

CAMPUS CHAPEL

1236 WASHTENAW CT.

ANN ARBOR, MI 48104

## INKLINGS

the newsletter of campus chapel ministries

[www.campuschapel.org](http://www.campuschapel.org)





## LOOKING BACK; LOOKING FORWARD

On one of those glorious October Saturday afternoon when Michigan is at its finest, Campus Chapel alumni, friends, and supporters gathered at Calvin Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids

recounted stories from his years of ministry. As the current pastor, I sat back in awe of the breadth of that ministry – Don seems to have known *everyone* at UM – and its depth, made clear by the



to trade stories, share a meal, give thanks for God's faithfulness to this ministry, and celebrate what God is doing now in and through the Campus Chapel. Over the course of the open house, Chapel alumni representing every decade from the 1960s to the 2010s dropped by. It was a beautiful snapshot of our past as well as a chance to look ahead at what the next decades of the ministry might look like.

One of the highlights of the gathering was the presence of Don Postema, long-time Campus Chapel pastor. More than once Don's booming laugh rang out across the Calvin Church atrium as he

profound connection alumni still have to Don.

For decades he embodied a Reformed approach to campus ministry that sought to create "a climate to allow searching without fear, and questioning without shame." That's a quote from Don's mentor, Henri Nouwen, who went on to say, "[the campus minister's] faith tells him/her that growth can only take place when belief and unbelief, doubt and faith, hope and despair, can exist together. It is only slowly that a student is willing to realize this, and he/she will never be able to do it unless there is someone to offer him/her a fearless climate."<sup>1</sup>

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At times it feels that our society is dominated more by fear and shame than by faith. We had a few speakers offer some brief remarks during the open house, and the theme was how we are seeking to carry out that same vision of creating space for the honest wrestling of faith. I shared about a discussion at a recent God @ the Pub gathering. Freshly minted UM PhD and now anthropology faculty member, Ben Hollenbach, talked about how the Chapel has been a place of hospitality and engagement for him. And Chapel Board president, Jen Boes, communicated the board's firm commitment to a posture of Christian welcome and engagement with challenging faith questions.

This is a difficult task in the face of current cultural

and denominational forces. There is a tendency to flatten nuance and seek stark clarity about complex faith issues. That temptation is understandable; life is a lot simpler when there are clear and certain boundaries. Unfortunately (or really, not so unfortunately), Jesus had a habit of transgressing the religious boundaries of his day and posing questions that troubled the received wisdom of religious leaders. That's a calling we embrace as a campus ministry, and it is not something we are willing to sacrifice. Looking back at what God has done informs our vision as we look forward. The God who has been faithful for so many years will continue to guide our ministry into the next years and decades.

-Pastor Matt

1 Henri Nouwen, *Intimacy* (Harper Collins: 1969), 144-5.

## DOCUMENTARY FILM VIEWING

The Center for Faith & Scholarship partnered with the UM Wesley Foundation to put on a special screening of the documentary film *1946: The Mis-translation that Shifted Culture*. It explores the decision to include the word "homosexual" in the Bible and the related cultural and theological shifts.

At the event we hosted Kathy Baldock, an international speaker, author, and LGBTQ advocate who is featured prominently in the film. She shared even more stories than are featured in the documentary about the people portrayed in the film and the filmmaking process. She also commented on

her own journey to becoming an advocate and ally. It's not often you see a group of Michigan students and community members gathered to watch and discuss a movie about Biblical translation, and we were grateful to help create that space.





## POSTEMA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

It was a distinct pleasure to award the first Christina Cunningham Postema Memorial Scholarship to Cezary Karwowski for the 2024-2025 academic



*Pastor Matt officially awarding the scholarship to Cezary.*

year. A native of Poland, Cezary is a first-year PhD student in piano performance. His remarkable musical abilities and his commitment to service in faith communities make him a perfect fit for this scholarship. And his kindness and generosity of spirit reflect the posture of the award's namesake.

Chrissy, as she was known to most, was absolutely committed to excellence in church music. As a member of many vocal ensembles and a cantor for services at the Campus Chapel and elsewhere, she appreciated the power of music in worship to elevate the prayers of the community. Her love of mu-

sic of all kinds was a part of her larger appreciation for beauty in God's world.

It brings us great joy to see her memory honored and carried forward in the creation of more musical beauty, especially in the context of Chapel worship. As our regular pianist, Cezary brings so much to our services. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the Grażyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź, Poland and a Master's degree in Piano Performance from Baylor University. He has also won a number of prizes at national and international piano competitions. Whether it's a Chopin prelude or a particularly sensitive rendering of a classic hymn, he has already been a gift to our worship life.

If you'd like to hear for yourself, you can check out his recordings which are available on his website: <https://www.cezarykarwowski.com/listen>.



*Cezary performing with the Baylor Symphony Orchestra in Waco, Texas.*

### SCAN TO DONATE!

The Campus Chapel and CFS can only do what we do because of the generosity of our donors. As institutional funding for ministries become harder to find, we need you more than ever. Our ministry would not exist without the faithful donations and support of people like you. Thank you so very much!

