



CONNECTIONS

Newsletter of the Chaplains Association of Ohio

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July, 2009

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PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION



ROB SHORES, D.MIN, BCC

Chaplaincy is a Journey

You have probably seen the inspirational quote: “Life is not a destination, it is a Journey!”

The same can be said of Chaplaincy and for me. As your second CAO President, I have been on a journey, from serving on the leadership team in the 1980's of the former *Ohio Healthcare Chaplains Association*, to serving as a member of the Association of Professional Chaplains state leadership team that began in 2003 to dialogue about creating a new state chaplaincy organization, to helping plan three annual chaplaincy education conferences (prior to launching CAO), to serving as CAO President-Elect/Program Chair, to now beginning a two-year journey as your president! Whew! I should be tired just thinking about that, but instead I am energized, excited, humbled and

honored to have the privilege of sharing this *journey*!

First of all, I want to give thanks and appreciation again for our first officers of CAO who completed their terms in April: Chaplain Michelle Lemiesz – *President*; Chaplain Robin Walton – *Secretary*; Chaplain Eileen Schonfeld – *Northeast Regional Chair*. At our Spring Retreat they were recognized and received a gift of a harp CD, *Gentle Rain From Heaven*, by Melanie Brown and Sarah Schwartz, harp therapists in our Spiritual Care Department at Medina General Hospital. Chaplain Michelle also was specially recognized for her foundational leadership as first CAO President and presented with a framed print of Los Angeles artist John August Swanson's *A Time To Heal*, depicting a patient ward with persons giving spiritual comfort, prayer, and music healing via guitar and harp. The words on the print are: *Estuve enfermo, y me atendieron...I was sick and you visited me...* Those words really speak to who we are and what we do. We visit the sick, those in prison, those who can no longer care for themselves, those who are dying, etc. Thanks to all of you first officers that led us through the growing pains of a new organization!

Secondly, welcome to the new members of the CAO leadership team: Chaplain Faith Proietti – *President-Elect/Program Chair*; Chaplain Mary Beth Cooper – *Secretary*; (cont'd, next page)

Chaplain Kate Valentine - *Northeast Regional Chair*. Thank you for bringing your spiritual care gifts and talents as we continue the *journey* of caring for the chaplains of Ohio through CAO!

Chaplains, how are you doing? The Spring Retreat theme was: *Keeping Yourself Healthy in Stressful Times*. What have you been doing to take care of yourself? When I was in private practice as a Professional Clinical Counselor, I would meet couples in marital distress. To assess their marriage in a non-threatening way I'd ask them about the instructions an airline flight attendant gave regarding the use of oxygen masks. "If you are traveling with a child or person who needs assistance, who do you put the oxygen mask on first? The child/other person or yourself?" Invariably, the couple would respond the child/other person. They were so absorbed in parenting and careers they neglected to care for themselves. If you answered *yourself*, you are correct! We must be able to *breathe* ourselves if we are to be in shape to care for others! I pray you are taking time to care for yourself this Summer! May it be a time of rest, re-creation, and renewal!

NEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT-ELECT & PROGRAM CHAIR



FAITH PROIETTI, D.MIN, BCC

FALL CAO CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 15

Drake Conference Center, Cincinnati

8 AM (registration) - 4 PM

The theme will be *Understanding Multi-faith Spiritual Care*, with informed speakers from the Islamic, Jewish, Hindu, Earth Religions (Wiccan, Native American, Pagan, Humanist), and Buddhist faiths. They will help us understand: religious beliefs, view of other faiths, religious items of comfort and discomforts, rituals, prohibitions, birth issues and end-of-life issues that pertain to their faith traditions.

Overnight accommodations can be made with the Hannaford Suites, 5900 E. Galbraith Road, Cincinnati, OH 45236. A group of 30 blocked rooms will be held from October 14th – 15th, for the CAO Conference at a rate of just **\$69** for queen or double; \$75 for a King Suite. Call

513-936-0525 or 513-936-0087 or see <http://www.hannafordsuites.com>. Make your reservations early! [by Sept. 15]

A conference brochure will be sent out in the middle of August for early registration. This is a conference that you will not want to miss!

SE REGION GATHERING-JULY 16

The SE Region will meet on Thursday, July 16 from 6- 9:30 PM to watch the video *Conversation with God* at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, 93 W. Weisheimer Rd, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

It is also a potluck occasion, so bring a dish to share; snacks ok. For more information contact KathleenClarkFowler@gmail.com

All are welcome. Tell your colleagues and any who are involved in spiritual care as volunteers or employees

**MEET OUR
NE REGION CHAIR**



KATE VALENTINE, BCC

I am a Board Certified Chaplain through APC. I was employed at Akron General Medical Center as Clinical Chaplain until March this year. Financial difficulties brought reductions in staff and, unfortunately, both the Spiritual Care Department and myself were affected. I now am volunteering there until I find another position. I am happy to have the chance to serve and to see the many friends I have there. I am also happy to have some time to work in my yard and enjoy all that God has given me. My hope is to find another chaplain position, but this time I am looking for a half-time position.

At the hospital I was known as “the harp lady” because I frequently utilized the harp and singing as a part of spiritual care. I graduated from a year-long International Harp Therapy Program in 2000. <http://www.harprealm.com> It was there that I learned how to utilize the harp to help bring healing. I am continually amazed by the power of music. Music is the place where mind, body and spirit connect.

In my life prior to becoming a chaplain I had a private practice in counseling. My areas of focus were relationships and grief. My experience in both of these areas would ultimately be utilized once again in my position as chaplain as I was in charge of bereavement services and did groups in the psychiatric units. I have never regretted giving up my practice to become a chaplain. It is so very apparent to me that all emotional healing is ultimately spiritual.

On the personal side, I have been married for 37 years to my husband Mark. We have four children and four grandchildren. All but our youngest child are out of the house and on their own. My interests include gardening (in particular, edible landscaping), singing, and sewing.

My hope as regional chair is to meet the needs of the chaplains in the North East region. At the spring conference the regions had the opportunity to gather. One of the themes I heard was the desire to have time to get to know one another. **Our very first gathering will be a breakfast on Saturday, August 15th** There will be time to socialize as well as an opportunity to learn more about the role of a law enforcement chaplain. I hope this will be just the beginning of many gatherings. I welcome suggestions, questions and your support.

NORTH EAST REGIONAL BREAKFAST

The Northeast Region is hosting its first ever regional meeting on **Saturday, August 15**. This meeting is the result of requests made by members who were present at the Spring conference. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for fellowship and to further our knowledge of chaplaincy. The meeting will be **open at 8:30 and breakfast will be served at 9:00**. Immediately after breakfast, Deputy Glenn George from the Summit County Sheriff’s Office will speak to us about the role of a Law Enforcement Chaplain. We have the room **until noon** so will we will have plenty of time afterwards to talk about what other needs and topics we would like to see addressed as well as to spend time getting to know one another or catching up on friendships. The cost of the breakfast is **\$10**. Checks can be made payable to Kathleen Valentine and mailed to 4600 Kingsbury Trail, Richfield, Oh 44286. The breakfast will be held at Akron General’s Health and Wellness Center in Montrose. 4125 Medina Rd, Akron Ohio 44333-2469 . It is easy to access by exiting Rte 77 and going west onto Rt. 18 . The Wellness Center is at the first light on the right. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 330-472-0072 or e-mail me at valentinekate@yahoo.com . I hope to see as many of you as possible and welcome all of your comments about how I can best help the region to meet your needs.

SPRING RETREAT

Faith Proietti, Program Chair

Fifty members and friends of CAO met in Columbus, on April 23rd for a Spring Retreat, entitled *Keeping Yourself Healthy in Stressful Times*. The conference was led by Nancy Dietsch, CPE Supervisor at the Dayton VA Medical Center. Nancy encouraged us to engage in group dynamics with a centering prayer and the writing of a lament to God [see examples elsewhere in this newsletter]. She also helped us examine our own courage and look at those who have influenced our lives in some way. Nancy gave us tools to sustain ourselves through stressful and devastating experiences. She closed the retreat with a wonderful reading by Elisabeth Lukas entitled the *Candle Meditation*. Here are some portions of the reading for your own reflection:

A candle is composed of wax and a wick.

What we see is mainly wax. The wick is hidden.

Yet it is the wick that makes the candle a candle;

Without the wick, it would just be a piece of wax.

The wax can be compared to our physical organism,

the wick to the noetic or spiritual core.

It is the noetic essence that makes humans human

Without it we would be the proverbial "lumps of clay."

When we light the wick, the candle becomes a candle.

A candle that would never burn

would have been made in vain.

Only a burning candle fulfills its purpose of giving light. . .

A broken candle can be a light.

*And a broken human can find meaning in life,
and live purposefully.*

While the broken candle burns

*And fulfills its purpose of giving off light---
in spite of being broken it gets shorter.*

If we have much patience,

We will observe still something else;

As the flame nears the broken part, it burns past it.

Suddenly, it is not a broken candle anymore.

It is whole again. . .

The hours that the candle was shining remain true hours of light and of warmth.

*The light and love that a human being brings to her or his world
also remains behind forever!*

PHOTOS FROM THE RETREAT

thanks to Ch. Basharat Masih



Attentive Attendees...



Engaged attendees



*Presenter,
Nancy Dietsch*



*Rob Shores - new CAO President
Michelle Lemiesz - outgoing President
Faith Proietti - new President-Elect*

LAMENTATION PRAYERS FROM THE RETREAT

Oh God, my source of help and Spirit of life, I am unable to meet the needs that lie before me. You alone know how those needs will be met. I feel helpless and bound in my situation. Free me to trust You for Your just disposition of my circumstances. Help me to place my burdens in Your loving care. Give me eyes to see the big picture as You see it and help me understand how this fits into Your plan for me. Instill in me a renewed presence that demonstrates You are at work in bringing about Your good and perfect will throughout this trial. May Your name be praised in whatever You do.

Hey God

Why do I have to go through these times of not knowing? What do you want? (of me) If you want me to do "it" -show me. How long oh Lord? I trust that you are listening to me, and that you will answer my prayers, but right now I can't feel that. Help me to feel your presence. Show me quickly the direction I am to take. Give me patience to wait. You've always been my source of strength and direction. Continue to be my compass. You are a faithful and living God. We are grateful for your presence, strength, and all you've given us.

And may it be so- Amen

**NEWS FOR THE OHIO STATE
CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION**
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'News and encouragement for Ohio's civil-service chaplains'

Our Fall Meeting (Oct 19-20, West Ohio UMC Conference Center, Worthington, OH) will feature an awards ceremony on October 20 called, *Honoring Ohio's Reentry Pioneers: Correctional Chaplains Recognize Ohio's Correctional Ministry Leaders*. Event Info may be

secured on Facebook @ "Ohio State Chaplains Association".

Please note that the ceremony venue on Tuesday the 20th is subject to change due to increasing number of guests. Check the Facebook page for updates.

NEWS FROM APC
MARIANNE BRANDON, BCC
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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Have you been receiving your *APC e-News*? If not, visit their website at www.professionalchaplains.org to view the newsletter and *Chaplaincy Today*. On the website you will also be able to view the evolving *Standards of Practice*. The Standards are an exciting development for our organization, helping us to continue to better define our roles and hold ourselves accountable to a standard level of practice. I encourage you to review these standards and use

them to help you identify the strengths and weaknesses of your own practice.

APC has also recently started a **Facebook group**. Anyone interested in professional chaplaincy is invited to join. Rita Kaufman (APC marketing and public relations manager) says the page is 'a great informal way to connect and stay in touch with your colleagues across the country and around the world'. To participate, sign up for Facebook [www.facebook.com] and then join the Association of Professional Chaplains group.

The membership services council is requesting nominations for the Outstanding Local Leadership Award, Retired Chaplain Award, Distinguished Service Award and the Anton Boisen Professional Service Award. Visit the APC website to learn the criteria and submit your nomination. Nominations for 2010 positions on the Executive Board are also being solicited. The deadline for both the awards and the board positions is August 15, 2009.

Finally, I think many of you, whether APC members or not, will be interested in the **new online education program**, 'Joining Forces'. The program is free and provides Continuing Education credit. It is designed to "provide education on how to care for the physical, spiritual and emotional health of our nation's troops as they return home from service". Go to <http://www.joiningforcesonline.org> for more information

ONE-PERSON PASTORAL CARE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION GROUP

One Person Pastoral Care Department is a forum on chaplaincy issues of importance to one-person pastoral care departments and those who work in settings in which there is a small department.
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/One_PersonDeptChaplains/

Links of Interest

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries	http://www.adventistchaplains.org
ABC Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Services	http://www.nationalministries.org/caring_ministries/chaplaincy
American Correctional Chaplains Association	http://www.correctionalchaplains.org
American Association for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities-Religion & Spirituality Div	http://www.aaidreligion.org/resources
Animal Chaplains	http://www.animalchaplains.org
Assemblies of God US Missions Chaplaincy Ministries	http://chaplaincy.ag.org/
Assembly of Episcopal Healthcare Chaplains	http://www.episcopalchaplain.org
Association for Clinical Pastoral Education	http://www.acpe.edu/
Association of Professional Chaplains	http://www.professionalchaplains.org
Bioethics Network of Ohio	http://www.beno-ethics.org
Chaplaincy of Full Gospel Churches	http://www.chaplaincyfullgospel.org
Church of God Chaplains Commission	http://www.cogchaplains.com
Civil Air Patrol Chaplains	http://www.cap.gov/visitors/quick_info/for_clergy.cfm
College of Pastoral Supervision & Psychotherapy	http://www.pastoralreport.com
Disaster Chaplaincy Services	http://www.disasterchaplaincy.org
East Central Region, ACPE	http://www.eastcentralacpe.org/index.html
ELCA Chaplains	http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Chaplaincy.aspx
Federation of Fire Chaplains	http://firechaplains.org/
Foursquare Chaplains	http://www.foursquare.org/landing_pages/48,3.html
HealthCare Chaplaincy	http://www.healthcarechaplaincy.org
Healthcare Chaplains Ministry Association	http://www.hcmachaplains.org/index.html
Healthcare Chaplains - [resources for many]	http://www.hospitalchaplain.com
International Conference of Police Chaplains	http://www.icpc4cops.org/
Islamic Society of North America	http://www.isna.net/Leadership/pages/Chaplaincy-Council.aspx
Lutheran Chaplaincy Service	http://www.spiritualcare.org
LCMS Chaplains	http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=1893
Mennonite Chaplains Association	http://mennochaplains.mennonite.net
Mental Health Chaplaincy	http://www.mentalhealthchaplain.org/
Messianic Chaplaincy	http://www.fossilizedcustoms.com/messianicchaplain.html
Military Chaplains Association	http://www.mca-usa.org/html/The%20Chaplaincies.html
Muslim Chaplains Association	http://www.muslimchaplains.org/
National Association of Catholic Chaplains	http://www.nacc.org
National Association of Jewish Chaplains	http://www.najc.org
National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries	http://www.racewayministries.com/ChaplainTraining.html
National Institute of Business and Industrial Chaplains	http://www.nibic.com/
National Prison Hospice Association	http://www.npha.org/
Nazarene Chaplains	http://nazarenechaplains.org/nazarenechaplains/Default.aspx
Pediatric Chaplains Network	http://www.pediatricchaplains.org/
Presbyterian Assoc. of Specialized Pastoral Ministries	http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/paspm
Presbyterian Council-Chaplains & Military Personnel	http://www.pccmp.org/
Race Track Chaplaincy	http://www.racetrackchaplaincy.org/aboutDisplay.asp?section=1
Spirit-filled Churches - care in specialized settings	http://www.spirit-filled.org/
Spiritual Care Collaborative	http://www.spiritualcarecollaborative.org
Spirituality at Work	http://www.spiritualityatwork.com/home.shtml
UCC Council for Health and Human Service Ministries	http://www.chhsm.org/
UMC Gen'l Bd of Higher Education and Ministry	http://www.gbhem.org/
Veterans Affairs Chaplain Service	http://www.va.gov/chaplain
Workplace Spirituality	http://www.workplacespirituality.info/index.html

ANNUAL METROHEALTH BEREAVEMENT CONFERENCE - FRIDAY, OCT. 16

“Lessons of Loss: Meaning-Making in Grief Therapy” featuring Robert Neimeyer, Ph.D of University of Memphis. More info being sent next month. MetroHealth is in Cleveland. See:

[http://web.mac.com/neimeyer/Home/About Me.html](http://web.mac.com/neimeyer/Home/About_Me.html) <http://www.memphis.edu/magazine/v20i3/feat5.html>

SITES THAT LOOK INTERESTING

<http://www.spiritualgeography.com/>

“Spiritual Geography is the first—and only—mystical system that translates the universal experiences of heartbreak, separation, or divorce into a meaningful, spiritual-healing pilgrimage. The seven countries on the map correspond to the seven phases of healing your broken heart.”

<http://connect.legacy.com/inspire/page/show?id=1984035%3APage%3A2521>

The Physical Stress of Grieving - “Grieving is hard work and takes a huge toll on our bodies.”

See other topics at <http://connect.legacy.com/>

And don’t forget <http://www.pastoralcareweek.org/> Oct. 25-31

PLACES TO LOOK FOR JOB OPENINGS

<http://www.professionalchaplains.org/APC/professional-chaplain-services-jobs.aspx?s=3>

<http://www.nacc.org/positions/available.asp>

<http://www.eastcentralacpe.org/id77.html>

<http://www.spiritualcare.org/EmploymentOpportunities.html>

<http://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=chaplain&l=ohio>

<http://chaplaincy-jobs.blogspot.com/>

You can also take/send your resume to hospitals (find URL’s at <http://www.hospitallink.com>) and/or hospices (<http://www.hospicedirectory.org>). You never know when they’ll have an opening and look at resumes they have on file. [*editor’s note*: The Spirit has led me to all 5 of my chaplaincy positions through relationships. Keep talking/emailing with friends and folks who can help.]

IF YOU WANT SOMETHING IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER...

Send it to Mark English (info on p.1) by early November

[And when we get www.chapsohio.org up and running, we’ll let you know!]