



# johnson

## SERVICE CORPS



Some photos from our DC Retreat!

Dear \*|FIRST\_NAME|\*,

We are excited to introduce two more JSC Fellows joining us for the 2024-2025 program year! We are also excited to announce that we will have a fellow serving the Episcopal Diocese of NC with The Rev. Canon Lindsey Ardrey and the Rev. Canon Kathy Walker, canons for Reparations and Restitution Ministry and Black Ministries, respectively. Our fellow there will be part of the important work of identifying and restoring burial grounds for the formerly enslaved as well as cemeteries for our African American churches.

As ever, we are grateful for all your support of this important young adult and justice ministry. We are because of you!

### JSC Seasons of Love

“How do you measure a life in a year?” asks a hit song from the Broadway musical *Rent*. The answer in the song *Seasons of Love* is to measure a life in a year in “Five hundred twenty-five thousand moments so dear.”

How could one possibly measure the myriad impacts of our six JVC fellows, multiplied by their eight community non-profits, multiplied by countless personal relationships with beloved children of God at the heart of each organization, multiplied by their families, neighborhoods, communities: all blessed, stretched and changed by a year in the life of the extended Johnson Service Corps family? At Johnson Service Corps we measure impact in the countless lives touched with love, justice, healing and bonds of compassion in season after season of *love*.”

In most religious traditions, the quality of a life is measured in neighbor love grounded in justice and healing. Many Christians speak of a life lived in “the Way of Love” as demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Johnson Service Corp believes creating an intentional living community dedicated to service generates one great season of love begets another season love after another – for our fellows, our partners and many communities.

Our current season of JSC service learning is starting to come to a close. At the same time a new season is already coming into being. While we continue to appreciate and celebrate the gifts of our current fellows, we are also inviting new fellows into our broad mix of love embodied in community.

Charles, Tasha, Rofida, Trey, Carolina and Lynn will likely reflect upon the impact of this one year for the rest of their lives. That is the gift of one very special and dedicated season of love: it continues to multiply into blessings for the rest of each alums’ life. Our fellows will take the “fruits” of this year and share them with others, maybe even “seeding” others to seek lives for intentional living grounded in justice, spiritual practices, and servant leadership. Even the “compost,” the things that were a little smelly and seemed extraneous are likely to plowed into some good use some day! It may be grad school; it may be another non-profit; it may be a new vocation that has been revealed, but a Johnson Service Corps year is a gift that keeps on giving, as our alums years keep telling us year after year.

As a new board member, I am also in a new season of life, vocation and love. Retirement from my official duties as the Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina has opened up time for all sort of “moments so dear” – especially with my four grandchildren – all of whom are local! Though new to board I am certainly not new to Johnson Service Corps as I had the great blessing of being around when it first came into being back in 2000. Former students of mine, from my years as a campus minister are now Johnson Service Corps alums and still embodying the Way of Love deeply rooted in justice, healing and servant leadership.

*Seasons of Love* with the Johnson Service Corps will only keep coming with your continued support. If you can, please consider increasing your support or inviting a friend to give. We can certainly give you plenty of numerical data that will give you some other ways to picture JSC’s impact. But we can’t picture our growth and continued impact without you! As we move from Easter Season into Pentecost, I wish you and yours a Spirit-filled season of love.

Yours faithfully,

Anne

---

## 2024-2025 JSC Fellows

### Meet Jon Stanley!

I was born and raised in eastern North Carolina. My first time leaving was to attend Duke University, where I received my Bachelor's in Computer Science with a minor in Cultural Anthropology. Considering Brazil my second home, I spent the of year 2022 and 2023 teaching English in the country, becoming fluent in Portuguese in the process. My passions include improving my Portuguese, teaching language (human and computer), fitness, and exploring the science of neurodiversity. I'm thrilled to be a part of the JSC — especially considering the opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to one of the most respectable communities I've come across.



### Meet Tamara Royster!

I am originally from Burlington, NC and recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I am a Communications Major Specializing in News Media with a Minor in Dramatic Art. I am very interested in Japanese anime and video gaming in my spare time. I also work to create spaces online for traditionally marginalized groups. Being a Queer, Black and Plus Sized woman means that I have faced a lot of discrimination. Which is why I am very invested in Social Justice. I regularly stream online and have created a community where I can be open about my struggles and hopefully inspire others. For many years I didn't focus on my spiritual well being due to religious trauma. I hope I can connect with local Pagan and Wiccan groups as well as exploring Unitarian Universalism during my time with JSC!

---

## JSC Board Changes

Dear Friends,

Recently the JSC Board asked me to begin work on their behalf in anticipation of being appointed Interim Chair at the May 20 board meeting. I am honored to be asked to do so, and I look forward not only to working closely with these committed board members again, but also to renewing contact with you, the faithful supporters of the Johnson Service Corps. So many of us have traveled many miles with JSC through unexpected but grace-filled adventures, and together we will experience even more!

This has been a most significant year for JSC, up and running again with six dedicated fellows in new housing accommodations with new partner organizations and an awesome staff! The first commitments for the upcoming class give us even more hope and encouragement for the continued strong impact of our program. Thanks be to God for the talents and gifts of so many of you in putting us in this position.

I especially want to thank Elizabeth Brewington, a former corps member herself, not only for her years on the board, but especially for stepping up to serve as Chair for the bulk of this pivotal year. And I look forward to working with the Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple, a strong advocate for JSC during her tenure as Bishop Suffragan, who has graciously agreed to serve as Chair, beginning in July.

We will celebrate all of this and more at our End of the Year Celebration on Sunday, June 2 at St. Phillip's in Durham. Grace does happen!

Faithfully,  
Stephen Elkins-Williams

*Elizabeth Brewington first became involved with Johnson Service Corps as a fellow in the 2017-18 year. She was placed in what was then called the East Durham Children's Initiative. Her support of JSC continued as she began serving on the Board of Directors in 2019. She became the Development Chair and planned the Twentieth Anniversary Celebration during the pandemic, which was a remarkable feat.*

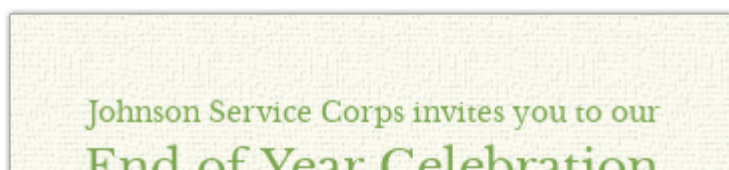
*Elizabeth became Board Chair during a critical time of transition for the organization. She is the first JSC alumni to be named Board Chair. Her key characteristics, as evidenced as a fellow and Board member, revealed her to be a compassionate leader, a systematic thinker, organized and one who cares deeply for the JSC organization. She served the bulk of this transition year before she stepped down to focus her energy on the Rector search at the Church of the Advocate.*

*We are grateful to Elizabeth for her insight, leadership and energy that she brought to us and know that the search for a Rector will benefit from her involvement.*

-Carol Marshall, JSC Board Member

---

## You are invited! JSC's End of Year Celebration



**Sunday, June 2, 2024  
4:00-8:30 pm**

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church**



403 E Main Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701

As we end a successful program year after our sabbatical year and prepare to start another, Johnson Service Corps has so much to celebrate! We look forward to bringing together our alumni, current fellows, supervisors, mentors, board members, donors, supporters, and community members to celebrate all you each do to support and sustain JSC!

**Please RSVP here by May 19** and let us know of any dietary restrictions/preferences.

**4-5 pm - Alumni Reunion in the Garden**  
Alumni, past staff, mentors, and supervisors - this is your time to connect, to share stories and memories, and induct the 6 newest alumni into this rich network! We will have drinks and light appetizers. Families welcome- bubbles and games for kids.

**5-6:30 pm - Fellow presentations in the Sanctuary**  
Come learn about the service and growth our current fellows have been engaged in for the last 10 months!

**6:30-8:30 pm - Dinner, drinks, and ice cream Sundae bar in the Parish Hall and Garden.** Our dinner produce is all grown and sourced by [UCAN](#) (fresh, local, seasonal!) and will be cooked by Chef Toni Harris! Hear toasts and stories from current supervisors and mentors and our plans for 2024-2025.

**JSC Alumni** - help us fill out the map of where you have ended up after JSC! [Please fill out this form](#). We hope to see you at 4pm on June 2nd for the alumni reunion at St. Philip's in Durham!

## What are our current fellows up to?!

Our current JSC Krewe, Heather, and Tirzah (alum 2018-2019) recently returned from the DC retreat, where we had a great stay at [Friends Place on Capitol Hill](#). We visited the [Festival Center](#) and many of the ministries started by The Church of the Savior. A neighborhood tour with Kim Montroll was a highlight of the trip, as we learned how everything was connected, the history of the neighborhood, and how The Church of the Savior made transformational change by actively responding to the needs they saw in their neighborhood. We enjoyed a tour of [Sitar Arts Center](#), lunch at [The Potters House](#), and a panel on "Justice for the Long Haul" with representatives from [Open Goal Project](#), [The National Domestic Workers Alliance](#), and [First Shift Justice Project](#). We also enjoyed some sightseeing and a visit to the [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#).



More photos from our DC Retreat!



Tasha practicing for her driver's license test with her partner

## JSC Fellows' Blog

If you have not checked our blog page recently, there are updates from Lynn in March and Caroline (Dina) in April.

"As our year starts to wrap up, everyone is spending time discerning what is next. I spent much time discerning and decided to attend seminary and begin the ordination process in the Presbyterian Church of U.S.A (PCUSA)"

Read the rest [here](#)

organization supervisor, Tamarea!

---

Your support makes a difference to our organization, to the nonprofits we partner with, and, most importantly, in the lives --hearts, bodies, minds, spirits, and leadership-- of our young people. We are because of you.

Support JSC and make a lasting impact

JOHNSON SERVICE CORPS © 2024

**1737 Hillandale Road, Durham, NC 27705**

**919-885-4253**

Email not displaying correctly?

[View it in your browser](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)