



# foot-note\*

LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRY at The Belfry

November 2016

## Ministering Amidst Change

– Pastor Jocelynn Hughes

From February through August of this year, I was on sabbatical. It was glorious! It was incredibly hard to step away from this ministry that I love and the work that has become such an integral part of my life. But I really needed this Sabbath time. I was able to rest, research, read, and renew my energy and enthusiasm for ministry. I got to spend time with my husband and children who don't get to see much of me most days and weeks. I got



Pastor Jocelynn and her family at St. Columba's

to spend a month as the Priest-In-Residence at St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Pa'aulio, Hawaii. It was an adventure for my whole family, as St. Columba's is in a remote part of the Big Island, and we are quite unaccustomed to being away from shops, restaurants, and even neighbors. But our time spent there serving the people of Pa'aulio was really a gift. In some ways, it felt very akin to what I do here in campus ministry, stepping into a somewhat transient community, which was extremely diverse (we prayed

in English, Hawaiian, and Ilocano, a Filipino dialect. There, we truly felt the spirit of Aloha – of radical welcome, hospitality and love. We experienced God and Christian community in a whole new way on the Big Island, and it had a deep impact on all of us. If you'd like to read more about my sabbatical journeys you can read my blog: [sabbaticalwonderings.tumblr.com](http://sabbaticalwonderings.tumblr.com).

I am immensely grateful to the Belfry Board and Pastor Casey for allowing me this gift of time and Sabbath rest. It was truly transformative!

I returned this fall to begin my ninth academic year at UC Davis, and we welcomed our fifth group of LEVN Volunteers. It is remarkable to think I have been here for nearly a decade, and that LEVN has now existed for about half that time. We now have over 25 LEVN alumni out in the world doing incredible things. In December, we will be launching a redesigned website at [levn.org](http://levn.org), where you'll be able to read the current LEVN blog and see what this cohort is up to (their bios are on page 3 of this *Footnote*), and you'll also be able to see where some of the alumni are now. Spoiler alert: they are in graduate programs and seminary, working for non-profits, several are doing more service-year programs, five are working in churches. Belfry alumni are likewise doing impressive things all over the world. All of these young adults carry the light of Christ and the relationships and community they experienced here at The Belfry with them, out into the world to share with all those they meet and work with.

Stepping back into this role, I realized many things had changed in the short time I was on sabbatical. There is now an interim chancellor on campus while a search for a new permanent chancellor is launched. There are new buildings on campus with the Memorial Union renovations nearly complete. And now, the country has experienced an extremely divisive election that has left many of our students feeling unsafe and scared for their futures. We're thankful to have strong interfaith relationships so that we can work together to support the students and work for justice. And we will continue to

share the Gospel and Jesus' message of love with all people. The students and young adults we serve need this message and this presence now more than ever perhaps, as we move into increasingly uncertain times.

On behalf of the Belfry's students, the LEVN volunteers, the staff and the Board, we are so grateful for your prayers and support of this ministry. We have seen amazing transformation in people's lives here and want to continue this important work. With your help, we will be able to be here for years to come!

## Student in the Spotlight: Leigh Houck

*Meet Leigh*, a new UC Davis student from Pastor Casey's home church in Encinitas. Here's a little more about her in her own words.



**Name:** Leigh Houck  
**Hometown:** Cardiff, California

**Year:** Freshman

**Home Church:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Encinitas, CA

**Major and why you picked it:** Linguistics, because I love languages and talking to people.

**Why did you choose UC Davis?** I chose Davis because I loved the campus and the friendly atmosphere created by all the wonderful people here.

**Why is campus ministry important?** I think it's important because it gives students an important reminder that they are loved by other people and God.

**Other activities at UCD?** I love exploring the arboretum and going line dancing!

**Hobbies:** I like reading, hiking, and spending time with my friends, family, and dog.

**Hopes/dreams for the Belfry:** I hope to continue being part of the Belfry for my next few years here and to continue making memories and connections with all the Belfry! I also hope to be part of any volunteer opportunities the Belfry has.

**What you want to be when you grow up:** I'm not sure yet, but I might want to be a teacher because I really love helping people.

## Belfry Alumni Update

**Dr. Beth Parks** (PhD 2006) sends this update:

"I'm in seminary! I started my studies toward an M.Div. this fall at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. So far it feels like it's going well - lots of reading, and I'm always a bit behind, but that's a chronic problem for students. I feel like I'm in the place I'm supposed to be, doing what I'm supposed to be doing. I commented to my pastor last weekend that I'm noticing new things in her sermon and in the prayers than I did even a few weeks ago - what I'm reading and hearing and learning is already making a difference in me... I'm just excited to share this step with the wider Belfry community, since my time as an active Belfryite was an important part of my journey."

Congratulations Beth! Our prayers are with you!

Do you want to receive occasional emails about The Belfry? Join our email list: "Friends of the Belfry"  
[www.thebelfry.org/connect-with-us](http://www.thebelfry.org/connect-with-us)



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# Meet Our 2016-2017 LEVN Volunteers!

**Leo Alva**, *Computers 4Kids* - I was born in Zihuatanejo, Guerrero but was raised in the Central Valley. My parents and I immigrated to Modesto, CA when I was one year old and it wasn't until I started college that I moved to the Bay Area. I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in Legal Studies from UC Berkeley in May 2016. I plan to pursue a graduate degree that will allow me to have a career where I can focus on serving the underserved populations that I identify with, especially immigrants. Some of my interests and hobbies include: going on walks, journaling, writing letters to friends, and hoping to travel/explore new places!

**Jonathan Heimer**, *The Belfry and Trinity Cathedral* - I was born in Milwaukee, WI, or so they tell me. I was adopted at the age of four and moved to Faribault, Minnesota. It was shortly after being adopted that I was baptized into the Lutheran Church (ELCA). I have worked previously at a ELCA summer camp and I was active with Lutheran Campus Ministries at college. One of my goals this year is to discern whether seminary is my path forward. I graduated from Southwest Minnesota State University with a degree in Political Science. Some of my hobbies include reading and writing. I love table top RPGs like Pathfinder and Dungeons and Dragons.

**Christian Hungate**, *Next Move* - I was raised in Boise, Idaho and attended Boise State University. At Boise State University, I studied Social Science and graduated in December of 2015. My time in college allowed me to participate in numerous faith groups, ranging from Hinduism to Catholicism. My search led me to the Episcopal Church. I was baptized in 2014 and later confirmed in 2016. After college I found work as a social researcher for a professor and as a therapy technician

for individuals with cognitive disabilities. I enjoy reading, multicultural experiences, and laughing.

**Megan Kuneli** (Community Prioress), *St. Francis Episcopal Church and Impact Foundry* - I grew up in the city of Livermore, CA, which is located in the East Bay

Area. Throughout my adolescence and young adult years, I was an active member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church where she took on many roles such as acolyte, assistant minister, music team member, and VBS song leader. In May of 2014, I graduated from Fresno State with a Masters in Mathematics. Some of my hobbies include swimming, reading, singing, drawing, and watching movies. From 2015-2016, I served as a LEVN volunteer at Saint Francis Episcopal Church. Now in my second year with LEVN, I look forward to the new challenges that this year will bring and learning what God wants to teach me through them.

**Mackenzie Mackling**, *Lutheran Social Services* - I was born and raised in Sonoma Valley, California. I have spent my whole life in the Lutheran Church. I started my academic career at the Santa Rosa Junior College, where I received my Associate Degrees in History and Humanities. I then transferred to UC Davis where I majored in History with a minor in Chican@ Studies. During my time at Davis, I joined the Belfry: Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry and even

served as Peer Minister my Senior Year. After graduation, I participated in a year of international service with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. I spent the year living in Brixton, an inter-city neighborhood of South London. During that time I also received Certificates in Christian Mission and Discipleship from Cliff College. I am excited to continue working in community development and to return to the Belfry. In terms of hobbies, I mostly eat Mexican food, watch Seinfeld, and bedazzle stuff I find at the dollar store.



From left to right: Lewis Pierce, Megan Kuneli, Christian Hungate, Leo Alva, Jon Heimer, Mackenzie Mackling, Allyson Truly

*(continued on next page)*

*The Belfry*

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*(LEVN volunteers, continued from page 3)*

**Lewis Pierce, Lutheran Social Services** - I am a 22 year old graduate from University of North Texas, where I majored in Geography and minored in Music. I have always been musical because of my family, especially my father, who has been a music educator for over 35 years. I have a younger sister who was born deaf, and has led me and the rest of my family to learn sign language to communicate with her. My mother has worked especially hard to care for my sister, and has worked as an interpreter to practice her signing skills and interact with the deaf community. I enjoy athletic pursuits of all kinds, and especially have a passion for table tennis and cycling. I grew up Methodist, but have transitioned to Lutheranism in the past year, after working at a Lutheran summer camp as a counselor. I'm excited for this next

year of service and fellowship, and hope to grow alongside those around me.

**Allyson Truly, Lutheran Social Services** - I'm a Southern Girl from Memphis, TN. I recently graduated from University of Memphis with a BFA, and a minor in African American Studies. I love riding my bike, writing poetry, and everything art related. I was raised in the Catholic Church and also went to Catholic school. Nowadays, I would consider myself less restricted by religious constructs & open to my spiritual path. I'm extremely excited to be welcomed to the LEVN family and look forward to an amazing year filled with new friendships, love and an abundance of blessings.