



Another Great Year for ProVocation



2016-17 ProVocation Fellows cohort (left to right): Lauren Tassone (St. Mary's Student Parish), Austin Kuhn (Cru), Joe Lesada (Cru), Kyle Meyaard-Schaap (Interim ProVocation Project Coordinator), Amy Turner (Cru), Melody Zhang (InterVarsity), Hannah Blaauw (InterVarsity), Rachel Waddell (Cru).

The ProVocation Project, a collaboration of the Center for Faith and Scholarship and the Lilly Foundation's Campus Ministry Theological Exploration of Vocation, wrapped up its second year in April by saying goodbye to our 2016-17 Fellows cohort and saying hello to our incoming group for 2017-18.

Our 2016-17 Fellows cohort had an active semester. It began by gathering together in January to listen live to a January Series presentation from Dr. Bryan Dik, Associate Professor of Psychology at Colorado State University, entitled *How to Find and Live Your Calling: Lessons from the Psychology*

Participating in the ProVocation Program this year has been incredibly formative in my journey towards a deeper understanding of vocation, calling, and ministry as a future career. I've long desired some sort of support and guidance regarding the possibilities of seminary education, missions and ministry as a career, and ProVocation has been a true blessing in that regard.

Joe Lesada '17

of Vocation. It led to lively conversation about the holistic and always unfolding nature of vocation—the truth that vocation encompasses the entire life of Christian discipleship and that the work of vocational discernment is never complete. Much of the rest of the semester was spent working through the second half of Steven Garber’s classic *The Fabric of Faithfulness* and discovering what it means to translate our convictions and deeply held beliefs into lifelong commitments and patterns of behavior. This topic held particular urgency for five of the seven Fellows who recently graduated. We finished our year together with a brunch at the Campus Chapel on April 10, sharing our learnings from the year and celebrating the significant personal and communal growth that characterized our Fellows cohort these last several months.

Even as we are sad to say goodbye to our 2016-17 cohort, we are excited to welcome our new group of ten ProVocation Fellows for the 2017-18 academic year. Most of our incoming Fellows were introduced to the ProVocation Project during our Spring ProVocation Luncheon on March 14, where a diverse group of 28 university faculty/staff, campus ministry staff, and campus ministry students convened at the Michigan League to share a meal, to learn more about the ProVocation program, and to hear from a featured speaker. Our speaker this year was Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys, minister of discipleship at Calvin CRC in Grand Rapids, MI (and former Campus Chapel intern!), who shared her own story of vocational discernment, including both her call to ministry and her call to other areas of faithful discipleship in her life (i.e. her call to marriage and to motherhood). It was a lovely time of fellowship, learning, and conversation that helped raise the profile of the ProVocation Project and greatly advanced the conversation around vocational discernment on campus.

We are grateful for the ways in which God has blessed the work of the ProVocation Project thus far, and eagerly anticipate another productive and meaningful year to come of vocational discernment and exploration.



ProVocation luncheon speaker Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys

Kudos and Farewells

RACHEL BESSIRE earned a master's from the School of Public Health in Nutritional Science and Dietetics. She has shared her musical gifts at the Chapel, and we're glad that she's sticking around for another year to do a dietitian residency at U-M!

For the past three years *ELIZABETH CAMERON* has added to the number of Ohioans at the Chapel while working on her Master of Chemistry (in the chemical biology cluster). She has been active in small groups, served on the Leadership Team, and put her background in philosophy to good use in many community discussions!

A four-year resident of the Phi Alpha Kappa house, *ALEX HARRIS* graduated from the Medical School this spring. He's been a faithful attender of the Bible Study that Pastor Matt leads at PAK, has played guitar in Chapel worship, and is also sticking around to do his residency at the UM Hospital.

ALEX KINZER graduated with both a M.S. in Natural Resources and the Environment (specializing in Conservation Ecology) and a Master of Landscape Architecture. She has been an Au Sable Grad Fellow and a Chapel intern, sharing her artistic gifts with our community (check out her welcome sign the next time you're in the Chapel lobby!). We're happy that her husband, Andrew, is still working on his master's, so they'll be around a bit longer. And we're even happier that a baby Kinzer is on the way (how many babies finish grad school before pre-K?)

SCOTT KIRYCKI earned his master's at the School of Information. He is a Chapel regular and a very faithful volunteer at Community Kitchen. Because of his work with the UM Bicentennial Celebration App (which you can download at umsi.info/mgoview), Scott was chosen to carry the School of Information flag at commencement - quite an honor, and it meant he got to line up in the UM football team's locker room!



RACHEL BESSIRE



ELIZABETH CAMERON



SCOTT KIRYCKI



ALEX KINZER



ALEX HARRIS

A New Partnership with Washtenaw Literacy

Reflections from Jesse Crosson



Early this year, the Chapel hosted an information and training session as part of its new partnership with Washtenaw Literacy, a non-profit that aims to improve adult literacy among both native and non-native English speakers. The organization relies upon the work of an impressive network of volunteers and provides tutoring in basic reading, math, resume-building, and a variety of other practical skills.

During the training session, I was struck by some of the statistics we heard. “Each time you visit the grocery store,” Kathryn, the presenter, remarked, “you will likely encounter someone who is functionally illiterate.” In fact, by some estimates, as many as 1 in 5 U.S. adults are “functionally illiterate”—meaning they lack the skills necessary to apply for jobs, fully understand written leases or bills, or make change at a cash register. Sadly, most of these Americans nevertheless hold a high school diploma.

Moved by Kathryn’s presentation and the gravity of the situation she described, I decided to get involved immediately. For the past few months, I have enjoyed tutoring in math and reading in Southeast Ypsilanti. It has been quite rewarding, not just because I believe Washtenaw Literacy makes a difference in its community, but also because of inspiration I’ve drawn from its learners. One learner in particular, Mary from Ypsilanti, has been stuck in my mind since my first session. She is approximately 65 years old, and faithfully attends tutoring weekly. At present, we are teaching her how to subtract large numbers by hand. Although Mary already has grown children, her desire to learn and better herself through literacy has been touching. No matter how long it takes her to work through a problem, she is driven to improve each week, bit by bit.

When I am struggling with my own studies, I think of Mary. Materially, she likely has far less to gain by remaining faithful with her studies than does the average student at U of M. Yet she has uncommon determination. It has been an honor to work with Mary and other students like her, and I am glad the Chapel has chosen to partner with this fabulous organization. Please pray for Washtenaw Literacy and our partnership with it, that we might extend God’s grace to our brothers and sisters through the gift of literacy.

Soon to be wed!

Congratulations to Chapelites Jesse Crosson and Jen Durow, who will be married on August 5. We’re happy to say they met at the Chapel, where they bonded over common interests in the social sciences and deer hunting.





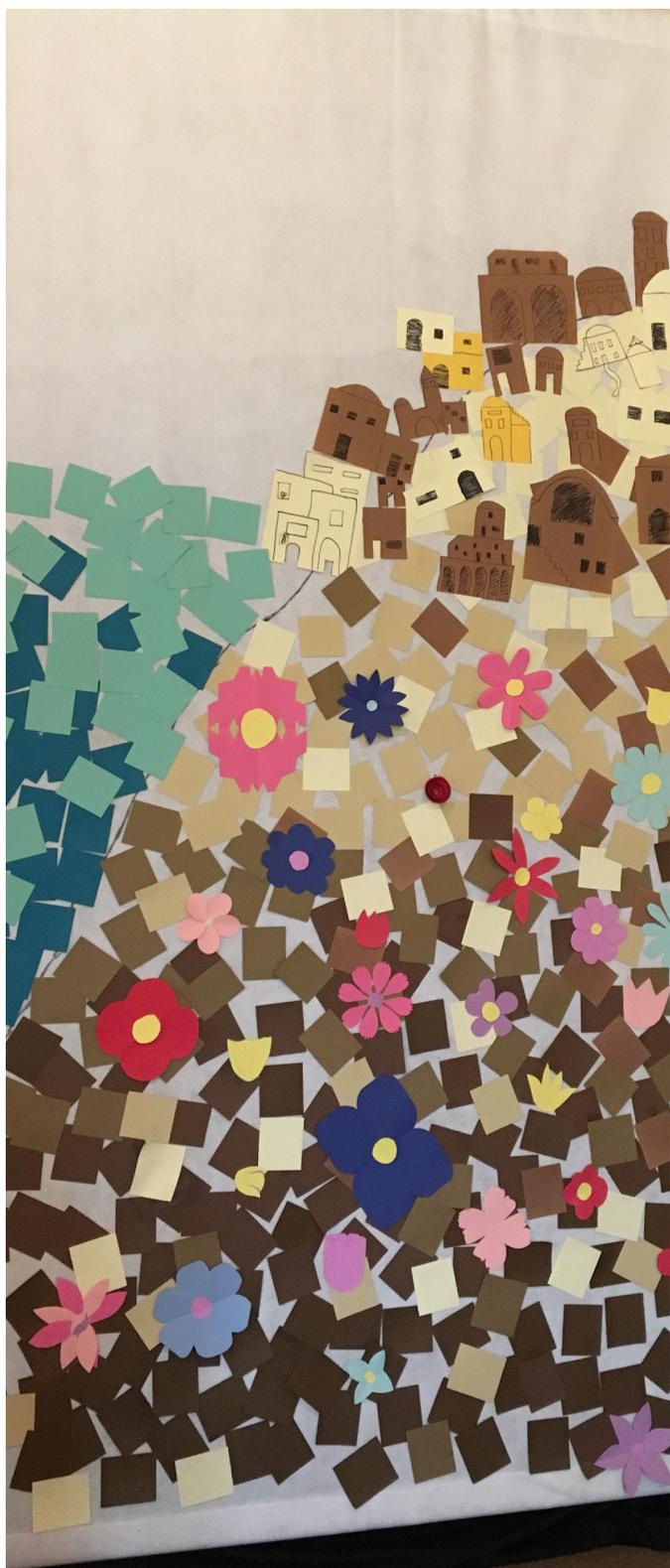
Psalms of Ascent

Chapel worship this spring has been a journey. Starting with the first Sunday of Lent we began working through the Psalms of Ascent, which the Israelites sang on their pilgrimages to Jerusalem for religious festivals. Spending a week on each of the fifteen Psalms will take us through Eastertide, all the way to the Sunday after Pentecost.

Getting guidance from Eugene Peterson's *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, we are viewing this as a journey in discipleship. The Psalms show us how to be more faithful followers of Jesus as we travel through life, illustrating aspects of Christian character like humility, joy, perseverance, and trust. Each week we're pairing their wisdom with words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount that address the same themes.

To illustrate this journey theme and give us a way to tangibly respond to God in worship, we're creating a mosaic mural depicting Mt. Zion and Jerusalem. Every Sunday we come forward and each add another piece of colored paper to the picture (and sometimes specific things related to the theme, like buildings or flowers). It's been fun to see it take shape as the series progresses. We can't afford to take everyone to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage, so this artistic version is the next best thing!

Many members of our community see themselves as sojourners, stopping in Ann Arbor for a time before moving on their way. Our reflections on these Biblical journey songs have helped us see what it means to be people who are faithful to God even as we are people on the move.



The mosaic is coming along! Each week we add something new to the picture to illustrate our journey.

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