

Report for the Committee on Young People's Work

To the 143rd Diocesan Council

Of the Diocese of the North East and Mid-Atlantic:

The COYPW sponsored two events in the past year: our diocesan summer camp for youth from grades 2nd-12th and our diocesan winter camp for grades 6th-12th. There was much to be grateful for at both events. At our winter retreat, held February 17th-19th at Rock Mountain Bible Camp, Fr. Jason Holloway led the teens in an exploration of the Parable of the Good Samaritan. We learned about the need for caring for others, especially those not exactly like us, and that Jesus is ultimately the Good Samaritan.

Our summer campers focused on the "walk" passages from St. Paul's letters to the Ephesians. Bishop Jenkins and Deacon Jared Lovell spoke at our two camps to the younger and older students respectively. To quote Dcn. Lovell, "five times in chapters 4 through 6 of Ephesians, Paul speaks of how his readers are to walk, and in doing so, traces out the path to spiritual maturity. The Christian life is a journey. Transformation occurs as you walk." We learned that this journeying is filled with joy, even if it is bumpy sometimes. I extend the gratitude of the entire committee to all three of these men!

Many thanks to all who continue to send youth to these events. We believe they are extremely profitable for all who attend and are actively aiding parishes and families in the formation of their sons and daughters. We encourage as many as are able to attend our upcoming camp events. An email will be sent out with dates information by the end of October.

As always, if you think there is anyone in your parish especially suited to youth work and might like to spend some time with some awesome kids, please let me know! I'm impressed with the crop of young counselors we have, but we could always use more! And please understand, that we run our youth camps as Anglican retreats. We pray the daily offices. We hear two sermons/lessons daily. I would love to have adults who model this way of living attend no matter their age. We need the energy and passion of young leaders. But we need the wisdom and guidance of older leaders. All that is really required are a love for children and a successful background check. Please support the work of molding children as young Christians in the Anglican way.

Yours in the Divine Mercy,

Dcn. Billy Jenkins