

Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

*PROCLAIMING
CHRIST ON
CAMPUS*

Message from Campus

It is hard to believe that the academic year is already over. It feels like it just started. Campus ministry has such a unique rhythm with students coming and going so quickly. I met some students at the beginning of the year and have had the chance to grow a relationship with them all year. Other students I met once or twice and hope that that meeting has made an impact. Yet other students I have had contact with only through email. But I have come to learn that in this technological age, those contacts are also very important for students. As students leave for the summer or for new places and careers, my prayer is that this ministry has helped them to see the love and grace of God more clearly in their lives and that that love sustains them through these tumultuous years of college and into whatever their futures hold. We are at a time when God is not always welcome on college campuses and students can be ridiculed for being "religious." Therefore, I am inspired by the tenacious spirit and faithfulness of so many students on campus. They have been a witness to me that a hostile environment is no reason for us to shrink away in fear. Instead, it is a heightened call to make sure that students do hear the amazing message of Christ's love and redeeming work. We will continue to proclaim that message through the work of LMHE on campuses in NYC, and we thank you for your prayers and support of that message.

Peace,

Pastor Nicole Schwalbe

Pastor Nicole Schwalbe
Phone: 646-505-9434
E-mail: ns2502@columbia.edu



Cooperating Congregations

Does your church sit near a college campus? Would you like to get involved with college students? Currently LMHE only has funding for a part-time ministry position delegated to Columbia University and Queens College. There are so many other colleges and universities in the area that we would love to see a part of LMHE. You can help us by getting your congregation involved. We are always looking for congregations and people that are willing to reach out to the college students in their area. Please contact us if this sounds like a ministry you would like to explore!

Together We Break Bread (and eat Jell-o)

Serve them food and they will come. This is a motto of many campus ministries. This winter and spring provided some fun eating and fellowship at Columbia. We had a student offer to bring a casserole one evening before worship and it spawned an entire semester of pre-worship potlucks (What better way to learn Lutheran tradition than through a potluck?). In addition, a joint end of the year BBQ was held with our Episcopalian friends, who worship before us in the chapel on Sunday evenings. Through our sharing of food, relationships were made and deepened. I have been inspired by the student leadership that made these meals happen! We look forward to more meals such as this, and in the coming year we are planning shared weekly Thursday dinners with our Episcopalian and Methodist friends.



Exploring Lutheran tradition through Jell-o!

Demolition Divas Hit the Gulf Coast

In what are usually the bitter cold days of January here in New York, a small group of students from Columbia University traveled to Mississippi to help with relief efforts still ongoing after Hurricane Katrina. We worked and stayed in Biloxi, MS, working through Lutheran Disaster Response and staying at Camp Biloxi (a camp stationed at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Biloxi). Ironically, in a time when people are starting to rebuild in the Gulf Coast, we were tearing down. We demolished a house in which shoddy contracting had been done right after the hurri-

cane. Sadly, this was not an uncommon story. Dishonest contractors swept into the region after the hurricane, took people's insurance money, did substandard work, and then left town! This means people were left with no money and a house with no occupancy permit. Who knew a group of constructionally unskilled women could become such divas with a sledgehammer and floor scraper in a week? Our week was filled with education, new and deepened relationships, and the undeniable grace of God. Thank you to everyone who supported our trip either in prayer or

monetarily. We look forward to making a service project such as this a yearly tradition.



Ready to demolish!

Cranes on Campus

The Holy Spirit was truly at work at Columbia this spring through the leadership of Kate McNamara and Sue Yang. The two women began a project on campus folding paper cranes in memory of the soldiers and civilians who have been killed in Iraq. The idea was brought to campus by Lisa Bellen-Boyer who has done a similar project in New Jersey. Lisa based her idea for the project on the cranes folded by a young girl named Sadako after WWII in Japan and from strings of cranes she had seen at the 9/11 memorial sight. Kate and Sue loved the idea of doing this at Columbia and organized a

“foldathon” on campus, sponsored by the Lutheran Campus Ministry. Soon, other religious organizations were joining the effort. Over 60 people showed up on a Thursday evening to fold cranes. Kate said the turnout at this event was the most she had seen at any ecumenical event on campus in her four years! Students continued to fold cranes for the next couple of weeks. Currently over 1500 cranes have been folded and they are hanging in the student union at Columbia. They are a testament to our prayers for peace and wholeness in a world of pain and conflict. Thanks to

Lisa for this wonderful idea and her guidance. Thanks to Kate and Sue for their leadership. Thanks to the many hands that folded. And thanks to the Holy Spirit for blowing her power through this project of love and healing. If you are interested in doing this project in a community in which you are involved, let me know. I know Lisa would love to see this project expanded!

Lutheran Student Speaks at Columbia Baccalaureate

Kudos to Kate McNamara for being chosen to speak at Columbia's Baccalaureate. This is an amazing honor. Religious advisors across campus nominated students, and the University Chaplain staff chose from among them. Kate spoke with a fellow student from Barnard who is Muslim. Both young women gave a tribute to their family and talked about their similarities in the

middle of their religious differences. Both talked of how important their faith and their family are to them. They did a fantastic job! Kate has said that this was one of the greatest honors she has had while at Columbia. We are all so proud of Kate. She has been a dedicated Columbia Lutheran, both on campus and on the LMHE board for the past four years.



Students and Staff at our crane-fold-a-thon!

Renewing Space at Queens

Behold! God makes all things new! But sometimes God needs a little help in the redecoration process. And that's what we are undertaking this summer at Queens College. I believe God is renewing a ministry that has been absent from QC for a number of years, but in order to do that we need to make a space that is updated and comfortable for the students. What students at Queens (all of whom are commuters) have told me they need is a safe and comfortable place to study, talk or "waste time" between classes. The space we currently have is not comfortable and inviting to them, and we want them to come in to the Lutheran Center and feel God's presence in the hospitality that surrounds them. Our goal is to get the space ready for students by the fall...but we need YOUR help! Following is a list of things of which we

are in need. Please contact Pr. Nicole Schwalbe at 646-505-9434 or ns2502@columba.edu if you are willing to donate any of these items:

Couches (we have room for two or a couch and a love seat)

Comfy chairs

Coffee Pot (Mr. Coffee type pot or something fancier if you have it and can teach me how to use it!)

Electric Tea Kettle

Microwave

Microwave cart or kitchen rack

A large round table-dining room type

Chairs for this table

Moveable sanctuary chairs for the chapel space (probably about 10-15)

Paraments

Large bookshelf

Thanks for considering donating any of the above. Remember, we are trying to make the space attractive and comfortable for students, so please do not just discard the old, torn up sofa you've been looking for a chance to get rid of. We may not be able to take everything that is donated, based on space or design constraints. We also may need to buy some of these things (we definitely need to buy a new carpet). So, if you would prefer to donate money for this cause, please feel free to do so by sending it in the attached envelope and earmarking it "Queens Remodeling."

Thanks for your support with this project. We will be having an Open House in the fall to show off the newly remodeled space and hope you can visit it and us then!

Pastor Schwalbe Installed

Pastor Nicole Schwalbe was officially installed as the Lutheran Campus Chaplain for Columbia University and Queens College on February 10, 2008 at St. Paul's Chapel on the Columbia campus. The Rev. Elise Brown preached and the Rev. Phil Trzynka presided over

the installation. Thank you to all who braved one of the coldest, windiest nights of the winter to come out and celebrate with us.



Pastor Brown, Pastor Schwalbe and some Columbia students

LMHE Board Development

It feels like an exciting time for LMHE as the board continues to redevelop. We were sad to say "good-bye" to our president, Pastor Elise Brown, as her term on the board ended in April and she headed off for a sabbatical. She has been a tremendous president and done amazing things for LMHE. Thank you to Pr. Brown for her unwavering support of ministry to young adults! With Pr. Brown's departure, we are blessed to welcome Damaris Wollenburg as president of the board. We look forward to visioning and working under her leadership. In addition, the board has welcomed five new members. Following is a list

of the LMHE board members (note the * indicating new members).

Mr. Blake Arnold* (student)

Rev. Anthony Bateza *

Dr. Moses Chao*

Mr. Ronald Drews (treasurer)

Ms. Anne Lalsingh*

Rev. Chris Mietlowski*

Rev. Paul Milholland*(vice president)

Ms. Christine Mortlock (student)

Dr. Robert Neel (secretary)

Ms. Damaris Wollenburg (president)

Rev. Bob Wollenburg (ELCA synod representative)

Rev. Nicole Schwalbe (campus pastor/executive director)

If you know any of these folk, please take some time to talk with them about LMHE! I am certain they would love to tell you about the plans and developments LMHE has in store for the coming academic year.

Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education
65-30 Kissena Boulevard S.U. #203
Flushing, NY 11367

Address Service Requested

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jamaica, N.Y.
Permit No. 132

Help us be good stewards with our mailings!

Hopefully you are receiving this newsletter once and to the correct address. We are currently working on cleaning up our database. We can definitely use your help. Please let us know if your address changes or if you are receiving this under multiple names or addresses. Direct any changes to Pr. Nicole Schwalbe. Thanks for your help!

Stay tuned for our upcoming Website!

Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education

College Students You Know



Do you know any students who are headed off to college this fall? If so, don't forget about them. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, friend, or pastor, please do a couple of things. Let the Lutheran campus pastor at the school the student will be attending know the student is coming. Many students are too shy to approach the pastor and many schools don't automatically let pastors know who the new students of their denomination are. We rely on friends, family, and pastors to let us know students are coming! If you want to find information about specific campus ministries at schools around the country, go to the ELCA website at www.elca.org/ccampusministry or the Missouri Synod website www.lcma.info/. Both websites list the campus ministries they sponsor around the country, as well as the contact person for that ministry.

In addition to letting campus pastors know about students, as a home congregation don't forget about your students while they are away. Send them cards, care packages, etc. Take them out when they are home on break just to check in. This is an important ministry to students at a crucial point in religious formation and development! If you have any questions about what you or your congregation can do, please don't hesitate to contact me at ns2502@columbia.edu.