



Thank you for all the wonderful ways you support CCSA and Chowan Campus Ministry. Since December 2018, Campus Ministry has led four mission teams. Winter Break 2018 and Spring Break 2019 teams served in Red Springs, NC with Baptist on Mission for Hurricane Florence recovery.

Immediately after graduation, a mission team returned to Johannesburg, South Africa to build a home for abandoned babies. Winter break 2019 a team bundled up and went to Portland, Maine to serve with Preble Street, an organization serving those experiencing homelessness. People were ministered to and students had the opportunity to grow in their faith and hear God's call.

May 2019, we were pleased to graduate eight CCSA scholars! Our largest group to date. We miss them of course, but we are so proud. Many are serving churches, two are now in seminary, and another in graduate school. This year's CCSA class is serving the campus well, as all seven of the ministry chaplains are CCSA Scholars. These ministry chaplains serve as a spiritual presence in the residence halls and each one leads a monthly campus worship.

Thank you for supporting our students. You give them the opportunity to learn and serve in Jesus' name.

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## Why in December?

*"The Lord opened my eyes this trip to so many unnoticed, wonderful people and I hope He continues to do so." Aryana Hedgepeth, Chowan Junior.*

Everywhere we went people were asking us why we came to Maine in December. It became funny to us. It happened at the airport, it happened at places we ate, it happened at the hotel, and at places we shopped. We seemed out of place because of the time of year. But for us, it was the "unnoticed wonderful" people who seemed out of place on the cold sidewalks of this city. The Congolese refugees with boots too big for their feet trying to function in their first frigid winter, seemed out of place to us. Workers at this agency who fed people three meals a day, 365 days a year, kept telling us we were so kind and joyful. That seemed out of place to us, wouldn't everyone that volunteered be kind?

This winter trip to serve those experiencing homelessness was a gift to each of us. After a challenging semester, we were able to be exhausted from peeling potatoes, scrambling dozens of dozens of eggs, and washing so many, many dishes from

the hundreds of meals we prepped, cooked and served. We were able to smile into the faces of the babies from the Congo and into the elderly who might not survive this winter. We carried with us the prayers of the campus, the community and partnering congregations. We gifted our "unnoticed wonderful" friends with scarves (many handmade), socks, hats, gloves, coats and homemade Christmas cards. We carried the light of Christ into a chilly neighborhood and watched as the warm embers of that light/love ignited many hearts.

Why did we go in the middle of December to the summer Vacationland? To honor, serve and follow our Christ Child.

Thank you for all who supported our efforts to **Love Boldly, Hope Boldly and Serve Boldly!**

Rev. Mari Wiles  
Minister to the University



Lou Ann with CCSA Scholar, Shaniqua Sutton in Red Springs, NC

## Chowan Cares Week: Engaging the Chowan Community

Each November, Campus Ministry hosts “Chowan Cares.” This week-long event gives the entire campus an opportunity to serve with Campus Ministry. Now in its thirteenth year, Chowan Cares Week creatively invites the talent of students, faculty, and staff for a meaningful week of service.



Assistant Athletic Director, Lisa Bland teaches students to crochet

Chowan Cares kicked off with a knitting and crocheting class. Members of the faculty and staff from athletics, student life, and the library taught participants how to make scarves. On another day, students were invited to make Christmas cards. These scarves and cards were delivered by the Chowan mission team to share with Preble Street in Portland, Maine.

Mid-week, the Chowan community was encouraged to say “thank you” to the individuals who serve behind the scenes on campus. Kind words and tokens of appreciation were shared across campus.

## Campus Ministry Introduces New Associate Minister



Amber Simpson enjoys her first trip to Walter's Grill with CCSA Board Members David Brooks and Elaine Myers along with Minister to the University, Mari Wiles.

The week concluded with an International Justice Mission (IJM) event, “Threads: A Pop-Up Thrift Shop to End Slavery.” For two days student volunteers hosted the thrift store with donated items from faculty, staff, and students. This was a positive way for students to raise funds and educate shoppers about the serious issue of modern-day slavery. Senior education major and IJM chapter president, Elena Escobar explained the mission behind the fundraiser, “All the funds go toward helping eradicate slavery all around the world. This non-profit organization sends 100% of the money earned to other countries to liberate girls from sex-traffickers.”

Through this week the Chowan Community demonstrated how much Chowan truly does care.



Campus Ministry Intern, Evelyn Walker '18 and senior Elena Escobar hosting Pop-Up thrift shop.

## CCSA Speaker Inspires Students



Rev. Dr. Valerie Carter Smith, Executive Director/Treasurer for WMU of Virginia was the 2019 Taylor Religious Heritage Lecturer and keynote speaker at the Fall CCSA dinner. Valerie has a streetwalking ministry to prostitutes in downtown Richmond. She graciously invited our students to serve with her. On a Friday evening in October, Rev. Mari Wiles and a group of eager students joined Valerie in this eye-opening ministry of presence and prayer.



From right, Elena Escobar, Evelyn Walker, Pat Eggleston (WMUV volunteer), Alexis Harris, Valerie Carter Smith, Kalina Ham, Shakira Harris, and Shaniqua Sutton

Chowan welcomes Amber Simpson, our new Associate Minister. Amber holds a BS in Education from Jacksonville State University and will graduate with an MDiv from Central Baptist Theological Seminary in May.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**APRIL 27, 2020**

The next CCSA Dinner Meeting will be Monday, April 27 at 6:00 pm in the Chowan Room.