



# Protestant Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University

## What Makes PCM Unique?

*PCM is the only program at Bloomsburg University with an ordained Protestant minister on campus. We work directly with students as well as other university programs and departments to offer a pastoral and theological point of view. PCM supports the spiritual needs of students, faculty, and staff at Bloomsburg University.*

***But we need your help. Please consider making a donation to PCM.***



## A Weekend Away to Grow Together by Amber Srednicki, PCM Student Leader



*College students worshipping at Krislund retreat*

To kick off our Spring Break, several members of PCM headed to a young adult retreat at Camp Krislund in Madisonburg, PA for a weekend to grow closer to each other and God. PCM student leader Alexandra, explains it like this: "Krislund was a place where we could not only explore our spiritual relationship with Jesus

and deepen it, but meet other young adults who were looking to do the same thing."

The camp was secluded and

covered in beautiful foliage scenery. There was little cell phone reception, which helped us to better connect. During breaks, we played board games or talked. For the main sessions, we spent time worshipping and listening to honest messages from guest speakers about their own faith journeys.

Kayla Rose enjoyed the headlining speaker, Jon Jorgenson. "He impacted the experience both inside and outside his preaching. He showed me acceptance during the weekend, and even told me at the end that I was wrong about something negative I said about myself. That hit me harder than the rest of the experience."

A newer member, Beth, found an increasing trust in God over the weekend. "There were several times that weekend where I realized that God has placed me in certain situations because it's His plan..." The time spent there was worthwhile, and I hope to return there again in the fall.

## The Dawn of Diversity at BU by John L. Walker, VP Emeritus University Advancement

In 1965 Bloomsburg State College was a campus with little diversity. With few non-white students and faculty, we did not reflect the diversity of our nation.

The progress of changing our campus was slow but steady and many people were helpful in accomplishing it. But as is often the case, there are a few change agents who stand out. At BU we have changed from a State College to a University and in the 50 years that have passed, two men stand out. Those men are Dr. Jesse Bryan and Dr. Irvin Wright.

Early on, students reminded us that our change must have a "critical mass" of those who

were missing from our campus. We needed students and faculty of different cultures, of different races, of different colors and of different life experiences. International faculty, more women in positions of leadership, and members of the Racial-Equity Task Force all contributed.

**I chose to make my 2015 donation to PCM in memory of Dr. Bryan and in honor of Dr. Wright because I want their legacy to be remembered by future generations of students.**

Both men made significant efforts to sensitize our campus to the idea that a diverse campus was a goal worth pur-

suing. Both men were involved in campus activities and were relied upon to give voice to needed change, contributed wise counsel and a voice of calm when that was needed. Dr. Bryan and Dr. Wright realized that when a "critical mass" was achieved in our student body, we emerged as a more caring community and a stronger University. Their work continues.



*Bryan & Wright received the Martin Luther King, Jr., Humanitarian Service Award in 1995.*

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### Fighting Poverty with New Initiatives by Darion Nomie, PCM Student Leader

***“It’s like I found a new family. I came here a confused freshman, but being around people of similar faith helped me grow in my own.”***

**–PCM member  
Kayla Rose Harrison**



*Kayla with PCM family at Main Event*



*Kate & Latasha collect donations for Trees for the Future at BU's Earth Day fair.*

This year, PCM has taken on some initiatives that we haven't previously participated in. One major one was leading a campus-wide campaign to raise funds for

Trees for the Future, a poverty alleviating, nonprofit organization, working with villages in many impoverished nations. They provide trees and agricultural practices to these villages so their people can cultivate them for income, food, building materials, livestock feed, medicine, and much more.

We connected with many clubs on campus to spread awareness and obtain support for this campaign. This campaign also bridges to the goals of Bloomsburg University's Poverty Symposium, spreading awareness of the

struggles of impoverished people.

Another initiative PCM members participated in this past March was an event called Stop Hunger Now. This was an ex-



*Hasby, Molly, & Darion at Stop Hunger Now.*

### Worshipping with Local Churches



During spring semester PCM students enjoyed worship leading at Wesley United Methodist Church (above), the Good Friday Service held at Trinity United Church of Christ, and First Catawissa United Methodist Church. We very much value our church partnerships!

tremely large, well-organized food packing event held at Wesley United Methodist Church. Through the event, community members, church congregations, high school students, and BU students helped to pack over 15,000 meals for people in impoverished nations. It was really heartening to see the community come together for a common cause that continuously plagues our global brothers and sisters. PCM seeks not only to aid those in our local community, but to be sure we can assist those who may not be on our daily radars.

### **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!*



If you prefer to “go paperless” and receive your newsletter via email, you can send an email to [jyoung@bloomu.edu](mailto:jyoung@bloomu.edu) indicating your preference. Thanks!

## Volume 8, number 2

### Winterfest Banquet Brings Together PCM Friends



We enjoyed conversation, dinner, student testimonies, music by Lightstreet UMC's

On Sunday evening February 28 in BU's Kehr Union Ballroom students, alumni, professors, staff, community members, and member of seven local churches, including high school youth, gathered for PCM's annual banquet.

praise band, and an inspiring message by Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo of Princeton Theological Seminary who has pastored multicultural and multilingual congregations. Thank you to all who joined us

and/or provided funds for student tickets! The students had a blast.



Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo speaks at Winterfest about finding vocation as part of our VEI pre-launch.

#### Did you know...

that Protestant Campus Ministry is not funded by the 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!**

### Preparing to Launch VEI by Rev. Jill Young, Protestant Campus Minister

Amidst all of our usual ministry and campus involvement this semester, PCM has been at work preparing to launch a new arm of our ministry this fall, our Vocation Exploration Initiative (VEI), generously funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. through June 2019.

PCM's two major goals for this initiative are 1) to engage BU in vocational reflection with questions of purpose and integrity that go beyond career preparation, and 2) to equip BU undergraduate students with spiritual/theological discernment tools for

life and career decisions that align with their faith and values.

Throughout the preparation process this semester, I have been so grateful for and energized by the partnerships that we are forming on campus. For example, Tim Pelton, Civic Engagement Officer, has given invaluable help in negotiations and partnerships for bringing a renowned person to campus for our Fall 2016 speaker event. George Kinzel, Director of The Center for Leadership and En-

gagement, is looking at adding our Vocation Exploration Circles as one of their leadership training tracks. Nathan Conroy of Alumni Relations is working with us on an alumni panel on the topic of living out one's vocation post-college.

Before even launching we are already experiencing something we prayed that this initiative would bring – broader and deeper connections with the university that we are here to serve.

#### Pray for PCM ...

- For the launch of VEI.
- For students of all kinds to benefit from our new vocation ministry.
- For more students to find a home in PCM.
- For the spiritual growth of our students in their journey with Christ.
- For BU faculty and staff.
- For wisdom for our PCM Board in decision-making about a new location for our PCM office, as we will no longer have on-campus space after next year.



End of Semester Bonfire and honoring of our graduates.

## PCM - THE WELCOMING PLACE



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# You are Welcome at PCM

## About PCM...

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.

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](mailto:jyoung@bloomu.edu)**



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