



The Downtowners INC.

AN ECUMENICAL MINISTRY SERVING THE DOWNTOWN CAMPUSES

2011 – 2012

Enriched Through Service

Founded in 1978 through the leadership of Trinity Lutheran Church in conjunction with the Downtown Clergy.



Mission Statement

The Downtowners is a caring presence to the students and faculty in downtown colleges and universities. This is accomplished through services and programs that enhance the quality of life and answer to the call of the Gospel to make life sacred for all people.



SERVING

- Capital University Law School
- The Columbus College of Art and Design
- Columbus State Community College
- DeVry University
- Franklin University
- Mount Carmel College of Nursing



When I was in high school, I lived from place to place. I was often hungry. I got a job at Caesar's Pizza so I could eat. Sometimes my grandmother fed me and I did my laundry at her house. I never knew my birth father. I met a teacher at the Pioneer Technology Center in Gallion, Ohio. Her name was Kathy Greenwich. She asked me if I ever thought of college. I grew up on the streets, hung out with all the wrong people—a lot of my friends have died and I'm only in my 20's—and this teacher asks me if I were thinking about college. She told me that there was Government aid to help people who had no money to get to college. Wow.

The people I was serving could have been me.

I cut wood for the grandmother of a person named Kurt who said that if I ever wanted to go to school, I could live with him in Columbus. I took up his offer.

In the summer of 2006 I moved to Columbus. I enrolled at Columbus State. There I met Dr. O'Shaughnessy. (We students call her Dr. O). We sat on a bench on a warm Fall day with other students and talked about our goals, our faith and how the campus ministry of the Downtowners could help us. I remember afterwards when Dr. O and I were walking towards Aquinas Hall on campus, she asked me if I knew who Thomas Aquinas was. I didn't know then, but I know now. He was a saint and a teacher and a Dominican.

Then I came to know Dominican Sisters who tutored me —Sr. Mary Faith in English, Sr. Rosalie in Math, Sr. Ellen Bailie in business communication and Sr. Malachy who was just present to me. All of them never judged me. They opened their arms to me.

When I graduated from Columbus State, I took them with Dr. O out to dinner at the Olive Garden. I wanted to thank them.

Through the Downtowners over five years, I learned how to serve others at the Lawrence Haven Food Pantry at Holy Cross Church, Faith Mission and Bethlehem on Broad Street. I got perspective. The people I was serving could have been me. Those children's faces looking at me and thanking me for their food really got to me. I remember when I was a hungry kid.

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“Students brought great energy to our Church (Broad Street United Methodist). They were innovative and showed great leadership and helped our congregation volunteers with computer skills at the registration table. The Columbus College of Art and Design students were terrific with face painting and making fun things with the children.”

David Benson, Co-Coordinator of Bethlehem on Broad Street



“We are all part of the same God-given belonging, and we need each other.”

Kyle T. Kramer on “Radical Hospitality” in America magazine February 2011

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With the Downtowners students and people working with Bethlehem on Broad Street on Christmas day for several years, I have served hundreds of homeless waiting outside in tents at First Congregational Church. One year I served tables for the Christmas dinner with Dr. O’s husband, Bob. It made me appreciate family. It has been my family for Christmas.

It is hard to believe that I am graduating from Franklin University and that I have come this far. Franklin has taught me how to think analytically and how to solve problems in day-to-day decision making at the work place. The teachers are working in the business world and teach us from that real environment. They’ve taught us how to do not just what is acceptable, but what is right.

Dr. O knows it is hard for me to talk

about my faith, but I did make the Downtowners retreats. Besides having fun, I even sang hymns. I just know I am grateful. I was in Tennessee recently and I saw cars on the road with bumper stickers with the words “Jesus” “Miracle” and “Noel”. I was talking about my life and my faith with a friend when we were driving and I couldn’t believe that coincidence of those words on those cars. I just know I am part of something bigger and this believing and noticing is the start of something great...

Tommy Javens

Tommy graduated from Franklin University in September 2011 at Veterans Memorial. Dr. O’Shaughnessy led the Invocation and Benediction at the Graduation.

Service to the Community

We loved having you here. You are such a light in this city! Keep shining!

Rev. Tim Ahrens, Pastor of First Congregational Church where students serve through Bethlehem on Broad Street



“Like that great hymn of central city ministry— ‘where cross the crowded ways of life’—the Downtowners invites us all to ‘tread the city streets’ with deep compassion, courage and trust. We are all stronger by joining with them on their pilgrimage...”

Rev. Richard A. Burnett, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church

“Happy People rub off on me!”

Dieu Ngyyen, Mt. Carmel College of Nursing Student serving for Bethlehem on Broad Street



“For today’s lessons, Comfort worked on recognizing quantity in shapes, tracing lines from left to right, lines from top to bottom. Teaching Comfort gives me a sense of purpose. I am thankful that I am able to help and make a difference. Comfort looks at me with such admiration; she expressed her interest and dedication to work hard. This is such a great experience so far. Praise the Lord!”

Beatrice Nokuri, Capital Law Student serving at the Dominican Learning Center



Jesus Alive Among Us! The Good

At the Winter Retreat in Bellville, Ohio at the Templed Hills



Winter Retreat

"I think God brought me here for a reason. I have been able to feel a sense of security and warmth from all the people I have come to know while being here even though we were strangers upon arrival. I have never been on a church retreat before now and I am happy to say I plan on returning if given the opportunity."

Devon Baldwin, Mt. Carmel College of Nursing Student



As students walked through passages in the Bible, they guided their discussion and reflections on the question: "What does it mean to think spiritual blindness is? Do you have any struggles with Thomas' struggle to believe? How can we help others who struggle with Thomas' struggle to believe?"

"This was definitely one of the best retreats I have ever been to. Especially since I have started college... this retreat was the perfect way for me to remember what is important in my life. I would come back every year if I could!"

Renee Dicke, Mt. Carmel College of Nursing Student



"I love this time to read the Bible, pray and discuss (at the Templed Hills). A group of us went sledding down the hill here and played board games and then had a home cooked meal with my husband, Bob. After dinner, we studied and prayed together. I had studied and prayed it together before the retreat. We had smores over the fire on the snowy hilltop. I wouldn't have enjoyed the fellowship without the Downtowners."

Anna Lou, Capital Law Student

Good News of the Gospel of John

...ills, students studied and reflected on the Gospel of John.



...the Gospel of John, Dr. O'Shaughnessy
...e, leading by posing questions. What do you
...esitate to ask for healing? Can you identify
...orking through doubt strengthen faith?

"This Winter Retreat experience was one of the most refreshing things I've encountered since beginning law school. There is nothing like going to a remote location, close to nature and reflecting with others seeking more than a career in life. I enjoyed meeting people with servants' hearts. Every soon-to-be professional should have the opportunity to do something like this from time to time."

Thad Townsend, Capital Law Student

...as a group here on the retreat (at Temple
...ere on the grounds. Then we relaxed
...ed dinner prepared by Dr. O and her
...the Gospel of John. Some of us students
...t. Then we ended the night by cooking
...t have been able to experience all of this
... Thank you for everything."



"And The Word became flesh and lived among us.." John 1:14

"Approaching John's Gospel is a bit like arriving at a grand, imposing house. Many Bible readers know that this Gospel is not quite like the others. They may have heard, or begun to discover, that it's got hidden depths of meaning. According to one well-known saying, this book is like a pool that's safe for a child to paddle in but deep enough for an elephant to swim in. But, though it's imposing in its structure and ideas, it's not meant to scare you off. It makes you welcome. Indeed, millions have found that, as they come close to this book, the Friend above all friends is coming out to meet them..."

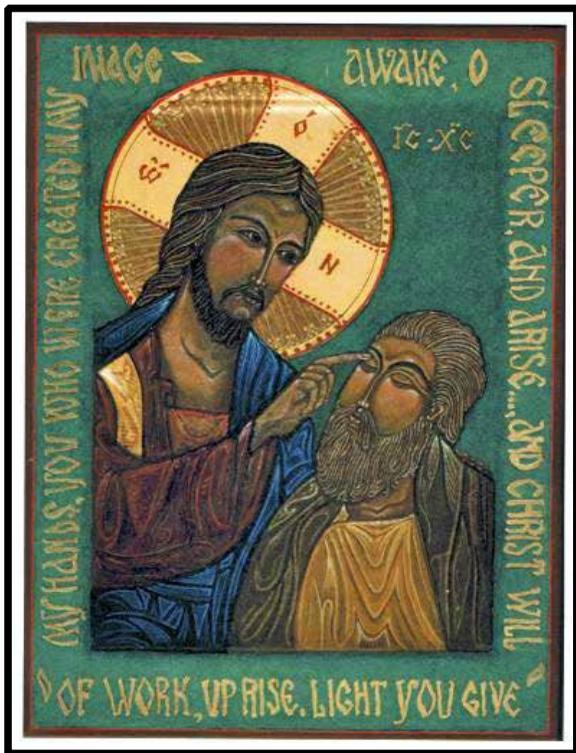
--N. T. Wright, JOHN



"Being here was a reminder as we discussed the Gospel of John that God is great; God is faithful; God loves; God appreciates us and most important God loves us... Thank you to all the donors who

made this possible for all of us. God Bless you. I am grateful. It was wonderful to meet others with the same hunger and need to grow closer and learn about the Lord. Thank you."

Anonymous



*May the risen Christ
Touch you
In your innermost being
With His healing powers,
His love,
And His life-giving peace.*

*Icon written to the Glory of God
and in memory of Sister Maria, SHN*

*By the humbled hand of the
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Lilly, O.S.H.N.
Priest Associate Trinity Episcopal Church*

In Memoriam

The death of John Sullivan, Board member and Professor Emeritus of Capital Law who died on August 31, 2011, leaves us bereft of his wisdom, dedication and friendship. Starting in 1983, John Sullivan and his wife Mary Jane hosted students and notable legal leaders in their home for "Fireside Chats" with the Downtowners. These ethics seminars were lively debates over issues of social justice, community and service, along with conversations about faith in God. We miss him terribly and offer our condolences to his wife Mary Jane and daughter Mary Anne.

Members of the Board

Dr. K. Sue Foley, Board President, North Broadway United Methodist Church

Greg Halbe, First Congregational Church

Ann Holzapfel, Children's Hospital Foundation

Rev. Mamie Jenkins, United Methodist Church, West Ohio Conference

Patricia McCann, Professor, Franklin University

Pete McClernon, Music Minister, St. Brendan's Catholic Church

Darren Nealy, J.D., Multicultural Services & Programs, Capital University Law School

Ashley Kennedy Smith, Esq., Contract Attorney

Rev. Jerry Stluka, Holy Cross Catholic Church



Pat McCann



Over the past 31 years, Pat McCann has taught virtually every math class available at Franklin University. She received a Master's degree from the Ohio State University and a Bachelor's from Ohio Dominican, which at the time was shifting from being St. Mary of the

Springs. In 1995-96 she expanded her horizons, living 9 months in Hong Kong, which included a teaching stint at the Municipal Power Plant in Shanghai.

When she was a senior at Bishop Watterson High School, one of McCann's teachers, a nun, asked where she was going to college. "I'm not going because my parents can't afford it," McCann explained. A short time later her teacher produced the proper forms and Pat McCann ended up with a full scholarship. Encountering "someone who noticed and someone who cared" made her education possible.

When asked to join the Downtowners Board, McCann eagerly said, "Yes, because I understood the Downtowners' mission and had always found it extremely important." The college years, she said, are a time of questioning and learning, and the Downtowners' presence in students' lives enriches their intellectual and spiritual growth. She finds it extremely important that students serve others who are less fortunate so they can work through their prejudices and come to understand that all are equal in the eyes of God. This service helps students develop their personalities and an enduring respect for other people. Finally, they begin to assume a sense of responsibility. They become good citizens with a solid spiritual foundation, whatever religious faith they choose.

McCann said that in today's secular society, it is very important for students to develop a spiritual sense or they can lose their grounding. It is even more important for those who come from families who have no religious foundation.

Through her teaching and her service, Pat McCann also is someone who notices and someone who cares. Professor McCann is a giving-caring presence.

Darren Nealy

Downtowners' Board member Darren L. Nealy is the Multicultural Affairs Director at Capital University Law School. After completing his undergraduate work at University of Dayton, he later received his Juris Doctor from University of Virginia School of Law. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 2001. He worked in private practice with two Columbus firms for six years and was the Executive Director of the Tobacco Public Policy Center.

Nealy was drawn to the work of the Downtowners because of its inclusive approach and the personal growth opportunities for Capital Law students. He said the student participation has given them "a stronger awareness of the less fortunate, of those in need." His hope is that their experiences through the Downtowners has instilled a willingness to help others that will carryover into their doing pro bono work or even their gravitating to public interest law in the future.



Although Nealy grew up in Dayton, Ohio as a Roman Catholic, he teaches at a Lutheran school and attends the Meadow Park Church of God with his wife and two daughters, four years old and three months. His ecumenical life is broad and deep. He said, "I've always been sensitive to the diversity provided by differences, as well as some commonalities, of varying faiths." His cousin married a Jewish woman and they served as best man at each other's wedding. His college roommate was a Muslim and a close friend is a Jain.

Darren Nealy seeks to find various ways to bring cultures, and the religions growing out of their cultures, to a commonplace and understanding. He finds his work with the Downtowners as one step in that journey.

Dear Students and Companions of the Downtowners,

Companions in Our Ministry

Broad Street
Presbyterian Church
Catholic Diocese of
Columbus
Columbus Foundation
Dominican Sisters
of Peace
Episcopal Diocese of
Southern Ohio
First Community
Church
First Congregational
Church
Holy Cross Church
Ohio Campus
Ministries
Sister Marie Pierre,
S.N.D.
Memorial Fund for
Students in Need
Presbytery of
Scioto Valley
St. Joseph Cathedral
The Synod of the
Covenant
Presbyterian Church
Trinity Episcopal
Church
Trinity Lutheran
Church
The West Ohio Annual
Conference of the
United Methodist
Church
Women of Trinity
Lutheran Church



From time to time, the Board and I review our mission statement together and look to update and keep alive our identity as a campus ministry. We find that this mission statement has withstood the test of time for our students whose campus is the city: "The mission of the Downtowners is to be a caring presence to students and faculty in downtown colleges and universities. This is accomplished through services and programs that enhance the quality of life and answer to the call of the Gospel to make life sacred for all people." The mission is one of advocacy and comfort rooted in the work of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate.

Those whom we serve are the ones to hold us accountable to this mission. A Franklin University student, Tyiesha Radford, wrote of her experience with our Student Disciples in the City ministry: "Much of my recent service has been community organizing and involvement with grassroots civic organizations. It is rare for me to have the opportunity to be in the middle of

the community dealing with people directly...this is the most humbling experience that I have had, hands down! To see so many people who look like me, have similar backgrounds as I do, who just happen to be down on their luck, walking with grace and dignity, and so appreciative of a helping hand and kind words...it fills my heart with joy. This is the love of God! This is what He wants us to experience with our brothers and sisters around the world!"

We pass on students' evaluations to our funders who provide the means for us to serve. In a true sense the churches, dioceses, judicatories, Dominican Sisters of Peace, Ohio Campus Ministries, the Columbus Foundation, the Downtowners Board and individual donors are our companions in our ministry. This makes it possible for us to bring together students of all socio-economic and religious backgrounds. This contributes to a unity that bonds us all together in community.

This unity is also expressed when students find in the Downtowners ministry a voice to represent them in tough circumstances as well as a comfort from every day stressors. Opportunities around sharing the Bible, praying and playing together on retreats, serving others in our city bring us to the table of peace, love, racial unity, non-violence and justice.

We are grateful to those who make it possible for us to continue our mission of advocacy and consolation to students who come to us and are entrusted to us.

Blessings to you who bless us,

Dr. Ellen O'Shaughnessy
Executive Director
Campus Minister

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