

2020 EYC Annual Report

There can be a temptation to think, given how 2020 seemed to turn everything upside down, that not much happened. While the Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) was not able to do many things that we normally do, we were still able to have and create some meaningful moments.

Our year began with our annual ski trip as we ventured to West Virginia. We had 20 youth attend, along with four brave adults, for an extended weekend of fun in the snow. It was an amazing success! I once again learned that I need to stay retired from winter sports! Apart from the obvious fun, we also explored the greatest commandment as shared by Jesus Christ, "to love the Lord GOD with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.....and your neighbor as yourself." I have been on MANY ski trips in my time as a youth minister, but I can honestly say that this was one of the best! Please see some of the pictures.

It was shortly after our ski trip that all of our gatherings became of the virtual variety. As with other important aspects in the life of the church, we were not going to let the pandemic prevent us from being connected. Relationships continued to grow in spite of the obvious difference in practicing fellowship, devotion, and worship.

Fortunately, we were able to do some in person gathering activities in the summer. Whether it was meeting in the park for a socially distanced visit, sitting on a front porch, or even packing food to be shared with food-insecure children, it was such a blessing to to ACTUALLY see each other.

Once the new school year started we organized a safe system and schedule for in-person gathering at the church on Sunday evenings. We continue this schedule, alternating between the groupings of 10-12th grade, 8th-9th grade, and 6-7th grade. It has been an obvious adjustment, but it is such a blessing to be able to meet. It has also added the blessing of being able to really focus on relationship building with each other in the smaller and less threatening settings. This blessing will truly enrich the overall youth ministry when we can resume gathering in larger groups.

One very important moment that we were able to experience was that of Confirmation. In November, we were able to have eight youth confirmands confirmed by the Bishop. I was also confirmed, and it will be a shared experience that I will never forget. Simply put, being confirmed with some of your youth builds a special bond, and the miseries of 2020 were not able to take away!

It was a different year that has taught some invaluable lessons for ministry going forward. The year also made me realize the all important lesson to not take anything for granted, especially the blessing of presence among a faith community. 2021 will continue to be different, but we are ready and prepared for a wonderful new year of ministry for our special young people at Christ Church!