

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## Lessons from Snidow

BY NATHAN

There are a couple of copies of a small red book in our office. It has an image of Snidow Chapel on the cover. Not too long ago, I finally decided to take it off the shelf and read it. It's a biography by Dorothy "Dot" Ferguson, entitled *The Man Who Took God at His Word: C.L. Snidow, Christian Gentleman*, and is about Clifton L. Snidow, a member of the Board of Trustees from 1906-1928.

Snidow was a key player in raising funds to build the chapel as well as helping the college survive a season of financial hardship. He was also the impetus for changing the name of the institution from Virginia Christian College to Lynchburg College.

At the time, the college was a young school that was struggling with low enrollment as it sought to grow and mature. In partnership with the city of Lynchburg, people rallied together and procured all the necessary funds to thrive. Around



the same time, there began discussions with the Board of Trustees of changing the name of the institution from Virginia Christian College to Westover Christian College.

Snidow was not having it, though. He argued that the school should honor the generosity of the people of Lynchburg and suggested the school be named Lynchburg College. He stated, "Lynchburg people are loyal to this college and they have helped

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For more information about the Spiritual Life Center, including info on student spiritual life student groups, go to our webpage - link in the email signature. You can also visit our [Linkt.ree](#) (Link is in email).

## Lessons from Snidow (cont'd)

when help was badly needed. The name should be Lynchburg College, not Lynchburg Christian College, because the insertion of the word Christian will tend to limit our patronage.”

What I loved about reading this biography is that Snidow truly wanted this institution to be a place for all students. Every student would find their home here, no matter where they lived.

Our office hosts 14 different spiritual life groups, with more than half coming from traditions outside of Christianity. Students are finding refuge, healing, and belonging on this campus. We see it every day as our office interacts with students coming from all walks of life.

My hope is that we continue to live our Snidow's grand vision for this, now, university to be a place where people not only say, "Here you're home," but also experience this place as home.

SEEKING INTERESTED STUDENTS:  
*Black Spirituality*

A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS CAN EXPLORE SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGION, THE BLACK CHURCH, LIBERATION THEOLOGY, AND TRADITIONAL AFRICAN RELIGIONS.

MESSAGE US IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!  
SPIRITUALLIFE@LYNCHBURG.EDU

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](mailto: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 - go to Link in signature ([www.lynchburg.edu/spiritual-life](http://www.lynchburg.edu/spiritual-life)) and click on "Newsletter."

## Dates to Remember

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

Sunday, November 13 - 2 p.m.  
TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE  
Snidow Chapel

**Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week**

November 12-20

**TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**  
NOVEMBER 13TH @2PM  
Interfaith Service

**SNIDOW CHAPEL**  
University of Lynchburg  
1501 Lakeside Drive  
Lynchburg, VA 24501