

The Beacon

FALL 2002

News from The HealthCare Chaplaincy – A Multifaith Center for Pastoral Care, Education & Research

INSIDE



3

Summer CPE Students:
Beyond the Words



5

A New Center for
Pastoral Learning



6

North Shore
University Hospital:
A Natural Partnership

REFLECTIONS: September 11, 2001

One year after the attacks that terrorized our city and nation, all of us have strong yet distinct feelings and associations with that morning and the days, weeks, and months that followed. We have each responded differently, yet share a common grief.

To honor our lost loved ones and to offer some sense of ritual, The HealthCare Chaplaincy's clinical staff has worked with hospital administrators to plan memorial services, moments of prayer/meditation, and lectures to commemorate this tragic anniversary. The Chaplaincy has also designed and printed cards with multifaith prayers of hope and remembrance for 9/11, which will be placed on patient trays on that day in the many academic medical centers, community hospitals, and long-term care facilities we serve.

Below are personal reflections by some of The HealthCare Chaplaincy's clinical staff members.

The Rev. Denise Haines, Director, Education and Community Outreach The HealthCare Chaplaincy

After a year, I still search the skyline every day, to find a way to make the altered landscape familiar and comforting once again. It's like a lost tooth: your tongue keeps seeking it out.

So far we professional caregivers have not always accurately predicted what people want or maybe even what they need. On the days following the attacks, people wanted to talk about the loved ones they were searching for, and/or their feelings of fear and anxiety. Yet many of the support programs developed after the tragedy have received little response.

The infamous anniversary date has hung like a black cloud since 9/12. We don't expect that cloud will lift anytime soon, but maybe the love and support we offer one another on this anniversary will help us to weather the storm.

Rabbi Stephen Roberts, Staff Chaplain, New York-Presbyterian Hospital

When I reflect back to September 11, 2001 and the days afterwards, I think of people. Lines and lines of people snaking around a building, holding pictures of loved ones. Some clearly needing to talk. Other's still too in shock to talk. I also think of the chaplains, many from HCC, in those places just being present for our neighbors, our friends, our colleagues, and our community. I found God's healing power in the chaplains' quiet presence.

(Rabbi Roberts directed the Red Cross's Spiritual Aviation Incident Response team in New York City after the attacks, coordinating the hundreds of chaplains who provided spiritual support.)

(continued on page 8)

Wholeness of Life Awards Benefit Dinner to Honor Frank J. Petrilli

Eighteen Patient Care Professionals Honored for their Care of the Whole Person

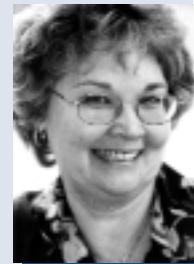


Frank J. Petrilli, chief executive officer of TD Waterhouse U.S.A., a unit of TD Waterhouse Group, Inc.,

one of the largest online financial services firms in the world, will be the community honoree at The Chaplaincy's 2002 *Wholeness of Life* awards benefit on November 7th.

Each year, this award is presented to a community leader who demonstrates a concern for the whole person—body, mind, and spirit. In addition to his professional successes, Mr. Petrilli, a member of The Chaplaincy's President's Advisory Council, sits on the Board of Trustees for Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City, the American Red Cross of New York, and Fordham Preparatory School, his alma mater.

Eighteen patient care professionals will also be honored at the event, held at Cipriani 42nd Street for the fourth year in a row. Nominated by their peers, these individuals have shown an extraordinary commitment to caring for the spiritual and emotional needs of their patients. ■



Lifting the Spirit



From 8:46 AM on September 11th to the present moment, we have been struggling to come to terms with a tragedy for which many of us were simply not prepared.

The best, bravest, and most qualified rescue and disaster professionals effectively managed the crisis. Yet each day seemed to present new challenges that required new solutions. Should we reopen the subways and bridges? How do we ensure that our air and water are safe? Should anthrax scares force our post offices to close? What kinds of psychological and spiritual support do people need now? What will they need later? How much money should survivors receive? Who should receive grants? Vital decisions needed to be made, often on the spot, by people who trusted that their professional competence and compassion would guide them to the right choices.

Every day before and since that tragic morning last September, our chaplains have worked with patients and staff who need to make life-altering decisions promptly and competently. They continually rely on their experience and skills in ministry to assist an individual or family to respond to a particular crisis. Despite the excellent clinical pastoral education they've received and the certifications they hold, no amount of training can fully prepare them to respond effectively to all the real-life issues confronting the sick, disabled, dying and bereaved, and the professionals and family members who care for them. Uncertainty and doubt will always be a part of the human condition.

As people of faith, we look to God to guide us. The psalmist captured it succinctly: "The Lord is my

light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps. 27:1) But as our chaplains will be the first tell you, even the reassurance of God's presence doesn't always allay fear and doubt.

Drawing from the reservoir of their own unique gifts of mind and heart and their personal faith, our chaplains go to work every day and simply do the best they can. They are present to each person and each crisis in an honest and sacred way. This personal presence and spiritual connectedness, when shared with those in need, can be a healing force in and of itself. When combined with the clinical and professional skills they've learned, the bond between a chaplain and patient can become an effective conduit to God and God's healing power.

In a new world of heightened uncertainty, one thing is assured—we can never be completely prepared for everything. But if we view our humanity as a gift that connects us to one another, we can embrace each new challenge with a confidence rooted in God. Our presence and purpose can make a difference. "I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." (Ps 27:13-14) ■

Healing Moments

Ma nora hamokom hazeh! **How awesome is this place!**

The following is excerpted from a theological reflections paper written by Tracy Nathan, a rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary and a CPE student studying with supervisory resident Pastor Connie Bonner at Beth Israel Medical Center. She reflects on the story of Jacob's dream of messengers ascending and descending to heaven, and God speaking words of promise to Ya'akov, Jacob.

Ya'akov awoke from his sleep and said: "Why, YHWH (God) is in this place, and I, I did not know it!" He was awestruck and said: "How awe-inspiring is this place! This is none other than a house of God, and that is the gate of heaven!" (Genesis 28: 16-17, Translation by Everett Fox, The Five Books of Moses, Schocken Books, 1995)

A woman who was diagnosed recently with lymphoma told me:

"Oh yes, I pray. When I wake up in the morning and I'm able to brush my teeth, I give thanks to God. You see people here who can't get up by themselves or do anything by themselves. If I can get up in the morning and brush my teeth, that's something. And I thank God at night for the gift of the day's revelations."

This patient has become aware of daily gifts and blessings with the clarity borne of illness. Jewish mystics teach that it is possible to raise up and awaken holiness in any place. A hos-

SUMMER CPE STUDENTS: BEYOND THE WORDS



Posing as the Von Trapp family singers, students act out their CPE trials and tribulations in a skit at the closing luncheon

Why aren't they praying?

Speaking to fellow students, trustees, and staff at the closing luncheon for summer clinical pastoral education (CPE) students, Micah Kellberg spoke of the story from the book of Exodus. He referred to the rabbis who were asking why all the children of Israel were crying to God, instead of praying. "They weren't praying," Micah said, "because during suffering one can't always talk. God has to be sensitive to the cries, and that has been something I have also learned from CPE-- to hear the silences, and the emotions when the words have been taken away."

Micah and his fellow students in The HealthCare Chaplaincy's CPE summer program were faced with many opportunities to move beyond the words and "be sensitive to the cries." Hailing from as far away as Texas and Mississippi, these students—comprised mainly of semi-

narians— spent their 11-week summer unit ministering to patients, learning the art and skills of pastoral care, and, perhaps most importantly, learning about themselves.

Expected and Unexpected Challenges

"I expected to be challenged in new ways when working with patients, because I had never worked with them before," said Steve Foster, a CPE student of supervisory resident Imam Ramadan Zakat at NYU Medical Center. "But I didn't expect to learn so much about myself. Visiting patients made me think of things in my own life that I hadn't been thinking about—things I thought were behind me."

Confronting one's own feelings in a supportive environment is an invaluable step in growth as a chaplain and a religious leader. "CPE was in many ways what I expected. I expected to grow, and I did," said Rachel Goldenberg, a student at Hebrew Union College and in Brooklyn Hospital's CPE group. "But I enjoyed being with my group even more than I thought I would," she said. "I felt supported."

Steve, a native of Barbados and an Episcopalian studying at General Theological Seminary, was eager

to talk about the all he learned from his peers in his CPE group. "The diversity of our group was enlightening for me and very helpful. I learned so much from these people of different faith traditions. The experience helped me to respect others' beliefs and to broaden my scope. I know now that I don't want or need to limit myself to ministering only to Episcopalians."

"Surely God is in this Place"

Through their skit presentations at the closing luncheon, many of the students referred to their experiences of anger, fear, and uncertainty. Beth Israel Medical Center Petrie Division's CPE group shared a number of their experiences, both funny and poignant, each ending with the quote "Surely God was in this place and I, I did not know." In presenting her students with their CPE certificates, supervisory resident Pastor Connie Bonner said, "Through our struggle, laughter, and activities, we found God in this place." ■



Summer CPE Students
Rachel Goldenberg and Steve Foster

pital room. A bathroom. On some occasions, I feel I am helping to awaken the holiness of God in the hospital room. Often, I feel awakened to God's holiness by a patient. And often, particularly in prayer, it seems that the patient and the chaplain accompany each other in the search for meaning and the sacredness in the situation.

I sat with a man; few words were spoken. The silent spaces held some awkwardness and some peace. Afterwards, I reflected:

The sacredness felt most perceptive when we grasped hands and locked eyes before I left the room. It almost felt like whatever transpired through words, this was the real encounter of our shared humanity.... Although my words failed, I could be there with Mr. W and two shy people could be together through eye contact and touch.

One might awaken God, one might stumble upon God. In Jewish tradition, the word *makom*, place, is also one of God's names. And *nora* means both awesome and terrifying.

"Ma nora hamakom hazeh! How awesome is this place!" How awesome is God.

Illness is terrifying. It can also be a gateway to heaven. And this hospital may be the dwelling place of God.

**Ma nora hamakom hazeh!
How awesome is this place!**

New Trustees

The HealthCare Chaplaincy is pleased to announce the election of six new members to its Board of Trustees. Diverse in age, ethnicity, and professional expertise, these extraordinary individuals share a deep commitment to The Chaplaincy's mission of providing compassionate spiritual care to those who are suffering.



The Rev. Canon George W. Brandt, Jr. is the rector of St. Michael's Episcopal Church on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. He has previously served as canon at the Cathedral of St. Phillip in Atlanta and secretary for The Church of the Province of Central Africa, an Anglican province of ten dioceses. Once a practicing attorney, the Rev. Brandt was a trial lawyer and a litigator. He is a trustee of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and a member of the Union of Black Episcopalians and the Advisory Committee to the Anglican Observer to the United Nations.



Rosamaria (Mia) Carbonell is the director of North American external communications for Vivendi Universal, the world's second largest media and communications company. Prior to joining Vivendi, Ms. Carbonell was director of external communications for The Seagram Company Ltd. She has had an extensive career in television news reporting at English and Spanish speaking networks, including Telemundo. In 1992, Ms. Carbonell was the Hispanic media coordinator for the United States presidential campaign.



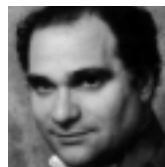
David B. Case, M.D. is a physician specializing in hypertension and internal medicine at The New York-Presbyterian Hospital, and a faculty member of the medical schools of Cornell and Columbia. He is a founding member of New York Physicians, a multispecialty practice group of 20 physicians at New York-Presbyterian, and president of its New York Physicians' Foundation. Dr. Case joined Presbyterian's renowned hypertension research group, and later moved on to become director of the Adult Clinical Research Center at Cornell.



Leslie McCall is a certified financial analyst who has worked in the financial services industry for 15 years. She is presently a senior analyst and portfolio manager with HSBC Asset Management. Ms. McCall has been involved with the Junior League since 1987, providing community outreach to the homebound elderly and helping to develop the League's website. She is active in the Brick Presbyterian Church, helping coordinate toddler Sunday Church School classes for the past two years and teaching for the past three years.



John J. (Jack) O'Neil is a partner at the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison. He concentrates in international and domestic estate planning, trusts and estates administration, matrimonial matters, and private foundations planning. He has extensive experience representing the development offices of two major medical centers. Mr. O'Neil is listed in Who's Who in American Law and Who's Who in America, and served as vice chair of the Committee on Trusts and Estates Law Section of the New York State Bar Association from 1989-1995.



Bob Weinstein is co-chairman of Miramax Films. He founded the company in 1979 with his brother Harvey, naming it for their parents, Miriam and Max. Under their leadership, Miramax has received 158 Academy Award nominations, including 17 best foreign language films nominations. The Weinsteins were also co-producers of Mel Brooks' *The Producers*, which won 12 Tony Awards in 2001, including Best Musical.

A NEW CENTER FOR PASTORAL LEARNING

Chaplaincy Blesses and Dedicates New Research Center Honoring Joan and Bill Spears

Bill's brother, Jackson Spears, and his wife, Lorene



Bill and Joan Spears

In a communal prayer dedicating the new center, guests at the ceremony prayed that the Spears Center will be “a place of welcome and hospitality; a place of study and learning; a place of teaching and multifaith collaboration.”

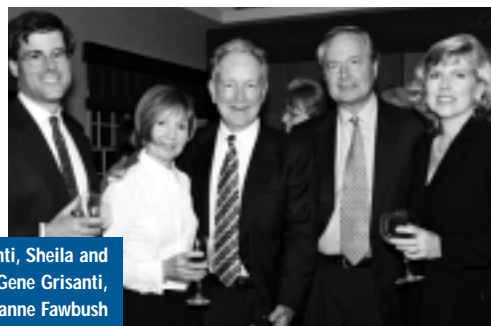
The new center's library houses one of the nation's most comprehensive collections of books, periodicals, audio and videotapes, and other materials in the arena of pastoral care and its cognate disciplines. Some of these related disciplines include integrative medicine, death and dying, spirituality, theology, psychology, and hospice and palliative care. In this past year, the center has greatly increased its holdings in group process, trauma, and biomedical ethics.

A Living Memorial for a Champion and Friend

This center is a fitting tribute to life trustees Joan and Bill Spears who have been long-time ardent supporters of The HealthCare Chaplaincy and who have devoted much of their time and energy

As committed to pastoral education and research as the center that now bears their name, Joan and Bill Spears were honored in a dedication ceremony for the new Joan B. and William G. Spears Center for Pastoral Research. The center, comprising a library and the offices of The Chaplaincy's research department, is a home for caregivers, students, and researchers of every faith seeking to enrich their knowledge of pastoral healthcare and spirituality.

Chris Grisanti, Sheila and Larry Toal, Gene Grisanti, Suzanne Fawbush



Joan Spears died in May of this year after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer, she left The Chaplaincy and the world a spiritual legacy of advocacy, philanthropy, and friendship. As Father Walter Smith, The Chaplaincy's CEO, said in his homily at Joan's funeral mass, “Joan was an astute hearer of God's word...because she devoted time to listening. Her soul was like a sponge ready to absorb whatever spiritual moisture might be around her.” Many Chaplaincy trustees and staff members, along with other family members and friends of Joan and Bill, joined with them at the dedication ceremony.

Positive Benefit for Patients

“Over the past several decades, and especially during the past 15 years, a solid body of empirical research has emerged demonstrating that human beings not only desire spiritual care when they are ill, but that this care can

to furthering its mission and ministry. Bill Spears, founding member of investment firm Spears Grisanti & Brown LLC, is a former chairman of The Chaplaincy's Board of Trustees. When

have positive benefits for patients,” said the Rev. Dr. Andrew Weaver, The Chaplaincy's director of pastoral research, during his homily at the dedication. He thanked the Spears for helping to build a center that will contribute to this research and help “make a case” for professional chaplaincy. ■

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Weaver delivers the evening's homily



NORTH SHORE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL: A NATURAL PARTNERSHIP

Necessity is the Mother of Invention
When administrators at North Shore University Hospital held spiritual education programs for their staff, they were amazed at the level of attendance. “We were really taken

North Shore, a 991-bed member of the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System with several outpatient services.

A Scene from ‘ER’

The Rev. Overvold tells a story of a patient whose wife was driving him to the hospital because he had chest pains. On the way there, he had a heart attack in the car. “She pulled up to the front entrance, drove over the curb, and flagged down security,” he said. In the rush of staff members running out to see what was happening, a nurse who had seen me minister to a patient a few days prior grabbed me by the shoulders and practically threw me at the patient’s wife. “That’s the wife!” she said. “And I spent the rest of the day with this woman, offering support to her and her family as her husband was admitted and treated.” The next day the medical director of the emergency room called the Rev. Overvold and arranged for him to do an inservice with the ER staff!

“I Don’t Have to Do This Alone”

“I loved that that nurse knew me, and knew what I did,” said Chaplain Overvold. He works closely with the staff on the oncology, pediatric oncology, and intensive care units, where he spends much of his time.

“Having Jon here makes a big difference for the patients and the staff,” said Joyce Seelig, social worker on the oncology unit. “About 80% of our patients are in the advanced stages of their disease. They’re facing their

fears, thoughts, and feelings surrounding their own mortality. Often they’ll want to talk about these things from a spiritual perspective, and that’s where Jon comes in. With him here, I feel that, as a social worker, I don’t have to do this alone.”

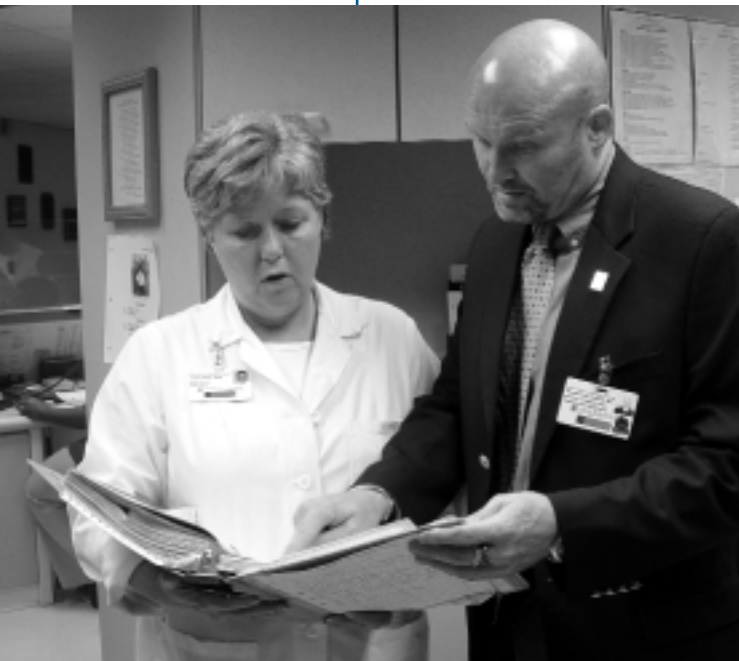
Staff Committed to Care of the Whole Person

In addition to social workers and nurses, the hospital places special emphasis on educating their medical staff about the spiritual needs of patients. Dr. Fred Smith, senior associate chief of general internal medicine at North Shore, teaches a course for residents entitled “Spiritual and Palliative Care.” This fall, his students will make rounds with the Rev. Overvold.

“It is this quality [of living and dying],” Dr. Smith writes of the unquantifiable measures of patient care, “which allows people—even when suffering and bereaved - to feel that they have been touched by kindness, blessing, and grace.” (To read Dr. Smith’s article on the spiritual dimensions of medical and palliative care, visit www.healthcarechaplains.org.)

The Rev. Overvold and The HealthCare Chaplaincy are fortunate to have partnered with a facility so committed to the care of the whole person. “I received an incredibly warm welcome when I got to North Shore,” said the Rev. Overvold. “The staff is very ready and willing to focus on the holistic care of patients and their families.” ■

The Rev. Overvold consults with social worker Joyce Seelig on the oncology unit



by how many people came,” said Margarita Baggett, associate executive director, PCS and care coordination and nurse executive at North Shore. “Especially after 9/11. We really saw the need for spiritual services.”

From that need a natural partnership with The HealthCare Chaplaincy evolved. The Rev. Jon Overvold is the new director of pastoral care and education at

Health and Healing

Chaplaincy

Fall 2002 Briefs

The Rev. George F. Handzo (The HealthCare Chaplaincy), president-elect of the APC, and **Rabbi Bonita Taylor** (The Jewish Institute for Pastoral Care), NAJC conference commission chair, participated in a planning meeting for an historic chaplaincy conference. More than 10,000 chaplains from the APC, NAJC, NACC and CAPPE will be represented at this international conference to be held in Toronto in February, 2003.

This fall **the Rev. Dr. Joan Murray** (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center) will have an essay entitled "The Ethics of Praying" published in *Bioethics Matters*.

The Rev. Paul Steinke (NYU Medical Center) has been asked to be the guest editor of the *Journal of Supervision and Training in Ministry* with **Rabbi**

Mychal Springer (former associate director of the Jewish Institute for Pastoral Care) as his co-editor. The theme of the 2003 annual publication will be "Pastoral Supervision after 9/11."

Chaplaincy staff members **Rabbi Jeffery Silberman**, **D. Min** (Beth Israel Medical Center), **the Rev. Dr. Yvonne Valeris** (The Brooklyn Hospital Center), **the Rev. Stephen Harding** (Beth Israel Medical Center), and **the Rev. Trudi Hirsch** (Beth Israel Medical Center) will contribute.

The Rev. Curtis Hart (New York-Presbyterian Hospital), lecturer in public health at Weill Cornell Medical College, was the recipient of an "Excellence in Teaching" award for the 2001-2002 year for his "outstanding efforts on behalf of the Medical College."

The Rev. Arlinda Derrick was appointed director of pastoral care at the Rehab Institute of New York Florence Nightingale Health Center.

The Rev. Connie Bonner (supervisory resident at Beth Israel Medical Center) and **the**

Rev. Jon Overvold (North Shore University Hospital) were featured panelists in a workshop for the Lutheran Disaster Response Conference, offering reflections on their experience volunteering with the American Red Cross after 9/11.

Rabbi Stephen Roberts (New York-Presbyterian Hospital) was interviewed on NY1's "New York Today" 8 p.m. show on Thursday, July 11th regarding the spiritual state of New York ten months after 9/11.

The Rev. Melody Meeter joined The Chaplaincy on May 6th as a staff chaplain at Lenox Hill Hospital.

Chaplain Resident Rita Sherman (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center), **the Rev. Stephen Harding** (Beth Israel Medical Center), **the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Yard** (New York-Presbyterian Hospital), and **the Rev. Carlos de la Peña** (Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center) were invited by the American Red Cross to participate in the closing ceremony at Ground Zero on May 30th. ■

New Leadership for the Jewish Institute for Pastoral Care

A Welcoming Home

Rabbi Shira Stern has been appointed as director of The Chaplaincy's Jewish Institute for Pastoral Care. Long at the forefront of Jewish religious, educational, and social concerns, Rabbi

Stern received her formal chaplaincy education at the JIPC. She comes to The Chaplaincy from the Joint Chaplaincy Program of the Jewish Federation of Middlesex County, New Jersey, where she served as director. She has also served as chaplain at Meridian Home Hospice in Eatontown, NJ.

As director of the Jewish Institute for Pastoral Care, Rabbi Stern will head a unique pastoral education program that operates in the context of Jewish values and metaphors while functioning within the multifaith mission of The HealthCare Chaplaincy.

"Many Paths to God"

"Years ago, I learned to appreciate each day by serving as a chaplain on the pediatric floor of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center," said Rabbi Stern. "I welcome the challenge of enabling Jewish leaders from every denomination to learn new and necessary skills which they will bring back to their communities." Rabbi Stern's vision for the JIPC is framed by her multi-faceted rabbinic experience: "There are many paths to God, many models for serving the Jewish community."

Rabbi Stern is a former co-president of the Women's Rabbinic Network, and currently serves on the Health Care Task Force of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. She has appeared on numerous television programs on Jewish, interfaith, and social issues, and has contributed articles to several Jewish religious and cultural publications. She is the recipient of several awards and honors presented by the Jewish community. ■



SAVE THE DATE

October 3, 2002

Art and Spirituality:
An art exhibit and presentation

November 7, 2002

Wholeness of Life Awards Dinner

Vol.26/ No. 2

The HealthCare Chaplaincy is the nation's largest non-denominational multifaith center for pastoral care, education, and research. Its newsletter is published three times a year for friends, supporters, and alumni/ae.

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REFLECTIONS: September 11, 2001

(continued from page 1)

Imam Ramadan Zakat, *Supervisory Resident* NYU Medical Center



My first thought was, "I can't believe a Muslim did this." The Qur'an says that life is sacred. And the Sayings of the Prophet Mohammed clearly speak against suicide.

As the anniversary approaches, I'm beginning to encounter more people who want to share their stories. For some, keeping the wounds open is a good thing, for others it's not. Basically I'm just listening to people. There aren't many words you can say.

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Yard, *Staff Chaplain* New York-Presbyterian Hospital William Randolph Hearst Burn Center

(After literally running for her life that day, the Rev. Dr. Yard, who was in the World Trade Center attending a conference at the moment of the attacks, rushed on foot from lower Manhattan to the Burn Center to minister to burn victims and their families.)

The unit was emotionally charged, as the victims began to be brought in. I've never seen such unity and empathy among the staff. Nurses and doctors were working feverishly



to save lives. There was no separation of race or religion—our prayer vigils included everyone. The waiting room at the burn center had become the altar, synagogue, chapel: all were one.

The Rev. Paul Steinke, *Director of Pastoral Care and Education* NYU Medical Center

The common wisdom seems to be that the world changed that September morning. Whether you watched the dreadful event on television or from a hospital window you knew our country would never be the same again. Will it make a difference in the way we do pastoral supervision?

If that event has driven us to the depths, then it may have. I have never cried more openly or prayed more fervently with any group of students than with the CPE group at NYU on 9/11. If we have re-discovered the thickness of our rage and the depth of the darkness in a pile of rubble, we may have altered the way we supervise.

At the heart of our vocation as pastoral caregivers and pastoral educators is the long look into the abyss of suffering and death, "its demonic awfulness." We still flinch. We also will find a way to keep looking.

(The above is from an article the Rev. Steinke wrote for the Journal of Supervision and Training for Ministry.) ■

