A Letter From the Executive Director

**Holding Space** is the theme of the 2016 Barbara C. Harris Annual Fund. The concept comes from a blog written by Heather Plett in March of 2015. In the blog, Heather references the time in her life when her mother was dying. She and her siblings had gathered around their mother to "support her transition out of this life into the next." What stood out most to the author during this time was the impact of the palliative care nurse who helped her family "walk one of the most difficult journeys of our lives."

The nurse was a quiet presence in the background offering support and guidance. She was holding space for the family while the family held space for their mother.

After reading this blog, I realized that the Barbara C. Harris Center is just like the nurse; we hold space so that others, in turn, may hold space. We hold space for camp counselors so they can nurture our campers; we hold space for vestry members so they may offer leadership to their congregations. We hold space for nonprofit and humanitarian organizations so they too may hold space for their constituencies.

The Barbara C. Harris Center supports all who seek to grow, transform or heal. We offer a safe, nurturing and welcoming space, where people can follow the path God has laid before them. We don't need to know the intimate details of a person's life to be of
While we do the challenging and meaningful work of holding space for others, we look to our supporters to hold space for us. By contributing to the Barbara C. Harris Annual Fund you become partners in this vital ministry. Your monetary support will be used to maintain infrastructure, support programs, and most importantly, *Hold Space* for the people we serve. Please consider a gift, by donating [HERE](#).

**Sincerely,**  
**John Koch**  
**Executive Director**

*For Heather's complete blog entry please visit [HERE](#).*
BCH Center Board of Directors:

- The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates
- Lynd Matt
- The Rev. H. Mark Smith
- Alessia Doss
- John Koch
- The Rev. Alan Hesse
- Dr. Don DeLollis
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- The Rev. Natasha Stewart
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- Allison Johnson

2nd Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Barbara C. Harris Center

October 1st marked the second annual meeting of the Friends of the Barbara C. Harris Center. Forty-four participants gathered at The Cathedral of St. Paul to socialize, share a meal, and discuss the future of the camp and conference center. The event was co-hosted by The Rt. Rev. Alan Gates and Ms. Patricia Harvey and The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris.

Comprised of some of the center’s most dedicated fans, The Friends of the Barbara C. Harris Center acts as a partner organization to the Board of Directors. The group forms the foundation for the camp and conference center’s success in fundraising, promotion, and visioning. The "Friends" assist the camp and conference center by:

- Making a yearly gift to the BCH Center’s Annual Fund
- Participating in the "Friends" Annual Meeting
- Serving as the BCH Center’s advocates in their parish
- Promoting the BCH Center to new user group
- Actively participating in the life of the BCH Center
- Praying for the ministry of the BCH Center

The group is represented by a diverse cross section of the Diocese of Massachusetts including clergy, camper parents and lay leadership. All members exhibit a deep connection to the center and are not shy when expressing their support for this vital diocesan resource.

The 2016 Annual Meeting began with opening remarks from Bishop Gates followed by a presentation from the BCH Center’s Executive Director, John Koch. Koch expanded on the theme of "Holding Space" by facilitating a Bible Study, revisiting our mission and ministry, and sharing plans for the future. After the presentation, attendees participated in a short Q & A session before breaking for dinner.

The evening ended with Bishop Barbara C. Harris leading the group in Compline. The evening was a great success; a good time was had by all!
Glorious Morning Muffins

Ingredients:
- 2 cups grated carrots
- ½ cup shredded coconut
- 1 apple shredded
- 8 oz crushed pineapple, drained
- ½ cup pecans or walnuts
- ½ cup raisins
- 1 ¾ cup sugar
- 2 ¼ cup flour
- 1 tbs cinnamon
- 2 tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 tsp vanilla

Preparation Steps:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

The Dry Mix:
- Sift together the sugar, flour, cinnamon, baking soda, and salt into a large bowl.
- Add the fruit, carrots, and nuts; stir to combine.

The Batter:
- In a separate bowl whisk the eggs with the oil and vanilla.
- Pour this mixture into the bowl with the dry ingredients, and blend well.
- Spoon the batter into cupcake tins, lined with muffin papers. Fill each cup to the brim.
- Bake in oven at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.
- Check centers of muffins with a toothpick.

Muffins develop better flavor if left to rest for 24 hours.
Experience the adventurous SPIRIT of BCH Camp in the snow!

4th - 11th graders are invited to join some of their favorite summer camp counselors for a week-long winter retreat at camp, during Massachusetts public schools’ winter vacation February 20-25, 2017.

2017 Winter Camp Programs:

EXPLORER (4th - 6th grades) *New for 2017!*
CHALLENGE (7th & 8th grades)
EDGE (8th - 10th grades)
BASE (9th - 11th grades)

Register online [HERE](#). You may also visit this site to learn more about program descriptions, pricing, available scholarships and transportation options.

BCH Camp is accredited by the American Camp Association. ACA accreditation assures parents that camp practices have met national standards around health, safety, program quality, and facilities.

Stay Connected:

[Like us on Facebook](#)

Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center | 603.547.3400 | info@bchcenter.org | http://www.bchcenter.org

Refresh - Reflect - Renew