

# THE BELL TOWER

Lutheran Campus Ministry • MARCH 2011



## From the President

Over the past four years, I've noticed that somehow time works differently in Chapel Hill during the spring semester. Life speeds up. While the fall semester seems to take its time, the spring semester feels more like a race as we dash from one exciting event to the next. The semester begins and everyone returns from their time at home during Christmas break. The next thing you know, it's time for the winter retreat, the Murder Mystery, ACC basketball, and then Spring Break is just around the corner.

This year has been no different. The first half of the spring semester was a blast, and I loved being able to share it with LCM. This issue of the Belltower provides a snapshot of the highlights from the first half of the semester—you'll hear more about our Spring Break adventures and how we wrap up the year in the next issue. Even in just two months, we were able to do so much as an LCM community! Some of the highlights include hiking through the snow on our winter retreat to Boone, hosting a murder mystery dinner where HTLC congregation members bribed and spied on each other to solve a murder on a cruise ship, preparing for our Spring Break trip to Germany through movies and lectures, and running to eat a dozen donuts as fast as possible in the Krispy Kreme Challenge. We've continued to learn more about our faith through Bible study and discussions of the show Modern Family, and we've spent time worshipping God together.

Through each of these activities, we experience God in new ways and we keep growing closer as a community. LCM is an incredible group of people with so many different passions and talents. I have been so blessed to know all of my fellow LCMers, and I look forward to enjoying the rest of this semester with them! Enjoy this glimpse into what we've done so far this semester!

Peace,  
Samantha Deal  
LCM President  
Class of 2011



## Learning about grace

Madison Lanier

The first weekend in February, I went with two other LCM students and Pastor Mark to Isle of Palms, just outside of Charleston, South Carolina where a retreat was being held for members of two regions of Lutheran Student Movement that include eight different states in the southeast. About 40 students attended, and we had a wonderful time, beginning with ice breaker games, and quickly progressing to jokes, challenges, and late-night conversations. Saturday afternoon was rejuvenating for all of us, whether we toured Charleston, played on the beach, or relaxed in the retreat center. Apples to Apples and CatchPhrase made fast friends so that we knew each other and understood the different points-of-view that were offered when discussions were deeper.

The theme of the retreat was “grace”, and with a Bible study led by Bishop Yoos, we were able to take a deeper look at the wonder of one of God’s acts that stands as a strong basis for our faith. We had small group discussions, we acted out Bible stories, and we analyzed quotes from theologians. Each of us was in a different place in our faith journey, and people offered their unique insights freely, allowing fellow college students to learn from each other’s experiences or personalities. Saturday night, a candlelight prayer service brought us together as we shared and lifted heavy concerns to God. The small group of UNC LCMers was proud to let others experience our typical worship as we led a service on Sunday. We sang together and enjoyed the friendly community one last time before we parted from our new friends with hugs and thanks.



## LCM Intramurals

Matt Clark

LCM has a proud tradition of competing—though not always winning—in a variety of intramural sports. We have recently acquired uniform t-shirts that proudly announce our Lutheran-ness, while our team names, the 95ers and Team Martin, also enlighten the keen observer. Although our number one concern is going out and having a good time, the quest for the famed Carolina blue intramural champion t-shirt creates tense play-off situations and more drama than is probably due an amateur sporting event. LCM routinely has a significant fan base as well, often confusing the officials and opposing team.

The intramural season begins with one of the more popular sports, flag football. We have a rather large rate of participation within LCM, usually fielding two teams of 10-15 players each. Though we generally don’t advance far in the playoffs, we can always count on beating the librarians. The rest of the fall semester is filled with soccer, street hockey, and dodgeball. With the spring semester comes two of LCM’s most successful seasons, innertube water polo and basketball. Sadly, the pool underwent renovations all of last year so only the current juniors and seniors have experienced the wonders of these two sports prior to this year. I still remember the first time ever playing water basketball—after pulling an all-nighter in the library—and how frustrating it was to combine balancing on the tube with getting in the right position in the water. Spring also brings indoor soccer, more hockey, as well as softball.

Intramural sports provide a great outlet for the inner athlete in us all, as many played a number of sports in high school. Additionally, they prove a great way to become better acquainted with members of LCM both new and old.

## The Krispy Kreme Challenge

Allison Hartzell

The Krispy Kreme Challenge is a four-mile race in which participants run two miles from N.C. State University's Belltower, in the heart of campus, to Krispy Kreme in downtown Raleigh off Peace St., eat a dozen freshly-baked doughnuts, and immediately run back another two miles to the Belltower. The ultimate challenge is to complete this task within an hour. Many of my fellow LCMers state that the "running part" of the race isn't the biggest hurdle—scarfing down 12 doughnuts at one time takes a while! A box of Krispy Kreme's original glazed doughnuts has a whopping 2,400 calories (1,200 fat), 144 grams of fat, 36 grams of saturated fat, 60 mg. of cholesterol, 1140 mg. of sodium, 120 grams of sugar, and 24 grams of protein. In an ESPN news blog about the challenge, Dr. Jonathan Allen of NCSU's nutrition lab is quoted stating for that amount of calories "...you'd have to run all the way to Chapel Hill (32 miles) to break even."

All proceeds from the Krispy Kreme Challenge are donated to the N.C. Children's Hospital. Knowing that, in some small way, you've helped out a lot of wonderful kids contributes even more to your sense of accomplishment after the race is over. This year, nearly 7,500 people participated in the race, and over \$100,000 was raised for the Children's Hospital.

When we arrived early that morning at the NCSU Belltower, it was rainy and dreary but nothing could hinder our excitement! Last year, I did the challenge (ran to Krispy Kreme and back in under one hour) successfully and ran with two other LCMers. For the 2011 Krispy Kreme Challenge, we had a group of eight people drive over to State. We pushed through the rain, ate a lot of doughnuts, and had a great time! It has certainly become an LCM tradition that should continue for years to come.



# Winter Retreat '11

Ash Stemke

This past January, I went on my first retreat with LCM. The thirty-six of us going on the trip stayed two nights in a house built to sleep twenty located near Grace Lutheran Church in Boone, NC. Needless to say, during the weekend of hiking, eating, worship, games, and fellowship activities I got to know everyone pretty well.

This weekend was the first time since I became active in LCM in March 2010 that I really began to feel the same way about LCM as I did with my high school youth group back home: like they were family. I could be myself (and make a fool out of myself) without having to worry about what people might think or say. I met new people and strengthened friendships with people I already knew.

You can only become so close to people when you see them in the more formal Sunday morning and Wednesday night settings. It's the times playing Anomia, "The Box Game", and Bananagrams, or acting out the text to various hymns, or hiking in the snow, or having a musical jam session, or riding in a car for three hours that really showcases everyone's personality and helps us all to grow in our relationships with God, each other, and ourselves.

I love you, LCM, and am looking forward to an awesome remaining two and a half years.





## Where in the World is \_\_\_\_\_?

A new and hopefully continuing feature of The Belltower will be some updates on UNC LCM alumni.

For our first installment we want to know where in the world is Matt Hofer, Class of 2005. Matt is serving as an English Teacher for a Lutheran School in Kumamoto, Japan. He still follows the UNC Basketball team and the first words in his Facebook post about the disaster in Japan was: Go Heels

He reports that he is living on the opposite end of the country from the Fukushima nuclear reactors and everything is pristine and clean where he is. The media coverage there is a lot like it was in the United State after 9/11/2001. There is still a lot of misinformation coming out about radiation dangers and media seems to be fanning the flames a good bit.

In his own words he reports, "First, I'll cover all the bases; I still have all my hair. Two eyes. Ten fingers -- five on either hand. Same idea for toes on my feet. Cancer free, as far as I know. I live in a city hundreds of miles away from Fukushima. I'm on the other side of a volcanic mountain range. Nagasaki and Hiroshima are much closer than Fukushima. Kumamoto received no ill-effects from the nuclear warheads dropped on those two cities, so I don't expect any fallout anytime soon. The wind blows toward California anyway. I'd probably get more radiation on an airplane ride and subsequent full body scans fleeing than I would just staying put."

In sum: I'm OK. Others aren't. Don't worry about me. I'm not in danger. Prayers are better spent on the TEPCO workers and their families."

It is good to hear that Matt is okay and serving faithfully in Japan.

## Donate

Lutheran Campus Ministry continues to grow through faith and love into a rich and vibrant community. The students are engaged in learning from the Bible and discovering their roles as disciples of Christ in the local and global communities. Due to the impact of the economy and budget cuts by the NC Synod and the ELCA, we received [\$12,000] less than in 2009 and have been forced to dip into reserves to make the difference. We have initiated an endowment fund to encourage estate gifts and are trying to encourage a higher percentage of alumni and parent giving.

Please prayerfully consider a donation in the following amounts and to the following funds:

You may also donate online at [www.holytrinitychapelhill.org](http://www.holytrinitychapelhill.org).

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As children of the same God, all people are unconditionally invited to join the members of Lutheran Campus Ministry in worship, fellowship, and ministry to experience the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Lutheran Campus Ministry is a Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



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