



## Interfaith Dinner

Catholic Campus Ministry partnered with Jewish students from Elon Hillel for an interfaith dinner.

## New CCM Staff

Meet new CCM staff members Tricia McCarthy and Leah Breindel as they begin their ministry at Elon.

## Family Weekend

CCM prepares for the future with a reinvigorated Advisory Board which convened over Family Weekend.

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT INSIDE

# The Catholic Phoenix

FALL 2017 ISSUE



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES:**  
4:00pm & 6:00pm  
Elon Community Church

**TUESDAY:**  
9:00pm - Holt Chapel

**WEDNESDAY:**  
7:30pm - Holt Chapel

**FRIDAY:**  
12:10pm - Numen Lumen Pavilion



## BUILD UP THE CHURCH

View our new video blog series by Fr. Peter on building up the Church.  
[org.elon.edu/ccm/buildup](http://org.elon.edu/ccm/buildup)



## SERVANT LEADER PROFILES

Several of our student Servant Leaders were profiled on Facebook! See them at [www.facebook.com/ElonCatholic](http://www.facebook.com/ElonCatholic)

## CCM on SOCIAL MEDIA

[facebook.com/ElonCatholic](http://facebook.com/ElonCatholic)

[instagram.com/ElonCCM](http://instagram.com/ElonCCM)

[twitter.com/ElonCCM](http://twitter.com/ElonCCM)

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## Faith, Purpose, Friends

By Marina Thornton, Class of 2020

Amidst our busy and stressful lives as college students, it's hard to step away from all of the work and give up a whole weekend to go worship God with people that you might not even know. It might sound overwhelming or a waste of time, but for many of us, that weekend continues to be one of the best parts of fall semester. The CCM Beach Retreat is an incredible time where we can get off campus, meet new people, and relax in the presence of God... all while being surrounded by the ocean. We traveled to Emerald Isle, North Carolina, to the Trinity Retreat Center and had an amazing experience. We also had a great turnout with 60 of us all together.

This year, I was able to help plan the retreat, which was really cool because I got to see all of the planning be put into action and watch everything unfold. The planning team met for several weeks prior to the retreat to organize everything from car

pools to choosing the Scripture verse for our t-shirts: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

One of my favorite parts about Beach Retreat this year was Adoration, which took place Saturday night. We had it at the Trinity Center's pavilion at the beach, just steps from the ocean, which made it so calming and peaceful. Hearing the waves, it was a nice reminder that God's love for us is deeper and more powerful than the ocean.

In addition to the talks we heard from some of our inspiring students, and Mass by the beach, some of the other aspects of this trip included the minute-to-win-it games and the free time spent at the beach. These opportunities really gave us the chance to let loose and have a good time with new and old friends. Now, whenever I see them back on campus, we always look back to the great times from Beach Retreat.

Truitt Center for Religious  
and Spiritual Life  
Numen Lumen Pavilion

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Campus Box 2960  
Elon, NC 27244

Phone: 336-278-7355  
Fax: 336-278-7439

[www.elon.edu/ccm](http://www.elon.edu/ccm)

**STUDENT SERVANT LEADERS:**

- Maya Aboutanos
- Kristen Burke
- Elizabeth Canto
- Caroline Free
- Emily Keller
- Katherine Klinger
- Michalene Lee
- Julia Mercurio
- Cecilia Nelson
- Heather Nelson
- Andrew Novinski
- Dana Pajk
- Julianne Plourde
- Chris Pottorff
- Isabella Santelia
- Rachel Sword
- Marina Thornton
- Emily Trainor
- Leah Vail
- John Walkowski

**STAFF:**

Campus Minister and Associate  
Chaplain for Catholic Life  
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Student Ministry Coordinator  
Leah Breindel  
[lbreindel@elon.edu](mailto:lbreindel@elon.edu)

# Interfaith at Elon

## Catholic and Jewish Students Share a Meal

By Leah Vail, Class of 2019

On Friday, November 10th, Catholic Campus Ministry hosted its second semi-annual Progressive Dinner with Hillel, the Jewish student organization on campus. Our first one was hosted in the spring of 2017, and since it was such a success, we were excited to plan the next one! To say there was an abundance of food is an understatement: think carbs. Lots of carbs. The evening started out at the Sklut Hillel Center, where over 30 students from CCM, Hillel, and UKirk (Elon’s Presbyterian student organization) joined each other for the first course of a baked potato bar. Even some of our friends from the Duke Catholic Center at nearby Duke University joined us. Students said the Shabbat blessing over the meal, spent time mingling and learning more about Jewish traditions, and toured the house.

After some time at Hillel, the party walked just across the train tracks to the Holland House. Catholic students who live in the house began giving people tours, and the food came out: a mac ‘n cheese bar with toppings galore. “We never cease to offer lots of food at any and all events we put on,” said Elon’s Catholic Chaplain, Father Peter Tremblay. CCM wanted to share some of their traditions as well, starting the main meal with a prayer and teaching Jewish and Christian students how to pray Liturgy of the Hour Evening Prayer, passing out guides to go along with it.

The night was alive with vibrant conversation and food, and the room got especially excited when Father Peter walked in holding up his phone saying, “You’ll never believe who just commented on my photo of you all!” Lo and behold, it was Elon President Leo Lambert himself, responding to a Facebook photo of all the students gathered in the Sklut Center. “Makes me happy and hopeful,” Lambert wrote. Everyone in the room was grinning ear to ear.

*“Makes me happy and hopeful.”  
- Elon President Leo Lambert*

The night ended sweet with an ice cream bar. “My hope is that every semester, a night is set aside to gather and talk with those we wouldn’t typically surround ourselves with”, said CCM President Kristen Burke. Here’s to interfaith, and to continued friendships amongst the many religions on Elon’s campus.







**Tricia McCarthy**  
Coordinator of Faith Formation

# Meet the New CCM Staff!



**Leah Breindel**  
Student Ministry Coordinator

## Where are you from?

**Tricia:** I grew up in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, which is a suburb of Denver. My family was always very active spending time in the mountains and running around with friends. I have an older sister Megan and a younger sister Jessie. I wanted to attend a Catholic College which led me to Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, where I studied Mathematics and Religious Studies. Go Duhawks! After some discernment, I entered Notre Dame's Echo program - a two year, service-learning program where I earned my M.A in Theology while working in a parish.

**Leah:** I was born in Alabama, good ole Montgomery. My dad was in the Air Force and we were moved to Goldsboro, NC, specifically Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, when I was 6 years old. My mom and dad are amazing and so supportive. I am the youngest of four - two sisters and one brother; Tiffany, Lauren, and Alex. I attended NC State University (GO PACK!) where I received a B.A. in Sociology. I currently live in the Holland House (Newman Center) and serve as an RA for the student residents.

## How were you involved in ministry before Elon?

**Tricia:** Ministry has been a large part of my life. It was through the relationships and community of our middle and high school youth ministry program that I decided I wanted to go to a Catholic College. At Loras, I was a leader of the Campus Ministry's CORE team, involved in retreats, service trips, and just about everything in between. During the Echo program, I worked with my parish's department of Religious Education.

**Leah:** I was a member of the Diocesan Youth Board for my junior and senior years of high school (amazing opportunity, highly recommend), as well as an active member in the CCM at NC State. I served as small group leader and one-on-one mentor at NC State, and these opportunities really helped me grow in my faith in phenomenal, unprecedented ways.

## What do you like to do in your spare time?

**Tricia:** During my spare time, I like to spend time outside! I love to hike, camp, go on spontaneous adventures, golf, and enjoy God's creation. You can also find me curled up with a good book, or doing a puzzle when it is cold outside. I also love learning, my goal this year is to read 25 new books.

**Leah:** I Netflix a lot more than I would like to admit and LOVE watching Hallmark Christmas movies. On weekends, I can be found either hanging out with my colleague Tricia, traveling to Raleigh to hang out with friends, or traveling to visit my sister, brother-in-law, and nephew in Charlotte, NC.

## What are some of your favorite things?

**Tricia:** My favorite food is ice cream, specifically chocolate chip cookie dough. I am not sure I have a favorite movie, but I love the Harry Potter book series. My favorite TV show is NCIS; when I lived in community with Echo, we watched every episode of the 14 seasons together. My favorite class from graduate school was either Monastic Spirituality or Church History - the early church fathers were super cool.

**Leah:** My mom's chicken pot pie is my favorite meal, lunchables are my go-to snack, and Andy's is one of my favorite restaurants. My favorite movie is *A Cinderella Story*, closely followed by *27 Dresses*. Some of my favorite songs are: *Believer* by American Authors, *Long Live* by Taylor Swift, *Springsteen* by Eric Church, *I Won't Give Up* by Jason Mraz, and *My Only Love* by Matt Maher.

## What do you enjoy most about being at Elon?

**Tricia:** The thing I enjoy the most about being at Elon are the students. I feel incredibly blessed to have gotten to know and work with students who are truly on fire for the Lord and being Catholic! They ask insightful questions about theology and life, and inspire me to keep growing in my own faith, I cannot wait to see how CCM continues to grow with their leadership and enthusiasm.

**Leah:** I absolutely love the students. I meet with and mentor students regularly to walk with them in their journey with Christ. Their hearts for Christ are so full and continuously inspired and inspiring. Having a new community with eyes and hearts focused on Christ is wonderful. I am forever grateful for T, Father Peter, and Tricia for making my transition to Elon as easy and smooth as possible. Elon CCM is amazing!

# Annual Report of Giving 2016-2017

# Thank you.

Catholic Campus Ministry at Elon University is incredibly grateful for the generous financial support we have received over the past year. We rely on our donors as our primary revenue source to fund our programs, events, supplies, and personnel. The following list recognizes all donors who made a financial gift to Catholic Campus Ministry during the Elon fiscal year from June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please send any questions to T Huynh-Duc at tduc@elon.edu.

## Elon Catholic Campus Ministry Giving Circles

### *The Servant Leadership Circle\** (\$25,000 +)

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Darling  
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### *St. Francis of Assisi Circle\** (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

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*\* Parent, alumni, faculty, and staff donors who have made gifts of \$1,500 or more (not including Offertory collections) are recognized by Elon as members of The Elon Society, the university's premier donor recognition society for annual giving*

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*The student crew prepares a delicious Sunday Supper held after the Mass of the Holy Spirit.*



*Father Peter discusses Genesis at the bi-weekly Thursday Night Theology program.*

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CCM Servant Leaders are ready to welcome new students at the Organization Fair.

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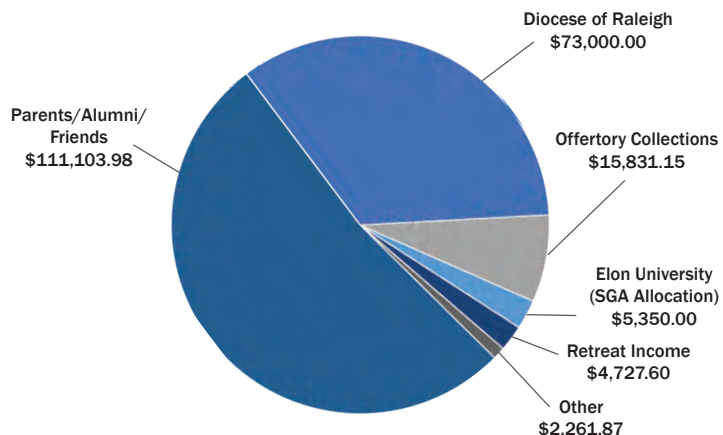
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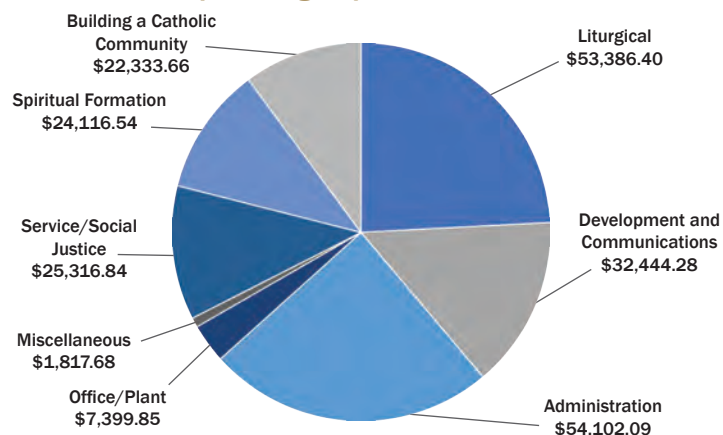
CCM students attend the Deanary Mass at Raleigh's new Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral.

## 2016-2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

### Annual Operating Income \$ 212,274.60



### Annual Operating Expenses \$ 220,950.34



Dr. Sandra Rygg and Mr. Steven Rygg  
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Santelia  
Ms. Isabella Santelia  
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Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schubert  
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Alumnus Charles Racioppo '17 and Father Peter at the CCM Homecoming Tailgate.

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Drs. Charles and Diane Zezza  
Mr. Matthew Zimpelman  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Zino  
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Mr. and Mrs. Paul Zitelli, Jr.





# FAMILY WEEKEND 2017

## *A Look to the Future*

By Father Peter Tremblay, OFM Conv.

**D**ream. That has been the message surrounding our Elon Catholic Campus Ministry ever since I set foot on campus last year as the new Associate Chaplain for Catholic Life. I was blessed to inherit a thriving student ministry thanks to the incredible work of my predecessor, Father Gerry Waterman, and the numerous student leaders and staff over the years. Now, we are in a most fortunate opportunity where we can begin to dream the future and growth of this ministry.

To paraphrase a popular song: I'm dreaming, but I'm not the only one! In addition to our students, our newly reconstituted CCM Advisory Board is also helping us to dream. Consisting of Elon CCM benefactors, alumni, staff, and students, and chaired by a parent of the Elon class of 2013, Cindy Touloupas, the new Board convened for the first time during Elon's 2017 Family Weekend. The Board began to discuss the needs for the future of the ministry, including the development of a strategic plan and an increase in fundraising, all while trying to best answer the question: *How can Catholic Campus Ministry best serve the Elon community?*

I, for one, could not be more excited about the future of Catholic Campus Ministry at Elon. Our students, staff, Board, and community invite you to dream with us as well and to partner with us in whatever way you might be able. Whether it is to sponsor a Wish List item, to consider joining the Advisory Board, or to simply offer your prayers, please know that we need you as we continue to build the Church on campus. God bless.



Family Weekend Reception: Mandy and Ralph Nelson (middle), parents of Heather Nelson '20 (left), serve on the CCM Advisory Board.

### ADVISORY BOARD 2017-2018:

Cynthia Touloupas, Chair, P'13

Robert Buchholz

Dcn. Bob Bridwell, '71

Jon Dooley

Russell and Melanie Feather, P'15,'17,'19

Greg and Sandy Janis, P'20

Kevin Krasinski

Matthew Krause, '16

Tracy McCool, '11

Samantha Murray, '15

Ralph and Mandy Nelson, P'20

Fr. Andy Santamauro

Robert and Elizabeth Siletzky

### W I S H L I S T

Here are some items on our wish list for the current year. If you would like to sponsor any of these programs, please contact Fr. Peter at [ptremblay@elon.edu](mailto:ptremblay@elon.edu) or 336-278-7355. Thank you for your generosity toward building up Catholic Life at Elon!

- \$2,700** Brunch after Easter Sunday Mass for students who remain on campus and their families
- \$2,500** St. Thomas More Living & Learning Community Fund (leadership materials, brunch supplies)
- \$1,800** One-Time supplies for first-ever Elon Awakening Retreat (planned for Fall 2018)
- \$1,000** Music Books for Sunday Masses for new liturgical year
- \$600** Recognition Dinner for Graduating Seniors
- \$600** New Servant Leadership Team Retreat and Training before Spring Semester
- \$400** Local Food and Shelter Projects for one year
- \$300** Newman Hospitality Ministry (Food and snacks for students at Newman Center)
- \$250** One Monthly Sunday Supper after Masses
- \$100** Spring Retreat Scholarship for Two Students





## Front Porch Friday

Catholic Campus Ministry hosted its second Front Porch Friday this past September. With the incredible front porch and front lawn at the Catholic Newman Center, this event was a perfect way to welcome students, especially first-years, to visit the house and have a fun evening out. Homemade ice cream tacos (a brainchild of CCM director, T Huynh-Duc), an inflatable obstacle course, and the return of pets from local not-for-profit Kopper Top Life Learning Center were the hits of the event.

## Homecoming Weekend

CCM welcomed over 50 students and alumni to our annual Homecoming Weekend tailgate (sponsored by the Wright Family). We were also fortunate to capture this picture featuring current and former student Presidents of CCM! From left to right (with their year serving as President): Jackie Serany (2011), Chelsea Semeraro (2016), Erin Robertson (2015), Kristen Burke (2017) Thomas McGuire (2013) was also present but not pictured!



# Happenings on Campus



## Fall Break Service Trip

Catholic Campus Ministry headed to Atlanta, GA, this year for its service trip over Elon's Fall Break. The trip began with the students attending the Encounter Catholic Conference at LifeTeen's Camp Hidden Lake in GA, which stirred up their passion for the faith. Afterwards, they put their faith in action by serving with several non-profit organizations in the greater Atlanta area. A special thank you to the Trainor family (pictured), Plourde family, and Klinger family who hosted the group for meals.

## Liturgy on the Lawn

With the recent success of CCM's "Mass on the Grass" event, students came up with another: "Liturgy on the Lawn!" While Mass on the Grass is usually held more centrally on campus, the Liturgy on the Lawn presented another opportunity to create a "home away from home" for students at the Newman Center. This Sunday Mass service was immediately followed by fall treats inside the house, including desserts and mulled cider!





**The Catholic Phoenix**  
CCM Newsletter

Catholic Campus Ministry  
Elon University  
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The entire Catholic community at Elon joyously awaits the coming of the Advent and Christmas seasons on campus. Students love to decorate the Newman Center at Holland House with the true meaning of Christmas!

*The nativity set is sponsored by CCM benefactor, Mr. Richard Golec.*



## Look Inside!

### 2016-2017 Annual Report

Thank you to all the donors who made a financial gift to Catholic Campus Ministry at Elon University last year.

### Beach Retreat: Faith, Purpose, Friends

by Marina Thornton, Class of 2020

### Interfaith Progressive Dinner

by Leah Vail, Class of 2019

### Meet the New CCM Staff!

Tricia McCarthy, Coordinator of Faith Formation

Leah Breindel, Student Ministry Coordinator

### Family Weekend: A Look to the Future

by Father Peter C. Tremblay, OFM Conv.

