

## LOOK TO THE FUTURE

DAN WINTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE MSU



My name is Dan Winter, and I am the new Executive Director here at the Friendship House MSU in East Lansing, Michigan. As was announced in an earlier edition, Rich Bearup, my long-standing predecessor, retired as of August 31st and has left a wonderful legacy for me (with the assistance of countless others) to carry on in mission and ministry.

Last summer, when I first considered prayerfully replacing Rich, my first thought was to the hymn, “They will know we are Christians by our Love”. In researching the hymn’s origins, it was written by a priest in the 1960s based on the “new command” directed to us from John chapter 13. I rejoice that our God remains constant even amid turmoil and strife and because of this, our mission here in international student ministry remains constant. . . And in many ways, even more important than ever.

As we look back, I think we can all agree that saying 2020 was an unusual year is a huge understatement. COVID-19 and all the physical (including death), emotional, and psychological impact that it has brought to our collective world (and to each one of us) cannot be measured. Layer on top of this the stress the political and social upheaval and division brings (not to mention record wildfires and

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13: 34-35, NIV

hurricanes), and we are left with a year like no other in recent memory that drained (and strained) us personally, our communities, our nation, and the world.

So, as we look to the future in this new year, I simply ask that each day you are inspired by the “New Commandment” in your personal and professional life. That your Time is spent lifting others up, that your Talent is used to enrich our world, and that your Treasures are a gift to others less fortunate or in need.

As you do this, I pray you keep international student ministry as part of your servant life. . . Teach a class or be a conversation partner with an international student or a member of their family, share your gifts with those are among us from foreign lands, share part of your treasures to not only maintain but grow our mission to the world from right here in the United States.

# COME IN WHEN YOU WANT TO

AUGUSTA MENNELL, CAMPUS MINISTRY DIRECTOR  
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER  
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA



One day All Saints will have a new campus ministry director and the rewarding time that I have had in helping students will come to an end. When that new person arrives, she will probably ask me what my schedule is. I'll have to tell her that I don't really have a daily schedule. I don't use a schedule because I have always depended on whomever God sends. For more than thirty years this has always produced results for me.

An example of how I work came when I picked up the phone to call an international student from Nepal to invite him to have lunch with me. He immediately agreed and then told me I had called at just "the right time." He needed help right then to get his car started so that he could tutor a friend's child. He thought the car's battery was dead, so he asked to borrow my battery cables if I had them. We don't have battery cables, but I quickly made several phone calls to find someone who could bring battery cables to him. This took time, but it was well worth it. He was so appreciative of the kindness shown that it opened the door to more sharing of the Gospel.

His call for help was unscheduled, but it fit perfectly into my day. More than that, it gave an opportunity for conversation the next week when we would meet for lunch. He will leave in November when he graduates and moves to Philadelphia to attend Temple University. This would be one of our last times to have a personal conversation. Since he now trusts me, I'll invite him to read a useful evangelism tool. It is a short yet fascinating paperback book called *How Good*

*Is Good Enough?* by Andy Stanley. It analyzes the reasoning behind "works" religions and demonstrates how faulty such reasoning is. It is an excellent tool when working with Buddhists, Muslims and Hindus. And, in the last chapter, Stanley clearly explains the Gospel's free gift of salvation which "works" religions do not offer. This book will introduce him to the Gospel.

Recently an international lady who is not a student called to ask if she could come in to visit. She is from a country close to India. She is married to a professor who teaches at SRU. He did his graduate work in North Dakota, where she discovered that Christians are "very kind." When she arrived in Slippery Rock a year ago, she and her small daughter approached All Saints' booth at the annual village festival held in "downtown" Slippery Rock. She was very pleased when my husband, who was helping man our booth, introduced himself and told her where our church is located. He told her about our great rummage sale going on which she would probably enjoy.

That was the beginning of our relationship. She has come to visit often because her life is quite lonely. When she called, I invited her to come over. When she came, I suggested we spend the afternoon visiting the Amish stores in New Wilmington so that she could get out of the house. It turned out to be a special time to be together. We have not talked religion because she's not ready. All I know is that she is a Muslim who wants to stay Muslim, but welcomes friendship.

Unscheduled? Yes. Productive? Probably, because the Holy Spirit will show her that All Saints has more than kindness to share. But it must be in God's time. I don't use a schedule; I depend on the Holy Spirit to help me assist those who need spiritual guidance.

Not all things at All Saints are unplanned and unscheduled for me. A planned highlight is the Bible class I get to have with two American SRU students who come in weekly to study the Bible, currently the book of Romans. They come in rain or shine because they really want to know what the Bible teaches. We got to know them when we met them at SRU's orientation for new students. They are from different Christian denominations, but are both determined to learn what the Bible teaches. From these studies they will determine which denomination will be theirs. Even if they cannot come to study on Friday afternoons, they never skip, but always ask to reschedule for a time earlier in the day. The study time is the highlight of their week, and it is mine, too. What deep satisfaction to share God's Word.

Life has many interruptions and unplanned events. The unscheduled calls which come to campus ministry are often the best. I remember Kenzaburo from Japan asking if we would have time to teach him about the Bible. That led to his baptism.

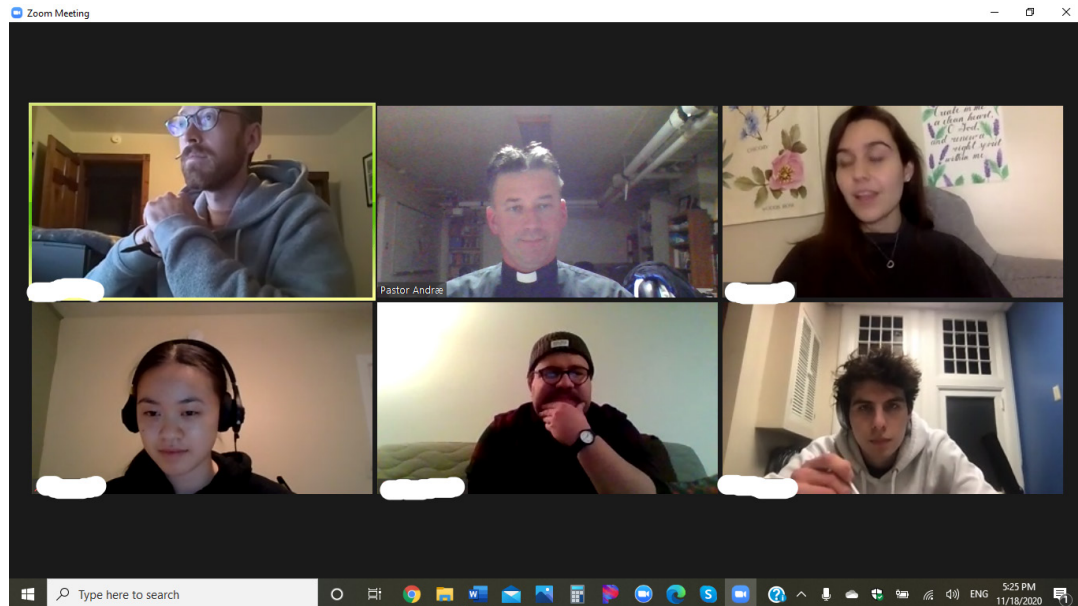
All Saints thanks God for these unscheduled times when the Holy Spirit will open doors to faith.

# BELIEVING, TEACHING PROCLAIMING, BEING WHO WE ARE: YOUR CAMPUS MISSION IN PITTSBURGH

**PASTOR ERIC R. ANDRAE, CAMPUS CHAPLAIN  
LUTHERAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP OF PITTSBURGH (LSF) & FIRST TRINITY CHURCH**

This first item is an overview of our campus mission which I have shared with some of you before; but it has been adapted, updated, and expanded significantly. It originally appeared as “Mission of Campus Ministry” in *Formation: Essays for Future Pastors*, Scott Stiegemeier, ed. (Ft. Wayne, Indiana: Concordia Theological Seminary Press, 2008), 85.

Your local secular university is fertile breeding ground and provides fuel for every ideology which wants to set the cultural agenda on sexual ethics and identity, science and faith, race, the Christian voice in the public square, marriage, the environment, and much more. At the same time, colleges are increasingly recognizing not only the intellectual needs of the student, but also the spiritual: here in Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) has two part-time staff that work on “Spirituality and Interfaith Initiatives” with the chaplains; the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) recently hired a full-time director for its new Office of Interfaith Dialogue and Engagement; and Chatham University’s Multi-Cultural Office last year co-sponsored with its campus ministries a year-long lecture series on religious topics, as well as a webinar on “Spiritual Self-Care.” Opportunities! – so, instead of being cheated by vain philosophies and empty deceit according to the principles of the world and men, those of us involved in campus ministry want to take advantage of these opportunities and others to introduce college students to one man in particular, the incarnated God-Man, Jesus Christ.



As a campus chaplain, I know well the doomsaying statistics regarding plummeting worship attendance from freshman to senior year or this generation’s increasing number of “nones” – that is, those with no religious affiliation – or the high percentage of this city’s international students who return to one their 115 native lands never having been in a Christian home or the disturbing number of students diagnosed with clinical depression and even suicidal tendencies. That’s the bad news. The good news is that, as the collegiate years are a crucial time of transition and searing soul-searching, many students are truly seeking much-needed rest for their souls. And the really good news, indeed the Gospel, is that as this generation of students searches for that meaning, authenticity, and identity, the Church gives that which they seek. (Heb. 13:8; cf. 2 Cor. 4:1-18).

How does the Church through campus mission give this identity in Christ, this connection to the Father, this complete life in the Spirit? In Pittsburgh, the home base for Lutheran Student Fellowship-International Student Ministry (LSF-ISM) is First Trinity Church. It is within walking distance of Pitt, CMU, Chatham, and Carlow; Duquesne, Point Park, and the local (and large) community college are within 5 miles. There are well over 85,000 students attending college within a five-mile radius of the church, as Pittsburgh has one of the largest concentrations of students in the nation. We foster a life and a loving community centered around the Gospel, the Scriptures and Sacraments, of Jesus Christ through worship, study, friendship, outreach, and service.

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"I love being a campus pastor. There is no ministry that could be more exciting, rewarding, enriching, or meaningful; nothing more crucial (of the Cross), nothing more vital (of life). There is no better time to be the Church on campus. "

As a campus pastor for two decades, and with the assistance of student leaders, I – in no particular order here – counsel, marry, baptize, play basketball at the college gyms, lecture on campus to both Christian and non-Christian groups, pray, participate in service projects, lead worship, study, catechize, engage the (pop) culture, preach, follow up with visitors, serve as chaplain for LSF & ISM, share meals, supervise our English as a Second Language program, open my home, teach Bible studies, update the website, maintain contact with alumni, “table” on campus, organize on-campus speakers, seek out the inactives, hear private confession and absolve, celebrate the Lord’s Supper, recruit and train and meet with student leaders, serve on panels, attend and speak at conferences, contact and meet with prospective students, plan and promote our activities, meet with college faculty and staff, write and publish, defend the faith, connect alumni with congregations and missionaries all over the world, mentor, engage in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, lead devotions for our homeless ministry, read and discuss books with individual students, participate in reading groups, and – with the pandemic upon us – discover and learn many new ways (including online) to continue to connect with those in the campus mission field.

A lot of this is informal, but much is also organized through my memberships in the CMU Council of Religious Advisors, the Pitt Association of Chaplaincies, and the Chatham Multi-Faith Council, as well as my service on the Advisory Council of

the Beatrice Institute (formerly, the PGH Christian Studies Program) and as chaplain for the Pitt Pre-Med Hospice Volunteer Program. I also regularly attend meetings or activities of other student organizations, including CMU’s Humanist League (atheists and agnostics) and Pitt’s Choose Life. Every day is different. It is never dull, always exciting. I love it. (Gal. 6:2, Phil. 4:4ff.).

All of this must be done with honesty and integrity, in other words, with the objective, concrete clarity of the truth. (2 Cor. 4:2). We must be confident and honest in our identity.

We must be, believe, and proclaim who we are. The belief of the heart and the confession of the mouth is one act of faith. (Rom. 10:8-10). This entails both a clear understanding of what, Who, it is we believe, and a consequent sharing of that faith with others. It means a commitment to the infallible Scriptures, and to the creeds, confessions, doctrine, and worship of the Church as handed down to us by those who came before. (2 Thess. 2:15).

We must teach who we are. We have the Lord’s mandate. (Matt. 28:18-20). The baptismal incorporation of a sinner into the life of the Church and the Body of Christ includes a life-long catechesis, an ever-present teaching of the concrete truth of the faith. And, as the maxim puts it, “the one who teaches well is the one who distinguishes well.” God’s Law is declared full force – his demands and requirements which, unmet by us sinners, always mean our condemnation

and death; but God’s Gospel is the final word – his gracious and life-giving proclamation and application of the free forgiveness of our sin on account of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. And it is here, at the Christ-point, that distinctions truly must be clarified on campus, where Mohammed, Buddha, the New Age, Wiccans, Dawkins, and many others all compete for the time and appetite of the scholar who saunters up to the smorgasbord of world views served on a regular basis. Winsomely, the person and work of Jesus Christ ultimately must be proclaimed as the center, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end of all mission and catechesis and worship (cf. John 14:6).

I love being a campus pastor. There is no ministry that could be more exciting, rewarding, enriching, or meaningful; nothing more crucial (“of the Cross”), nothing more vital (“of life”). There is no better time to be the Church on campus.

As such, we seek to retain our young adults, and also reach out to the “nones” and to those from countries indifferent or even hostile to Christianity, at a time when these young men and women are being formed into who they will be forever.

I can think of no domestic mission that could be more important.



# 2021 INTERNSHIPS

KATE COLE,  
ISM, INC. BOARD SECRETARY AND HIRING COMMITTEE

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Spend a semester learning how to reach international students with God's love and grace on two college campuses.

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- You will coordinate and develop an enriching internship program with ISM leaders.
- Housing and stipend available

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Housing and living stipend are available. We respect your privacy and will only share your information with the ISM, Inc. Leadership Board and hiring committee.

Visit our website for more information and to apply.  
[isminc@isminc.org](mailto:isminc@isminc.org)/internship.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We've been hearing amazing ways that people are connecting through the COVID-19 crisis. Please send in your articles, pictures and especially your prayer requests.

Send your submissions for the MAR/APR issue of the Doorstep News by Feb 1, 2021.

- See our privacy policy on our website
- Send your submission as a Word document and images as separate files.
- Please include your name, your role, and the ministry and/or campus you serve.

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