

Specifically, the presence of Jesus is clear in three areas. First, his presence is in daily prayer. Each day starts with some time in prayer, thanking God for the day. Second, is his presence in the Holy Eucharist, especially during Mass at Holy Communion and during times of Adoration that we had throughout the summer. These times during prayer, and before the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist prepared me to recognize Christ in the third area—in God’s creation, especially in those people God placed in my life this summer, if only for a brief moment.

And, I think I was able to recognize the presence of Christ in others because of everyone’s common goal—the service of others. The volunteer groups, my fellow interns, the Mission staff, the local priests and ministers, collaborated to serve our neighbors when they needed help. And, significantly, Jesus was present in the homeowners whose gratitude and hospitality went above and beyond any of my expectations. I am so grateful for everyone; and, this combined spirit created a joy. It is so amazing to see how connected everyone was through Christ, even though we all come from different States and backgrounds to serve our fellow brothers and sisters. And, it seems appropriate that all of this occurred in Kentucky, whose state motto is “United we stand, divided we fall.” We are united in Christ, our foundation.

Praise God for the FBAMC and everyone who makes this service to God and our neighbors possible. Thank you! I trust that God’s presence will remain here in Eastern Kentucky. Recognizing the presence of Christ is the basis and groundwork. “I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121:1-2).



CALEB GETTELFINGER

Talking with my grandma about her experience working with Father Beiting really put my summer into perspective. My grandma worked with Father Beiting for a few weeks one summer many years ago and said it was the pinnacle of her life. I have volunteered for FBAMC with a group for 2 weeks and now interned for a full summer so far. I have not yet reached the point where I can say that this summer has been the pinnacle of my life, but it has been an extremely beneficial summer.

From honing my leadership skills to learning to build porches, from learning to work with others to being asked to help others who need assistance, I have learned a lot this summer and am grateful to those in charge of the Mission Center for their assistance in making this a meaningful summer!

Father Beiting use to say, “A tired volunteer is a happy volunteer”, I would like to add to that and say, “An exhausted intern is a euphoric intern!”

