You may remember my previous post on Pray + Break Bread, but honestly this practice (its not really an event per se) is just so different that our most recent outing last Friday equally deserves a shout out.

As a recap here's how it works. Students, staff, faculty, friends, whoever gather at 3pm on a Friday afternoon once a month. We head out together and visit with a pastor who speaks to us about the neighborhood their church is located in. She/he tells of the struggles and the celebrations. We pray for that pastor. Then we walk that neighborhood, praying as we go and ending up at some incredible local restaurant in that neighborhood. It's freakin' brilliant.

This month we went to Christ Lutheran - Capital Hill. Pastor Gary Dreier (husband of our very own Prof. Mary Sue Dreier) greeted us and shared. The biggest issue is the construction of the lite rail. While it would provide increased public transportation options, it would also divide several poor neighborhoods and consequently several current bus stops would be discontinued. For those who depend on those stops (an proportional number) the elimination of these stops will be difficult. Christ Lutheran houses several other ministries including the synod offices of St. Paul Metro Synod. You may remember [the famous wedding video] . . .

-Tim Snyder
Here we are speaking to Rev. Drier about the work and ministry of the church. They spoke about the changes and the realities of the neighborhood. In particular, as the Light Rail expands, there is concern that stops be placed in such a way to attract people to the local businesses and opportunities in the area as opposed to “pushing” business away. Furthermore, the history of Frogtown was shared. (Frogtown was initially a derogatory name for the area and was given due to the high number of French people who inhabited it.) The congregation is intentional about including people from various backgrounds and ethnicities. Rev. Drier shared some of the ways in which this process is both transformative and difficult. Various social services are located within the building.
Rev. Drier being Christ’s hands in the world?!
We prayed and walked to Cheng Heng, a local Cambodian Restaurant. There, we enjoyed the good company and cuisine!