



Episcopal Diocese

— OF CENTRAL FLORIDA —

Announcement of Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinators From the Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb

November 1, 2023

Dear Diocesan Family,

Since 2014 when Bishop Brewer contracted with Youth Ministry Institute to provide youth ministry guidance for our diocese, YMI consultants Steve Schneeberger, Kirsten Knox and Brian Lawson have served our churches with excellence and creativity as they helped establish a solid foundation for our work ahead. Please join me in expressing heartfelt thanks to Steve, Kirsten and Brian as we take the next step in fulfilling our responsibility to pastor the youth and their families in the Diocese of Central Florida.

I'm thrilled to announce that, in addition to their current roles, the Rev. Kevin Bartle, the Rev. Garcia Barnswell-Schmidt and the Rev. Jared Jones have accepted the call to serve as diocesan youth ministry coordinators effective January 1, 2024.

The Rev. Kevin Bartle

The Rev. Kevin Bartle has served as rector at St. Mary of the Angels, Orlando, since his ordination in 2018. He holds a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary, Orlando, and completed Anglican studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Jacksonville.

Kevin was born and raised in our diocese. He grew up as a member of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Apopka. In addition to his church's youth group, he actively participated in diocesan youth events such as New Beginnings, Happenings and the Great Youth Celebration.

Throughout his life, Kevin has continually felt a calling to attend to the care and development of youth. He taught elementary students, worked as a psychiatric assistant in a residential facility for adolescents facing mental health challenges and served as youth pastor for a handful of churches

within the diocese. Today, Kevin continues his investment in the next generation by serving as the director of New Beginnings and as a chaplain at Camp Wingmann's winter and summer camps.

Kevin is married to Jocelyn, and when not in church, you can find Kevin grilling, fishing or cheering on our beloved Atlanta Braves.

The Rev. Garcia Barnswell-Schmidt

The Rev. Garcia Barnswell-Schmidt is the lower school chaplain of Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy in Melbourne. She has served in this role for almost a decade and ministers to faculty, staff and 345 students and their families. Garcia also serves as a mentor to school chaplains in the National Association of Episcopal School's Chaplain Mentorship Program.

Prior to graduating with her Master of Divinity degree from Sewanee Theological Seminary, Garcia gained youth ministry and worship-music leadership experience in her capacities as a summer camp youth counselor, VBS instructor, director of youth ministry at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Gainesville and music director for Chapel of the Incarnation (young adult campus ministry in Gainesville).

Garcia's love for children and her passion to teach them about God and His love for them drives her ministry forward. She firmly believes that the ministry of youth and families is fundamental and paramount to the future of the Episcopal Church.

Garcia and her husband, Luke, love to serve together in the ministry of the church and enjoy travel and gardening in their free time.

The Rev. Jared Jones

The Rev. Jared Jones is rector at Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Sanford. He received his Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies from Liberty University and his Master of Divinity from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, where he is currently working on his Doctor of Ministry degree.

Jared has over 15 years of experience working in student ministry. Before his ordination to the priesthood in our diocese, he served as youth minister at Willow Creek Presbyterian Church and Orangewood Presbyterian Church. After ordination, Jared became upper school chaplain at Holy Trinity Episcopal School in Melbourne where he provided pastoral care to over 550 students, faculty and families.

In 2022, while serving as an associate priest at All Saints in Winter Park, Jared helped start "Grounded," a diocesan-wide youth weekend that had over 75 students and leaders in attendance.

With regard to student ministry, Jared's focus is making sure that middle and high school students find their way into youth environments with leaders who love them and preach the Gospel.

Jared is married to Sarah, and together they have five children: Penelope, Silas, Winnie, Goldie and Opal. He is also a Braves fan, which isn't a prerequisite for our diocesan youth ministry coordinators, but it doesn't hurt.

Please join me in welcoming our three new diocesan youth ministry coordinators. They are an answer to prayer and their willingness to add their talents and experience to the diocesan team should be celebrated as a sign of diocesan health. We are not only responsible for the pastoral care and discipleship of the youth and their families in our diocese, but we are also equipped to meet that responsibility and opportunity with excellence.

In Christ,
+Justin Holcomb