

**Youth Council  
Report to the 230th Diocesan Convention**

***Change your life. Change the world.***

**Mission Statement of the Diocese of New Jersey Youth Council**

*We the Youth Council of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, as leaders, youth and adults, and faithful Christians change the world by spreading the love and peace of Christ, through learning, from communicating with, and helping and serving our neighbors.*

Ten youth events and three adult workshops and eleven youth council meetings were held in calendar year 2013.

**54rd Bishop Ball - January 25, 2013**

Raised money for Nets for Life- Trinity Cathedral – Trenton, NJ

**Convention- February/March 28-1, 2013**

15 Youth Council members attended – Wildwood, NJ

**Sandy Recovery Mission Trip – Long Island – March 24 -28, 2013**

Two youth and one college student and the Director of Youth Ministry travelled to work with the Diocese of Long Island to do Sandy Relief on two Native American Reservations.

**Happening 22 – April 19-21, 2013**

A renewal weekend for youth ran by youth - Grace Church, Haddonfield

**Spring Youth Event - May 17 -19, 2013**

Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry – but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge – Lebanon, NJ

**Baccalaureate Service- June 9, 2013**

Graduating Senior's, their Families and Friends – Trinity Cathedral – Trenton, NJ

**Companion Diocese Youth Trip to Ecuador Litoral-July 23 – 30, 2013**

Eight youth and four adults traveled to The Diocese of Ecuador Litoral to begin new companion relationships.

**Sandy Recovery Mission Trip -August 25 - 30, 2013**

40 youth and adults worked with six different churches to learn about the effects of Hurricane Sandy and to help in Relief, together with the Diocese of Long Island.

**Fall Youth Event – November 15 - 17, 2013**

Are you yourself or what others and the media think you should be? – Lebanon, NJ

**Cathedral Lock-In – December 13-14, 2013**

Stop Hunger Now – Round 4

Fran McKendree Concert-Trinity Cathedral, Trenton

We began with the Eucharist, had a concert and packed 20 thousand meals to help those who are hungry. We were 132 participants from all around the diocese.

**3 Adults Who Work with Youth Workshops**

**February-** Confirmation Formation – The Rev. Joan Anders and Denise Szczerba, Toms River, NJ

**April-** Ask Us What We Think! – Diocesan Youth Council, Trenton, NJ

**November**– Youth Ministry Vision - Bishop Chip Stokes, Trenton, NJ

In addition, we held six youth council meetings and seven design team meetings to prepare the programs for each of our events. And for fun we held an overnight to celebrate the end of the school year.

**Youth Council**

Youth Council is comprised of thirty four youth and six young adults and eight adults from all over our diocese. Each member bringing a different gift and view as to how we are to spread the love of Christ through helping, learning, communicating, and serving our neighbors.

Youth Council also raised \$4,400 for Nets for Life as part of the Diocesan Pledge.

**Church Visits**

The Director of Youth Ministry made fifteen visits to congregations.

Often, youth from Diocesan Youth Council joined in these visits as we preached, shared youth ministry ideas, and presented a slide show on events.

If your church is interested in a visit, please call the youth office (609) 394-5281 ext. 36 to set one up.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arlis Astudillo – Co Chair

Julia Nemec – Co Chair

The Rev. Canon Debra Clarke – Director of Youth Ministry

**[newjerseyyouth.org](http://newjerseyyouth.org)**