



*North Carolina Chaplains Association*

# A Letter from the President

Recently, a humorous, yet brutally truthful, email escaped the Spam collector and ended-up in my mailbox. Perhaps you have seen and pondered it, too! It reminds me that we all spend much of life wishing for the future. That wish robs us of the present joys in life. “When you are young you spend your time wanting to be old, when you are old, you spend your time wanting to be young again...” When we are caught in the vicious cycle of “wishing” the richness of the present is too easily lost.

As I think about the North Carolina Chaplains’ Association, I realize that we may be in danger, too. If we get caught in pondering the past or in dreaming about the future, we may not serve our organization well. Yes, a healthy balance of looking at the past and present should help guide the here and now. The fortieth anniversary celebration was a reminder that NCCA has a rich history, which included initial growing pains, the diligence of volunteer leaders, the camaraderie of chaplains across the state, the wit of members past and present, and the setting of goals and defining the mission of the organization. Wow! What a great history! I want to thank the planning committee who helped us honor our past: Patricia Cadle, Claude Deal, John Edgerton, Elizabeth Hyland, Richard Hunt, Teresa McIlwain, Barry Morris and Janice Wakefield for helping us reflect on the rich history which has shaped the organization. I cannot forget those who participated in “That’s the Way it Was!”, “It’s Saturday Night Live from the NCCA”, “Cheers”, and “You’ve Come A Long Way Baby...” Thank you!

What will be the organizations history for the next forty years? None of us can predict the future of NCCA. The Executive Committee can take a look at the rich history, the hopes and dreams of members and guide the organization in a direction in which the past is remembered, the present is honored and the fulfilling of future dreams is possible. Your 2004/05 Executive Committee discerned a need to convene several subcommittees to help with these tasks. They are:

- 1) A **Location Committee** to assess the impact of the Association  
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## An Autobiography from our Fall Speaker: John Edgerton

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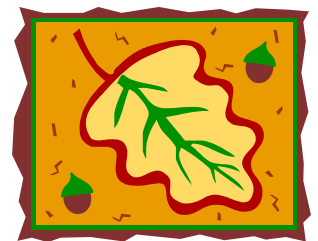
I grew up in a small town in Eastern North Carolina named Kenly. It was a small town of about 1,000 people in the middle of an agricultural culture. Both of my parents were schoolteachers, and I grew up as a member of the United Methodist Church. In my last couple of years in high school I was drawn to the ministry and decided I wanted to serve in that capacity. So, when I entered college I was a pre-ministerial student, yet sports probably were still my first love.

I attended North Carolina Western College for two years, and basically played basketball and baseball. A startling revelation took place when a person from another college scored 25 points against me one evening in a basketball game. At that point, I concluded that I was not going to make the Boston Celtics. From that point, I gave up athletics, and transferred to Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, North Carolina. I became a pastor of a small United Methodist Church, and began my ministerial career at the grand old age of 20. I have had several what I would refer to as surprising beginnings in my pastoral career. For instance, in my first church on the first Sunday no one showed up. I thought maybe I had gotten the time mixed up, but about 11:30 a.m., Colonel Bob Hankins showed up, and informed me that the church had had a very strong conflict internally the last two Sundays, and at that point there were no members of that church. Thus, began my ministerial career. Dig or Die Brother Hyde was a book I read diligently that summer.

I also from that moment learned that ministry could take many surprising turns and avenues that one did not anticipate. I did survive that first appointment, and a couple of years later graduated from Atlantic Christian. I then moved to take a United Methodist student parish outside of Richmond, Virginia. While in Richmond, I began Union Seminary. Union was Presbyterian, and after one year I decided I did not want to work in a Bishoping system. I preferred to have some say about where I would work, with whom I would work, and how long I would be there. So, I left the Methodist church and became Presbyterian. (I also had many control issues going back to my relationship with Mom.) After another year at Union, I did my internship so that I could receive a Masters of Divinity degree. I stayed two to three years at Roseland Presbyterian Church, outside of New York City, where I actually received my M.Div. from Drew University.

I then took a call to a church in Richmond, Virginia as a pastor for the next eight years. During that time, I received my D.Min. at Union Theological Seminary and began to get training in pastoral counseling at the Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care.

After those years in the parish, I decided to enter Supervisory Training and Pastoral Counseling Training at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem, and after three years of training there, I was certified as an Acting Supervisor and Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. I then became Director of the Life Enrichment Center at Morganton, North Carolina where I remained for seven or eight years. I again had a very auspicious beginning. My first day at work at Morganton, I discovered the secretary had not been paid for six months, nor had any of the utilities, or had the rent, and if by noon if I did not come up with about \$15,000 that I would have no secretary, no building to work in, no lights, no phone, no heat and air conditioning. The community had assumed that since Baptist had appointed me that they had sent the money with me to pay all of the back bills. Of course, they had not. I called an emergency Board meeting, and thus began my career at Morganton.



## Autobiography con't

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Those years at Morganton ended up being very fruitful and very fulfilling, even though we had a difficult beginning. However, after about eight years there, I agreed to become Director of Clinical Pastoral Education at WakeMed, Raleigh. I have been at WakeMed in that position since 1988, and I am looking forward to finishing my career at WakeMed in Raleigh.



I am divorced and am a father to three children. My oldest child, Laurie, has worked for 15 years at the National AIDS Service Agency here in the Triangle. My son and the middle child, John, is an attorney here in Raleigh, and my youngest child, Joel, works in international business and lives in Tokyo, Japan. I have enjoyed watching my children grow, and I am looking forward to the birth of my first grandchild in October. I also have been godparent to a child in South Carolina for the last 10 years, and I have spent much enjoyable time with him as well.

One last thing, is that throughout my career, even though I left being pastor of what the Presbyterians would call a full-time church, when I left Richmond, Virginia, I have also always supplied churches that have smaller memberships. So, most of my life I have preached about 90% of all of the Sundays each year. I have always enjoyed leading worship and preaching, and at the present time, I am serving at the early service at the First Presbyterian Church in Wilson, North Carolina. So, I hope some of this gives you a flavor of my background and my life, and I look forward to sharing with you in Asheboro in the Fall of 2004.

*John*

## NEW EDUCATION STANDARD FOR 2005

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AS WE COME TO THE END OF ANOTHER SUMMER AND MOVE INTO THE FALL, WE WIND DOWN ANOTHER YEAR AND REFLECT ON WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED AND WHAT NEW OPPORTUNITIES LIE AHEAD. ONE TOPIC THAT HAS BEEN ON OUR RADAR SCREEN IS THE NEW CONTINUING CHAPLAIN EDUCATION UNIT (CCEU'S) STANDARD.

THIS YEAR YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE 20% OF YOUR EDUCATION IN CCEU'S OR 10 HOURS WHICH IS 1.0 CCEU'S. (EACH 50-MINUTE PERIOD IS .1 CCEU). CHAPLAINS ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT GETTING CCEU'S ON A MINIMAL OR NON-EXISTENT EDUCATION BUDGETS. THIS IS A CONCERN, AND THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL CHAPLAINS (APC) IS WORKING TO BE INCLUSIVE IN THIS MATTER.



BASICALLY, THE APC WANTS CHAPLAINS TO HAVE SOME INPUT IN THEIR CONTINUING EDUCATION.

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## North Carolina Chaplain Of The Year Award

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The NCCA is searching for the best of the best, and I believe you know who that person is! Each year the NCCA honors one of our own as the Chaplain of the Year. While the nominations aren't due until January of next year, it's not too early to start thinking about someone you want to nominate.



As you work with or meet other chaplains think about each person's best qualities....what do you admire about them...what makes their pastoral care outstanding...what contributions to they make to NCCA and their institution....what do they do to promote the professionalism of chaplains? Make some mental notes (written ones would be better) and you'll be well on your way to writing a nomination letter next winter.

If you need inspiration to get you started thinking about someone to nominate, please visit our web site and meet Shirley Massey, the 2004 Chaplain of the Year. She provides excellent care for patients and families at the NC Jaycees Burn Unit at UNC Hospitals as well as for her colleagues. You can learn about the nomination process. If you have questions, please get in touch with me!

Shalom!  
Elizabeth Hyland, Vice President

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### Membership, membership, membership

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What does membership in the NCCA mean to you? Personally, I have found it invaluable as a place to network with persons of similar professional goals and training. There are members with much more and somewhat less experience than I have. That is good in that it provides two-way mentoring. I appreciate sharing resources and very practical ideas for "getting our jobs done." What does the NCCA mean to you?

To whom would **you** like to recommend the organization? Are there other chaplains in your facility? In your community? In the CPE center where you trained? How about volunteer chaplains who assist you? In addition to healthcare, are you thinking of correctional, industrial, business, and military chaplains as well?

Try to think of one person to whom you would recommend membership in the NCCA. Encourage them to either download a membership application from the website or contact me to receive one:

Marcia McQueen, Morehead Memorial Hospital  
117 E. Kings Hwy., Eden, NC 27288  
Phone 336-623-9711 ext. 2482 or Fax: 336-623-6182

We welcome new members who were approved for membership at the June 25 Executive Council meeting: **Michael Arges** (CPE, Duke Med); **Timothy Burrell** (CPE, Rex Health); **Ronald Coleman** (Alamance Medical Center); **Renee Easter** (Lexington Memorial); **Becky Fisher** (Lexington Memorial); **Susan Harrison** (CPE, Rex Health); **Roy Johnson** (Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital); **Karen Roberts** (Lexington Memorial Hospital); **Jo Watson** (Imani Communiversy Institute).



Marcia McQueen, Membership chair

## JOB, JOB, WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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Sometime in 1989 or 1990, the Institutional Consultant for the NC Chaplains Association consulted with local clergy and representatives of Craven Regional Medical Center, in New Bern, about development of a chaplaincy program and qualifications for the first Chaplain. Many subjects were addressed: the use of volunteers, the role of the professional chaplain, job requirements and description, how to search for qualified candidates and first year expenses. During that process, it was decided that eligible applicants would be required to be certified or eligible for certification by the College of Chaplains (now Association of Professional Chaplains).



That consultation was critical to the successful development of the chaplaincy program, and not just because I was hired in 1991. The decision to hire a professional chaplain removed any temptation to hire a favored local minister and neutralized pressures from local power brokers to hire their relative or neighbor.

I have observed more than one pastoral care program flounder clumsily under short term leadership, as persons without the benefit of CPE (and the institutional experience it affords) took a shot at institutional ministry and struggled to understand and fulfill the role of chaplain. Some learned that chaplaincy is not as easy as they thought; others realized they do not know how to be a chaplain; others that the institutional setting is not what they thought it would be. A string of 2 or 3 short-term chaplains significantly weakened the program and the organization's expectations of it and hopes for it.

In recent years, the Institutional Consultant has had little to report at our annual meetings; not much hiring going on, we say. But I keep hearing about chaplains being hired, or at least people being hired in chaplain positions. For example, a part-time youth minister was hired part-time at a hospital 35 miles west of New Bern, and chaplains were hired at two new for-profit hospice and home health agencies here in eastern NC. None of these chaplains are clinically trained. When I asked one of the hospice chaplains about her educational background and training, she answered "Oh, I'm not a pastor; I'm just a chaplain." That sentence deserves our exegesis, especially the word "just".

What's going on here? Do these examples demonstrate a rejection of professional, clinically trained chaplains? I doubt it. Some institutions may not want to pay the going rate for a chaplain, others may have had a local person in mind when the position was created. But I suspect most do not know what a professional chaplain is.

What are we to do? When I hear these chaplains are leaving or that new positions are available, I think I will call the administrator/manager and at least try to explain professional institutional chaplaincy, and the advantages of clinically trained chaplains. And when you hear of similar positions, I hope you will let me know. I will not be able to travel all over the state (my job does not allow that kind of time away and the NCCA has no budget for such travel), but I will call the contact person you give me. And I may ask you or another NCCA member to visit in person.

In the meantime, let Peter Maffly-Kipp (webmaster) or me know about any job opportunities you become aware of, and we will get them on our website (our phone numbers and email addresses are on the NCCA website at [ncchaplains.org](http://ncchaplains.org)).



Mike Bostian, Institutional Consultant

## President's Address con't

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choosing a stable meeting site vs. the benefits of continuing our pattern of meeting in sites across the state

- 2) A **Computer Committee** to assess the technology that will best meet the needs of the organization; and
- 3) A **Logo Committee** to re-design the logo to assist us to reach out to potential members.



We also identified the need for a conference planner who has good negotiation skills.

How can you help? The strength of NCCA lies in the diversity of the membership. Together we can celebrate the past, envision the future and encourage each other for the living of the present days. As a member of NCCA your unique skills, your history with the organization, your ideas, and dreams for the future are needed! If you would like to serve on one of the subcommittees, or you have negotiating skills, please let me know. Several years ago, I would have said, "My number is in the directory." Now I can say, "My email address is on the website!" I look forward to seeing you in October!!

Shay☺

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## NEW EDUCATION STANDARD FOR 2005 con't

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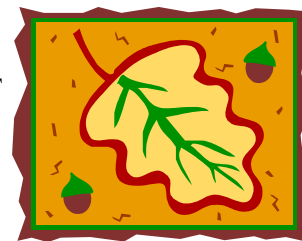
WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS HAVE CHAPLAINS ON PLANNING COMMITTEES FOR EDUCATIONAL EVENTS TO ADDRESS SOME OF THE ISSUES WITH WHICH CHAPLAINS DEAL. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU COULD SIT ON A COMMITTEE PLANNING AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ON SELF CARE FOR CLINICIANS, AND INSURE THAT CHAPLAINS COULD BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAM CONTENT.

CURRENTLY WE ARE EXPLORING OFFERING CCEU'S FOR READING THE JOURNAL OF PASTORAL CARE AND CHAPLAINCY TODAY. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ATTEND THE STATE OR NATIONAL CONFERENCE THOSE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUING CCEU'S. ANOTHER WAY TO GET CCEU'S IS BY JOINING ON LINE COURSES OR SERVICES. FOR \$100 A YEAR, ONE CAN JOIN THE WAYNE OATS INSTITUTE (WWW.OATES.ORG) AND PARTICIPATE IN SEVERAL ON LINE COURSES OFFERING CCEU'S.

IF YOU WANT TO OBTAIN CCEU'S FOR A PROGRAM, YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE FORM FROM THE NATIONAL WEBSITE (WWW.PROFESSIONALCHAPLAINS.ORG).

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE ADDRESS THEM TO ME AT [BMORRIS@RANDOLPHHOSPITAL.ORG](mailto:BMORRIS@RANDOLPHHOSPITAL.ORG).

I WISH YOU A PLEASANT FALL, AND GREAT START TO A NEW YEAR WITH THE NCCA AND THE APC.



SINCERELY,  
BARRY MORRIS, CONTINUING EDUCATION CHAIR

## “A CHAPLAIN’S POINT OF VIEW” - The Impact of War

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It all started very innocently, the phone rang in my office and as is my custom, I picked up the receiver and said, “Chaplain Ford speaking, how may I help you?” The response on the other end of the line was “we need you to go to Kuwait, how soon can you be ready?” I was speechless. Although I knew that I could be called up anytime, I was not expecting it to come so soon in the new year of 2003.

Thus began a long journey for me and my family. I had a feeling that this might have been something similar to Abraham and his mobilization orders to go to a far country, but without the family. Half way through the process of getting ready for my trip to Kuwait, I get another call which informs me that I am now going to Germany.

My departure kept getting delayed week after week. It was now mid May and still no definite departure date. It became a joke around the hospital that I just thought the Army was going to send me overseas. I can assure you that it was no joke for family. On a number of occasions we had said our good-byes; only to have the departure date moved forward a week or so. The process of detaching and re-attaching was beginning to take its toll on all of us.

But finally I left home on June 19, 2003 for Fort Benning, GA and began my in-processing into the Active Component Army. I have received a lot of shots in my life, but the anthrax was by far the most painful. After receiving more shots than I want to take time to count, and finishing the necessary paperwork, finally I was off to Germany with forty-five other chaplains and chaplain assistants.

After less than two weeks on the ground, I found myself confronting the horrors of war. A young mother of two small children was now a widow. Her husband killed down-range and as is the custom a memorial service was held in his honor. On these occasions, the chapel is full. At the front of the chapel on the altar is the “Missing Soldier” arrangement, which includes a helmet, boots, rifle with bayonet, and dog-tags. Near by is a picture of the fallen soldier. This day I am assisting another chaplain and we take our seats at the front prior to the family’s arrival. In the audience are several officers including a one star general, several colonels, and an assortment of other officers and enlisted men and women. The best that can be said about the soldier is presented by soldiers from his unit.

The most powerful part of the service is the “Missing Man Roll Call”. The First Sergeant steps up to the podium and begins to call out the names of the various soldiers in the deceased soldier’s unit. As their name is called, they stand and say in a loud, clear voice “Here sir”. After five or six names are called out, the name of the missing soldier is called. His rank and last name are called out with no response. Again his name is called out, and again no response. Finally his rank and full name are called out, and again no response. Words are hard to come by to describe this moment. It is a powerful reminder to one and all who knew him that he is forever missing. He is not among us and will not be among us.



It also reminds us all that war is hell and that there are no real winners, just survivors. Family members survive, as well as other soldiers, but all are left with scar tissue left from their own personal wounded-ness. These soldiers that you will eventually see at some time in the future will carry these scars for the rest of their lives. They have seen things and have been involved in things that they would rather their families not know about. There is this feeling similar to that of Cain, when God pushed him out of the garden, after he

## War Reflection con't

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had killed his brother. Cain was fearful that if he was discovered by those outside the garden, they would kill him. These soldiers have some of the same fears. If their family and friends find out what they have done, they will turn against them.

I now find myself dealing with soldiers, American soldiers, who are finding life rough in the post deployment stage. They are by religion, War takes away and hides a person's humanity. To be an effective soldier, you have to be able to set aside your humanity and focus on the mission at hand. Somewhere in all of this you find that you have violated your own values, which further separates you from the person you used to be. You hate people not because they have done something to you, but because they have a certain look about them. War takes away the trust that is needed to live at peace with the world around us.

Muslim, but when the other soldiers find out about this, these soldiers are treated as though they are the enemy. Some how all of this is ironic, for we have given so much in lives and money for the freedom of others, while taking away that same freedom from our own people. I suppose that war creates some confusion within our nation. It's bad when we don't know who the enemy is at any given time.

I don't know if we have yet discovered what impact all this has on the "little people" within our military system. One day I was walking through the Army housing area. As I was walking down the sidewalk, a little girl about four or five years old was playing on the swing set in the park, while her mom looked on from a park bench. The little girl looked up and saw me and screamed loudly – "Daddy". Her mother turned and looked my way and replied, "No, he's not your daddy, he's just wearing a uniform like your daddy's." The heart-breaking thing that many soldiers will feel when they get back home is the lack of recognition from their small children. Granted this is generally short term, but still it is a very painful experience. Again we are reminded of the fragmentation that war brings to families.

The Army has no small concern about families bridging the gap and finding the comfort zone again. The experience at Fort Bragg, North Carolina a few years ago is a stark reminder that many times the war is brought home to nest. Unresolved anger is often let loose on the family members and the results can be deadly. The Chaplains Corps is trying our best to "nip this in the bud" if at all possible. I would like to say that I have seen no evidence of this over here, but that is just not the case. My fear is that it will get worse before it gets better.

The Army is not a good place for a bad marriage. If there are weaknesses, the stress and strain of deployments and separations will take its toll. Families have to learn quickly how to roll with the punches. Every disappointment must be turned into an opportunity. You learn to do with what you have, instead of sitting idly by and doing nothing.

When I was a small boy, my father would read to me. Two of the books that he read were the life of Daniel Boone and Davy Crocket. They represented the pioneering spirit within our nation. It takes this kind of spirit for families to make it in the military environment. For one thing is for sure, this military life is an adventure. You never know where it is going to take you, and you don't know for sure if you and your family will be able to survive it. It sometimes becomes like a roller-coaster ride in the dark..



## War Reflections con't

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You will see these folks someday. May I suggest that you add a new enquiry to your intake assessment tool. Have you ever or are you now in the military? Have you ever been deployed? How long? Have you ever been able to tell your story? You will see these people. It is not a question if you will see them, but when you do see them. My prayer is that by the time you see them, that they are ready to tell their story to you and in many cases you will be the first person that they have dared to do this. War does so much damage to us deeply, that in some cases it takes years to surface.

Some have said that the war is over. For others it still rages on and on and on. General Douglas MacArthur was quoted as saying, "The soldier more than anyone else, prays for peace." I have tried to bring some sort of peace into the hectic and troubled lives of soldiers and families, who are trying to deal with the effects of war. It has come at great cost to me and my family. Friends and family members have died while I was away. My daughter fell in love and got married. There have been more problems and things to go wrong while I've been away than I would care to count. My wife has had to live the life of a single parent and to make the best decisions that she could at the time. To me, she is my hero. She has supported me through this, knowing that it was what I must do. I don't regret doing it. I regret that it had to be done.

The support that I have received from the North Carolina Chaplains Association has been a God send. You have lifted my spirits as I sat reading the numerous notes from you and the encouraging words you sent my way. Thank you so much for caring, but most of all, thanks for remembering.

*Robert Ford*



North Carolina Chaplains Association

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**We're on the web**  
**[www.ncchaplains.org](http://www.ncchaplains.org)**

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NORTH CAROLINA CHAPLAIN'S ASSOCIATION

Fall Education Day

October 14, 2004  
Caraway Conference Center  
Asheboro, NC

**Story and Imagination as Sources of Healing and Restoration in Time of Illness and Crisis**  
**Jarvis "John" Edgerton III**

8:30	Registration	11:00	Session II
9:00	Welcome	12:00	Lunch (included in the registration)
9:30	Session I	1:15	Session III
10:30	Break	2:15	Evaluations and Closing

