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.

Happy Holidays

So let’s name Lynchburg College as a community with some diversities of economic status, race, ethnicities, political views, sexual orientations...thousands of other things...and of faith and non-faith traditions. We may do well with our diversity on some days and not as well on other days. We have different comfort levels with some communities than with others. Most of us struggle daily with the concept of “us” and “them” regardless of which group we find ourselves among in any given discussion.

When we get to December it becomes even more difficult. I helped get a new Christmas tree for Drysdale, and since we are a church-related college, Christmas is alright...right? In my puritanical moments I think Christians should focus on Advent all the way until Christmas Eve, and work hard to avoid the great altar of consumerism. Hanukkah starts December 16th so let’s get a Menorah. Some are celebrating Kwanza this year on campus so shall we get a Kinara? (See photos at left.) Winter Solstice is coming too.

From Politically Correct Holiday Stories:

We try to be politically correct and not offend anyone, but if we try to do it all, we do none of it well. I have come to value the commitment to welcome, providing safe space for difference, and conversation about differences. We must all celebrate our own traditions with integrity or there is no reason to celebrate them, but we must also allow space to let others celebrate (or not celebrate) with integrity. I value dialogue and relationships since that is where the true faith is lived out and the real joy of life is found.

As many of you in our community have a bit slower schedule over the next few weeks, I encourage you to expand your knowledge of another tradition, of another friend’s life and beliefs, or to make a new friend so that your life and our world become richer.

Christmas Blessings, may you know the Joy that I find in Christmas, see it in my life and trust another deeply enough to share your celebrations as well.

Blessings, Stephanie

By Stephanie McLemore
Chaplain and Director of Church Relations

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.”