



## Kudos and Farewell

Every spring our newsletter includes a "Kudos and Farewells" section to honor graduates and say goodbye to those who are leaving the Chapel. It's a valuable tradition because a community as transient as ours needs to say goodbye well. This spring is different, though, as we say farewell to our pastor of sixteen years, Rolf Bouma.

At first "kudos" didn't seem a strong enough term, so I toyed around with calling this issue a "Rolf-trospective" (which I knew he would hate). Then I actually looked up the etymology of "kudos," which I thought originated with the granola bar

that was popular back in my childhood years of the 80s and 90s. No, the word (which means "fame and renown resulting from an achievement") has its roots in Greek, and came into English usage as college student slang in the mid 1800s! That's exactly the sort of random knowledge I regularly learned from Pastor Rolf during my years working with him, and an entirely appropriate way to kick off this issue of Inklings. Pastor Rolf has given so much to this ministry in his sixteen years, and undoubtedly deserves all the kudos we, a grateful community, can offer.

- Pastor Matt



The Campus Chapel was my anchor-hold when I was a law student in the late 1970s, and it's been my anchor-hold since 2002 when I returned as Pastor for Academic Ministries. In the shifting currents of a university setting, which of us doesn't need an anchor-hold?

That, too, is the consistent testimony of those, mostly students, who found a place at the Chapel during their time in Ann Arbor. The past few weeks have been a time of appreciative and sometimes bemused reflection as my last Sunday at the Chapel approached. Many thanks to those who sent in stories to be included in the 'Memories' book. You reminded me of events and conversations, some of which were in danger of slipping out of the Bouma memory banks.

I have my own set of thoughts and remembrances. Chapel people -- fellow staff, such as Mark Roeda and Matt Ackerman, with whom it was a delight to work; various worship and community leaders with (continued on page 2)

## From Pastor Rolf

*An anchorite's hermitage is called an anchor-hold... [A]n anchor-hold... holds me at anchor... and keeps me steadied in the current, as a sea anchor does, facing the stream of light pouring down.*

-- Annie Dillard, Pilgrim at Tinker Creek

16 years is a good chunk of one's life. When such a large part of one's time, identity, and affections are grounded in a community and institution, it's not an easy thing to say 'farewell'.

drive, vision, and mad skills; many characters with their uniquenesses and eccentricities who kept things refreshing and unpredictable.

The Chapel was fertile ground for opportunity, some significant and serious, others serendipitous and the stuff of stories: emceeding lectures by great Christian scholars, initiating an annual campus memorial service for students who died (an event now in its 9th year), organizing the annual Au Sable Grad Fellows conference each January, dedicating the Arthur Miller Theater on North Campus with a half-planned rite that went spectacularly on-the-rails, defending the Roman Catholic Church at a Conor O'Neil's Science Café where the topic was Galileo, and the list could go on and on. It's been quite a ride, and I hope God has enjoyed it as much as I have.

Future plans? News of my retirement are, like Mark Twain's demise, greatly exaggerated. My UM teaching responsibilities have grown to a 50% appointment. I hope to teach my courses in ethics and religion in the Program in the Environment for some years to come. Recently, Dearborn Christian Fellowship announced their need for a half-time preaching pastor on an interim basis through Fall 2019. I began my preaching stint in Dearborn on April 29.

Come Fall 2019, we'll see what happens. By then, Sandy and I will have four grandchildren, two at each end of the country. I'll have a few more years of serious cycling left. I'd like to write some more. Whatever happens, having a spiritual anchor-hold makes the future all that more inviting.



## Rolf's Greatest Hits

As part of the Farewell Luncheon for Pastor Rolf, we put together a list of just some of his notable achievements during his time at the Chapel and CFS. They are, in no particular order...

### 1. CFS Lecture Series

The number of brilliant scholars and thinkers Pastor Rolf has brought to speak at Michigan is remarkable.



Friends old and new joined the Chapel community for Pastor Rolf's Farewell Sunday.

From a wide range of disciplines and with all kinds of accolades to their names, all brought wisdom and insight into the Christian intellectual tradition. Put it this way: what do E. J. Dione, Marilyn Robinson, Lauren Winner, Holmes Rolston III, and Miroslav Volf have in common? All gave CFS lectures.

### 2. Grad Fellows Retreat

While the Au Sable Graduate Fellows program has been in existence for about three decades, the CFS, and Pastor Rolf, took it over in 2003 and saw the program expand drastically. You can measure the growth by the size of the lodging for the annual retreat, starting with one house, going to two, and then onto the main Au Sable campus in 3 or 4 bunk-style cabins. The retreat that stands out the most is obvious - for over a year, Pastor Rolf laid the groundwork for the Fellows to meet with Wendell Berry in Kentucky, an experience none of them will forget.

### 3. Campus Memorial Service

Some of Pastor Rolf's work was in service to the broader U-M community, occasionally to such an extent that the Chapel community may not have been aware of it. The Campus Memorial Service he helped create is an example.

Every year the U-M Association of Religious Counselors and U-M Student Life honor and remember students who have died. It is a remarkable event, perhaps the most religious moment in the life of a secular university, and now an annual tradition that will last for many years to come.

### 4. Monastery Trips

Pastor Rolf also brought the "alternative" alternative spring break trip to the Chapel. While U-M students flocked to beaches in warm climates, went home to visit family, and attended alternative spring break service trips, he invited students to hang with a bunch of monks in contemplative silence for a week. And they wanted to do it! For many - if not all - it introduced students who grew



Pastor Matt and some Chapel members enjoy the memory book created for Pastor Rolf.

up in Protestant traditions to the rhythms of monastic life. And what does a student need more mid-semester than the spiritual rest a monastery provides?

### 5. Creative Sermons and Series

While known for his sermon titles (like "Moon Over Sinai" for one on Moses seeing the tail end of God's glory), Pastor Rolf also brought an incredible range of topics to the Chapel pulpit. Where else would you hear a Reformed ministry do a series on the Apocrypha? And then there's his personal style of preaching. In the words of one Chapel member Caitlin Jackson, "Whenever I think of Rolf, his poetic way of preaching and praying will always be in my ears! I may not remember the exact words, but I

remember the cadence, the tone, hand gestures, the emotion, the conviction with which he speaks. Rolf's language transports me to the places he has been...the peace of the Abbeys of Gethsemani and Iona... the adventure of biking along the shores of the lakes...peering out a train window at the expanse of America.... rambling under towering sequoias and telling the youth to respect them...talking on a porch with Wendell Berry - a cool glass of lemonade in hand...showing the backyard garden bounty to Shalom.... Rolf goes out into the world and brings back to us what he sees through the lens of the gospel."

### 6. Religious Perspectives on Climate Change Conference

Pastor Rolf brought, as he often said, "the Christian tradition to bear at the University of Michigan" in many ways, but one stands out for the diverse academic participants it drew from within U-M. The Religious Perspectives on Climate Change Conference had an incredible line-up of presenters from across the country who shared about how Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Daoism connect-



Don Postema offers a prayer of gratitude for Pastor Rolf's ministry, and for the meal shared at the Farewell Luncheon.

ed with caring for the Earth and the specific threats posed by climate change. It was a full room, and most notably, with faculty from across U-M, choosing to spend a full day participating.

### 7. Creative Song Choices

Every worship planner has their own proclivities and preferences, but Pastor Rolf brought a zeal and appreciation for language to Chapel worship that meant no aesthetically slipshod or theologically fuzzy lyrics would be a part of our services. He exposed many students to the music of the Taizé community (following in Don Postema's footsteps), to countless folk melodies and early American hymns, and, of course, to the work of John Bell and the Iona community that he dearly loves.

### 8. Theology on Tap/God and Guinness

While talking theology at the pub is no new thing (ask Martin Luther!), Pastor Rolf guided our version of this for over a decade. While the readings he provided were always thought-provoking, the conversations over "a beverage of your choice" made it special. You could discuss the article. Or... you could not. But what you always got was great company and profound conversation. One Chapel alum, Al-

lyson Green, said "I can't even count the number of times... I thought, 'How in the world did we get to this place in this conversation?' The answer was usually, 'Oh.... Rolf.'"

### 9. Wine Before Breakfast

Who wants to drag themselves out of bed for a 7:30 AM contemplative service of communion and prayer, featuring a capella singing of Taizé refrains and well-loved hymns? Pastor Rolf, of course. Meeting in the beauty and stillness of the Chapel sanctuary lit dimly by candles, and then sharing breakfast together... it's a gift that centers you in God's love for the day ahead.

### 10. Tour de Chapelle

Few events bring together so many of Pastor Rolf's loves like the annual bike trip to a local cider mill. There's cycling, fall in Michigan, friendly conversation, God's beautiful creation, and (of course) apple cider and donuts! This annual Sunday afternoon ride has become an extension of our worship. Rolf is our pastor there, too, showing new students the interesting ways God made this place they now live (he's a walking field guide) and inviting them into a community that will sustain them and grow their faith during their Michigan years.

## Other Kudos & Farewells



A hearty congratulations to **Josie Dykstra**, who completed her Bachelor of Science in Physics. She has been a steady and committed presence at the Chapel, serving on the Leadership Team and as the Chapel's administrative assistant. She has prepared many a Wednesday Night Dinner, and lead vocally in our worship services. We have benefited from her wide-ranging interests and passions, from making fabric handcrafts of various types (especially lace!) to loving renaissance history and culture to being a powerful advocate for voices from the margins.

**Andrew Kinzer** graduated from the School for Environment and Sustainability with a master's degree in the Environmental Policy and Planning track. He has been an active member of the Chapel community for four years, and served as a member of the Chapel Leadership Team. He participated in the Au Sable Grad Fellows program, and also worked for Pastor Rolf as the program assistant. But at heart Andrew's a rugby-playing missionary kid from Kenya who loves roughing it out in the wilderness, the more interesting (and occasionally dangerous) animals around the better. We will miss his passion and love for God's creation and creatures, as he, Alex (a 2017 SEAS graduate), and their daughter Liana head into their next stage of life (hopefully back in Kenya!).



Congratulations to **John Kloosterman**, who completed his PhD in Computer Science this spring, working on the efficiency and architecture of GPUs. Both Pastor Rolf and Pastor Matt attended his dissertation defense, and were impressed that he explained his work well enough that it actually made sense to them. From his arrival five years ago, John has jumped into the Chapel community, frequently playing guitar, piano, and organ in worship, serving on the Chapel Board (currently as president), and getting married here a year and a half ago! We are decidedly thankful that he and Liz will be staying in Ann Arbor, as he has accepted a Computer Science Lecturer appointment at U of M.



**Jacob Kvasnicka** finished his master's at the School of Public Health, where he focused on water quality issues related to chemical contaminations. Part of his research was on the lead contamination in widely publicized Flint drinking water crisis. At the Chapel he was a regular guitar player for our worship, and we will miss his thoughtful and perceptive questions in community conversations. This

summer he'll be moving to Canada to begin a PhD program at the University of Toronto.

Congratulations to our former Ministry Associate, Kyle and Allie on the arrival of their little one, **Simon James Meyaard-Schaap!** With a name as Biblical as his, we expect great things. Unfortunately they moved back to Grand Rapids this spring, but we are grateful for the two years they sent with us.



Pastor Rolf and Sandy each received a custom "Tour de Chapelle" cycling jersey as a thank-you gift, including the logos for a range of Chapel and CFS programs. If you look carefully you'll see the unique "apples and donuts" background pattern - perfect for autumn rides in Michigan!

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## INKLINGS...

the newsletter of campus chapel ministries  
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