Congratulations to:

Dr. Glenn Buck (Education) on the death of his 89-year-old mother. Ellen Beatrice Buck died on January 9th in New York. [Link to obituary.]

Anthony Ferraro-Adams (junior, Fairfax, VA) on the death of his grandfather.

Dr. Karena Heyward (Education), whose grandfather died.

Our sympathies are extended to:

Anthony Ferraro-Adams (junior, Fairfax, VA) on the death of his grandfather.

Dr. Karena Heyward (Education), whose grandfather died.

Congratulations to:

Dr. Jimmy Roux (Communication Studies) and Melissa Hames (Health Center) who were married on December 13, 2014.

Concerns

Our sympathies are extended to:

Sunday, February 4

4:00 to 7 p.m.

AMF Lynchburg Lanes

Saturday, February 28

9 a.m. to 12 noon and 12 noon to 3 p.m.

More details to come

The Spirit of Selma

Over the break my husband and I saw the movie “Selma” at a local theater. While I knew something of the background of this monumental chapter of the civil rights movement, watching a reenactment of that fateful Sunday in March of 1965 was very disturbing. As I watched hundreds of courageous men and women march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge from Selma to Montgomery to demand the right to vote for all people, I tried to imagine what it must have felt like. What kind of inner strength enables an individual to move forward, putting one foot in front of the other, knowing the perils that undoubtedly awaited on the other side from opponents to equality who have demonized you and wish nothing more than to destroy you and all that you stand for?

This week I heard an interview with Congressman John Lewis from Georgia who marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on that fateful day, now known as “Bloody Sunday.” Forty-nine years later the painful memories of that march are still emblazoned in his mind and heart. “We were beaten, tear gassed, trampled and chased by men on horseback, … Many of us accepted the way of non-violence as a way of life, as a way of living. We were willing to be arrested, to be jailed. We accepted the beatings. And we never gave up.

In an age when we are overwhelmed by stories and images of violence in our neighborhoods, on our campuses, in shopping malls and on battle fields far away, the power of non-violence can be overshadowed and even forgotten. How grateful we are that at least one day a year we are reminded of a man and of a movement that refused to believe violence was the only way to adequately address injustice and oppression. An entire community of people banded together in non-violent solidarity and bravely marched forward, willing to risk injury and even death rather than to inflict harm on those who attacked them. They knew in their hearts, having studied the work of people like Gandhi and Thoreau, that social change was possible through non-violent struggle, and they never gave up.

If women and men, young and old, were willing to march and even willing to die in order that their brothers and sisters could live with dignity and equality, then can’t the rest of us consider acting with courage ourselves? Here are just a few ways we might consider carrying on the spirit of the Selma in our own lives:

- Cultivating a non-violent spirit within ourselves by quiet reflection and self-examination of our own prejudices and fears, biases and judgments

- Intentionally choosing to relate honestly and lovingly with people different from ourselves whether by race, religion, culture, or gender orientation

- Advocating for legislative policies locally and nationally that will ensure all people have equal access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, healthcare, and educational opportunities

- Volunteering our time and energy with organizations that work to support the well-being and empowerment of those groups who are marginalized and disenfranchised

May the memory of the courageous marchers from Selma to Montgomery serve to inspire each of us to take our own baby steps forward in non-violent solidarity on a pathway to peace.

Peace, Anne

By Anne Gibbons

Associate Chaplain and Director of the Bonner Leader Program

Dates to Remember

Date/Time/Location Event Description

Wednesday, February 4 4:00 to 7 p.m. Spring Organization Fair An opportunity to learn about all student organizations on campus

Center for Spiritual Life

500 Brevard Street—434.544.8348

www.lynchburg.edu/spirituallife

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

For a list of our regularly scheduled meetings during the academic year, go to the Spiritual Life webpage and click on “Spiritual Organizations on Campus.”

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 previous and current issues of our newsletter (in PDF format), on the Spiritual Life page of the Lynchburg College website—www.lynchburg.edu/spirituallife.