

Episcopal Church at Yale

EASTER NEWSLETTER • 2015

CHAPLAIN'S LETTER

Rev. Paul teaches preaching



“Alleluia, Christ is Risen!”

When Cherise and I moved into our new family home several years ago, I inherited a dizzying array of perennial gardens. The problem was I had never pulled a weed in my life. Hiring a gardener was beyond our budget. That’s when Granno, an 80-year-old parishioner, showed up and insisted she teach me, a Manhattan kid, to garden. She started with two simple lessons: the first is that beautiful gardens are made one weed and one plant at a time. The

second is that the foundation for what flourishes in the summer is the process of preparation in the fall and the early spring.

In the same way, successful College chaplaincy is built one student relationship at a time, focusing more on depth than on numbers. And the renewal of a campus ministry is only successful if we prepare the ground, carefully and intentionally, for a new renaissance. Since my arrival in the fall, this has been my focus: to build trusting and transformative relationships with students; to rebuild the infrastructure of one of the oldest chaplaincies in this country; and to begin building the new partnerships that are the hallmark of effective campus ministry in the 21st-century.

I am delighted to report that we are making great gains and that ECY, with your support, is well on its way to experiencing a real renaissance.

STUDENTS

Students are why we are here, and our students—bright, inquisitive and enthusiastic—have embraced leadership of the ECY community. The Congregational Council has grown to 11 members, and develops and oversees all our programs. Since our last newsletter, students asked me to teach a class, “Homiletics 101” and 7 different students, including freshmen and sophomores have preached at Sunday services this semester. They have organized an acolyte training program and we now have 4 new acolytes. They’ve also participated in exciting discussions with guest preachers, such as one on “Racism and Religion.”



Guest preacher Harlon Dalton



Eliza and Emily, student preachers.

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As our worship attendance grows, we are becoming more intergenerational. Aside from our mascot, Archbishop Brendan's popularity with students, our latest attendee is Victoria, daughter of Polly Pennoyer, a choir member, and her husband Rob.

Students have been as active outside of Dwight Hall as within those beautiful walls. Our historical partnership with Luther House and the University Church at Yale has created beautiful shared worship during Holy Week. We have built an especially close relationship with the Slifka Center for Jewish Life, and attended both their Social Justice Seder this year, as well as an incredibly moving Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance) gathering, where we heard from a number of survivors.

We have attended lectures and receptions with figures as diverse as His Holiness the 17th Karmapa, second only to the

Dalai Lama in the Buddhist faith. Lord Jonathon Sachs, Head Rabbi in England, was another wonderful speaker. Students are also attending each other's senior recitals, plays and other events more regularly as we build a deeper sense of community at ECY.

WELCOMING YOUR NEW CHAPLAIN

Dwight Hall was literally packed as Board members, clergy, Yale supporters, ECY alumni, and students gathered to celebrate the formal appointment of a new Chaplain and Priest in Charge. Held on Palm Sunday, this beautiful service was led by Bishop Ahrens, and consisted of a procession on Old Campus, gorgeous music, a stunning sermon by the Very Rev. Andrew McGowan, the new President and Dean of Berkeley Divinity School, and a hearty reception. It was a wonderful kick off to Holy Week, and to a new chapter at ECY.

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week at ECY has always been special, and this year, we welcomed other communities to participate with us in the miracle of new life. ECY was asked to preach at the Trinity on the Green Seven Last Words Service. We also participated in the Chapel on the Green Maundy Thursday service and it was incredibly moving to see Bishop Ian washing one set of feet after another of our homeless sisters and brothers.

We shared Maundy Thursday evening services with Luther House. Then the University Church at Yale joined our two congregations for a wonderful Good Friday Service. Bishop Laura returned for Easter Vigil at which we confirmed and received 10 new Episcopalians from ECY, Christ Church in Bethany, and Christ Church in New Haven. Easter Sunday's service, full of joy, was a fitting end to this powerful week.

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*This page, below:
Our youngest member, Victoria;
Right: Maundy Thursday Chapel
on the Green*





*This page, clockwise from top:
Yom HaShoah ceremony;
Congregational Council Meeting;
Maundy Thursday service at Luther House;
Rev. Paul with His Holiness
the 17th Karmapa; Armando '17 with
The Living Waters a Capella Group;
welcoming Rev. Paul as our new Chaplain*



ECY is on the move, and we've got STUFF for you! If you like what you see, go to www.episcopalchurchatyale.commons.yale.edu

- Gifts over \$250: choose an ECY hat or t-shirt (Specify Small, Large or Extra Large—sorry, no Mediums)
- Gifts over \$500: receive a beautiful ECY choir CD
- Gifts over \$1000: receive all three!



PARTNERSHIPS

The health of campus ministries in the 21st century lies in the extent to which they stay focused on supporting students to engage in God's mission—in building a community of faith that is strengthened by beautiful worship to go into the world and be God's agents of reconciliation. Yale is a perfect environment to build a variety of partnerships to make this vision come alive.

We are in the final stages of launching a major partnership with the other Episcopal institution at Yale, Berkeley Divinity School. Our next newsletter issue will bring you some very exciting news about this partnership and its multiple benefits for our undergraduate and graduate Episcopal students at Yale, as well as ECY's ministry.

We continue to work closely with the Institute of Sacred Music, which co-funds our choir. And we are developing a very vibrant partnership with the Slifka Center for Jewish Studies. Our next newsletter will bring word of the launch of a major joint initiative with Slifka's students for the 2015 – 2016 academic year.

A FINAL WORD

As I look back over the four months since our last newsletter, I am so proud of our students and our Board. The resurrection spirit of new life and new possibilities resounds in every corner of ECY's ministry. Students are learning what it means to lead a church as adults, and they are loving it. The Board has emerged from a very difficult fall, with a clear sense of hope, and expectations for a great future. And we've done this with very scarce resources.

About a month ago, one of our loyal supporters—just like you—wrote me an e-mail to ask “whether one of our administrative staff” could make life easier for donors by installing a “Donate Now” button on our website. Grace, who at 6 hours a week is our only “administrative staff,” and I smiled at the turn of phrase. Then we got to work. We now have a PayPal account through which you can very easily go to www.episcopalchurchatyale.commons.yale.edu and give a gift. To be frank, we need your support—your suggestions, your involvement, and your financial contributions.



In spite of our progress, we struggle with cash flow each month, and need to build up a sizeable cash reserve this summer. Would you please express your own appreciation of our progress and hope in our future give NOW, just as generously as you can? Be a part of the renaissance of ECY, and together we can build a truly great campus ministry at Yale.

Faithfully, Paul+

BISHOP'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

As I write this, the image of today's Daily Office reading from Luke is dwelling in my heart. Jesus is telling a parable, "A sower went out to sow his seed. Some fell on good soil and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold."

This year at ECY it feels like the seeds the Lord has planted have truly fallen on good soil and grown and produced a hundredfold! I see this in the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Paul Carling, growing in his own gifts and being called to share them with us in the ECY community. His leadership has been a blessing, one of listening to and connecting with others. The Rev. Kathryn Greene-McKreight has lived into her new role, modeling faithful discipleship and a discerning heart. Jacob Shafer and Chamonix Adams Porter have been voices of inclusion, compassion and sound judgment. Armando Ghinaglia has faithfully walked with us in his gentle style of consistent and persistent leadership. The Board, under the steady hand of John Siebyl, has grown from strength to strength, in its leadership and vision. And Grace Krom, Administrator, has lovingly kept us on track throughout the year.

And all of you, the ECY community (students, faculty, alums, parents, passionate and compassionate supporters of this important ministry) have walked with us on this journey. We could not have been about the work of planting the seeds of God's love and sharing Christ's message of new life and hope if it were not for all of you. As faithful supporters, as engaged participants, and as ambassadors of the Gospel, we are empowered and inspired by your support. Thank you! It is a privilege to serve with you.

Bishop Ian Douglas has reminded all of us that we are called to participate in God's Mission locally and throughout the world. This year we have worked to do just that at ECY by faithfully being about the work of healing and new life, building partnerships, trying on new ideas and expanding the horizon of our dreams. The ministry has and will continue to bear fruit in this good soil!

"As for that that is in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance."

Alleluia! The Good News of Jesus Christ is bearing good fruit at ECY and beyond!

+*Laura*

The Rt. Rev. Laura C. Ahrens

Bishop Suffragan and Bishop for Higher Education

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The ECY Board of Governors has itself gone through an extraordinary transformation. From meeting quarterly, the board agreed to meet monthly, and to become much more engaged in creating a stronger infrastructure for this ministry. On April 28, at our Annual Meeting (generously hosted by an anonymous donor at Mory's), we celebrated the service of 8 of our retiring members, one of whom served for 17 years, and elected 8 new members. Profiles of our new members will appear in our next newsletter. The Board is now ready to engage in critical strategic planning on what it will take to set a sustainable and exciting future, and generate the resources to strengthen and grow this ministry so it can take its place among the best chaplaincies in the country.



Bishop Ian Douglas, President



Bishop Laura Ahrens, Acting President



John Siebyl, Vice President



Ned Lewis, Treasurer



Shirley Wick, Secretary



Andrew Homan



Anna Heckler '18



Armando Ghinaglia '17



Connie Bagley



Eliza Robertson '17



Rowena Kemp



Ryan Fleenor



Steven Paulikas



Tony Jarvis



Zoey Peterson '17



**Chamonix Adams
Porter, '15**

I was a bit of a late bloomer, spiritually. I never really belonged to a congregation as a child. When I arrived at Yale, I, like many freshmen, packed my schedule with meetings and decided that I couldn't possibly make time for church.

By the summer after my sophomore year, I felt exhausted and aimless. I'd spent hundreds of hours on social justice projects, taken dozens of classes to teach me how to change the world, and yet I still felt stuck. So, early in my junior year, I came alone to a service at the Episcopal Church at Yale.

For me, ECY has been a place both of rest and of action.

As today's readings remind us, God is a refuge—God makes us lie down in green pastures. Similarly, ECY has been a place of rest for me—a place of quietness, prayer, and reflection, a place to escape the busyness of campus and be still.

At the same time, as today's readings remind us, God calls us to action. At ECY, I have learned that God calls us to so much more than just "being nice"—we are called, instead, to "lay down our lives for the brethren." At ECY, we respond as a community to Christ's call to action. In conversations and prayer, we have asked what it means to follow Christ. Our leaders, Rev. Paul and Rev. Kathryn, have offered us examples of godly lives. Together, we strive to love God and love each other.

When I first came to ECY, I could have never imagined the impact that it would have on my life. I saw it as an experiment, and it became a home. ECY is a place of rest and a place of action—just as our God is a refuge and a shelter, but also a living presence that moves our world to greater justice.

As we leave this place, I know that we will each carry this community with us. Together, we have built a community that strives every day to know and follow God: in rest, in work, and in every moment.

Austin Schaefer, '15



My sister, Allison Schaefer, is a sophomore at Brown University. Right now she's taking a writing course in creative non-fiction, and she wrote her final paper on her faith journey in college. I'm going to begin with a passage that she wrote just last week:

It's 5:27 pm. There are only two other people at the service—neither of them students. Today

is the last day of "Spring Weekend," Brown's annual three-day concert extravaganza which features rappers and rockers, dazed and confused students, and dangerous levels of intoxication, amidst a general splattering of chaos. The silence of the small chapel is interrupted by music blaring out of a fraternity window across the street. The two other attendees, older gentlemen, exchange irritated glances.

Spring weekend is not over, I think. People are still partying—still having fun. Why am I spending my Sunday evening at Church when I could be out with my friends? There are four of us in the chapel, while thousands of students are tanning, dancing, and singing out on the green. Why am I here?

Father Blake glides in, wearing his long, black cassock. As he begins the service, I open to page 62 in the prayer book.

It only takes a few seconds for these thoughts to leave my head. The gentle rhythm of the opening prayer spoken in unison, the aroma of fresh candles burning before me, the rainbow pallet of colors shining through the stained glass window all cause me to understand why I came to Church at 5:30 on that day.

These words could not be more timely. Just yesterday, many of us in this room were similarly enjoying the debauchorous excess of Spring Fling just outside these doors. Luckily, we didn't have to choose, as Allie did, between evening prayer and bacchanalian frenzy.

What struck me most about Allie's words was not this timely coincidence, however, or the way she's grown into such an eloquent and expressive writer. It was the eerily parallel experiences we've had with faith in college. We grew up in Wilton, CT and regularly attended services at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church with our parents, who are seated here today. Faith, to us, was not an ecstatic emotional experience, but a weekly routine. Allie put it much better than I possibly could, so I'll quote her again:

Going to Church had been like visiting a distant relative. I went when protocol required it. I was polite, gracious, and attentive. I went through the motions, but didn't understand the movement. I recited the words, but didn't know whom I was talking to.

Like Allie, when I came to college as a freshman, going to Church was a comfortable routine that, for reasons I couldn't articulate, felt good to do. I lived in Farnam Hall, just across Old Campus, and when I heard the organ music start playing at 5 pm every Sunday, I would wrap up whatever I had been working on and amble across the green to Dwight Chapel.

Attending services at ECY was comforting, and it added structure to my week—dedicated time for solemnity and reflection. But at the same time, I struggled with my identity as a Christian. At such a highly intellectual, secular place like Yale, many people don't openly discuss their faith. Atheists and agnostics enjoy a sort of intellectual satisfaction—or perhaps intellectual conceit—that people of faith don't, and I'll admit I was embarrassed to discuss my faith with people who I worried would consider me unintellectual. Even to myself, I was unsettled by my inability to rationalize my Christian beliefs. God, in fact, is easy to rationalize—*someone* had to invent the laws of physics. Christ is more difficult—how can I accommodate the Immaculate Conception or the Resurrection with my understanding of the universe as an orderly place, governed by strict rules without exception. And I'm not a deist, satisfied with an understanding of God as a disinterested, divine clockmaker. I'm a Christian, and I want to be a Christian. Like Allie, I could go through the motions, but I could not understand the movement. And I found this immensely frustrating.

Gradually, however, I came to realize that I had been thinking about this in entirely the wrong way. People here are *really* intelligent—often too smart for our own good—and we're used to being able to figure things out. Not until I began to shed this intellectual vanity—the assumption that I could somehow figure Christ out—could I ever hope to be satisfied with my Christian identity.

Just as Allie found meaning in the scent of the candles and the light shining through the stained glass, I've finally started to

feel Christ's presence in the world in sublime, ineffable ways. When the choir sings the Anthem at the Offertory, when the organ plays the closing voluntary, when the Congregation reads aloud the ancient words of the Nicene Creed—this is when I feel the Holy Spirit. I shut my eyes, empty my mind of thoughts, and feel the presence of God.

I will never be able to rationalize Christ. Nor should I even try. All I can do is take comfort in the knowledge that Christ is peace; Christ is love; Christ is life.



Jacob Schafer, '15

In September 2011, I was a freshman living on Old Campus, as many of you are or were at one point. One Saturday, a knock came on my door. It was Abby Bok and Dacie Thompson, two ECY upperclassmen whom some of you may know. As I soon discovered, they were bringing me three things: an invitation to ECY, a small pamphlet with dates, times, and so forth, and, most importantly, a Snickers bar.

Now, at this point, I had not had much contact with ECY. I was a cradle Episcopalian, and so sure, I had turned in the card to the chaplain's office identifying me as an Episcopalian. ECY had sent me a packet at the beginning of the year with, among other things, an ECY hat. I was now receiving periodic emails giving me information about ECY's weekly services. But until then I hadn't yet made the time to come to ECY and see what it was about. Whether it was the personal contact, my desire to find a home church at Yale, or the Snickers bar, I couldn't say, but I ended up going to ECY the next Sunday, and I'm so glad I did. That Sunday, ECY happened to be doing a choral Evensong in place of the regular service, and were performing Charles Villiers Stanford's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. It immediately brought me back to my home

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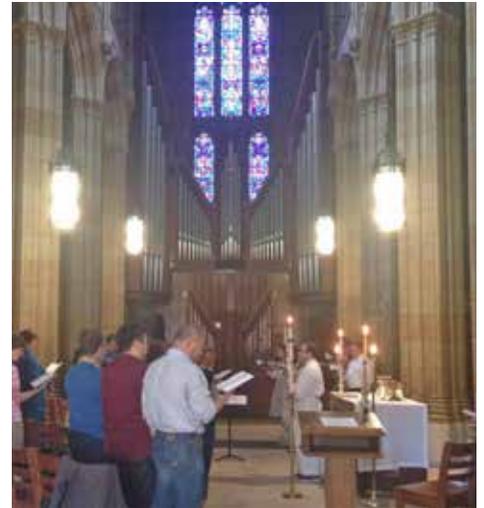
ECY SENIOR RECOGNITION SERMONS *continued from previous page*

church, where as a chorister I had actually sung the soprano solo in the Magnificat. Yet even more importantly, throughout the service I felt the presence of God and a connection to this place, and to ECY. From then on, I have attended ECY services, bible studies, evening prayer, outreach programs, anything ECY has put on, as much as I could.

At ECY, I discovered a place where every Sunday we reach God's presence through worship and music. As many of you know, music has been an important part of my time here at Yale, and I've really appreciated being part of a community that has shared my appreciation of music, and where I can find not just an aesthetic or intellectual interest in music, but a deep spiritual connection to it as well. Yet at ECY I also

discovered a place where we can have fascinating, insightful, and wide ranging discussions at Bible Study, where we strive to give back to the community, and most of all where there's a community of friends in Christ.

Throughout my four years at Yale, a lot has changed. I've changed majors, taken different classes, and (I hope) grown as a scholar, a musician, and as a person. ECY has had changes, too, from its membership, to its choir and choirmaster, to, yes, its chaplain, but through it all, it has remained a supportive and close knit community, a community I have often relied on to get me through Yale. Even if I only got one Snickers bar out of it, ECY has been a constant presence through my college years, and for that I'll always be thankful.



*Clockwise from top:
Theological Coffeehouse;
Sunday Worship;
Maundy Thursday
Footwashing; welcoming
your new Chaplain*



**Episcopal Church
at Yale**

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