



## Protestant Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University

2016-2017 Report for Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly, June 2017

### Student Ministry

#### Leadership Team

- **Theme verses:** Fall semester: “Fishers of People” (Matthew 4:19); Spring Semester: “Living Water” (John 4 – Samaritan Woman). We have been working on new ways of “putting out our nets” and offering “living water” to seekers.
- **Leadership roles:** Our five student Leaders take turns leading/facilitating our Main Event, Jesus & Java, and leadership meeting devotions. Each is assigned an area of leadership: service, outreach, fellowship, worship, and communications
- **Monthly individual meetings:** one-on-one time with the campus minister to talk about their areas of leadership and receive support in their own faith journeys; spiritual direction format.

***Fruits:** Leaders sharing authentically about their own struggles and discovering their unique ways of connecting with God and being God’s light amidst challenging contexts in campus and home life.*

#### Beginning of Semester Outreach

- **Summer “New at BU” Fairs and Fall Activity Fair:** About 25 new student signs-ups; gave out info about both PCM and our new vocation initiative.
- **Orientation Worship Service:** about 20 in attendance; I gave a message on “Jesus calming the storm” and our student president led a creative prayer activity.
- **Beginning of Semester Cook-out:** served about 30 students (our most successful yet).



***Fruits:** Our current students connected with incoming freshmen and gave them encouragement; We grew our PCM email list and got word out to new students about PCM and our vocation initiative.*

#### Weekly Gatherings

- **Main Event** (Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 PM in KUB 410): Theme for Fall - *Bible Characters for Today!* Theme for Spring - *Relationships* and then for Lent - *Portrayals of Christ in the Gospels.*
- **Main Event @St. Paul’s (New this year!)** (monthly on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 PM at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church): A worship service drawing on ancient and contemporary Christian traditions with communion, followed by a delicious catered meal. This was made possible by an Episcopal Church USA grant that St. Paul received to partner with us in campus ministry.
- **Jesus & Java** (Fridays, 10:00-10:50 AM in Starbucks in the Commons): We discuss current events and how Scripture speaks into them. One week we had a special guest Pastor from Uganda come and talk with the students about the book of Daniel and his own testimony. A new seeker student has been sitting in with us this semester.



***Fruits:** Students are being spiritually nurtured and stretched by new worship experiences and study; PCM has a new venue for sacred space and to share communion together; A self-described “somewhat non-religious” person comes to Main Event and feels welcome and nourished.*

#### Service, Fellowship events & Campus Outreach

- **Clothing Distribution to Fair Workers:** PCM students assisted First Presbyterian, Bloomsburg in sorting and distributing clothing.
- **Community Friendship Meal & Mission Meal:** Students participated in food preparation, serving, and clean-up in partnership with local churches at both of these local outreaches.

- **Other Service Events:** Food & gift distribution at Tree Fest, spring-cleaning in the community for Big Event, and a “Trees for the Future” fundraiser.
- **Outreach/Tabling events on campus:** We put out a literal net on campus and had students passing by write positive affirmations on paper fish and hang them up on our net. PCM is also tabling at the Earth Day Event, Wellness Fair, & alternative to Block Party event.



campus pastor’s house.

- **Parent’s & Family Weekend Worship Service:** PCM, jointly with Impact (an outreach focused on black/minority students) and CRU, led an on-campus worship service in October.

- **Fellowship events:** Pumpkin carving, Advent gathering, movie night (*Shadowlands*), Narnia escape room, and end-of-semester bonfire at

*Fruits: Students are building friendships within our group and getting outside of themselves and their campus world to serve others; PCM is gradually becoming more known on campus, and we are continuing to build on our community connections.*

### Local Church Connections

- **Church Visits:** PCM led worship on Sunday at different local churches three times each semester, including at St. Matthew Lutheran.
- **Pastor-Led Bible Study** (Sundays, 7:30-8:30 PM, KUB 226): A new weekly gathering that started this Spring. Nine different ministerium members have participated by leading studies.
- **Main Event for High School Students:** On April 26, PCM students will talk with high school juniors and seniors about being a Christian in college (ways to nurture faith, handle challenges).

*Fruits: Students appreciate connecting with folks in local churches and are gaining confidence as worship leaders; local pastors are getting on campus and getting to know students.*

### Wider Campus Connections

- **Vocation Exploration Initiative:** Vocation Exploration Speaker- We launched our new Lilly Endowment funded program on Oct 10, 2016 by having Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Nicholas Kristof speak, in partnership with the College of Arts & Sciences and the American Democracy Project. About 350 students, faculty, staff, & community members attended! Vocation Exploration Circles - We had our first two of these small group 6-session workshops. Five students participated in the Fall and three in the Spring – some not previously involved in campus ministry. VEI Retreat - We took seven students to Princeton Theological Seminary for a vocation retreat, March 3-5. Students heard from seminary speakers, had quiet reflection time, participated in worship services, and visited the Farminary.
- **Interfaith Council:** I helped to form this council on campus; we are building mutual support, developing an interfaith calendar for professors, & getting word out about our prayer room.
- **Faculty & Staff Prayer:** We meet every other week for Scripture reflection and prayer.
- **Presentation Religion & Magic class:** I was invited to present about my own faith journey in this anthropology class. Students asked engaging questions.



*Fruits: Seeing students grow in clarity about their callings; enjoying new partnerships on campus, and making positive interfaith connections.*

Submitted by...

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