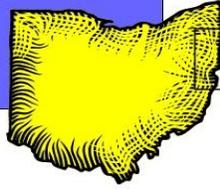


CAO

Chaplains Association of Ohio

“CONNECTIONS” newsletter**April, 2012****CAO Officers**

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**Faith Proietti, BCC
President**



As a young girl I can vividly remember crawling up into my Norwegian grandmother’s lap, to snuggle under her large but tender arms, feeling safe and secure. Nothing else in life felt as real and meaningful as this time with Grammy. While in her lap she would tell me stories, read to me, play games with me, dress me, wash me, feed me, tickle me, laugh with me, cry with me, draw with me, and just “be” with me. During these times together I learned what genuine relationship is all about and more. Although there were times I disappointed her, she never kept me from crawling back up into her lap for conversation and reconciliation. I always knew that no matter what went on in the world outside---she would be there to aid me on my journey of process.

While sitting in her lap I learned about genuine love, meaning-making, and about feelings. When I think of who God might be, I think of Grammy Foreid. Because of her interaction and relationship with me I can imagine God as a close image to her. She created an image of godliness that informed my theology and pastoral care ministry. With reflections of my Grammy I see God as loving, full of enjoyment, one who influences meaning-making and with feelings. This image of God is what has contributed to my

understanding and my expression of pastoral care to those I serve because it makes the holy tangible.

Take time in your day to experience the Divine in your life. Crawl up into the lap of God and discover new things. Let God comfort you, sustain you, influence you and love you. As chaplains, we are often sacrificing ourselves for the sake of others. We need time to lie beside the still waters and find rest for our weary souls. Take time to rest with your cohorts in CAO in April for our spring conference.

Faith PROIETTI

**M. Karen Ballard, BCC
President-Elect**



The CAO annual spring retreat is scheduled for April 26, 2012 at The Pontifical College Josephinum in the Jessing Center in Columbus. While there will be a business meeting on the agenda, the main focus of the day is to offer participants a day of retreat to focus upon the care and nurture we must seek for ourselves.

The work of a chaplain makes us vulnerable to the challenges of self-care in the midst of supporting patients and families who are facing the most challenging situations medically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. While we seek to assist patients and families in achieving wholeness in their lives despite the extreme challenges of ever-changing medical situations, we are called upon to find ways to replenish ourselves physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually as well. Failure to keep ourselves nourished in these ways may lead to diminished well-being, compassion fatigue and eventual burnout.

Our retreat leaders are particularly skilled and experienced to guide this retreat entitled, "Caring for Self: Keeping Vitality in Serving." Amanda Stone Cushing is a spiritual director with The Spirituality Network, who regularly leads individuals and groups in experiences such as we will enjoy that day. Karl Ruttan, an Episcopal priest and spiritual director, has lead many religious leaders in retreats where vitality in ministry is the focus.

It is the hope of the members of the Board of Directors that each member of CAO will claim for themselves the gift of this day of retreat-away from the usual demands of your workplace. We invite you to come and enjoy the refreshment of the experience of this day of education and collegiality. Please contact me (see front page) if you have not received a registration brochure. I hope to see you on April 26!

Upcoming Conferences:

Our conferences are planned on a rotating basis by the various regions of our state membership. Each spring retreat is held in Columbus or a central location. The fall conferences are held in the host region of the state. The spring's retreat is being hosted by the Northwest region.

Fall, 2012 Northeast Region

Spring, 2013 Southeast Region

Fall, 2013 Southwest Region

I hope you will consider being part of the planning team for your Region. We all benefit! Contact your Region Chair.

Karen Ballard

Upcoming conferences

ACPE	May 15-18	Indianapolis, IN	http://www.acpe.edu/ConferencesAnnual.html
NACC	May 19-22	Milwaukee, WI	http://www.nacc.org/conference/
APC	June 21-24	Schaumburg, IL	http://www.professionalchaplains.org/index.aspx?id=2144

**Frank McClure, BCC
SW Regional Chair**



107 People Attend CAO's Fall Conference

On November 3, 2011, the Chaplains Association of Ohio (CAO) sponsored a day-long educational conference at the beautiful Crowne Plaza Hotel in Blue Ash, Ohio. The theme of the CAO conference was "***Integrating Family Systems Theory into Chaplaincy Practice.***" Our distinguished presenters were the Rev. Robert Mathis, Ph.D. and the Rev. Orin Newberry, Ph.D.; both are recognized experts in the therapeutic use of Bowen Family Systems Theory in professional practice. <http://www.thebowncenter.org/>

Conference attendees' comments about the featured presenters were very positive. Some samples:

- "The speakers were amazing!"
- "The two presenters complemented each other very well!"
- "Both speakers were very informative and had the ability to break up the material into digestible units."
- "Good training sessions by both presenters!"
- "Both presenters were outstanding. Could have been a week long."
- "Both presentations were helpful."
- "Very energetic presentations!"
- "Excellent presentations. Well worth the dollars!"

The CAO Board of Directors is pleased to report that the fall conference was an enormous success. There were 113 paid registrants for the fall conference. 107 people attended—54 CAO members and 53 non-members. 79 attendees were from southwest Ohio, 26 from other areas of Ohio, and two from out-of-state (Kentucky and Michigan). Among the attendees were 29 students (seminary, ministry training course and CPE). With all expenses tallied, conference receipts exceeded the conference costs, thus the bottom line was "black ink."

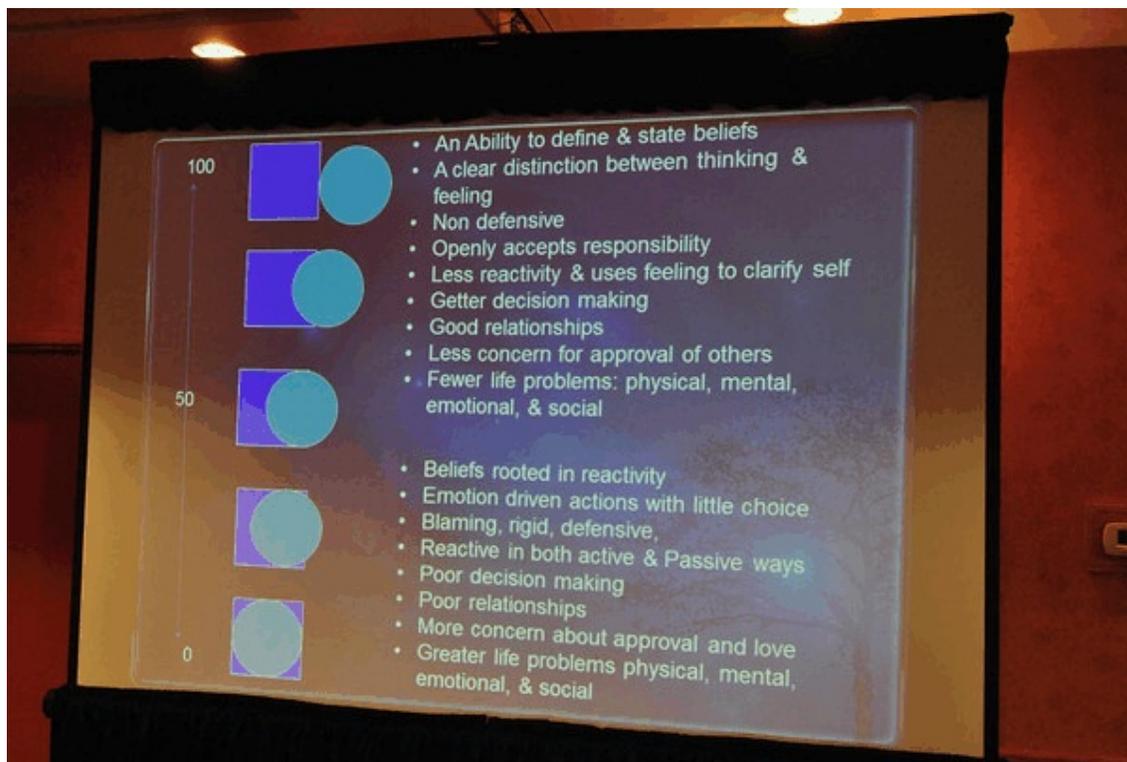
Besides being a well-attended event, this conference was also an historic event: CAO membership voted to legally incorporate CAO as an official trade association. The CAO Board wishes to extend its sincere thanks to the many CAO members who made November 3, 2011 a great day in CAO history. We look forward to more. Join us.

[Thanks to Tammy+Brian Eady for the following pix!]





Your Board of Directors



For job-hunting tips and links to other chaplaincy-related organizations, see www.chapsohio.org and look under 'Resources'.