

## Your Pledge Makes It Possible: College and Young Adults Ministry

One of the most important ways we support young adults in our diocese is through our Bishop Vaché, ECW and Ridley Foundation college scholarship awards. In 2012 alone, scholarships totaling \$87,000 were awarded to 44 Episcopal college students in the Diocese of Southern Virginia through the Ridley Foundation. The Bishop Vaché Scholarships provide funds to assist low-income and minority college students in the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia. In 2012, 11 outstanding applicants were awarded \$1000 each to offset the cost of their college education. Award winners included: Nora Jackson, Meghan Locke, Steven Oake, Joy Watkins, Eric Beard, Ming Barney, Marquis Evans, Marcus Starman, Santana Belfield, Alexandra King, Markus Jay McCourty.

Hear what one young man has to say about the impact of the Bishop Vaché award:

*I am very grateful and this, along with many other things, ignites a flame of hope and determination in my heart. So, I thank you for your thoughts, consideration and award.*

-Marquis Evans, Ascension Norfolk



The Young Adults Commission of the diocese, chaired by Erin Brady of Glebe Church Suffolk, is a group of dedicated young adult leaders who meet monthly to share resources and encourage parish-based ministries for Episcopalians in their 20's and 30's. This relatively new commission has sponsored programs at Diocesan Council and Bishop's Days for Parish Leaders.

This year the first diocesan Young Adults Conference will be held December 1 from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. at St. John's Hampton. The conference will feature a special Advent Eucharist and programs by: Bishop Hollerith; Jason Sierra, Young Adult Ministries Officer of the Episcopal Church; and the Young Adults Commission of Southern Virginia.

Young adults and college students are also increasingly active as leaders and staff members for EYC events like October Weekend, November Weekend and Blackstone, and are integral to the ongoing ministry of our Happening program in the diocese. Many also continue to engage as leaders in their home parishes.



In addition to this financial support for Episcopal college students, the diocese also funds five chaplaincies in our region: Christopher Newport University in partnership with St. Stephen's Newport News, The College of William and Mary in partnership with Bruton Parish, Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College in partnership with Johns Memorial Farmville, St. Paul's College, and Old Dominion University.

