



UNC • ECU • NCSU • UNCW

SPRING
2024

CAMPUS CATALYST

making disciples on campus who impact the world

Upward, Inward, Outward

by Steven Reed (NCSU Campus Minister)

Back in June of last year, Stephen Kirik (NCSU '17) and I began brainstorming the possibility of bringing him on staff with me as an intern. We moved forward with the idea, and when the fall semester launched, he was right there with me in the midst of all the chaotic joy of kicking off the school year. As the fall semester wrapped up, Stephen and I took a couple days in December for a planning retreat where we prayed over the spring semester and tried to discern the direction the Lord wanted us to go for the spring semester.

During this time together, we kept coming back to the phrasing “upward, inward, outward” (or “up, in, out” for short). As we spent a couple days teasing this out, we ended up using those words to guide how we wanted to structure our Student Leadership Team and the events in the ministry for the year. These phrases capture the idea that:

Upward - we want to focus on helping our students develop and deepen their walk with Christ through spiritual disciplines.

Inward - we want to be a ministry that has lots of fellowship events to help our students feel connected with other Christians while in college.

Outward - we want to provide plenty of opportunities for our students to step out of their comfort zones, go on campus, and reach out to different students in hopes of sharing Jesus with them and helping them connect with CCF.

As the spring semester launched in January, Stephen and I took our six student leaders and split them into three ministry teams: Spiritual Formation (Up), Fellowship/Socials (In), and Mission/Outreach (Out). It has been incredibly rewarding to see our six students plus the staff dive into these ministry areas and organize



With a desire to see more spiritual formation events for our students this semester, CCF NCSU went on a Prayer Walk around campus. Here we are praying for campus life outside of Tucker and Owen Hall

all different kinds of calendar events for CCF NCSU. We've already had some events like campus prayer walks and nights of worship (Up), game nights in the DEN and meals together (In), and tabling events giving out coffee and hot cocoa to meet and engage with new students (Out).

I can't wait to see how the Holy Spirit continues to partner with and use CCF NCSU in developing the spiritual lives of students in the ministry as well as making an impact for God on the campus. It is my prayer that we keep making disciples on campus who impact the world!

We Want to Connect With You!

Churches, Alumni, and Friends of CCF. You have invested so much time, energy, and resources into the youth that are in your care. CCF is ready to shepherd the college bound students through the next phase of life. One statistic says 2/3rds of young adults who were regular church goers have stopped going to church for a season or forever. Another statistic is only 10% of 18-29 year olds who grew up Christian are actively following Jesus.

Please, we invite you to connect your student with a staff member on a visit to campus or just by phone between now and August. We can also connect them to people at other universities or cities we do not serve. Growing your graduate's faith in Jesus and helping them produce kingdom fruit for the rest of their life is important to us just as it is to you.

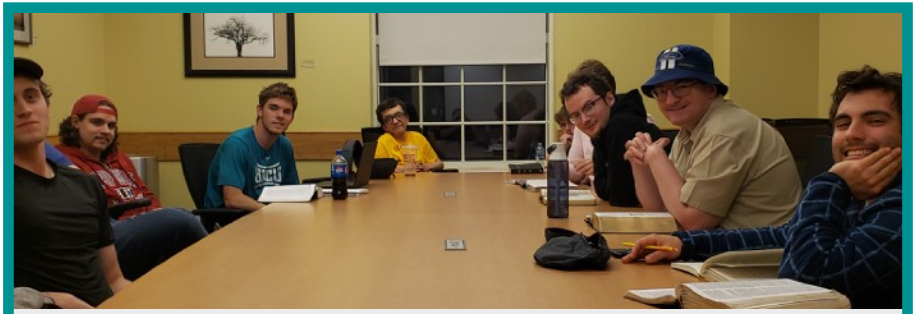


Brittany, our CCF ladies, and invited friends at our annual Galentines event for women to celebrate and empower women.

Our student leaders were excited about our outreach Valentine's service event for UNC's campus where we gave away goodie bags and hot chocolate.



UNC



CCF at UNCW's Men's Bible study met recently on campus for a time of Bible study and fellowship.



On a chilly Saturday in January a group of CCF students from UNCW helped serve with the Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity, our assignment was mainly to lay down sod in a recently built home as it was nearing completion.

UNCW



ECU



JT Benson was baptized at the Winter Retreat!!!



Joe Bishop was baptized before CCF the week after Winter Retreat!!

NCSU



At the beginning of the spring semester, some of our students went on a Prayer Walk around campus. Here we are outside of Witherspoon Student Center

We studied the Gospel of Mark together in Talley Student Union on Tuesday Nights



Winter Retreat

A month into each semester, college students from our ministries gather together to encourage one another and grow as followers

of Jesus. The Fall Retreat is a challenge to prioritize one's faith and the Winter Retreat is designed to deepen one's faith.



by **Johna Speller (UNC Student Testimony)**

After my first Campus Christian Fellowship (CCF) winter retreat, I was deeply moved and felt a newfound responsibility to develop a deeper understanding of faith and God's goodness. The theme, "Faithful: Before Us, With Us, After Us," initially made me wonder if I would hear familiar messages about trusting God through all things. However, I was pleasantly surprised by the fresh perspectives on faithfulness shared by the speakers, which transformed my perspective.

One key lesson I took away was that faith doesn't guarantee a favorable outcome. We discussed how many individuals from the Bible who we often admired for their faith faced excruciating hardships and even death. For me, learning this challenged the notion that faith is an act that shields or saves us from pain. This insight led me to question if the common conceptions within

church communities are accurate interpretations of what God's goodness truly is. I've been inspired to deepen my understanding by spending more time in study and prayer.

I also appreciated the emphasis on building community and supporting each other even in the short time we were together. The prayer table at the retreat, where we could not only go to pray but also write down prayer requests for another person to come and pick up, created a beautiful cycle of care and support throughout the weekend. It was touching to see everyone come together in this way. The table was one of multiple great representations of the unity and compassion that should always prevail when God's children come together.

Overall, the retreat—from its thought-provoking lessons to its heartfelt prayers and uplifting worship—was a delightful experience that I cherish. It has left me with a renewed sense of

A Devotional Thought

by **Connie Taylor (ECU Campus Minister)**

When I think about success in campus ministry, I always think about what our alumni are doing? I'm always so encouraged how God transforms lives on campus and the way He uses them to change the world. I truly believe that these college students are going to change the world!!! It reminds me of the parable of the mustard seed in Matthew 13:31-32.

31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.

32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

This is about kingdom multiplication! The amount of time we spend in the lives of these students is usually a short time in the span of their life. We plant seeds that may seem small, but God is using them in such a big way to spread His kingdom and bless others! Join us in praying as we continue to invest in the students that are within our ministries. Pray that God will guides and lead them. Pray for our alumni. Pray they will continue to grow and are "branches" for others to take refuge. Pray that God would use you as well to bless others for Jesus!!

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Financial Update

\$562,000

Jul '23-Jun '24 goal

where we want to be: \$421,500

\$396,500
income

\$417,200
expenses

Please
prayerfully
consider
becoming a
monthly
partner.

QR code for
online giving

