



# FOOTNOTE\*

Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry & LEVN @ The Belfry

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## Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry & LEVN at The Belfry

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## New beginnings

— Emily Hyberg

Six months ago, when I accepted the position of Executive Director, I could not have believed all of the incredible things that The Belfry was about to accomplish. Throughout the summer recruitment season, we explored new ways of reaching potential LEVN applicants through social media, college job boards, and employment sites, and we learned valuable lessons about what reaches young adults who are interested in a year of service. By the end of July, we wrapped up the momentous 2017-2018 Program Year with a Closing BBQ at St. Martin's and said goodbye to both that year's LEVN Volunteers and Pastor Jocelynn.

Never ones to rest on our laurels, we immediately jumped into preparing for the 2018-2019 Program Year. Over the summer, The Belfry received an outpouring of support from parish and community partners to help with our



LEVN move to Sacramento. Folks from all over reached out to help by donating household goods. We filled the living room at The Belfry to bursting and fully stocked three two-bedroom apartments with kitchen goods, furniture, and other creature comforts. As

the LEVN move-in approached, we welcomed even more community support as our friends showed up in droves to help move furniture, paint walls, and install blinds. Thanks to all of your wonderful gifts and work, our 2018-2019 LEVN Volunteers arrived in Sacramento to find homes waiting for them.

Though the move to the apartments in Sacramento—which we are now affectionately calling The Priory—would be enough to celebrate for one season, summer isn't over at The Belfry until after UC Davis Welcome Week. This year we were invested in trying new ways of connecting with both our existing Belfry students as well as the students we haven't met yet, so Welcome Week at The Belfry was chock full of events. We began the week tabling with the University Religious Council at the Resource Fair; met community members at mid-week *Free Coffee. Free Grace*; welcomed new and returning students at our traditional Wednesday Worship; partnered with Cal Aggie Christian Association for *Midday Mindfulness* and with Lutheran Church of the Incarnation for *Public Theology* on Thursday;

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and ended the week with our very first *Harry Potter Faith and Film* installment on Friday. All of that work seems to be paying off, as this year's Wednesday night worships have been some of the biggest we've seen in recent memory.

What is clear to me as I look back on the first months of my tenure is that none of these things would be possible without the hard work of staff and volunteers, the generosity of our supporters, or the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Though it may seem like we should now be settling into the routine of the program and school years,

the truth is that our work is just beginning. I invite you to share in our excitement about our new Essentials Pantry and our 2019 St. Augustine Lecturer (see elsewhere in *The Footnote* for details). Check our website and social media often for updates on new programs and new events. After reading our newsletter and following us online, I think you'll agree that The Belfry and LEVN are in an exciting time of new goals and new possibilities, and I hope you'll consider the ways that your gifts might help us to reach those goals and explore those possibilities. We cannot continue this vital work without you. *Thank you for your support.*



## Meet the LEVN Priory



The LEVN *what?*

The LEVN Priory is the new home of LEVN in Sacramento! Named for the home of a small monastic community run by a prior or prioress, The LEVN Priory is three apartments on the property of All Saints Episcopal Church in Sacramento. Each of these two bedroom apartments has their own bathroom, kitchen and living room. For this year, the entire LEVN community is housed in these apartments, which drastically shortens the commute to most of their placement sites.

In the future, we anticipate housing LEVN Volunteers in both The Priory and at The Belfry in Davis. Having two houses for the program will allow us to more than double the number of participants, and will open up a multitude of exciting possibilities for the future. \*



## Retreat at Camp Galilee!!!

In October, LEVN traveled to Galilee Episcopal Camp and Retreat Center on the east shore of Lake Tahoe for a two day retreat. The retreat served as the culmination of our fall LEVN formation, which centers on simple living, intentional community, and value-centered money management. During the course of the retreat we discussed budgeting, made s'mores, contemplated our relationship with money as Christians, walked the labyrinth, brainstormed about abundance versus scarcity thinking, and appreciated God's Creation through hiking and crafts. \*



## Meet the 2018-2019 LEVN Volunteers

**Victoria Randall:** I consider West Palm Beach, Florida to be my home: it's where I met my closest friends, discovered much about myself, and graduated from college with a Bachelor's in Psychology. California is the culmination of an eight-month journey to seven states. The journey challenged and shaped me and I'm excited to see how this service year will enrich that development. I've worked in the social services for a while but am looking forward to something longer-term that can give me better focus on my career. While I love big projects, I know I have a lot to learn about spiritual practice and community. When not hopping from state to state, I love reading, creative writing, finding good coffee shops, drinking tea, and listening to music. I've recently gotten into yoga and hope to embrace hiking during my service year.



**Sarah Ruiz:** I grew up in SoCal and attended Grinnell College in Iowa. I studied physics and religious studies and hope to eventually go to graduate school for engineering. I am very excited for the upcoming year with LEVN: spending a year in service, being part of a new community, and growing in my faith. Some of the things I most enjoy are ice cream, going on walks, and seeing new places.

**Ryan Elliott:** I grew up on the Central Coast of California and graduated from Princeton in 2014 with an AB in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and certificates in Global Health and Health Policy and Latin American Studies. After graduating, I pursued a public health career and completed a one-year health fellowship in Lesotho, followed by a fellowship with OpenBiome. I ended up becoming passionate about expanding safe access to fecal microbiota transplantation and research on the microbiome, and decided to pursue medical school. As I continue the medical school application process, I'm thrilled for the opportunity to engage in service and to be part of an intentional community of individuals who are passionate about social justice.

**Livvy Belisle:** I'm a military kid and have lived in a handful of states: Alaska, Virginia, Washington. I've considered the DC area to be my home for over a decade now, and I graduated with a BA in Religion from the University of Mary Washington. Driving cross country to Sacramento was an awe-inspiring experience; I've never traveled far from or without my family before and I've certainly never lived out of easy driving distance from them. I know this year will present me with many new challenges. In this new community and in my new ministry I hope that my experience with traveling and living in different places and among different people can provide a unique perspective and keep my mind and heart open to who and what may come.

**Ray Shelor:** I grew up in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley in Virginia and graduated from Muhlenberg College (Pennsylvania) in May of 2017 with a BA in Anthropology and a minor in Computer Sciences. Since then I worked as a volunteer in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's Young Adults in Global Mission program, with a placement in Swaziland. I really enjoyed my year of service abroad, but throughout my year I struggled with the question, "How can this apply back in the States?" I am super excited to join the LEVN community and have the chance to meet even more service-minded individuals, and although I am coming from one service year, I know I have so much more to learn.

**Remington Willis:** I was born in Kentucky in 1996, moved to Virginia in 2009, went to college in northern Indiana, and have visited Rome, Italy, and Nicaragua. I graduated from Purdue University May of 2018 with a B.S. in Brain and Behavioral Sciences. I am currently discerning my call for ministry, and am excited for the experiences this year of service will give me. Though I don't officially know what this year will hold for me, I'm hoping to learn more about myself, gain friends, grow in my discernment, and learn about serving others. My interests include reading, writing, traveling, and spending time with my family and dogs.



## New at The Belfry: the Essentials Pantry

Like many campuses throughout the University of California system, UC Davis has substantially increased its enrollment in the last few years. As a result, demand for housing, both on campus and off, has far outstripped the supply. The *Davis Enterprise* reports that rents in 2017 increased by 7%. The same article notes that students are sleeping in their cars, commuting longer and longer, and in some cases sleeping in camps by the railroad tracks near campus.

We have heard from our students about 5 undergrads living together in 2 bedroom apartments, a Campus Food Pantry that is often picked clean, and a struggle to afford even the heavily subsidized rent that The Belfry provides in its intentional Christian community.

*It's clear that UC Davis students need help.*

To try to meet the growing need of UC Davis Students, The Belfry is launching a new **Essentials Pantry** for the 2018-19 school year. Modeled on a program at the University of Arizona, the Essentials Pantry offers students personal hygiene items such as deodorant, toothbrushes, menstrual care products, and other toiletries which are essential and often expensive.

The Pantry is located in our bathroom so that students can “shop” with anonymity, and the items are offered for free to the entire Davis community, no questions asked, no strings attached. We see this as an essential ministry to our community, and are looking for ways to promote and expand the program.



## Are you a Friend of the Belfry??

Friends of The Belfry commit to supporting the work of Campus Ministry and our LEVN program by:

- Donating \$500 during the program year (September – August), as a single donation or in a pledge to donate a monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual amount.
- Committing to ‘being our friend’ in your communities and on social media by:
  - Sharing our posts
  - Telling friends, family members, and others about our work
  - Encouraging others to connect with us at events and on social media
- Planning to attend at least one Belfry or LEVN fundraising or volunteer event in the course of the program year.

Besides being an important part of our ministry and making our work possible, Friends of The Belfry get extra rewards!

- Special recognition on The Belfry’s website and in our yearly Honor Roll of Donors
- An exclusive Friend of The Belfry tote bag to help you strike up a conversation about our work!

- Two tickets to our end of year Friend of The Belfry event!



If Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry and Lutheran Episcopal Volunteer Network (LEVN) are important to you, then this is your opportunity to get involved in a concrete and meaningful way. Your sponsorship of our ministry through the Friends of The Belfry program provides crucial financial and community outreach support which enables us to continue our work in service to students and young adults. Please consider becoming a Friend of The Belfry by donating today! Contact Emily Hyberg at [ed@thebelfry.org](mailto:ed@thebelfry.org) to sign up or learn more.



## Reconciling in Christ community

This fall, The Belfry officially became a **Reconciling in Christ** community! Though we have been a welcoming and affirming community for many years, we are excited to now be able to proclaim that welcome through the ReconcilingWorks program. The Student Board and Belfry Board both formally adopted our new welcoming statement which reads as follows.

Lutheran Episcopal Campus Council of Davis, known as The Belfry, is comprised of a wide variety of people. We are diverse in passions, cultural background, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, ethnicity, body shape, artistic preferences, physical abilities, emotional maturity, educational goals and focuses, and we have different ideas on how best to change the world. In places where we lack diversity we strive for inclusion, openness, and welcome.

We actively welcome and affirm all people. No one is turned away from our community or our table.

Being a campus community organized around shared goals and values creates a space that brings together people of a variety of backgrounds, interests, needs, and beliefs that might not otherwise cross paths.

Most of us have some form of kinship with the person of Jesus. We may not agree on all of the complexities of the story of this world-changing man who lived 2000 years ago, but we agree that his radical calls for grace, inclusion, and freedom from oppression are still active and impactful today and remain largely unfulfilled. This causes us to try and live as humble followers, doing our best to live in accordance with these calls, as individuals and as a collective community.

We believe strongly that all persons have valuable stories and infinite worth.



We believe all persons are beloved of God.

We are not one body unless we are all called to God's table.

We want to be bearers of goodness and not harm.

We want to live more sustainably, increasingly living in tandem with creation, rather than in opposition.

We commit to creating an inclusive community where we recognize the brokenness of ourselves as individuals and of the world as a whole and strive to build an example of Christ's love to all.



## 2019 St. Augustine Lecture

We're excited to announce Austen Hartke as the 2019 St. Augustine Lecturer! Austen wrote the 2018 book *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* which has made waves in online Christian circles for its honest and compassionate exploration of how Bible stories relate to transgender and gender nonconforming Christians. Through personal anecdote and vigorous exegesis, this work offers up an empathetic and affirming theology which feels especially timely for an often marginalized community that is at the forefront of the conversation on LGBTQIA rights.

The St. Augustine Lecture is scheduled for **March 14, 2019** with more details to follow. We hope to see you there!



# The Belfry

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## Help Support The Belfry!

Your continued support makes possible the many activities that we do with our UC Davis students and LEVN Volunteers. These programs are raising up faith-informed leaders in the church and in the community, and we couldn't do it without you. Whether it's helping to stock our new Essentials Pantry, making sure we can afford to provide nutritious dinners for students at Wednesday Worship, or helping to cover the costs of LEVN retreats, your gift ensures that this vital work continues.

The structure and support of a monthly donation can be especially helpful in making sure that we can plan for recurring expenses.

If you'd like to donate with a credit card, you can visit our website at [www.thebelfry.org/support](http://www.thebelfry.org/support) where you can also select the option to make your donation a recurring one.

