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EAST CENTRAL REGION, ACPE

Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio & Pittsburgh, PA.

January 2006

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NEW CONTACT INFO FOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

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February 2006 Newsletter
Deadline January 31, 2006

Ridges and Hollers

I've taken a break from preparing a New Year's Day sermon to write this newsletter article. This afternoon I visited one of our members in the ICU unit of an Indianapolis hospital who is suffering a mystery ailment that has defied diagnosis for six days. His family is weary with the waiting, and hoping for both an answer and a remedy. 2005 has been a year to stimulate ponderings about *theodicy* as so many ordinary folk around our planet have suffered and died at the hands of Mother Nature and the hands of other people. My dad died at 87. Abigail, a fourth year medical school student, died at 30. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read of the death of fellow supervisor; Don Young.

Last month I wrote of learning to live with less certainty, fewer right answers. Shifting gears from Christian sermon to ECR Newsletter makes me aware of the reality most of us live with most of the time. We practice in a challenging environment. We are expected to be clear about our own convictions and understand how our particular religious heritage has shaped and formed us as spiritual caregivers. Yet we do our care giving in public settings where reference to our own religious convictions can be distracting or offensive. It's quite a balancing act - this business of honoring and nurturing the healing convictions of others while drawing (secretly) on our own without proselytizing.

It is especially challenging at the edges of life, in the presence of deep mysteries like suffering and death. While I labor for integrity and faithfulness in a sermon, I have the comfort of speaking within a particular tradition with shared symbols and common language. I have sometimes remarked that I enjoy preaching precisely because I can be more transparent about my own convictions. In pastoral care my faith gets communicated more through presence and courage than words and familiar ritual.

It seems the vision statement that tops the list for our region is to become a more culturally diverse community of learning. *Diversity* language typically refers to ethnicity. But being a spiritually or religiously diverse community is an important dimension of this vision for ACPE. We worship together. Our discourse about learning and caring is significantly theological (or is that term too exclusive?). We plan meetings with conflicting religious holidays and worship practices in mind. I believe there is richness and growth awaiting us as we seek ways to become more diverse, but it will be challenging as well. I often felt some disappointment when I was working with a group of all Christian students (as has frequently been the case over the years). I listened to their struggles in learning ways to pray with persons from different religious

**Supervisory Education
In the Region**

Associate Supervisors

Marla Coulter-McDonald
Sergei Petrov
Frank Woggon

Supervisory Candidates

Jose Albovias
Ruth Alpers
Don Chase
Bill Foster
Vickie Johnson
Evans Mulima
Jon Paulus
Joe Roberts
Mark Scheffers
Jim Wright

Officers of the Region

D. Calvert Brand, Director

Lin Barnett, Chair
Elizabeth Price, Vice Chair
Rhonda Gilligan-Gillespie,
Accreditation

Carol Reynolds Green, Board of Reps
Frank Impicciche, Board of Reps
Bob Uken, Budget & Investment
Mary Burks-Price, Certification Co-
Chair

Michael Rice Saxton, Certification Co-
Chair

Martha Amann, Clinical
Members Co-Chair

Carl DeMeritt, Clinical Members Co-
Chair

Katherine Nininger, History

_____, Long Range Development

Daryl Hanson, Nominations

Carl Buxo, Professional Ethics

Victoria Johnson, REM Task Force

David Koch, Research

Karl VanHam, Standards

traditions; then I listened as they relied on the comfortable prayers of their shared tradition when we gathered for devotions in the seminar room. Sometimes I would pull up an extra chair and propose that a person from a non-Christian faith was sitting with us. Because our group was not as diverse as the people we served, the learning experience was diminished. Still, I look forward to being with the congregation in the morning, preaching in the language that flows naturally from my faith tradition. I hope ACPE can be place where we can find a level of comfort and understanding, where we can be who we each are in our diversity. Peace,
**Cal Brand @ eastcentralRD@aol.com*

*[Please see page 1 for new mailing address & telephone number]

Other News:

Don Young, ACPE Emeritus Supervisor, died December 25th, at Abington Memorial Hospital near Philadelphia. He was born in New Castle, Indiana, October 7, 1930. He graduated from Asbury College, Wilmore, KY and received his M.Div degree from Bexley Hall Seminary in Kenyon, OH. He was ordained to the Episcopal priesthood. Prior to becoming the Director of Pastoral Care, at Miami Valley Hospital, he served at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI. Don was one of the founders of Hospice of Dayton. In 1983 he became the Director of Pastoral Care at Abington Memorial Hospital, Abington, PA., a position he held until his retirement in 1998.

Many of us know his wife, Arabella, who has been the ACPE Annual Conference planner for many years. They have three daughters, a son and seven grandchildren.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Fund, c/o Fund Development Office, Abington Memorial Hospital, 1200 Old York Rd., Abington, PA 19001.

Donald Harris, wanted to let you know that his last day at St. Vincent, in Indianapolis, IN was December 19. He expects to end up in Durham, NC or St. Louis, MO. He expressed his gratitude for the regional relationships and the impact each person had in his process. Our prayers go with Donald!

Certification Deadlines:

The next opportunity to meet the ECR Certification Committee will be Wednesday, February 15 or Thursday, February 16, 2006, at Hueston Woods, Oxford, OH. The application deadline was January 3, 2006. Materials must be postmarked to committee members by January 16, 2006.

Rev. Michael Rice Saxton,
saxtonm@sjrnc.com (574-282-8904)

Rev. Mary Burks-Price,
mary.burks-price@northonhealthcare.org
(502-629-2103)

ECR February Conference –Hueston Woods - Feb 17-18, 2006

The program and registration materials were mailed the last week in December. The plenary sessions are scheduled for **Friday, January 17, 2006 & Saturday, January 18, 2006**. Some committees will be meeting Wednesday (1/15/06) and Thursday (1/16/06)-refer to the brochure for a listing of those meetings.

There are two minor corrections in the program: 1) The 9:15AM-10:45AM "Continuing the Vision Process," will be led by the Visioning Task Force, not Jack Gleason; and 2) the **Clinical Members will be meeting Saturday morning at 8AM-9AM**-led by Co-Chairs Carl DeMeritt and Martha Amann.

If you did not receive the information, please contact Joan Lyke. **Hotel reservations Deadline is JANUARY 17, 2006.** [Room rates are \$104.50 sgl or dbl]. Contact Hueston Woods; at 800-282-7275; or E-mail reservations@huestonwoodsresort.com

Job Opportunities

The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH-seeking a **Certified CPE Supervisor as Director of Pastoral Care**. Responsibilities in managing a well-established Department, CPE supervision, providing pastoral care and counseling to patients, families and staff, with other administrative functions. Qualifications include, but are not limited to, a Master of Divinity degree, CPE Certification, ordination and ecclesiastical endorsement. Candidates will have a minimum of three years experience in managing a department of pastoral care. Competitive salary and benefits. Send inquiries or resume to: The Rev. Patrick M. Persaud, Pastoral Care, H-19, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 9500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH. 44195. Phone (216) 444-1518. Fax (216) 445-9678. Or E-mail persaup@ccf.org. Visit our website: www.clevelandclinic.org/pastoralcare

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **February 2-3, 2006** REM Invitational Conference, New York, NY
- **February 17-18, 2006** ECR February Meeting, Hueston Woods Lodge, College Corner, OH. - Elizabeth Price, Program Chair
- **September 29 & 30, 2006** ECR Fall Meeting, Brown County Inn, Nashville, IN. - Mike Saxton, Program Chair
- **September 2007** ECR Fall meeting, Akron, OH. Dates to be determined - Lin Barnett, Program Chair
- **September 2008** ECR Fall meeting, Harmony, IN. Dates to be determined - Elizabeth Price, Program Chair
- **September 2009** ECR Fall meeting will be in KY - program coordinator and location to be determined.