

Water & Baptism

Episcopal Mission

Scuba Diving



# Creation Care 2021

A Youth Mission & Pilgrimage

July 8 - 18, 2021

The Episcopal Church is committed to helping individuals grow in their responsiveness as both advocates and stewards of God's creation. In response to the global climate emergency, St. James's Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA is offering a new youth mission and pilgrimage focused on creation care and raising awareness about the critical role our oceans play in sustaining life on our planet.

Four adult leaders from St. James's, including our rector John McCard, will travel with up to 10 youth currently in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grades for a 10-day expedition to Central and South Florida. Team members will train to become open water scuba dive certified during spring 2021 through the Richmond Dive Shop. During the expedition we will dive in fresh water springs and open water, learning about the ecosystem, reef conservation, and marine life. We'll partner with local marine biologists to understand conservation efforts underway and our call as baptized Christians to engage in these efforts. Team members will also work together in advance to fundraise money so the trip is affordable for all. The trip costs \$876, plus approximately \$800 paid to the Dive Shop for the scuba certification and gear. Careful consideration is being given to ensure the health and safety of the participants and will be constantly reassessed based on the pandemic status and public health guidelines.

## Mission

A mission experience is exactly that...a mission. You go with the purpose of building something, making repairs, planting a garden, or forming relationships. We will focus our mission on restoration and conservation of reef ecosystems.



## Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage has an *internal* focus and is meant to facilitate personal reflection and growth on a deliberate journey to encounter God. Through worship, group study, and scuba diving, youth will have ample opportunity to experience and encounter God in new and unexpected ways.

Registration is First-come-first-served until February 15, 2021.

To register or learn more, contact Mary Beth Abplanalp,  
Director of Youth Ministry, at [mbabplanalp@doers.org](mailto:mbabplanalp@doers.org) or 703-470-6832 cell.

**"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD" (JOHN 3:16)**