



# A Note from the President

The Governor of the State of North Carolina has designated the week of October 24-30, 2005 as **Pastoral Care Week**. The theme for Pastoral Care Week is "Pastoral Care: Imagining Peace." As I reflect upon this theme, I believe one of the many roles of a chaplain is to be a conduit of peace: peace in our world, in our institutions, in our faith communities, and in personal and professional relationships.

The recent tragedies in our nation and world have prompted my own question "Peace, where are you?" As I write these words, our nation has just marked the fourth anniversary of 9/11 and, at the same time, Americans across the country are busy assisting those impacted by Hurricane Katrina. It is clear that peace is not always found in our landscape. It may, however, be found within the soul. Chaplain Elizabeth Hyland, the Vice-President of the NCCA, is currently in Biloxi, Mississippi, assisting with hurricane relief. In a recent email, she wrote: "It's September 11<sup>th</sup> and I'm in a disaster area being challenged to find words of hope to give to so many of God's children who are homeless, broken and displaced. This trip has reminded me of why I became a chaplain in the first place...it's simply about being present with people where they are."

Chaplains from North Carolina are being called to "Go" and be conduits of peace in the midst of the storm stricken areas of the landscapes and of the soul. Not only are chaplains called to "Go"; but also chaplains are daily called to "Be." Chaplains sit at the bedside, walk the halls with staff, listen to the inmates, lead a prayer of remembrance, encourage soldiers preparing for battle, celebrate good news, sit with the broken-hearted, acknowledge the unanswerable questions, offer a prophetic voice, lead spiritual rituals, and embrace a world in need of peace. May the chaplains of North Carolina claim the healing roles that lead us to be conduits of peace; may we continue to GO in peace, and may we BE in peace with self and others.

*Shay Montgomery Crenshaw*  
President  
srensha@unch.unc.edu

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## Our Fall Education Speaker— the Rev. Jay Foster

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We are excited about our Fall Education speaker, Jay Foster, and the topic on which he will present. He will talk about *Creating Community: The Chaplain's Role with Religiously-based Conflicts in Bioethics*.

Jay is a Chaplain and ACPE Supervisor with Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. Jay has served on the Clinical Ethics Committee at Baptist since 1991, and has served as co-chair of the policy subcommittee since 2001. Currently, Jay is a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary-- his project focuses on the chaplain's use of narrative ethics in religiously based conflicts in bioethics. Jay is a graduate of Furman University and Harvard Divinity School.



We look forward to listening and learning with Jay.

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## Chaplain of the Year for 2005

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As any good chaplain with more to do than can get done in one day, I have procrastinated in writing this article about our 2005 Chaplain of the Year. The article is due tomorrow and I'm sitting in a massive traffic backup on my way to one of our sister hospitals in Biloxi, Mississippi. I'm traveling with an ER nurse and we'll be here for a week. I'll try to update our travels as I can before this goes to print.

But enough about me....this article is to salute our newest Chaplain of the Year Robert Ford, who has been at Frye Regional Medical Center in Hickory since the late 80's. Robert is a long time, very active member of NCCA. He is well loved and respected by his hospital staff. One person describes him as "the fabric that holds us all together." He developed the pastoral care department into a multi-person department which includes a large number of pastors who assist in the hospital's ministry to patients. Robert leads a worship service almost every Sunday at the hospital. He is well known in his community as an advocate for the underprivileged. In his spare time, Robert has developed a "second personality" as Charlie the Clown who brings laughter and joy to those in his care.

Many of you got to know Robert when he hosted our spring conference in 2003. He did an excellent job considering that he was preparing for deployment overseas as an Army chaplain. Robert was meticulous in keeping all of the conference plans up to date in the event someone else had to step in at the last minute! Fortunately Robert was with us for the conference, which got excellent evaluations!



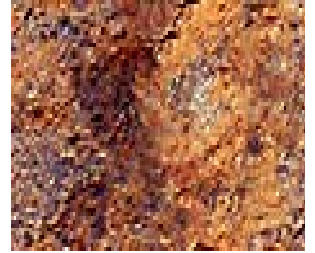
Robert was deployed to Germany in July of 2003. For 18 months he provided outstanding pastoral care to troops and their families.

## Chaplain of the Year con't

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His distinguished service to our nation was what put him at the top of the list for chaplain of the year. He encouraged those headed to Iraq and was there to support them with sensitivity and comfort when they returned. He made the calls no chaplain wants to make....notifying families that their loved one was critically wounded or died in the line of duty. Robert worked long hours, with little relief or time away from his challenging duties.

Some of us kept up with him regularly by email. When asked what we could do for him, Robert offered suggestions of how we could support the troops with things like phone cards. He didn't ask for anything for himself. With a heavy work load and an extended separation from his family, he never once complained about anything! He was proud to serve as an Army chaplain.



Robert Ford is a colleague and friend we are proud to claim as one of our own. From Hickory to Germany and in the places in between he stands out as a leader, compassionate caregiver, advocate for those in need, and example of what it means to be a humble servant.

### *Elizabeth Hyland*

Vice President

ehyland@ctc.net or Margaret.hyland@LNRMC.HMA-corp.com

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## Are You Grateful for the Member Benefits of the NC Chaplains' Association?

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How long have you been a member of the NC Chaplains' Association? Do you attend the fall education days? Do you attend the spring conferences? Do you access the website ([www.ncchaplains.com](http://www.ncchaplains.com)) for information about colleagues, educational events, job openings? Just how do you benefit from the NC Chaplains' Association?

It is a good way to receive the required annual CCE's necessary to maintain certification in the Association of Professional Chaplains. It is the best way to meet and gain professional "tips of the trade" from colleagues. For me, it is a wonderful resource for networking. As a solo chaplain in a small acute care center, I find it especially helpful.

Do you sometimes wonder why every NC chaplain is not a member? I do. Maybe they do not know about it! Would you commit yourself to asking chaplains you know if they are a member? If they are not, please send me their names and addresses and I will send them a brochure and membership application.

Remember that volunteer chaplains—as well as CPE students and employed chaplains—in hospitals, businesses and industries, hospices, nursing centers, jails and prisons, the military and college campuses are all eligible as either *member* or *associate member*. Help us spread the word about our organization.



## Membership con't

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Welcome new members approved on April 27, 2005 and July 25, 2005:

**Cheryl Bridges**, Greensboro

**Patricia Stone**, Hospice of Scotland County

**Elizabeth Wright**, UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill.

**Dorothy Gockerman**, Duke Hospital, Durham

**Alexis Versalle**, Margaret R. Pardee Hospital, Hendersonville

**Janice Pennington**, Black Mountain Center

**Larry E. Jones**, Baptist State Convention of NC

**Barbara Marshall**, CPE intern, Fayetteville

**Sara Kirk**, Wake Med, Raleigh

We do welcome you and hope to see you at the Fall Education Day

Marcia McQueen

Membership Chair

e-mail: mcqueen@morehead.org



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## A Day in Ministry at Black Mountain Center

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When I walk in the door to my office, any day of the week, I never expect it to be the same as the day before. I can't. People change – and some change more quickly than others. My name is Janice Pennington and I serve as Chaplain at Black Mountain Center in Black Mountain, North Carolina. Black Mountain Center is a state-owned, residential facility for two very specific populations. We treat up to 71 adults who have Alzheimer's disease while they are in a combative or aggressive stage of their disease process. We also treat up to 90 adults with Developmental Disabilities who require long-term specialized nursing care. In the midst of spiritual, medical, emotional, psychological and physical needs, our focus is on maintaining a high quality of life for our residents. Offering stimulating, engaging activities that are appropriate for each individual is the daily objective of each of our staff members. I seek to care for our residents through weekly worship services, special services as the seasons and occasions arise, weekly hymn sings on each of our five residential units, and lots of one on one contact for conversation, prayer and simply being together.

A day in ministry at Black Mountain Center would likely appear a bit jumbled as I am constantly working in all of these areas. A day may include: spending time with residents, planning the week's worship service, working toward the latest program of the Staff Recognition Committee, offering a listening ear to a staff member as life changes for him/her, contacting a resident's family to see if they have the support that they need to work through the recent changes in their loved one, or leading a class for staff members on working through our own grief as caregivers. To say the least, any day can be taxing. The experiences that I have daily with residents are, however, incredibly rejuvenating. I hear stories of a world that was very different from what it is today and of what that world meant to specific individuals, I see people hearing music with new ears and the emotions that this music evokes, and I experience communication that has no need for words and am in awe of God's way of working through those around us to help us learn.

My experiences with residents have varied during my time here and I look forward to watching our residents grow and change over time to come. While some of them are quite active throughout their stay with us, some move toward the final stages of life with Alzheimer's disease or Developmental Disabilities more quickly than others and may find their final resting-place while under our

## Ministry in Black Mountain con't

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care or after a short stay in the local hospital. One recent experience was of a resident on one of our Alzheimer's units who was living the final months of her life with us. She was sitting in our sun-porch one day when another resident suddenly arose from where he was seated across the room and walked to her side. He then dropped to his knees in front of her and began praying. These two residents had not had a close relationship, but somehow this man got the impression that she was in need of prayer. Following his offering of a prayer, he simply went on about his day as though nothing had happened. For a moment, though, he was entirely in tune with this woman's needs and with God.

During most days, I encounter one of our residents who has been dually diagnosed with Developmental Disabilities and forms of mental illness. I am continually amazed with his awareness of his spirituality and that it is far more integrated into his life than many people that I might meet on the street. Several times a day he will begin chanting "God, God, God," asking for worship, prayer and conversation about his parents being in heaven. When assured that God loves him and that he will see his parents again, his anxiety decreases, his aggressiveness may completely dissipate into what one may describe as a child who has found his mother's arms.

One thing that I have found to have a significant impact on the spiritual experience of our residents is where I host our worship services. As often as possible, I host them in our chapel because of the incredible impact it has on our residents to simply come into a space that is set aside exclusively for worship as opposed to a space that is used for many activities during the week. I carefully dress the altar and my robes to correlate with the theme of the day's service and describe the reasons why I have chosen to use these colors, cloths, etc. I utilize as many of the senses as possible through the involvement of music, prayer, touch, occasionally the taste of bread and grape juice and various smells. Each service is based on a theme. There is no "sermon," but more of a focus on storytelling. If it is a story where I can utilize resident's names – the residents' responses are significantly increased as I work to help them recall their own current or past experiences. If, instead, the theme does not lend itself to a story, I have found that using the hymns as places to expound briefly upon the theme also works well.

I have found that the primary area of my pastoral work with both staff and residents is in grief processing. Whether I'm working with a resident who has lived here for 20 years or with a brand new staff member, both individuals have experienced losses in their lives. In receiving care as well as in giving care, we are reminded of our mortality and the depth of our emotions. Working with our local CarePartners Mountain Area Hospice has been wonderful over the past few months as we have created a five-session class for staff on grief, both our own grief and ways to assist our residents as they experience grief.

The doors of Black Mountain Center always appear to be swinging open and closed as staff come and go from work, as residents come and go from outings, and as time goes on. But, one of the things that is perhaps the most difficult to remember is that no day is exactly the same as the last, just as no person is the same as they were the day before. The seasons change us, our experiences and our relationships change us, but most of all I am changed by the looks on our residents' faces as they teach me about God and God's love.

Chaplain Janice R. Pennington, M.Div.  
janice.pennington@ncmail.net



NORTH CAROLINA CHAPLAINS  
ASSOCIATION

c/o UNC Hospitals  
Dept of Pastoral Care  
101 Manning Drive  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Phone: 919-966-4021  
Fax: 919-843-0330  
Email: diowens@unch.unc.edu

*We make a difference!*

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

## AGENDA FALL EDUCATION DAY 05

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CARAWAY CONFERENCE CENTER  
JAY FOSTER MDiv. NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST HOSPITAL

TITLE: Creating Community: The Chaplain's Role with Religiously-based Conflict in Bioethics.

8:30 Registration

9:00 Welcome

9:30 Session I: *The Theoretical Constructs for Religious-based Conflicts*

10:30 Break

11:00 Session II: *Practical Implications: Policy & Consult*

12:00 Lunch

1:15 Session III: *Applying Principles (case study)*

2:15 Closing and Evaluations

