



The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia

Serving Central and South Georgia since 1733

UTO Grant Funds Community Youth Group



The 2014 United Thank Offering (UTO) grant made to St. Andrew's and St. Cyprian's Episcopal Churches in Darien launched their existing tutoring and after school programs into a new community youth group. Darien Community Youth Group meets every Sunday

afternoon in the church parish house. The group has twenty 5th-8th graders participating in the program with an average of fifteen students per Sunday. Four adult volunteers assist Thomas Barron, the professional youth minister who oversees the program. Together they share a meal provided weekly by members of the congregations, engage our students in a spiritual lesson, and spend time developing team-building skills through various outdoor games.

Following a successful 2014 summer program they began in September to teach the Episcopal youth curriculum Journey to Adulthood. Journey to Adulthood (J2A) is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th-12th grades. This gave the participants a solid weekly format for spiritual and relational growth they can come to rely upon.



Beginning in April of 2015, five kids from the program began Confirmation Class in order to prepare for their baptism on Bishop's Day, Trinity Sunday. The class met for 6 weeks where we went over the outline of the Christian faith from the Book of Common Prayer.

On May 31st five children from the program were baptized and received by the Bishop into the Episcopal Church.

In early June, eight kids from the Community Youth Group attended Camp St. Mark at the diocesan camp, Honey Creek, where they did an exemplary job serving

as counselors in training for a week working with small groups of children between the ages of 6-12.



The Campaign for Congregational Development

The Diocese of Georgia obtained this UTO Grant through the work of the Campaign for Congregational Development, which has raised additional money in support of the work in Darien. The Campaign is about serving Jesus and seeking to be more fully engaged as the Body of Christ. The priorities of the Campaign fall into three areas- Congregational Development; Clergy and Lay Leadership Development, and Formation of Youth and Young Adult Leadership. Within each of those three areas, there are three specific campaign priorities. To find out more, visit campaign.georgiaepiscopal.org