

Changing the World

By Rachel Schnabel

A question I've been getting a lot since telling people of my acceptance to the Young Adult Service Corp (YASC) is: **Why?**

Such a simple question, such an extraordinarily complicated answer.

I suppose the easiest answer for me to give is that I can't *not* go. When I look back on all the lovely blessings I've been given by God, and all the terrifying struggles He's helped me through, I can clearly see that the path I've been walking, although it seemed aimless and wandering before, was a bee-line for mission such as this. When you first tell your family that you want to move to who-knows-where for a year serving the church and the response is, "I figured you were going to do this years ago. It's about time you figured it out for yourself," I guess the only thing that ever stood in my way was me.



My family has always prioritized service to others and encouraged the same in my sister and me. I was prompted at age five to choose my Lenten discipline and selected to volunteer in my church's food pantry as a way to focus on Christ's sacrifice for us. I continued after that to grow in service (and clearly in stature too) and participate in both local short term service work, local mission, and international mission trips as well. As I prepare to go work at Vero Beach for a week this summer, I'll be counting it as my tenth week long mission trip.

As much as I love mission trips, at this point I feel called to engage in a very different kind of service. The beauty in the design of the YASC program is that it is not about quickly providing "fixes" for problems. It is dependent on building relationships with the global Anglican community. I'm not going to "knock out" a 'to do list'. I'm going to experience life with other Christians, and learn from their traditions and interactions with our God. I go, simply, to learn to love my neighbor as myself. I aim to seek to understand and not to be understood. I go as an emissary and representative of my church, my diocese, my country, my race. Some days that feels like a huge amount of pressure. Most days I remember that I was made by God to love. It's not always easy, and certainly not always my first instinct, but it is precisely what my heart and spirit were purposed for.

To me, another great factor of the program is that I do not go alone. I go in partnership with my church, diocese, friends, and family. While my physical self will be the one to travel around the globe, it will be accompanied by the prayers and support of many. Yes, there will be necessary fundraising, but I view it as a tangible sign of partnership, just like committing to join with me in prayer support. There is a place for all whom I know in this mission, and I will do all within my power to involve them in each step of the journey and to celebrate with them upon my return.

Service to God and to others are a continual choice. We are given free will by our maker and in order to follow His will for our lives, we must choose to align our own priorities with his, sometimes repeatedly. I know this will be a struggle as I butt heads with linguistic and cultural barriers, but I know that it is always within my power to choose to give my service and all of my self to God's purpose.

If you would like to follow Rachel on her journey, you can read her blog at www.schnab.blogspot.com. There is also a place on the website where you can contribute financially to her mission. If you want more information on the program, you can find it on the national Episcopal Church website at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/young-adult-service-corps>.

ISSUE
10
Summer
2015

Holy
Innocents'
Episcopal
Church

The Defender

Beth Latshaw-Foti,
Editor

Important Dates Coming Up:

June 13-28

**Mission Trips to
Dominican
Republic**

June 15-19

**Vacation Bible
School**

9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Church buildings &
grounds

July 3

**Church Office
Closed**

All Day.
Observance of July 4

July 26

Blood Drive

8:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Bloodmobile

July 26 - August 2

Family Promise

All Day
Kiser & Parish Halls

August 30

Covenant Sunday

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Church



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Graduates P.2

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From the Assistant Rector

Hats off to Holy Innocents' too from the Ortiz Family!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Since day one, three years ago, you have welcomed our family with open arms. We will forever cherish your kindness and generosity towards us. I am particularly thankful for how being a part of this parish has helped form me as a priest. Your willingness to let me minister *TO* you and *WITH* you has allowed me to grow and learn so much. I am immensely proud of the spiritual growth I have witnessed within this congregation and the numerous ways you have served others through Family Promise, Kids Pack, Rachel's Guild, mission trips and *countless* others. Your participation in the life of the church through Altar guild, office volunteers, choir, teaching Sunday School and more has inspired and encouraged me!

Thank you for sharing your struggles, questions, insights, joys, and life events with me! You have allowed me to stand by your side on holy ground at the hospital, by the grave side, and in your homes. It was a privilege to remind you of God's presence and the congregation's support through those visits. I will forever treasure the tears and tender moments we shared as sacred.

Thank you for celebrating all that God has done at Holy Innocents' these three blessed years and for wishing us well on the next part of our journey. Our hearts are heavy leaving here but we know that as children of God and followers of Jesus we will always be connected in significant ways. Thank you for your prayers and for all the love you have shown us! You will always remain in our prayers and hearts!

In Christ's Love,

Mother Michelle, Eddie, Isaiah, Zachary, and Victoria



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Changing Their Lives - Our High School Graduates



Cierra Charles & Raykeisha Vann

It seemed rather appropriate to write this as a message for the both of you. You're rarely separated and you make such a great team together. RayK, you have impressed me from the very beginning with your willingness to help and to serve. If there's anything I've asked of you, you've done it with a smile as an example to the rest of the youth group. I know that this work ethic will take you far in life. Cierra, you are such a great representative of what it means to be a welcoming and inviting presence. My attendance sheets for the years (and even some of Mr. Dan's that I've checked) list "Cierra's friend" next to more names more times than any other. You show by quiet example a continued commitment to perseverance and attendance in youth, and I have seen you mature so much since we met years ago in terms of how and what you pray for with us at the end of each week. Your understanding presence allows many of your friends to rely on you and trust your recommendation of Holy Innocents' and Christianity. I will always continue to pray for both of you, that God may continue to work in your lives, and through your lives to help others in all areas: school, work, family, and friendships. I'm so proud of both of you for meeting this milestone, despite so many obstacles. You are amazing ladies!

Rachel Schnabel



Justin Stone

I think Justin is a good master acolyte because he lets us pick what we want to do. I also think he is a good role model for younger acolytes. Justin has taught me how to do the offering plates and the sanctus bells. He is always there on time. He is very kind and he always holds his cross up high.

Clayton Scharf

I've known Savannah since I was probably about two years old. She's always been a great friend to me. I have always enjoyed mission trips and she is one of the reasons. We've always done God's work and had a really enjoyable times doing so. I hope Savannah has an amazing time on this next journey in her life. Love ya, Sav!

Laurel Gallamore



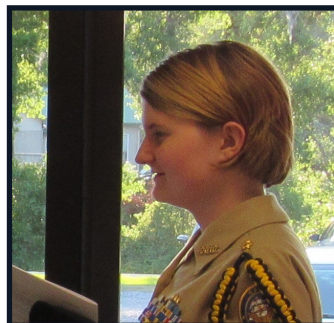
Laurel Gallamore Savannah Berger



Alexis Shock

Alexis loves soccer. She was really nice and helped me learn the ropes on how to do acolyting. She's a great master and I'm really going to miss her.

Ben Foti



Emily Skjerve

Emily is awesome and has taught me how to light the candles and extinguish the candles. She also answers all my questions. I will really miss Emily so much.

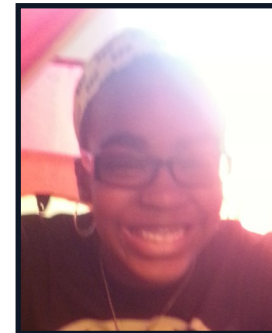
Hailey Elder



Carl Thomas

Carl was a good friend, very fun to hang out with, a very good person, and an excellent gamer. He taught me how to play very well at video games. He is an excellent card player. Carl is a good friend because he accepted me for who I am. Also he accepts people for who they are. He can help you when you need help with anything in school. He is fun to hang out with because he makes you feel normal when you are kind of not normal. He makes you laugh when he makes a not so funny joke but most of the time they are funny. He was a good acolyte and he knows everything that a master does. He was on time every day.

Chris Nowland



DaMali Suber

DaMali has been a special part of our youth group since we first started, when she was in seventh grade. During those five years, she never ceased to put a smile on everyone's face with her cheerful attitude and her great sense of humor. DaMali has a special way of making new members of the youth group feel comfortable, and her energetic personality can get even the shyest kids to talk and laugh with her. She is a wonderful part of our youth group family, and we are so excited for her as she starts her next life chapter.

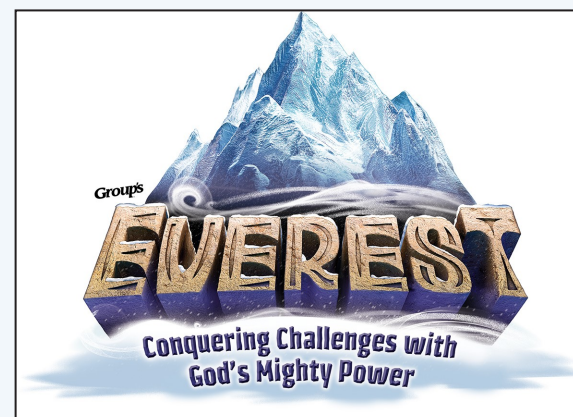
Morgan Toth



Matthew Winward

Matthew's name aptly means "gift from God". He is talented, creative, funny and generous. He demonstrates his faith in his ability to care for those he loves and to reach out to others with generosity. He has a quick wit and a beautiful smile - especially when he is teasing his mom! Matt has played the double bass since 4th grade. Then, his bass was so big he had to have his brother carry it for him. He loves to be creative whether it's trashing my kitchen making sushi or devising wild solutions to everyday problems. His father and I are proud of the young man he has become. We can't wait to see where God takes him!

*KC Winward,
Matthew's mom*



**Want to make an impact on
your children's lives?**

Register them for VBS!

**Vacation Bible School 2015 is
next week, June 15-19.**

Register online at www.hiepiscopal.org.