



# 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...and keeping us in your prayers!***



*Intern Ashley Veney with PCMs Kayla and Maddy*

## Vocation Insights from Princeton by Maddy Staley, PCM Student Leader



**“God’s plan is not a ruler, but a hot air balloon.”**

This is one of the many things I learned while on the Vocation Exploration Initiative’s retreat to Princeton Theological Seminary. Over the weekend of March 3-5, Pastor Jill, myself, and six other BU students traveled to Princeton, NJ for a restful and rewarding weekend.

We were blessed with the oppor-

tunity to hear from ministers and seminary employees as they told us their stories of discovering their vocation. One story came from Nate Stucky, whose upbringing on a farm and passion for theology combined to create the Farminary, where several seminary classes are taught with an emphasis on God’s creation.

We also got to learn about vocation from several workshops. We read about Jesus calling the disciples and discussed how that moment related to God’s individual callings on *our* lives. We analyzed our own approaches to vocation by reflecting on examples like Katy Perry’s “left shark” and an Episcopal

chef’s slow eating: do we try and take control, or do we take the time to enjoy the journey?

Ultimately, what I took from this week was that vocation is not a straight line. Everyone in our group had unique interests: from history, to education, to nursing, to social work, to literature (and anything else in between), and this is for a reason. God has given us various gifts and talents that we can use to spread God’s good news. Our job is not to get from point A to point B, but to learn how we can take the passions that God has given us and use them to advance Christ’s kingdom. Because of this, we no longer need to fret about the destination, but we can enjoy the journey to vocation with our Lord by our side.

## PCM Through a Newcomer’s Eyes by Ashley Veney, PCM Intern

As PCM’s intern for the Spring semester, I decided to checkout their weekly events. At the *Main Event*, which meets on Wednesday evenings, the group kindly introduced themselves to me with their names and majors, so I could get a sense of who they are or what they aspire to do.

Then, we dove right into a game in which we passed around M&M’s. This game correlated questions to the colors of the chocolate. All the questions were exceptionally deep like “what is one thing that makes you angry about your family?” and “what is one thing that you fear for your family?” and many more.

People really opened up and became vulnerable and shared with us the intimacies of their relationships. I felt so welcomed because complete strangers let me experience bonding through Christ; it was genuinely a wonderful feeling.

They began to relate how we look at relationships through God. I am not a religious person, yet I did not feel uncomfortable or isolated. They explained things in plain English and would stop if I had a question.

A few days later I decided to attend *Jesus and Java*, PCM’s weekly morning

gathering in which they discuss how their faith speaks into current events. There were new faces, a guest pastor from Uganda, and various types of coffee around the table. We read a section of the Bible and the pastor explained it line after line. I liked how he would relate the text back to life events. When he was done we all bowed our heads and prayed together. This experience was liberating.



*Jesus & Java with Ugandan Pastor Kayirra Grace*

## Protestant Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University

**PCM Students' Spring Break Adventures** by Darion Nomie and Kayla Harrisson, PCM Student Leaders

**“To me PCM has meant support. During this past semester, it was a group I knew I could lean on, no matter how my week was going.”**



Lauren Steele, Freshman



Darion Nomie and Professor & PCM Board member John Bodenman

For many college kids, Spring Break is a time of relaxation and sunbathing. However for the students of Protestant Campus Ministry, Spring Break 2017 was full of adventures and life lessons. Kayla Harrison and Darion Nomie recall theirs below.

“For Spring Break, I went on an adventure retreat, run by Krislund Camp, where we went camping in the woods, white-water rafting, and kayaking. It was not advertised as a trip specifically for Christians, so there were a lot of non-Christians there. Since our leaders were Christian, we prayed often, but occasionally I would hear a whisper during prayer. The week started out with every man for himself. However, after a few days, the group already seemed more cohesive – and more open to prayer. I saw how the kindness of the leaders and other Christians inspired the same in those who were not previously open.

Despite the cold, the snow, and the 15-degree weather, we were able to get through happy and healthy with newly created friendships and strengthened leadership skills.”  
- Kayla Harrisson

“Over Spring Break, I participated in a Mission Trip to Haiti sponsored by Westley United Methodist Church of Bloomsburg. Overall, the trip was an incredible experience and truly opened my eyes once again to the trouble plaguing our brothers and sisters around the world.

Throughout our week, we were blessed to meet people of tremendous faith and strength. Everyone from our caretakers, to our drivers, to those we worked with had inspirational stories of triumph and overcoming adversity. They lived out their faith in ways many of us could only imagine. One story, from our driver Johnny, left us truly awestruck. During the earth-

quake that hit Haiti, he escaped death when the house of an elderly woman he was caring for collapsed. Back at his home, his family was just as fortunate, escaping the collapse of their home. Johnny and his family had no idea if the other was alive. Through faith and perseverance, they found each other and were forever thankful for their deliverance. This is just one of countless stories that exemplify Haitian life and faith.

Our work consisted of construction and improving the mission home complex, which housed a private school, trade school, and other facilities on its premises. Equipped with totes full of school supplies, birthing kits, clothing, other amenities, and a compassion for the people of Haiti, we did as much as we could in our short time. Upon departure, we couldn't help but leave a piece of our hearts there on the island.” - Darion Nomie



PCM leaders Maddy Staley and Kayla Haskins lead the children's message at First English Baptist. PCM also led worship this semester at St. Matthew Lutheran and Grove Presbyterian. We very much enjoy our church visits!

**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!

## Volume 9, number 2

### A New Office for PCM By Rev. Jill Young



Office under construction at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

PCM's current office space in the Kehr Union Building is becoming an Interfaith Office space beginning Fall 2017. Although we will be able to schedule times to be in the office, it will no longer be our space. After exhausting any other on-campus possibilities, we looked to the closest church to campus—St. Paul's Episcopal on Iron & Main St.

### Blessed to Serve! by Molly Peterson, PCM Service Coordinator

*"Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." Matthew 5:42.*

This spring semester PCM was fortunate enough to participate in service events that allowed us to connect with the community and reach our hands out to do God's work!

Amongst these service projects was a community friendship meal at Wesley's United Methodist Church where a few of our members were able to participate in serving a warm home-cooked meal to the community (on a very

They have generously offered us a space downstairs near their fellowship hall and are even having it remodeled for us! We are extremely grateful to Fr. Howell Sasser, rector at St. Paul's, and his church community for this answer to prayer.

We've already been enjoying getting to know the St. Paul church community during this academic year through our monthly Main Events @St. Paul's—a liturgically-rich worship service and catered meal hosted by St. Paul's and made possible by a grant from the Episcopal Church.

We are excited for what new possibilities God has in store through this partnership!

### Making Interfaith Connections



In addition to attending an Interfaith potluck at Catholic Campus Ministry's Newman House in April (pictured above), PCM also participated in a "BU Explores Diversity" Panel on Religious Pluralism and Misconceptions. Pastor Jill moderated the panel and PCM President Darion Nomie was a representative for Christianity on the panel. These experiences deepened our understanding of other faiths, as well as the particularities of our own.



PCMs at the Community Friendship Meal

bitter day!). The students were able to assist in cleanup afterwards and enjoy fellowship with church members and locals.

PCM was also able to partake in the University's annual Big Event where members of clubs

go out in the community and help with yard work and other tasks in order to give back.

Lastly, PCM served at Catholic Campus Ministry's Dollar Dinner at the Neuman House where they provided a home-cooked meal for just a dollar. PCM was grateful to participate in cooking, fellowship and cleanup afterwards.

We are blessed by all these opportunities to "give to the one who asks you" as Christ's hands and feet.

### 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 gives us free use of meeting rooms and equipment for our campus events, but for everything else—books, study materials, food, office supplies, transportation, printing, and salaries—*

***we are dependent on you!***



At Grove Presbyterian with PCM Board President Steve Cureton

### 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.
- For the transition to our new office.



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. **Thank you!**

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 Presbyterian minister, 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
- The Episcopal Church
- Local Churches
- Parents & Alumni
- People Like You!

**For more information about how you can support PCM, contact Pastor Jill Young:**  
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