

Help support our Classis CRC Campus Ministry

If you would like to make a direct donation to these Classis Hamilton Campus Ministries to help support non-budget programs such as Student Leadership Development and our Re-Creation Wilderness Ministry you may do so by designating "McMaster Christian Reformed Campus Ministry" on your donation during your congregational offering or send it directly to our office at:
McMaster University, Christian Reformed Campus Ministry
C/O the Chaplaincy Centre, Student Centre rm 231, 1280 Main St. West Hamilton On L8S 4L8

Thank you for your generosity!

Mark van Oord

Chair Classis Hamilton, Christian Reformed Campus Ministry Committee



We would like to thank Home Missions for their support of this Classis Hamilton Ministry.

McMaster University
Student Centre
Rm 231, 1280 Main St. West Hamilton, ON
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We're online! Check out our website:

www..re-creation.ca

Thank you to all those who contributed to this newsletter. We hope to continue to share highlights of this Classis Hamilton Ministry in the future.
Edited by: Eileen Fallon
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All of Creation Restored

Continued from page 1

CRC chaplains and their Student and Faculty teams are often instruments of the Holy Spirit in its work of spiritual redemption as Christ draws people to himself. But another distinctive aspect of Christian

that, we worship 'Christ as Lord' and recognise that not only were humans caught up in the ramifications of the fall, but that the fall was tragic for all of creation.

While acknowledging that creation still "declares the glory of God," we recognise that sin is like a parasite and the antithesis runs through all of life. Popular culture, yes! Academics, yes! And also family life, church life and business life. Every aspect of creation has been corrupted, causing it to groan for release from its bondage to decay.

How does this understanding shape Christian Reformed Campus Ministry? We confess that the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ vindicates all of His creation. In contrast to others, we don't promote an 'other-worldly' view of Christianity that degrades physical nature and says what we do on this earth doesn't really matter because soon God will take us

away to heaven. Nor do we take the dualist approach and identify certain aspects of created reality as structurally evil, or neutral, or somehow standing outside of God's concern.

At the heart of Christian Reformed Campus Ministry is the conviction that Christ is in the process of reconciling 'all things,' to himself and that we are called to join him as co-workers in restoring His Kingdom. As such, we affirm an everyday, concrete spirituality that sees every person on campus as a potential agent of re-creation, every sin tainted philosophy, every thought and academic discipline as instituted in God and worthy of transformation.

Engaging the university at this level can involve some heavy intellectual lifting, (as well as a good sense of humour),

but Christian Reformed university chaplains love learning.

With our tool box equipped with Reformed theological and philosophical concepts such as common grace and creational norms, we are well placed to pursue the Christian Reformed Churches mission to higher education.

At McMaster & Mohawk this is a journey we undertake joyfully as a community of believers. Enjoying and exploring God's creation we welcome all who would join us in celebrating God's gift to us of higher education. •



ANNUAL DOG-SLEDDING EXPEDITION

"AT THE HEART OF CHRISTIAN REFORMED CAMPUS MINISTRY IS THE CONVICTION THAT CHRIST IS IN THE PROCESS OF RECONCILING 'ALL THINGS,' TO HIMSELF."

Reformed Campus Ministry is that it does not limit its understanding of the depth of sin and God's grace to personal salvation. It has been said that the Reformed take a "very big view of redemption because they take a very big view of fallen-ness."

We boldly proclaim 'Christ is Saviour,' but even more than

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CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Mission:

To witness to the love and lordship of Jesus Christ on the McMaster and Mohawk Campuses and beyond.

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"THROUGHOUT THIS DIVERSITY, ONE THING IS CLEAR — THE DESIRE TO WALK FOR A TIME WITH EACH OTHER AS PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY WITH GOD."

McMASTER UNIVERSITY & MOHAWK COLLEGE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CAMPUS MINISTRY



The Bedrock of Campus Ministry

TA ΠΑΝΤΑ ΕΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΩΙ ΣΥΝΕΣΤΗΚΕΝ "All Things Cohere In Christ" Colossians 1:17

In my travels on the McMaster and Mohawk Campuses and in the broader Hamilton community, I am often asked "what is Christian Reformed Campus ministry? This is a question which can summon a lengthy and passionate response from me. Let me boil this topic down to its bare essentials, highlighting some of the uniqueness of the Reformed approach.

Christian Reformed Campus Ministry takes a 'total scriptura' (all of scripture) approach to campus ministry. Our starting point is the Reformed understanding of an original 'good'

creation, a creation-wide fall into sin and a cosmic restoration. The Reformed emphasises on an originally good creation that, "... all things were created by him and for him," and our creation/cultural mandate holds up to us a unique worldview that all of creation - every human activity, every blade of grass and every cultural initiative - was intended to glorify God. CRC chaplains and their ministry teams call people to enjoy creation, to delve into it and study it and to strive to be responsible stewards of its bounty. Continuing in this vein, this perspective bequeaths

us scope: it recognizes that everyone and everything - tangible and intangible on a university campus, from the president to the students, from the custodial staff to the faculty, from the philosophies bandied about in lecture halls, to dorm room entertainment and varsity sports is of concern to us, because it is of concern to God. He created it and it is his.

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Dr. Michael D. Fallon*



McMaster University and Mohawk College Student Teams

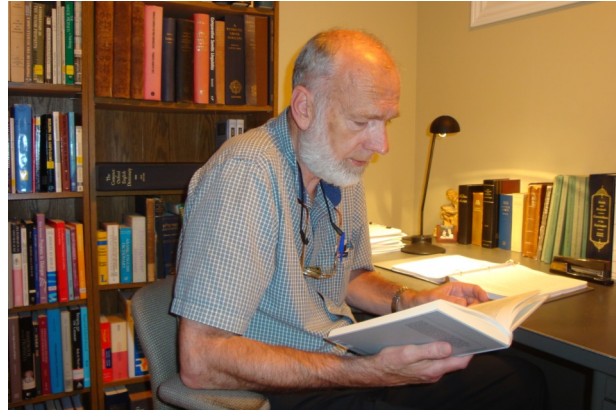
Our Mohawk College Team consists of: Joshua Kooiman, Jennifer Ridder, Rachel Feil and Matthew Hoogsteen. From McMaster University: Lisa Nightingale, Ben Verkerk and Jessica van den Hoef. Sean Fallon Re-Creation Wilderness Ministry. Our musicians are Simon Fallon and Cory Hoogsteen. Courtney Mooney an alumna and current first year

seminary student is serving as our intern.

(Leaders not pictured are: Sarah Krygman, Sarah Voorberg, Brian Bergsma and Chrissy Hurn).



Abraham Kuyper 'Loving Every Square Inch'



This year our McMaster & Mohawk "Abraham Kuyper 'Loving Every Square Inch'" Speaker was noted Bible scholar and philosopher, Dr. Albert Wolters. A strong and consistent supporter of our ministry, we

were honoured to recognize and celebrate Dr. Wolters eagerly awaited work on Zechariah. To this end Dr. Wolters spent a day speaking at various ministry venues. He addressed and engaged a lunch

time gathering of ministers from Classis Hamilton on the topic "Studying Zechariah and Hearing it Reflections after 20 Years." Later at our "All Things Fellowship" Dr. Wolters gave a personal testimony of how he has experienced God's grace in his life.

In the evening Dr. Wolters gave his keynote 'Kuyper' presentation "Zechariah the Prophet: What can we learn from the History of Interpretation?" to an appreciative audience of faculty, students and members of the community.

Dr. Michael D. Fallon

MCMASTER STATS

- FOUNDED IN 1887
- 22,852 UNDERGRADUATES
- 3,588 GRADUATES
- MCMASTER UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2011-2012
- 4TH IN CANADA
- 65TH IN THE WORLD
- THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Funding for the "Abraham Kuyper 'Loving Every Square Inch' Speaker Series" has been generously provided by a grant from VOX Charities from the Netherlands.

Past "Abraham Kuyper" Speakers.

Dr. James K.A. Smith. Calvin College. 2010

Dr. William Romanowski. Calvin College. 2011

CRC CAMPUS MINISTRY IS CHARACTERIZED BY BEING A COMMUNITY THAT IS:

- Disciple Making
- Fellowship-Fostering
- Worldview-Promoting
- Culture-Engaging
- Church Equipping

Courtney Mooney and Lisa Nightingale



Women's Bible Study and Prayer Group

The Women's Bible Study Group has been a place where women have been gathering to discuss the Word of God and share personal stories of faith, hope and love for the past 10 years. This year, we found that many young women were interested in prayer-how to pray, what to pray for and the importance of prayer as a way to deepen our relationship with Christ. Weekly, the table would fill up with women, all eager to dive into Scripture, ready to speak from their hearts, and

ask hard questions that they might not have asked before about their own personal prayer lives. The discussions about prayer and relationships us to come up with a new way of uniting the entire CRC-CM group in prayer - through Prayer Partners. Students interested in having a prayer partner were paired up with one another and encouraged to meet and discuss their prayer requests and pray together. They confide in one another, hold each other accountable and more

importantly, grow in their prayer lives as they become intentional about praying for their peers. The Women's Bible Study Group and now prayer partners, has provided much spiritual nourishment and has strengthened our bonds in Christ as we continue to witness to His love and Lordship on and off the McMaster University campus.

All Things Dinner Fellowship" feeds body and soul

Does this name mean that we will eat anything at our dinner fellowship? Perhaps it does. The "All Things" title however comes from Colossians 1:15-20. This is a significant passage in our ministry as it encapsulates much of our worldview in one short piece of scripture. "... for by Him all things were created, he is before all things and in him all things hold together ... and through him to reconcile all things to Himself."

We at McMaster Christian Reformed Campus Ministry understand this passage to mean that God is intimately involved in reconciling every aspect of His creation. This cosmic involvement gives us tremendous scope for our dinner conversations and those insights

brought by our guest speakers. All things - all topics, all areas of life are legitimate topics for discussion and exploration. The menu is full. In teaching a Reformed understanding of the Kingdom of God we invite some of the top Reformed scholars in various fields to share their thinking with our students and faculty. We also welcome our alumni and service learning supporters who wish to share deep personal stories of God's love for them and others. I like to describe what is going on in our ministry as - we are scratching at the Kingdom of God, but we are doing that in a warm, welcoming community that deeply cares for each member of our community.

Dr. Michael D. Fallon



Philosopher Dr. James K.A. Smith of Calvin College Addressing our "All Things" Faculty and Students



Rock Solid Wednesdays with the 'Solid Rock Mountaineers' was created at Mohawk College only last year, but the community that has formed since then would lead you to believe otherwise. Every Wednesday, students gather together to share a meal and discuss the ways in which God's Kingdom is being restored, rebuilt and regained all around us. The diversity of the group and the welcoming and loving spirit that fills the room when everyone is present is enough to leave every worry and struggle of student life, and life in general, at the door. The Fall 2011 semester

in particular, has been a meaningful one as each student had the opportunity to share a piece of music, story, or poem that was significant in their lives. Over those two weeks of sharing and exchanging of personal joys and tragedies, our community was strengthened, lifted up and immensely blessed by God through the unity of his people. Wednesday nights at Mohawk College has become a comfortable place to share how God is working in and through each of us as we continue to live our

lives in ways that lead us towards Him, our 'Solid Rock'.
Courtney Mooney

All Things CRC Dinner Fellowship meets every Thursday 5:30—7:00pm for dinner and discussion. Michael and the student leaders make most of the dinners and are always looking for help from local CRC churches. If you are looking for a cause to support we would love to talk to you. Contact Michael at 905-525-9140 ext 24123 or <fallonm@mcmaster.ca>

