

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hey, Students Are Back. They're Home.

BY NATHAN

We have a somewhat silly tradition in my family that when anyone enters our home, we all pretend we are sleeping. My two sons take this tradition very seriously. For instance, my three-year-old will immediately stop what he's doing and fall to the ground with incredible speed and force. It's a skill. My other son will usually lie in the most awkward position, feet in the air, arms outstretched, while he loudly shrieks as if that is what snores actually sound like.



We had family in town last week and every morning when they came out of their bedroom, our boys enacted this ritual with passion and perfection.

Before my children became skilled professionals in this tradition, though, they would excitedly run to the front door to greet me when I came home from work. They would shout, "Dad, you're home. Hey Mom, Dad's home." Then they would go into a long rant about what they did that day, what games they played, art they created, or silly things that happened. It made coming home from work such a joy as it seemed like they actually missed me.

As I walked across the Dell earlier this week, I found myself with a similar excitement. No, I didn't want to immediately fall to the ground and pretend I was sleeping as I crossed paths with students in Friendship Circle (although, I'm sure that could make

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for an interesting and hysterical scene). I did, though, find myself filled with such joy for their return that I almost wanted to shout, "You're home. Hey, students are back, they're home." Again, I'm sure people would find this somewhat alarming, so I held back the urge.

Even though there will be challenges this semester as we tighten our COVID precautions due to the omicron surge that has reached Lynchburg, I am still excited we are back for another semester. We are here to develop our students, to promote strong character and balanced perspectives, to prepare one another for engagement in a diverse society, and to foster leaders for the civic, professional, and spiritual dimensions of life. All of us contribute, whether we realize it in the moment or not, to this goal. As we pursue this goal, I hope students will recognize they are home while faculty and staff recognize the important role we play to make this a reality.

So, if you see me walking across the Dell this week, and you feel the urge to fall to the ground and pretend you're sleeping, I welcome that. However, a less dramatic and probably more hospitable approach is simply to say, "Welcome, back. Glad you're home." to everyone you pass on the Dell.

The Chaplain's Corner is a newsletter published by the Spiritual Life Center (SLC) at the University of Lynchburg. We share campus concerns and updates, spiritual life events and activities, and words for the journey. If you have a joy or concern you'd like to share, reply to this message, email the SLC office - spirituallife@lynchburg.edu, or call 434.544.8348. We only share with your permission. Current and previous issues are on the SLC page of the University website - www.lynchburg.edu/spiritual-life.

For a list of regularly scheduled fellowship group meetings, go to the Spiritual Life webpage and click on "Spiritual Organizations on Campus."

Helpful Links on LinkTree at - SpiritualLifeCenter

Dates to Remember

Sundays at 4:30 p.m.
Weekly ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS
Snidow Chapel

MLK WEEK 2022

Events include:

- Dream Big Book Drive - drop off at Flynn Multicultural Center, Library, or Writing Center until Feb. 28.
- Wednesday, January 26 - 7 p.m. Screening of "King: A Film Recorded . . . Montgomery to Memphis." Ballroom.
- Friday, January 28 - 3 p.m. Unity March. Begins at Snidow Chapel.

Monday, January 31
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
SPIRITUAL LIFE POP-UP
Topic: Pronouns
Drysdale 3rd Floor

Sympathies, Concerns, and Congrats

Congratulations to:

- **Tyson Dummeldinger** (Doctor of Medical Science) and his wife, Lindsey, on the birth of their son. Miles Jacob Dummeldinger was born on September 24, 2021. Miles joins big brother Brooks, 3 years old.



Our sympathies are extended to:

- **Dr. Tom Bowman** (Athletic Training) and his wife, **Katie Bowman** (Health and Physical Education), on the death of Tom's mother. Rebecca C. Bowman died on January 3, 2022. [Link](#) to full obituary.
- **Dr. Sharon Foreman** (Sociology & Human Services), and daughter Maggie, on the death of Sharon's grandmother. 'Nanny's' obituary can be viewed [online](#).
- The family, friends, and former colleagues of **Dr. Rose Jensen** (retired director of the Beard Center on Aging), who died on January 10, 2022. [Link](#) to obituary.
- **Dr. Leslie Layne** and her husband, David Tucker, on the death of her mother, Peggy Layne. [Link](#) to obituary.
- **Dr. Sabita Manian** (School of Social Sciences) and her husband, Brad Bullock, on the death of her grandmother, Meenakshi Vaidyanathan.
- The family, friends, and former colleagues of **Beth Marsh** (formerly in Psychology) who died on January 24, 2022. [Link](#) to obituary.
- The family, friends, and former colleagues of **Dr. Dave Smith** (formerly in Education), who died on January 9, 2022. [Link](#) to obituary.
- **Jane White** (retired, Business Office) on the death of her husband, John White. [Link](#) to obituary.

PHILLIPS UNIVERSITY LEGACY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Open to incoming students as well as returning students, scholarships are based on academic achievements, leadership in the church, community, and chosen vocation. Recipients are required to create a project and attend a leadership development conference for annual training. Go to this [LINK](#) for more information.

WELCOME BACK!!!!
If you would like to join a student Spiritual Life group, or start a new one, please contact
Rev. Dr. Katrina Brooks,
Assistant Chaplain
brooks.ks@lynchburg.edu