

May 2023

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CAMPUS MINISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

GRADUATE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (GCF)

We have much to celebrate this year with five people finishing up their programs. Many of them told their story at GCF this year,



reflecting on their experience in grad school. We look forward to how God will continue to use them in whatever is next in their lives. As these students move on to new places and phases, please pray for them and that God will continue to bring new students to the ministry.

This spring we also celebrated the baptism of someone whose faith we had seen grow these past two years as she participated in the ministry. During a difficult season in grad school she reached out to Christ and felt God's presence. After this encounter with God, a friend encouraged her to connect with us. Adding to the joy of her baptism is that the person baptizing her has himself been shaped by the Wine Before Breakfast community and is now part of the campus ministry committee!

We also give thanks that Carol had the opportunity to go back to Nepal this spring and share with us the impact that her long-term commitment to Nepal has had on her life and sense of calling.



WINE BEFORE BREAKFAST (WBB)



Wine Before Breakfast continued to gather together to share the Eucharist, lament the brokenness in the world around us, pray for the university and the church, and to look to God for hope. This winter we reflected on images of God and then focused on sin and grace during Lent. (Highlights can be found on our [website](#) and [Instagram](#).)

Once a month, we shaped our services to include elements from the Taizé community, integrating their meditative music and times of silence into the liturgy. In the chaos and busy-ness of life, such silence and space can be a gift.

We have been struggling with low numbers at WBB for some time. The ministry team has thus been reflecting on whether our energy is better spent finding other ways to connect with this generation of students and providing different opportunities to address their needs. We have been praying and wondering about what God might be providing for the WBB services and community. We continue our regular WBB monthly services this summer, but we're not sure what a worship service hosted by the ministry will look like in the fall.

As part of wondering where God might be leading us next, the WBB team partnered with the Ecumenical Chaplaincy at UofT (ECUT) to lead a series of Taizé worship services during Lent. We appreciate your prayers as we ponder how we might best collaborate with ECUT and other campus ministries to reach and support students.

The Christian Reformed Campus Ministry at the University of Toronto is graciously supported by the churches of Classis Toronto, as well as the generous support of our campus ministry communities, alumni, and friends.

If you'd like to donate to the ministry, you can do that online or by sending cheques to our address: Christian Reformed Campus Ministries at U of T, TST, 47 Queen's Park Cres. E, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C3
For more information about donating and the ministry, see <http://crc.sa.utoronto.ca/donate/>

BRIAN WALSH'S (LONG-DELAYED) RETIREMENT PARTY

On April 21st, we were finally able to celebrate Brian Walsh's retirement in person. Church of the Redeemer opened their doors to us and graciously hosted an evening with a Wine Before Breakfast style service, which was crafted and carried out by members of the community who have been involved in the ministry over the years. We prayed and sang, and even danced together, praising God in celebration and gratitude.

After the service, we reflected further with speeches offered by some of Brian's colleagues and co-conspirators. It is clear that God used him to bless many people in his time in ministry.

The evening was a rich time of reflection, thanksgiving, and joy. Many thanks to all who helped to make this service and celebration happen. The evening was a blessing to all of us, especially Brian, who may have retired professionally, but who continues to be used by God to be a blessing through his writing, teaching, and friendship.



EMERGING LEADER: ROBERT REVINGTON

In reflecting on his experience as Emerging Leader, Robert was especially struck by how campus ministries fill a useful function by providing community for people who feel out of place in traditional church contexts. As ministry staff, we appreciated Robert's desire to help out in whatever ways he could: providing prayers for the services, organizing social events, scheduling volunteers, helping clean up, and connecting us with other campus ministries.



Having a structured role in the community allowed Robert to explore further his commitment to hospitality. As Robert created a hospitable space for others, he demonstrated what it meant to be open and vulnerable through sharing his own story with the group. Robert also recommends that people watch Season Three of "Star Trek: Picard" for a satisfying conclusion to earlier Star Trek storylines.

SILENT RETREAT

On January 21, we hosted our annual silent retreat at the Sisterhood of St John the Divine Anglican convent. Twenty-one of us spent the day in that beautiful, peaceful, and sacred space: such a blessing to be back in person! We were glad to open it up to 6 extra students from the theological colleges at UofT. Participants were encouraged by the chance to intentionally step away from their busy lives to listen for God in silence.

MINISTRY UPDATE

We continue to be thankful for how we've seen God working in the ministry this past season. People have been encouraged and come to know God more fully. We have been able to create spaces of rest and thoughtful reflection, through our usual programming and through trying new things, such as:

- a book study on Amy Kenny's book, My Body is Not a Prayer Request
- Divine Discourse: conversations on things that matter, and
- a Taizé worship service, with the Ecumenical Chaplaincy at UofT.

Please continue to pray for the ministry and the university. Pray especially that we might be a welcoming space to students who are struggling with faith and that we might join in on what God is already doing at the university. Please also pray that graduate students might look for and find us.

Thank you for your support of the ministry through your participation, prayers, and financial support. - Brenda Kronemeijer-Heyink, Carol Scovil, Deb Whalen-Blaize, and Robert Revington



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