



The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

(Isaiah 35:1)

Dear Friends in Christ:

Easter is upon us, a time of resurrection, hope and the beginnings of spring. Many of us are eager to embrace the fullness of this season. While the pandemic is still present in some dimensions, we rejoice that our diocesan life now allows in-person gathering, celebrating, growing and learning.

With joy, we see our Youth and Young Adult programs are again in full swing. Numerous in-person confirmation services are planned for 2022. Our Life Together fellowship program is forming its cohort for next year. Church school programs are opening with resourcefulness and care all across eastern Massachusetts.

All of this requires our deep engagement, because young people are not just the future of our church, they are our present. Your continued support allows these programs to launch, grow and bear fruit.

Here are some examples of the ways that the Youth and Young Adult programs are blossoming this spring:

The Diocesan Youth Council gathered a group of middle and high school peers for a day-long retreat on March 19, hosted at the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester. Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) organizers and adult mentors present at the retreat said the day was about re-centering,

*Diocesan Youth Council
gathering*





*Youth program in
Chelmsford*



Rev. Spencer Hatcher

finding belonging, thinking beyond one's own personal experiences and doing something actionable to help others. The youth heard about homelessness from the Rev. Jennifer McCracken, pastor to the MANNA ministry at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, and learned about food insecurity; later in the day, they filled backpacks with personal care supplies and handwritten notes, to be distributed by MANNA to the homeless community with which it ministers.

"I'm just glad to be back in person, after the two years over Zoom," said Nadia Robinson, a high school senior from St. Mark's Church in Foxborough. "It's much better to be in a group and actually meet new people and see new faces." Fellow DYC member Cris Latorre, a high school junior from Trinity Church, Boston, agreed. "People came together and that's what I love, that's why I joined DYC, to have a religious community outside my parish, not just with people I've known for years, but also with new people. That's what I'm really here for today," he said.

Recently, the board of directors of the Barbara C. Harris Center announced the hiring of The Rev. Spencer Hatcher to be the new Executive Director. She began her new ministry at the BCH Center in early February. She comes from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, Calif., where she has been serving as the dean of students, and brings long experience in camp and conference ministry from her work at the Diocese of Maryland's Claggett Center.

BCH, which next year celebrates its twentieth anniversary, will offer a full summer of camp for kids and families, as well as other programs.

The Rev. Dr. Yolanda A. Rolle has been named to serve as Missioner for Youth and Young Adults and will begin her new position on the diocesan staff on Aug. 1.

She will be relocating from Washington, D.C., where she is currently a mathematics teacher at the Sidwell Friends School and also serves as Episcopal chaplain at Howard University and as an associate priest at St. George's Church. She was sponsored for ordination in the Diocese of Massachusetts by Emmanuel Church in Boston.

"The leaders of the different constituencies that this position serves and I are very excited that Yolanda has accepted this call," Bishop Gayle E. Harris said. "She brings a wealth of experience, energy, wisdom and grace. Our diocese will be enriched with her presence again."

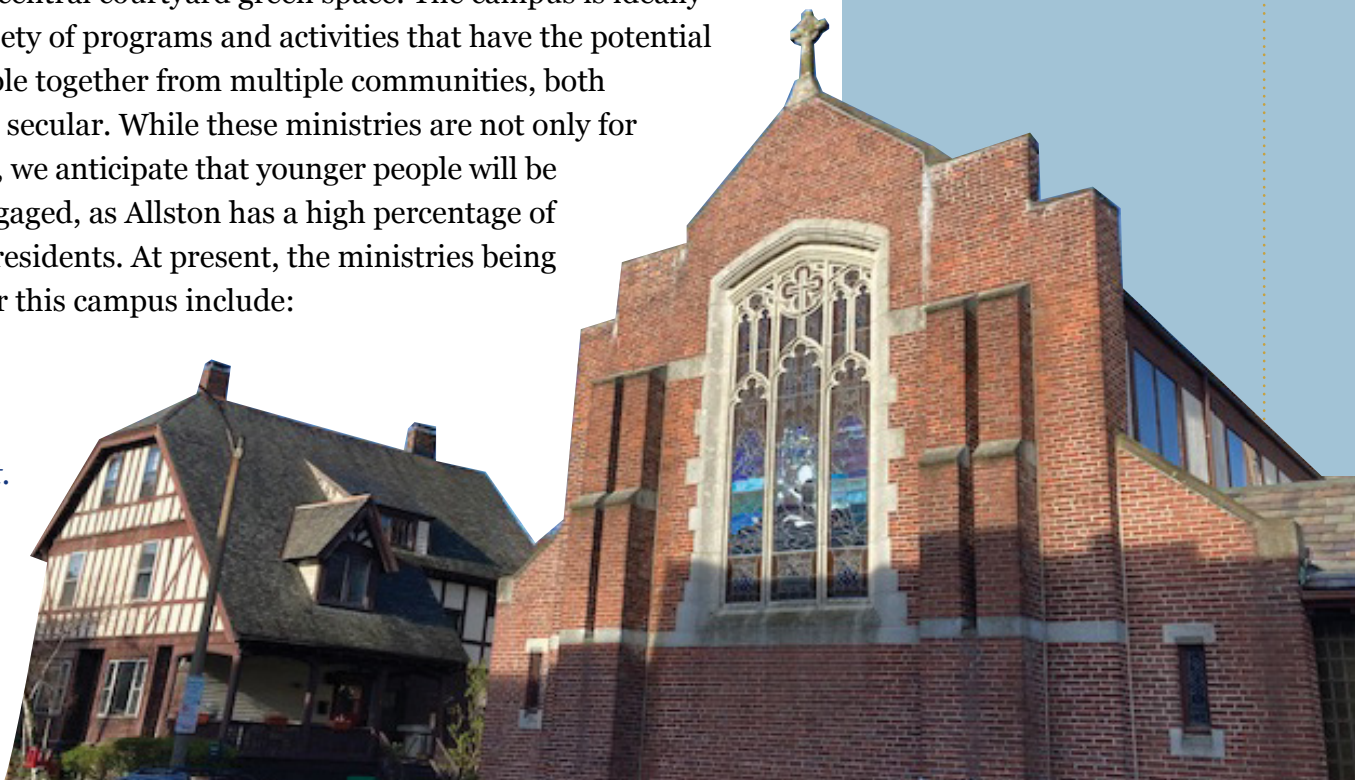
All across the diocese, parishes have been offering robust and creative youth programs. After-school programs, art and music classes, academic support and basic needs have been the focus for many of these ministries over the last two pandemic years, and both clergy and lay leadership have gone above and beyond to serve their communities. Sustaining grants to programs in Lynn, New Bedford, Boston, Fall River, Brockton, Waltham, Lowell, Everett, and Cape Cod have allowed the work to continue. Your gifts play a key role in fueling these diocesan grants.

In the heart of Allston, the campus of the Church of St. Luke and St. Margaret is undergoing a huge transformation. The Diocese of Massachusetts is actively developing multiple ministries at this campus, utilizing the church sanctuary, parish hall, rectory/residential home, and a central courtyard green space. The campus is ideally suited to variety of programs and activities that have the potential to bring people together from multiple communities, both religious and secular. While these ministries are not only for young adults, we anticipate that younger people will be especially engaged, as Allston has a high percentage of young adult residents. At present, the ministries being developed for this campus include:

*Church of
St. Luke and
St. Margaret.*



Rev. Dr. Yolanda A. Rolle



- *The Anglican-Episcopal Community of Learning (in collaboration with the Boston University School of Theology);*
- *Emmanuel House, an intentional Christian community of the Charles River Episcopal Co-Housing Endeavor (CRECHE)*
- *A new church plant focusing on serving the LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities;*
- *Ministry to underserved populations in the Allston-Brighton area;*
- *Community activities and events, especially of a cultural, social and educational nature.*

These ministries and programs are crucial to fostering the vitality of our church. We hope you share our excitement at the progress we continue to make in Youth and Young Adult work! Thank you for making a gift to ensure that our commitment to young people can be as robust as possible.

May you have a blessed and joyful Easter season.

Faithfully and fondly,

Alan M. Gates
+ Gayle Elizabeth Harris

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates

The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris

If you would prefer to give online, please go to:
<https://www.diomass.org/give-now>

With your support, we annually commit over \$2.5 million in grants, allocations and program support to Youth and Young Adult programs within and beyond the diocese. This includes direct support to eleven parish based ministries, six chaplaincies, Life Together, the BCH Center and other programs and initiatives.

