

Coming Up at TPOG in Fall 2014

All are welcome! Please join us at any events listed below

- **The Gathering**, our apologetics seminar series, will host **Scott Barefoot: “My Story: Why I Left the Gay Lifestyle”** at **Wisconsin Lutheran College** on **Wed, November 12th** in the **Warrior Underground**. Dinner served at 7pm and program at 7:30pm. Please join us!
- **Weekly Chapel Service Wednesday evenings at 8:30pm** at 2215 E. Kenwood Blvd. led by our new vicar, seminary student **Benjamin Ehlers** and followed by food & fellowship.
- **Weekly Bible Study at MSO E Tuesdays at 6:30 pm** on the 3rd floor of the CC
- **Weekly Bible Study at UWM Tuesdays at 8:30 pm** on the 3rd floor of UWM Union near the Kenwood Inn
- **Weekly Bible Study at Marquette Wednesdays at 8:30 pm** at The Brew (second floor of the Raynor Memorial Library)

The Point of Grace

2215 E. Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53211

office@tpog.net or 414-963-2047

Find out more about our mission at www.tpog.net

Our Staff

Rev. Don Thompson, Pastor

Vicar Benjamin Ehlers, Chapel

Mike Westendorf, Outreach

Paula Herbst, Secretary

Hannah Wagie, Newsletter Editor

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November Newsletter

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2215 E. Kenwood Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53211



THE POINT OF GRACE
Milwaukee Area Campus Ministry
“Christ On Campus”

What’s Happening at TPOG

Thank you, **Jack Albert**, for your time and initiative in moving forward a burgeoning group at **Wisconsin Lutheran College** who are interested in meeting Christian students on other campuses in the Milwaukee area through The Point of Grace. The WLC group hosted a wonderful Gathering in early October with **Pastor Jason Ewart** of Hope Lutheran Church in Oconomowoc. (See a video at <http://tpog.net/the-gathering-videos/>.) Pastor Ewart gave a **loving and truthful talk** about the “fairy-tale romance” myths that our culture propagates and the consequences later in marriage. We appreciated that **the emphasis remained on maturing in our faith** to make God-pleasing choices about sex:

“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.” (1 Corinthians 13:11)

College students & youth groups: put the evening of January 12th on your calendar for the Winter Break **Awake & Alive** at St. Paul’s in Muskego! This special series is intended to encourage 18-25 year-olds to awaken to God’s purpose for their lives. It There will be a live concert led by **Mike Westendorf** including a message followed by food and fun activities. Check out a recap of the summer events at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/333208346829465>.

Supporters, please pray for:

- Our students as they approach midterms.
- Our students hosting a controversial Gathering in November hosting Scott Barefoot with “My Story: Why I Left the Gay Lifestyle.”
- That TPOG would seek and follow the Lord’s will for our group.

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A Staff Member's Perspective

Mike Westendorf
—Outreach Coordinator & UWM Adviser—
To supporters of The Point of Grace Campus Ministry:

Dear Friend,

All I can say is **Thank You!** Seven and a half years ago, I was a young artist with a heart for ministry and I was asked to step into the world of campus ministry as a worship leader and ministry team member. I had just come back from a tour in North Carolina where **I had run into my pride and God really got a hold of my heart and let me see it for what it was:** right desire, wrong motive. I think most of us can relate. With my heart healing and looking to learn, I led worship at The Point of Grace one evening in April 2007 and Pastor Bill Limmer, the new campus Pastor at the time simply said **"I need you here"**. When I was asked to walk with this age group and this ministry all I could say was "Well, I don't know what I'm doing, but I'll give it a shot". Pushing on toward 8 years, I am not the same person I was. Many things in life have changed me, but these college kids, through TPOG, high schools, musicians and meteorologists [at Innovative Weather where I work with UWM atmospheric science students], have shaped how I look at this period of life and the importance of "The University Moment".

I will be stepping down from my formal roles with TPOG beginning at the end of January as this gives TPOG a chance to bring in some new talent that deserves the chance to **make a difference** and **fall in love with this generation of young people** just as I have. Our new ministry model is moving in a very positive direction for our students and campuses. Stronger student organizations are crucial. High school students coming to Milwaukee need a place to invest some of their lives for Jesus sake and for their sake. We are leading The Gathering Series with speakers working through apologetic and culture topics from a Christian worldview. And we have been blessed to restart our weekly chapel worship. With proper prayer, financial and people support, **The Point of Grace can become a strong partner for high schools and churches** who love college aged people and young professionals.

This is where I would like to say **thank you** to you. **Thank you for your faithful prayers** over the years to watch over the ministry team and leadership that is walking with young men and women that we have a chance to come into contact. **Thank you for your sacrificial giving financially**, the above and beyond that you do not only for your local church, but also for helping this ministry move forward for the past 8 years. **Thank you for your kind words of encouragement** that have been timely. Campus Ministry is one of the hardest ministries to work in and, as staff, we often wonder if all the work pays off. Your encouragements help to keep motivated, refresh our hearts and rejoice over the stories of God's faithfulness to this generation. In all these ways and more, you help make campus ministry a reality.

Working with so many young people and young leaders that will make a difference in churches and families of their future, I want to share a passionate encouragement with you. For **Steve, Jake, Jacob, Emily, Hannah, Brianne, Rachel, Melissa, Nick, Mark, Stella, John, Jon, Will, Sam, Jeff, Charlie, Tyler, Ben, Adam, Paula, Phil, Emily, Mandy, Chad, Hannah, Adrianna, Jack, Kristin, Brittaney, Joey, James, Sarah, Jenn** and... well you get the point – a LOT of people who have been in our midst, I want to say on their behalf. **Don't stop!** Don't stop praying, don't stop supporting, don't stop encouraging, don't stop sharing, don't stop, keep going, keep running this race with TPOG and ministries that serve and connect the 18-25 generation to the journey with Jesus!

I want to encourage you with everything I have to not be afraid to step into relationship with the 18-25 year olds in your church, in your neighborhood, in your job and in your family. Fight for them, get your church on board and pray for them. Don't try to fix them, but just walk with them. Psalm 89: **"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever, with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations!"**. Be in relationship with them that you can share your stories of God's faithfulness to you and let them share God's faithfulness to them with you. It's my prayer that one day TPOG has a full time Pastor again, for an increase in TPOG staff and volunteers and for a strong connection to the local church. It's my prayer that Campus Ministry will be the bridge that spans the wild river of culture and identity. That, connected with high schools, churches and ministries to college aged and young professionals, God would use TPOG to strengthen the journey in Christ! **"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine**, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen!"

Sincerely,
Mike Westendorf



Thank you, Mike, for your time, your energy, and—most of all—your heart. TPOG has been blessed by your commitment and service.



THE POINT OF GRACE

Milwaukee Area Campus Ministry

“Christ On Campus”

“We always thank God for you and continually mention you in our prayers.” (1 Thessalonians 1:2)

I rejoice to share with you that the The Point of Grace’s latest **Gathering** had record attendance, with 70 young men and women hearing Jason Ewert’s presentation, “Hooked Up – A Contrarian Guide to Love, Sex, & Dating.” Our **Gathering** series, which presents Biblical principles on topics relevant to the lives of college-age adults, continues to incite thoughtful discussion, encourage God-pleasing behavior, and grow faith. Through the **Gathering**, chapel services, weekly Bible studies, retreats, and other events, The Point of Grace is reaching these men and women with the Gospel and encouraging them in their faith.

The Point of Grace continues to serve young men and women on four campuses in the Milwaukee area– Marquette, MSOE, UWM, and Wisconsin Lutheran College. I am pleased to share with you that we are in process of adding a fifth campus, Carroll University. Additionally, The Point of Grace is working with both high schools and local congregations to reach as many college-age adults in the Milwaukee area we can, including efforts to reach young men and women who are not pursuing post-secondary education.

As Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, “How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?” The Point of Grace is not sustained by any congregations or the Synod, but by grants and the generous offerings of our supporters. Your support is helping college-age adults lead God-pleasing lives in response to their Savior’s love. Thank you for making this ministry possible.

There is still much work to be done, and we need continued support to make it happen. As a supporter of The Point of Grace, we ask that you continue to pray for our ministry as we move forward in the coming months, that you consider making a special financial gift, and that you tell others about this important ministry. Your prayers, generosity, and willingness to share our work with others help us continue to impact the lives of young men and women. If you know someone – a friend, neighbor, pastor, congregation member – who would be willing to support The Point of Grace, please share this newsletter with them. You can also visit our website, www.tpog.net, where we have a calendar of events, **Gathering** series videos, student testimonials, and more.

On behalf of the ministry team, directors, and, most importantly, the students, thank you for your past and continued support of The Point of Grace, and God bless our continued efforts.

In Christ,

Joel Davis, Director
The Point of Grace

Other ways you may support The Point of Grace:

THRIVENT CHOICE

If you are a Thrivent member and are eligible for the Choice Dollars program, please consider selecting The Point of Grace in Milwaukee as one of your designees.

AMAZON SMILE

Amazon has a program called Amazon Smile that for every purchase you make on Amazon 0.5% will be donated to The Point of Grace. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/> to sign up and then select The Point of Grace in Milwaukee as your designee.

Other ways to make donations:

Personal checks are always welcome – please make checks out to The Point of Grace or TPOG and mail them to The Point of Grace, 2215 E. Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53211 .

PayPal- you may make donations by using our PayPal button on our website: www.tpog.net at the bottom of the home page click on Donate button.

Direct Deposit - You may make transfer payments right from your account to ours through the Simply Giving Program through Thrivent. You must become a TPOG partner to be able to use this program. You may make monthly, Bi-Weekly (twice a month) or a one-time transfer. For forms or more information please contact The Point of Grace office at 414-963-2047 or e-mail: paula@tpog.net .