**Chaplain’s Corner**

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, staff, and the Interfaith Community Senior Pastor 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/spiritual_life.

**Congrats**

Congratulations to:
- Judi Kaiser (Dining Services) and her husband, Karl, on the birth of their grand-daughter, Hlin, on January 28, 2015. Ivy weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches.

**Interfaith Outreach Bowl-a-thon**

AMF Lynchburg Lanes
Saturday, February 28
9 a.m. to 12 noon or 12 noon to 3 p.m.
Contact: Andrea Roth Roth.a@lynchburg.edu

**Passages Through Grief**

New class begins February 19
For anyone with significant loss, death, divorce, health issues, etc. Learn to understand and cope with grief
- 6 sessions, held on Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.
  - First Christian Church, 3109 Rivermont Ave.
  - $75/person (scholarships available)
  - Website: www.lynchburg.edu
  - Contact: Susan Williams 434-944-8458

**Campus Worship Opportunities**

Sunday
- Quaker Meeting—10:30 a.m., Center for Spiritual Life
- InFaith [IF] — Campus Protestant Worship, 3 p.m., Sydor Performance Hall
- Roman Catholic Mass—4:30 p.m., Snidow Chapel.

**Reflection**

While in college I was sexually assaulted. His name was John* and we were on a date. I said no. He chose not to hear me...and yeah, I became a victim. The day after the incident I told a friend. The friend helped me weave an imaginary tale which allowed me to pretend the assault never happened. Then he called me. In my attempt to process what happened I finally asked, “Why did you do this? You heard me say no.” His response was curt and to the point. “Someone took my virginity and I was determined to take yours.” I hung up.

What does someone do with all that? My 19-year-old self could not imagine pressing charges. It would be my word against his and there were no visible scars. In the eighties in my town and at my Baptist college, sexual assault was not discussed. Date rape was considered a term victims used to rationalize their consent. Sexual conquest was applauded and it was thought the victim “asked for it.” I also did not tell my parents.

What does someone do with all that? The healthy thing would have been to not do what I did. I bottled it all up inside of me and pretended the assault never happened. Except...it did. The sexual assault changed everything, even my spiritual life. I had to wrestle with losing my virginity. Once something I held up as proof of my faithfulness was gone I wondered if God could still use me and my brokenness, my imperfection. I even wondered how God could love me. It took a great deal of time and patience to knit myself back together as my crisis of faith gave birth to an even deeper faith and sense of worth and value.

Even after all these years, all the processing of the event and the knitting myself back together, I have scars. My heart stops when someone I do not know creeps up on me. I go into a hyper-vigilant stance when I perceive threat or when someone violates my personal space. I become aggressive when someone tries to “take something” from me and every once in a while I feel guilty for not having been more careful. Thoughts of what I should have done...or not done occasionally pierce my dreams. Things that happen to us in college change us.

Lynchburg College has an Interpersonal Misconduct Policy. Recently procedures and policies were updated to include mandates the Violence against Women Act (VAWA) insists are present on college campuses. Copies of the Interpersonal Misconduct Policy and Response Procedures are provided in all our campus offices. In the manual confidential sources are identified. Rights for charged students and complainants are specified. Reporting options are detailed. Response procedures are outlined. Disciplinary procedures are spelled out. On campus and off campus resources are published. This document can also be found on the Lynchburg College website.

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By Katrina Brooks
Campus Pastor and InFaith Community Senior Pastor

**Dates to Remember**

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<tr>
<th>Date/Time/Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 4 TODAY! 4 p.m., steps of Hopwood</td>
<td>LC Sanga Meeting</td>
<td>For those interested in learning more about the LC meditation community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 4 8:34 to 7 p.m., Memorial Ballroom</td>
<td>Spring Organizational Fair</td>
<td>An opportunity to learn about all intradence organizations on campus</td>
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**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.”

Center for Spiritual Life
500 Brevard Street—434.544.8348
www.lynchburg.edu/spiritual_life