

## Coming Up at TPOG in Summer 2014

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



- **AWAKE & ALIVE! Summer Group Series** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, S66W14325 Janesville Road, Muskego, WI 53150 .  
-Final 2014 event on Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
- **2nd Annual TPOG Student Retreat** at the Wichman Farm in Marion, WI on **Friday, August 8th—Sunday, August 10th**. Please contact Paula in the TPOG office if you are a college student interested in joining us. There is no cost to attend thanks to the Wichmans' generosity!

### 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

Joel Davis – Jon Ebeling – John Eggers – Bryan Guhr

Mark Mattes—Jacob Sheahan – Chad Wleczyk

## August Newsletter

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2215 E. Kenwood Blvd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53211



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

## What's Happening at TPOG

At our Annual Meeting on June 28th, we gave a big *THANK YOU* to **Andy Koffman** as outgoing president & treasurer of The Point of Grace's Board of Directors. Andy played a big role in guiding TPOG through a big transition in the past year. One of his final contributions in his role as president was to produce a fantastic **Annual Report**. Please contact Paula at [office@tpog.net](mailto:office@tpog.net) to request a pdf or hard copy.

Please help us welcome three new members to the Board of Directors as we expand the group from five to seven men: **Professor Joel Davis** (Wisconsin Lutheran College), **Bryan Guhr**, and **Mark Mattes** (returning BOD member and new president). Pastor Don installed the men with a favorite passage from **Ephesians 3**, which has been relevant for TPOG this past year:

***Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. . . (Ephesians 3:20)***

Finally, we wish congratulations & God's blessings on two graduates: **Tyler Melso** (UWM) & **Michelle Hasse** (MSOE). We love seeing our students succeed!

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

- Our summer retreat in August - that we build Christian friendships
- Our new graduates!
- Our new Directors

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## An Alumnus Perspective

Steven Kopitzke

—University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee—

To supporters of The Point of Grace Campus Ministry:

When I first arrived at The Point of Grace (TPOG) as a graduate student in 2007, I realized that I was in a **very different environment**. I had grown up in an established church with over 500 members and at first the smaller, more open environment took some getting used to. Pastor Limmer and the entire congregation were very welcoming and made the adjusting much easier. This experience was one that changed how I approach life within any church. It encouraged me to transition from one who walked in the door and immediately found my seat to a person comfortable with greeting others and making them feel welcome. I've recently transferred to a small church in southern Maryland where I know this will be a very important skill.

Daily life around TPOG brought some of the **best times** that I have enjoyed during my college years (all 11 of them). Some of these times were fun, some insightful but the constant through all of them was that the people were the important part. One of the most important groups that I was able to spend time with on a regular basis was the **small group bible study** that I joined for my last two years of graduate school. Talking with this group helped me to grow comfortable discussing difficult topics with other people, something that I had been hesitant to do before.

To this point I've only talked about things that have happened. But experiences won't happen without people to share them with. Even though I've moved quite a distance away from TPOG, I hope to continue many of these friendships long distance. I will always be thankful for all of the friends I met at TPOG, but I thank God every night for allowing me to meet **my wife** while attending the campus ministry. Having her has been the biggest blessing in my life and we look forward to starting our new life in a new area as a soon-to-be family of three.

This article has been extremely difficult for me to put on paper. Not because I don't know *what* to say or *how* to say but because I simply have *too many* things to say about how campus ministry has affected my life. Being a member of the campus ministry meant that there was no sitting in the back pew and letting other people handle the work. There were always opportunities to **serve and grow** and the staff at TPOG fostered a **strongly supportive environment**. This allowed me to really learn how I could serve in a congregation, including ways that I would have never predicted when I first arrived. While I know that TPOG has undergone some major changes since my first day, the ideals are still the same as they've always been. Beliefs such as having safe places for students to talk about issues at school, providing students with leadership opportunities, and encouraging people to step out of their comfort zone in a safe way are invaluable experiences that every college student should be able to experience. To close, campus ministry has provided me with some of the **strongest memories and beliefs** which I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Sincerely,  
Steve Kopitzke



*Steve completed his Ph.D. in physical chemistry at UWM in 2013. He recently relocated to Maryland for a civilian job with the United States Navy. He & his wife Shauna are expecting their first child in August.*