



Chaplain's Corner

Volume 6, No. 8

September 28, 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.

All in the Family

Sometimes a person's words just stay with you. I am still thinking about a comment I overheard at Parents' Weekend about how important parents are in their student finding a way to college and being successful. The speaker said students need support to get here and ongoing support to excel at Lynchburg College. You don't have to be here long or talk to many students to realize that some come from helpful supportive families, but others do not. Some have two parents who love them and both check in regularly without meddling. Some have one parent. Some have a grandmother who is responsible for nurturing a desire for a college degree or a foster parent who first challenged our student about the value of a college education. Occasionally a parent is even a negative influence, and many students are estranged from one of their parents.

I come from a "broken-home," but was lucky enough that both parents supported me even if they fought a lot about the ways that support would be portioned out. I am a single parent who raises a daughter, born in this modern world of artificial insemination, in a three-generational home. My mother moved in with me to take care of my daughter while I am working. And if you haven't seen me in a few weeks, I am expecting another baby before Spring Break! I firmly believe that families are what they are and that you should define family in the way it works for you. That may or may not include the people who are biologically related to you.

I hope you had a great Parents and Family weekend. For students, if your parents were here, I hope you had fun showing them around campus and introducing them to professors and the places you now call home. I hope they are proud of you and your work here at LC and that they are at a place where they can let you grow up, but still help with the laundry. If your parents didn't come this weekend, I hope you were able to get your roommate's parents to take you out to dinner or to get out with friends. If it was a rough weekend for you, I hope that you can find some new family here at LC, and people who can be proud of you for who you really are. For faculty and staff, I hope you got some insight into some of our student's families--both the ones who are supportive and the ones who are less helpful. Faculty and staff make the difference here for our students who have less supportive families in big and small ways.

So I am thinking a lot about families this week. We have students, faculty and staff who have recently received news of the death of grandparents and parents in the past weeks. We have other community members whose parents have significant health issues, who have children about whom they worry and families who need their attention. Our community is strong, but sometimes we miss the pain under the surface. I invite you this week to reflect on the joys and celebrations of your family and to cherish your time with them. Overlook shortcomings and forgive those that weigh you down. Invite supportive friends to be your family when your biological family is less helpful and reach out to those who have experienced loss. Blessings, Stephanie

By Stephanie McLemore, Chaplain & Director of Church Relations

Concerns

Our sympathies are extended to:

- **Toy Ayers** (junior, Forest, VA), whose grandmother died.
- **Taylor Cannaday** (freshman, Forest, Va) on the death of her grandmother.
- **Nancy Grimes** (Enrollment), whose mother, Joyce Brumfield, died.
- **Joan Jones** (former Trustee), whose son died. [Click here.](#)
- **Sarah Laurent** (senior, Wilmington, DE) on the death of her grandmother.
- **Amanda McGovern** (Assistant Dean for Student Development), whose grandfather died.
- **Lindsey Sawyer** (freshman, Skillman, NJ) on the death of her mother.
- **Dr. Charles O. Warren, Jr.** (former President), whose mother died.

Celebrate Faith, Hope, and Love: National Coming Out Day

October 11 - 7 pm,
Snidow Chapel

Featuring:

Jennifer Knapp and Lianna Carrera

Sponsored by Agudath Sholom, First Unitarian Church, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, the MACs Office, and the Spiritual Life Center

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

Dates to Remember

Date/Time/Location

Tuesday, October 4
5:15 p.m.
Friendship Circle

Event

Blessing of the Animals—
Bring a pet, stuffed animal,
or a photo of your pet

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Canterbury Club (Episcopal) - meets at 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays at SLC
Campus Outreach - meets on Thursdays at 9 p.m. in Tate Main Lounge
Catholic Community

- Rosary Prayer on Tuesdays and Fridays at noon in Snidow Chapel
- Disciples on Campus (DOC)** - meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at SLC
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)** - 8:30 p.m. Mondays, Turner 309
- Hillel** - meets biweekly, 7 p.m. Wednesdays at SLC. Next meeting Oct. 12
- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship** - 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in Hopwood 14
- Lynchburg Christian Fellowship [lcf]** Mid-size communities meet Mondays and Wednesdays at 9 p.m. and Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. at Brewer Large Meeting Room. For more information, go to <http://lcfva.com/>.
- Methodist Student Fellowship** - TBA. Contact Jill Farley, staff advisor, Farley@lynchburg.edu or Beth McKinney, faculty advisor, mckinney.b@lynchburg.edu

ReJOYce in Jesus Campus Fellowship—Fridays at 7 p.m. in Tate Main Lounge

Spiritual Life Center
434-544-8348

www.lynchburg.edu/spirituallife