



Connie Sanchez and other Hondurans plus Kayla at EYE in front of our UTO booth

Episcopal Youth Event (EYE)

This July Kayla and I hosted a booth for UTO at EYE. This fabulous youth gathering was in Edmonds, Oklahoma, on the Central Oklahoma University campus in July. There were 1400 people there—mostly youth who are going into 9-graduating from high school, adult sponsors, and lots of bishops. Not sure who was having the best time, but lots of smiles on those bishops' faces. At the booth we had blue strips



of paper and we asked people stopping by to write something they were grateful for. The paper chain of gratitude filled the big wooden UTO blue box each day and by the end of the week we had hundreds of expressions of gratitude.

We talked to them about UTO, the blue boxes, and even had youth asking us if they were in a parish with no UTO coordinator, if they could start one. It was great fun, and much more relaxed than my previous times as an adult sponsor.

Julia Chester Emery Birthday Celebration

In Puerto Rico we learned we are behind on our Ingathering for this year and triennium, and we talked about ways to raise an additional \$700,000 to surpass last triennium's total. Well, Heather came up with the idea of a birthday bash for Julia's 165th birthday, I floated it by the Board, and in a straw poll almost everyone approved it. We then approved it at an Executive Committee meeting, and Heather has been working hard to make this a reality. At the end of this missive is the beautiful poster that anyone can download. I have talked to our parish coordinator, and we hope to have some fun with a birthday party.

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There was an announcement in the Episcopal News Service today, there will be letters and videos from Bishop Curry, President Gay Jennings and myself celebrating this great woman's contribution to the church and champion of the United Thank Offering. Elizabeth has written an article for the September e-newsletter about Julia Chester Emery and some UTO history, giving full credit to Ida Soule's brilliant idea that led to UTO. There will be information on Facebook and in the August e-newsletter, and even a friendly competition. Barbara's husband Duane makes beautiful UTO boxes, large and small, and we will be giving away 4 of the smaller UTO boxes as prizes with products from our UTO Navajo grant sites. We hope you will read the ideas on Facebook and share the e-newsletter promoting JCE's 165th birthday and get in on the fun. I hope you will take this opportunity to give in gratitude to UTO challenge to celebrate JCE's birthday.

2017-2018 Intern

We had three applicants for our UTO internship with Missional Voices, a new and innovative ministry in Houston, Texas. We interviewed two of the three, and I am happy to say that we have selected an intern, and she will start September 1. She will be assigned to work with UTO, Missional Voices and Heather and Alan Bentrup are working out the housing arrangements in Houston, hopefully to give her a young adult peer group. We hope that her presence in Texas will help develop more contacts for UTO in that part of Province VII. Those participating in the interviews were The Rev. Alan Bentrup, Cypress, Texas, of Missional Voices; The Reverend Canon Jimmy Hartley, Canon to Upper South Carolina, also with Missional Voices, Heather Melton, Kayla Massey, to answer questions about the internship experience, and me.

We will release her name when she has completed all her paperwork and been approved, she is native Texan and a recent college graduate. At 21 years old she has had more experiences in the church than most people twice that age. When I receive a shortened version of her bio, I will happily share that with you.

Rachel has completed her internship in North Dakota. I am not sure of her next steps in life.

Summer Committee Work

The **Communication Committee** is still collecting prayers for the 2018 UTO Prayer Book, and will be able to collect them until September 1. Kudos to that committee, I know there were 102 prayers the last time I heard, but others hopefully are coming in.

The **Continuing Review Committee** is hard at work on the by-laws, Policies and Procedures Manual, Memorandum of Understanding, and handbooks. If you have not updated your committee handbook, please do so and get it to Sherri Dietrich, chair of that committee. You will be getting a number of documents to review before our September meeting when we hope to approve them.

Grants Committee has revised its handbook and approved its Focus and Criteria for Regular grants and Grant Guidelines. Those will be sent to you by Joyce Landers or Heather Melton and if you have questions **Joyce will be available for questions on Monday, August 21, 7 p.m. Eastern time at 814-040-8194.** These documents will come to the Executive Committee for approval on August 24 and be ratified in Maryland. So ask your questions of Joyce asap.

The focus and criteria will include language of the Beloved Community, which comes out of the Jesus Movement led by our Presiding Bishop. Those documents can be accessed here. If you have trouble linking to them, cut and paste them in your browser. The Grants Committee has asked Heather to see if she can arrange with those in the know if they would do a couple of webinars for us on this topic.

https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/becoming_beloved_community_summary.pdf

https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/becoming_beloved_community_commitment_and_plan_1.pdf

Two Spots Available for Thursday Visit to the African American Smithsonian Museum

For those who are leaving later or staying over, there are two admissions to the Smithsonian for Thursday at 1:15 p.m. It will require people to take Uber from the Maritime Center to Washington. Right now it is Marcie, her husband, our intern, and me.

Generous Donation to UTO

UTO has received a generous bequest. Heather has contacted the attorney handling the donation to learn how the funds are to be distributed. She has not heard from them to date. As soon as we know the exact amount and distribution, we will let you know.

Meditation Series on Luke and Acts

Heather and I have written a 14-part meditation on the books of Luke and Acts with a slant toward gratitude. It will have discussion questions and also highlight some of our grants. Heather envisions it being something that a women's group might use as the basis for a study. I will keep you posted when I know more.

Thank you for Address Up-dates

Thank you for the updated addresses for the Google Doc. I know this can be a hassle, and I lean toward giving that responsibility to the staff to complete for us. Think about it and see if you think this is one bit of work we could let go.

It would always be helpful to have any knowledge of changes Board members can share, but maybe the up-dating could be turned over to staff.

New Hire at 815 on Presiding Bishop's Staff

The Rev. Michael Michie has been named Episcopal Church Staff Officer for Church Planting Infrastructure. Michie will be based in Texas. He begins his new position on September 11; at that time, he can be reached at mmichie@episcopalchurch.org. Fr. Michie will work under Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Creation, where United Thank Offering is also located. There might be some great opportunities for collaboration here.

WORD FOR THE DAY

Finish every day and be done with it. For manners and for wise living it is a vice to remember. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. To-morrow is a new day; you shall begin it well and serenely, and with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON



UTO Workshop—
What would you do
with a grant for
\$2500? A pet
exercise area and
working with
homeless people
were among the
suggestions.



A bobble-
headed doll of
the PB for a
\$150 donation
to Forma.



UNITED THANK OFFERING



THE GOOD THINGS THAT HAPPEN EACH DAY



THANKS TO GOD FOR YOUR BLESSINGS



AN OFFERING FOR EACH BLESSING