

PROTESTANT CHAPLAINCY

SUMMER 2017

NEWSLETTER

The Protestant Chaplaincy and Protestant Students Association (“PSA”) strive to be a radically welcoming and inclusive community. We invite people of every race, color, national and ethnic origin, age, religious background, veteran status, ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression to bring the fullness of who they are into this community. All are welcome. All are valued as part of the community. All are loved by God.

A Ministry of Radical Welcome

Since beginning at Tufts University in August 2016, I’ve had the honor of serving the campus community in many different and exciting ways. I meet with students for pastoral care. I lead a weekly worship service in Goddard Chapel. I collaborate with colleagues in the University Chaplaincy, and faith leaders from neighboring communities, to enrich students’ spiritual lives across the religious and philosophical spectrum. I connect with graduate students over lunch and Bible study. I’m privileged to serve alongside amazing student leaders, and so much more. The best part about my job is that I am blessed to share the message of radical welcome and inclusion summed up in our mission statement above. This message is rooted in the universal and unconditional love of God found in Jesus Christ, a perfect love that “casts out fear” (1 John 4:18). In a world too often marred by fear and hatred, this message is radical indeed, and needed now more than ever. It’s a precious gift to have this ministry of welcoming, accompanying, and caring for students and other members of the university community. I hope you enjoy reading this inaugural newsletter and discovering more about the Protestant Chaplaincy at Tufts!



Rev. Daniel Bell, Protestant Chaplain

Protestant Evening Worship: “There’s Always Room for YOU in the PEW!”

Protestant Evening Worship (“PEW”) is at the heart of our community. We gather Sunday nights at 7pm during the school year in Goddard Chapel to sing, pray, reflect on scripture, and—once a month—celebrate Holy Communion. One could describe our style of worship as a “relaxed formal” liturgy that draws from the Episcopal/Anglican tradition. We are blessed to have strong musical leadership and a diverse selection of songs representing the best of different Christian traditions. Our community is also blessed to have guest preachers from a variety of denominations representing local faith communities, including African Methodist Episcopal, American Baptist, Episcopal, United Methodist, Presbyterian, and United Church of Christ.



Perhaps the most special part of our service is when we circle around the altar to offer our prayers with contemplative singing and candle-lighting. After the service wraps up, everyone is invited to regather in the chapel for lobby for refreshments and conversation. If you haven’t been yet, know that there’s always room in the PEW for you. Our first service this fall is on September 3rd and we welcome the Rev. Edwin Johnson, Tufts alum and Rector of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Dorchester.

Embracing Ecumenism and Interfaith Work

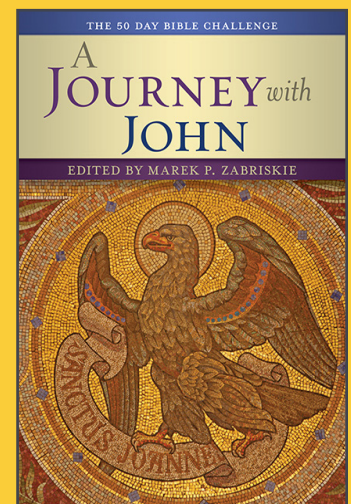
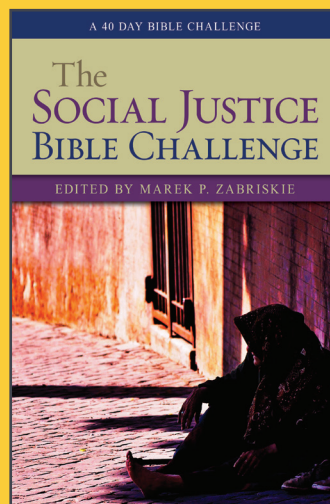
We believe that what unites us is far greater than what divides us. In this spirit the Protestant Chaplaincy works closely with Tufts' Catholic Chaplaincy, led by Lynn Cooper. This past year Lynn and Dan planned and led Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services in Goddard Chapel. PSA and the Catholic Community at Tufts ("CCT") also found several ways to connect, such as going on a fall retreat and apple-picking day together, gathering for Shrove Tuesday pancakes, and celebrating Easter at a delicious brunch catered by Greek Corner in Cambridge. We also hosted a dinner conversation with fellow Protestant friends from Tufts' Non-Denominational Christian Fellowship and C. Stacey Woods Programming Board.

We're also committed to building strong relationships with other religious and philosophical traditions. Last February, Rev. Dan teamed up with Tufts' Muslim Chaplain, Celene Ibrahim, to lead a field trip to the Episcopal cathedral, St. Paul's, in downtown Boston, a "house of prayer for all people" (Isaiah 56:70). St. Paul's has hosted a Muslim congregation for well over a decade for their Friday afternoon Jummah prayers. Four students from the Fletcher School attended and experienced a noonday Eucharist in the chapel followed immediately by Jummah in the main sanctuary. Afterwards, students, chaplains, and leaders from the Episcopal and Muslim congregations gathered for lunch and fellowship. At a time of deep polarization and tension in the United States, this time together was truly a sign of the Spirit at work in our midst. We're excited to engage in more interfaith relationship-building by partnering with the Conversation, Action, Faith, and Education ("CAFE") Pre-Orientation program this August, and having two representatives from PSA on Interfaith Student Council this coming school year.



Feeding Mind, Body, and Spirit

Having time to read and reflect on scripture, and pray for one another, is vital to spiritual growth. Eating lunch while doing so in the middle of a hectic week helps too! This past year, the Protestant Chaplaincy offered a Bible study every Wednesday afternoon. While open to all, the study largely drew international graduate students, and conversations were rich and varied. In the spring we focused our study on the Gospel of John and contemplated what the life of Christ has to do with our lives today. In the fall of 2017, we will meet in the Campus Center and use as our guide *The Social Justice Bible Challenge*, a resource to explore connections between scripture and pressing issues in our world today.



Quiet Days: Fun, Rest, and Reflection Off-Campus

It's easy to get stuck in the bubble of campus life- going from class to the library to the dining hall to the dorm, etc. Students hunger for a chance to get off-campus and recharge. With this in mind, the Protestant Chaplaincy offered an Advent Quiet Day at First Baptist Church in Medford last December. It was a chance to reflect on the season, pray, do some work, and hang out with friends. We were blessed by the hospitality of this congregation and their pastor, the Rev. Matt Rasure. Matt and his wife, the Rev. Rachael Pettengill-Rasure (formerly the Protestant Chaplain at Tufts) provided lunch and a warm presence. Their toddler son Jack also helped everyone feel welcome and at home.

Students had another chance to head off-campus in the spring for a special quiet day at Bethany House of Prayer in Arlington, MA, a ministry of prayer and hospitality with the Sisters of St. Anne-Bethany, a religious order of the Episcopal Church. This was a unique opportunity to connect with friends from another university, the Harvard Episcopal Chaplaincy. Students from Tufts and Harvard hit it off well and enjoyed a day of reflection under the guidance of Bethany colleagues Christina Leano and Bristol Huffman. With Holy Week just around the corner, our theme was "Preparing the Heart for Easter." We engaged in interactive Stations of the Cross, spent time exploring the beautiful grounds of Bethany House, and were fed a delicious lunch.



Retreating to Rolling Ridge

Each February students are excited to travel to North Andover, MA, for a retreat at Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center, a ministry of the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church. This past February, nearly ten students came for a time of fun and fellowship. Rev. Dan led a time of reflection on the Psalms and invited students to write their own psalms as they considered where they were in their journeys with God. Everyone also had the chance to explore the beautiful grounds of Rolling Ridge amid a wintry landscape.

Serving the Community

In the spring semester of 2017, the Protestant Students Association started a new community service project, making a meal for the guests of the Somerville Homeless Coalition one night a month. PSA first made dinner at the coalition in February, and students who have attended since have loved it enough that we have continued to make meals regularly even during the summer months! Our monthly trips offer a nice escape from schoolwork or just the daily grind, as we all distribute tasks to make a healthy meal for people in need, listening to Queen in the kitchen and laughing all the while. As much fun as we have, there is nothing as rewarding as seeing the smiles of the guests as they come in to enjoy a home-cooked meal after a long day. I'm so glad the PSA has made this connection to the Somerville Homeless Coalition, and I hope we continue to bring delicious meals—and happy faces—to the coalition for many months to come.



- Mira Guha, A19

Empowering Student Leaders

The Protestant Chaplaincy at Tufts works closely with the Protestant Students Association. Like other student organizations, PSA has an Executive Board or "E-Board" that meets regularly throughout the school year to brainstorm ideas, plan events, and look after the budget they've been entrusted with. E-Board meetings are relaxed and always start with time to check in- sometimes with a silly icebreaker- and to pray. Students from E-Board also lead different small groups, including "Compline and Spiritual Formation," a time of prayer and reflection held on Thursday nights at Goddard.

2017-2018 PSA Executive Board:

Amanda Borquaye, A18, Co-President

Mary Travers, A18, Co-President

Lucy Pavlovich, A20, Treasurer

Dan Kimmick, A18, Interfaith Council Representative

Caitlin Kornick, A18, Interfaith Council Representative and Outreach Coordinator

Mira Guha, A19, Choir Director and Outreach Coordinator

Kevin Ho, A20, Choir Director

Noah Kulak, A19, Outreach Coordinator

Mikayla Ver Pault, A18, Worship Coordinator

Kathryn Tweel, A18, Compline and Spiritual Formation Leader



CULTIVATE Resilient Hope

Episcopal Young Adult and Campus Ministries Conference, June 25-28

This past summer I was able to attend the CULTIVATE Conference in Austin, Texas. Chaplains, students, and other leaders in young adult ministry came together for four days to discuss young adult and campus ministries. It was an amazing experience to meeting other students from all over the country who are involved in campus ministries. We learned what other campus ministries are doing, exchanged ideas, and came up with new ideas together. I learned so much in those short four days and have many new ideas to bring to PSA.

- Mikayla Ver Pault, A18

Support Protestant Life at Tufts University

A substantial portion of our annual programs are made possible by community donations. To give to the Tufts Protestant Chaplaincy Fund online, please visit:

<http://chaplaincy.tufts.edu/how-to-give>

To make a gift by credit card over the phone please contact Tufts Senior Associate Director of Development Rob Ayles:

617-627-2675

Robert.Ayles@tufts.edu

Thank you for your support.

The Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner was one of many events that made PSA such a wonderful group to be a part of. There were events throughout the year open to the entire Tufts community, which gave me the chance to meet great people who I otherwise would never have met. PSA provided me with a place to retreat from the stress of college and relax with a group of people that I could always be myself with.

- Adam Chapman, A17



Recent alum Adam Chapman, A17 (left), PSA's former treasurer, with Lucy Pavlovich, A20, incoming treasurer, cooking for Shrove Tuesday, February 2017