

the laity of the future is here now

by Wanda Kidd, CBFNC Collegiate Engagement Coordinator

Calling out God’s giftedness in young adults is what campus ministers do. They are the people who have the opportunity to meet students at the crossroads of their lives—a point when they are about to make some of the most life-shaping decisions that will impact them for years to come. If the campus ministers do it well, they speak with a prophetic voice that challenges students to seek Christ in all that they do regardless of their career choice. I remember my campus minister, Joe David Fore, telling me how seriously he took that responsibility and how important it was to speak truth and God’s grace into the lives of students who had so many people vying for their attention. It is an amazing and sobering opportunity for those willing to take up this mantle, whether they are career campus ministers or people with a heart to mentor and walk with young adults during this season of life.

One of the goals of going to college is for students to be open to new ideas, meet a variety of people, and explore their life’s calling. They are deciding what career path to take and, in some cases, their life partners. There is no better time to have a seasoned Christian mentor help guide and challenge a person with insights into what Scripture says about integrity, generosity, and courage than during this pivotal period.

This college season of their life is also the time to help shape young adults as Christian leaders. Whether they partner with a local church or join a student group such as Cooperative Baptist Student Fellowships (CBSF), they need to be invited to develop and practice leading as Christ would have them lead. We can offer places for them to lead in worship, to serve on committees and teams that match their gifts, to join in on mission days or trips and to begin to contribute financially to Kingdom work. They will give in every way if they see value and the possibility of helping to change things for the better.

These students are our laity of the here and now as well as the future. If we want them to lead in the future, we must provide them with authentic models of Christian service. Our challenge is to help them participate and shape the church that can impact a hurting and broken world. I beseech you to take up the challenge, because young adults are looking for a place to serve and invest, and what better place than in the ministry of serving Christ?

Please encourage your students to check out the CBFNC collegiate ministries (CBSFs) and churches when they go off to college. We have campus ministers and groups at several campuses.

schools with CBSF

- Appalachian State University Curtis Privette
- Duke Danny Steis
- ECU Taylor Crumley
- NCSU and Raleigh Area Lawrence Powers
- UNC-Asheville and Western Carolina David Stone
- UNC-Chapel Hill Molly Brummett Wudel
- UNC-Greensboro Adam Horton

historically Baptist schools

- Campbell University Faithe Beam
- Chowan University Mari Wiles
- Gardner Webb University Mindy Robinson
- Mars Hill University Stephanie McLeskey
- Meredith College Donna Battle
- Wake Forest University Chris Towles
- Wingate Dane Jordan



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