

Federation of Christian Ministries

Newsletter



November/December 2018

VOL. 52 - Number 6



Happy Thanksgiving

"IF THE ONLY
 PRAYER YOU EVER
 SAY IN YOUR LIFE IS
 THANK YOU, IT WILL
 BE ENOUGH."

MEISTER ECKHART



IN THIS ISSUE

What Difference Does It Make?
 Tom Stricker, FCM Chairperson.....Pages 2

Yes, It Can Happen Here, and it is
 Tom Cusack, FCM President.....Page 3

Newly-Endorsed Members Strengthen FCM
 Judy McBride, FCM Specialized Ministries.....Page 4-5

Getting Your Name Out There
 Antoinette Marold, FCM Communications.....Page 6

1986 Diaspora - FCM: Personal Journey
 John Balch.....Page 7

Trauma from a Chaplain's Perspective
 Lindsay Butler, FCMPages 8-9

Regional News

Northeast... Making It Through the Holidays
 Carl Yusavitz, Northeast V.P.....Page 10

Great Lakes... Commissionings, Future Events Energize Region
 Ron Davis, Great Lakes V.P.....Page 11

Southern... Commissioning and Welcome New Members
 Diane Dougherty, Southern V.P.....Pages 12-13

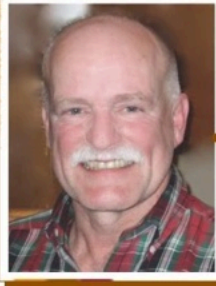
Mountains & Plains... Newly-Commissioned Member Graces FCM
 Richard James, Mts. & Plains V.P.....Page 14

Pacific... Commissioning Services Celebrate Region's Ministries
 Donna Schreiber, Pacific V.P.....Page 15

Reflections.....Page 16

FCM Directory.....Page 17

Cover: Yosemite National Park



CHAIRPERSON

TOM STRICKER

November/December 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 6

What Difference Does It Make?



By the time you receive this Newsletter, Election Day will be less than one week away. If you have not voted early, now is the time. And because it is such a serious task, I encourage everyone to study the candidates and issues carefully. As citizens, we must not only vote but be as well-informed as possible. As people of faith and religious leaders, it is our responsibility to urge all people to do likewise, whether in your congregation or in your circle of friends or beyond.

Furthermore, if you think November 6th means the end of your responsibility in this regard, you are greatly mistaken. Our baptismal promises call us to be prophets. The prophets of old spoke to the conscience of the people as well as to that of the civil and religious rulers. I believe this prophetic role is central for us not only by virtue of baptism but because of our membership in FCM. The leaders of our day need to hear from us and what we consider important.

Fulfilling this duty is consistent with the teaching of Jesus. Being prophetic is not easy and requires commitment through often difficult times. It means we must not simply speak out but listen carefully to all sides. If I rely on only one news source I am seriously limiting my access to complete information. We seem to be moving more rapidly to becoming a divided country. We can change this dynamic by testing what we hear. By doing this we can work together for the common good in every sense of that term.

Take advantage of information offered by the League of Women Voters <https://www.lwv.org/> in my opinion one of the best non-partisan ways to enable all of us to have productive discussion on candidates and issues. The October AARP Bulletin offers four online services to help check the facts: <https://www.politifact.com> <https://votesmart.org> <https://www.realclearpolitics.com> and <https://ballotpedia.org> These resources can be very helpful when you hear differing details and stories. Obtaining accurate information is a necessary first step to the listening that brings us together.

Remembering the example of the prophets, be sure to let your voice be heard by our president and your members of the legislatures, both state and federal. I challenge the FCM membership to stay active, following the example of Jesus our brother who stood up for the poor and disenfranchised. We are called to this work for justice, to be the voice for those who are voiceless, witnessing with our ballots and our actions.

The author of Revelation challenged the people of his day: "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold or hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth." (3:15-20) Edmund Burke put it another way: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." The difference between doing nothing and something is EVERYTHING.

CELEBRATING



Federation of Christian Ministries



PRESIDENT

TOM CUSACK

November/December 2018
VOL. 52 NO. 6

Yes, It Can Happen Here, and it is

On October 15 and 16th I spent some time at the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. It documents the depths of human depravity and systematic evil. While there I thought of a current example of genocide a world away, the Rohingya expulsion from Myanmar. I also recognized that our country was showing warning signs of demonizing "others." Those "others," "dangerous others," include Muslims and immigrants, LGBTQI and minorities. They experience day to day discrimination of an increasingly violent expression. But the events of the week of October 21 have brought a new level of violence to our country. *A man sent pipe bombs to political leaders and former government officials. A murderer targeted black people in Kentucky, killing two. Another murderer walked into a synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA and killed eleven people who were worshipping. He desired all Jews to die.* As followers of Jesus, we must raise our action and awareness. Since we stand with Him, we must visibly stand with the "others" also. To strengthen our capacities to make effective and clear responses we need to continually move toward a higher level in our own spiritual life. It is through our spiritual growth into people of depth, love, and light that we can become part of the remedy to the human weaknesses and day-to-day discrimination shown in our country and up to and including the evil shown so horribly in the Holocaust, the Rohingya expulsion and the events of the terrible week of October 21 in America. The clear action we can take in a few days is to vote in the mid-terms. If a candidate is using fear and separation as a campaign tactic, vote for the other candidate. We can have an impact immediately in this way.

We have a limited amount of time and energy allotted to us in this life. And there are many long term activities we can choose to which to direct our energy. They include necessary actions of personal maintenance, food shelter and clothing. We may find some entertainment necessary to keep us balanced and stable. We recognize our spiritual life is a necessity, so it requires time. Our job and our career path make their own significant demands, and these demands might be the most time-consuming of all.

From one point of view all of these necessary activities are centered upon our own maintenance and survival in the personal and economic worlds. But as a group of Christians, our value system automatically brings to the fore concerns that impact the well-being of the local community in which we live, concerns that impact the state and national levels, concerns about global issues. These concerns are framed in gospel terms, terms of respect for the poor, welcoming the alien, helping the injured and the sick, depending on non-violent change for the better. Living out these concerns takes additional time and attention. By attending to these concerns, we can feel that our Christian commitment is actually having an effect on those around us and that our relationship with Christ is not simply a matter of words but actually of deeds. Each of us must live out the broader community activities as we see fit. Each of us is different. There are some *specific supportive activities within our chosen FCM community that we can consider to build it up.*

I highlight here several communication activities that can *build up awareness of FCM within our own membership* and in its broader community. First, we have unlimited space in our **FCM Blog**. I am requesting that you consider writing one or a series of articles about your own passion and interest and post them on the blog. Send them to **Antoinette Marold** at communication@FCMmail.org. To encourage this activity which will spread and deepen our own understanding of one another *I will begin to systematically reach out to members who have offered to write for FCM with such a request.* Second, when you have a *special event, award or activity of interest*, please ask **Antoinette** to *post it* to the FCM Facebook account. Then when you see new posts on our Facebook account, share them so that an understanding of FCM spreads among hundreds of people. FCM also has a presence on LinkedIn. Request admission to the **FCM LinkedIn** group and *make contributions* there of a professional nature. Our regional vice presidents are working to making video meetings a regular part of their ministry to their regions. Ask your Vice President about the possibility and volunteer to manage it. Finally, begin to make *use of Realm to directly communicate* with other members of FCM. Many of us need to take a first step of *registering* into Realm. **Amy Simpson – Bennethum** will give you any help you need to accomplish this. Her email is connect@FCMmail.org. Thank you for being a member of FCM and be sure to fulfill your civic duty to vote in the upcoming midterm elections.



Federation of Christian Ministries

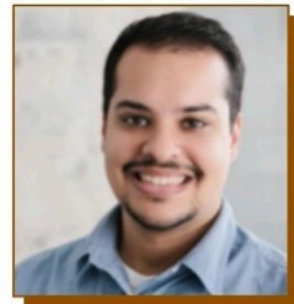


Newly-Endorsed Members Strengthen FCM

(Editor's note: thanks to **Judy McBride** from the Great Lakes region for putting together this piece on the Class of 2018! Information on **Michael Woods** and **Julie Prey** was unavailable for publishing in this issue.)

The Committee on Specialized Ministries is privileged to welcome and introduce our newest group of Endorsed Members. Join us in congratulating these sisters and brothers who were approved for endorsement at the July Circle of Directors meeting and recognized at this year's Assembly: **Ryan Mulkowski** and **Michael Woods** from the Southern Region, **Barbara Lawrence**, **Rickey Randall** and **Jeremy Miselbrook** (Mountains & Plains), **Clair Richardson** (Pacific), **Julie Prey** (Northeast), and **Zachary Wheat** (Great Lakes). We look forward to getting to know each of them and sharing in ministry with them!

Ryan C. Mulkowski, M.Div. Commissioned by FCM in February of 2018, Ryan currently serves as Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator for Halcyon Hospice in Atlanta, GA, a position he has held for a little over a year. Ryan and his wife live in the metro Atlanta area and are the proud new parents of a baby boy. Ryan was ordained in 2010 at a Southern Baptist church, but feels that FCM better represents his understanding of Christianity, an understanding rooted in love, inclusiveness and social justice. He sought endorsement so that he can begin the process to become an Associate Certified Chaplain (ACC) through the Association of Professional Chaplains. His desire is to eventually become a Board Certified Chaplain.



Barbara A. Lawrence, M.Div. Barbara is a Chaplain at Advocate Aurora Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, IL. She has a B.S. in Psychology and an M.A. in Christian Studies from Trinity International University, and is in the process of completing an M.Div. degree at McCormick Theological Seminary. Commissioned in 2017 she is pursuing Board Certification with the Association of Professional Chaplains. Barbara is the mother of four and grandmother of seven. She hopes to represent FCM through faithfully providing "service in the name of the Lord" and being an example of social justice by advocating for the rights of patients and families. Barbara considers her emphasis on service and social justice to be in close alignment with the mission of FCM.



Rickey L. Randall Jr., D.Min. Rickey and his wife Theola are the parents of Rickey III, Madison and Victoria and reside in Dallas, TX. Rickey received his MDiv in 2010 from the Interdenominational Theological Center and a D.Min. in 2018 from Drew University. He is currently engaged in spiritual care ministry at VA North Texas, and has begun the process of becoming an ACPE Certified Educator.



In writing about his vision of representing FCM, Rickey notes "Congruence and authenticity are two words that I try to live into with intentionality at this stage of my life." Rickey believes that his theological orientation to liberation theology aligns well with the mission of FCM and feels that he will be able to embrace the values of FCM while remaining faithful to his theological roots.





Jeremy Miselbrook, Ph.D Jeremy is pleased to be a commissioned (Feb 2018) and endorsed (July 2018) member of FCM. He is ordained in the Independent Nondenominational faith community, and serves as a full-time chaplain at Lake Forest Hospital in Lake Forest, Illinois. Jeremy also serves as an adjunct instructor for a number of colleges and universities in the disciplines of Theology and Humanities. He is pleased to add his interests and experiences in the worlds of vocational ministry, academia, and corporate medicine to his FCM regional fellowship. Jeremy is currently seeking certification as a chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains. He and his wife Kathleen reside in northern Illinois.



Claire Richardson, M.Div. Claire makes her home in Los Angeles where she serves as a chaplain at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank. She started her CPE Residency in August of 2014, was hired on a per-diem basis when that concluded and has worked full-time for about a year and a half. Claire says that "Chaplaincy blindsided me when my passion and career goals were running dry, and gives me the opportunity to interact with a diverse population of people. Chaplaincy aligned my passions and tools, bringing along with it a welcome sense of productivity." During her free time, she and her girlfriend enjoy brewing beer and going on hikes.



Zachary Bryan Wheat, M.Div. Zachary's chaplaincy training has included stints with the VA in Durham, North Carolina and at Seton Healthcare in Texas. He recently concluded a two-year residency in Pediatric Palliative Care at IU Health, Indianapolis, Indiana. Zachary received his B.A. from Florida Southern College and an MDiv from Duke Divinity School in 2016. He describes FCM as "a place for people who have struggled in other denominations like myself, it is a safe haven for ministers that are seeking a place to call home, and it has been an incredibly supportive community for me in my short time." He hopes to contribute to FCM by being visible in professional circles particularly regarding research at the intersections of spirituality, children, and palliative medicine. Zachary also finds FCM uniquely helpful to be able to keep his connection with his local faith community.





Getting Your Name Out There

Ministry Listing... One of the benefits of your FCM membership is to be listed on the **Find A Minister** area of the FCM website. This online listing is **FREE** to FCM members. You can be listed under 3 categories. Your listing includes state, city, your name, phone number, email address & website if you have one. If you are listing a website it must be up to date.

Ministry Listing Form... Once you renew your FCM membership for **2019**, you are ready to complete the form to list your ministry. Login to the **FCM Member Login on the FCM website** - www.federationofchristianministries.org go to the Members Only dropdown...click on the Ministry Listing Form, complete the form and click on submit. Please note: You can be listed under **3 categories**.

Already Listed on the FCM Website? You must renew your listing every year. Check your listing if there are no changes email me at communication@FCMmail.org with the subject "No Change."

Additional information on the FCM Member Login on the FCM Website...

The **Membership List for Download** that was in the member login area of the FCM website is now available in **Realm**. If you have any questions regarding your **Realm** account, contact **Amy Simpson** at connect@FCMmail.org.

Congratulations Ginny Cusack

Congratulations to FCM member Ginny Cusack of the Northeast Region, who was presented The Karla Smith Behavioral Health Award on October 12, 2018. Taken from the event program:

"**The Karla Smith Flame Award** is presented annually to an individual who advocates for the mission of Karla Smith Behavioral Health while embodying the spirit of Karla."

"Ginny has generously donated her exceptional talents to KSBH through her private coaching of the Executive Director, and her workshops for the Board of Directors. With her superb guidance, we have navigated this first year of KSBH with confidence, vigor, and steady solid growth laying a strong foundation for many years of fruitful service to our clients. We are extremely grateful for her expertise and passion for our mission."



Federation of Christian Ministries



Congratulations Diane Dougherty

FCM Southern Region Vice President
Diane Dougherty
is honored as a
"Remarkable Georgia Woman"

**The Ellis Hotel Announces 10 Honorees for its
"Remarkable Georgia Women" Campaign**

Tuesday, October 2nd 2018, 2:45 AM CDT
Updated: Friday, October 5th 2018, 1:11 AM CDT

**Atlantans voted local woman to be recognized on The Ellis Hotel's
Women's Only Floor**

ATLANTA, GA, October 02, 2018 /24-7PressRelease/ --
The Ellis Hotel, downtown Atlanta's only boutique and independent hotel, announced 10 Georgia women it will honor on its Women's Only Floor. In early September, Atlantans nominated -- and then voted for -- Georgia women who have empowered other ladies.

The Ellis is dedicating a room on its Women's Only Floor to each of these 10 women. In honor of the winners, a framed bio will be placed in the rooms to represent each woman's life and their diverse experiences that led them to play an influential role in the lives of other women.

The winners were selected by more than 330 votes. They are:
Virginia Killorin - Stefanie Jewett - Lynn Lilly - Jo Kirchner Joanne Truffelman - Harriet Adams - Eloise Bracey
Elizabeth Hague - **Diane Dougherty** - Jessie Tunnell

Prayer Support

Prayer Ministry Coordinator
and Prayer Volunteers Needed

Please consider and then volunteer to participate in the FCM Prayer Ministry.

We are looking for a Prayer Ministry Coordinator who will managed a group of prayer support volunteers to spend time in prayer for needs that are expressed to FCM through our website.

The Coordinator will receive the prayer requests, via the FCM website email: prayersupport@FCMmail.org He/She will pass on the prayer request and reason to the prayer ministry volunteers. The request will be a focus of your prayers for two weeks.

The Coordinator will also make a report to the Circle via the President in the month preceding the Circle of Directors' Meetings; typically they are held in February and July.

The rest is up to you and God.

Please reply to Carolyn at Central Office with your response to this request. Centraloffice@FCMmail.org

Please take it that the Holy Spirit is making the request of your soul. Tom Cusack, FCM President



CELEBRATING

50
1968
♦
2018
YEARS

Baptism

ATTENTION

**All FCM members who preside at BAPTISMS
You are required to register the Baptism with the FCM Registry Office
The registry form is available on the FCM website.**

- ♦ Go to www.federationofchristianministries.org
- ♦ Login to the Members Only area of the website.
- ♦ Click on the Members Only link on the top right of the page.
- ♦ Click on the Baptism Registry Form
- ♦ You can complete the registry form ONLINE or download a PDF form and mail it to the registry office. The address is on the form.

Questions? Please email registry@FCMmail.org Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Federation of Christian Ministries

(Editor's note: The following reflection is part of our 50th Anniversary celebration. Written by FCM member **John Balch** it originally appeared in the **Diaspora** volume 17, number 4 / Winter 1986.)

FCM: Personal Journey by John Balch

Why am I a member of FCM and where are we bound? The answer to the first part of the question is personal and deals with the search for the reason for my existence. The second part is what can members of FCM, by our interaction, teach me about this existence. I find acceptance of my struggles by FCM members a help. I suppose tolerance is natural because just about all of us come from a Christian church that expects people to become good because some human superior demands it.

I am a fallen away Catholic convert who joined the Church at the time of John XXIII. I left when the new pope arrived because I felt I was not good enough to be what was commanded. I found the church a hindrance to my development because, if I felt guilty about my not being good, I would suppress my feelings and not be able to look within to discover the source of my not being good. I needed to be very gentle with myself to look at the unconscious part of my personality from which destructiveness sprang up.

Some authority figures in the church did not practice christian behavior allowing me to grow. Perhaps I would've found a humanistic atheist more "Christian," for at least the humanist would not, claiming to have the authority of God behind him, demand that I must follow him if I were to acquire my answer. I mention atheism here. For me there was a danger of throwing out my belief in God with my disappointment in how members of the Christian church behaved. For, if the Christian church members could not love one another with God claimed to be on their side, then at an emotional level I must have said God does not exist.

So how did I find God? I am of the scientific mind; faith meant nothing to me except I would still search because that was my nature. I started on the psychological approach to improving myself and took up self-hypnosis to plumb the depths of my subconscious. This was of some help because I found if I were upset I could go within a derive the reason for it. The problem with this was that I would find a reason, and three months later I would use self-hypnosis again and find exactly the same reason again. There was no growth.

The next step was meditation and this is where I found God. I know it was God because any answer to a specific problem always came back the same. The answer was to try to do something that was clearly outside of what my own subconscious would've thought of, and it would be difficult to do. I often found my life got better, but not as fast as I would like. It seems the hard work to accomplish growth cannot be avoided.

At this time in my life I am even more disappointed in the Catholic Church's than when I left it. I believe it is an obligation of a proper church to teach its members how to pray, and I believe it is a hit or miss affair for those people who are members of the Catholic Church. They are told to be good, but not how to do so. Either a person accidentally discovers it, or else they lose contact with their own deepest feelings because of guilt. However feelings are necessary for offering up in prayer in order to find answers to follow for our growth.

I believe members of FCM are accepting of each other as a reaction to the authority in the church, and that this acceptance is an aid in the spiritual direct development of the members of FCM. The direct experience of God for each individual is what religion is about. Because we are different the task for each will vary. Let us be tolerant if we can.



Federation of Christian Ministries



Trauma from a Chaplain's Perspective November/December 2018

LINDSAY BUTLER

VOL. 52 NO. 6

STAFF CHAPLAIN AT VA MEDICAL CENTER IN MEMPHIS, TN

The definition of trauma can be different for everyone. Trauma is typically a threat to our survival; an experience that affects the body, brain, and soul in ways that are negative and unexpected. Trauma leaves an imprint on those it affects, changing their lives forever; causing them to feel overwhelmed, confused, powerless, and angry.

I encounter many different variations of trauma in patients who are veterans. In my own personal experience, I can say it sometimes can feel so heavy that no words can express it. The pain that comes with it can feel everlasting.

Chaplains tend to struggle with secondary trauma, involving the emotional residue of exposure experienced in working with people as we hear their trauma stories. Chaplains become witnesses to the pain, fear, and terror that trauma survivors have endured. How we manage it can affect the quality of the patient care we provide and the self-care we must intentionally practice to thrive in such a challenging, yet meaningful vocation.

Personal wholeness can lead others in trauma to wholeness

As a chaplain, I must be aware of what's happening when a patient discloses their trauma story. I cannot address the trauma alone, but need the whole of the medical team to address the trauma that's intertwined within the whole body of the patient. Chaplains provide spiritual care alongside many different disciplines, such as psychology, neurology, social work, and other medical specialties. As one of my C.P.E. supervisors told me, "Butler, you are not Jesus."

In other words, I cannot do all the work, let alone deliver good quality work to a veteran without the help of other disciplines. Each of us from each discipline have something to offer each other as well as something to offer the veteran. Each of us sees through a different lens, a different clinical paradigm. In order to take care of my whole body I remind myself constantly to be intentional by staying in my lane and calling on others for help when it feels like it is time to "switch lanes." I also have to intentionally practice my own personal self-care as well: exercising, eating healthy, spiritual community, time in nature, getting good sleep, seeing a therapist, etc. By practicing our own self-care it enables us to give the best care to our patients rather than just good care.

Spirituality is shaken during trauma

Clinically speaking, care providers must settle down the body before looking at the mind. The brain stores trauma in unique ways. If we push, dismiss, or are flippant in our responses, we can actually further the trauma.

Trauma shakes the spirituality of the patient and provider to their very core. It's important to note when someone is physically activated when sharing their trauma. By letting the bodies grieve as much as the brain and spirit need to, chaplains embrace the other by simply being present, and knowing when to seek further professional help.

Trauma causes a spiritual awakening and/or a spiritual deconstruction because it leads to asking questions such as: How can I exist in the world now? Where is God? How do I find community, value, purpose, meaning, my identity, and how can I feel safe in the world again?

Many who have experienced trauma have to learn how to embrace a grief that feels endless. They desperately need us to create a safe place for them to share and receive support. We must be patient. Many of us began life with what we would describe as systems of trusted support: family, community, state, God, and church. Combat veterans go to war literally experiencing hell on earth and return home to a place where they feel they no longer fit in or can be understood.

The trauma they experience hurts so much it results in existential shame about who they are and who God is in their life. For them to talk about it again is traumatic in and of itself – to feel the pain again and admit how much it hurts.



Federation of Christian Ministries

We, as a spiritual community, the church at large, and care providers serving in our various roles of ministry can create safe places for our veterans and for civilians to just be human beings returning to wholeness.

Unless we have experienced the trauma, we cannot know the depth of where they are and where they are going, but we, as chaplains, can create safe spaces for them to be who they are and truly say how they feel.

We all are seeking meaning-making; seeking a purpose, value, personhood, and acceptance. We all experience doubts and have hard questions to confront time to time regarding our spirituality. We can help those affected by trauma return to wholeness by creating safe spaces for people to be seen and heard. Rev. Barbra Brown Taylor said it best when she said, "Holiness is simply paying attention."

For further guidance in addressing trauma and secondary trauma see the following websites:

<http://www.theliturjists.com/podcast/2017/5/16/spiritual-trauma>

<https://www.counseling.org/docs/trauma-disaster/fact-sheet-9---vicarious-trauma.pdf>

With Deepest Sympathy



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of FCM Treasurer Heidi Tierney's mother Barbara Kempe Zierold.

Barbara was born March 11, 1938 in Paget Parish, Bermuda
She passed to her new life on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 in Cleveland TN

In addition to her husband and parents she was preceded in death by her son Scott.
She is survived by her son, Donald/Barbara, daughters: Heidi/Maryann Tierney,
Becky/Tom Kwiatkowski, her brothers, John and David Kempe of Bermuda, along with loving grandchildren,
nieces and cousins.

A memorial service will be held at a future date in Bermuda.

Expressions of sympathy can be sent to: Heidi Tierney
23 Ellicott Road
Milford, NJ 08848-1823

or by email to Treasurer@FCMmail.org





Making It Through the Holidays

The season between Thanksgiving and Christmas that's just about to begin in our department stores and on our TVs holds a mixture of emotions. Although many of us are filled with joy and anticipation, this season can be especially hard for people who have recently lost a loved one. The holidays and anniversaries that bring back many cherished memories can also rekindle the experience of loss.

For many of us in FCM, grief is often at the heart of our ministry. As pastoral caregivers, we know we can never skirt around grief. Rather, we must journey through it - even though this may mean meandering down side roads or getting lost in our emotions. This is especially true during the holidays or anniversaries we used to share with our now-deceased loved ones.

Here are some suggestions I discovered to help those you serve cope with the holidays. They come from the collected wisdom of others who have lost loved ones and re-experienced that loss again during the holidays.

❖ **Be patient with yourself and realistic about what you can do and what you cannot do during the holidays. Things are different now. So, adapt your cherished holiday traditions to what you now need in your life.**

❖ **Listen to your heart and acknowledge your limits during this tender time of the year. Talk to a trusted friend about your mixed and conflicted feelings. It's OK to cry and feel sad, even when everyone is smiling and happy.**

❖ **Focus on the spiritual dimension of the holidays - count your blessings and remember God's promise of everlasting love and life.**

❖ **If going to your home church is too much for you this year, try a new one for the holidays.**

The death of a loved one, we all know, changes our lives forever. It is especially important to acknowledge that reality and be gentle with ourselves all year - and especially during this holiday season. May this prayer by Thomas Merton give us hope to carry on:

My Lord God,

*I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think
I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
and I hope I have that desire
in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything
apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this,
you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore, I will trust you always
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear,
for you are ever with me,
And you will never leave me
to face my perils alone.*

Amen.



CELEBRATING

50
1968
♦
2018
YEARS

Federation of Christian Ministries



Commissionings, Future Events Energize Region

This past summer ended on a high note in our region as we held three commissioning services in the month of August in Elkhart IN, Cincinnati and Indianapolis. These wonderful events recognized the lives and work of **James Carter, Christopher Young, Mathai Saji Karimpanakuzhyil, Melody Carpenter, and Zachary Wheat** and were attended by family, friends and colleagues.

September was a time of change and new beginnings for two of these newly-commissioned members. Justin moved to Pennsylvania to be a staff chaplain at Geisinger Holy Spirit Hospital in Harrisburg. He had anticipated this call with joy in that the move brings him much closer to his own family as well as the family of his husband Craig. Zachary moved to Texas to become a staff chaplain at Dell Children's Medical Center in Austin. He has completed his first year of CPE at Dell Children's and enjoyed the culture and the people there. Justin's new call has made him a member of the **Northeast Region** of FCM and Zachary's call has made him a member of the **Mountains and Plains Region**. We wish them well in their new ministries, praying they will be present for patients, families and staff and continue to delight in the Holy One.

James will continue his ministry in Indiana at Elkhart General Hospital, while Chris will do a second year of residency at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Saji and Melody are in a time of discernment. They are both very talented and our prayers are with them as they seek out God's call. I am happy to say I am in contact with two additional commissioning candidates, one in Muncie, Indiana and the other in Columbus. Both relationships have begun due to referrals from people like you. I am very thankful for that.



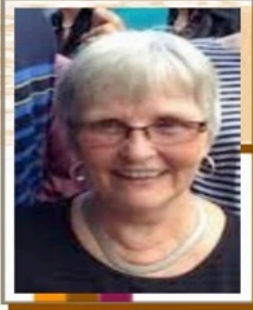
Save the Date.. members and friends of the Great Lakes Region...

Maria Stein Conference and Retreat Center has been reserved for us for October 4 -6, 2019. As in 2017, we will be there the same time as the Minster, Ohio Oktoberfest. For those of you who are up for a challenge, there is a 10k race taking place early Saturday morning on October 5th as part of the Festival. You still have time to train ☺ We will duplicate our planning effort from 2017 with a different area of the region taking the lead for each of the weekend's segments.

In addition, we are working to put a schedule of **local gatherings together for 2019.** Our hope is to have times set aside to gather so that we can offer support and encouragement to one another so **STAY TUNED!**



Federation of Christian Ministries



SOUTHERN REGION

VICE PRESIDENT - DIANE DOUGHERTY

November/December 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 6

Commissioning and Welcome New Members

**Florida Gathering and Commissioning
of Cassandra Wood and Kristin Fulton - Safety Harbor, FL**

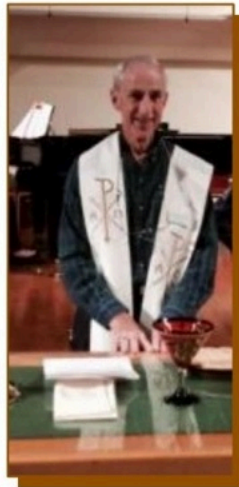
Thanks to the gracious hospitality of Linda Van Putte and her husband Mike (photographer), we were able to gather, share and pray as an FCM community.



Group Photo: Cassandra Wood, Diane Dougherty, MichelleMehan, Linda Van Putte, Laura Calender, Mary Foley, Franklin Reagan, David Nyland
Not present: Kristin Fulton, Jan Macgray, Laura Smith

Welcome New Members

At the annual retreat for the [Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests](#), I was able to talk about FCM and a priest and deacon became our new members. Through the encouragement of members from **Mother Mary of Jesus**, **Rev. Lee Breyer**, one of the original visionaries, has returned.



Rev. Lee Breyer, (Sarasota, FL), who was instrumental in the pre- formation of FCM, has returned. 50 years later, he is co-president of **Mother Mary of Jesus Catholic Inclusive Ministries** with 7 women and one male priest.

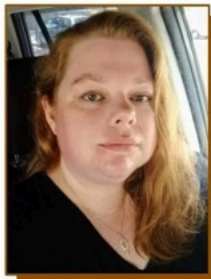
Leading the way in developing and living Gospel Equality, he sees his ministry as being part of the whole community-leading **with** others. This community uses Inclusive Language in all prayers and liturgies, practices ia shared form of governance, and is intentional in avoiding all forms of domination in liturgical language. We welcome his return and the shared wisdom he has gained in his short interim.



Federation of Christian Ministries



Rita Lucey, Orlando, FL, wife, mother, parent, catechist, religious leader and social activist. In 1998 Rita spent six months in Federal Prison for protesting the training of Latin American troops at Ft. Benning, Ga. She was ordained a priest in the **Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests** in January 17, 2015 In Orlando, FL.



Cecilia Hurley, has a B.S. from Georgia Southwestern State University and a M.Div. from Columbia Theological Seminary. She recently completed a chaplain residency program at Morton Plant Mease Hospital in Clearwater, FL after falling in love with chaplaincy work during her intern CPE unit at Northside Hospital in Atlanta. She is seeking employment in chaplaincy while she pursues Commissioning and Endorsement through FCM.



Toni-Kay Attanasio, married, parent, professional, servant of the poor, Toni-Kay was led to the **Association of Roman Catholic Priests** through the *Community of St. Bridget* in Brecksville, Ohio, and ordained a deacon in June, 2018. Toni-Kay continues to attend **Peoples Catholic Seminary** as she prepares for her priestly ordination as she works full time as an educational psychologist serving the poorest families who have immigrated from Mexico and Central America. She herself migrates from California to Ohio throughout the year.

Season of Renewal

On **Realm**-During this season of renewal, we will be getting as many members as possible to register their information On **Realm**...You have received an invitation-just respond and set up your password... Once you are on this-you can edit and change all of your information as it changes.....Stay Alert!

FCM Blogger - Lindsey Butler - VA Chaplain (Memphis, TN) agreed to blog about her experience as a chaplain. Thank you, Butler. If anyone wants to be an FCM Blogger let me know. Stay tuned.... www.fcmblog.org...*Trauma from a Chaplain's Perspective* Lindsey's blog also appears in this issue of the Newsletter.

Question to Ponder for 2019

Is your growing faith challenging you and your faith community? If so-how?
(Responses will be in our next Newsletter)





Newly-Commissioned Member Graces FCM

Born in Kenya, **Michael Oduor Sande's** education and training include a BA in Philosophy at Consolata Institute of Philosophy in Nairobi and an M.Div. at Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein IL. He was ordained a deacon in 2006 and a priest one year later for the Archdiocese of Chicago. In addition, he has earned a MS in Criminal and Social Justice and a PhD in Educational Leadership at Lewis University, Romeoville, IL and did a CPE residency between 2016-2017.



Michael did pastoral work in Kenya and in Uganda prior to joining the Archdiocese of Chicago. His background also includes experience as a chaplain at Amita Health Center in LaGrange IL., associate pastor at Ascension/St. Susanna in Harvey IL, chaplain at Ingalls Hospital in Harvey IL. and as associate pastor at St. Francis of Assisi in Orland Park IL.

Michael earned the high praise of the senior director of the Division of Spiritual Care at Geisinger Medical Center who cited that "Michael has participated in the interdisciplinary care teams which include trauma, stroke, oncology, pediatrics, medical-surgical, pediatrics, and palliative medicine. I have found Michael to be extremely professional in all his interactions. He treats his peers with the utmost respect. He has very positive relationships with the medical staff and nurses. He visits his patients with great diligence and is one of the hardest working chaplains in my department."

Additional praise comes from Director of CPE at Geisinger Medical Center who said that "While studying and working at Geisinger, Michael was a kind and considerate pastoral caregiver. ...Michael is a professional, respectful and respectable person. He is spiritual and sensitive to other's needs as he ministers to people in crisis in the hospital. ...Michael has a great work ethic, he is a team player and works well alone when needed."

Michael applied to be a member of FCM because it is a faith community where he can fully live out his Divine calling along with his commitment to his wife and their two children, whom he hopes to bring the U.S. soon. Michael is seeking endorsement in anticipation of becoming an APC Board Certified Chaplain in the military. He hopes to "be the instrument of equality, justice, and peace that will be used by Christ... to fulfill the mission of the Church as well as my great desire to continue serving God's people as a sacerdotal minister."





PACIFIC REGION

VICE PRESIDENT - DONNA SCHREIBER

November/December 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 6

Commissioning Services Celebrate Region's Ministries

A wonderful service of commissioning for **Arlene Webb** was held on September 29th at Stayton United Methodist Church in Stayton, Oregon.

There were many voices singing out hymns from the UMC hymnal: "We Are Called" by David Hass, "Here I am Lord" by James Kilbane and "Bring Forth the Kingdom" by Marty Haugen. The music even included a chime choir. Arlene herself enhanced the celebration with the lyrics she wrote about ministry sung to Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues."

Family and friends gathered for the laying on of hands during the service which included communion. The ladies of the church graciously provided a lovely spread in the Fellowship Hall.



Lee Erickson's commissioning service took place on October 14th at Bread of Life in Sacramento, California. The service brought much joy with songs like Cat Stevens' "Morning Has Broken" and the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun."

Lee spoke about his ministry using the passage from John's gospel where Jesus asked Peter if he loved him.

Friends and loved ones gathered around Lee for the laying on of hands. The service ended with the ritual of hand washing as a symbol of cleansing and preparation as well as a renewal and rejuvenation.

We gathered at "Queen Sheba Ethiopian Cuisine" to share a lovely meal.



Online Meeting Coming Up... On December 1, **Scott Bennion** will once again host our popular Zoom gathering, the final one for 2018. This bimonthly get-together gives members the opportunity to enjoy one another's fellowship for as long as they like during the one-hour period and takes place on the first Saturday of even-numbered months at 5 p.m. Arizona time.

Use your laptop or mobile device and don't worry if you have not used Zoom before: the invitation which will be emailed a day or two prior will have an easy-to-follow link. Hope to see you there. Thank you again Scott, for hosting our time together.

CELEBRATING

50
1968
♦
2018
YEARS

Federation of Christian Ministries

REFLECTION

September/October 2018

VOL. 52 NO. 5

SHARED BY LIVING BEAUTITUDE COMMUNITY

On November 8th, LBC's Social Justice Committee is offering a reflection called LBC Prepares for the Holidays. Preparing may involve shopping for a turkey and pulling out the pumpkin pie recipe. It may also involve potential political discussions among family members with differing opinions.

While the Social Justice Committee can't help you with turkey prices, we can offer sources for reflection and discussion on interactions with family members on politically related topics. Our attached information will discuss the basis of differing views. It will also include whether we should engage in these interactions or whether mum's the word.

Resorces

Podcast, "Red Brain, Blue Brain," which explores the role of biology in shaping our political identities.

<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/national-public-radio/hidden-brain/e/56620243>

"Should you talk politics with your family?" by Jessie Bazan from US Catholic: Faith in Real Life

<https://www.uscatholic.org/articles/201808/talk-politics-dinner-table-31464>

"Experts agree: don't avoid political conversation with family members" by Kelly Swanson, Vox

<https://www.vox.com/first-person/2017/8/22/16171270/partisanship-politics-discussion-family>



Jesus came to remind us
what we may have
forgotten.
Emmanuel.
Look deeper.
See and be amazed!
You are God's presence
every day!

CELEBRATING
50
1968
2018
YEARS

Federation of Christian Ministries



Newsletter Editor...John Polanski
Email: newsletter@FCMmail.org

The FCM Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Federation of Christian Ministries, a non-profit religious body. As the informational publication of FCM, its mission is to keep members current

with the organization and its activities, to provide ideas to further ministry and to promote community building among local FCM groups and the national organization. All current members receive a copy. Articles and feedback are welcomed and can be sent to : newsletter@FCMmail.org by the 15th of each month (February, April, June, August, October and December).

FCM Central Office COORDINATORS



Carolyn Horvath & Tom Leonhardt
Email: centraloffice@FCMmail.org

1709 W. 69th. St., #3
Cleveland, Ohio 44102-2957
Phones: 216.651.4362 - 800.538.8923

FCM Website: www.federationofchristianministries.org
FCM Blog: fcmblog.org

FCM CERTIFICATES

These lovely certificates are available from the FCM Central Office. Please specify your choice: Baptism, Marriage, Holy Union, and the number of certificates you need. Certificates are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Each certificate is printed on certificate weight paper in blue ink; they carry the FCM logo and seal.

FCM Membership & Realm

REALM ADMINISTRATOR & MEMBERSHIP

Amy Simpson Bennethum

Emails: connect@FCMmail.org - membership@FCMmail.org

Endorsement for Specialized Ministries

Qualified FCM members may apply for "Religious Body Endorsement" for the specialized ministries of Chaplaincy, Pastoral Counseling, and Clinical Pastoral Education. Such endorsement is required by professional certifying organizations and many institutional employers. The FCM Circle of Directors acts on endorsement applications twice yearly. Endorsement application materials are available for downloading on the FCM website at: www.federationofchristianministries.org
Inquiries may be made at: specmin@FCMmail.org

GLOBAL MINISTRIES UNIVERSITY

GMU offers degree completion programs and individual courses online. FCM members are eligible for a 5% discount on degree programs. **For more information, visit the web site:** www.globalministriesuniversity.org Email: GMU5053@aol.com
Phone: 866 419 8020 toll-free

FCM Circle of Directors

Chairperson: Thomas Stricker

Phone: 937.477.0139 | Email: chairperson@FCMmail.org

President: Thomas E. Cusack

Phone: 609.947.0770 | Email: president@FCMmail.org

Treasurer: Heidi A. Tierney

Phone: 908.217.8981 | Email: treasurer@FCMmail.org

Secretary: Kathleen Bean

Phone: 937.433.3343 | Email: secretary@FCMmail.org

Chair, Commissioning Committee: Anthony Ercolano

Phone: 718.461.7128 | Email: commissioningchair@FCMmail.org

Chair, Specialized Ministries: Christy Howard-Steele

Phone: 708.285.5845 | Email: specmin@FCMmail.org

Vice Chair, Specialized Ministries: Jeanne Hale

Phone: 919.350.7853 | Email: specmin@FCMmail.org

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

Pacific: Donna Schreiber

Phone: 609.304.4866 | Email: pacificvp@FCMmail.org

Mountains & Plains: Richard E. James

Phone: 773.418.5671 | Email: mts_plainsvp@FCMmail.org

Great Lakes: Ron Davis

Phone: 513.262.2210 | Email: greatlakesvp@FCMmail.org

Southern: Diane Dougherty

Phone: 678.918.1945 | Email: southernvp@FCMmail.org

Northeast: Carl Yusavitz

Phone: 215.453.5170 | Email: northeastvp@FCMmail.org

FCM ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Ethics Committee: Joseph Ruane

Phone: 215.387.7998 Email: j.ruane@uscience.edu

Prayer Support Coordinator (on the website or):

Email: prayersupport@FCMmail.org

FCM Communications: Antoinette Marold

Email: communication@FCMmail.org