



Chaplain's Corner

Volume 6, No. 18

December 14, 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:

- **Scott Sanfilippio** (freshman, Sparks, MD) on the death of his brother.

Congrats

- **Jan Sigler** (Parents Programs) and **Julius Sigler** (Dean of the College) on their new grandson. Kellen William Sigler was born on December 5th and was adopted by their son Jeff and his wife Veronica. Kellen was 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 21 inches.
- **Emily Jones** (Physical Plant) and her husband, G. H. on the birth of their granddaughter. Emily Hunter Hale was born on December 11th to parents Melissa Jones Hale '98 and her husband Jason Hale. Her birth weight was 3 pounds, 7 ounces, and she was 17 inches.

Christmas Lights

Of all the things in my day yesterday, I ran across a prayer that made me stop and think. The *Blessing for a Christmas Tree* by Bryan Cones, surprised me. Being an artificial tree woman who likes to avoid the allergens and mess of a real tree, I think of the Christmas tree as more of a chore to be checked off the list rather than something to be blessed as a symbol of the meaning of Christmas. I should also note that this is where my liberal Protestant bias comes in since I realize that there are many faiths where a blessing of the tree would indeed occur to followers.

God of light and darkness,
Maker of heaven and earth,
In the depth of midwinter you gather us
Beneath the tree of light.

These lines speak to me this week as so many students struggle to survive the stress of finals and final projects, as faculty face long stretches of grading, and as staff try to wind up year end closing. For so many the season is one of joy, and yet for so many others it is a reminder of loss and imperfection. It feels like bleak midwinter to many, and yet we look out the car windows to see so many decorated trees of light—and many of us go home to trees in our own living rooms. Don't worry students, your families will have a tree up to welcome you (unless they are waiting for you to help!)

Bless all those who gather around this Christmas tree;
May the gifts it shelters make present your heavenly grace.
May the lights it holds lead us to the Light of the World.

Never, in my experience have those little white blinker lights reminded me of the Light of the World. They hurt my hands and frustrated me—this year I have ¾ of the tree lit so far—there is a problem with the top section. I have been on strike for the past three days...Light of the World.

And may the color it bears announce your unfailing love,
Evergreen in the eternal spring you promise in Jesus Christ,
Emmanuel, God with us,
now and forever.

Maybe if I had a "real tree" the evergreen smell would prompt a spring reference, but I got a really good sale on the artificial number. So after stumbling across this prayer I am a little more tuned into the real Christmas I mean to be in touch with. I really do need Advent preparation to last another ten days, and I am glad that there are unopened windows on the Advent calendar.

For so many in our community the stress will start to lift a bit this week. I invite you to replace the stress with waiting and hope. I invite you to enjoy your family or enjoy the peace of family farther away, whichever you need more. I invite you to celebrate a "Tree of Life" wherever you see a "Tree of Light".

Blessings Stephanie

By Stephanie McLemore
Chaplain and Director of Church Relations

Happy Holidays!

What is LC Cares?

LC Cares is a special discretionary fund handled through the Chaplain's office which offers financial support to the campus community in times of emergency need.

- Who is eligible?
- What kind of help does LC Cares offer?
- How does one "apply" for LC Cares support?
- Who can contribute to LC Cares?
- Need answers?

Contact the staff at the Spiritual Life Center at 500 Brevard Street or by e-mailing rapp@lynchburg.edu

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 (Mass & [lcf] will resume 1/22)

Dates to Remember

Date/Time/Location	Event	Description
Tuesday, December 20	Hanukkah	Begins at Sundown
Monday, January 16 6 p.m. Snidow Chapel	Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration	Guest Speaker: Dr. Virgil Wood plus music and dance

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.

Spiritual Life Center
434-544-8348
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