

## Coming Up at TPOG in Spring 2014

*All are welcome! Please join us at any events listed below*

- **The Gathering** at Wisconsin Lutheran College on Tuesday, May 6th at 7pm with Luke Thompson "My Criminal Life." For more info go to our webpage [www.tpog.net](http://www.tpog.net)
- Two special **Gathering** presentations by Luke Thompson at area Lutheran high schools to introduce college-bound students to campus ministry:
  - Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Jackson, WI, Monday, May 5th at 7pm
  - Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI, Friday, May 9th at 7pm
- Bible Studies:
  - MSOE on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm in CC47
  - Marquette on Thursdays at 7 pm in Wehr Physics Room 209

### The Point of Grace

2215 E. Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53211  
[office@tpog.net](mailto:office@tpog.net) or 414-963-2047

Find out more about our mission at [www.tpog.net](http://www.tpog.net)

#### Our Staff

Rev. Don Thompson, Pastor  
Mike Westendorf, Outreach  
Paula Herbst, Secretary  
Hannah Wagie, Newsletter Editor

#### Board of Directors

Jon Ebeling – John Eggers – Andy Koffman  
Jacob Sheahan – Chad Wleczyk



**THE POINT OF GRACE**  
Milwaukee Area Campus Ministry  
"Christ On Campus"

2215 E. Kenwood Blvd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53211

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## April Newsletter

### What's Happening at TPOG

Our first benefit for Milwaukee campus ministry, "Welcome Back to Campus," was a success! Headed up by Board of Directors member, **Chad Wleczyk**, the celebration was held on the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) campus on the evening of Thursday, April 3rd in the lovely Alumni Partnership Center. We heard moving testimony about the impact of campus ministry in the lives of two young people: MSOE students **Steve Avery** and **Hannah Schermerhorn**. Pastor Don Thompson summed up the event: "The food was great; the Christian fellowship outstanding."

If you were not able to join us for our celebration, please take some time to view a video about our **new vision** for Milwaukee area campus ministry: <http://tpog.net/the-point/>. In addition, **individual Gathering talks** are available to view as well: <http://tpog.net/the-gathering-videos/>. **Please share with any 18-25 year-old in your life or make it part of your youth group activity!** Hope you can join us to celebrate next year!

### **Supporters, please pray for:**

- Our new efforts to reach out to area Lutheran high schools
- Our students being faced with challenges to their faith on campus
- Thanks for new financial & prayerful support for our ministry

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## A Student's Perspective

**Melissa Brander**  
—Cardinal Stritch Alumna—

To supporters of The Point of Grace Campus Ministry:

I have no doubt that without The Point of Grace (TPOG), my life would have turned out very differently. I had been raised in a Christian home with wonderful, loving parents and attended Christian schools. I knew all the right things to say and what I was supposed to do, but my heart wasn't in it. And starting college, I knew I was really at a crossroads.

You see, I had a choice. and away from home for the first time in a non-Christian environment, I faced a lot of peer pressures. My beliefs were uncool and wrong and backwards and my new friends couldn't understand why I believed them. And then, even *I* couldn't understand why I believed them. Of course, I knew the answer to why I *should* believe them, but God felt so distant, so impersonal. It was like he didn't care about the rough time I was having transitioning to an environment that was completely unlike anything I had known and completely unlike what I had expected it to be.

So I went to TPOG – not necessarily because I wanted to go to church, but because I felt like I should. Again, I knew all the right things to do and often did them, even if my heart wasn't in them. But an amazing thing happened at TPOG. God used TPOG and the people there to draw me to Him and to help me understand that He was a real, living God, who really cared about me. Suddenly I wanted to praise Him and I wanted to serve Him.

When Hagar was sent away into the desert and God took care of her and her son, Ishmael, Hagar called Him “the God who sees me.” That is really what I came to understand at TPOG: that He is truly the God who sees even little old me with my little old problems.

As I said in the beginning, I have no doubt that my life would have been different without TPOG, so I am so very glad of its existence. And TPOG would not be possible without people like you who have so very generously supported it. I may not have ever met you, but I thank you because, through your support, you changed my life. You don't have to go to far off lands to be a missionary because the people of TPOG are missionaries to the college students, changing lives and showing them Jesus every day in many different ways.

**With gratitude,  
Melissa Brander**



*Melissa lives in Milwaukee with her husband Nick and two-year-old son Dominic. She enjoys motherhood and blogs about it on “Love, Life & Dirty Diapers”: <http://mkbrander.com/>.*