



VOICE

A HOME AT THE HEART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON SINCE 1907 | FALL 2013

THE POWER OF PRAYER AT PRES HOUSE

by Amy Jones
Second Year Graduate
Student

Over the past two months the newly formed Deacon Team has led the community in offering new ways of praying. We see an emphasis on prayer as a place where our deep gladness is meeting the community's deep hunger. That hunger is for a space in our life together where members of Pres House can ask for one-on-one prayer for themselves, their friends, and family. With the help of Mark and Erica, we have started offering prayer during communion at each Sunday service. After receiving the bread and juice, students can circle to the back of the chapel and we will pray for whatever is on their minds. Because this is a new experience for many people, we stress not to worry about a prayer request being too big or too small, too vague, too sad or too happy (it's amazing how when something we've wanted for so long finally happens; it can sometimes be unclear how to celebrate it—so pray about that!). God just wants to hear from us. This ministry has been a real blessing for us as deacons and for the numerous friends we have prayed for.

Another new ministry of the Deacon Team is weekly morning prayer. On Tuesday mornings from 8:30–8:50am, we gather cross-legged on the floor of the chapel to say

"We see an emphasis on prayer as a place where our deep gladness is meeting the community's deep hunger."

morning prayer using the Book of Common Prayer format. We pray a Psalm together, do a confession of sin (done silently), a song (YAY!), a reading from one of the gospels, and have a time to pray (both silently and aloud) for all sorts of things. Recently I have been struck by how consistency in prayer has made me more conscious of the presence of God throughout the day. For example, I have noticed I am more likely to pass on that disposable cup or cutlery set when I am picking up lunch. The words from the prayers of the people ring in my ears: "For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy." If you are ever around campus on Tuesday mornings, stop in. We'd love to have you.

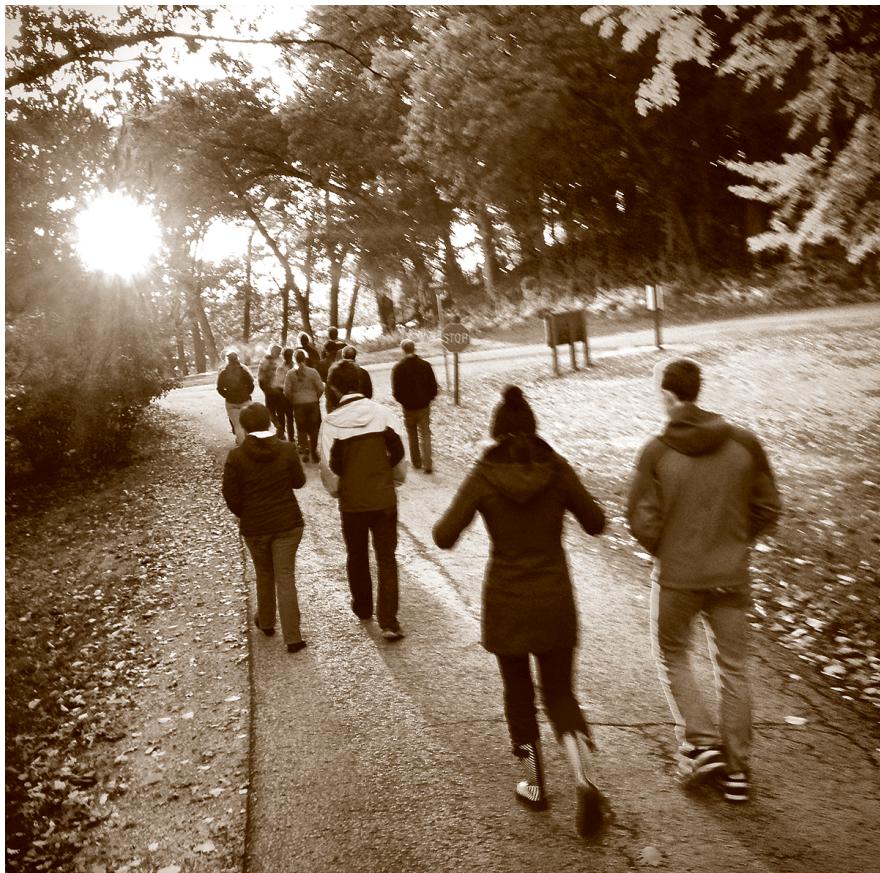
You can also submit a prayer request online (anonymously or with your name) at www.preshouse.org/prayer. ♣

Inside

- Fall Retreat
- First Impressions
- Recovery
- More Students
- Micro-Communities
- Who IS That?



FALL RETREAT REMINDS STUDENTS TO LIVE IN THE PRESENT



by Hannah Weinberg-Kinsey
Community Member UW-Madison, 2013

We usually think about vocation in terms of the future. We ask ourselves, "What are we supposed to do with the rest of our lives?" At this year's Fall Retreat, held once again at Green Lake Conference Center, the spiritual director and artist Melanie Weidener led the Pres House community to think about vocation in new ways.

She started by presenting her own artwork, explaining her own creative experiences, and the process of seeking in her own life. On Saturday morning, she led the group in a contemplative meditation in silence and a short time of song. She then let us loose to explore ourselves and the world through art. We had magazines, tissue paper, glue sticks, decoupage, colored macaroni noodles, sequins, feathers, and much, much more. By the afternoon, our community had created deep and penetrating reflections of ourselves. Each collage was different and told its own story.

The times of meditation and the prompts to make the art came from the topic of vocation, the art and insight came from a new and revolutionary place. Instead of stressing about the future, we asked about the now and present: "What do you love? What are you passionate about? How can you access your inner tuning fork? How can we feel the breath of God? How can we breathe with God? What is your life saying?" All of these questions are rooted in the present moment.

As we let go and let our creativity flow, as we sat in stillness, even as we enjoyed delicious meals, snacks, ice cream, s'mores in the rain, and walks in the leaves...we found ourselves in the present, at least for the moment. We used our imagination to access the future, but only to live in our own present...or maybe just to feel a "Great Presence."

The real question of vocation is not about the rest of our lives. The real question is, "What makes me feel alive?" Not tomorrow,





or ten years down the road. What makes me feel alive right now, today, this second. Vocation isn't a job plan. It is appreciative presence, be it still in prayer, or moving in relationship. Vocation is simply living life fully. Full should not be stressful; it should be balanced, grounded, intentional, compassionate, feeling, thankful, and joyful. Vocation is knowing you are alive and living into it.



Finally, I also came to consider that being alive still includes doubt, insecurity, suffering, and failure. This too fills the fullness. This too is very much part of the present and therefore part of discovering vocation or vocation itself.

These are just one person's thoughts after an amazing retreat. While I cannot speak for everyone, this retreat had one of the most positive, refreshing, and meaningful auras around it. While the art, the times of reflection, and the beautiful scenery, even the silly game of Sheep-pong brought each of us to different places, I think 2013's retreat was filling, fun, and quite simply, excellent. ♣

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Helen Chao, Sophomore



I stumbled upon Pres House by accident. It was my first week on the UW-Madison campus. I was the awkward freshman tagging along with two of my friends from high school to some event called "Frunch." Everyone at Pres House was so welcoming and friendly though, that little by little I grew roots within the community. Last year, I decided to apply for the Council and I was elected to be the secretary. Being in a leadership role definitely changed my perspective on things. I never realized how much work was needed behind the scenes in order for Pres House to be what it is. The quesadillas at Frunch don't magically appear! This year's Fall Kick-off was one of the best we've had so far. Attendance at service has risen a lot and there are many new faces within the community. But none of it would have happened if every member of Pres House hadn't stepped up and contributed. Pres House is a strong, close-knit community and I believe it'll continue to grow and foster new, long-lasting relationships. I've made some of my best friends here and I'm so glad that I tagged along with my friends and found my little piece of home on this campus.

Graham Mink, Freshman

The excitement, the warmth, and the incredible outgoing character of people on UW-Madison's campus makes it hard for a first year student not to love college. As a freshman from the East Coast, this experience was certainly overwhelming, especially meeting people from all over the nation and world. What I thought was going to be a hard transition became a smooth and more relaxing one because of my involvement in a community that shared my beliefs.

Running around campus from move-in to Convocation, my friends and I found every possible event happening on campus, especially those that offered free food. One of these that most stuck out to me was Pres House's "Frunch", or freshman lunch. I had received a postcard a couple of weeks before classes began, sharing about Frunch and other activities to get involved in at Pres House. It was a great way for my roommate and our friends to come together and find a place where we could all connect away from the stress of college life as the year went on.

Finding a church and Christian community that rang true to who I am was



my biggest priority when I got to Madison and I was fortunate to find these before classes even started. My roommate and I walked into Worship Service at Pres House our first Sunday and I knew after Pastor Mark preached that this was the place for me. After continuing to go there every Sunday, I know God brought Pres House into my life for a reason. Mark is one of the most outgoing guys I have met and has been of immense support since I got to campus. I had only spoken with him once going into the second week of school when he asked me out to lunch. Friendships can be sparked in an instant in college. I am fortunate to have made so many of these through the Christian communities I am a part of today. 

SERVING MORE STUDENTS EVERY YEAR

Word is spreading about what a great place Pres House is! This year we hosted over 300 students for our annual "Frunch" event. Attendance at Sunday Worship service is up by more than 20%, continuing an nine-year trend of growth. Every year our ministry continues to grow, as does the popularity of PH Apartments. For the fourth year in a row PH Apartments has been 100% full. Students have signed leases for 87% of the available spaces for next year (2014–2015) already. Thank you too all of our donors and volunteers for helping to make Pres House a growing community. ♣



VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Part of what makes Sunday Worship Services so special is the fellowship over dinner following worship. Several churches in the area donate their time, culinary talent, and love to give our students a delicious home-cooked meal every Sunday. We thank you for partnering with us in making Pres House a home at the heart of UW–Madison. We couldn't do it without you!

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church,
Cottage Grove
Christ Presbyterian Church, Madison
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Madison
Dale Heights Presbyterian Church, Madison
First Presbyterian Church, Baraboo
First Presbyterian Church, Cambria
First Presbyterian Church, Oregon
First Presbyterian Church, Prairie du Sac
First Presbyterian Church, Waunakee
Holy Wisdom Monastery, Middleton
Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church,
Cambridge
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Madison
Union Presbyterian Church, Monroe ♣

CORRECTION

We humbly apologize for an error in the 2012–13 Annual Report. Ray and Beatrice Thurston have been continuous donors for many years. We are deeply appreciative of their generous support and the support of all of our donors. If you were not correctly acknowledged in the Annual Report, please let us know.

Thank you for all you do to support the ministry of Pres House.



Support Pres House

Throughout this newsletter you have read about the exciting activities happening at Pres House. Ministry at Pres House is only possible through generous donations from alumni, friends, and churches.

Please give today by using the enclosed envelope or send your contributions to Pres House at 731 State Street, Madison, WI 53703. You can also give online at www.preshouse.org/donate.



TAKING THE NEXT STEP: RECOVERY HOUSING AT PH APARTMENTS

by Ginger Morgan and
Mark Elsdon



Imagine that you are 19 years old. You have aspirations and hopes and fears about your life, and you know a college education is part of following your dreams. Imagine that you also know something that sets you apart from some of your peers: you know you are in recovery from addiction, an addiction that can torpedo those hopes and dreams... You want to make friends and have fun, but not at the expense of your health, your sanity, or your life. So, where can you turn?

program, serving as a resource and support for participants. Participants in Next Step are eligible for rent scholarships and program funds through the Presbyterian Student Center Foundation.

Funding for the launch of Next Step was made possible through a \$50,000 private donation. The donor said this about the gift and program: "I'm blessed to be able to provide financial support and I know that all that I have is a gift. So, my giving is simply a thankful response—most often [I hope



We are excited to announce the launch of Next Step: A Student Recovery Community within Pres House Apartments. Next Step coincides with expanding efforts among various local organizations to build a vital and sustainable Collegiate Recovery Community at UW-Madison. It is being developed in partnership with other local student recovery housing facilities and UW-Madison's, University Health Services. Next Step provides dedicated apartment space and program support for students who are seeking a recovery community in the context of apartment living, while pursuing their education and future goals. The Next Step is open to any individual actively committed to their own recovery from addiction, and who are willing to offer support to others on the same path. Our Director of Residential Community, Ginger Morgan, will coordinate the Next Step

and pray] guided by what God puts on my heart. 12 step work has been life changing for me and an important part of my spiritual journey. It's a great joy for me to support this Pres House program that extends God's love and healing in such tangible ways."

We have been blessed with the donation to start this important and life-changing program, as it continues, more funding will be needed to ensure that the program can flourish. We invite any interested individuals to join in the support of the Next Step Program. Your donations can make all the difference in the life of students committed to turning their lives around.

Leasing for Next Step is underway for 2014-2015 lease year. The Next Step Recovery Community is one of intentional communities and numerous other programs available to residents of the PH Apartments. Find out more at: <http://phapts.com/intentional-living-programs/next-step/>



MICRO-COMMUNITIES THRIVE

by Cece Olin, Junior

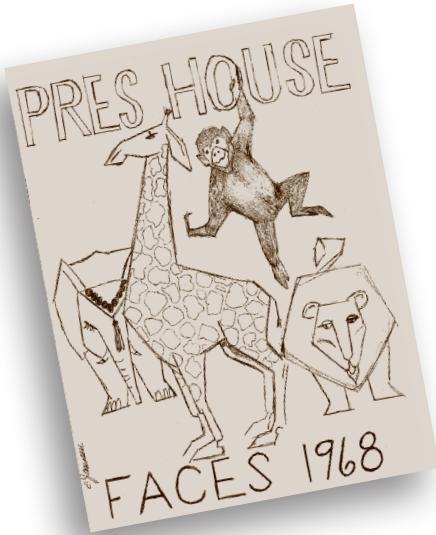
Here at UW-Madison we have the opportunity to go out and experience all kinds of new things. When you arrive as a freshman, you might be overwhelmed by all the clubs, organizations, and societies that one can join and you might want to join way more than you have time for. But when it comes to faith, although there are many organizations related to a great myriad of faiths, few of us look beyond our own religion (or lack thereof). While for many of us this is not a bad thing, since we know what we believe and it gives us a place to belong right off the bat, by the time you've gotten comfortable with college life, perhaps it's time to expand your horizons. That was the way I felt when I was invited to create a micro-community with four of my friends. They had the idea to create a group in which we could explore the world's many forms of faith, so we designed a program in which we have monthly outings to different religious events. As a group we come from somewhat diverse faith backgrounds, and we all enter into each thing that we do with a unique perspective. Our goal in this is not to find a new faith around which to base our beliefs or to convert the people we are coming into contact with, but rather to simply experience the diverse world that we live in and learn as much from it as we can. We seek to learn to love and be respectful of people from



all backgrounds despite our differences and lack of full understanding. Our micro-community has just begun this fall and we have a long way before we can call ourselves true faith explorers, but we have had the opportunity to attend high holiday services at Hillel and cook a traditional Rosh Hashanah meal. This experience exposed us to a level of tradition that one rarely finds outside of Judaism. We learned not only about religion, but about culture and community as well. As the semester goes on we plan to continue with similar activities involving every major religion from Buddhism to Baha'I in addition to less major religions and non-religious spiritual traditions. We also hope to get the rest of the Pres House Apartment community involved if they wish to participate through building-wide events. Our hope is to spread the love and respect for all people along the way. ♣



Pres House seeks to be a spiritual home at the heart of the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. In keeping with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Christian tradition of hospitality, Pres House is dedicated to providing a religious center and high quality student housing to promote the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth of residents and members of the campus community. Pres House is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and welcomes individuals of every perspective and background.



WHO IS THAT?

Believe it or not, Pres House used to publish its own Yearbook. Here are some faces taken from the 1968 issue. See if you can guess who these prominent people are. Answers are below.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

Several editions of *Pres House Faces* have generously been shared by Alfred Stamm, a Pres House alum and former Deacon.

Answers: 1 - George Shook, 2 - Janet Bliss, 3 - Gary Krohn, 4 - Nancy Young, 5 - Evi Sanchez, 6 - James Jondrow, 7 - Julie Longbrake, 8 - Steve Stoddard

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