



Report of Institutions and the Dominican Development Group

The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina
The 234th Annual Diocesan Convention

Bishop Gadsden Episcopal Retirement Community

Report for the 234th Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina Diocesan Convention

It has been a truly wonderful year for us at Bishop Gadsden Episcopal Retirement Community, as we continue to fulfill our mission of embracing God's call to ministry, affirming positive living, serving with integrity, exercising wise stewardship, and reaching out with a generous spirit. We remain committed to excellence in senior living, and guided by the call to serve faithfully and with generosity, to fostering an environment where residents, staff, and families feel valued and supported, both within and beyond our Community.

Our commitment to the local community is stronger than ever, as demonstrated through our charitable giving and community outreach. This year, we contributed \$431,500.00 in direct grants to support *Charleston Area Senior Citizens*, *Kids on Point*, *My Sister's House*, and *Our Lady of Mercy*, affirming our dedication to supporting those in need. Generosity at Bishop Gadsden is truly community-wide, with residents, 100% of our Board and Senior Leadership, and over 250 team members all participating in giving efforts. We also donated 19,098 pounds of food to Low Country Food Bank and Cuisine Rescue, providing 15,915 meals, the equivalent of \$28,647.00 in direct support. Our robust Employee Assistance Fund and the Strongheart, Ruffle, and Christie Scholarship programs further support our team members and their families, reinforcing our values of care and stewardship.

Our Chapel remains a focal point for spiritual growth and worship at Bishop Gadsden. The Choral Scholars program, featuring four paid section leaders who are either studying music or are music educators, enriches our Sunday morning worship and choral evensongs throughout the year. The Chapel is also proud to continue in the *Capella Concerti Series* by sponsoring special musical performances in our acoustically renowned space.

In 2025, we look forward to broadening the reach of the pastoral care we provide with the addition of a second full-time priest dedicated to supporting the spiritual needs of our Gadsden Glen residents, their families, and our Team Members who work in this special part of our community. This new role will provide a steady and comforting presence for those in our Center for Health and Rehab, where emotional and spiritual support are invaluable. As we begin the search process, we are eager to see who God has in mind for this call. We trust that this new priest will bring gifts that further enrich our community's nurturing environment, embracing and caring for all who call Bishop Gadsden home.

We also look forward to reigniting points of connection with each parish throughout the diocese. Through the Koinonia program, we hope to foster bonds with area churches and create fellowship through joyful gatherings in the healthcare areas of our community, including Myers Hall Assisted Living, Arcadia Memory Care, and Estes Skilled Nursing Community. Parish groups will have the chance to connect with residents through events like wine and cheese gatherings, dessert socials, and other shared experiences, strengthening the sense of community and companionship. By reestablishing these connections with the returning and thriving congregations, Koinonia will once again enrich our residents' lives and reinforce our shared commitment to fellowship and faith within the diocese.

Finally, Bishop Gadsden continues to expand its mission. The recently announced affiliation with Seafields establishes a new presence and Episcopal asset in the sea island areas of Kiawah and Seabrook. This nonprofit community, currently under construction, creates a satellite campus for Bishop Gadsden, adding 89 independent living residences and 16 assisted living apartment homes which will be ready for occupancy in late 2025.

Beginning in November 2024, the newest neighborhood of 15 beautiful apartment homes called The Meade will be ready for occupancy in our James Island Community, welcoming approximately 27 new residents to our Community. Each of the three new buildings contains five homes, four of which are 1,800 square feet and one that is 2,400 square feet. These open-concept residences offer thoughtful amenities, including covered parking for both cars and golf carts, conditioned storage space, and a beautiful rooftop terrace, providing a gathering space for friends and neighbors to connect and enjoy.

Outreach extends beyond our campus through the Christie Rehab Center and our Embark program, making Bishop Gadsden accessible to people throughout the greater Charleston community. We remain committed to providing excellence in senior living and compassionate care, embodying our mission of service. We look forward to another year of growth, giving, and gratitude, and as always, if you find yourself visiting our beautiful community or curious to know more about it, please don't hesitate in reaching out to us!

Sarah E. H. Tipton
President/CEO

The Rev. Charles E. Jenkins
Director of Pastoral Care and Chaplain



Report to the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina
- October 2024 -

It is challenging to write this report on the heels of Tropical Storm Helene. So many in our region are hurting, homeless, without power and basic needs. Kanuga itself has sustained devastating losses and damages. And another hurricane is readying itself to rain down on Florida. We pray for the thousands of souls suffering under these tragic events.

Was there a day before Helene? It seems like 2024 prior to Helene is a distant memory. I'll attempt to look back and report on what came "before."

Through the end of September, the fiscal year was looking strong, with solid financials, successful programs, and generous donors and volunteers fully engaged.

Mid-summer, we learned the exciting news that we received a grant from Trinity Wall Street to make possible a new program: Kanuga Leadership Residency. The project grant of \$370,000 will fund the creation of a hybrid leadership training program for clergy and lay leaders. The curriculum will advance The Episcopal Church's mission to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

In addition, we completed a thorough capital assessment of Kanuga's buildings, including cottages, guest houses, the Chapel, and group meeting spaces. We prioritized the repairs or reconstruction needed and developed a main campus land plan.

The safety and security team continued its work with a professional consultant to complete revisions to our emergency preparedness procedures, run crisis simulations, and apply for a federal grant to support safety enhancements.

Our program team began work on re-envisioning youth offerings with an eye toward better aligning our traditional programs with current needs of youth across the country.

Infrastructure improvements this year included the following:

- Fishing Pier
- Dam
- Colhoun Room for Children
- Trails
- Cottage Roof Repairs

Foster Educational Garden welcomed weekly Good News Gardens from St. John's in the Wilderness Flat Rock. Together, we tended and harvested organic spices, flowers, and vegetables, donating hundreds of pounds of fresh produce to community members in need. We continued to nourish our honeybee colonies and began a mushroom cultivation project.

We hosted or plan to host a number of conferences, including AwakeningSoul, Renewal, Youth Week, Winterlight, Knitting & Quilting, Iconography, and Freedom to Seek with poet John Roedel and The Rev. Chantal McKinney. We continued the new concert series, "Music in the Pines," with musician-in-residence Simon de Voil as well as An Evening for All Souls. Two service events, Spring Clean and Homecoming, saw volunteers from within the Diocese of Western NC and beyond lending a hand to spruce up the gardens, grounds, and Chapel of The Transfiguration for the season.

We have been blessed and pleased to welcome parishes, dioceses, Spiritual Directors International, Daughters of the King, Good News Gardens of The Episcopal Church, more than 50 weddings, the nationally known Belgian Waffle cycling event, and many businesses and nonprofits. We invited the greater community to join us for special meals celebrating Easter, Mother's Day, and Thanksgiving, and worked with several parishes in our Deanery to host a beautiful Feast of the Ascension event for families. It's truly been a wonderful year.

Now, back to today. Tropical Storm Helene was the most devastating weather event to impact Kanuga since the great flood of 1916. Fortunately, while the damage is great, it is not catastrophic. We will recover. That said, we have significant damage to at least two cottages as well as the lakefront pavilion. Trees are down on several other buildings and some roofs sustained wind damage. The lake level was so high that the lower portion of the pavilion flooded with several feet of water. Operations are temporarily suspended while we assess the damage and plan for the required repairs.

Hundreds have reached out to offer help with what will be a massive clean-up effort. This is deeply meaningful and the time for it will come, once campus is more secure. More immediately, philanthropic support is critical. During the coming months as we await the settlement of insurance claims, cash flow will be low while the need to make repairs will be high.

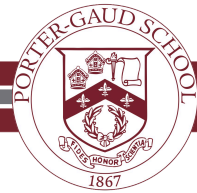
We will soon transition to serve as a resource for the greater community: housing nurses, doctors, first responders and others. Plans are also underway to support parish mission trips to the area for work that will last months, if not years.

Kanuga has always bounced back, by God's grace, and we know that this time we shall yet again. This holy place has been a refuge, a place of respite and renewal for almost 100 years. With God's help, nothing will stop us from preserving the legacy of that mission. My gratitude knows no end.

Respectfully submitted,



The Rev. Michael R. Sullivan
President / CEO



Annual Report

Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina

Anglican Diocese of South Carolina

Porter-Gaud Mission Statement

To inspire lives of purpose, learning, and service through cultivating each student's God-given potential.

Episcopal Identity at Porter-Gaud

As an Episcopal School, Porter-Gaud is a Christian community that is upheld by the basic principles of the Baptismal Covenant.¹ This Covenant, as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer, is founded upon the belief that God has revealed himself in the person of Jesus Christ as a triune community of love - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and that human beings, made in the divine image, are created for communion with this love. From this foundation, the Baptismal Covenant calls individuals and institutions to be incarnate instruments of God's love and grace. True to its Episcopal identity, Porter-Gaud thus seeks to be a community that celebrates and worships God as the center of life and loves our neighbors as ourselves, serving Christ in all persons, striving for justice and peace among all people, and respecting the dignity of every human being.

Worship

Worship is one of the most universal and effective expressions of Episcopal identity and community life. Services for all divisions are held weekly for faculty and students, and prayer is offered regularly, both at internal gatherings and public events. When we gather for worship, we immerse ourselves in the traditions, stories, and values that serve as the anchors of our community, seeking to center our hearts and minds around the love of God revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ. These gatherings are sensitive to the diversity of religious identities represented within our school while remaining faithful to the Anglican tradition, particularly as articulated in the Book of Common Prayer.

Leadership

Directive of Episcopal identity comes from the Board of Trustees via the school's mission statement and bylaws and is implemented by the Head of School and the Office of the Chaplaincy. The school's governance structure calls for regular review and examination of the school's Episcopal identity by the Board of Trustees. This identity is also to be clearly articulated regularly to all members of the community, particularly at the beginning of each academic year, during the interview and/or orientation process for new board members, faculty, staff, and students, as well as throughout the admissions process for prospective families.

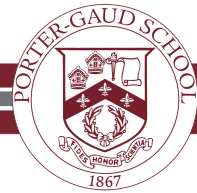
Office of the Chaplaincy

The Rev'd Palmer B. Kennedy - Head Chaplain / Upper School Chaplain

Ms. Abbie Panuccio - Middle School Chaplain

The Rev'd David Rowe - Lower School Chaplain

¹ See Appendix A for the entirety of the Baptismal Covenant as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer.



Community Engagement and Belonging

As an embodiment of the Christian faith, Porter-Gaud seeks to celebrate and worship God as the center of life and to honor the dignity of every human being as beloved persons made in the image of God. We affirm the sovereignty of God and seek to be a community where the immeasurable and irreplaceable worth of each person is recognized and unconditional love - a love that doesn't have to be earned - is offered to all. Our traditions and community life flow from this identity and aim to create an environment that welcomes and nurtures the unique capacity of every member of our community to reflect God's love, goodness, beauty, and creativity and to pursue lives of meaning, purpose, and service. In addition to the presence of our chaplains, one of the clearest expressions of this commitment is the Office of Community Engagement and Belonging, which is anchored by and is an extension of our Episcopal identity.²

Religious Diversity

Porter-Gaud stands on the foundation of orthodox Anglican theology rooted in the Christian scriptures and expressed in the Book of Common Prayer. This foundation has an integrity that enables us to be an inclusive community that loves and honors each of our members. The religious diversity of the school community does not create silos or ignore differences. Rather, it provides a magnificent opportunity to foster thoughtful dialogue, humility, empathy, understanding, and respect for the spiritual formation of individuals and families from a variety of faiths and backgrounds. Together, we seek to cultivate a community that embodies the love of God, a love that is unconditional and indiscriminate.

Academics

As an Episcopal school, Porter-Gaud participates in a tradition with a long and rich history of academic excellence, integrating faith and reason in a graceful and inclusive manner which has been the hallmark of Anglican education for centuries. Our academic curriculum is constructed and implemented in alignment with our Episcopal identity and combines rigorous and free intellectual inquiry with an unapologetic proclamation of faith in a sovereign and loving God. Consistent with our commitment to academic excellence and intellectual development, Porter-Gaud offers the study of religion in a manner that is meaningful, age-appropriate, and as fully rigorous as our other academic offerings. Though the content may overlap, a clear distinction is maintained between gatherings for worship, prayer, and discipleship and the study of religion in the classroom.

The WATCH Prayer

The WATCH Prayer is a natural outgrowth of the mission of the school, particularly with respect to our Episcopal identity. It is an articulation of (and prayerful supplication for) the principles and moral qualities we - as an Episcopal school - seek to develop in our students.

May our WORDS be full of truth and kindness,
our ACTIONS gracious and honorable,
our THOUGHTS unselfish and charitable,
our CHARACTER noble and upright,
and our HABITS virtuous,
that our school family may grow in faith, honor, and knowledge,
as we WATCH together in all things.
Amen.

² See Appendix B for an example of our Episcopal identity serving as the foundation for our Office of Community Engagement and Belonging.

APPENDIX A

The Baptismal Covenant (Book of Common Prayer, 304-305)

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

APPENDIX B

Community Engagement and Belonging Terminology

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Community engagement is the process of identifying and addressing issues affecting the well-being of all members of the community, as well as celebrating the joy of coming together as one. (Romans 12:3-5)

BELONGING:

Belonging is an outcome. It means different things to different people and implies the feeling of security, appreciation, support, fair treatment, and acceptance as a beloved member of the community. (Ephesians 2:13-22)

DIVERSITY:

The intentional development of school communities where people of different backgrounds, identities, and points of view come together as a body. Diversity is both a source of strength and a primary means of enhancing the intellectual, social, spiritual, and moral life of the school. (Rev. 7:9-10)

INCLUSION:

Beyond the sheer presence of a diverse group of people, inclusion is the process by which members of the community honor one another's inherent dignity, welcome many voices (especially those from underrepresented and historically marginalized communities), and work toward the ongoing broadening of the community's horizons. (Romans 15: 5-7)

EQUITY:

Equity is the condition where fairness and faithfulness thrive, and all members of the community are respected for their inherent dignity as human beings and capacity to contribute to the building up of the life of the school. Toward that end, we at Porter-Gaud intentionally seek to identify barriers to creating a more equitable community. (Psalm 33:5)

JUSTICE:

The courageous and continual attention to and advocacy on behalf of those most vulnerable in the community (Proverbs 31:8; Isaiah 1:17a)

DIGNITY:

Dignity speaks to the inherent and unconditional worth of all human beings and the primary lens through which we view each community member. (Gal. 3:28)

SOCIAL JUSTICE:

The integration of the ideals and concepts of equity, justice, and a fair society throughout the life of the school; the embracing and honoring of diversity; and the integral inclusion of community service and service-learning. (Isaiah 1:17; I Corinthians 12:26; Philippians 2:3-4)

This document was prepared by Reverend Palmer Kennedy, Porter-Gaud School Head Chaplain, and Dr. Yerko Sepúlveda, Director of Community Engagement and Belonging. The definitions for Community Engagement and Belonging were drafted by the aforementioned Porter-Gaud leaders. The definitions for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, Dignity, and Social Justice were adapted from NAES Statement on Inclusion and Episcopal Identity. The Porter-Gaud Board of Trustees adopted this terminology on January 10, 2023.

ST. CHRISTOPHER

camp & conference center

A Brief History



St. Christopher comprises just over 300 acres on Seabrook Island and operates as a Conference Center, Summer Camp, and center for the Barrier Island Environmental Education program. Our mission is to offer our guests a place for rest, relaxation, and renewal, and to provide a space to encounter the Living Christ.

The history of this property precedes colonization, with the first known inhabitants likely being the Stono Native Americans. Our history as an institution began in 1938, when the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina sponsored a summer camp for underprivileged children. This summer camping tradition has continued, with brief interruptions for a polio outbreak and WWII, for the past 86 years. In 1951, a larger portion of Seabrook Island was donated to the Diocese by the Morowitz family, including the current St. Christopher property. In 1981, St. Christopher founded the Barrier Island Environmental Education Program, a wildly successful program which serves thousands of students, in South Carolina and beyond, throughout the school year. St. Christopher was operated as an Episcopal institution until the 2012 schism, at which point it was operated by the

ACNA Diocese. The Supreme Court decision of 2022 returned St. Christopher to the stewardship of Episcopal Diocese, which has resumed operation and oversight since October 2022. The current Executive Director is the Rev. Laura Rezac, and St. Christopher is operated by a year-round staff of 28 and a seasonal staff that varies in size from 15 to almost 40. All staff who serve at St. Christopher are committed to our mission, and to sharing the love of Christ with all who pass through our gates.

Conference Center Operations



St. Christopher operates a year-round conference center that offers space for retreats and gatherings of all kinds. We welcome faith-based groups, secular groups, family reunions, and folks who would like to join us for a personal retreat. Many of our groups come back year after year to enjoy the warm hospitality and peaceful surroundings. We have chapels and meeting spaces both large and small, along with 44 lodge rooms, two apartments, and cabins available for overnight stays.

We have been making strategic improvements to our facilities, including constructing a new kitchen facility in our multi-purpose building, Susanna's House. We expect that new kitchen to be operational in early 2025, and we are looking forward to debuting that new and improved space!

Please know that all parishes are warmly invited to enjoy the conference center at St. Christopher. We have special Episcopal rates and would love to welcome parishes for overnight retreats, vestry gatherings, beach days, picnics, youth events, or any other gathering you might like to have here in this holy and beautiful place. If your parish is not ready for a group retreat, please know that individuals are very welcome to make personal retreats to our conference center for rest and renewal of your spirits. Our staff would be delighted to welcome you here!

Summer Camp



We are pleased to report that our 2024 Summer Camp Season at St. Christopher was a smashing success! We are thrilled to have the continuing leadership of our Summer Camp Director Renzi Ricketts, who assembled a robust team of emerging adults that once again included students from Voorhees University, as well as folks who grew up at St. Christopher and who came to us to experience this community for the first time. The team worked together to create lasting memories and experiences of faith and community for every camper who visited us. From our intentional time spent worshipping in chapel, sailing and paddling on our beautiful waterfront, to aiming for success on our brand new archery range, getting creative with our arts and crafts, to singing, dancing, and laughing while playing noodle hockey. Oh and we can't forget visiting our infamous mud pit and then ending our day with a nice chocolatey slice of mud pie. The best part about camp is connecting with old friends, making new friends and, most importantly, growing in our faith and spirituality. It indeed was a wonderful summer at Camp Saint Christopher! **CAMP BABY CAMP!**



We are so grateful to everyone who supported us this summer through prayers, the parents and guardians who trusted us with their children, the chaplains who taught us about God, to those churches who donated funds and treats for our counselors - it was all much appreciated, and we are so grateful to everyone who made this summer such a success! We couldn't have done it without you!



Looking ahead to this summer, we are thrilled to announce our 2025 camp schedule! **Early registration for Episcopal/ACNA campers will begin on December 2 at 7 am.** **General registration for all campers will open on January 13, 2025 at 7 am.** We invite all children and youth to join us for a week (or more!) this summer, to grow in their faith, make lots of friends, and have FUN! We are planning to offer all kinds of activities, including sailing, paddling, swimming, archery, rock wall, hiking, hammocking, and of course time to worship and sing in our chapel. It's going to be a blast - join us!

Please know also that we are committed to making sure every child can access our programming. Financial aid is available from our institution, and we also encourage all priests to use their discretionary funds as a source of aid for camp tuition for families as well. We do not want finances to be a barrier to attending camp! Every child deserves to learn about God, make new friends, and grow through a camp experience.

CAMP SAINT CHRISTOPHER

2025 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

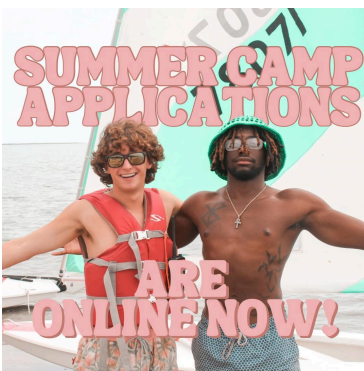
SESSION	DATES	AGES	SESSION	DATES	AGES
1	June 3rd - 5th (2 nights)	Rising 1st - 3rd	7	July 7th - 11th (4 nights)	Rising 7th - 9th
2	June 6th - 8th (2 nights)	Family Camp	8	July 14th - 18th (4 nights)	Rising 3rd - 5th
3	June 10th - 13th (3 nights)	Rising 3rd - 5th	9	July 21st - 25th (4 nights)	Siblings Camp
4	June 16th - 20th (4 nights)	Rising 6th - 8th	10	July 28th - July 31st (3 nights)	Rising 4th - 6th
5	June 23rd - 28th (5 nights)	Rising 9th - 12th	11	Aug. 1st - Aug. 3rd (2 nights)	Family Camp
6	June 30th - July 2nd (2 nights)	Rising 2nd - 5th			

ACNA & EPISCOPAL REGISTRATION 12.2.24 AT 7:00 AM
 GENERAL REGISTRATION 1.13.25 AT 7:00 AM
 VISIT [STCHRISTOPHER.ORG](https://www.stchristopher.org) FOR PRICING

we can't wait to see you again!

Last but certainly not least, we also are still recruiting counselors and counselors-in-training (high school students). For our counselors, we offer competitive pay and special training opportunities in sailing, archery, paddling, and belaying, along with spiritual formation and ongoing professional support. If you are interested in having the best summer ever, learning skills that will serve you in life and in the workplace, and growing in your faith, join us! Learn more and apply here:

<https://www.stchristopher.org/work-volunteer-at-camp>



Barrier Island Environmental Education Program

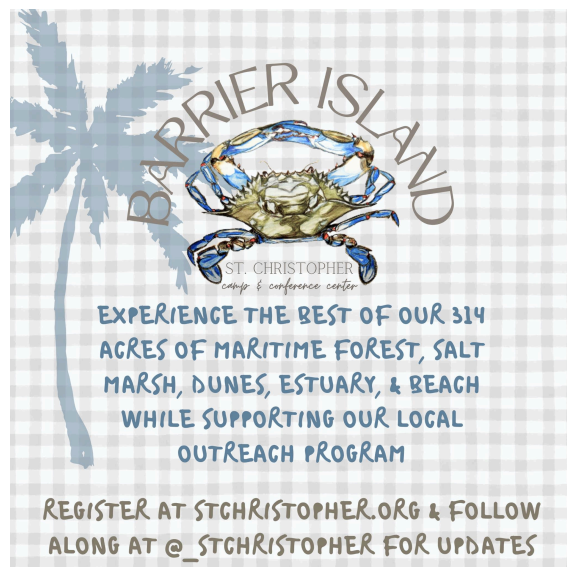


Our Barrier Island Environmental Education Program is in full swing for the fall season. Last spring, we were pleased to hire Jared Crain as the Director of our Barrier Island Program, and Tyler Harris as his Assistant Director. Jared and Tyler have a wealth of experience in environmental education and particular passion for the ministry that happens here at St. Christopher. Not only do they oversee all educational programming for the students who attend BI, they also lead a program of spiritual formation that happens in intentional community with the seasonal naturalists who serve here.

This year, the Barrier Island program has a dedicated team of 15 naturalists, who are all recent college graduates with a passion for environmental education. In addition to their work with students, they also serve at St. Christopher in a variety of other capacities, including playing music in chapel, controlling invasive plant species, caring for the animals in our Herpetarium and Aquarium, engaging in local outreach with Title 1 schools, and even going beyond our gates to help with hurricane relief in Georgia and North Carolina. We are so proud of each young person who has given this year to growing as professionals and as people of faith.



Another area of focus for this team is preparing for our Barrier Island Family Camp in January, and the Barrier Island 5K in April. BI Family Camp is a wonderful way for families with school-age children to enjoy all the fun of a St. Christopher field trip together, and we hope you will consider attending with your families! The 5K takes place on our property and raises funds for scholarships so schools with less financial means can still come and enjoy all the benefits of a Barrier Island trip. We encourage all Episcopalians who might enjoy running (or walking!) this distance to sign up!



Outdoor Encounters

Our Outdoor Encounters program, led by our BI naturalists, offers kayaking, birding, orienteering, and low ropes experiences for all ages. Join us for time in the great outdoors on our beautiful campus, led by experienced naturalists and outdoor experts.



Opportunities

There are several ways to connect with St. Christopher, both to experience rest, reflection, and renewal for yourself, and also to support our mission and ministry.

The most important thing you can do for us is pray for our staff, students, campers, and guests. We ask everyone in the diocese to please remember us in your prayers.

For parishes:

- Come join us for a retreat at our conference center!
- Rally friends to join us for the 5K!
- Consider blessing our summer camp team this summer with prayers, cards, snacks, or contributions to bagel bars, pizza parties, or other treats.
- Clergy: please encourage families to come to camp, and use discretionary funds to help! And consider serving as a chaplain for a future summer camp season!

- Also for clergy and lay church professionals: Ask us about our respite rates for Sabbath time here at St. Christopher. Vestries, encourage your staff (including hardworking folks like parish administrators!) to take Sabbath time for their own renewal.

For individuals:

- Join us for a personal retreat for your own rest, restoration, and renewal
- Encourage the children and youth in your life to come to camp, and any emerging adults to consider applying to be a counselor
- Consider serving as a volunteer weekend host - email Rev. Laura for more information! (lrezac@stchristopher.org)
- Ask about our burial ground at St. Christopher if you are looking to make arrangements for final details

Important Dates!

December 2, 2024 - Summer Camp Registration for Episcopal/ACNA families

December 31, 2024 - Deadline to apply to be a Summer Camp Counselor

January 13, 2025 - General Summer Camp Registration Opens

January 24-26 - Barrier Island Family Camp (register now!)

April 26, 2025 - Barrier Island 5K (register now!)

Contact information

Executive Director: The Rev. Laura Rezac (lrezac@stchristopher.org, 843-768-0429)

Director of Summer Camp: Renzi Ricketts (rricketts@stchristopher.org, 843-768-1337)

Director of Reservations: Sue Mahaffee (smahaffee@stchristopher.org, 843-768-1337)

Director of the Barrier Island Environmental Education Program AND Outdoor Encounters Contact: Jared Crain (jcrain@stchristopher.org, 843-768-1337)

The University of the South is the only institute of higher education founded and governed by dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The bishops, clergy, and laity of twenty-seven dioceses form the core of the University's Board of Trustees fostering mutually beneficial relationships that make Sewanee a truly unique and special place.

For more information or to view this report online, visit episcopal.sewanee.edu

2023-2024 SEWANEE ALMANAC

College of Arts & Sciences:

- Total enrollment in the College: **1,681**
- Total aid awarded to College students from Constituent Dioceses: **\$7M**
- Total number of Episcopal College students from all 27 Constituent Dioceses: **1304**

School of Theology:

- Enrollment in the seminary: **139**
- **100%** of seminarians who applied for financial aid received support
- Constituent Dioceses represented by current seminary student body: **11**

HOW YOUR DIOCESE SUPPORTS SEWANEE FINANCIALLY

(Includes Sewanee Fund and capital project gifts for the fiscal year 7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024)

- Diocesan support in FY24: **\$2,000**
- Support from parishes in the diocese: **\$4,800**
- Percentage of parishes in the diocese that made a gift to Sewanee: **8%**

HOW YOUR DIOCESE ENGAGES WITH SEWANEE

- College students from the diocesan area: **39**
- Seminarians from the diocese: **0**
- School of Theology alumni currently serving in the diocese: **29**
- EfM groups in the diocese: **6**

YOUR TRUSTEES

- The Rt. Rev. Ruth M. Woodliff-Stanley, bishop
- The Rev. Ryan Currie (2025)
- Laura Marshall (2026)
- Jean McDowell Martin (2027)

Staff Contacts:

The Rev. Casey Perkins, T'22, Director of Church Relations • 931.598.1316 | casey.perkins@sewanee.edu

Mary Catherine Alexander, Assistant Director of Church Relations • 931.598.1237 | mcalexan@sewanee.edu



STILL HOPES

Episcopal Retirement Community

2024 Annual Report

Danny Sanford, Chief Executive Officer

This past year has certainly been one of growth and change for Still Hopes. While we continue to find ways to grow on our existing campus, we are also looking outwards to proactively expand our mission beyond the 44 acres we are blessed to call ours here at Still Hopes. While some of our recent years past felt very much like “surviving” in terms of the pandemic, 2024 has been a year where we can focus on thriving, which is a very welcome feeling indeed.

When you look here on our campus, we were able to begin marketing the 16 new cottages that we will add to our community over the next year. Demand for these cottages is strong, and we already have numerous commitments for these new homes, despite official marketing efforts just getting started. We also have a generous resident, Mrs. Susan Boyd, who has graciously donated the funds to build a croquet court and pavilion here at Still Hopes. The end result is stunning, and our residents are eager to begin playing. Our friends at Bishop Gadsden have been a wealth of knowledge when it comes to entering this new croquet world, and we are very grateful for their friendship and guidance.

When you look outside our campus, our efforts at York Place are gaining steam once more. While there has been a bit of a “stall” with our development efforts at York Place, we have been able, through activity of the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, to have some honest conversations with the folks who “make things happen” in York, and we are feeling hopeful once more. I am very grateful for the help of Bishop Richards, whose hands on efforts and conversations have made a positive impact on our efforts for York Place.

Much closer to our existing campus, we are moving ahead nicely on our middle market community here in West Columbia. We purchased a ten-acre site that sits adjacent to our campus, which was previously owned by the Lexington II School District. The School District has officially vacated the existing building, which we plan to utilize extensively for our middle market community’s common areas. Our architectural partner, THW, is working to finalize the community layout and we feel confident we can have residents moving into this new community in 2027.

Still Hopes’ Mission is to provide a faith-based community where life will be rich and full as God intends it to be, holding to our values, serving one another with dedication, and promoting health and wellness for all. We are excited to not just further this Mission here at Still Hopes, but in areas beyond our campus. Your support means everything to our success, and we thank you for your continued kindness and prayers. It is my honor to bring you this report and to continue to serve this wonderful ministry organization.

Blessings,

Voorhees University: *An Episcopal HBCU*

Executive Summary

In my fourth year (senior year) of service as its 10th President and CEO, I am honored to serve at the helm of historic Voorhees University, the first HBCU founded by an African American woman, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright in 1897. I deem it a privilege and blessing to serve and propel Voorhees University to its next level of greatness, impact, and excellence. I am delighted to share the vision for advancing the institution and updates on our collected accomplishments – but by the grace of God. We are especially proud to celebrate our 100-year affiliation with the Episcopal Church. Indeed, To God be the Glory!

Ronnie Hopkins, Ph.D., 10th President and CEO

I. The VISION of Voorhees University

Voorhees University will be globally recognized as a premier, comprehensive liberal arts institution focused on student success, excellence, integrity, service leadership, diversity, faith, social and environmental justice and equity anchored in the embrace of Beloved Community.

II. The MISSION of Voorhees University

Voorhees University is a private historically black liberal arts institution affiliated with the Episcopal church, whose mission is to produce highly qualified graduates who coalesce intellect and faith in pursuit of life-long learning, healthy living, the betterment of society, and an abiding faith in God.

III. VALUES of Voorhees University TIGERS

T – Transformation (Innovation)

I – Integrity

G – Generativity

E – Excellence/Engagement/Equity

R – Resolution/Resolve

S – Servanthood/Stewardship/Social Justice

IV. STRATEGIC GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ❖ Teaching and Learning
- ❖ Diversity, Inclusion and Equity
- ❖ Creativity and Innovation
- ❖ Outreach and Engagement
- ❖ Resource Stewardship
- ❖ Becoming Beloved Community

V. CORE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Strategic Priority 1: **Academic Excellence & Student Success**

Strategic Priority 2: **Talent Acquisition**

Strategic Priority 3: **Leverage/Leadership**

Strategic Priority 4: **Accountability**

Strategic Priority 5: **Stability and Sustainability**

VI. Update on Cores Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority 1: Academic Excellence & Student Success

- ❖ Voorhees University offers 18 undergraduate degrees: Accounting, Biology, Business Administration, Child Development, Criminal Justice, Computer Science/Cyber Security, English, Environmental Science, Hotel and Hospitality Management, Interdisciplinary Studies, Psychology, Public Health, Sociology, Sports Management, Emergency Management/Homeland Security, Mass Communication, Organizational Management, and Theological Studies.
- ❖ The University offers two master's degrees: The Master of Education in Teaching and Learning and the Master of Business Administration.
- ❖ The University has been approved by the South Association of Colleges and Schools Commission of Colleges (SACSCOC) to advance to Level 5 to offer the first doctoral degree program. The Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership in Higher Education and Pk-12 launched in fall 2024 with 40 students in the first cohort.
- ❖ In October 2024, the South Carolina State Department of Education will confirm approval for the University as a Charter School Authorizer to administer the Voorhees University Charter Institute of Learning.

Strategic Priority 2: Talent Acquisition: Recent Service Appointments

- ❖ The Reverend Marie-Carmel Chery has completed nearly one year of dedicated

service as the Dean of the Chapel and Spiritual Engagement and Vicar of St. Phillips Chapel

- ❖ Dr. Damara Hightower Mitchell has been appointed as the full time CEO of the Voorhees University Center of Excellence for Educator Preparation and Innovation (CPI). The aims of the CPI are to: (1) Create equitable learning outcomes for students in underserved, high-need areas and subjects by creating innovative pathways and models for increasing teacher effectiveness, (2) Address teacher shortages, and (3) Diversify the Teaching Workforce in South Carolina and the Nation.
- ❖ Dr. Angela Peters has been appointed as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- ❖ Dr. Syed Hasnain has been appointed as the Associate Provost for VU Global (Online Education).
- ❖ Dr. Cheryl Swainer has been appointed Dean of the School of Science, Technology, Health and Human Services.
- ❖ Charlene Johnson has been appointed Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics.
- ❖ Adrian West has been appointed Vice President for Student Affairs.
- ❖ Dr. Prince Brown has been appointed as Special Assistant to the President for Philanthropy and Giving Leadership
- ❖ Dwayne Smiling has been appointed as Special Assistant to the President for Beloved Community and Governmental Relations
- ❖ Chancey Daniels has been appointed as Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Priority 3: Leverage/Leadership: Voorhees University as Beloved Community

Inspired by The Most Reverend Michael Curry, the 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate and the first African American Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the strategic plan addresses the critical development of strengthening beloved community. The Becoming Beloved Community Initiative at Voorhees University includes the following major platforms: (1) implementation of the Institutes for Social and Environmental Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion, (2) establishment of the Center for Women's Advancement and Empowerment, (3) launch of the Rural Community Development Institute, (3) enhanced support and partnership with local and surrounding school districts, (4) strengthening partnerships between historic Voorhees University and Saint Augustine's University, the only two remaining Episcopal HBCUs in the nation.

The motivation for the Institutes for Social and Environmental Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion at Voorhees University is to inculcate social and environmental change as a critical part of the very fabric of the institution. Inspiration from the following quote and

scriptures direct the agenda: "The fierce urgency of now! " Martin Luther King, Jr.; "Enough! You've corrupted justice long enough, you've let the wicked get away with murder. You're here to defend the defenseless, to make sure that underdogs get a fair break; Your job is to stand up for the powerless, and prosecute all those who exploit them." (Psalm 82:3 Message Bible), and "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow- 't (Isaiah 1:17 NIV)- The Institute will proactively engage in promising practices to optimize transformative considerations in social and environmental justice and actively implement a social and environmental change plan that will directly engage students, faculty, staff, and community constituents

To our dismay, the City of Denmark and the County of Bamberg in South Carolina, the home of Voorhees University, hold the infamous federal designation as a Promise Zone and an Empowerment Zone rendering the areas among the poorest in the nation. As an act of Beloved Community, the strategic plan views the current disposition as an opportunity to employ the Rural Community Development Institute (RCDI) at Voorhees University. The impetus for the RCDI is anchored in Matthew 25: "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. " (Matthew 25 NIV). The RCDI will conduct the Voorhees University Community-wide Needs Assessment in the City of Denmark, Bamberg County, and surrounding areas to frame our intentional work and engagement alongside our beloved community members. The University seeks to expand experiential learning opportunities for students and faculty, and to aggressively search for federal and other external funding to support our campus and external communities and establish systemic means of Becoming Beloved Community.

Strategic Priority 4: Accountability

In order to promote and sustain accountability, the University has focused on the following: (1) Developing a planning process that guides decision-making including divisional goals and strategies aligned with the University's strategic plan, (2) Engaging our students in a technology-augmented living and learning environment that nurtures their well-being, empowers their academic success, and inspires them to be proactive leaders and contributors to society, (3) Committing to mentoring and support for the success and professional development of faculty and staff to ensure that processes recruiting, hiring, and promotion are inclusive and follow research-based practices for avoiding bias. (4) Developing strategic and transparent allocations of resources, and (5) Maintaining and strengthening the accreditations of the Institution.

Strategic Priority 5: Stability and Sustainability

As a demonstration of stability and sustainability, Voorhees University is honored to celebrate a 100-year affiliation with the Episcopal Church. To further accomplish stability and sustainability, the University is committed to: (1) Optimizing institutional resources to ensure quality and efficiency in all Institutional operations by implementing baseline budgeting focused on strategic initiatives and strengthening programs, (2) Increasing external support revenue from private sources by engaging alumni, friends, and corporate partners to expand support for the people, places, and programs of the Institution, including a comprehensive capital fundraising campaign, (3) Expanding funding sources to enhance resources through grants and contracts from federal and state agencies, corporations, and foundations, (4) Being good stewards by evaluating and prioritizing deferred building maintenance and renovation as well as technological upkeep and innovations to ensure the Institution does not incur greater costs in the future, and (5) Building and implementing a university-level brand platform that clearly establishes a distinct position for the university among our peers.

VII. Institutional Data Points

Current Enrollment

Level	Fall 2024 Headcount	Fall 2024 FTE
Undergraduate	443	437
Graduate	155	149
Total	598	586

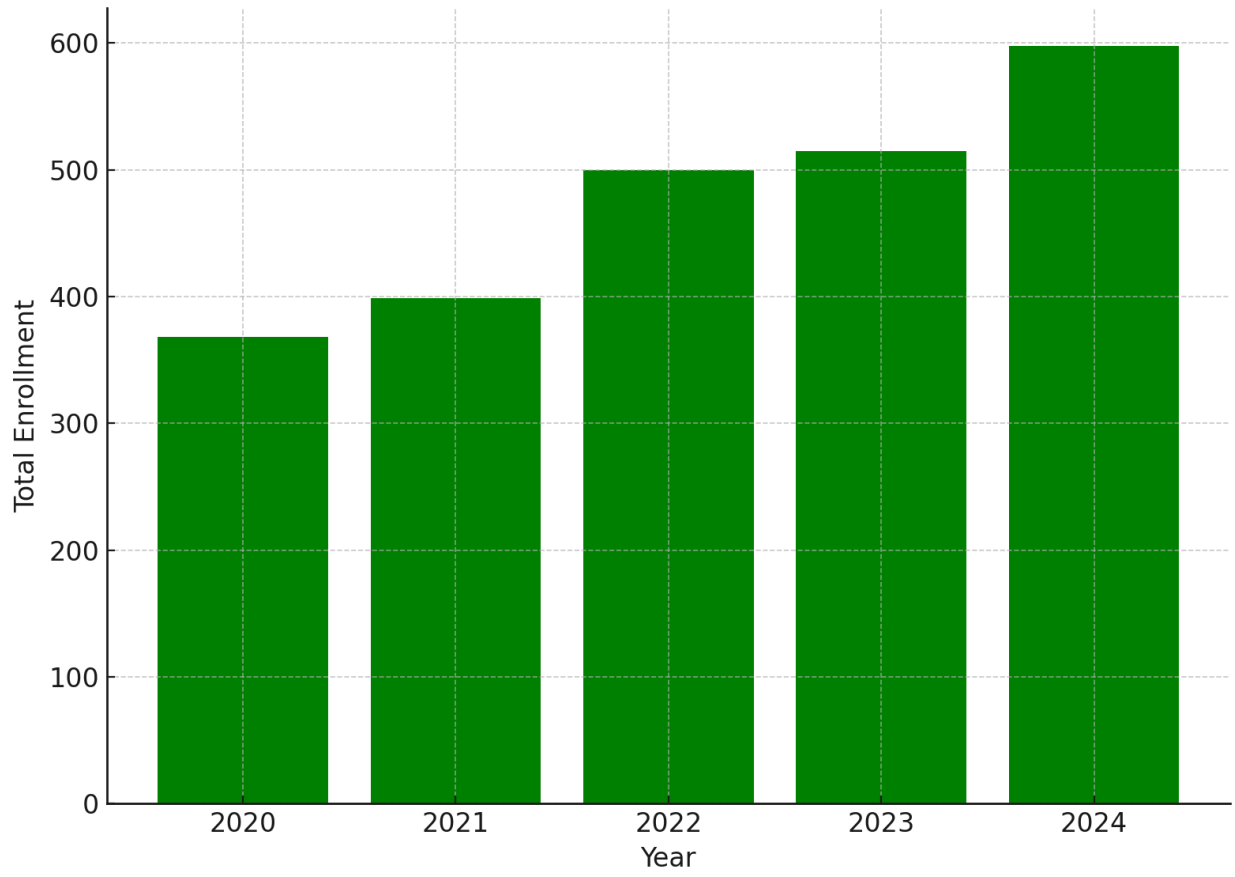
Five-Year FTE and Headcount Trend

Term	FTE	Headcount
F2020	359	368
F2021	368	399
F2022	476	500
F2023	488	515
F2024	586	598

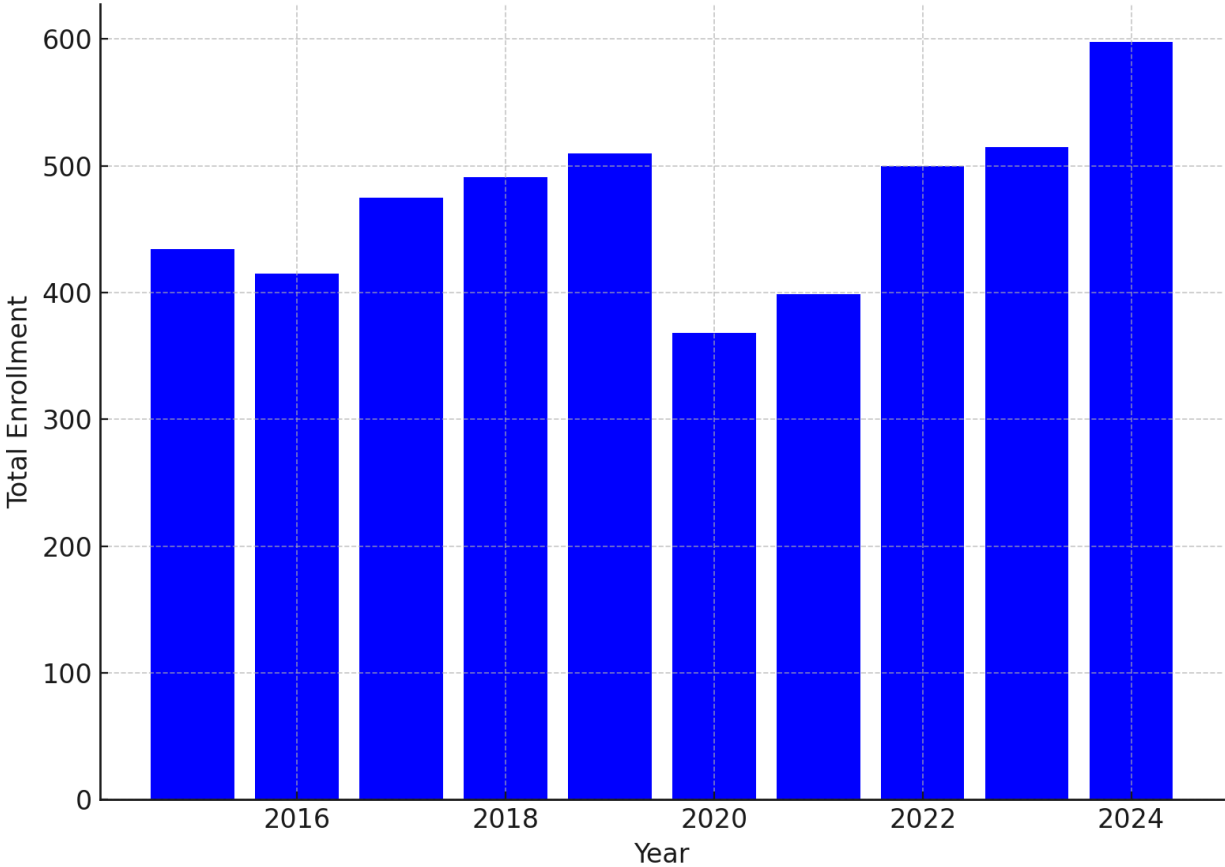
Projected Enrollment

Fall Semester
2027 Projection
2026 Projection
2025 Projection
2024 Actual
2023 Actual

5-Year Enrollment Trend (2020 - 2024)



10-Year Enrollment Trend (2015 - 2024)



VIII. Selected Chapel Services and Spiritual Engagement --
"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD." (Palms 122:1)

Sunday, September 29, 2024

- ❖ Dean Marie-Carmel Chery preached at Saint Francis Episcopal Church, Edisto, SC. The Church offering was dedicated to Voorhees University.
- ❖ Voorhees University Concert Choir performed at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Bible Way Church of Atlas Road, Columbia SC in its Annual Youth and Young Adult Ministry programs.
- ❖ President Ronnie Hopkins was the keynote speaker at the College Day Worship Service at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Dillon, SC. The University's Male Ensemble, the TigerNaires performed the music for the service.
- ❖ Elder Antoine Jackson, Youth Pastor and Songstress Regina Skeeters, Director of Worship and Arts Ministry of Bible Way Church of Atlas Road, Columbia SC preached and performed at the on campus weekly Chapel service on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 hosted by the President's Student Advisory Council.
- ❖ Members of the Voorhees University family worshipped at Christ Church, Denmark SC with Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley preaching and facilitating Confirmation to two new congregants on Sunday, September 22, 2024.
- ❖ Rev. Adam Lamont China, Pastor of Flat Rock AME Church in Abbeville, SC. Preached at the on campus weekly Chapel service hosted by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (Zeta Gamma Chapter) and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. (Theta Epsilon Chapter) on Tuesday, September 11, 2024.

**IX. Recent Activities and Accomplishments –
“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)**

- ❖ Voorhees University has been recognized in the UNCF's (United Negro College Fund) 2024 HBCU Economic Impact Report, showcasing its vital role as an economic powerhouse in South Carolina. The report highlights Voorhees' significant contributions to job creation, business support, and the upliftment of local communities, reinforcing the university's impact far beyond education. The University provides over \$17 million of support to the local region through employment and services.
- ❖ Voorhees University Foundress, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright was inducted into the National Black College Hall of Fame, Saturday, September 28, 2024 and stands as the only founder of an HBCU to hold said distinction.
- ❖ Mr. Lawrenz Ellman-Sanders, Senior, Business Administration and Entrepreneurship major from Greenville, South Carolina and a White House Initiative Scholar attended the 2024 White House HBCU Scholar Initiative as part of the National HBCU Week Conference in Philadelphia, PA. Among 110 scholars from HBCUs across the country, Lawrenz participated in the NASA MITTIC Pitch Competition. With only 3 days to brainstorm, develop, and pitch, Lawrenz and his team created Flow Go – "Your period, your campus, your way." This all-inclusive menstrual product app is designed to improve access to menstrual products across HBCU campuses. In addition to Ellman-Sanders, the team, consisting of Khelsie Dorsett-Wilson (North Carolina A&T), Alonnie Celestine & Osoniya Wodi (Xavier University of Louisiana) and Chantel Ilawole (Cheyney University) worked diligently to develop and present their innovative solution. Their hard work paid off as they won the NASA MITTIC Pitch Competition, securing the \$10k Grand Prize!
- ❖ President Ronnie Hopkins and Vice President Dr. Corey Amaker welcomed the Department of Energy's Minority Serving Institution Partnership Program (MSIPP) to create and support sustainable career pathways that prepare a diverse workforce of talented students for the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE) on September 23, 2024.

- ❖ The first-ever Voorhees University Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony was full of energy, fun, and fellowship as the inaugural class was inducted on September 7, 2024.
- ❖ Voorhees VOTES: Voorhees University has facilitated several voter registration drives and hosted a Presidential Debate Watch Party with over 100 students in attendance.
- ❖ With Senator Tamioka Issac-Divine as keynote speaker, Voorhees University celebrated our 128th Opening Convocation, a day filled with inspiration, pride and community on September 5, 2024.

Humbly Submitted by Ronnie Hopkins, Ph.D. – 10th President and CEO
To God be the Glory!



THE DOMINICAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP

COMPANIONS IN MISSION

The Dominican Development Group (DDG) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit established in 1999 to assist in the ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic. The mission of the DDG is to foster sustainable resource development and create a bridge for meaningful mission partnerships. Current DDG partners include The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, The Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska, The Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas, The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, The Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida, The Episcopal Church in Western Louisiana, and The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.

In 2024 dozens of teams from South Carolina, New York, Louisiana, Nebraska, Georgia, North Carolina, Connecticut, and Florida participated in mission experiences through the DDG with the Dominican Episcopal Church. Projects included playground construction, vacation bible school, carpentry (building of new church pews and podiums), eye clinics (including cataract surgery), medical clinics (for all ages), painting and refreshing of church buildings, care of the elderly, neighborhood cleanups, and most importantly relationship building. All mission projects are developed by the Dominican diocesan office under the direction of Bishop Moises Quezada. These projects align to help further the mission of the church in loving and serving the people of the Dominican Republic especially the most vulnerable.

The DDG is currently accepting applications for teams for 2025 and will be hosting an exploratory pilgrimage January 16th – 23rd. The pilgrimage is a time to explore the ministry of the Dominican Episcopal Church with a small group of people in an intentional way. This year, pilgrims will be traveling to the southside of the island to the east and west of Santo Domingo. All are welcome to attend. Please contact cwallace@domincandevdevelopmentgroup.org for more information.

–Christy Wallace, Executive Director

