What’s Cookin’? Soup Supper: Communal Ministry

Submitted by Jonathan Skinner, Interim Assistant for Chaplaincy

Normally, someone who is much more experienced than I is in charge of Chaplaincy’s annual fundraiser. Usually, this person is extremely good at thinking of, coordinating, planning, delegating, and executing every important detail that goes into the What’s Cookin’? Soup Supper. She thinks of everything—and then some! Her thoughtfulness, creativity, and joyful spirit make the evening something wonderful year after year.

But this year, Robyn Simpson-Mohr was not able to coordinate the event. As she has been on leave this semester, the job fell to me to organize the details of the Soup Supper. Naturally, I wondered if I would really be able to fill adequately such a substantial role. When I took the job I wondered how I could possibly take on all that Robyn could do. It seemed to be too much for any one person to accomplish.

Indeed, it was too much for a single person to do. But I quickly discovered that I wasn’t meant to undertake the task alone. The fundraising committee who helps organize the What’s Cookin’? Soup Supper is comprised of Augustana staff and Camrose community members who take care of various aspects of the event with enthusiasm and heart. Before she left, Robyn had put in place several important details so that I had a starting point and knew where I was going when I met with the planning committee. I did my best to coordinate and carry out all the necessary pieces according to what Robyn had set in place, but the only way it all got done was through the communal effort of all the helpful people on the committee. I never felt unsure or inadequate for long because I always had the tireless support of the group.

As I reflected on this, I realized that much the same situation exists with the Augustana Chaplaincy program and our donors. Chaplaincy is never short of new, exciting, and engaging ideas for campus ministry from our Student Chaplains. The students who participate in Chaplaincy programs accomplish all kinds of good things from planning worship, to planning fundraisers for local and global causes, to leading groups for student fellowship and spiritual growth. However, all of this potential could never be realized without the faithful and ever present support of our donors. This year, we were again amazed by the incredible generosity of those who joined us for What’s Cookin’? Soup Supper. Because of your support, Chaplaincy can continue to serve Augustana students in ways that are ever vital and relevant. Thanks to our supportive community, Chaplaincy never stands alone.

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”
-1 Corinthians 12:27

Truth and Reconciliation
(True and Reconciliation experimented with a new way during this worship service. Usually, this person is extremely good at thinking of, coordinating, planning, delegating, and executing every important detail that goes into the What’s Cookin’? Soup Supper. She thinks of everything—and then some! Her thoughtfulness, creativity, and joyful spirit make the evening something wonderful year after year.

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In This Issue:

Why Serve on Chaplaincy?

By Russell Sommer

One of the reasons I serve on Chaplaincy Council is that as a parent of a child currently attending, as well as, having a child who has convocated from Augustana, I want to contribute to not only my children’s well being, but to all students who choose to be involved with Chaplaincy directly or benefit indirectly from Chaplaincy. As an alumnus myself I want to “give back” to Augustana in, in small way, the opportunity and consideration that was afforded me when I attended.

As a member of Augustana Chaplaincy Council I am able to serve Augustana through fundraising, specifically our main fundraiser, The What’s Cookin’? Soup Supper. I am also involved with the Chaplaincy Media Committee exploring and developing ways of communicating to students and general public through varying types of media. My main support for the Chaplaincy Council is month to month decision making with the goal of supporting and enhancing Augustana Chaplaincy.

What I value about working with the Chaplaincy Council is the unending support and commitment toward spiritual and personal growth of the staff and student chaplains. More so, I appreciate the recognition and commitment to the general student body to provide opportunities for spiritual nurturing along with encouragement toward change and personal growth.

Truth and Reconciliation

Submit your article to the Chaplaincy Council office, or to revwentland@ualberta.ca.

Truth and Reconciliation (continued from page 1)

In many religious and spiritual traditions, the elements of creation are often used as means of renewal, cleansing and affirming identity. In the Christian tradition, water is used as a reminder of our baptismal identity. In many Aboriginal spiritualities smudging is used as a practice of cleansing and purification. Baptismal remembrance and smudging are not the same but they bear similarities. In our chapel service, Eagle Willier, an Aboriginal student explained the practice of smudging and offered smudging to those who wished to participate. I explained and offered for those present to come forward to the font for a time of baptismal remembrance.

One of the desires that has arisen out of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people find new ways of relating to one another and co-existing as treaty partners. In a modest manner, the Augustana community experimented with a new way during this worship service.

Video!

Former Augustana student, Alison Bortonol, has created a video showcasing Chaplaincy’s Tuesday night Soup Supper! Check it out at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGsjw85956

Gifts to Chaplaincy

If you would like to make a gift to Chaplaincy, please make your cheque payable to the University of Alberta, noting Augustana Chaplaincy in the memo line. If you would like to donate online, please go to the Augustana home page www.augustana.ualberta.ca/giving and click on “online giving page.” Choose either Augustana Chaplaincy Annual Fund or Augustana Chaplaincy Endowment Fund from the menu in the “Fund” drop down box.

Pastor Craig Wentland, Augustana Chaplain

(continued on page 4)
Winter Retreat
The Winter Retreat was relaxing and refreshing with a free massage therapist, Don McArthur, and our guest speaker, Faith Nostbakken, who focused on forms of prayer. It is always exciting and inspiring to gather with students and leaders from other communities. The weekend was eventful with sushi making, worship and sessions but there is always time to unwind and reflect on all you have learned on Saturday night in the sauna.

Submitted by Joelle Skinner

Ashes to Go and Shrove Tuesday pancake serving
To begin the season of Lent, instead of Soup Supper we had a pancake supper in the cafeteria to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Craig, Jon, and the Student Chaplains served up pancakes, sausages and hash browns to students. On Ash Wednesday Chaplaincy held an Ashes to Go booth, where we distributed ashes to those who could not attend a service.

Submitted by Taylor Bulger

Valentine's Day Cookie Sale and the Grateful Grannies
Hello everyone! This semester we had the pleasure of hosting our annual Valentine’s Day Cookie Sale with the Grateful Grannies. We had a great time, and received over one hundred dozen cookies in donations! Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us, and we look forward to spending Valentine’s Day with you next year!

Submitted by Erin Specht

Coffee Houses
In Chaplaincy this year, we have hosted a series of “Coffee Houses” where students were able to display their many talents while enjoying a hot beverage in the Faith and Life Centre. We raised funds for several causes as well via donation, including aid for the Philippines after Hurricane Haiyan, funds for the Augustana Choir’s trip to Halifax, and for Our Lady of Victory Camp. We were blessed by many talented students who played music, recited poetry, told jokes, and even performed a juggling act. They were great community building events which we hope to continue in the future.

Submitted by Chris Audet

Lenten Prayer Series and Vikings Friends
Our Lenten Prayer Series was a time of centering for students during a period of busyness with exams and papers. The first of four weekly gatherings focussed on centering prayer taught by Linda Gervais. In week two, we gathered for mandala drawing: a representation of wholeness, and a great practice of rooting our relationship to God through free drawing. In the third week we had a healing service, which was a time of spiritual, emotional, and relational healing, singing, and scripture reading. For the final week, we had a pretzel making session, as pretzels are a traditional food of Lent; the pretzel looks like the crossing of arms, reminding us of the importance of prayer during Lent.

Submitted by Ryan Lindsay

Winter Retreat provides opportunity for fellowship and discussion

Chaplain Craig—Pretzel making Lenten Prayer Series

Ashes to Go

Coffee House

Mandala drawing

Healing Service—Lenten Prayer Series