

Stephanie and Allen Brizee

Hello everyone,

Stephanie and I are excited to lead Journey to Adulthood “J2A” after shadowing Erin Hagar and Paul Smith over the past year. We are pleased to serve Redeemer in this role, and we are looking forward to working with Allison Harmon, Vivian Campagna, and the J2A students and their parents in the coming weeks and months.

Journey to Adulthood is Redeemer’s youth formation class for 8th and 9th graders. The course curriculum covers a two-year cycle however students may enter the class at any point in the cycle. Our vision for J2A is to guide young adults into a maturing faith that explores Christianity through curiosity, relationship, and experience. To fulfill this vision in the fall, we will help students explore who they are and who they would like to become as Christians and as Episcopalians. In the spring, we will help students explore society through a Christian, Episcopal perspective. Next fall, we will help students explore God through our Episcopal tradition. In spring 2021, the final semester of the two-year J2A curriculum, we will help students explore their faith through storytelling and prayer as they prepare for their pilgrimage. To maintain community engagement in the J2A curriculum, we have scheduled two service events and a class activity that will help students pursue social justice in Baltimore.

As active Redeemer parishioners for the past two years, we have participated in Habitat for Humanity events and helped with coffee hour preparation. Stephanie has enjoyed the women’s prayer group on Mondays, and she served on the advisory committee that helped bring us the Rev. Freda Marie Brown. In 2017, I was honored to present “Civic Engagement: from the Ancient Greeks to Greektown, Baltimore” for Redeemer’s fall lecture series.

As professionals, we are happy to bring some unique skills to the J2A program. Stephanie currently works for the Department of State in Washington, DC. Her doctoral work was in American History, and she has taught and designed curricula for Sunday school at previous churches. I am an Associate Professor of Writing at Loyola University Maryland, and I recently began my new role as the Faculty Director for Community-Engaged Learning and Scholarship in the Center for Community Service and Justice.

We understand that everyone is busy, so we are providing as much information as possible online to facilitate coordination. The course syllabus and class schedule will soon be posted on the Redeemer’s youth page on redeemberbaltimore.org. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Blessings,

Allen and Stephanie