

The ECY-Berkeley Divinity School Mentor Program

Dear ECY Community,

Faith-formation is at the heart of everything we do at the Episcopal Church at Yale, and we know that ‘near peers’ are vital to this process. Since January of 2016, ECY has partnered with Berkeley Divinity School—the Episcopal seminary at Yale—to match students at Yale College with second-year seminarians.

These mentors meet with students several times a semester to provide spiritual support and guidance over the course of two years. Every student is offered the opportunity to be part of this program. Hear what one of our students has to say about her experience.

Blessings,



The Rev. Paul J. Carling, Ph.D.
Chaplain

Give to the Episcopal Church at Yale to support programs like these, which form students into a deep faith, building leaders in the church. You can make a gift by returning the enclosed card or visiting episcopalyale.org/donate.



ECY Program Director Christopher Phillips (second from left) with Berkeley Mentors Paul Daniels, Andrew Kryzak, Marilyn Jenkins and Derek Stefanovsky. Not pictured: Jazzy Bostock and Patrick Keyser.



In Her Own Words

Emily Boring, PC '18

When I first met my Berkeley mentor, Nathan, we knew very little about each other. We'd been paired because of common interest in “finding God in nature.” The moment we started talking, I was astonished by the strength of our connection. We quickly discovered commonalities: we've both worked in outdoor education, we love Mary Oliver's poetry, we go running in East Rock Park at sunrise. We share a faith that's deeply rooted in the outdoors, accessible through close attention to the pattern and diversity of ecosystems, communicable through poetry or nature writing or hymns. Our faith is equally present in the rich liturgy of Episcopal services, or atop a mountain. Nathan helped me affirm and articulate the way I find God in the world.

More importantly, the mentor program encouraged me to make more room for the spiritual in my daily life. “How do you make time for meditation, contemplation, and moments of calm?” Nathan would ask. Our meetings were a chance to put this everyday spirituality into practice. We'd walk, pause to look at daffodils, spend time enjoying the sound of the East Rock river or the feeling of sun. Rarely do Yale undergrads

take this time to slow down. The mentor program allowed me to build contemplative practice into my daily life, bringing balance, freedom, and integration of faith.

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In the academic world of Yale College, it's sometimes hard to talk about faith. Identifying as a Christian can feel off-limits, a matter we have to tiptoe around. With mentors, faith is taken for granted as a subject of personal and intellectual reflection. It's refreshing and freeing. Mentors are just enough farther along life's path—several years older and out of college—to provide wisdom but still feel relatable. They open our eyes to the many different ways that faith can become part of a career or vocation. And they walk alongside us as we practice this integration in our daily lives.



Emily's mentor,
The Rev. Nathan
Bourne, M.Div. '17