
THE PROTESTANT PIECE

PROTESTANT CHAPEL COMMUNITY NEWS

University of Rochester Interfaith Chapel

Chaplain's Phone: 585-275-8522

Rochester, NY 14627

www.rochester.edu/chapel

FUN PCC
PICTURES
INSIDE!

SRPING 2006

Greetings from PCC!

I can't believe we're creating the spring newsletter already – where did the year go?

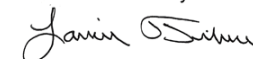
It's been a busy second semester. Sunday evening worship has continued to be a key touchstone for many undergraduates (and a few grad students as well), as folks gather together each week to be renewed for the week ahead. Our Wednesday night "Dinner/Dialogues" are always a time of good food and intriguing conversation; discussions this semester have ranged from Bible studies to topics like "What Role Should Faith Play in Politics?" and "Why Do We Worship? Does God Get a Kick Out of It?" Of course, we've continued our monthly Community Dinners, as well as serving once a month at the Blessed Sacrament Soup kitchen, involving both returning and newer students in this important ministry (and now that hats are a must while serving at the soup kitchen, we have a great opportunity to see who among us is a "glamour do" or a "glamour don't"!)

This semester, PCC has been involved in joint interfaith services like the Martin Luther King service in January, and the "Celebration of Religious Diversity" program in April (PCC's contribution – a humorous visit from John Wesley himself!) We've also enjoyed working with the other faith groups at the Interfaith Chapel in helping to organize events like the annual "PB & Jam" sandwich-making marathon in April (over 1,500 sandwiches are made and delivered to area food pantries and shelters), and in observing Good Friday with a special service co-sponsored by PCC and the Catholic Newman community.

Other highlights of the year have included working with Hillel (the Jewish student association) and Religious Roundtable to co-sponsor a workshop on religious stereotypes; "Game Night" in February and "Movie Night" in April (we watched and discussed the thought-provoking "Crash"); establishing a web presence designed by one of our student leaders (check us out at <http://sa.rochester.edu/pcc>); and, of course, the annual "Senior Service" at which we give thanks for those who are graduating and bid them godspeed on the next leg of their journey.

Woven in and around all of this activity, of course, are all of the conversations that we share together, both planned and spontaneous – conversations in which we learn from each other, support each other, and grow together as the Body of Christ here at the U of R. We're blessed to be together in this time and place, and it's a time for which we all give thanks to God.

Please continue to hold us in your thoughts and prayers, and to support us financially as you are able. These are years which will not come again, and the fruit that they bear will be, in no small measure, dependent on the support we receive from you.

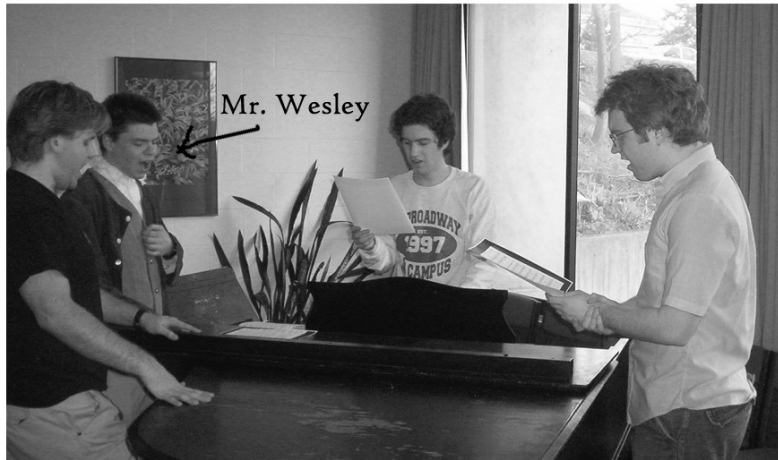


Rev. Dr. Laurie Tiberi, Protestant Chaplain

Keep in touch!

If your address is changing or if you just want to drop us a line, we'd love to hear from you! Send us a letter at:

Protestant Chapel Community
Interfaith Chapel
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY 14627



We prepare for a visit from “John Wesley,” celebrating congregational singing as a signature of our faith during the Celebration of Religious Diversity.

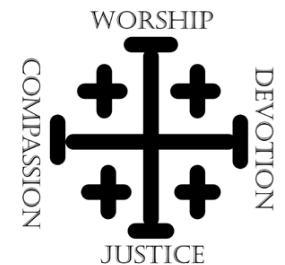
Mr. Wesley, in **trend-setting attire**, read stern “Directions for Congregational Singing” found in Methodist hymnals. Then, we sang the Doxology in four-part **harmony**.

At this time of institutional retrenchment, campus ministries are losing their traditional base of support from denominations, and GACM has been no exception. Our denominational support has been falling by thousands of dollars every year, to the point where we can now barely pay a salary that remains below the minimum guidelines set by all five sponsoring denominations. We have been notified that this funding will decline again next year. If this ministry is to continue—and we believe that it must—we will have to replace denominational support with substantial support from individuals and local churches. We are asking those of you who can to consider making a significant, long-term financial commitment to supporting this ministry. We are asking for support for annual operating expenses, as well as larger gifts to help build up our very small endowment in order to guarantee the long-term viability of the institution.

We believe that ecumenical partnerships such as Genesee Area Campus Ministries play a unique role in fostering ecumenical dialogue. We have a powerful presence on campus through our dynamic Chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Laurie Tiberi. We are helping to bring meaning and coherence to the lives of young people, at a time when the culture and the academy are increasingly telling them that life is meaningless and incoherent. We are providing a vision of inclusion, and a message that Christ closes the door on no one. By the will of God, we pray that this precious ministry might continue and flourish.

Randall W. Stone
President, Genesee Area Campus Ministries
Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Rochester

*Checks in support of our ministry should be made out to "Genesee Area Campus Ministries" and mailed to GACM at:
1100 South Goodman Street
Room 320
Rochester, NY 14620*



An important message from the GACM Board...

Dear Friends,

Genesee Area Campus Ministries has worked for almost forty years to provide a quality liberal protestant presence at the University of Rochester. We are an ecumenical partnership including the American Baptist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist denominations, and over the years we have sponsored the ministries of the Rev. Frank Snow, the Rev. Dr. Greg Osterberg, the Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, and the Rev. Dr. Laurie Tiberi. In this time of religious turmoil, it is more important than ever that this voice be heard. Across the country, the main-line protestant churches are in decline, and their market shares are being taken by evangelicals, Pentecostals and fundamentalists. Radically intolerant forms of Christianity have come to dominate national political debates, and the "unchurched" have come to be skeptical about whether religious professionals have anything to preach to them besides hatred. We believe that Christ is calling us to provide a different vision.

The university is among the most important places to turn the tide. Young people come to college ready to learn, and profoundly uncertain of their place in the world. Many of them who were raised in church wonder whether their religious beliefs are archaic, or inconsistent with a scientific world view. Most of them, today, were not raised in church. They, too, are searching for meaning more assiduously now than they will at any later point in their lives. A kind word, a bowl of soup, and a vision mean more to them now than ever. I remember vividly the generosity of a local pastor who invited me to share lunch with him when I was a sophomore struggling with faith, who became one of the formative figures in my life. These same young people will be the leaders of our churches in a few short years: our pastors, our finance committee chairs, our bishops and executive presbyters and moderators and conference ministers. We need them as much as they need us.

Gathered around the projector for PCC Movie Night...



the scary part...

absorbed in
intricate plot!!!

afraid!!!

laughs in the
face of fear!!!

closing her eyes in fright!!!

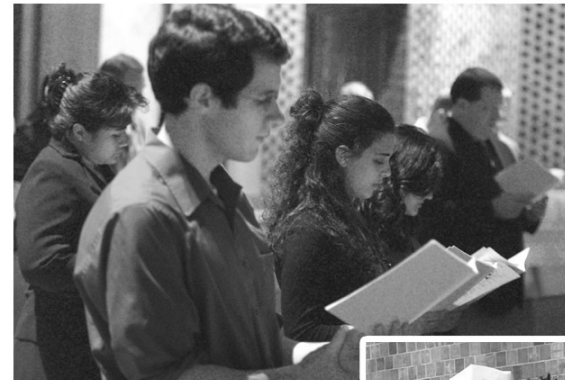


We are happy to have **10 students** active on our steering committee this spring along with **Rev. Laurie** and our faithful organist, **Chris Petit**.

A few of us are pictured below around the legendary **Porsche** steering wheel.



Rev. Laurie's installation service...



Fun Community Service:
**Making
Peanut Butter
& Jelly sandwiches!**

