

Chapter News

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Ministers Council

Advancing Spiritual Care through...



30th Anniversary
1991-2021

Fall 2021 Issue
Ministers Council
American Baptist Churches, USA

**The Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors
Executive Committee**

**Celebrates your Ministry as Chaplains
&
Pastoral Counselors**

**Spiritual Care Week 2021
October 24-30, 2021**

Sarah Fogg, President

Lee Axtell, Sec/Treasurer

**Rick Barnes, Petra Van de Water, & Nat Milton –
Members at Large**

Karen Pickler, Past President



The President's Corner: Sarah Fogg

We are still rejoicing and feeling grateful for the time we spent with those of you who attended the chapter program and meeting at the Biennial Mission Summit and those who stopped by our virtual "booth" during the rest of the Summit. The next best thing to being with you in person is being with you on Zoom. Covid, with its lockdowns, masks, and re-ordering of our lives has often felt like the trials of Job. Still, Zoom gave us the unexpected blessing of another way to be together, lightening our loads and lifting spirits. Many thanks to the National Ministers Council for the use of the MC Platform.

Archiving and making missed opportunities available is an ongoing benefit the Ministers Council provides. For a taste of our chapter event, go to ministerscouncil.com, click on "local chapter updates" and then our CPC chapter. You'll see the Power Point and get a good idea of our vision and hopes for the future, and how we have served you so far. For the MC's goals, click on their short video welcome. You'll meet some of the officers and hear their latest update. If you want to participate in a Biennial webinar, click on Dennis Johnson's "On the Road with Walter Rauschenbusch." Quite a few MC members joined him this past year in a TIM-like group. They met regularly, delving into daily devotionals Dennis organized around his reflections on Rauschenbusch's writings. Who knows? It may give you an idea for a TIM group topic you'd like to share with other chapter members. Let us know, and we'll help. Ministers Council has funds available to support such groups (for books, retreats, etc.) and ways of helping you meet virtually.

Leadership Changes

Executive Committee Member, Rick Barnes, has taken a 6-month leave of absence to shoulder additional responsibilities as an interim pastor. We look forward to welcoming him back early next year. Stepping right up in mid-September is Petra Van de Water. Petra will represent us at MC chapter representative events and bring her enthusiasm and special talents to our monthly EC meetings. Thank you, Petra, for saying "Yes, I'd love to!"

Spiritual Care Week

To mark Spiritual/Pastoral Care Week, we're sending our own Karen Pickler to represent all of us at the MC's October webinar. Find the details on page 6 of this Newsletter and make a special effort to attend. It's our next opportunity to support one other and learn a new thing. We'll be sending you a reminder as we get closer to the date.

Thank You

Thanks go to Lee Axtell for sending out our 30th anniversary challenge coin to all chapter members. Let us know if yours didn't arrive. We want each of you to know how much we appreciate your ministry in the important work you do.

Inside this Edition

2. Celebrating Spiritual Care Week
3. President's Corner
4. Space for Grace: Ecclesiastical Endorser Program featuring Rev. Shelley Perez Varner
5. Educational Events from Transforming Chaplaincy for Spiritual Care Week
6. October MC LIVE Event featuring Chaplain Karen Pickler
7. Transitions, Celebrations and Concerns*
8. Future Events

"Nothing has such power to broaden the mind as the ability to investigate systematically and truly all that comes under thy observation in life."

Marcus Aurelius

*Please send news of your Celebrations, Transitions and Concerns to Karen Pickler kpickler11234@gmail.com

Advancing Spiritual Care Through Research

Spiritual Care Week: October 24-30, 2021

Facilitators of meaning and purpose has been a typical descriptor in definitions for board-certified chaplains and related spiritual care providers. In today's data-driven and evidence-based world, especially in health care, chaplains have begun to offer empirical evidence—both qualitative and quantitative—to help explain what they do.

When integrated into chaplaincy practice, validated research outcomes can contribute to patient-centered care and to the chaplain's enlarged awareness of his or her chaplaincy effectiveness. Research data helps chaplains assess and modify individual practice. Moreover, chaplaincy care based on clinical outcomes enhances value that can be useful when more dollars are needed in support of spiritual care.

Embracing research in chaplaincy has become a growing imperative. Measuring the contributions of chaplaincy care to patients as well as to team members in the larger work environment is now at the frontier of our profession. Every chaplain must become aware of the ongoing research outcomes available and move to integrate them into daily practice for ongoing assessment and improvement. Indeed, professional and certifying bodies are requiring research competency at various levels of practice.

Ministry contributions can never be fully measured. Nevertheless, outcomes-oriented research can help make the subjective more objective and the invisible a little more visible.

It also can help chaplains better define for colleagues the value of this important ministry, fostering appreciation, support, and legitimacy from our institutions.

Chaplaincy research offers benefits. It can help chaplains become more efficient and strategic, and it can create leverage and advocacy toward sustaining the profession. Chaplaincy research is on course to continue providing important, evidence-based guidelines for those training to enter the profession and for practitioners seeking to incorporate better, more effective practices in whatever setting they serve.



Rev. Shelley Varner-Perez Presentation “Research Literacy in Chaplaincy Care”

Ecclesiastical Endorser's Office: Sacred Space in September

Every other month, the Ecclesiastical Endorser's Office, ABHMS, offers Sacred Space webinars on topics of interest to endorsees. On September 9, in honor of Spiritual/Pastoral Care month this October, the EE Office invited Rev. Shelley Varner-Perez to speak on “Research Literacy in Chaplaincy Care.” Rev. Varner is an ABC endorsed chaplain, leads spiritual care research for her department, and is on the chaplaincy staff at the Academic Health Center, Indiana University Health, in Indianapolis.

Research literacy is now one of 31 APC certification competencies for chaplains. Already board-certified chaplains must have at least 5 of 50 annual continuing education hours in chaplaincy research. Rev. Varner's brief overview noted three levels of chaplaincy research: research literacy, research collaboration, and research leadership. Most of us belong to the first category, those who are research literate and able to read, understand, and summarize research as well as explain its practical use in chaplaincy care. She drew similarities between the scientific method (observe/ask/hypothesize/test/report and revise/observe) and the CPE Action/Reflection/Action model. Research articles from all settings and contexts--PTSD, chaplaincy care during Covid, spiritual experiences of dementia, pediatric concerns, charting, and pastoral counseling were highlighted. Also helpful were other resources listed—webinars, books, free ebooks, and organizations sponsoring research. Chaplaincy Innovation Lab, for example, provides free webinars online while ACPE Research selects a monthly research article to highlight, summarize, and offer discussion topics around. For further information, contact Rev. Varner at svarnerpe@iuhealth.org.

For further information and resources:

Transforming Chaplaincy - transformchaplaincy.org

“The mission of Transforming Chaplaincy is to promote evidence based spiritual care and integrate research into professional practice and education by fostering a culture of inquiry.”



Resources from Transforming Chaplaincy for Spiritual Care Week October 24-30, 2021

Free Webinars Every Day – After they are presented, the webinars will be posted on the Transforming Chaplaincy website for viewing anytime. Registration details are forthcoming.

Monday, October 25 1 pm CDT / 2 pm EDT: 20 Highlights from Spiritual Care Research

Tuesday, October 26 3 pm CDT/4 pm EDT: How Research Informs My Chaplaincy Practice

Wednesday, October 27 1 pm CDT/ 2 pm EDT: Spiritual Care Services in the Best US Hospitals

Thursday, October 28 10 am CDT/ 11 am EDT: We all have stories to tell: Case Study Research for Chaplains

Friday, October 29 noon CDT/1pm EDT: Patients' and Loved Ones' Expectations of Chaplain Services

Transforming Chaplaincy Webinars for Spiritual Care Week

Monday, October 25, 1 pm CDT / 2 pm EDT: 20 Highlights from Spiritual Care Research, Paul Galchutt, M Health Fairview/University of Minnesota Medical Center. This webinar will present 20 key findings from spiritual care research selected by Transforming Chaplaincy researchers. Chaplains are encouraged to share these findings with healthcare colleagues during Spiritual Care Week. A brief video, “Why is Spiritual Care Important?” will feature chaplains responding to the question.

Tuesday, October 26, 3 pm CDT/4 pm EDT: How Research Informs My Chaplaincy Practice Panelists: Kristen Schenk (Pediatric literature on views of chaplains, preferences of families for spiritual care), Marilyn Barnes (Advocate for taxonomy integrated into documentation/charting), and Beth Reece (Program level integration of research on mindfulness and post-traumatic growth) Moderator: Jeanne Wirpsa, Northwestern Memorial Hospital

Wednesday, October 27, 1 pm CDT/ 2 pm EDT: Spiritual Care Services in the Best US Hospitals Lex Tartaglia, Virginia Commonwealth University (retired) and colleagues. A description of the range of spiritual care services based on in-depth interviews with spiritual care managers at the 20 Best Hospitals in the US (US News and World Report Honor Roll Hospitals)

Thursday, October 28, 10 am CDT/ 11 am EDT: We all have stories to tell: Case Study Research for Chaplains Jeanne Wirpsa, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and Cate Michelle Desjardins, Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship. Case studies have been an important part of the research agenda in chaplaincy since 2011. They serve as an important resource for education of new chaplains and for our non-chaplain colleagues. They provide insight into how chaplains assess spiritual and religious needs of patients and families, make decisions about appropriate interventions, and show how outcomes directly connect to and result from the chaplain’s care. More recently, our profession has utilized methods from social science research to compare multiple cases and generate hypotheses for both qualitative and quantitative research. If you are interested in writing your own case study, culling the current body of cases for insights into best practices in chaplaincy care, or just want to expand your awareness of chaplaincy research methods, this webinar is for you!

Friday, October 29, noon CDT/1pm EDT: Patients' and Loved Ones' Expectations of Chaplain Services Beth Muehlhausen, Ascension. In a study of 452 patients and family members in 16 Ascension hospitals in Indiana, investigators found that 93% of the patients and families wanted at least one chaplain visit while they were in the hospital. Among those with no religious preference, 83% still said they wanted at least one chaplain visit. Of the 230 (59%) participants who had already received a chaplain visit, 88% reported that the visit was either very or somewhat important to them.

For additional information about Spiritual Care Week go to <https://www.spiritualcareweek.org/>



Transitions, Celebrations

Nathaniel Milton –Pastoral Counselor
Keynote Speaker –50th Reunion of the
Sumner Hill High School Class of 1971



Welcome New Members!!

James Easton
Roger Jackson
Mario Morales
Jonathan Wymer



Retirement

Michael Halley
Senior Pastor -Suffolk Christian Church &
Retired Navy Chaplain

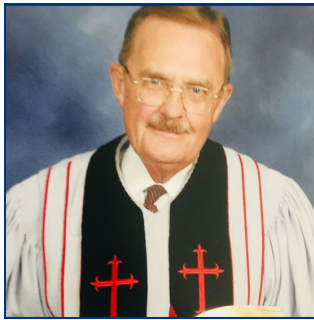
Karen Pickler– Chaplain
Northport VA Medical Center,
Northport NY

Dixie Potratz Lehman—
Chaplain Educator
Sioux Falls VA Healthcare System
Sioux Falls, South Dakota



Prayer Support

Phineas Marr —Chaplain
University Medical Center New Orleans
Marked Safe from Hurricane IDA.



Rev. Michael D. Halley Senior
Pastor Of Suffolk Christian
Church, Suffolk VA
Retired Navy Chaplain

Transition

In just twelve days (October 1) I will transition to the ranks of the retired. My second, really, as I retired from the Navy on July 1, 1993. I am, by the grace of God, completing 25 years as Senior Pastor of Suffolk Christian Church in Suffolk, Virginia.

Mixed emotions? Surely. A little trepidation? Maybe a lot, really. Regrets? Not a one. Our church family has been loving and supportive and kind and all the other positive accolades you can come up with.

But it's time for Carmen and me to move on. Partly that's because it is time for our beloved church to move on. Like so many churches, especially after the pandemic, we are facing great challenges, challenges that need a different kind of leadership than I am able to provide. They have a Transition Team in place and intend to call an intentional interim pastor who will lead them through this process. As Kenny Rogers once reminded us, "You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away and know when to run". It's time for a transition, for Carmen and me and for our church. I'll not be running, though!

We are staying in our home in Suffolk. I will be available for supply preaching and, of course, conducting funerals. Travel is on the schedule, mainly to our family, whom we have neglected. We thank God each day for many blessings and pray for continued good health.

And a huge shout out to our Ministers Council for Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors, which gave both of us collegiality and support during our ABC Navy days. Blessings to all!

Michael D Halley
revhalley@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



MC LIVE—November

A Pilgrim's Perspective: Why We Walked
the Way of St. James

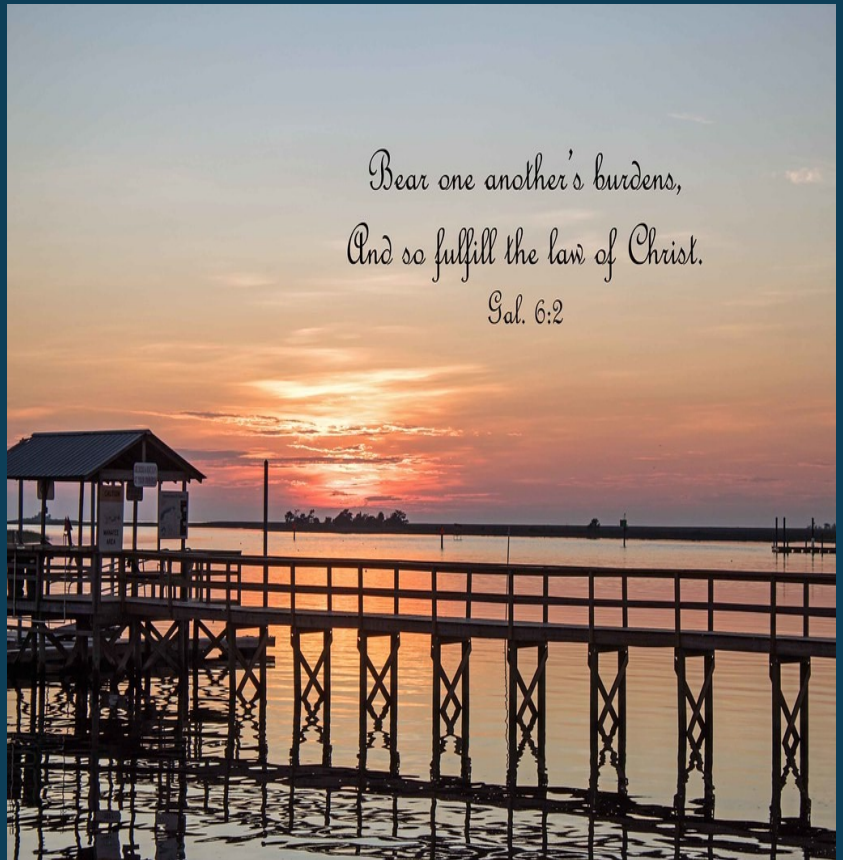
Led by Rev. Dr. Don and Rev. Lauren Ng

Thursday, November 18

8pm EST/7 pm CST/5pm PST

ABHMS CCL

"Chaplaincy Skills for Community Ministry"
6-8 p.m. ET Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 and Nov. 1
and 8 online via its Center for Continuous
Learning. A cohort celebration will be held
6-7 p.m. ET Nov. 15. Cost \$249.00



*Bear one another's burdens,
And so fulfill the law of Christ.
Gal. 6:2*

Celebrating 30 Years!

Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Ministers Council

Sarah Fogg, President

Lee Axtell-Secretary/ Treasurer

Nat Milton –At Large

Petra Van De Water—At Large

Rick Barnes –At Large (temporary leave)

Karen Pickler—Publicity

Contact: cpcmincouncil@gmail.com