

Dear Friends in Christ,

This past year has seen some highs and lows for the Chapel. If you did not know, the Chapel flooded on July 10th during the downpour before Hurricane Barry. We had to do a flood gut and replace most of the cabinetry in the building. Thankfully the building is all done except for one last project in the Chaplain's office, but it was a financial hit and got us off to a slower start this academic year. A big thank you to all the churches who have helped us by giving financially for our student ministry; those gifts help us to keep the program going because 100% of that money goes to the student programs. Your financial contributions help us to hire student interns and offer leadership opportunities to these students. You also help provide food for some of our events, buy books for studies, and in general you help spread the Gospel and build a community of compassion, acceptance and faith.

Speaking of the student ministry, we saw unusually low attendance in the spring, and the main reason for this dip in attendance was over half of our students were studying abroad. We are happy to note that this fall, all of our students are back, and we have consistently had the largest attendance at our weekly Canterbury gatherings with an average of 13 students a week. Our students are mostly from Tulane, with a few from Loyola. Over the past year, we have had over 50 students come to one or more of our events or worship services. This is an increase from 30 the previous year, and we continue to see a growth trend from year to year in our student ministry.

Along with our weekly Canterbury, we have also started a student-led Bible study on Galatians and a couple of "Harry Potter and the Sacred Text"(HPST) reading groups. The HPST reading groups are looking at these beloved stories using ancient prayer practices like Lectio Divina, Havruta, Ignatian Spiritual Reading, and more. We hope that this practice will give our students the tools of prayer they need for engaging the Bible, even if they are not willing or able to wrestle with it right now. So far, we have had deep, theological, and spiritual conversations with Harry Potter, and one day, the students will hopefully feel empowered to find truth in Scripture, as those in our Bible Study are already doing.

Throughout the year, we have also engaged with hundreds of students, faculty, and staff in conversation through tabling on campus, and this past year, we gave out 750 steel straws to encourage environmental sustainability on campus. A big thank you to the folks at St. George's, New Orleans, who helped us with that project!

As we continue to move forward, we are looking at creative and mission appropriate ways to use our space. We have had film, art, and music students use our space for school projects. We continue to offer study space and snacks for exam times (we are always accepting snack items for students if your church would like an outreach opportunity). We have an AA group, a therapist, XA Christian Community, and the Chinese Christian Community who use our space to provide support for students within their context. We are developing ecumenical and interfaith relationships and using our space to build those relationships.

Finally, we want to say a quick word on the Young Adult and Campus Ministry Conference put on by the Episcopal Church and the ELCA this past summer. We came away with many

ideas for improving our ministry, but we also came away with a renewed sense of pride in the student programs of this Diocese. While we see a considerable amount of fluctuation in the size of this kind of ministry from year to year, all of ours are very healthy. We face the same financial and physical plant issues, but our students are engaged. The seeds of evangelism and the spiritual roots of Christian Community are taking place in these ministries, and we give thanks to our Bishop+ and everyone who has supported our campus ministries, we would not have them without your support.

If you would like to find out how you and your church can get involved and volunteer at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, please contact our chaplain, Fr. Watson Lamb+.

email: flamb@holyspiritnola.org or call: 504-533-4916.

Faithfully,
Fr. Watson Lamb+ and the Chapel Advisory Board