Whenever I hear the word “jubilee,” I think celebration! In Judaism and Christianity, the concept of the Jubilee is a special year of remission of sins and universal pardon. In the Biblical Book of Leviticus, a Jubilee is mentioned in which slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven and the mercies of God would be particularly manifest (cf. Wikipedia, Jubilee).

We in Catholic Campus Ministry at Elon University definitely celebrated the mercy and generosity of God for our 25th anniversary as an official ministry/organization on campus on the weekend of September 20, 2014. The setting was Family Weekend. The stage of the McCravy Theater in the Fine Arts Building was magically transformed at the hands of Rick Earl and crew to resemble a cathedral, and an almost full house of parents, students, faculty, staff, benefactors and friends came together for this joyous occasion. I was honored to concelebrate the Jubilee Mass with Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of the Diocese of Raleigh and several of my Franciscan confreres: Fr. Michael Martin from Duke University, Fr. Michael Lasky from UNC Chapel Hill, and Fr. Paul Lininger from Blessed Sacrament Parish.

In my homily entitled, “If they come, we will build it,” I offered a brief historical perspective of our journey at Elon to the Silver Jubilee, and thanked God for all those who have had a hand in building and molding the Catholic ministry community to what it is today.

A pre-football game, buffet dinner banquet followed in McKinnon Hall in the Moseley Student Center, where conversations ensued and friendships were kindled and rekindled. The Jubilee celebration continued on Homecoming Weekend, October 17-19, which featured a Friday evening wine tasting, tailgating on Saturday, and a Sunday morning farewell Mass at Holt Chapel. Hugs, laughter, tears and memories were shared and cherished throughout the celebrations. A toast then, to 25 more fruitful, glorious years at Elon University!!
Hello! My name is Caroline McKinney and I am the new Peer Ministry Coordinator this year for Elon Catholic Campus Ministry! It is my great privilege to introduce myself to all of you. To share with you a little bit about myself, I am a recent graduate from Belmont Abbey College. I have a degree in theology and psychology. I was born and raised in Raleigh, NC, with a wonderful older sister and younger brother. I am a lover of dark chocolate, hiking, Netflix, and red wine.

How did I get here? Well, with a degree in theology I was certain I would go into ministry post-graduation. In college, I was part of a Catholic Leadership program and a national organization called FOCUS (The Fellowship of Catholic University Students). Through my involvement on Belmont Abbey’s campus, I began to fall in love with college ministry. One-on-one mentorships and bible studies were a fruitful part of my college experience and I gained tools that I thought I could bring to another campus. The journey of walking alongside with a friend or student seeking a personal relationship with Christ is a joy that is indescribable.

This year on campus at Elon, I have had the pleasure to work with Father Gerry and Trung as I reach out to new and current students. We have begun bible studies and mentorships, women’s nights, and retreats. I had the opportunity to serve with students on our Alternative Fall Break trip to Monroe, NC, to with the Missionaries of the Poor. We were able to serve the homeless of North Carolina through providing material needs and praying with them. One of the best parts of my position is living in the Catholic Newman Center on campus. The house is full of students this year, and growing as a community has been a true blessing to me.

Through friendships, intramural sports, bible studies, and the annual Beach Retreat I have had a fun and fulfilling experience here at Elon University. Please keep me and the Catholic Campus Ministry in your prayers and we seek to bring the Gospel to college students!

Additional Note: I am orchestrating RCIA this year with Father Gerry! We have seven Elon students that want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation! Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this journey!
A bout a year ago, I was visiting Elon with my now-fiancée, showing her all the places that I made memories during my four wonderful years at Elon. After attending my first Mass in the Sacred Space of the new Numen Lumen Pavilion building, Father Gerry asked if I would help plan CCM’s 25th Anniversary reunion at the next year’s homecoming. I hadn’t been at Elon for homecoming in a few years, so I thought it would be a good way to get back involved and to have a weekend to look forward to in the fall. And what a weekend it would turn out to be!

Beginning in the spring of 2014, a group of CCM alumni came together to form the planning committee. It was great to serve on this committee with some of my old classmates and I also enjoyed meeting new alums. After some careful planning, we had the weekend in place. We wanted to plan a unique experience for all the CCM alumni returning to campus, so we started Friday night with a tasting of wines picked specifically by Father Gerry himself.

The theme of the night was Old World vs. New World. After a short lesson on how to taste wine, it was on to the fun part! Using his expertise, Father Gerry taught us the nuances of the Old World, European-style wines as compared to New World wines from California, Argentina, and New Zealand. We also incorporated a silent auction fundraiser for those attending, with the big prize being a weeklong stay in Barbados! It was great to be able to raise funds for Catholic Campus Ministry. Thank you to all the donors who contributed to the silent auction.

On Saturday, alumni reconvened outside the new Global Commons (Wow, has Elon grown!) for a football tailgate party with the current CCM students. While enjoying authentic North Carolina BBQ from the local Hursey’s, we were able to reconnect with old friends and gather for countless pictures with Padre. Elon also had a photo booth and a caricaturist available for alumni to have some fun, so I took part in both.

CCM’s 25th Anniversary Homecoming ended just like any CCM event - we gathered once more in Holt Chapel for a morning Mass on Sunday before we all had to depart. It was a fitting end to such an awesome weekend with the opportunity to thank God for all the good he has given us over the course of our lives in the form of laughter, friends, and Elon.
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 nearly 250 donors who made a financial gift to Catholic Campus Ministry during the Elon fiscal year from June 1, 2013 - May 31, 2014. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you have any questions, please contact T Huynh-Duc at tduc@elon.edu.

Our Giving Circles recognize donors in a given year who share in a spirit of loyalty and commitment to Elon Catholic Campus Ministry. These individuals and organizations lead the way in supporting our program with significant gifts. The Circles are named after Catholic saints of the Franciscan Order. Priests of this Catholic religious order have guided our organization throughout its history. To learn more about the Giving Circles and these saints, please visit us at www.elon.edu/ccm/givingcircles.

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*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.
Catholic Campus Ministry at Elon consider ourselves abundantly blessed to have been able to serve the student and university community as an official organization for the past 25 years and many years prior. The generosity of our benefactors has allowed us to provide for many programs and events. Below are some items on the current wish list that we are hoping to have donated in the coming year. If you would like to fund any of these, please contact Fr. Gerry at gwaterman@elon.edu or 336-278-7355.

- **$2,500** Weekly Dinners for Spring Semester
- **$2,000** Entire Cost of 2015 Spring Retreat (eliminating fees for students)
- **$1,500** International Spring Break Trip Student Scholarship
- **$800** “Lent With St. Francis” - Lenten Daily Reflections Book for 200 students
- **$750** *RCIA/Bible Study DVD series
- **$600** Domestic Spring Break Trip Student Scholarship
- **$200** Sunday Supper after Masses
- **$100** San Damiano Crosses for Senior Gifts

*We will use the CHOSEN DVD series (which has garnered great reviews) this year for students preparing for Confirmation through RCIA, and we hope to present Fr. Robert Barron’s CATHOLICISM DVD series for all students beginning in the spring!*
Mass of the Holy Spirit

Catholic Campus Ministry kicked off our Silver Jubilee year with an inaugural “Mass of the Holy Spirit” on Move-In Weekend. This tradition primarily occurs in Catholic colleges and universities “to welcome the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit into our hearts and community as we embark on a new academic year.” In bringing this tradition to Elon, a special blessing was bestowed on the faculty, staff, students, and the entire university community.

Bringing down New England: Cider Doughnuts

Many of us CCM southerners had no idea what cider doughnuts were, so sophomore Zach Strohmeyer brought down a taste from his Massachusetts hometown. Using his new deep fat fryer, Zach made the CCM community a batch of cider doughnuts to go along with hot apple cider at the Newman Center after Wednesday Night Catholic.

Happenings on Campus!

Cupcakes for Life

For the second year in a row, students baked and handed out Cupcakes for Life on campus. Junior Kristen DeMaria, junior Chelsea Semeraro, and senior Ana Preciado (left to right) were among those that gave away the free cupcakes. Cupcakes for Life is held during the Respect Life month of October to celebrate the lives of unborn babies and to raise awareness for abortion issues.

“The Upper Room” at the Oak House

Former University Interim Chaplain Phil Smith brought the Oak House to fruition this year as “part bar, part coffeehouse and designed to be a place for Elon students, staff, faculty and others to gather and enjoy each other’s company.” The Upper Room, a reference to the intimate setting that Jesus and his disciples shared, began as a way for Fr. Gerry and upperclassmen to discuss faith, theology, and life.
Coming to Elon University as the underdog is something quite intimidating, especially when you do not know a single person already there. However, the one thing that I knew that I wanted to do as a first-year college student was to become an active part of Elon’s Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM).

Just simply by participating in the various retreats, trips, masses, and activities hosted by the Catholic campus community, I was quickly welcomed into the open arms that is Elon CCM. Each thing, no matter how big or how small, has allowed me to get to know all of the people that are a part of this wonderful community. Elon CCM has allowed me to become a part of the camaraderie that is so difficult to find everywhere while also having the opportunity to be able to grow in my spiritual faith.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to participate in several of CCM’s activities. In September, I attended the annual Beach Retreat with 43 other college students, for which our theme was, “Do This in Memory of Me.” We had the opportunity to get to know each other and to learn more about what it means when we should do things in memory of Jesus Christ.

In October, I traveled to Monroe, North Carolina, for Elon CCM’s Alternative Fall Break Trip with six other students where we helped out and visited with the Missionaries of the Poor. This trip has allowed me to learn what it means to do service and to love in the name of God.

Earlier in the semester, I had signed up to be a part of the first-year women’s bible study led by Peer Ministry Coordinator Caroline McKinney. Here, I was blessed with the opportunity to build a connection with a handful of girls with the same desire to learn more about God and our relationship with Him.

Since I have been participating in CCM’s various activities, I have been able to befriend people who are my brothers and sisters in Christ. Simply attending and participating in a handful of these activities that CCM hosts, I was able to see that maybe being the underdog on campus may not be such a bad thing. Underdogs and new people, students and faculty alike, are so quickly welcomed into the fold of what is the Elon Catholic Campus Ministry community.

Working with the Missionaries of the Poor during Fall Break

Posing with the “Cathletes” team after an intramural Soccer game
Thank you to all the donors who made a financial gift to Catholic Campus Ministry at Elon University last year.

Celebrating 25 Years

Meet Caroline McKinney, Peer Ministry Coordinator

Homecoming Weekend 2014

First-Year Experiences: No Worries, Elon CCM Is There

Happenings on Campus

Look Inside!

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

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Social Media countdown to Homecoming Weekend and to sophomore Caroline Fernandez for coordinating these pictures!