



The Importance of Birthdays

by the Rev. Canon Heather L. Melton, Staff Officer for the United Thank Offering

When my daughters were about to turn one, I was so relieved that we'd made it through their first year that I decided that we deserved a big birthday party to celebrate our surviving infancy and to welcome the toddler years. I planned the party for months after choosing *The Lorax* as the theme; I made all of the decorations myself (thank you, Pinterest) and even had themed brunch food. One might say that it was a little over the top, especially crammed into a two bedroom New York condo, but I loved every minute of it.

This year, on September 25, Julia Chester Emery would have been 165 years old. The UTO Board and staff want to invite you to join us in throwing her a birthday party at your church on Sunday, September 24. You don't need to go totally crazy, but you can.

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Welcome Kayla!



Over the past two years, many of you have gotten to know Kayla Massey. Kayla was the first Julia Chester Emery Intern, during which she was stationed here in New York and worked with UTO and General Seminary after a year in the Philippines. Most of you likely met her at General Convention, just a few days after she returned to the United States. During the last year, the UTO staff experienced some changes, and the staff and Board took time to discern what kind of staffing UTO really needed. During that time, we were very grateful that Kayla agreed to serve part-time as a temp in the office. After much discernment and care as we looked at the goals and work involved, we created new staff job descriptions, roles, and titles. We determined that we no longer need a staff person who only handles secretarial tasks, and that we do really need someone to help promote UTO, particularly with young adults, and to support new programs. With that, we created the Associate Staff Officer for the United Thank Offering, and we are grateful and

delighted that Kayla agreed to take on this new role with our team. As Kayla begins pursuing a master's degree this fall, she will continue to work part-time, and her hours are posted in her email and on her voicemail. Kayla is responsible for processing and closing grant reports, processing grant payments, and acknowledging ingathering donations, so please contact her for any of these issues that you might encounter in your UTO work, or invite her to come and speak at an event in your diocese! Kayla can be reached at kmassey@episcopalchurch.org or 716-212-6022.

Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) 2017 -- Path to Peace

by Sandra Squires, UTO Board President

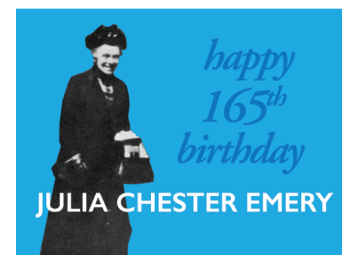
Deadline Extended for UTO Prayers

We will continue to collect prayers for the UTO Prayer Booklet through the end of August. Submit yours [here](#).

Young Adult and Seminarian Grant Process Coming Soon!

Our annual Young Adult and Seminarian Grant process will be released on Friday, September 1, so be sure to check our webpage or social media accounts. We will also attach it to the September E-Newsletter. The deadline for submission from the diocese or the seminary is the first Friday in November.

Julia Chester Emery Birthday Celebration – September 24



Click to download birthday celebration materials. More will be added each week, so keep checking back!

Follow Us Online!





EYE is the triennial gathering of youth of The Episcopal Church. For this year's EYE, 1,400 youth, clergy and lay adults, bishops, speakers, and volunteers gathered in July at Central Oklahoma University in Edmonds, Oklahoma. Wow! What a great way to spend a week, whether you are a youth in grades 9-12 or a lucky adult. It is an experience of high-powered worship with great music and fellowship with young people. Participants were able to meet lots of new folks, tour a variety of Oklahoma City sites including the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial, attend workshops, and visit vendor space devoted to ministries within The Episcopal Church. I felt surrounded by the Holy Spirit.

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Grant Site Update: Colorado Haiti Project

by Rachel McDaniel, UTO Intern

In a recent trip to Petit-Trou-de-Nippes, Haiti, I visited the grant site of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and School for their first agriculture festival. The UTO grant gave the Colorado Haiti Project, in partnership with several local people from St. Paul's, the funding to hire an agronomist/teacher and build a garden that was capable of feeding the entire school at lunch.

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