



Vocational Discernment Stories and Dinners with SEEDS, L'Arche, and UCAN Supervisors!

An Amazing Gift

The Johnson Service Corps has received an amazing gift! Dr. Jean G. French, who died in May 2022, left a gift to JSC in her will of \$70,000. Her generosity constitutes the largest contribution to JSC since the Chapel of the Cross set aside \$100,000 from a bequest by Margaret (Callie) Johnson over two decades ago to inaugurate the Johnson Service Corps. That original legacy gift has yielded a bountiful harvest, and with God's grace, Dr. French's liberality will prove enormously fruitful as well.

Perhaps more impressive than her thoughtful generosity was Dr. French's commitment to the service of others and her humble dedication to living out that service each day. She graduated from Cornell and had master's degrees from Columbia and Johns Hopkins with a doctorate in epidemiology from the University of Michigan. She held faculty positions at Cornell University, Columbia University, the University of Kentucky School of Medicine, and the University of California at Berkeley, and she served as an Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She was a team member of the Cornell-Navajo Research Project in Many Farms, Arizona and was a health scientist with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She had many publications in scientific journals in the areas of infectious disease, chronic disease, nutrition, and air pollution epidemiology. She was the recipient of the Public Health Service Special Recognition Award for her work on the modes of interaction between tobacco use and exposure to chemicals in the workplace; and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention bestowed honors upon her for protecting the scientific integrity of the Center.

But after she retired to Chapel Hill and became a parishioner at the Chapel of the Cross, Jean never asked anyone to call her "Doctor." She devoted herself to volunteering with Meals on Wheels, the IFC Community Kitchen, and Head Start. At the Chapel of the Cross, she became the principal volunteer for Special Worship, a monthly evening service led by parishioners and UNC students, especially for people with developmental disabilities. Jean faithfully participated, bringing refreshments, organizing the sometimes-rowdy crowd, helping with costumes for the Christmas pageant, and making sure everyone could "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." The Rev. William Joyner, who originated and shepherded the service for many years, commented, "Jean was indispensable to the flourishing continuation of Special Worship."

Thanks be to God for the life and witness of Jean G. French. May her generous gift enable the roots and fruits of servant leadership to grow in the lives of others, and may her dedicated example inspire and encourage all of us along our way.

-Stephen Elkins-Williams

Fall Appeal



Blessing at St. Stephen's

Dear JSC Community,

I first heard about Johnson Service Corp in December of 2016. I had returned home from college and was starting to think about what my life would be like after college. My high school youth leader and I were catching up over grabbed coffee when she told me about JSC. Seven years later I cannot imagine what my life would be like without that conversation.

Johnson Service Corp provides a once and a lifetime opportunity to young adults to spend a year doing justice work, living into beloved community, developing leadership and growing spiritual practices. After spending the 22-23 year as a time for strategic visioning the Johnson Service Corp Board is excited to announce and welcome six new fellows to the program this year.

As an alum of JSC I can say that my year of service has impacted my life in numerous ways. I have built lifelong relationships with my fellow corps members, my mentor, found a spiritual community and allowed me to clarify what I want out of my career and call. I hope that our 6 new fellows will have the same opportunity over this upcoming year.



Blessing at St. Philip's

Your support and the encouragement of others will greatly facilitate our current and future fellows in their year of service. If you have not donated before, I hope you will do so. If you have donated in the past, I invite you to consider increasing that support or becoming a monthly donor to more fruitfully sustain our work of developing servant leaders. Will you support the Johnson Service Corp with a financial contribution today?

On behalf of the entire board, thank you so much for support of the Johnson Service Corps!

Faithfully,
Elizabeth Brewington, JSC Board Chair, JSC Alum 2017-18

JSC Office Space Move

Office space at the Chapel of the Cross has been a great gift for over two decades, and we are profoundly grateful! CoC is now undergoing construction and, with that, it was necessary to move the nursery to what has been the JSC office. CoC offered JSC several alternative spaces, but ultimately we decided to relocate to St. Luke's in Durham, NC. The nexus of JSC's operations has shifted to Durham with the fellows' house and a majority of partner sites located there.

While we feel some loss and sadness at leaving the friendly confines of our "alma mater" congregation, we also realize this move opens up wider opportunities, offering closer connections with St. Luke's and other Durham congregations, as well as easier access for Durham placements and volunteers. We are very hopeful and confident that our strong ties with the Chapel of the Cross and the Chapel Hill community will stay close and vibrant, even as we change office location, and we look forward to our continuing journey providing fantastic young adult ministry together.



JSC Fellows' Blog

Hello! My name is Charles Mullis. I grew up in Statesville, NC, and I was raised in the Episcopal Church in our very own diocese. After college, I knew I wanted to take a year to reflect, discern, and serve, which made JSC the natural opportunity to try. That discernment part is big—I would often joke with my friends that I changed my major or career path every week. Well, I can't say that's changed, but I can say confidently that I've learned more this month than almost any other in my life. ...

You can read the rest of the monthly Fellows' blog post [here](#).

JSC Recruitment Begins

Recruitment has started for the 2024-25 program year! Please pass the good news of JSC on to young adults you know who are looking for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Applications open December 1.

Johnson Service Corps is an opportunity for young adults (ages 21 - 28) to:

- Explore personal and spiritual identity, values, and interests
- Build relationships with professional and spiritual mentors
- Develop a life-long network of supportive friends and colleagues

The program is a ten-month residential experience that begins mid-August and concludes in June. Fellows live and work in Durham, North Carolina. Fellows live in a house in a private bedroom with five other Fellows and learn to live together as a healthy community with diverse identities, values, interests, and experiences.

Each Fellow works 32 hours a week with a nonprofit organization. Our nonprofit partners have track records in community service, organizing, policy advocacy, and social justice. We offer placements with nonprofits serving families, women, children, the LGBTQIA community, immigrants, refugees and others. Fellows learn skills and build a portfolio of experiences, while discerning their next vocational steps.

Johnson Service Corps is an opportunity for young adults to explore their personal spiritual values and develop life-long practices. All Fellows are encouraged to develop a relationship with a congregation or spiritual community of their choosing. Fellows spend one day a week collectively reflecting on the experiences of their nonprofit work and communal living, exploring spiritual teachings, and deepening their leadership skills. Every Fellow is matched with a mentor and participates in group therapy, conflict resolution training, and relationship skills.

Johnson Service Corps provides Fellows with housing, a household grocery budget, health insurance, mental health services, professional networking, retreats, a \$500 monthly stipend, and a \$1000 completion bonus. This is a unique opportunity to grow personally, professionally, and spiritually through a well-supported mix of justice work, leadership training, and intentional community contact.



JSC Recruiting for Fellows at Duke, UNC Greensboro, and NC State



Executive Director, Julia Tyler, presenting JSC at St. Philip's

JSC "Helping Hands" Community Care Team

We're building a team of JSC volunteers to support sundry and sometimes last minute needs that arise for JSC. This insider team may be asked to provide or brainstorm occasional and practical support for Fellows, such as airport rides, moving help, or party and event set up and clean up.

Please email admin@johnsonservicecorps.org if you'd like to join the "JSC Helping Hands" google group.



Blessing at St. Titus

Coming up this Winter:

--**JSC Christmas Party!** *Save the Date:* Sunday, 12/10, 5-8pm at the JSC Fellows' House-- singing carols, white elephant, games and good food! Stay tuned for detailed information.

--**Servant Leadership Course**, open to all community members to take alongside JSC Fellows: Foundations 101 | Faith Reimagined: Christian Wisdom, Science, and You
When: Fridays, January 12 - March 1, 2024, 9:30am-12pm
Where: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (82 Kimberley Dr., Durham, NC 27707)

In this 8-week course, take a journey to better understand your internal operating system – framing stories, unconscious drives, and habits of emotional defense – so as to become more aware and present to all that arises. Through this Divine presence, learn to respond to your circumstances from a place of wisdom, toward healing.

Registration and more information [here](#).



Blessing at St. Joe's

Your support has a difference to our organization, to the nonprofits we partner with, and, most importantly, in the lives--hearts, bodies, minds, spirits, and leadership--of our young people. We are, because of you.

[Click Here to Make a Lasting Impact and Support JSC](#)

