



Chaplains' Corner

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The Hive that Cares Thrives

I'm a sucker for a good social documentary. Not too long ago, my wife and I watched one about bees. It doesn't sound like the most thrilling Oscar-worthy film, but it surprisingly kept my attention, and I learned a lot more about bees than I ever thought I would. The film follows a handful of beekeepers who, after transporting their hives across the country to help pollinate numerous farms, started to see millions of their bees mysteriously die. The documentary tracks this growing phenomenon. Was it the fertilizer or pesticides used on particular plants? The rising temperatures or changing weather patterns? A pest control problem on larger farms?



One of the more fascinating discoveries revealed in the film (spoiler alert) was - it is now believed that entire bee colonies function collectively as one organism, rather than as thousands of individual bee organisms making up one colony. Thus, when an entire colony is moved or divided, or new bees are added to an older bee colony, the entire colony stops working as it should and the bees succumb to death. When the hive is treated as one larger organism, however, where each bee knows other bees in the hive, when they work together to care for one another and the queen bee, the entire hive thrives.

In my first year as a part of this local University of Lynchburg Hornet 'hive,' I have been honored to witness how this hive cares for each of its members. One of the best ways I get to see this up close, without even donning a bee suit, is through our Lynchburg Cares Fund. This fund, collected through employees' personal gifts and payroll deductions, provides financial assistance for unforeseen burdens in times of crisis to countless students, faculty, and staff.

Because of your contributions, this summer we have been able to help fellow members of our community with getting food, repairing a car, catching up on mortgage payments, securing a safe apartment, purchasing textbooks, and finding a used car. It is no wonder why so many of our fellow students, faculty, and staff love this community. This is one of the many reasons why.

When someone comes into the Spiritual Life Center, possibly ashamed of their financial woes, in deep grief and utter crisis, or barely able to stay afloat and often through tears asks for help, it is the greatest honor to be able to answer, 'Yes.'

The hive that cares for each member thrives. And, the resulting honey for the entire community is ever sweet.

If you would like to financially contribute to the Lynchburg Cares Fund, please contact our office about ways in which to do so. You can also set up a payroll deduction to donate directly to the Lynchburg Cares Fund through the Human Resource Department. On behalf of the Spiritual Life Center, we truly thank all of you who donate to this fund and continue to support our community.

By Nathan Albert
Associate Chaplain

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."

Concerns

Our sympathies are extended to:

- **Savannah Cook** (Grad Studies) on the death of her maternal grandfather, Robert "Big Bobby" Wheless.
- **BJ Keefer** (Student Activities), whose aunt, Frances Leidy, died.

Hornet Days Spiritual Life Opportunities

Sunday, August 25, 2019

Holy Cross Catholic Church

- Leave at 9:30 a.m. from circle between Schewel Hall and Snidow Chapel

One Community Church -

Leave at 10 a.m. from circle between Schewel Hall and Snidow Chapel

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) - at 10:30 a.m. from circle between Schewel Hall and Chapel

Greater Brookville Church -

Leave at 10:30 a.m. from circle between Schewel Hall and Snidow Chapel

Open House for Jewish, Muslim and Humanist Students

- 11 a.m., lower terrace level of the Spiritual Life Center, 500 Brevard Street

Meditation - 11 a.m., meet on the steps of Hopwood. Meditation will be outdoors if weather permits. Dress comfortably.

Campus Worship Opportunities

- **Quaker Meeting** - 10:30 a.m. Sundays at the Spiritual Life Center.
- **Roman Catholic Mass** - weekly at 4:30 p.m., Sundays in Snidow Chapel. Mass will resume on September 1.

New this year:

- **Weekly Vespers** - 9 p.m. Sundays in Snidow Chapel, beginning on September 1.

The Chaplains' Corner is a newsletter published by the Spiritual Life Center (SLC) at the University of Lynchburg to share campus concerns and updates, spiritual life events and activities, and words for the journey written by the Spiritual Life Center staff. If you have a joy or concern you'd like to share with the campus community, please [e-mail](#) the SLC office or call 434.544.8348. We only share concerns or joys, via newsletter or e-mail, with permission. Current and previous issues of the Chaplain's Corner (in PDF format) are on the SLC [page](#) of the University of Lynchburg website.

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