

# THE BROAD STREET JOURNAL

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## DISCOVERING A HEART FOR SERVICE

By Abbigail Facey

When deciding to enroll in the MCPC program, I considered the campus' close proximity to public transportation, the array of Temple courses, and an opportunity to live amongst people



who have varied life experiences and perspectives than my own. However, I never imagined that by coming to MCPC I would become engulfed in so much of what Philadelphia has to offer, and I certainly did not think that my thoughts would begin to center around the struggle for social justice and economic freedom for broken communities—but the transformation has begun.

Before studying at MCPC I knew from visiting my cousins in West Philly that the city had its fair share of abandoned buildings - over 40,000 to be

exact - and that there were definite issues of crime present within this City of Brotherly Love. Since my semester here however, I have discovered that the city offers so much more. As a New York native, I always considered Philadelphia to be similar to the Big Apple - so large you could never see the same person twice - but fortunately I have found that Philly is small enough that I may encounter the same person more than once, and large enough that I can continue discovering new pockets of communities throughout the city. From attending meetings held at the Occupy Philadelphia camp in Center City to discussing the political processes of our nation in my Temple courses, MCPC has pointed my thoughts and life in a new direction. All that I speak about in my classes is reflected here on the streets. Poverty has become a reality. Economic disparities are reflected every time I leave North Philly and walk down Walnut Street.

Still, I am sure one day this city will rise, because each time I see an abandoned lot, I envision a space that will one day thrive with beautiful gardens and children playing safely within their communities. I imagine schools where children are excited to learn new subjects, and respect their teachers who offer ways to awaken all the possibilities this world has to offer. In the midst of utter brokenness, I truly believe God has much work to be done. I question how

I should use the wealth of knowledge I have been given as a soon-to-be college graduate to further this vision and bring God's kingdom here to this sacred place. I am constantly questioning how I should model my life to live as Christ did with those on the outskirts of society.

It is my prayer that wherever I go, whatever I do in this life, it should reflect the Creator's call to serve among those in need. As I get ready to graduate this May, the questions and concerns I have are endless about what to do next with my life. But there is one thing I am certain of - I will not tire from questioning and searching for solutions. Just because something is hard does not mean it cannot be overcome. I have discovered that a part of who I am lies within the brokenness of these vibrant city streets. Its people are authentic and transparent, and the need here is palpable.



*Photos courtesy of Abbigail Facey*

## CLOSING TIME

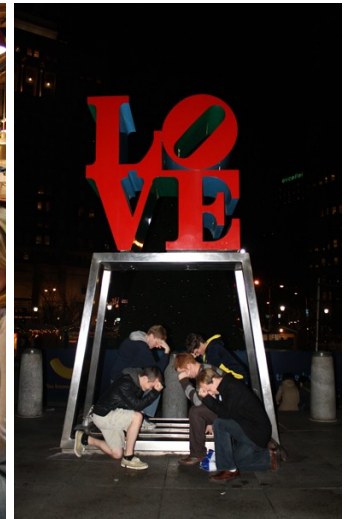
By James Reagan

December has begun and now only ten days remain in the fall semester at MCPC. Now those ten days are likely to be crazy with all the essays and final exams that are due in the next couple days, or in some cases hours. But before the craziness of finals, I feel it is only appropriate to reflect on the semester we had here.

It truly was a unique experience being one of 35 people at MCPC for fall 2011. Since we were both Messiah and Temple students, I like to think we got the best of both worlds. The sad part is that in a matter of days, this semester will be over and for many of us the Philadelphia experience will be coming to a close.

I actually feel torn as the semester ends. I will be back at MCPC next semester so I'll get to experience what Temple is like during the spring. But it will be with a mostly new group of people and I'm going to miss the old group for sure, a testimony to the community that was established here.

I know that it is really cliché and kind of predictable to say words like community and family when talking about a house of college students, particularly when those college students are professing Christians and they go to Messiah College. And I don't want to lie and paint a rose-colored picture of a utopian household that reflected the perfect example of Christian community, because that would be lying, but there were a lot of great memories at MCPC this past semester, memories that will probably be among the best of my entire college experience. Memories like meeting for prayer after community gatherings and getting Auntie Anne's pretzels on Monday nights. Memories like going out and having fun in the city whether it be at Eastern State



Penitentiary's Terror Behind the Walls or at Temple's football games. Memories like winning my first Mario Kart race and having fun dressing up for the Harvestween party. These are all memories that would be meaningless were it not for the people involved in them.

At the same time, I am very excited to be back here next semester. I feel like there is so much more that I can learn with four more months here. And I can't wait to see how the dynamic of MCPC changes with different people, even if it will be hard to live up to the dynamic we had this semester.

In closing, I want to talk about the words of a song by an obscure rock band. The song "Closing Time" by Semisonic is one of those songs that for some reason I hear randomly every couple months, and I feel like it is an appropriate song in these circumstances.

The song goes, "every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." I think they got that quote from the philosopher Seneca, but that statement still remains true. The end of this semester is going to result in a new beginning for everyone next year, and I hope it's a good beginning for all of us.

*The weekend before the last week of classes was Celebration Weekend. Events included a Christmas party with a white elephant exchange, a Saturday morning volunteering at Alpha Pregnancy Center, and a trip to Reading Terminal Market. Photos by Emma Huntington, Elizabeth Stevens and Kelsey Peachey.*



**HAIKUS BY CHRIS AND CJLOE**

Chris Samaniego and Cjloe Vinoya

**INTRO**

I still remember  
being stuck indoors for the  
entire weekend.

It was just yesterday  
when we first moved into  
our house on Broad Street.



*Above: Cjloe, Emma and James, courtesy of Chris. Right, the gang at Reading Terminal Market, photo by Elizabeth Stevens.*



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

To winter babies  
celebrate and live it up  
to Anne and Emma.

**CHRISTMAS VILLAGE**

If you take a walk  
down Walnut Street, you will come  
to the Park of Love.

**READING TERMINAL MARKET**

With two paper slips  
we feasted on a bounty  
of Philly morsels.

**LIACOURAS WALK**

So much life and noise  
your pathway has to offer  
unlike Lottie Lane.

**GRADES**

Philly living is  
so distracting that  
we can't concentrate.

I thought this semester  
was supposed to be a  
GPA booster.

Ten of us cramming  
in the caf at 4 AM  
I have no regrets.

**LUCAS**

You bump your head all  
too often and your constant  
grin is contagious

Though you try to talk  
we cannot understand the  
wisdom you bestow.

Keep on bumping and  
keep on smiling because you  
make us all smile too.

**EVA**

Blond streak in her hair  
six years full of spunk and charm  
loved in every way

Beautiful doesn't  
fully describe the great  
wonder she really is.

**JOSH**

You remain hidden  
and I wish we chilled more 'cause  
lunch that time was fun.

Getting your email  
on the 5<sup>th</sup> was like the first  
snow in October.

**PHOTOS**

A special thank you  
to our house photographers  
who captured our lives.

**OUTRO**

I can't believe our  
semester is actually  
almost over.

Thank you all for these  
memories and laughs. I love  
MCPC House.



*Above, Cjloe with Eva. Right, Chris and Anne Fosnocht. Photos courtesy of Cjloe Vinoya.*

# COMING BACK HOME

By Stephanie Wilson, Editor

About three and a half months ago, I came into this house really knowing just one person. If I'm being honest, I didn't really want to be here from the start. I thought I'd miss Grantham too much, because I have some pretty incredible friends there. Grantham was something like home to me. I didn't realize that within a few weeks I'd discover a new home here on North Broad Street.

I fell in love with Philly so hard that I turned down a golden opportunity to study abroad in order to stay here spring semester. Studying abroad has been a goal of mine since before I came to Messiah, but I have so much more to do here in Philly and I couldn't bring myself to leave. It's probably one of the best decisions I've ever made. Knowing that I get to come back here after Christmas break literally makes me smile.

But leaving for break is sad in a way, because so many people are leaving to go back to Grantham or study

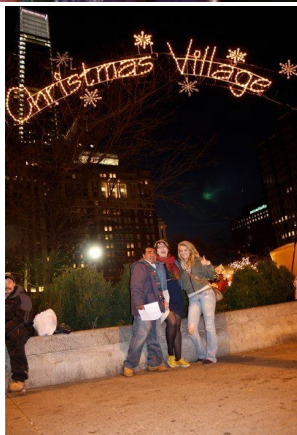


abroad next semester. New people are coming in, which I'm really looking forward to, but most of the people who discovered this city with me from the moment we arrived in August won't be here anymore. We only have a few more days, and we're going to make them count.

We've had some pretty unforgettable times this semester. From exploring some amazing restaurants to ordering Temple Star at 2 a.m., from the "daddy love you" parking lot incident to interesting nights in the caf, from that weird Halloween party to that weird Christmas party, from running around with Eva and Lucas at dinner to hearing Anne's cello at community gathering for the first time, this semester has been full of some very wonderful moments.

Our last weekend in Philly is coming up, and the best part of the weekend might happen on Saturday. I am participating in a 5K run that I've been training for all semester alongside Emma Huntington, Ashley and Matt Jones, and Cjloe Vinoya. I'm hoping I won't die of a heart attack from physical exertion and/or adrenaline and over-excitement. Let's all hope that won't happen.

Anyway, thanks so much for reading the Broad Street Journal this semester. If I do die in this 5K run, this will be a real goodbye. If not, I'll be coming back home in January, ready to fall in love with Philly all over again.



*Top right: MCPC's Christmas party, complete with ugly sweaters and cookie decorating. Above left: From left: Scott Callender, Nicole Amper, Boaz Chung, Emma Huntington and Stephanie Wilson relaxing in the lounge. Photos by Emma Huntington. Left, Emma Huntington and Abigail Saunders with a friendly stranger at Christmas Village in Love Park, photo courtesy of Anne Fosnocht.*