

# Episcopal Church at Yale

WINTER NEWSLETTER • 2014–2015

## CHAPLAIN'S LETTER



Rev. Paul dedicating a table to the ECY at Morey's



Dear Friends of the Episcopal Church at Yale:

I write to you at a crucial moment in ECY's history.

First, some very good news. In spite of a very difficult early Fall, ECY is alive and well, thanks to the extraordinary and grace-filled leadership of our students and young adults, who have faithfully stepped into the breach following the Rev. Bruce Shipman's abrupt resignation in late August, typically the busiest time in a campus ministry. In a time of turbulence, students organized Sunday worship, Evening Prayer, Bible Study, Theological Coffeehouses, and more, sustaining this vital ministry.

**In spite of a very difficult early Fall, ECY is alive and well, thanks to the extraordinary and grace-filled leadership of our students and young adults.**

I arrived on campus in mid-September as your Provisional Interim Chaplain, and found a community under siege—our students wrestling with their peers' questions and challenges; multiple University offices responding to national and international press reports; and deep concern about ECY among many campus organizations. The controversy following Rev. Shipman's letter to the *New York*

*Times* had a significant impact on the life of our ECY community and our relationships within the broader community of Yale. At ECY, worship attendance was at an all-time low, donations plummeted, relationships with key campus organizations were strained, the ECY capital campaign had stalled, and the Board of Governors had temporarily suspended meeting.

With extraordinary support and deep commitment from Bishops Ian Douglas and Laura Ahrens; University Chaplains Sharon Kugler and Ian Oliver; ECY Board Vice-President John Seibyl; and from the Congregational Council, chaired by Chamonix Adams Porter '15 and Jacob Schaefer '15, we immediately focused our energies on three key areas:

1. Supporting the students as our primary goal;
2. Building an effective leadership structure, including a renewed Board of Governors and Congregational Council, to manage and grow this ministry; and
3. Inviting healing and reconciled relationships, as well as new partnerships across the Yale campus.

Three months later, I am delighted to report that, together, we have:

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## CHAPLAIN'S LETTER (continued)

- Formed a Leadership Team of students and staff who manage ECY's day to day affairs;
- Reinstated monthly meetings of the student Congregational Council, increased membership from 4 to 11, and elected two sophomores to assume leadership when our amazing senior co-chairs graduate in the Spring;
- With deep gratitude, appointed the Rev. Kathryn Greene-McCreight, Ph.D., a highly respected scholar, author and pastoral presence, as Associate Chaplain on a non-stipendiary basis;
- Increased Board of Governor's meetings from 3 to 12 per year, and set an ambitious agenda for restructuring and strengthening the Board;
- Reorganized worship space and roles, integrating the choir into the life of the congregation, and watched attendance climb every week;
- Established a new social media program run by one of our sophomores (check out our updated website at [www.episcopalchurchatyale.commons.yale.edu](http://www.episcopalchurchatyale.commons.yale.edu));
- Met with many key organizations on campus, becoming an integral and valued part of Yale Religious Ministries (Chaplain's Office), and strengthened partnerships with Berkeley Divinity School, the Institute of Sacred Music, the Slifka Center for Jewish Life, and the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, among others.
- Continued programming, including a sermon and forum by the Rev. Mark Angell, Missioner for Young Adults and Campus Ministries at the Episcopal Church Center; Bible Study, Evening Prayer, a Theological Coffee House, and a stirring Lessons and Carols program at Battell Chapel.

Under the leadership of Bishop Ahrens, our ECY Board President; John Seibyl, our Vice President; and the Congregational Council, we are now solidly about the business of placing students at the center of this ministry, strengthening ECY as a vibrant witness to God's mission of reconciliation in the Yale community—and we're having great fun in the process! Note the many images in this issue of the newsletter that illustrate the deep joy of our ministry.

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**ECY is still fragile: the Chaplain's position is quarter time; the Administrator serves six hours per week; and this year, we are running a significant deficit. The needs and the opportunities seem boundless, limited only by our imaginations and our resources.**

**You can make the difference and help us co-create the future that ECY deserves to inhabit.**

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At our November meeting of the Board of Governors, I was thrilled to accept the appointment as your Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge. I couldn't be more excited and hopeful. You will receive news of the Chaplain's Installation in the coming year.

But ECY is still fragile: the Chaplain's position is quarter time; the Administrator serves six hours per week; and this year, we are running a significant deficit. The needs and the opportunities seem boundless, limited only by our imaginations and our resources.

You can make the difference and help us co-create the future that ECY deserves to inhabit.

This Winter Issue of the ECY Newsletter is intended to help YOU participate in the joy and the grace that God especially makes available to communities of faith in the midst of adversity. The students, board leaders and I are proud of the work we've begun, but more importantly, we want YOU to be proud of the resiliency of this community that you know and love. In the pages that follow, we want YOU to hear the diverse voices of those who are part of our growing community.

And then, we want YOU to:

- Recall what ECY has meant in your life, reflecting on your own passion for making this kind of faith formation available to our students in an increasingly confusing and complex world;
- Express your support by staying in touch, sharing your thoughts and ideas with us, and contributing some of your skills and talents to a fresh start for ECY; and
- *Dig deep and make a generous gift this winter so that, together, we can cooperate with God's dream of "...making all things new" at ECY.*

ECY is a rare jewel in the crown of Episcopal campus ministries nationally, and more importantly, is a vital resource to our students. I look forward to continuing to partner with each and every one of you as together we do all we can to help ECY's reality match our shared dreams.

Faithfully,

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

*Chaplain and Priest in Charge  
Episcopal Church at Yale  
[paul.carling@yale.edu](mailto:paul.carling@yale.edu)*



**The Rev. Michael Angell**, Missioner for Young Adults & Campus Ministry from the Episcopal Church Center in New York preaches and leads discussion on service opportunities for young adults.



**FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**



“ECY is my spiritual home at Yale. It’s helped me form meaningful new relationships: with myself, with God, and with new friends. It is

both a place of rest and a space to push myself, to learn and grow as we strive to walk with Christ together. The nourishing meals, the beautiful music, the hugs of friends, the kind words of chaplains and above all the strengthening presence of the Holy Spirit all make ECY a truly special place.”

**Chamonix Adams Porter '15**  
*Co-Chair, Congregational Council*

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## BISHOP'S LETTER



“As I look out my window at the autumn leaves falling and feel the winter chill come into New England, I am reminded that we are moving through a

profoundly meaningful holiday time... Thanksgiving and then Advent into Christmas, a progression that moves me deeper and deeper into a posture of thankfulness and praise.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
IN CONNECTICUT

On Thanksgiving this year, I gave thanks for the ministry of the Episcopal Church at Yale. It has been

a Fall filled with sadness and deep hurt. It has also been a season of new life and opening ourselves up to new models of leadership and ways to engage God's mission in the world. We have been invited to explore new partnerships and deepen our relationships with those with whom we are blessed to serve in the New Haven community. I give thanks in particular for the Rev. Dr. Paul Carling, Jacob Schaefer, Chamonix Adams Porter, and Dr. John Seibyl, who have faithfully led these important conversations.

As we moved into Advent and towards Christmas, I found myself excited about a posture of waiting and listening with our friends, old and new. Where is God calling us to serve? What partnerships will emerge as we seek to further God's mission of restoration and reconciliation in New Haven and throughout the world?

I feel truly blessed to be part of this significant ministry with the students at Yale. I look forward to exploring with all of you how God is calling us to participate with God's mission in 2015!”

**The Rt. Rev. Laura C. Ahrens**

*Bishop Suffragan & Bishop for Young Adult  
& Campus Ministries*

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## FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS



“The Episcopal Church at Yale has always been for me a bit of an oasis, both spiritual and psychological, in the confines of a great secular University. With a focus on the primacy of worship and community, ECY provides an experience not otherwise available to Yale students, a place where Faith can be openly explored and applied. A little bit of ECY is carried away with each graduating class. This manifests as a gift to others and to the greater Church in the number of well informed, ethical Christians serving in both ordained and non-ordained ministries, many of which germinated and took root during days spent at ECY.”

**John Seibyl, M.D.**

*CEO & Senior Scientist  
Institute of Neurodegenerative Disorders  
Vice President –  
ECY Board of Governors*

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*The ECY Board hard at work*



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“ECY has given me a place to develop a stronger faith in a wonderful community of individuals dedicated to the church and to one another.”

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**Armando Ghinaglia**

*Young Adult Lead*



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## NOTES FROM STAFF



“ECY offers a unique opportunity for the wider University and New Haven community at large. Beautiful worship, good food, Bible

study, and rich fellowship bind us together as one in the Body of Christ. The best part for me is the privilege of working with amazing students who have incisive minds and vibrant faith, both of which fuel their passion for justice and peace. And besides, they are a blast to hang out with!”

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**The Rev. Kathryn Greene-McCreight, Ph.D.**

*Associate Chaplain, ECY*



“I have thoroughly enjoyed the transition from Assistant Organist to Choirmaster over the past year, having inherited a tradition of

wonderful music passed down from previous ECY Choirmasters.

The short time I have each Sunday to prepare our fantastic singers for worship is, without fail, one of the high points of my week, offering a chance for all of us to let go of pressures from school, work, or other commitments and instead turn our attention to making beautiful music in fellowship with one another. Aided by our wonderful Assistant Organist, Thomas, the choir never ceases to amaze me in what can be accomplished in the hour and a half we have before worship each Sunday. Looking forward to the coming year, I hope to further bridge the gap between congregation and choir and find additional ways to invite the congregation to participate wholly and meaningfully in the musical life at ECY.”

**Daniel O'Connor**

*Choir Director and Organist, ECY*



“I am pleased to be a part of ECY during an exciting period of transition and growth in the life of the church. Each week, I look expect-

tantly towards the liturgy, preaching and music which fills our Sunday afternoons together.

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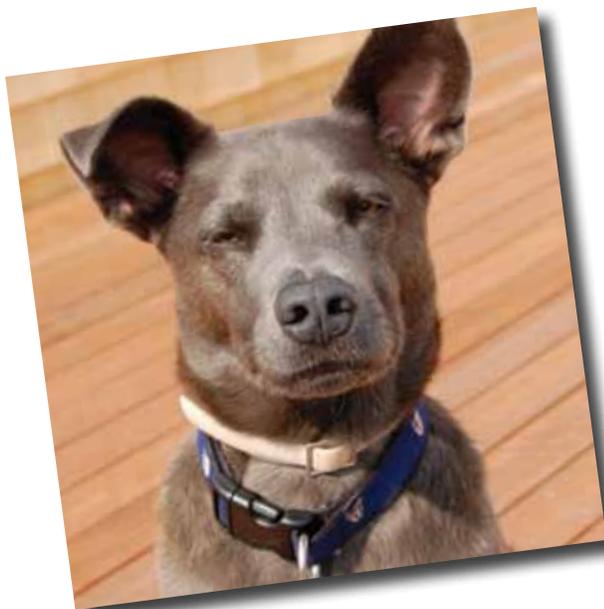
**We are blessed to be able to hear the scriptures, pray and take part in Holy Eucharist in such a magnificent space while performing or listening to inspiring musical expressions of faith.**

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We are blessed to be able to hear the scriptures, pray and take part in Holy Eucharist in such a magnificent space while performing or listening to inspiring musical expressions of faith. I sincerely hope that Sunday afternoons at ECY will continue to be a place of peace and contemplation amidst the stresses and busyness of student life.”

**Thomas Williford**

*Assistant Organist, ECY*



*The newest addition to the congregation is **Archbishop Brendan**, a dog who celebrates diversity in his seven different breeds. He serves as ECY Mascot, and an amazing source of comfort to all those students who miss their own dogs back home. A cradle Episcopalian, he only wears Episcopal leashes and collars.*

**PARTNERS IN MINISTRY**



“Greetings from Luther House, the Lutheran campus ministry at Yale. Here we co-host a weekly Bible Study along with our part-

ners in ministry, ECY, as well as Theological Coffeehouse topical discussions. At Dwight Chapel, we co-host Taize Prayer—a weekly contemplative prayer service which draws students of many denominations—and we gather for joint Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services.

Together our two ministries accomplish so much more than we could do alone, welcoming students to worship and explore faith with others, to set aside time to grow spiritually, and to talk openly about the important issues of our world. I am so grateful for our partnership, and I look forward to discovering even more ways that we can collaborate in the future!”

**Rev. Kari Henkelmann Keyl**

*Luther House Campus Ministry*



“On behalf of the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale, I would like to extend a hearty welcome and a warm Mazel Tov to Reverend Paul

Carling as he assumes his new position on campus. In the short period of time that I have come to know Paul, he impresses me as a colleague passionate about ministering to the needs of his

congregation and eager to join the team of clergy who serve this diverse university. His warmth, grace and intellect make him a welcome addition to campus life and I look forward to working together in the future.”

**Leah Cohen**

*Senior Rabbi and Executive Director, Slifka Center*

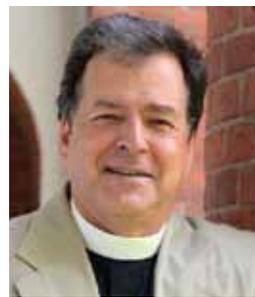


“During my twenty years on campus, it has been a pleasure to meet and work with faith-filled Episcopal priests and see the great service they bring to

their students. I have been delighted to meet Fr. Paul and look forward to collaborating with him in the future and wish him well as he begins his ministry at Yale.”

**Father Robert L. Beloin**

*Roman Catholic Chaplain at Yale  
St. Thomas More Chapel*



“I am delighted that ECY exists as a community of support, worship and witness within Yale. Participating in a strong campus ministry was a

formative experience for me as an undergraduate and I am pleased to support ECY at a time of renewal and hope. I also look forward to ways Yale Divinity School and Berkeley in particular can develop ways of working together.”

**The Very Rev. Andrew B. McGowan, Ph.D.**

*Dean and President, Berkeley Divinity School  
McFaddin Professor of Anglican Studies,  
Yale Divinity School*



“The Institute of Sacred Music has, for years, been a joyful partner with ECY by supporting music in worship, and in return, the

leaders and congregants of ECY have been important teachers to our aspiring church musicians.

I remain grateful for this relationship which I know will continue in creative ways as together we explore the diverse riches of the Anglican tradition coming to fruition in Dwight Chapel each Sunday.”

**Rev. Martin Jean, A. Mus. D.**

*Director, Institute of Sacred Music  
Professor of Organ, Professor in the Practice of Sacred Music*

The Episcopal Church at Yale  
Luther House Campus Ministry  
The University Church in Yale

Invite you to a  
**SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Sunday, December 7, 2014  
5:30 PM  
Battell Chapel  
Corner of Elm & College Streets • New Haven, CT

The Episcopal Church at Yale Choir  
Daniel O'Connell, Organist & Choirmaster

The University Church Choir  
Mark Biggins and Michael Weinberg, Director  
Thomas Williford, Organist

[www.episcopalchurchatyale.org](http://www.episcopalchurchatyale.org) • [www.yalelutherhouse.com](http://www.yalelutherhouse.com) • [church.yale.edu](http://church.yale.edu)



*Andrew Homan,  
then and now*

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## ALUMNI WORDS

“It is with great pleasure that I welcome Paul to the Episcopal Church at Yale. I have fond memories of ECY during my undergraduate years. I enthusiastically continue to support the ministry so that current students have the opportunity to enjoy the same impactful experience that I did.” — **Andrew Homan '02**

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“ECY helped me grow in my faith in an accepting, welcoming environment that became a rock in my constantly changing Yale life.” — **Michael Palisano '13**

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“During my four years at Yale, for me ECY was a loving and nurturing home base, a community of faith that provided space for reflection, spiritual growth, and true fellowship in the midst of the whirlwind of life at Yale.”  
— **Abigail Bok '14**

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## CONGREGATIONAL COMMENTS

“ECY services are a crucial part of my weekly routine—the beautiful music, amazing fellowship, and opportunity for regular, quiet reflection provide a welcome and refreshing respite from the hectic schedules we all have on campus.”  
—**Austin Schaefer '15**

“I love spending Sunday evenings growing in a strong and supportive community of faith.” —**Eliza Robertson '17**

“On the first Sunday of my freshman year, ECY welcomed me with open arms and open hearts. I haven’t looked back since.” —**Nehemiah Blackburn '15**



▲ *Bible Study*

◀ *Theological Coffeehouse*



**Episcopal Church  
at Yale**

**The Rev. Paul J. Carling, Ph.D.**  
Chaplain and Priest in Charge

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