

CHI ALPHA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will
give you rest. - Matthew 11:28*



Photos by Naomi Cox

R U G E H A L L

If you ever walk by the Sweet Shop or on your way back to Azalea Hall, you may notice a small brick building with a sign that says "Ruge Hall." It may just look like another building belonging to FSU, however, this place holds a long history of serving students of faith and taking care of the community. Back in 1931, John G. Ruge built this place as a memorial to his wife Fannie Ruge, (Chapel of the

Resurrection, Tallahassee). This hall was built to serve as a chapel, as one may notice another sign in the front yard, titled, The University Episcopal Center, for the Florida State College for Women.

An additional building was built adjacent to this one in the 1950s called the Chapel of Resurrection. Located at 55 West Jefferson Street in Tallahassee, Florida, this hall is now registered as the National Register of Historic Places and is one of FSU's most recognized religious centers right across the street from campus. Now that you know a little bit about this building let me tell you the wonderful things it has been up to today.

Three major groups come together in Ruge Hall for worship, as a core group leader and worship team member, Emily Fuller states, "There is Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship that I'm a part of and love and then there's the Reformed University Fellowship as well as the Episcopal University Student Center." All these groups play a significant role in the culture of Florida State and have been serving the community for years.

One of the groups Ruge Hall has to offer is the Reformed University Fellowship led by Kelly Jackson. Also known to students as "Ruf," this group comes together every Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the Chapel of Resurrection.





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Not only is “Ruf,” an organization at Florida State but it also reaches other universities across America including the University of Southern Mississippi where it started in 1973. This organization appears in 41 states including one in Hawaii, comprising 157 campuses. Their main goal is “...more fully reflecting the beauty and diversity of the Kingdom of God,” (Ruf).

Fortunately, Florida State is one of the universities that has been blessed with a wonderful community serving people and encouraging those to have a relationship with God.

Another amazing community that Ruge Hall has to offer is the Episcopal University Student Center led by Father Allen Hill who has been serving in ministry for over 30 years. There are multiple opportunities to participate in their activities including gathering together for service every Thursday from 7:00 pm to 7:45 pm in the Chapel of Resurrection and Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 9:30 am in the Chapel of Resurrection. They also offer a fellowship dinner every Thursday at 6:00 pm at Ruge Hall entailing the free dinner, Biblical reflection, and compline as well as a Bible study every Wednesday at 6:00 pm.

Multiple groups are expressing their faith in Jesus Christ but the main one I want to shine a light on is the one that personally impacted my life significantly and has so to many other students since the 1990s which is Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, formally led by pastor Anthony DeMoro. Known to students as simply “Chi Alpha,” this group offers multiple events such as service in the Chapel of Resurrection every Monday night at 8:00 pm where students can come together to learn more about the gospel and evangelism. One of the great things about Chi Alpha is building friends in the community while helping you grow in your faith and the fact that after every service students love to grab dinner together at Chick-fil-A. But not only this, but Chi Alpha loves to serve the community of FSU by spreading the love as Jesus does by offering what is known by the community as “Church Coffee,” welcoming all beliefs and backgrounds to come by Ruge Hall, grab a drink, study, and they also offer prayers to those that want or need it. This environment is super peaceful and friendly. People can just feel the presence of God in this place. It’s a safe space for believers and a hospital for unbelievers. It’s one of the places that

bring people together of all belief systems, putting a smile of Jesus's face. Furthermore, this group also holds International Nights that include food, fun, and making new friends every Friday night from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

For those that want to further their faith by fellowship, Chi Alpha also offers core groups led by multiple students that attend Chi Alpha offering Bible studies, friendship, and creating discipleship. The moment I joined Chi Alpha I fell in love with it, however, core groups are what made me want to continue serving the Lord even more, resulting in a fruitful relationship. Many students belong to big groups, however, taking your relationship with Christ to the next level by joining core groups is of significant importance. Core group leader Kiersten Lupinek has been a part of Chi Alpha for our years and had this response to



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the question: how do core groups affect the students and why it is important? What does being a core group leader mean to you?

“We were made for community as humans and Christ-centered community is the most important because we’re united in Christ and upon the grace and forgiveness of the cross. It is something that goes much deeper than common hobbies or life paths—it is a connection that is at the core of who we are as followers and disciples of Christ. And after a season like Covid and the isolation it brought, now more than ever we see how isolation is devastating to mental health and the human heart, furthering the importance of community, and there’s no binds deeper than the community build on the love of Christ.”



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Community is one of the most important things followers of Jesus need and it's certainly what allowed me to stay disciplined in my faith and to find others to whom I can relate.

“Core group leading is also what I get to do to serve others. We are called to be disciples who make disciples (Matt:20:18-21) and the Lord has trusted me enough to help lead others in true discipleship and not just as converts for the gospel. Christianity is meant to be more than just a Sunday faith—it's a daily walk with God as we go through life. I firmly believe that no matter where God calls you in life, if you are a follower of Christ you are tasked to be a disciple who makes disciples.”

The people in these groups are what makes Chi Alpha so special and that is exactly how participating freshmen member Lauren Meinhold felt when she first joins this group.

“I chose Chi Alpha because they were very welcoming to me regardless of what denomination I was or what background I had in religion. Chi Alpha also emphasized being like a family, and I wanted to be part of a group that's really close and can work together in fellowship, as well as socially. I have a sister who is part of Chi Alpha at another university, she encouraged me to get involved at the one on my campus.”

Regardless of who you are or where you've been, Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship is waiting for you with wide open arms. Whenever you can, stop by, grab a drink and experience the hope and community as these fellow people do.

