

THE YOKE

The newsletter of the Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Chapter
of the Ministers Council, ABCUSA

October, 2022

IN THIS EDITION

A CHAPLAIN'S EVENING IN
THE CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

LAST THINGS WE TALK
ABOUT

SPACE FOR GRACE
REFLECTION

PASTORAL COUNSELORS
BROCHURE

MINISTERS COUNCIL

DATES TO REMEMBER

IN CLOSING

A CHAPLAIN'S EVENING IN THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

-by Petra Van de Water, C&PC Member -at Large- and chaplain at Stanford Children's Hospital.

I decided to walk the Labyrinth in the hospital's healing garden during an evening shift. I was waiting for a family from far away to be with a child to say final goodbyes at the end of its life. I decided to spend some time in God's presence so his love, comfort, and peace would be there in and through me. The evening light added to the contemplative stillness of my surroundings. I prayed a breath prayer while consciously breathing in and out, feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit, closer than the air I was breathing. The Stanford trauma helicopter flying over my head reminded me of the world I am living and serving in. I sensed peace and calm within my spirit, body, and steps, which were not mine but God's.

The evening with the family was intense, and I felt their profound grief and loss. The parent present in the room cried in my arms. I could pour from my cup of presence, prayer, and comfort filled by God. Afterward, I felt exhausted and sad but not utterly torn or devastated. As a chaplain, I walk in the shoes of both Mary and Martha, the contemplative and the active pair. When I meditate, pray, and seek God's presence daily, my active and contemplative steps converge into a spiritual kinship already available to me by faith, a space where I feel God's presence, love, and comfort. How God fills my cup of compassion is a mystery I cannot comprehend, but I know God is there and doing so.

(continued on page 3...)



Tap here to add a caption



The American Baptist Ministers Council Chapter of Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors invites you to a webinar on:

NOVEMBER 9, 2022 - 5 PM PST/8 PM EST

Last Things we Talk About

Learning Objectives:

To inspire your clients to have a head start regarding end-of-life inventories and tasks and the confidence to be engaged in living every day to the end.

To encourage your client's well-being and stewardship, to understand the cast of characters in the medical universe, and to plan for the inevitable costs of long-term illness and death.

To engage in communication with family members so that the "treasure hunt and competition" of estate matters is minimal.



TEN THINGS OUR CLIENTS NEED TO CONSIDER BEFORE THEY DIE

A life-altering medical diagnosis allows us to come alongside our clients and offer opportunities to start conversations with their families about end-of-life matters and "put their house in order." This presentation will help the pastor, pastoral counselor, and chaplain to know where to start.



As a Chaplain, Pastor, and Certified Financial Planner, the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth "Libby" Boatwright has counseled families on end-of-life issues, loss, and grief. She equips her clients in composing memorials, developing crisis coping skills, and educating them how to work with lawyers in estate plans.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ministrelife.zoom.us/j/4550855108?pwd=ZUNvTmxEbTVkRDJjaeXo4VFVGMMQ5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 455 085 5108

Password: 877682

The English medieval mystic, Julian of Norwich, talks about the inner and outer parts of being. My outer parts concern my earthly dwelling, my body that may resist suffering, hardship, or difficulties in order to survive and protect myself. My inner parts are my essence, my soul. It is the place which Julian of Norwich says is at peace and deeply in love with Jesus.¹

My inner peace determines my outward calm presence when I minister to the grieving family of the dying child. I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul: *Therefore, I'm all right with weaknesses, insults, disasters, harassments, and stressful situations for the sake of Christ because when I'm weak, I'm strong.* (2 Corinthians 12:10 CEB). It takes my willingness to surrender to God fully so that God's power and love comfort them instead of me. In that way, God's comfort and presence will be with them long after I have left the hospital room.

In surrendering to God, I follow and fulfill my vocation as a chaplain by faith in God's grace.

Starr, Mirabai, *Julian of Norwich: The Showings: Uncovering the Face of the Feminine in Revelations of Divine Love*, (Charlottesville: Hampton Roads Publishing Company, Inc., 2013), 48.

Space for Grace Conference Reflection

-by Lee Axtell

C&PC Chapter Secretary-Treasurer and Navy Chaplain serving U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

For those of you who were able to make it to Kansas City September 21-23, I enjoyed seeing you again – or meeting you for the first time – during the conference. Space For Grace certainly lived up to its theme this year, Testify! The plenary sessions, Learning Experience Sessions and most certainly all the wonderful meals, provided a place and space for telling God's good news, and hearing it too. As chaplains, pastoral counselors, spiritual directors, and specialized ministers gathered as a family to testify to each other about God's love, each individual testimony became a gift of grace which strengthened and affirmed the faith we each carry into facing the challenges of our respective ministries.

One of the highlights for me was attending the Learning Experience Sessions led by Kelli Foreman from Kodiak Baptist Mission and Rev. Laura Ayala from Iglesia Bautista de Rio Piedras, San Juan, Puerto Rico. I appreciated hearing how big God is as evidenced by these two servants of Jesus Christ. Kelli and her family share their faith through farming in Alaska and have an unmatched outreach to local families and military throughout the Kodiak area. Rev. Ayala and her church have served the community for many years and provided vital outreach of food and shelter following recent hurricanes. Rev. Ayala presented her workshop at the same time her church back home was serving the local people recovering from the hurricane themselves. Both ministers are superior ABHMS servant leaders of their own families and local communities. Their high level of dedication to God and those they serve inspired me to do my best to apply their spiritual resiliency to my military chaplaincy ministry. They sure set a high bar!

I am looking forward to the 2023 Biennial in Puerto Rico and am already blocking off my calendar and making scheduling adjustments to attend. Hope to see you there!

New Pastoral Counselor Brochure

Nathaniel Milton C&PC Member-at Large and Pastoral Counselor

Wholeness and health with a spiritual foundation. Trained in the behavioral sciences, completed required clinical training and licensed by the state. Ordained, experienced in parish ministry, and endorsed. They can offer confidential counseling and serve as “sounding boards” when pastors need a professional opinion. Pastoral Counselors can lead workshops for congregations.

All these and more can be found in ABC pastoral counselors!

How Can I Find An ABC Pastoral Counselor?

- *Your Area Minister*
- *Your Regional Executive Minister*
- *ABHMS Office of Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries*
- *Ministers Council Chapter of Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors*

Resource Information For American Baptist Churches USA Pastors

Pastoral Counseling

Counseling For Wholeness And Health With A Spiritual Foundation

Chaplains & Pastoral Counselors Chapter The Ministers Council

*ministerscouncil.com
cpemincouncil@gmail.com*

We celebrate the work of Pastoral Counselors and offer this brochure to demonstrate your important work. Feel to use this brochure where a well-trained ABC pastoral counselor would be helpful.

HEADING TO NEBRASKA

-by Rick Barnes, C&PC Member-at-Large and immigration detention chaplain.

Since returning from my time away, I have resumed representing this our chapter at the chapter representative meetings. I would love to have a great deal to report to you. Unfortunately, there seem to be a fair amount of chapters that are in the midst of, ahem, “rebuilding” at this time. I will be representing you at the Ministers Council Retreat & Biennial Meeting coming up on Oct. 31-Nov. 3. There will be time for spiritual reflection at a spiritual retreat center in Schuyler, Nebraska. We will also be hearing about the progress of the Code of Ethics, and making decisions as to the next steps. By the way, our chapter was the first to adopt the Code of Ethics. Your prayers over the Minister’s Council and its constituent parts, the Code of Ethics process, and the spiritual refreshment of us all are very much appreciated.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Ministers Council Retreat 10/31-11/3/ 2022, Schuyler, Nebraska

Chapter Webinar 11/9/22, on zoom (see enclosed invitation)

ABC-usa Biennial 6/23-25/2023, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Association of Professional Chaplains Annual Conference, 6/22-25/23, Houston, Texas

IN CLOSING....

A Word from the President

-by Sarah Fogg, President of the C&PC Chapter and retired chaplain and spiritual care department head.

A special note of thanks goes to the son of our member-at-large, Nat Milton, for helping us produce the enclosed Pastoral Counselor brochure. Thanks so much, Nate! We couldn’t have done it without you. If you’d like copies of the full brochure, please contact us at cpcmincouncil@gmail.com for necessary printing instructions. More pastors and congregants need to know about this vital resource within our denomination.

And please don’t forget to tune in on zoom November 9 at 8 PM Eastern time for “The Last Words We Say.” Given the work we do daily as chaplains and pastoral counselors, it’s easy to think we have nothing to learn on this topic. Careful. You could be missing an essential puzzle piece your clients need to successfully meet the greatest challenge of their lives.