



## THE BARBARA C. HARRIS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER: A PLACE FOR THE SPIRIT

**T**he Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center is a testament to the claiming of a vision. Originating in the late 1990's, that vision of a new camp and conference center was pursued by

a group of individuals who were intent on seeing a place accessible to all—those in the church and beyond, young and old, those with plenty and those with less. With a strong passion for what could

be, these individuals confronted the seemingly impossible task of bringing forth something from nothing, and with God's help, made it happen.

Now well into its second decade of service, the camp and conference center has touched the lives of thousands of people from all walks of life. With funding from the Together Now campaign, the center has advanced its mission with a flurry of recent projects.

We've renovated one of the structures original to the property when it was known as Camp Union, creating a 16-bed lakeside bunkhouse, and we've created the Cederholm Retreat Cottage for diocesan clergy. We've purchased new washers and dryers for our housekeeping department, furniture for our new "adult friendly" cabins, new efficient boilers for the dining room and St. John's Lodge, a dishwasher and water heater for the kitchen and a slightly used pickup truck for the facilities team. In total we have invested \$1 million from the Together Now campaign into the infrastructure of the facility, to ensure good stewardship of the original investment for many years to come. Another \$1 million from Together Now is allocated for growing our endowments to fund more camp scholarships and relieve pressure on our operating budget, allowing us to keep our fees affordable.

Thanks to the work and vision of many, our camp and conference center has a solid foundation. We are blessed with

*Continued inside*



### Our \$20-million campaign

#### **\$2 million**

Tithing for mission beyond our diocese

#### **\$2 million**

Caring for God's creation

#### **\$4.5 million**

Equipping congregations for strategic local mission

#### **\$7.5 million**

Raising up new generations in faith and service

#### **\$4 million**

Transforming our cathedral church

For more information about each of the campaign initiatives, please visit: [www.diomass.org/together-now-campaign](http://www.diomass.org/together-now-campaign)

# Faith formation and a lot of fun

I spent my first summer at the Barbara C. Harris Camp in 2008, right before entering eighth grade. I came to camp as a pretty typical 13 year old: self-conscious, shy and desperately hoping everyone would like me. And whether or not I recognized it at the time, I also came to camp looking for God. I had grown up going to church



Sarah Neumann served as a Massachusetts deputy at General Convention this summer. Camp helped shape her as a leader, she says.

with my family, but I was starting to think more about what I believed and why. At camp that week and in the years that followed, I discovered that the BCH camp was a place where I could be myself, recognizing that being myself also meant being the person God made me to be. I made friends, but those friends were also my brothers and sisters with whom I shared my Episcopal identity. Camp helped me to take ownership of my faith in the midst of a spiritual community that also happened to be a lot of fun.

I always admired and looked up to my counselors, so when I was in high school I signed up for the Counselor in Training (CIT) program at the camp, where I learned to appreciate my strengths as gifts from God and to rely on others for help with my weaknesses. And even though I was only 16, this community that meant so much to me trusted my fellow CITs and me with more and more responsibility and showed us the potential for leadership in all of us.

My experience as a CIT led me to apply to be a summer counselor, serving for the past three summers. When my friends at school ask me why I keep going back to camp, I tell them that being a counselor is simultaneously

the best and hardest job I can imagine. I get to spend my summer at an incredibly beautiful place with a group of passionate staff members and some really cool campers. It's exhausting and challenging every day, but there's no better feeling than seeing one of my campers pass the deep-end test or exchange friendship bracelets in the cabin. Our summer camp was where I learned—and continue to learn—how to live out my faith, and I hope that I can be a part of giving that experience to a new generation of campers.

During my first summer at camp, I had no idea where I would be today. Looking back, I can recognize how important camp has been in my faith journey and in helping to shape my leadership, both within and outside of the church. Camp gave me the opportunity and the confidence to both recognize God's voice and go where I heard Him calling me.

Last summer I heard someone describe camp as a "thin place," a place where the barrier between heaven and earth is a little less solid. My experience there has led me to seek out more of these thin places. Wherever those may be, I know I'll always be able to come home to camp.

—Sarah Neumann

## The Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center (con't)

a well-appointed campus, thought-provoking programming and a staff whose hospitality is second to none. Our calendar is full, our fans many. So, what's next? What must we do to pick up the mantle of our founders and carry on?

In keeping with our commitment to provide a camp experience to those who can least afford it, we dream of adding capacity to our camp to provide for a longer season, as well as permitting more groups to take advantage of our summer facilities. We dream of improvements to our adult lodging options to allow for the accommodation of more national and international groups like Kids for Peace, CREDO or the College of Bishops. Perhaps we may even try our hand at programming to

prepare leaders for the challenges of our increasingly complex and interconnected world.

Winston Churchill once said: "Before you can inspire with emotion, you must be swamped with it yourself. Before you can move their tears, your own must flow. To convince them, you must yourself believe."

In a way that's what the original visionaries and donors did on our behalf, and now current Together Now donors are doing for future generations. First they believed, then they invested—prayer, money and service—in order to bring others along on a journey that benefits those far beyond the borders of our home in tiny Greenfield, N.H. This

hard work and vision has paid off: The Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center is quickly becoming recognized as one of the finest Episcopal camp and conference centers in the nation, positioning us very well for our next decade and far beyond.

—John Koch, Executive Director  
Barbara C. Harris Camp and  
Conference Center





St. John's, Charlestown parishioners are committed to creation care.

## First green loan finances better energy stewardship

The first Together Now-funded green loan was awarded last summer to St. John's Church in Charlestown, as that parish was preparing to complete a major renovation to make its buildings more energy efficient.

The \$100,000 loan financed the installation of a new gas-fired heating system, and was offered at a special low 2.75 percent interest rate through the new diocesan green loan program. The loan repayments are anticipated to be equal to or only slightly higher than the church's savings on fuel.

"This first green loan is a great example of how congregations of all sizes and varying financial resources can take significant steps to reduce their carbon footprint," said Bishop Bud Cederholm, retired bishop suffragan and a champion of the loan program. "The low interest and yearly payback of the loan based on energy savings makes it possible to do major green renovations without adding to yearly budget costs."

St. John's used a diocesan green grant of \$10,000 to finance the engineering study for the new heating

system, according to Melissa Giese, a member of the St. John's creation care team. The installation of the heating system was financed by the green loan and funds from the church's endowment.

"Our work on the heating system has made us more aware of ways that we can reduce our carbon footprint throughout the building," said the parish's rector, the Rev. Thomas Mousin. "The project has been a challenging one for us, but ultimately one that has deepened our faith, and our understanding of what it means to be responsible stewards of what God has given us."

The new heating system will have major benefits in terms of cost and reducing carbon emissions, but the project also came out of discussions about how St. John's could make its space more available and welcoming to the community.

"In our brainstorming sessions around what we might do with our space, we were reminded of the foundational systems needed to support

### GREEN LOANS AWARDED

Since its launch in 2014, the green loan program, funded by the Together Now campaign and part of the diocesan Creation Care Initiative, has awarded three loans, totaling \$300,000. These low-interest loans have been awarded to congregations making significant building improvements that will lower their carbon footprint. Their projects include oil-to-gas hydronic distribution heating system conversions, dual pane ENERGY STAR® certified window installations and solar electric array installations.

To date, loans with a 2.75 percent interest rate have been awarded to:

Church of St. John the Evangelist, Duxbury	\$100,000
St. John's Church, Jamaica Plain	\$100,000

St. John's Church, Charlestown	\$100,000
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Loans to three additional congregations, totaling \$200,000, are pending.

Green loans are available on a rolling basis and are approved by the Diocesan Loan Committee (with representation from the Creation Care Initiative). For more information or for applications, contact Dana Courtney in the diocesan Treasurer's Office at [dcourtney@diomass.org](mailto:dcourtney@diomass.org) or 617-482-4826, ext. 553.

—*Esther Powell*

such a ministry. Our heating system was on its last legs and we needed to solve this problem first," Giese said.

Alongside the diocesan green grants program, which awarded its first grants in 2011 and provides smaller amounts of money, the green loan program represents the next phase of the diocesan Creation Care Initiative funded by the Together Now campaign. The initiative provides congregations with opportunities to make energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable improvements to their buildings in order to reduce their carbon footprint and resource consumption.

—*Ellen Stuart Kittle*



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### TOGETHER NOW CAMPAIGN COLLECTIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Because of the generosity and faithfulness of thousands of donors, millions of dollars have gone forth to fund the priorities of the Together Now campaign. Thank you for carrying this work forward through your payments, participation and prayer.

#### TOTAL PLEDGE COLLECTIONS (AS OF 6/30/15)

*65.5% of nearly \$32 million committed diocesanwide*

**\$20,978,715**

#### DISBURSEMENTS

Parish share of collaborative campaigns (as of 6/30/15)	<b>\$6,604,481</b>
Tithing for mission beyond our diocese (reflects funds to be reallocated)	<b>\$695,491</b>
Green Grants and Loans	<b>\$633,673</b>
Mission Hubs (including Youth and Young Adult Ministries)	<b>\$1,364,448</b>
Mission Institute	<b>\$442,866</b>
Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center	<b>\$1,347,228</b>
Cathedral Church of St. Paul Renovations	<b>\$4,000,000</b>
<b>Total Disbursements (as of 6/30/15)</b>	<b>\$15,088,187</b>

#### REMAINING MONEY SCHEDULED FOR DISBURSEMENT IN 2015

Tithing for mission beyond our diocese	<b>\$194,050</b>
Green Grants and Loans	<b>\$188,348</b>
Mission Hubs (including Youth and Young Adult Ministries)	<b>\$1,722,237</b>
Mission Institute	<b>\$124,763</b>
Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center	<b>\$152,772</b>
Cathedral Church of St. Paul Renovations	<b>Completed in 2014</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,382,170</b>

*(parish share not yet available)*