**119th Convention of the Diocese of Utah**

**Report of Youth Ministry**

Members: Karen Gleeson, Ingrid VanZanten, Christine Jenkin and support from 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, 2023/2024**

April 21-22, 2023 – Convention: Five Youth Delegates represented the youth of the Diocese for Convention in Price, Utah. The youth were able to tour the beautiful 9 Mile Canyon and see pictographs and learn some history of the area. The youth lead a service project for convention participants “Sowing Seeds of Love”. They delivered wildflower seed packets to neighbors sharing love from the Episcopal Church of Utah.

Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) and gatherings in 2023:

Monthly planning gatherings for youth, family members and leaders were organized to work together to raise funds to attend EYE at the University of Maryland in July 2023. For more details on our EYE trip, please read the summary of our EYE trip in the Youth Faith Formation Report.

May: Cinco-De-Mayo Fundraiser for EYE held at San Esteban/St. Stephen’s Church.

June: Picnic - EYE youth and their folks gathered at Murray Park for lunch and played some games and go over details of their upcoming travel trip to Maryland.

July: EYE 2023 – A group of 21 youth and leaders from across the Diocese attended the Episcopal Youth Event. For more details on our EYE trip, please read the **EYE Summary in the Youth Faith Formation Report.**

September: Frisbee golf, lunch and check in. This gathering allowed youth from our EYE community to enjoy the afternoon and check in with each other.

October 2023 - Youth Ministry Fall Retreat at Camp Tuttle:

Fall Retreat was celebrated at Camp Tuttle with a beautiful weekend in the mountains!

Friday, we had fun playing night games and closed out the evening singing songs together during the evening chapel.

On Saturday, we enjoyed making beaded wire tree sculptures that represented each of our own personality traits. They were all so unique and beautiful! We shared our trees with each other as we displayed them arboretum style. After lunch we went for a beautiful hike in the mountains and enjoyed the fall colors. In the evening, we had an awesome Halloween costume party with dancing, pumpkin carving, cookie decorating and of course the Limbo! Our camp chefs, Natalie and Annabeth went all out to make fun meals and snacks such as eyeball pasta and pesto garlic fingers.

It was wonderful to have The Rev. Libby Hunter with us at Camp as she shared with us how we are all unique and to be grateful for this time we have with each other, as this time will never happen again. Libby also facilitated a fun connection activity that encouraged everyone to get to know each other a little better.

November – EYE Gratitude Luncheon:

Youth and leaders from our EYE group got together for a gratitude luncheon and watched their slideshow from EYE. A discussion and short film were presented about the positive effects of gratitude. They decorated gratitude journals and wrote a letter to someone that they are grateful for.

December - 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.

March 2024 - Youth Ministry Winter Retreat

St. Patrick's Day weekend blessed Camp Tuttle with beautiful blue skies, warm temperatures, and a group of joyous young people to fill the snowy hillsides with laughter and fun! Counselors and campers enjoyed playing under the sunny skies; building snow forts, sledding, and racing on a scavenger hunt to find a buried pot of gold!

﻿To honor the beauty of God's creation, we even designed and built our own snow sculpture garden. The Rev. Christopher Szarke led us in conversations about Sainthood, the symbolism of the Irish clover and the trinity, and celebrated Eucharist in our beautiful snow-blanketed chapel. Thanks be to God for the ministry of Camp Tuttle, and the opportunities it provides young people to connect with themselves, others, nature, and God--no matter the season!

**Upcoming Events**

Fall Retreat 2024 – October 4-6th - 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 youth in 5th grade to 12th grade 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 Camp Tuttle and Youth Faith Formation. Also, visit our website at [www.episcopalyouth.org](http://www.episcopalyouth.org)

Submitted by Karen Gleeson, Diocesan Youth Director  (New Title: Koinonia Coordinator)