On the evening of October 10, renowned journalist and author, Nicholas Kristof graced a crowd of about 350 students, professors, and community members at BU’s Carver Hall with an enlightening, inspiring, and, at many points, humorous lecture on making a difference in the world. This event marked the launch of PCM’s Vocation Exploration Initiative, generously funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. and was a collaboration with BU’s American Democracy Project and the College of Liberal Arts.

Kristof shared several stories that showcased the need for social change in order to improve the lives of people living at risk, not just in our country but in countries all over the world. In his travels as a journalist, he has seen the impact that even the smallest amount of money or resources can have on the well-being and future for people across the globe. He provided insight into several “hot button” topics including gender inequality; poverty; racial, ethnic, and immigration status discrimination; and education. Kristof followed up insights with action steps that we can take as individuals and as a collective society. He emphasized our responsibility in checking our biases so that we can bridge the “empathy gap.” When we are able to put ourselves in the shoes of those living at risk of poverty, discrimination, or other social injustices, we will be able to stand together and make a difference.

Kristof encouraged listeners to remember that even “one drop in the bucket at a time” will eventually fill that bucket!

Nicholas Kristof: The biggest inequality is inequality of opportunity!
by Amy Showers, PCM Graduate Intern

What a joy it has been this semester to journey with the students in PCM’s first Vocation Exploration Circle. These small groups, offered as a 6-week program each semester in collaboration with BU’s Center for Leadership and Engagement, are a core component of our Lilly Endowment funded Vocation Exploration Initiative. Drawing from resources in the Christian tradition, the circle curriculum provides students with tools, insights, and opportunities for self-reflection, discernment, and integration of values and life plans.

During our sessions together this semester the students created collages that expressed their key discernment questions, mined insights from personality and spiritual gifts tests they took, listened for God’s voice in Scripture through Lectio Divina, experienced a mini-version of the Quaker Clearness Committee, tuned into what their whole selves had to say about their life-purpose, and reflected together on the connection between their core values and life plans. These students are finding more clarity in their callings and connecting that more directly with their faith.

Discovering Purpose Together in Vocation Exploration Circles
by Rev. Jill Young, Protestant Campus Minister

Colton, an Exercise Science major, uncovered his desire to tackle the problem of child obesity grounded in the call to love others. He said about the circles, “It has been enlightening to look more in depth at my personality type and my values. It has really caused me to think about and evaluate what is important to me and where my strengths and weaknesses lie.”
One of Protestant Campus Ministry’s biggest goals is to connect to its students in a way that grows their faith, develops their character, and builds them up to overcome the many challenges of everyday college life. PCM offers many opportunities for this maturing to happen, two of which are Main Event (our weekly evening gathering) and our Jesus & Java (our weekly morning gathering).

The Main Event theme for this semester has been applying the lives of biblical characters to our lives today. We look at the lives they have lived, the challenges they have overcome, and the many ways they continue to hold fast to their faith, and then discuss our lives on those premises. We have studied characters including Moses, Jonah, the Samaritan Woman, and Paul.

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In addition to our Main Events held on campus, we have had the remarkable opportunity to hold Main Events at two of our local churches here in Bloomsburg. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church graciously invited us to have a monthly Main Event there that includes a worship service and delicious catered meal, thanks to a grant from ECUSA. These liturgical worship experiences have helped branch us into aspects of the Christian faith that many of us haven’t known or understood before.

We also had the pleasure of attending a Bible study at Open Door Christian Fellowship. There we plunged into a deep study of the voice of God in the Bible.

Another positive experience this semester was a special joint Main Event we had with Impact, a Christian club on campus focused on minorities. It was a spiritually encouraging time connecting with our black brethren and sisters in Christ!

Lastly, PCM continues the tradition of Jesus & Java, a time for students to grab some coffee, sit in fellowship, and discuss some of the major current events going on in the world. Through Jesus & Java, students connect at an academic and spiritual level, debating the troubles of today’s society in the light of Scripture, and molding themselves into the leaders of tomorrow.

Has your church included Protestant Campus Ministry in its benevolence budget?

Your congregation can give needed ongoing support to PCM by including it in their annual benevolence budget. Please check with your mission committee about supporting our mission on the university campus!
Don’t Worry, Just Worship! by Kayla Haskins, PCM leader

This semester Protestant Campus Ministry has been involved in numerous worship events on and off campus, that have helped to ground us in our faith and connect with churches in the community.

At the beginning of the semester, we held an Orientation Worship Service for the incoming Freshman. We sang praise songs, read Scripture, heard a reflection from Pastor Jill, and participated in a prayer activity, all centered on the theme of inviting Jesus to calm our storms.

In September we had the pleasure of leading Sunday worship at Buckhorn UMC and Good Shepherd UMC in the same morning. Our student President Darion preached to the congregations on Luke 16. He described how difficult it can be as a Christian to serve God and still be a human in this world. There will be earthly temptations, but we must always remember to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

On October 23, Rev. Martin Harris traveled from Philadelphia to preach at our Parents and Family Weekend Worship Service, led jointly by PCM, Church Visitation, Impact, and the CRU praise band. In his message, Rev. Harris posed an excellent question, “Why do we worry?” referring to the scripture in Matthew 6:24-34. In our everyday lives, we get so caught up in the anxieties about what’s next. We need to remember to give our worries to God; for God knows what is best for us and his timing is never wrong.

Our most recent worship event was on November 6th at Trinity Reformed UCC. PCM students assisted Pastor Steve Hummel with prayers, Scripture readings, and the offering. We were warmly welcomed by the congregation who kindly hosted a reception for us afterward. Pastor Hummel gave a wonderful message about how we get distracted from God’s will by focusing on the materialistic things of this age, rather than focusing on the Kingdom of Heaven.

PCM Gives Back by Molly Peterson, PCM Leader

Protestant Campus Ministry is very blessed to be able to participate in acts of community service within the Bloomsburg community.

This September PCM students assisted First Presbyterian Church in their annual clothing drive for the workers of the Bloomsburg fair. The clothes were sorted and then later distributed to the workers who spend a large portion of their time traveling along with the fair and are unable to receive the resources they need. During the distribution we got to talk with the workers and their families about their experiences.

PCM also participated in the monthly Mission Meal provided to the community by Good Shepherd UMC. Pastor Jill and two other PCM students led a worship service prior to the meal, which was served by members of Good Shepherd UMC. Pastor Jill and two other PCM students led a worship service prior to the meal, which was served by members of Good Shepherd and the students. The Mission Meal is open to the whole community and provides a warm meal for those in need.

If you prefer to “go paperless” and receive your newsletter via email, you can send an email to jyoung@bloomu.edu indicating your preference.

Did you know...

that Protestant Campus Ministry is not funded by Bloomsburg University?
Support for PCM comes from local churches and some of their governing bodies, from parents, alumni, and community members.

Bloomsburg University generously has given us office space and free use of meeting rooms for our campus events, but for everything else—books, study materials, food, equipment, transportation, printing, and salaries—we are dependent on you!

PCM students at Trinity Reformed UCC

Wed. evening worship service at St. Paul’s for our Main Event

PCM Gives Back

Molly, Beth, Kayla, & Amber at Camp Krislund College Retreat in October.

Pray for PCM ...
- For a diversity of students to benefit from our new vocation ministry.
- For more BU students to be awakened to their spiritual hunger and find a home in campus ministry.
- For the spiritual growth of our students in their journey with Christ.
- For BU faculty and staff.
- For continued financial provision for our ministry at BU.

SAVE THE DATE for PCM’s Dessert Reception on February 17, 2017
Protestant Campus Ministry (PCM) is a multi-denominational fellowship that offers members of the university community opportunities for exploration and growth in the Christian faith. PCM is staffed by the Reverend Jill Young, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and is also led by a group of students committed to their discipleship in Christ.

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PCM is supported by:
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- The United Methodist Church
- The Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Local Churches
- Parents & Alumni
- People Like You!

For more information about how you can support PCM, contact Pastor Jill Young:
570-389-4950, jyoung@bloomu.edu

Find us on Facebook: Bloomsburg University Protestant Campus Ministry