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.

Earth Day

I’m a bit puzzled about what to write about Earth Day. I always have to start the Chaplain’s Corner article several times. The first false start yesterday was about Environmental Theology and used some academic resources from a seminary class long ago. At this point in the semester I don’t expect anyone to read academic work that isn’t required. I took a carbon footprint quiz and it told me what I already know, I should bike more (if I could balance on one of those), that I should eat less meat, that I should drive less, and that the avid recycling that we (but primarily my mother) do at our home makes a huge difference.

When I was little, Earth Day was a day to head to the park and play games and learn at little kiosks about water and recycling. Today it means teaching my kids to do better than I have done and about the interconnectedness of the whole of Creation. There goes the theology again. This year I have paused to reflect and produced a prayer to share with you.

Holy Creator, I wonder with awe about the intricacy of Your work. The magnificent views are breathtaking and the microscopic anatomy fit together perfectly. I wonder how the complicatedness of creation balances so well with the simplicity. I wonder about the diversity of the oceans and the land, the mountains and the vast flatness, about the rain forests and glaciers. I wonder why the sand of the deserts and beaches seem so alike. I wonder about the sea creatures that live in deep trenches still waiting to be “discovered.” I wonder about the abundance of mosquitoes.

I wonder about my own self. I am wonderfully made with fingernails and ears, with a brain and a heart. There are so many parts all working together, so many fluids and cycles and mysteries. I wonder about disease and cancer. I wonder about personality and creativity and mental health.

I give thanks for my own ability to think for myself and for my own ability to co-create. I confess that I live selfishly and use more resources than I need. I confess that I confuse likes and needs and that I get consumed by worldly goods and ambition and ego. I confess that I ignore the fact that all of creation is intertwined.

Creator, I look around and see just enough order and just enough mystery. I look around and balance seems possible. I pray for our Earth, for the magnificence of it and the vastness of universes beyond. May I give thanks for Creation every day and work with all of who I am to preserve it, to be a true caretaker, and celebrate its beauty. AMEN.

May you find a few moments to wonder about creation today and consider how your life might celebrate the Earth.

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.”