

Campus Ministry

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Rt. Rev. Sir and Delegates:

It is again an honor and privilege to make my report as Coordinator for Campus Ministry. I am indebted beyond all ability to adequately express my appreciation to those who have served on the Committee this past year: Karen Horney, Jonathan Frazier, Anne Kyle, Jerry Miller, Al Jewson, Ezgi Saribay, Todd Bruce, Allin Sorenson, Channing Horner, Mary Elizabeth Bradley, Pat Schreiner, Innocent Onwueme, and Larry Lewis.

During this past year two campus ministry workshops were scheduled. The first of these was to have been held in March in Kansas City, but was cancelled due to insufficient number of registrants. The workshop leader was to have been the Rev. Craig Loya, Campus Ministry Coordinator in the Diocese of Kansas. Craig is one of the shining lights on behalf of Campus Ministry in the Episcopal Church. I would like to schedule Craig again for presentation in the Kansas City Metro area.

In September two workshops were held in Springfield. On Friday September 11th Jason Sierra, Associate Program Officer Young Adult & Campus Ministries Seattle Regional Office, made a presentation to young adults and those who join in ministry with them. On Saturday September 12, Mr. Sierra lead a workshop specifically directed to campus ministry. Mr. Sierra's preparation and presentations were not only helpful, they were inspiring. Plans are in process for these workshops to be presented in Kansas City in March.

Currently, Committee members are planning a retreat for college students. This retreat would be held in the Springfield area. The Committee will evaluate the retreat with the hope of repeating the event at a later time in Kansas City.

The Committee realizes it can be a burden for persons from the south to travel to K.C. for event and for those from K.C. and north to come south. This has led to the decision to repeat events rather than present them only once and in only one area of the diocese.

It is a testimony to the hard work of individuals "on the ground", to Carol Sanford who preceded me as Coordinator, and to the Committee that where to my knowledge there was only on on-going Campus Ministry three years ago (All Saints, Nevada), we are beginning to develop others. The majority of these Campus Ministry programs are best described as "nascent". Yet those involved with them have shown a great and wonderful passion for this vineyard. I must also say that in every case, tremendous inventiveness and creativity has gone into efforts to form and nurture college work. There are few blueprints for parish-based campus ministry.

I wish now to share a bit about what is being attempted and accomplished. I would note that in some cases these remarks are the words of the persons expressing their gifts on local campuses.

St. Mary's, Fayette ~ Central Methodist University

A year ago I was invited to preach at St. Mary's, Fayette. St. Mary's is a member congregation of NERM. The Sunday I was at St. Mary's, twelve were present for worship. One of those was Elizabeth Belcher. Beth is a wife, mother, CMU student, CMU staff member, and a business woman. I had met Beth before, but had never had the opportunity to visit with her. It was obvious in our meeting after worship that Beth would make a marvelous intern for Campus Ministry at CMU.

Beth began work last fall. Her program ministers on a weekly basis to between 5 and 10 students. The group has had theological reflection sessions based around everything from books to current events. Beth has also led worship at CMU's chapel.

At the close of the last school year, Beth & St. Mary's hosted a party for graduating members of her program. This summer a grant was given to St. Mary's by the Congregational Development Committee: Rural & Small Town Context. The grant will be used for furniture to enable St. Mary's parish hall to be a more inviting place for students to gather.

St. Paul's, Kansas City ~ UMKC; KCAI; Rockhurst; JCCC

We are blessed in this diocese to have The Rev. J. Todd Bruce in our midst. Todd is blessed with a variety of gifts among them ministry with young adults and students on college campuses. He has worked diligently to start a program of campus ministry in the KC Metro area. In his words: "Canterbury KC is growing in its second year of ministry in Kansas City. We currently have about 8 active students, from UMKC, KCAI, Rockhurst, and JCCC. Students worship at St. Paul's, and various fellowship activities have been planned for the fall. We hope to go on a mission trip in the spring."

St. John's, Springfield ~ Drury University; Evangel University

Six college students were involved in the Campus Ministry program at Saint John's. One student was from Drury University, and the other five were from Evangel University. Five of the students participated in the mid-week Masses and dinners.

Three students sang in the choir. Of the five students from Evangel University, two of them were confirmed by Bishop Howe, and the Drury University student became a member of Saint John's.

In November Father Miller was invited to speak at the weekly worship service at Drury University. Doctor Peter Browning, Chaplain and Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Drury University, sponsors the weekly service. Father Miller and Doctor Browning visited throughout the year about Episcopal students at Drury University. In August of 2009, Ezgi Saribay, a student at Drury University and member of Saint John's, was hired by the Diocese to be the student intern at Drury University for the academic year 2009-2010.

All Saints, Nevada ~ Cottey College

Campus Ministry at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Nevada, MO is focused on serving the needs of students at Cottey College. Our ministry team supports the students through: linking them with host families, hosting a monthly fellowship meal for students, providing "study packs" (bags of snacks and drinks) during midterm and final exam times, offering mentoring relationships, including them in worship and Christian formation opportunities, and providing practical help when needed. In the last year, Cottey students enhanced worship at All Saints' through musical solos. Five of our Cottey students blessed our congregation with a wonderful liturgical dance, using a life-

sized wooden cross, at the evening Good Friday service. This fall, a member provided a bike to a student who needed transportation. Our latest innovation is the use of an All Saints' Facebook Page to communicate with students. It allows us to use "news feeds" and "invitations" to inform them of current opportunities at All Saints'. Susan Beeman and Louise Lunkenheimer head up our campus ministry team with support from Father Ted Estes and others.

Christ Church, Springfield ~ Missouri State University; Drury University; OTC

The goal for campus ministry at Christ Church in Springfield has been to nourish students- physically, socially, and spiritually. They seek to keep the Episcopal students connected to the church through college. About half of the students are not Episcopalians.

Reaching and inviting students was done through student contact at Sunday morning services (they found the Christ Church website), students inviting students, and networking with Facebook.

During the last school year, the group at Christ Church met weekly when classes were in session. Twenty-four students came from Missouri State University, Drury University, and Ozarks Technical Community College. On any given week there were between two and 12 students attending. There were two regular "helpers" from the congregation, Emily Biagioni and Ann Frazier. Every week the Campus Ministry Group met at 7:00 pm and either Jonathan Frazier cooked supper, they went out to a restaurant, or had pizza delivered. Cooking ranged from Italian to Thai. They ate, talked and visited from 7:00 pm until about 8:30, then went to the chapel. The students like to sit on the floor and say Rite I Evening Prayer by candlelight with lots of incense. This gives a sense of "sacred space" that is lacking in the auditorium worship experience that many had before college.

Jonathan remained active in the Campus Ministers Association at Missouri State University and ensured Episcopal representation in this wonderful ecumenical group. This past year, Jonathan was contacted by administrators at both Missouri State and Drury asking about the possibility of his providing pastoral care to their students. Jonathan also was invited to participate in a Safe Zone event for gay students at Missouri State.

In addition to these, Christ Church, Warrensburg (University of Central Missouri) and All Saints, West Plains (Missouri State University-West Plains) are working with me to employ persons as Interns as an effort to form campus ministry groups.

Three others require my Thanksgiving:

-Cosette Hardwick of Christ Church, St. Joseph and Missouri Western University is working diligently along with The Rev. Mimi Savidge to promote campus ministry. Each and every time the Committee has planned a workshop Cosette has been there providing herself as a gifted resource to those gathered. It should also be noted that recently, as part of their orientation, 40 Missouri Western students worked with members of Christ Church to beautify the buildings of Christ Church. The Rev. Savidge reports 2 of the students even went up the tower to secure a rope.

-All Saints, West Plains made a difficult decision in preparing to call a new rector. After many years of full-time clergy, All Saints realized that, in order to effectively engage in the ministry of all their possibilities, they would have to call a part time priest. Supporting a full time priest had led to the draining of the congregation's reserves and

was directing the parish toward the sin of survival mentality. In breaking free of those chains, All Saints is a congregation more directed now to outreach. As part of that outreach, All Saints renovated its rectory with a heart given over to using this resource as an opportunity for community ministry. After careful consideration, All Saints and Missouri State University-West Plains have joined to promote Project REWARD. Project REWARD is an effort to support the 10% of MSU-WP students who are single parents. Project REWARD was brought to All Saints by its deacon, The Rev. Dr. Craig Klein who is academic dean of MSU-WP. All Saints' rectory will be used to house the program and its part-time resource person. As CM Coordinator I worked with the congregation and college to draft a UTO grant request. A UTO grant in the amount of \$40,000 has been awarded to assist in carrying out this mission of congregation and campus.

-Vicki Hanna attends St. John's Neosho. When I preached at St. John's and made a campus ministry presentation, 9 parishioners were present. In a limited definition of campus ministry, St. John's does not possess the critical mass needed to conduct any such program. This has not stopped Ms. Hanna. Twice I have been present as Vicki has represented St. John's in ministering to students at Neosho's Crowder College: At the end of last school year and the beginning of this I have attended events where Vicki has cooked hotdogs, given out prayer beads, and offered her care and love to those who attend Crowder. Will St. John's ever have a "formal" program? Probably not, but St. John's and Vicki Hanna are offering the profound hospitality and table fellowship for which the Episcopal Church is known. St. John's is indeed witness that, at its heart campus ministry is about contact and presence. St. John's is also sign to all of us that campus ministry is available to the mission of every congregation in this diocese intent upon making it part of its life.

Next year will be my final year as coordinator. In these last 12 months, I hope the Committee and I can continue to provide excellent workshops and develop the possibility of retreats for students.

Our efforts remain perhaps most focused on the calling of Interns. These persons enable our campus ministry programs in ways not possible without them.

Finally it is my goal that additional persons from Kansas City will become part of the Committee. We cannot well function without their gifts, skills wisdom and work. To that end, I am considering a group in the north and one in the south should that be possible. While the Committee could meet in a central location for budget planning, etc., it might be more efficient to work to some degree in smaller groups closer to home. I therefore ask delegates both clergy and lay, especially those in the Kansas City area, to consider persons in their congregations for membership.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael R. Kyle