



Chaplain's Corner

Volume 6, No. 16

November 30, 2011

Welcome to the Chaplain's Corner newsletter. If you have a joy or concern you'd like to share with our staff, send an e-mail or give us a call at Ext. 8348. We only share concerns with the campus community, via newsletter or e-mail, with permission. You can view the current issue of our newsletter (in PDF format), and previous issues, on the Spiritual Life page of the Lynchburg College website—www.lynchburg.edu/spirituallife.

Concerns

Our sympathies are extended to:

- **Carley Dobson** (junior, Salisbury, MD) on the death of her grandfather.
- **Danny Hembach** (freshman, Leesburg, VA), whose grandmother died.
- **Anne Wilkinson** (Music) on the death of her mother.

Our concerns are extended to:

- **Rick Cash** (Dining Services) who had surgery on November 16th and is recuperating at home.

Congrats

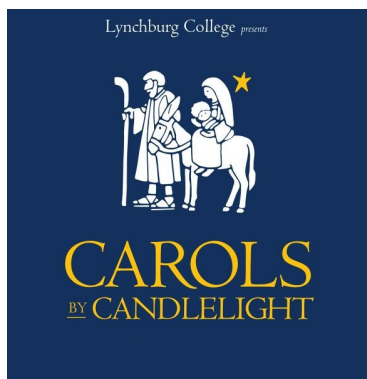
- **Brooke Brittingham** (freshman, Laurel, DE) and **Brandon Niblett** (freshman, Laurel, DE) on their marriage on November 18th in Georgetown, Delaware.

Nativity Display & Christmas Shop

December 2 - 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
December 3 & December 4
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Tabor Retreat Center
2125 Langhorne Road

Sunday, December 4
7 p.m.



Snidow Chapel

Sunday Worship Opportunities on Campus

- **Roman Catholic Mass**— 4:30 p.m. Snidow Chapel
- **Lynchburg Christian Fellowship [lcf]** - 10:30 a.m., Sydnor Performance Hall
- **Quaker Meeting** – 10:30 a.m., Spiritual Life Center

Happy New Year!

We will celebrate Chinese New Year on January 23rd. September 23rd we celebrated Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, but the Christian New Year, the First Day of Advent, was last Sunday. Advent is the season of repentance and preparation for the Birth of the Christ-child, the incarnation, God With Us, Emmanuel.

If you were lucky, five minutes after you ate pumpkin pie and put away the leftover turkey, thoughts turned to Christmas. I know of many families that skip straight from Halloween ghosts to Christmas lights, but this is not the preparation of Advent that I am talking about.

Advent preparation is about getting your heart ready. Christians used to fast during Advent, not deck the halls. We used to pray and meditate instead of racing to get everything done just so.

Advent is supposed to be a reflective time, but in modern America, where there seems to be so little time for reflection, it is one of the busiest times of the year. We get time off of work and class and still run out of time to accomplish everything on our list. Too often we celebrate the expectation of this radical birth by focusing on the expectations others have of us. You may have family that expects the traditional 15 types of cookies or children that want the hottest sold-out toy. Neighbors expect this year's lights to outdo last year's display.

The problem of these expectations is that they defeat us—they make us feel inadequate because we cannot achieve the perfection we assume others need of us. We can never achieve the perfect Christmas (or Hanukkah or Solstice, etc) when we prepare a show or a tradition instead of our hearts.

Advent is not supposed to be about feeling inadequate or going into debt. The freedom Christ promises is directly the opposite. So in celebrating Advent I have a few tips:

- Repent of your sins and open your hearts rather than your wallets.
- Practice forgiveness—towards others and yourself. Forgive yourself for the ways you have broken relationships and forgive others for their mistakes and fumbles. Where total forgiveness is not possible yet, take a small step.
- Have only appropriate guilt. Do not feel guilty for things you cannot achieve or hold yourself to ridiculous standards.
- Allow yourself to feel the Hope, Joy, Love and Peace of the season, even when times are tough.
- Focus on the most important thing—relationships—and preparing those.

Happy New Year—may it be a year of openness, readiness, and love,

Blessings, Stephanie

By Stephanie McLemore
Chaplain and Director of Church Relations

Dates to Remember

| Date/Time/Location | Event | Description |
|--|--|--|
| Wednesday, November 30 8:30 p.m. Snidow Chapel | <i>Eucharist</i> | End-of-Term Communion Service with Rev. Mark Furlow |
| Tuesday, December 6 11 p.m. Snidow Chapel | <i>Almost Christmas, Almost Midnight Service</i> | Share stories, songs, and get excited about Christmas! |
| Thursday, December 8 7 p.m. Brewer Townhome | <i>Almost Hanukkah Party</i> | Hillel's second annual Festival of Lights Celebration |
| Tuesday, December 20 | <i>Hanukkah</i> | Begins at Sundown |

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

For a list of our regularly scheduled meetings during the academic year, go to the Spiritual Life website—www.lynchburg.edu/spirituallife and select "Spiritual Life Fall Semester Calendar."

Spiritual Life Center
434-544-8348

www.lynchburg.edu/spirituallife