

**118th Convention of the Diocese of Utah  
Report of Youth Ministry**

**Submitted by Karen Gleeson, Diocesan Youth Director**

Members: Karen Gleeson, Ingrid VanZanten, support from Christine Jenkin and trained counselors from Camp Tuttle

Mission: Youth ministry in the Diocese of Utah strives to provide opportunities for young people to gather together for fellowship, service, support, and spiritual growth in a safe, inclusive space that builds community.

**Youth and Young Adult Events, 2022/2023**

Spring Retreat 2022 - April 23rd-24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Our annual spring retreat was hosted at St. Mary's Church in Provo, Utah. After a fun day zip lining at CLAS Ropes Course, we went to St. Mary's for dinner, games, and a sleep over! Rev. Susan Toone led the youth in a meditation while walking the labyrinth. We also painted kindness rocks to spread words of encouragement, joy and peace to others for The Andrew Project. We concluded the weekend with Eucharist service on Sunday morning,

September 2022 - Youth Ministry Fall Retreat at Camp Tuttle

We gathered together in the mountains to relax and enjoy the beautiful weather at Camp Tuttle. We played games, went for a beautiful walk around Silver Lake, did arts and crafts, had a party with dancing, decorating pumpkins and cookies, and even had a donut eating contest. Reverend Susan Toone led discussions regarding the changing seasons in our lives with morning and evening spiritual reflections and Eucharist Service. We also enjoyed the company of our youth leaders that joined us, Shannon Burke and Rev. Daniela Lee. Good food, fun and fellowship was had by all!

October 2022 - Soup, Serve and Sing

Senior High youth as well as youth leaders joined together to serve soup and sing camp songs to spread songs of joy at St. Mark's Towers. St. Mark's Towers is one of several outreach ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah. This community consists of low income individuals who live independently in their own apartments and are widely diverse in culture and faith. Many individuals are without family, live at a distance from their families.

December 2022 - Youth Ministry's Night Out at the Gallivan Center

Youth, young adults and family members met in downtown Salt Lake City at the Gallivan Center for an evening of ice skating under the holiday lights. After and in between skating we caught up with each other and snacked on pizza and treats.

February 2023 - Youth Ministry Winter Retreat

Camp Tuttle and Youth Ministry staff were joined in the mountains by 25 youth from across the state, including friends from Cedar City! Youth had the once in a lifetime chance to experience the awe of the large amounts of snow that have fallen this year in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Rev. Gwyneth Murphy led morning and evening reflections on Wonder as well as Eucharist Service. Many participants mentioned that the highlight of their weekend was to take time in the evening to just lie in the snow and reflect under the stars.

#### April 21-22, 2023 – Convention

Five Youth Delegates will be representing the youth of the Diocese for Convention this year in Price, Utah. The youth will be leading a service project for participants “Sowing Seeds of Love”. They will deliver wildflower seed packets to neighbors sharing love from the Episcopal Church of Utah.

#### Upcoming Events

-Trip Camp, June 10-14, 2023 – Moab, Utah. Participants will be staying at St. Francis Church, and will participate in a service project helping the community. They will also take an adventure rafting down the Colorado River, and camping under the stars next to the river.

-July 4-8, EYE 2023 – A group of 21 youth and leaders from across the Diocese will be attending the Episcopal Youth Event at the University of Maryland. This fine group of young people and leaders meet monthly for planning and to get to know each other better before the trip.

-May 6<sup>th</sup>, Cinco-De-Mayo Fundraiser for EYE – this event will be held at San Esteban and is organized by our youth that will be attending EYE.

-Fall Retreat 2023 - September 13-15th - Join us at Camp Tuttle under the beautiful changing colors of the fall trees!

#### Goals

1. Continue to build a safe, fun environment where youth feel connected with God and with each other.
2. Continue to build a youth leadership team to help and support youth in celebrating and recognizing their God given gifts and feel supported by their peer group and youth leaders
3. Continue to coordinate diocesan-wide events for junior and senior high youth to build community
4. Provide service opportunities and an inclusive environment to engage the outer communities

To learn more about other youth/family and young adult events, please see reports for Youth Faith Formation and Camp Tuttle. Also, visit our website at [www.episcopal-youth.org](http://www.episcopal-youth.org)