



# GUIDING LIGHT

Campus Ministry and Lilly Center Newsletter

There is nothing quite like seeing the sunrise over the trees of the Stanback Forest Preserve behind the chapel. The ways the orange-pink light illumines the cross on top of the steeple where the bells ring every hour keeping time for our community. In this keeping of time, the beginning of the academic year an exciting time on Catawba's campus as our students, the lifeblood of our institution, come flowing back. They come from across the county, the country, and the world. They come with beautifully diverse experiences, and we are made better, more whole, by their being part of our Catawba family. God's light is aglow in the beauty of the world around us and through our students. It is a great privilege, through our Campus Ministry and Lilly Center programming, to tend that light inviting students to ask big questions of themselves and our world.

In the world we hear so much bad news, of wars, of division and polarization, and while these are part of our lived experiences, I want to shed some light on good news, that often goes unmarked or unmentioned and reflects the Good News. For God is truly at work in the growing of minds, the expanding of hearts and the deepening of wisdom. Within this newsletter you will read of the ways that the Lilly Center is grounding our first-year students in practices of deep reflection during our First-Year Retreat. You will read of over 574 volunteers who together served 27 community partners and gave 1,276 service hours to the betterment of our Salisbury Rowan community. You will read of our ability to continue to offer Alternative Spring Break experiences so that students can create lasting impact in other communities. You will read of over 110 clergy participating in our annual Clergy Days event, doubling the attendance from last year, and providing meaningful continuing education and connection for area clergy across a variety of denominations. You will read of the reinvisioning of our Discover Youth Theology Institute to partner with summer camps, training Catawba students to go into these places and lead campers in theological reflection allowing Catawba's impact to be felt across the country. You will hear of a Campus Worship that is engaging the entire Catawba Community and inviting a variety of clergy to reflect the needs of our students. The work being done in this space is truly amazing and a gift from God. It is work done by an incredibly passionate team who are truly called. This work is also only possible through the generous support of those saints of the college and church who have come before and you saints who continue to give generously so that our students' lives may be depend, enriched, and transformed to share this light with the world- as Campus Ministry and the Lilly Center have impacted your life consider being part of that impact for our students today.

Good truly does go far.

**REV. KENDRA JOYNER-MILLER '11**  
**CHAPLAIN**  
**DIRECTOR OF THE LILLY CENTER FOR VOCATION AND VALUES**



# ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

In March 2024, 13 Catawba students continued the College's tradition of dedicating spring break to service by returning to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS. Affiliated with the United Church of Christ, Back Bay Mission serves the unsheltered through various initiatives. This year's alternative spring break trip deeply influenced the students, enhancing their understanding of service, homelessness, climate change, and civil rights.

Throughout the week, participants engaged in meaningful service activities, including supporting the Micah Day Center and participating in construction projects. The experience proved transformative, with evenings filled with diverse programming such as worship, discussions on climate change and civil rights, and reflective sessions. Students also strengthened their bonds with peers from Heidelberg University, forming lasting friendships.

Looking ahead, Catawba is excited to announce plans for another group to attend the alternative spring break trip in March 2025. This initiative is made possible through the support of the National United Church of Christ and generous donors dedicated to fostering a culture of service at Catawba.



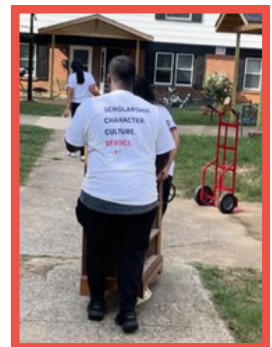
# DAY OF SERVICE

On September 11, 2024 Catawba College hosted their second annual Day of Service event. It was an event that embodied the college's unwavering commitment to community engagement and a culture for service.

Throughout this day over 574 Catawba students, faculty, and staff came together to serve the Rowan County community through a multitude of projects in collaboration with 27 community partners. This vibrant gathering not only showcased the spirit of volunteerism that defines our campus but also highlighted the strong connections we are building with our community.

Activities for the Day of Service included a wide range of volunteer opportunities, tutoring and mentoring students, setting up homes for immigrant families, local food bank and shelter support, park cleanups, beautification projects, and senior citizen outreach. More than 1,276 service hours were generated over the course of this day alone.

Catawba is truly living out its commitment to service and inspiring the next generation of change makers.



# STUDENT SERVICE LEADERS

Creating a culture of service on and off our campus is core to the Catawba identity. We are a community dedicated to service, and our students are eager to engage and inspire their peers. In the Spring semester of 2024, we selected four students as Service Scholars who will partner with community leaders to coordinate service opportunities for our college, actively recruiting and motivating their classmates to serve. These Service Scholars will also receive leadership training and opportunities for reflection, further enhancing their impact on our campus and beyond.

- Miles is a 3rd-year student studying biology. He leads the Dead Athenian Society (DAS), inspiring others to get involved in service and fostering a strong sense of community.
- Isaac, pursuing his MBA in his 3rd year and a member of the swim team, is passionate about joining unique groups of students for community service initiatives.
- Ryan, a 2nd-year student majoring in environment and sustainability with a minor in secondary education, is dedicated to connecting our college with the local community through the Service Scholars Program, encouraging collaboration and meaningful engagement.
- Jacy is a 3rd-year student majoring in biochemistry and minoring in zoology. In addition to her academic achievements, she serves as the captain of the tennis team and is passionate about making a positive impact alongside her peers.

Together, these scholars are making a significant difference in our campus culture through their dedication to service, and we look forward to seeing the positive changes they will continue to bring!



We are excited to introduce our Service Scholars: Miles Lester, Isaac Haut, Ryan Bravo, & Jacy Noble.



## FIRST YEAR RETREATS

For over 20 years, our signature program at Catawba College, First Year Retreat, has profoundly influenced student development, and we're excited about its future! We are actively exploring ways to integrate these enriching retreats into the freshman experience, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to engage in meaningful self-reflection. By addressing essential questions such as "Who am I?" "What do I value?" "What gifts do I have?" and "How can I make a difference in the world?", we aim to cultivate a strong sense of identity that remains steadfast throughout their college journey and beyond. Our student leaders, along with dedicated faculty and staff, play a crucial role in making these retreats unforgettable for first-year students, creating lasting memories and connections. Together, we are building a program that not only equips students with the tools for success but also empowers them to live purposeful and meaningful lives. We can't wait to see the positive impact this initiative will have on our campus!





## DISCOVER Youth Theology Institute

This year our Discover program received a grant through the Fund for Theological Education to focus on Leadership and Connection. With this \$45,000 grant, Discover has been given 18 months to explore who our partners are in this work as we envision life after the grant. Discover has beautifully facilitated a camp at Black Lake Retreat Center or on Catawba's campus for the last eight years. As we look to the future, and our last two years of Lilly Grant funding, we are exploring partnerships with United Church of Christ camps. These camps are faithfully ministering to young people and coming alongside their work affirms the gifts of the camps and Discover. Discover will continue the foundational work of training college students to facilitate theological reflection at our partner camps. FTE has asked Catawba to present this work at the Lilly Gathering this winter in Indianapolis.

This summer we began forming these connections with camps, taking students to visit Horton Center, Pilgrim Lodge, Camp Fowler, and Johns River.

Discover is the only Youth Theology Institute grant given to a UCC institution of higher education and partnerships tie us back to the work of Pastor Seiwell, long time chaplain of the college, who saw the beautiful synergy between camps and college. We are preparing to launch a program this summer where ten Catawba students will be sent to five partnering camps.

## CLERGY NETWORK

Day 1 of Clergy Days 2024 was a success! From opening worship to dinner and talented Catawba musicians, our participants celebrated, fellowshiped, grew and thrived together with joy, albeit somewhat damp Day 2 was cancelled due to Hurricane Helene.

Cole Arthur Riley was phenomenal in her Keynote address and graciously extended her book signing. The Thursday afternoon workshops on successful parish ministry, church social media, new avenues of Christian Education and an expression of "This Here Flesh" and art were all very well attended and very successful.

We hope to schedule the Day 2 workshop leaders to host ZOOM meetings for their workshops and share those opportunities with the Clergy Network.

Thank you to all our workshop leaders, planning team members and 117 registered participants! We hope to see you all again next year.

Our Community of Practice groups have started up again. We have 18 active COPs and with half our COPs reporting in this month, we have a net gain of five new clergy members. Clergy Network members were invited to apply for Clergy Thriving Grants. We awarded a total of \$51,465 to 30 recipients to accomplish such activities as writing projects, extended retreats, family enrichment activities, attending conferences, and more.

The Catawba Clergy Network has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment to support the next five years of our work. This sustainability grant was received in the late spring in recognition of the work we accomplished for clergy and congregations from 2018 through 2023 and because of our vision for the future.

# MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

## Rev. Anne Tambling

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Rev. Anne Tambling brings over 20 years of experience to the Catawba Clergy Network in planning, visioning, and community-building, focusing on fostering inclusive and compassionate communities. She holds an M.Div from Wake Forest University School of Divinity and dual degrees (B.S. and B.A.) from Meredith College and has been trained as both an Intentional Interim Minister and a consultant by the Center for Congregational Health®. Anne joins us from Silver Compassion Services, where she dedicated herself to helping individuals navigate all of life transitions with grace and resilience, while also working with ministers and churches in transition. Anne is a native of Winston-Salem, with three adult children.

## YOUR GENEROSITY

The work of Campus Ministry and the Lilly Center is almost entirely funded through the generosity of donors to these programs. There is a beautiful legacy of folks giving back to these programs that have nurtured and sustained them, that grounded them in who they are, that introduced them to lifelong friends, that encouraged them in faith and helped them find their calling in this world. If you have been impacted by the Lilly Center and Campus Ministry we invite you to consider how you might give back so that this legacy of formation can continue for students now and students to come. If interested in giving please contact the Catawba College Development office or reach out to Pastor Kendra (kjoynermi22@catawba.edu). We would love to have a conversation about the ways your good can go far in the lives of our students.

## Kennise Brown

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Kennise joins our staff as the Lilly Center Fellow overseeing Volunteer Catawba, and coordinating the Service Scholars Program. Kennise is from Greensboro, NC, and recently graduated from Pfeiffer University with a Bachelors of Arts in Strategic Communication and Counseling and Human Services. Kennise is looking forward to serving the Rowan-Salisbury and greater community with Catawba College.



## FRIENDS OF THE LILLY CENTER

*Scan the  
QR Code to  
update your  
Lilly Center  
Contact  
Card!*



The 37th

*Service of  
Lessons and Carols*

December 2  
December 5

6:30 PM

Onwake-Dearborn Chapel

2300 West Innes Street  
Salisbury, NC 28144



**CATAWBA COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRIES**

- Chaplain, Director of the Lilly Center.....Rev. Kendra Joyner-Miller
- Lilly Fellow, Volunteer Catawba, RLC.....Kennise Brown
- Chapel Scholars, Program Director of Discover Youth Theology.....Cat Fire
- Director of Catawba Clergy Network.....Rev. Anne Tambling
- Executive Assistant.....Rebecca Wrights