

Shape of the Future

DePaul InterVarsity students will be conducting New Student Outreach in the first weeks of September, hoping to find those who are interested in taking a look at our group. This is a crucial time for new students to get involved — not least because many will create friendships during these weeks that last throughout their college years. (This was true for me!) Here are a few items on my “wish list” with God:

- 1) For student leaders to catch the vision for caring for new students.
- 2) For God to bring future student leaders into our group through this outreach.
- 3) For good conversations about spiritual things with interested nonbelievers.
- 4) For true friendships within the InterVarsity community.

Steps in the Right Direction

One of my favorite InterVarsity activities this summer has been my regular meetings with “Wendy,” a non-Christian woman whom I’ve been studying the Bible with for several months now. We have had so much fun getting to know each other while studying the Gospel of John. “Wendy” decided to take a risk and come to Cedar Campus in August with our chapter — and she had a terrific time and learned a lot about herself and about God. She is still hesitant about following Jesus, though, and it is very important that she make this decision on her own. My prayer for her is that she will begin to take her life seriously and begin to make healthy choices, spiritually, emotionally, socially,

and intellectually. I see that God has so much he wants to give to her and give through her, and I am longing to see his Kingdom come in her life.

Shelf Life

Book Notes from Ann

The Divine Hours, by Phyllis Tickle

I encountered this book at my staff development class in Jul and have been using it for my devotional life ever since. Phyllis Tickle re-introduces the concept of “fixed-hour prayer,” and includes beautifully written prayers and pertinent Scripture passages which one can follow four times each day. It comes in three volumes: Prayers for Summertime, Autumn/Winter, and Spring. Here is one of my favorite prayers:

Most gracious God and Father, you are with me as I make my journey throughout this day. Help me to look lovingly upon all people and events that come into my life today and to walk gently upon this land. Grant this through Jesus who lives and walks among us ever present at each moment. Amen.



Here's the new pad. We can't wait to show you around when you visit — which we hope will be soon!

Boyd's Eye View

Our very exciting news for this month is that we have bought a house! It is a 1925 brick bungalow,

less than two miles from our current home. (Our new address is below.) My favorite part about it is the fireplace: I have visions of ‘smores during the winter. We just closed a few days ago and will be moving on September 21. (My plan is that moving will be a revolutionary New Student Outreach event: “come move your InterVarsity staff worker and eat pizza with other sweaty people.” We’ll see.) Jon created a website where you can take a peek at some photos I took during the inspection:

<http://homepage.mac.com/jboyd/stlou/>

Prayer Requests

Please pray:

- for the student leaders: Mark, Erika, and Caryn. Erika and Caryn are also serving as Small-Group leaders.
- for our New Student Outreach, especially the Involvement Fairs on September 14 and 18.
- for my leadership of Bible discussions at our Large Groups (Tuesdays from 7:30-9:00 pm)
- for “Wendy,” as she seeks for spiritual truth in Jesus
- for more staff in our area! Pray that God would lead the right people to “Staff Exploration Day” on Nov 16. (And if you or anyone you know is interested, say so!)

New address and phone:

Ann Boyd
5231 N St Louis Ave
Chicago, Illinois, 60625

new phone number soon

ann_boyd@ivstaff.org



Extra! Extra!

Definite Articles: Small Groups Tackle Big Issues

Last spring, our leadership team had a wonderfully creative idea. We were stuck on a particular dilemma: we enjoy having Bible studies in our Large Group meetings, but Small Groups are important for building community — so should we do Bible studies there, too? Or should we do something else? Our faithful volunteer, Dan Knapp, spoke up, “What if we had topical discussions during small group times?” And the idea ran from there. It’s so exciting to collaborate with others!

We are piloting this new “discussion group” format for our Small Groups this fall. I have been compiling oodles of interesting articles and book excerpts, covering topics ranging from voting to Bible study to education to racism. It has been a lot of work but so much fun! The plan is to read and discuss these articles in Small Groups, encouraging students to think about how Jesus thinks about issues like these. College students are growing in their critical-thinking skills in their classes — and I think it is definitely good for them to learn to think deeply about their faith and its impact on their lives.

One of my prayers — and objectives — for DePaul students is that they will learn to fully engage both their faith in Jesus and the world they live in. It is a great challenge — for college students, for me, and maybe for you? — to truly integrate our faith into our lives. Very often, students struggle with having two groups of friends: “Christian” ones and

“secular” ones. Students feel the tension in their classes: what does Jesus have to do with chemistry? or acting? or sociology? Ideally, these small-group discussions will address these very struggles. What does Jesus think about voting? How can I bridge the gap between my groups of friends? Why am I going to school anyway? What is the purpose of

education? Is pursuing foreign missions more godly than practicing a profession like business?

Another exciting aspect of our new Small-Group format is that every third week will be focused on prayer, using a short devotional reading. This will give students a place to address with God the issues from their earlier discussions. My hope is that as students

experience group prayer times in Small Groups, several things might happen. Perhaps these Small-Group communities will be knit together more securely as they share their needs before the Lord. Perhaps students might begin to gain excitement about prayer and about looking for ways God is responding to their prayers. Perhaps we might be able to launch some regular, chapter-wide prayer meetings in Winter Quarter. I am very eager to see how God will challenge and grow students through our Small Groups!

For Christ & the University —

Ann

A special thank you and farewell

Dan Knapp has been volunteering with DePaul InterVarsity for four years. He has discipled students, led worship, taught Scripture, and so much more. God has been leading him and his wife, Stacy, onward to new ministry with their church, so alas, DePaul InterVarsity must allow the rest of God’s Kingdom to enjoy his faithfulness too. :) Thank you Dan for caring for all of us! We will certainly miss you.