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– *The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas*



Photo: Katie Ernst

Four years of ministry at MIT have taught me to count in new ways. In addition to the weekly tutorials my students give me in such things as logarithmic scales and zero indexing, they have taught me how to better measure the success of our ministry with young adults. I’ve learned to look beyond the number of people served to see the depth of engagement with each individual. Young adults frequently tell me that it is lonely being a progressive Christian in their generation—not fitting into either secular culture or more conservative Christian groups. They need us to go deep with them, helping them find a strong foundation in faith and leadership.

I’d like to share two stories of young leaders supported through Together Now campaign contributions to the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center and the Life Together program.

I met Chloé Kolbet last year, when she helped organize a Lenten Quiet Day for Episcopal college students. Chloé’s infectious enthusiasm carried the project forward, so it came as no surprise to me that Chloé had

been formed as a leader at the Barbara C. Harris Center, both as a camper and later as a member of the summer camp staff, and as a member of the diocesan Youth Leadership Academy and the Diocesan Youth Council.

For Chloé, the Barbara C. Harris Camp is a sanctuary. In a week of camp or a weekend retreat, kids form lasting friendships with people from all different backgrounds and find a safe space to grow. It’s a safe place where kids who almost never get to spend time outside can play games all day in the sun, and where something as simple as making a friendship bracelet can teach an

anxious kid that life is not about getting things perfect, but about putting time and care into your relationships.

A member of St. Andrew’s Church in Wellesley, Chloé is continuing her Christian leadership at Wellesley College, where she takes part in Sophia’s Table, a weekly gathering supported by the Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole, the Protestant chaplain. Last year, Chloé brought her love of diverse community to Saint Paul’s in the Walls in Rome, an international congregation where she taught English language skills to refugees.

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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:
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A place for renewal, community, THE SPIRIT



When the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., comes to mind, many think first of the camp fun and community that children and youth experience there during five weeks each summer. But the Center also draws more than 150 adult groups annually. Former board member Pam Mott from the Diocese of Western Massachusetts shares her experience of this year-round hospitality ministry.

It is early May—time for the Diocese of Western Massachusetts’ annual Clergy Conference, which brings 55-60 of our clergy to the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center to hear good words from a speaker in the flexible space of the Doran Center. We reflect and socialize over filling, delicious meals in the bright dining room—light and simple enough to serve in the summer as the camp dining room, but comfortable enough for adults of all ages. We linger long enough over coffee and dessert with a very patient staff waiting for us to return our plates and go back to our business.

It is early June, one of those too-hot days that comes by surprise, and the Province I

canons group is meeting at the Barbara C. Harris Center. Gathering to catch a breeze on one of the porches in St. Mark’s Lodge where we are each staying in spacious, comfortable rooms with windows large enough to let good light in, we laugh, talk, reflect, pray. We take some time off to walk down the hill and stroll on a path along the lake, and even put our feet in the water. We look forward to this time together—10-12 of us in a relaxed environment to strengthen our relationships, sort through some of the challenges of our work and share resources that we have gathered in the intervening time since the last meeting.

It is January. A fire is lit in the large fireplace for social time in the main lodge living room where several people stay after an

ecumenical meeting of 20-25 people—time to get to know one another in a warm and comfortable social setting after a meeting in one of the large lodge meeting rooms. The staff has laid out some cheese and crackers, and a platter of fruit for us to enjoy. Always present and professional, never hovering, the staff exercises its ministry of hospitality with kindness and humor. Their warmth adds to the experience. We know we will be cared for, allowing us to focus on the business and relationship-building at hand.

A spectacular woods-and-water setting, with facilities that provide comfortable and spacious accommodations, the Barbara C. Harris Conference Center sets the year-round stage for time away to focus on fellowship, a business project, a retreat. I always look first to the Center when I need to plan a place away for small and large groups.

— The Rev. Pamela Mott
Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of
Western Massachusetts and former member
of the Board of Directors, Barbara C. Harris
Camp and Conference Center



LISTENING DEEPLY, responding in love:

Fresh words of wisdom gleaned
from a Life Together year



Life Together, the young adult leadership development program in the Diocese of Massachusetts, is among the programs that Together Now campaign funds have supported. **Emily Shelton**, who hails from Salem, Va., served as a Life Together fellow at St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church in Lynn this year and shares in this Q&A some of what she's learned about leadership, service and intentional community.

How has Life Together expanded your sense of leadership?

I grew up in a politically and socially disengaged congregation with very conservative values. In college at the University of Virginia, I read James Cone and Delores Williams and many other liberation theologians, and thought, "Hey, I'm digging this whole faith and social justice intersection thing." It was at St. Stephen's, however, that I put that to the test. I learned that you cannot lead a group of people with theories and ideas, and oftentimes, it's best to put them on the back burner. This year, I have learned that leadership is a collaborative act. It's about connection and real relationships and mutual trust. It's about listening deeply and responding in love to co-create the world God desires for us.

What do you wish people knew about St. Stephen's?

The best way to describe St. Stephen's is to talk about how we extend The Peace. Each Sunday, Rev. Jane or Rev. Sarah shouts out, "The Peace of the Lord be always with you!" and the congregation erupts with their reply "And also with you!" At my church growing up, you turned to the people beside you and behind you and that was it. At St. Stephen's, the floodgates of communal chaos burst open: children run up and down aisles, between legs, over pews. Church elders push their way through the crowd to greet everyone they know. Greetings are shouted across benches, and hugs are long and warm. Acolytes scurry down from the altar to hug parents, and the sound of joyful greetings and conversations fills the old sanctuary with life. The Peace lasts no less than 15 minutes. During The Peace, I can so clearly see the mission statement enacted as people "cross lines of color, class, culture and generation [to] transform our lives and our community through Christ's Gospel of love, community and justice."

How will the experience of living in intentional community carry you in the next steps in your journey?

A few weeks ago, I was talking with a friend who did a year with the Episcopal Service Corps in California. We were comparing notes about intentional communities, laughing at the complexity of planning a communal meal that meets everyone's dietary restrictions, sharing a refrigerator with seven people and the omnipresent tension surrounding dirty dishes. Yet, all minor complaints aside, after this year, I can't not live in intentional community. My house community has pushed me to grow in difficult and beautiful ways, and through these relationships, I have come to better understand God's unceasing and unconditional love.

Continued from cover

Last fall, Dan Bell became a chaplain to Tufts University, serving Episcopal and other Protestant students. Dan came to our diocese to become a Life Together fellow.

Using the community organizing skills he was learning, Dan set out to learn about the lives of young adults in Lynn. He realized that, before he could invite people to the church's table for worship or a weekly supper, he needed to go join them at their table. In the cafeteria of the North Shore Community College, Dan sat with students of different social classes and cultures and

listened to their stories. A small moment of relationship building, like looking at pictures of a car a young man wanted to own someday, could lead to larger conversations about the struggle to find work and the need to advocate together for a living wage.

Now a recently ordained transitional deacon, Dan continues to put his relationship-building skills to use as he supports student leaders. He also draws on Life Together as a resource for Tufts students, recently inviting three fellows to help his students reflect on

the connections between spirituality and justice work.

Chloé and Dan are just two of the many young leaders who have been formed by Life Together and the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center. They show us that an investment in the faith of even one young person can have a ripple effect that transforms the life of the church.

— The Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas
Episcopal Chaplain,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



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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 6/30/17)

\$27,317,065

85% of nearly \$32 million committed diocesanwide

DISBURSEMENTS

Parish share of collaborative campaigns (as of 6/30/17)	\$8,988,300
Tithing for Mission Beyond Our Diocese (reflects funds to be reallocated)	\$1,074,607
Green Grants	\$902,994
Green Loans, net of repayments	\$551,332
Mission Hubs (including Youth and Young Adult Ministries)	\$4,130,197
Mission Institute	\$682,677
Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center	\$1,855,000
Cathedral Church of St. Paul Renovations	\$4,000,000
Total Disbursements	\$22,185,107

REMAINING MONEY AVAILABLE FOR DISBURSEMENT IN 2017

Tithing for Mission Beyond Our Diocese	\$139,657
Green Grants	Completed
Green Loans	\$305,674
Mission Hubs (including Youth and Young Adult Ministries)	\$577,626
Mission Institute	\$35,000
Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center	\$145,000
Cathedral Church of St. Paul Renovations	Completed
Total	\$1,202,957

(parish share not yet available)