

Bella Rivas

Bella hails from Fredericksburg, VA, and after graduating in 2019 from Christopher Newport University with a Bachelor's in Political Science, she moved to Falls Church to be a fellow at TFCA. She worked at TFCA for three years in student ministry and transitioned to Young Life staff in August of 2023. She can be found on any given day enjoying coffee at Rare Bird or Godfrey's and loves to cook, bake, and read in her spare time!



Bella currently serves on Young Life staff at Justice High School! There are over 70 nations represented and over 50 languages spoken in the 2,300+ student body! We are building relationships with new students at the school, and hosting a weekly discipleship group, or 'campaigners,' where we are hoping to draw students further into relationship with Jesus and equip them to be the salt and light in their high school. We recently launched 'club,' which is our weekly outreach tool. The hope and goal is to invite Justice students, who may not have ever heard the name of Jesus, into a place where they feel loved and experience belonging. At club, we invite students to hear about the abundant life we are offered in Jesus Christ and consider what it may look like to be in a relationship with their Creator. We are excited to see the ways God is going to move and work at JHS, and how he will draw lost students to Himself!

We are praying for more volunteer leaders. If you have 5 hours a week to serve and a heart for high schoolers coming to know Jesus, please reach out!

Contact

brivas.yl@gmail.com

(540) 840 – 3219

Elizabeth and Francis Kim

We know the world floods to DC to grow as leaders, gain power, and influence others- but what if people encounter Christ while here and leave as Kingdom Ambassadors? We are passionate about making spaces for the nearly 20,000 college international students in our city to know Christ, grow in their faith, and be sent on mission in the workplace. Serving with Cru's international student ministry, Bridges International, we encounter students from China, India, Saudi Arabia and beyond. They may have limited access to the gospel at home, but not here.



Elizabeth came to Christ in college through Cru, and knows what it is like to explore spiritual questions as a young adult away from home. Francis previously served on staff in the TFCA youth ministry for 9 years and has a servant heart for the next generation to foster a walk with Christ that will last a lifetime. We have a baby boy who keeps us busy. We look forward to the opportunity to meet you at church, or you can often find us at 20s and 30s Ministry gatherings!

Contact

Francis Kim - francis.kim@cru.org

443-765-7168

Elizabeth Kim - elizabeth.kim@cru.org

443-752-7561

Sue Vernalis

I was born and raised in Philadelphia and met the Lord while at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. I spent several years in the business world before joining the staff of Cru. I worked with college students in Maryland and New Jersey, then came to Washington DC to serve in my current role.



I serve on Capitol Hill with Christian Embassy, a ministry to government leaders. I spend my time leading several Bible studies, and meeting with staff women from entry-level to Chiefs of Staff. I lead several weekly Bible studies and meet individually with women for prayer, discipleship and spiritual encouragement. I also coordinate occasional evangelistic events and prayer meetings. My favorite part of the ministry is to meet young women who are new to Capitol Hill. They have moved to DC to serve in Congress, and they're often lonely and seeking connection and fellowship. I love to help them find a Bible study, friends, and a church.

I work on a team who reaches out to Members of Congress as well as the staff. I enjoy entertaining, gardening, exploring DC and all cities, keeping up with pop culture, March Madness, and rooting for the Nats and Phillies.

Contact

smvernalis@gmail.com

(703) 615-0065

Connie & Art Lindsley

Art and Connie have spoken and led worship music on every continent in the past 15+ years, touching lives of people in 40 countries at home and abroad. Leaders in government, business and arts spheres in particular throughout the world will be greatly impacted by the high level of Art and Connie's spiritual gifts of teaching, worship, intercession, and discipleship, (seasoned veterans of the faith who have a combined walk of over 100 years with the Savior), who will pour into hundreds of lives their in-depth teaching, knowledge of the Bible, and follow-through discipleship.



Our overreaching ministry goal is to provide hospitality, discipleship, prayer and worship locally, and to use our God-given gifts and talents globally as well to impact key leaders, cities, countries, ministries and networks in order to facilitate spiritual renewal and transformation, in Jesus' name.

Contact

art.lindsley@gmail.com

Elaine Petty

Elaine works with the Endowment for Community Leadership, a ministry committed to building individuals in personal, professional and spiritual leadership. She equips individuals by inspiring them to aspire to use their gifts, passions and talents for the Lord to make a positive impact on their communities and culture.



Elaine's background includes working both in the U.S. and internationally. Her experience ranges from working as a pediatric oncology nurse at Children's Hospital in Washington, DC to training groups, coaching individuals and conducting events among university students, business and government leaders in the U.S. and internationally with Cru. She also served as a Congressional Fellow in a US Senate office, where she addressed issues of international religious freedom.

Elaine joined TFCA in the 1980's before moving to Europe and Russia for several years. (She met her husband Tim in Siberia!) She served as an Associate Director for the International School Project, a joint venture with the Russian Ministry of Education training Russian teachers to use a curriculum teaching Biblical morals and ethics. She returned to TFCA in 1999 when she and Tim came back to the USA.

Elaine currently ministers primarily on Capitol Hill. With a masters degree in bioethics, she often speaks on the topic of bioethics and trains believers to develop a biblical world view necessary to respond ethically to the impact of biotechnology on our lives and culture. She is also part of the Advisory Group of the Anglican Bioethics Center.

Elaine & Tim share a ministry of hospitality from within their home which they have christened the Capitol Hill Lighthouse.

Contact

egpetty@gmail.com

Cory Trotti

Missionary with MAI

(Missionary Athlete International)

LOOKING FOR BELONGING – In Elementary School, I played soccer. Other kids liked sports, and I wanted to belong with the other kids. I thought playing a sport would make them like me. Turns out, it didn't, but I kept playing anyways because it was fun.

BELONGING WITH JESUS – I also learned about Jesus at church – His life, death, and resurrection meant I could receive real life with Him. I believed in the good news, but it took me 10 years to realize receiving life with Him meant turning from life without Him. In 2018, I made the decision to turn from life without Him to receive life with Him. In return, He gave me a soccer club.

OFFERING OTHERS JESUS – The belonging I looked for in soccer I found in life with Jesus! I wanted everyone to experience Him and felt called to make Wheaton College Club Soccer a space where players could hear about and experience life with Jesus. I did this for 2 years.

In 2024, I heard about Missionary Athletes International (MAI) through David Urban, President and CEO. Today, I feel called again to create spaces where my neighbors can hear about life with Jesus. I am working with MAI to launch the NOVA Eagles – a ministry designed to introduce our neighbors in Northern Virginia to Jesus through the sport of soccer.

