



Report of Institutions

The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina
235th Annual Diocesan Convention

October 24, 2025

Delegates,

It has been some time since Canterbury House touched base. Apologies for our dormant appearance but there is much to report.

As you may be aware, Canterbury House was founded in 1967 as a non-profit, independent living, age-in-place senior community. The Canterbury House campus is comprised of two buildings and available to anyone 62 or older who meets annual income guidelines. Canterbury House East, a four-story building with 46 assisted units, and Canterbury House West, a thirteen-story high-rise with 204 assisted units.

Four years ago, Edmund Rhett, M.D. (Canterbury's Board of Director's chairman at that time) began an initiative to inject new life into the fifty-year-old facility which had become a bit "long in the tooth." His plan was two-fold; replace the aging board of directors and the facility's operational management, while simultaneously restructuring the organization's bylaws to create a foundation on which the Canterbury House could grow and prosper into the future.

As many of you can appreciate, there were numerous challenges, the easiest of which was finding new board members eager to serve our seniors. During this period, Rhett developed a strong working relationship with me, who at the time was the newest of the new board members. Within the next eighteen months (the period of the Canterbury's *renaissance*), Rhett identified a succession plan to his chairman's role, the other aging board members, and the facility's management staff.

The retiring operational management team was replaced, the operational functions outsourced to Southern Development Management Company (SDMC). SDMC with a staff of over 150 employees, operates multiple facilities throughout six regional areas in the southeast providing valuable insights in the operation of our facility.

Yet, the biggest challenge during the *renaissance* was Canterbury's restructuring. The original bylaws were established in 1968 with a subsequent set established for facility expansion (Elderly Housing, Inc.) in 1997. Both sets were in dire need of updating on many levels, tax, governmental, and organizational structure.

During the discovery, we determined that the Canterbury House (West & East) were owned by the non-profit corporations, Episcopal Diocesan Housing, Inc. and Elderly Housing, Inc., both having no members but each sharing a common board of directors. The board engaged an attorney to aid in our restructuring, assisted by input (both spiritually and legally) from the Episcopal and Anglican dioceses.

Now updated, the bylaws once again restated Canterbury's purpose:

Provide, in accordance with the ideals of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a retirement community for those persons, who, because of age, personal conditions, health, and their express desire, choose to reside in a not-for-profit faith-based community. The Canterbury is committed to a program of stewardship respecting each person's rights, dignity and independence. We are organized to meet the physical, social and physiological needs of the elderly and to contribute to their health, security, happiness and usefulness in longer living.

There were other important changes made during the restructuring of the bylaws. As the end of the Episcopal and Anglican schism neared, Rhett and I sought to formulate bylaws that would bridge our communities (Rhett - Anglican | Fabian - Episcopalian). To that end, the bylaws set forth that of the maximum thirteen (13) seats, four seats would be appointed by the Bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina, one Canterbury resident seat, and the remaining eight seats from the community at large. The bylaws were adopted by the board's unanimous approval.

Since its restructuring in 2023, the Right Reverend Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and the Right Reverend Charles F. "Chip" Edgar III, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina have jointly served on Canterbury's Board of Directors. The joint effort between the two Dioceses is a testament to the importance and dedication by both groups to achieve affordable low-income independent living for the community's growing senior population.

In 2025 and with a solid foundation now in place, there was unanimous support from the Board of Directors to embark on a mission addressing the needs of our residents, the community, and the infrastructure of our aging facility to meet the needs of our growing community. No mission is without its limiting factors: maintaining affordability and a paramount intent not to displace any of our current residents.

Our efforts, although preliminary in nature, have offered up an abundance of community and governmental support. After meetings with City of Charleston staff and elected officials, the College of Charleston, local public and private groups the board has the rough outline of a strategic plan moving forward. Although premature in sharing details, the plan incorporates renovation and expansion of our facility on our existing footprint in the Peninsula.

Next, we engaged an independent research firm to perform a "*needs analysis*" beyond the apparent growing needs and demand for low-income independent living senior housing. These efforts incorporated interviews with public and private groups, as well as a confidential survey requested from our residents.

Results of the *Needs Analysis* are to be presented at the October 29th board of director's meeting. This information will be the basis for efforts and critical in many ways; first by substantiating the elements incorporated into our overall strategic plan; and equally important, by helping in formulating a feasibility study. The study's design will assist us in the initiative's

financial modeling over the coming decade, including the multitudes of funding sources in order to maintain our plan's fundamental requirement of affordability.

The coordinated movement from the board, staff, and residents in this initiative has been extraordinary. These groups have identified some very promising opportunities, including the possible addition of a subsidized "food pantry," possible food services support from the College of Charleston, and most importantly the help, strategic insights, and guidance from the staff at Bishop Gadsden. We are committed to exploring these joint ventures, the organizations with which I might add have been incredibly gracious in their offering of support.

Our +50-year-old mission resonates throughout the Board and the staff as strongly today as it did in our beginning. We are dedicated to providing safe, comfortable and affordable housing for the Canterbury residents while promoting their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being – now and well into the future.

Thank you for allowing us to provide our updates. Please keep us in mind should *any* opportunity arise, that would benefit the housing of our low-income seniors.

Respectfully submitted,



Frederick T. Fabian
Chairman & President
CANTERBURY HOUSE

ST. CHRISTOPHER *camp & conference center*

Report for Diocesan Convention, 2025

A Brief History



St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center is located on 314 acres of coastal wilderness on beautiful Seabrook Island. Our mission is to offer our guests a place for rest, relaxation, and renewal, and to provide a space to encounter the Living Christ. Owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, we fulfill that mission through our summer camp programming, conference center and retreat hospitality, and a robust environmental education program that serves both parochial and secular schools.

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 867 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 30 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 offer hospitality to all kinds of groups, from churches and religious groups, to environmental and governmental organizations, to family reunions, to quilting guilds. We are especially excited to offer special rates for Episcopal groups and would love to host parishes for retreats, beach dates, youth events, or any other event. It is also our pleasure to offer personal retreats for anyone who wants to find a bit of restoration and renewal for themselves. We even have special respite rates for clergy and lay church employees. Many groups and individuals come back year after year to enjoy the warm hospitality and peaceful surroundings.

Our facilities include 44 lodge rooms with two beds in each; the ability to add rollaway beds to rooms to support families staying together; two apartments with full kitchens and seating areas; 16 cabins available for overnight stays; several meeting spaces in a variety of sizes; an outdoor picnic pavilion overlooking the estuary; and three chapels, including a small outdoor chapel.

We are blessed to have new leadership in this aspect of our ministry - Lauren Harris served as interim Director of Reservations in the winter of 2025, and then was hired as the Director of the Conference Center in June 2025. Her educational background is in ministry with children and youth, and she also previously served as a Naturalist and Senior Naturalist at St. Christopher. We also hired Kendall Watson as our Camp and Conference Center Assistant to support our conference center and student ministry departments. With that team in place, we are currently working on expanding our conference center offerings, including organizing an Advent retreat in December and an Artist Retreat in January. We also have bimonthly Sustainability Talks, organized through our Conference Center, that draw from our institutional knowledge on creation care and stewardship in our coastal context. Please see our website for more information on these and other events, and know that our staff would be delighted to welcome you here!

Summer Camp



I'm pleased to share that we had another wonderful 2025 summer camp season! Our theme was based on Colossians 2:6-7, which says: *As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.* We are so grateful to all of our chaplains, and our All-Staff Chaplain Dorothy Holland, for helping us to teach the children at our camp about how they are rooted in God's love always. We also saw continued growth in our sailing program, which we rebuilt last summer, and fostered new leadership among our counselors. Several of them have already applied to return in summer of 2026!



Renzi Ricketts, our Director of Summer Camp since shortly after the transition, departed St. Christopher in August to take a position at Bellwether Farm, an Episcopal agrarian retreat center in Ohio. We wish her and her husband Paul (and daughter Kaya) well on their next endeavors.

We are thrilled to welcome Meg Cutshall as our new Director of Summer Camp, who comes to us from the Methodist camping tradition and previously served at Wesley Forest in Pennsylvania. Meg has already been a blessing to our community, and we are so excited for next summer! We are also pleased that Meg will have a returning Assistant Summer Camp Director, Nora Terrill, a cradle Episcopalian who is currently serving as a Senior Naturalist on our staff.

As we look ahead with Meg to summer 2026, we want to share our 2026 camp schedule with the community. **Early registration for Episcopal/ACNA campers will begin on December 1 at 9 am. General registration for all campers will open on January 12, 2025 at 9 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, and of course time to worship and sing in our chapel. Our hope is that through our ministry, campers will come away knowing that they are loved by God, and that they will have new life - a deeply meaningful and wildly loving life - through following Jesus.

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!

Last, but certainly not least, we have opportunities for young adults to work with us this summer. We are hoping to hire a Co-Assistant Director to round out the team, and we still have open spaces for counselors, interns, and counselors-in-training. If you have an older teen or young adult in your life who would enjoy working on the beach at an Episcopal camp this summer, send them our way! For our counselors, we offer competitive pay, room and board, wellness support through spiritual formation and time off, and special training opportunities in sailing, archery, and belaying. Camp is different from many other summer jobs in that we hope to invest in young adults over the course of several years to support their spiritual, personal, and professional goals. If you know someone interested in having the best summer ever, working outdoors on the beach, developing skills that are useful in life and in the workplace, and growing in faith, encourage them to join us! Learn more and apply here:

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



Finally, many thanks to those communities and individuals who supported us through your prayers, your donations, and your time. We also especially thank the parents and guardians who sent their children to camp, and sent their emerging adults to work with us. Thank you for your trust and for partnering with us in your child's Christian formation!

Camp Saint Christopher 

2026 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

SESSION	DATES	AGES
1	June 1st - 3rd (3 Days)	Rising 1st - 3rd
2	June 5th - 7th (3 Days)	Family Camp
3	June 10th - 12th (3 Days)	Rising 2nd - 5th
4	June 15th - 19th (5 Days)	Rising 6th - 8th
5	June 22nd - 26th (5 Days)	Rising 3rd - 7th
6	June 29th - July 1st (3 Days)	Rising 2nd - 5th
7	July 6th - 10th (5 Days)	Rising 7th - 9th
8	July 13th - 17th (5 Days)	Rising 3rd - 5th
9	July 20th - 24th (5 Days)	Rising 9th - 12th
10	July 27th - 29th (3 Days)	Rising 4th - 6th
11	July 31st - August 2nd (3 Days)	Family Camp

ACNA & EPISCOPAL REGISTRATION 12.1.25 AT 9:00 AM
 GENERAL REGISTRATION 1.12.26 AT 9:00 AM
 VISIT STCHRISTOPHER.ORG FOR PRICING

we can't wait to see you again!

Barrier Island Environmental Education Program



Our Barrier Island Environmental Education Program continues to provide excellent experiential education through this fall season. We are so blessed to have the continued leadership of Jared Crain as Director, and Tyler Harris as Associate Director. They are the dream team of environmental education leadership, and have expertly mentored our team of 7 returning Senior Naturalists and 7 Naturalists. All team members are 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, and engaging in local outreach with Title 1 schools. They have even been active supporters in applying for grants, and we are pleased to report that we've received funding for a pollinator garden that will be accompanied by new curricula for our students. We are so proud of each young person who has given this year to growing as professionals and as people of faith.

Depending on the year, our Barrier Island Program reaches between 6000 and 8000 participants who learn about coastal ecology and creation care. Our prayer is that each person that has an experience with our programming will come away with deeper understanding and a love for the natural world that God has made.

If families are interested in a Barrier Island experience together, we have a special opportunity to attend our programming over a weekend! Our Barrier Island Family Camp will be held on January 23-25. See our website for more information here:

<https://www.stchristopher.org/events>

We are also aware that there are many students out there whose families or schools cannot afford a trip to St. Christopher. We have a scholarship program that helps to offset these costs, and we raise money in part through our annual Barrier Island 5K. This year, the 5K will be held on Saturday, April 25. We love seeing so many Episcopalians support that initiative, and welcome everyone to run, walk, amble, or just enjoy the morning on our campus while supporting students in need! Please keep an eye on our social media and website for signup opportunities.

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 individuals:

- Join us for the Advent Retreat or for another 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 or counselor-in-training
- 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 those final arrangements

For parishes:

- Come join us for a retreat of your own at our conference center, either overnight or for the day
- 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.

Important Dates!

December 1, 2025 - Summer Camp Registration for Episcopal/ACNA families

December 2, 2025 - Invasive Species Workshop (register now!)

December 12-14, 2025 - Advent Retreat (register now!)

January 12, 2026 - General Summer Camp Registration Opens

January 19-February 1, 2026 - Artist Retreat (apply now!)

January 23-25, 2026 - Barrier Island Family Camp (register now!)

February 3, 2026 - Sustainability Talk on Wildlife Monitoring at St. Christopher

April 25, 2026 - Barrier Island 5K

May 18, 2026 - Summer Camp Counselor Training starts (leaders arrive on 5/16)

(apply now!)

July 11, 2026 - Beach Day!

Please check out our website at <https://www.stchristopher.org> and <https://www.stchristopher.org/events> for more information!

Contact information

Executive Director: The Rev. Laura Rezac (lrezac@stchristopher.org, 843-768-0429, ext 3004)

Director of Summer Camp: Meg Cutshall (mcutshall@stchristopher.org, 843-768-1337)

Director of the Conference Center: Lauren Harris (smahaffee@stchristopher.org, 843-768-1337)

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

Associate Director of the Barrier Island Environmental Education Program: Tyler Harris (tharris@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



VOORHEES UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Voorhees University: *The Next Level of Excellence*
An Episcopal HBCU

**Voorhees University 2025 Updates for
The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and
The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina**

Submitted by:

**Reverend Marie Carmel Chery
Dean of the Chapel and Spiritual Engagement and
Dr. Ronnie Hopkins, 10th President and CEO**

“THE NEXT LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE”

Voorhees University: The Next Level of Excellence *An Episcopal HBCU*

- I. Fall 2025 **Enrollment** projected to meet or exceed Fall 2024 @ 593. Total On-campus students = 332; 50% students are VU Global/Online; 59 International Students.
- II. **Retention Rate** = 58%; 2% improvement from previous year.
- III. **Graduation Rate:** Ranked #1 in South Carolina for 4-Year Graduation; Ranked #9 of 101 HBCUs nationally for 4-Year Graduation by US News and World Report
- IV. **Safety and Security** remain a priority. VU Office of Campus Safety & Security has systemic affiliations/partnerships with: City of Denmark Police, Bamberg County Sheriff's Office, SC Law Enforcement Division, Homeland Security and FBI (Special HBCU Support).
- V. Focus on **Increasing Revenue Streams** beyond Enrollment. Considerations:
 - Land Management of new property (118 acres)
 - Independent Dining Services
 - Summer Programs
 - Increased Foundations, Grants and Scholarships
- VI. Focus on **Increasing University Endowment**. (Current endowment = \$11.9 million)
- VII. **Renovation Project:** HBA Partnership for Renovation of **5956 Voorhees Road**, White's Family Home as Event/Residential Property.
- VIII. **Student Highlights:**
 - a. Coronation of Mr. and Miss Voorhees University, September 26, 2025:
Briana Moore-- 4.0 GPA, Sports Management, Summerville, SC
Ahmad Parker, 3.8 GPA, Business Administration, Savannah, GA
 - b. SGA Installation: **President Armond Hopkins**-- 3.6 GPA, Biology, Charlotte, NC
 - c. Voorhees University **GEAR UP Students** Featured in Transformative Statewide Exhibition at the South Carolina State Museum

- d. Tigers rose to the top earning the highest score and bringing home a **\$10,000 prize!** Money4Life Regional Conference hosted by NC Central Univ. Sponsored by the Center for Financial Advancement (CFA) and powered by Experian.
- e. **MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD TEAMS 2025 HBCU DIVISION II INDOOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONS AND THE 2025 HBCU ATHLETICS CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS**

IX. **Episcopal Church Engagement**

- a. **Reverend Margaret Bullit-Jonas and the Robert A. Jonas of the Living Springs Foundation** provided a one-time donation of \$50,000.
- b. **Blessed University Campus Chapel Services:**
 - Reverend Canon Ramelle McCall**, Canon for Leadership in the Diocese of South Carolina, September 9, 2025
 - Reverend Raphiell Ashford**, Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Columbia, SC, September 30, 2025
 - Reverend Canon Mia McDowell**, Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, October 7, 2025
 - Reverend Dr. Adam Shoemaker**, Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Charleston SC, October 14, 2025
 - Reverend Douglass Puckett**, Diocese of the Upper South Carolina, October 21, 2025