive plan to fulfill the vision. They gathered data through conversations with individuals and groups, both adults and youth; clergy and lay people; parents; paid and volunteer leaders. EDOW has generously agreed to share the executive report with other members of Province III. You can access it [here](#).



P3 CANONS TO THE ORDINARY ARE HARD AT WORK TOGETHER

Province III Canons to the Ordinary meet regularly in cohorts for fellowship, networking, and conversations as colleagues who share a vocation with similar projects and challenges. One of these cohorts met at VTS in October. Pictured

below are Jonathan Harris of Southwestern Virginia, Chris McCloud of Maryland, Mary Thorpe (Interim) of Southern Virginia, d'Rue Hazel of Virginia, Chad Slater of West Virginia, and Brad Hinton of Delaware.

Thank you for all you do to serve your dioceses and the worldwide church!



AROUND THE PROVINCE

UPCOMING OFFERINGS FROM LIFELONG LEARNING, A MINISTRY OF VTS

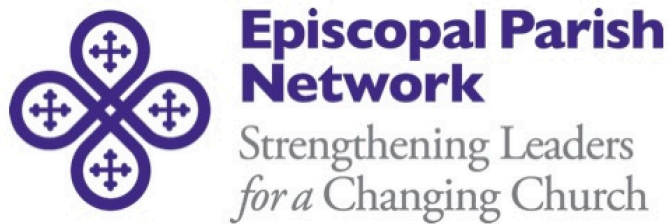
"Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary provides continuous opportunities for theological education in the service of faithful leadership. It is for the committed and the curious, lay and clergy eager to claim and explore their Christian vocations in today's world. Lifelong Learning at VTS is a multi-faceted program grounded in theology and research-based practices to provide transformational learning for courageous leadership in a changing church" (From the [VTS webpage on Lifelong Learning](#)).

Offerings include Worship for All Ages, Faith-Filled Families, and they also offer Christian Formation & Discipleship Office Hours for you to bring your specific questions, concerns, and ideas to discuss.

Information about their onsite, online, and on-demand programming can be found [here](#).

AROUND THE CHURCH

EPISCOPAL PARISH NETWORK OFFERS WORKSHOPS DECEMBER 3, 10, AND 11



For more information or to register, visit the page with the [full list of workshops](#).

- Finding Growth Opportunities Outside the Traditional Church Model 12/3 3:00pm ET. [Registration](#).
- Crisis in the Sudans: Action Needed to Save Lives 12/10 3:00pm ET. [Registration](#).
- Being Human & Pastoring Toward the Good Life 12/11 3:00pm ET. [Registration](#).

JOIN DEEPGREENFAITH CENTER'S ROBIN GOTTFRIED AS HE REFLECTS ON THE INCARNATION



Join Robin Gottfried, director of the Center's Contemplation and Care for Creation program, as he presents old truths in a new setting and provides new insights and depths of understanding. So, heat up some cider, sit by the fire, and listen as Robin reads a whimsical, imaginative tale of God's decision to become Contigo, a baker known for his gift of song. As we prepare for Christmas during Advent, take a break from parties and planning to ponder the mystery of the Incarnation and what it means for us.

[Registration](#) is required.

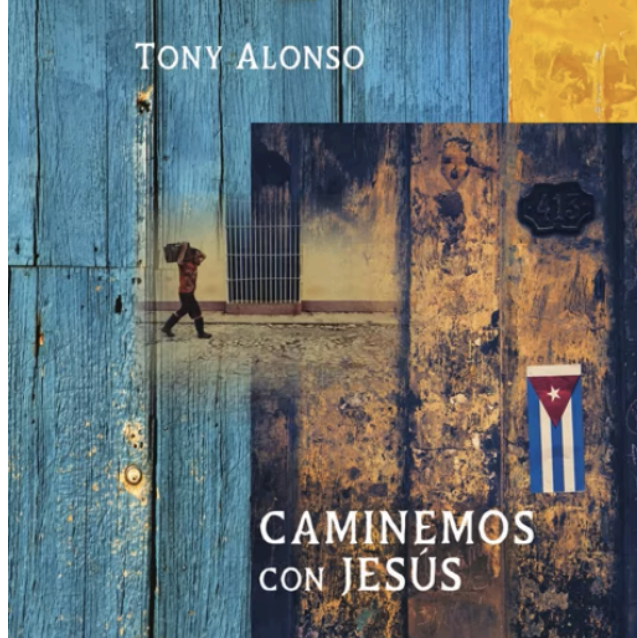
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IS OFFERING FREE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS RESOURCES

These [free resources](#) are designed to help you and your congregation share the Good News of God's love through the coming of Jesus Christ this Advent and Christmas. Find sermons, lesson plans, bulletins, devotionals, calendars, a customizable promotional video, social media resources, and more.

2025 TRI-HISTORY CONFERENCE PAPER AND PROGRAM PROPOSALS DUE JAN. 1 FOR JUNE GATHERING

Every three years (excepting Covid), three organizations--The Historical Society of the Episcopal Church, The Episcopal Women's History Project, and National Episcopal Historians and Archivists--sponsor a cooperative, triennial conference on the history of The Episcopal Church.

The next conference will take place June 17-21, 2025 in Washington, D.C. The topic is **Caminemos con Jesús: History of Latino Ministry in the Episcopal Church.**



More information on the conference and registration information can be found on the [Tri-history Conference website](#). A call for papers and program proposals can also be found on their website. Proposals are due January 1, 2025.

EPISCOPAL SERVICE CORPS APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Episcopal Service Corps equips young adults ages 21-32 to transform themselves and the communities around them through faithful commitment to prayer, practice, and self-discovery in year-long programs around the country. To learn more about ESC, its programs, and how to apply, go to their [website](#).



Listen to your life.

Through Episcopal Service Corps, young adults 21-32 are invited to a year apart. A year of listening, of learning and growing, of making new friends in a new place. A year of considering how you can use your unique gifts and experiences to create real, meaningful change in the community around you.

Apply Today: [EpiscopalServiceCorps.org](https://www.EpiscopalServiceCorps.org)

ECF'S "FELLOWSHIP PARTNERS PROGRAM" OPENS ITS 2025 FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) is excited to announce that 2025 fellowship applications are [now open](#) for the Fellowship Partners Program! Since 1964, ECF has supported nearly 240 dedicated lay and clergy leaders through this program, empowering them with resources for advanced academic studies and specialized ministries that strengthen The Episcopal Church's mission and impact.

The Fellowship Partners Program nurtures leaders at a formative stage, enabling them to contribute in meaningful ways to the church's growth and future. Here's what you should know before applying:

- **We Empower the Next Generation.** ECF is committed to strengthening the leadership capability of The Episcopal Church. Applicants are asked to describe how they will be developing the next generation of leaders for the Episcopal Church, whether in the context of a local congregation, through a church-wide initiative, or in another setting.
- **Our Support Goes Beyond Funding.** An ECF Fellowship provides both financial backing and invaluable connections. Awards typically range up to \$15,000 for the first year, with renewals available for up to two additional years. New Fellows also join a vibrant network of past Fellows and ECF partners, connecting with peers and mentors across the church.
- **The Selection Process is Rigorous.** Because we take this commitment seriously, the fellowship application process is highly competitive and requires thorough preparation. We encourage all applicants to begin early to ensure a strong submission. **The deadline to apply is March 11, 2025**, and the selected fellows will be announced in June 2025.

For more information about the Fellowship Partners Program application process, visit [our website](#), where you'll find everything you need, including our [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Curious about our current fellows? Check out the profiles of the 2024 fellows [here](#).

NEEDING TO BRUSH UP ON YOUR ALTAR GUILD SKILLS OR HAVE QUESTIONS?

Then check out:

***A Manual for Altar Guilds: Theology, History, and Practice* by Robert A. Picken**

An essential volume spanning the theology, tradition, and practical considerations of the altar guild ministry.

Peppered with scripture and prayers, this guide examines the history and tradition of the altar guild and elevates this role as a vocation in the life of the church. Offering definitions, instructions, and illustrations, this volume has what you need to prepare for every liturgical season, as well as a guide for special services, including weddings, funerals, ordinations, and visits from the bishop. It addresses modern challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, including health and safety, virtual worship services, as well as unique opportunities for leadership in a changing ecclesial landscape.

"This is a wonderfully readable and in-depth look at the ministry of the Altar Guild. The level of detail makes it a good read not only for seasoned guild members but also those just starting out and all involved in or around the sacristy and sanctuary."
—David A. Hawley-Lowry, president, National Altar Guild Association

Order from any [Episcopal bookstore](#), [Amazon](#), [ChristianBook](#), or your favorite bookseller.

