

EAST CENTRAL REGION, ACPE

INDIANA, KENTUCKY, MICHIGAN, OHIO & PITTSBURGH, PA.

www.ecr-acpe.org

April 2003

Frankly Speaking

Passages

It was only half an hour until the service was to begin. I scanned the funeral home for my wife and did not find her. This had already been a hard three days for us all, but especially for Dinah, my wife. It was only on Friday that we received the call from Dinah's stepfather informing us that her mother had died. Mildred had been descending into the twilight world of Alzheimer's for more than seven years. It was like watching a ship drift slowly out to sea, farther and farther from us. Although there seemed at times to be sparks of recognition and brief moments when her personality would reassert itself in a flash of familiarity, these were becoming more rare all the time. Mostly, for the last couple years, going to see her in the extended care facility was an act of loyalty. The woman we met there did not look like, sound like, or act like Mildred. Then, the doctors discovered that she had developed cancer. A month ago, they predicted she might live five or six months. She did not last for a month. So although we knew this was coming, no one was expecting it quite so soon.

Now we were at the funeral home. The funeral would be almost exclusively family. Five of Mildred's sisters were there, her husband, her two daughters, some of the grandchildren and a collection of cousins and neighbors. As we visited in the minutes before the memorial service was to begin, I noticed that Dinah was not in the room. I walked to the door and looked out into the parking lot. It was a beautiful spring day, the sky was blue and a warm and gentle breeze was blowing. At the edge of the parking lot, on a low wall sat Dinah with two of her granddaughters, one on either side of her. They had a bag of jellybeans and Dinah was handing them out to the girls (one four years old and one nineteen months old), and the three of them were eating them. It was a touching picture.

On the long drive home that night, Dinah shared with me that the time she spent with the children was a profound experience. She said, "I had the sense that this is where Mom would have been." For her, in the midst of the sadness of that moment and all the reminiscing of the adults inside the building, the most affirming and important thing she experienced was taking these children, who were feeling strange and out of place, away from that scene and sharing a bag of jelly beans with them. It was good for them and it was good for her, too.

A few days later when we reflected on this again, it occurred to us that it was symbolic of how we cope with loss in our lives. Moving through life is a gradual process of giving up the familiar and reinvesting in the new and novel; giving up the past and reinvesting in the future; giving up our forbearers and reinvesting in our progeny. I don't know if the losses which we inevitably incur as we move through life would be bearable at all if we did not continue to reinvest in the future. Who has not seen a surviving, single grandparent rebuild their lives around their grandchildren? It is a therapy for loss that outstrips medication. Maybe doctors should learn to write prescriptions for grief that go something like this: "Take two granddaughters and a half a bag of jellybeans and I'll see you in a few weeks." I know one grandmother for whom it worked wonders.

Collegially, **Frank**

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CERTIFICATION Timeline for the regional fall meeting: August 1, 2003- Application to meet certification committee. * August 25, 2003- Materials to presenters. September 18, 2003- Certification meetings, Hueston Woods, OH *Any one desiring to meet for ACPE supervisor in September will need to be in touch with Mary Burks-Price and me BEFORE the August 1 deadline.

Applications will accepted for readiness, supervisory candidate, extension of candidacy or associate, and ACPE supervisor. Since readiness committees can be done at a sub-regional level, a priority will be given to "voting" committees (candidacy, extension, ACPE supervisor). If there is room on the docket however, readiness committees will be welcomed.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by e-mail saxtonm@sjrnc.com or by phone at 574-282-8904 or mary.burks-price@nortonhealthcare.org by phone 502-629-3152; FAX 502-629-3125



Job Opportunities:

- Full time **Pastoral Care Resident** positions available for September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004. **Lutheran Hospital of Indiana** is a Top 100 Hospital with 350 beds serving northeast Indiana and western Ohio. We offer a variety of opportunities for pastoral care in this growing medical community. The residency is a full time position with a stipend of \$20,000/year plus benefits. Qualifications include at least one unit of CPE and completion of one year of seminary or have equivalent training and experience. Application fee is \$25. Send inquiries to John Peterson at Lutheran Hospital of Indiana, 7950 West Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46804. E-mail jpeterson@lutheran-hosp.com. Telephone:(260) 435-7720 or 435-7117. FAX:(260) 435-7625.
- The Cleveland Clinic Foundation has **five positions for the 2003-2004 ACPE Residency**, and **six for the summer 2003 ACPE program**. Residency stipend is \$22,000- \$22,600. Apply by 04/30/03: The Rev. Patrick M. Persaud, or The Rev. John C. Paulus, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Pastoral Care H-19, 9500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH. 44195. (216) 444-2518; FAX (216) 445-9678. Visit web site: www.ccf.org for information on the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The American Unitarian Conference, a Faith Group member of the ACPE, will be holding their 2003 annual meeting May 2-4 at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. There will be lectures on the Dead Sea Scrolls by leading scholars, seminars on pastoral care for laypersons, and a special lecture by the Rev. Carl Scovel, Minister Emeritus of Kings Chapel, Boston, MA. There will also be a Communion service Saturday evening and a worship service on Sunday. The AUC annual meeting is open to all. You may attend the entire conference with meals included for \$100, or attend just the events you wish for a nominal fee. The AUC is a God centered national organization dedicated to renewing the American Unitarian faith tradition. For more information, check the AUC website at <http://www.americanunitarian.org> or contact the AUC at 810-714-6087 or by e-mail at info@americanunitarian.org or by mail at PO Box 331, Fenton, MI, 48430-0331.

Calendar of Events

- **April 23-27, 2003** - ACPE Leadership Meeting - Boards, Commissions, Committees, Westin Atlanta Airport-Atlanta, GA Phone (888) 627-7211
- **September 19-20, 2003** - East Central Region, ACPE Fall Meeting - Hueston Woods, College Corner, OH. (Details will be provided as they become available)

Information for the May newsletter must be received by April 28, 2003. Send to: Regional Business Office, 7672 Cottonwood Lane, Dexter, MI. 48130 Telephone: 1/800-336-5099; or E-mail lykbyl@aol.com

Regional Associate Supervisors

Rhonda Gilligan Gillespie
Daryl Hanson
Robert McGeeney, Jr.

Regional Supervisory Candidates

Ruth Alpers
Carrie Culleen
Donald Harris
James Mitchell
Jon Paulus
Joe Roberts
Pat Sheldon-Ward
Tim Waits

Officers of the Region

Frank Ciampa, Director

Rhonda Gillespie, Accreditation
Lin Barnett, Vice Chair
Urias Beverly, Nominations
Billie Beverly, REM
Alan Bowman, Board of Reps
Larry Brandon, Budget & Investment
Mary Burks-Price, Co-Chair Certification
Carl Buxo, Professional Ethics
Carol Green, Board of Reps
Earl Hoppert, Long Range Planning & Development
Robert Leas, History
BJ Myers-Bradley, Clinical Members
Kathy Nininger, Chair
Michael Saxton, Co-Chair Certification
Karl Van Harn, Standards
Cecilia Thurston, Research

