



broadcast

The Voice of the **Young Adult** Festival at General Convention 2009



Participants get busy at daily workshops...



...from Stewardship to Environmental and Economic Justice, from prayer beads to liturgical dance.



Finding the Young Adults in the Church (hint: we're right here)

by Lauren Woody

As the Diocesan Coordinator for Young Adult Ministries in the Diocese of Atlanta, I advocate for a group that I think is largely forgotten and misunderstood in the church world. As young people we are put out in the spotlight and then just expected to quietly integrate into becoming an "adult" member of the parish as soon as we turn 18. I think that this is one of the biggest mistakes the church is currently making. We're not given the skills or support to accomplish this goal and then people wonder why we aren't filling the pews every Sunday. Many of us are leaving the Episcopal Church for other denominations or non-denominational churches because it seems like they are the ones equipping people in their twenties to become vital parts of the church body.

I think we can start doing something about that in our church by educating people as to what defines a young adult. And how do we do that Lauren? We give them the opportunity to be in front of people the way the youth are. We are often lumped in with youth in ways that make it hard to define our identity. But we aren't youth. We're out in the real world trying to decide how we will survive the next 80-something years.

Let us stand up and tell you who we are. Allow us to tell you how we are different and why we can't be lumped together. Let us tell you why we are lost and why we need you to mentor us in the ways of being an adult. It might seem scary, but it isn't hard. All you have to do is approach a young adult and say hello and how are you, we will do the rest. We're ready to speak, but unsure of how to ask for that right because we are out of the spotlight. Please don't forget us.

Lauren Woody is from the Diocese of Atlanta.

You are cordially invited to a reception hosted by the

Young Adult Festival at General Convention 2009

Monday, July 13th, 2009 from 6 pm to 8 pm
in the Grand Ballroom Salons A - D, Anaheim Marriott



with special guests from
the University of Southern California
MiX MUSIC IN CHRIST

Food for Thought

by Noah Killan

Saturday evening I had the great pleasure of attending a meal provided by Abundant Table. I went knowing only that I would be taught about sustainable living. What I experienced was more than I ever could have hoped for, as I received food for not only my body, but also my mind and soul.

The event followed the general form of a Holy Eucharist, with readings about food, farming, and sustainability. Those present heard the staggering statistic that most of the food here in the United States travels on average 1500 miles to reach our tables, and that if U.S. families ate just one meal a week comprised of all local produce it would cut the U.S. oil consumption by 1.1 million barrels per week. If such a small amount could do so much it is a wonder that we have not adopted this as a common practice.

Then came the meal itself, which was put together of entirely locally grown products. In an atmosphere of fellowship those dining were encouraged to share their individual experiences with food in their lives. It was eye opening to witness the amount of diversity present just in that room with regards to food. Many experiences were represented, from the family that always had abundant home cooked meals, to the family that ate out all the time, to the family that struggled to put food on the table.

As the meal reached its close we ended with a prayer and left the room full in all aspects. I know that I will be taking what I've learned home with me to Portland, and I hope to make improvements in my own life and stop taking my food for granted.

Noah Killian is from the Diocese of Oregon.



Testifying not terrifying

by P'tricia Egbert

On Saturday I testified at a hearing on Resolution D064, which asks General Convention to help send young adults on a pilgrimage to Geneva. I was surprised to find that when you testify, even if you haven't initially been involved in the creation of a resolution, the floor is open to questions from the committee members. The committee, while critical of the resolution itself, were supportive and helpful. By the end of the session, all had agreed to have the resolution revised by the subcommittee, asking that the resolution be directed to the Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministry. Now that I know what to expect, any anxiety I had about expressing my opinion during a hearing is gone; people were glad to hear my opinion as a young adult.

P'tricia Egbert is from the Diocese of Kentucky.

Check it out

Don't miss tonight's closing reception for the Young Adult Festival, open to all, in the Marriott Hotel's Grand Ballroom. The reception begins at 6pm with hors d'ouvres and cash bar and will include special guest performers from the University of Southern California, MiX (Music in Christ).

From the group: "MiX is not your typical, traditional church service. We incorporate live music from some of today's hottest musicians as well as classic songs from the past while a live band plays in front of a video and multimedia back drop projecting images, visuals, and video. We're about keeping it real, healing the planet, serving the poor, and loving each other. Where will you find God in the MiX?"



The Young Adult Festival at General Convention provides a time and a space for Episcopalians between the ages of 18 and 30 to gather and together experience the workings and communal life of the church. We will be together July 9-14.

Check out more photos, stories and videos from the festival at
episcopalcommons.org/yaf

The Young Adult Festival is funded in part by Episcopal congregations and dioceses through The Office for Young Adult & Campus Ministries at the Episcopal Church Center