

THE CONNECTING

NEWSLETTER OF THE PASTORAL CARE ALLIED HEALTH GROUP NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Early March 2010

The 2009- 2010 PCAHG Executive

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NEWS FLASH

Major Sandra Lush advises that the PCAHG Fall Conference and AGM will be hosted by Western Health in Corner Brook October 4-6, 2010

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

(Editor's Note: While the following with permission comes from Dr. Rick Singleton of Eastern Health it is applicable to the whole province.)

Privacy is a right. Everyone has the right to keep information about themselves to themselves. Involvement in the real world typically requires us to need services of many sorts and in order to receive these services we usually have to give up some of our privacy. This is the case when we do things such as go to the bank, book a trip, register for school, and require health services.

Health information is more sensitive than most other information. Those who receive our personal

health information as part of the process of providing a health service are expected to use the information only for the purpose for which it was collected. Health care professionals and organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador are guided by new legislation called the Personal Health Information Act (2008). This Act articulates many controls regarding collection, use and storage of personal health information. Some relevant details are ...

- The person must be told why the information is being collected;
- The information may be used only for the purpose for which it was collected;
- Information can be shared within the circle of care to the extent that it is needed to provide the consented to care or service;
- The information cannot be shared with others without the person's consent;
- The personal information should be stored and handled in ways that protect the personal information of the patient, resident or client;
- Incidents that cause threat to privacy or confidentiality are to be reported immediately.

At the time of admission and registration, individuals are asked their religion. This allows us to sort our patients and residents so the pastoral visiting can be provided by the respective chaplains and pastoral care workers to members of their own faith groups. Within the near future there will be a modification to the question asked at Registration and Admission so people know why they are being asked for their religion and how the information will be used. The question will likely be something such as "Do you wish to identify your religious affiliation so you can receive pastoral services while you are a patient (or resident)?" If one chooses not to disclose their religion then his or her name will not be on the computer generated list and pastoral services will be provided only when there is an explicit request for pastoral services.

Individuals who have been through orientation in our department can access the lists generated to allow for pastoral visitation. This information is

available for the pastoral care workers as an extension of the health care team so that spiritual care can be provided to those who wish to receive it. The pastoral care worker has access to that private information in order to provide spiritual care. That information cannot be shared with others without the person's consent. So ... a patient must give consent to a chaplain to notify a pastor that the person is in hospital. Similarly, a person must give consent before a pastor can inform fellow parishioners of a person's hospitalization, even if it is in the context of asking for their prayers.

Usually people are delighted to have their pastor and fellow parishioners notified and have their prayers. Sometimes people are distressed or for other reasons prefer not to have visitors or calls and so they request that such notices not be given. One of the challenges to this is that we cannot defend ourselves when approached, or criticized, for not notifying that someone is in hospital. It would be a violation of patient confidentiality to inform someone that the patient requested that they not be notified.

PCAHG EDUCATIONAL TELECONFERENCES

In November, Kathy O'Keefe – EH Coordinator of Disease Control spoke on the H1N1 Pandemic that was affecting all parts of our province. It was a very timely educational session which prompted many questions and some good discussion.

The February Educational Session focused on Mental Health and offered suggestions as to how Pastoral Care members can assist speakers/patients/clients /residents. The presenters were (L) Valarie Casey BN, RN Patient Care Coordin-ator and (R) Sister Elizabeth Marri, RSM, member of St. Clare's Pastoral Counselling Team and the START Clinic Multidisciplinary Team. The START clinic is based at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital.



PASSOVER

Rabbinic Chaplain Sherril Gilbert

A Jewish man is a patient in the hospital as Passover approaches. He asks to see a chaplain, and you are sent to visit him. He tells you that he is an observant Jew, and asks you to obtain for him some of the ritual items so he can celebrate the holiday. He asks for a haggadah as well as special kosher-for-Passover food such as matzah and

kosher wine. How do you deal with this request? How would you deal with hospital staff on this issue? You are not a Jewish person.

The Jewish year is rich in many festivals, and Passover is one that is the most widely celebrated all over the world. Passover is an eight-day spring holiday which commemorates the redemption of the Children of Israel from Egypt. This year, Passover will begin at sundown on March 29. On the first two evenings a special service and meal, called a "seder" (pronounced SAY-dur) is held either in the home or communally in the synagogue. On both nights the story of the Exodus from Egypt is read from a book called the "Haggadah", and is re-enacted by seder participants. During the seder, many families or communities provide opportunities for deep and meaningful conversations on issues related to the Exodus such as exile, oppression, and personal freedom. For the Jewish people, Passover touches both our personal consciousness and our collective memory.

During the eight days of the festival, Jews will eat *matzah*, which is unleavened bread that looks and tastes like a cracker. Only foods which have been specially produced for Passover are permitted, except for fresh fruit and vegetables. In some hospitals, prisons and other institutions, kosher-for-Passover meals are made available for observant Jewish people. Some institutions hold community seders so people do not have to celebrate the holiday alone.

Each year, before Passover, Jewish families prepare for the holiday by "spring cleaning": removing all traces of leavened foods from their homes, for these foods are not permitted to be eaten or even owned at this time. In fact, there is a huge list of foods which are prohibited during passover, including foods with yeast such as bread; and for many Jews it also means foods that "rise" when touched by water such as legumes or rice. The restriction of owning or eating any foods which contain leaven may also apply to certain medications. However, in Judaism, saving a life is paramount and so every effort, including administering medication which may not be kosher-for-Passover, is permitted. Where possible a rabbi or Jewish chaplain should be consulted if medication is needed which may contain leavening agents.

For information about the festival of Passover, or have any questions about Judaism and its rituals and observances, please contact Rabbinic Chaplain Sherril Gilbert at hineyni@gmail.com .

PCAHG Teleconferences

Executive teleconferences take place the 1st Thursday of each month beginning at 1:00pm.

General or Educational teleconferences take place the 3rd Thursday of each month.

The next Educational teleconference will take place April 15, 2010

Topic:

"Anatomical Gift / Wills Body Program Organ Procurement Program"

PRESENTERS

Judy Foot, RT B.Sc., B. Tech.
Acting Manager, Medical Education Laboratory Support Service (MELSS)

Kim Parsons RN
EH Organ Donor Coordinator

Major Melva Elliott
Family Member and Former S.A. Chaplain

Food for Thought

When a door closes, another one opens,
but we often stand there so long
looking at the closed door
that we do not see the door that is opened.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Supervised Practice of Ministry is an internship developed and offered by Queen's College Faculty of Theology in partnership with the Pastoral Care Department, Eastern Health from April 21 - July 9. This Internship is designed to provide a learning experience with a blend and balance of

- Theory and Practice
- Personal Awareness and Clinical Skills
- Individual Spiritual Direction and Group Process
- Theological Reflection and Engagement in Complex Team Networks.

Contact information:

Supervised Practice of Ministry
Queen's College Faculty of Theology
210 Prince Philip Drive,
St. John's, NL A1B 3R6
(709) 753-0116
queens@mun.ca

Eastern Health- Rural Avalon Health and Community Pastoral Care Spring information/training event:

"Palliative Care and End of Life Care in rural Avalon".

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 from 10:00 to 2:30
Salvation Army Church in Carbonear

Cindy Smith, a community health nurse and chair of the rural Avalon Palliative Care and End of Life Committee, will share her experiences in dealing with clients and families. A client will share their story. Dr. Rick Singleton, the Director of Pastoral Care and Ethics for Eastern Health will present on grief and bereavement. Lunch provided. Please R.S.V.P. by April 1, 2010.

To register call 777-7611 or

E-mail: curt.clark@easternhealth.ca

"A Bereavement Group for Parents who have experienced the death of a child"

Tammy Butler (Mental Health and Addictions Counsellor) and Curt Clarke will be facilitating an eight week bereavement group in the Bay Roberts Area for up to twelve parents that have had the death of a child. The group will meet Thursday afternoons beginning in May.

Contact: Tammy Butler at 945-6581 or 786-5219 or Curt Clark at 777-7611.

Provincial Palliative Care Conference

HSC Main Auditorium St John's
Friday May 14, 2010

for information or a brochure contact:

LaurieAnne.OBrien@easternhealth.ca

THE FIVE FINGERS OF PRAYER

The following came in an email, author unknown



1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a 'sweet duty.'

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and clergy. They need support

and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the prime minister, premiers, civic representatives, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night.

5. And lastly comes our little finger - the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, 'The least shall be the greatest among you.' Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Peter Barnes, D.Min. has been hired as Coordinator of Bereavement Services for Eastern Health. This is a regional position and part of the plan to further develop palliative and end of life care throughout Eastern Health. Peter will work as part of a team, his mandate will focus on bereavement services throughout EH (not only deaths from palliative care). Many know Peter as a chaplain and Manager of Pastoral Care at the Waterford before moving to Ottawa. He will start his new position in May 2010.

FROM HERE AND THERE

- The CPE unit scheduled to begin in May 2010 in Grand Falls-Windsor has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

- February 11 is designated in the Roman Catholic Church as World Day of Prayer for the Sick. It's a day for us all to reflect on the meaning of suffering and sickness in our lives and to remind ourselves that God's healing presence is always with us.

This year, Archbishop Martin Currie of St. John's, invited RC chaplains, workers and volunteers who minister in parishes and institutions to a special liturgy in the Basilica. The event was well attended

and was followed by a light lunch in the Episcopal Library. We were reminded of the healing role each of us has in ministering to the sick in body, mind and spirit.



At St. Patrick's Mercy Home, World Day of the Sick was celebrated with a Mass which included a special blessing and prayer for the residents, caregivers and volunteers. Each resident was given a prayer card for the occasion. A display was set up in the main lobby with prayer cards available for those who chose to take them.

- In early February, an ecumenical "Service of Memories" was held in Bonavista.

- On February 3rd a "Blessing of the Chapel" worship took place at the Albert O'Mahoney Manor in Clarendville. During this service, gifts of a cross, Bible, and communion vessels were received from the former congregation of All Saints Anglican Church in North West Brook. Members of All Saints attended the service, as well as people from other churches which comprise the Parish of the Holy Spirit.

- On March 10th, in Burin, members of Blue Crest Pastoral Care committee and volunteers will be treated to breakfast at a local venue.

- In the coming weeks Rev. Jacintha Penney will offer Pastoral Care volunteer workshops for interested individuals in the Shoal Harbour and Catalina areas.

- On Ash Wednesday the Health Sciences and Janeway chaplains took part in an Ecumenical Liturgy of hymns, special music, scripture readings, prayers and distribution of ashes which was well attended.

- At St. Clare's Mercy Hospital, ecumenical Ash Wednesday prayer services took place in the main entrance chapel.

FROM HERE AND THERE continued

- From Burgeo... The Pastoral Care Committee at Calder Health Care Centre has formed a new executive and revamped its Terms of Reference. The executive includes: Chairperson – Rev. Wilson Gonese; Vice Chairperson – Brenda Strickland and Secretary – Joy Warren. The Terms of Reference also reach out to the Coastal Communities for representation: Ramea – Reginald Piercey; Grey River – Norman Rose and Francois – Sharon Durnford. The committee is open for further education to ensure we are prepared to continually enhance pastoral care service to residents, staff and community. Residents look forward to their weekly worship services and the chapel is always filled to capacity. Members of the community also come for services and fellowship with the residents.

- From Labrador West... On Dec. 6th. Rowena Payne was ordained a Deacon in the Anglican Church and was supported by the whole Christian community. Also in December the annual Memorial service combined with lighting of the outdoor Christmas tree and the Christmas service were held in the Cafeteria of the Captain William Jackman Memorial hospital with all clergy and members of the hospital staff taking part.

National Volunteer Week Volunteer Bénévoles Canada April 18 -24, 2010

Our provincial theme is
"Volunteer Connect Communities"

<http://www.envision.ca/templates/vw2010.asp?ID=8902>

LENT and EASTER

Lent is the forty-day liturgical season that initiates the most sacred part of the Christian year. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes Easter. The word "Lent" is apparently derived from the Old English *lencten*, which means "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening of the daylight hours that occurs in the northern hemisphere as spring approaches. While no one knows for sure why forty days became the norm, it was probably meant to recall Christ's forty-day ordeal in the wilderness during which He prayed, fasted, and was tempted by Satan (see Matthew 4:1-11). The forty days of Lent do not include Sundays because every Sunday is a joyful celebration of our Lord's resurrection.



The purest meaning of Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus which is the foundation of Christianity, however throughout history, the Christian faith has taken secular symbols and given them Christian meanings to assist us in understanding this true meaning of the faith.



Easter lilies bloom in the spring close to Easter time. Because they are shaped like trumpets, lilies are symbols of immortality (1 Corinthians 15:52).

The life cycle of a butterfly is a symbol of eternal life. While in its cocoon, it undergoes a metamorphosis and emerges in a new and beautiful form (1 Corinthians 15:53,54).



When some people think of Easter, they immediately think of eggs. Eggs symbolize the new life that returns to nature during the spring. The egg is a symbol of fertility and immortality. Thus, Christians also view it as a reminder of the tomb from which Jesus Christ arose (Luke 24:1-4). Early Christians used red colored eggs to symbolize the Resurrection.

HUMOUR IS HEALTHY

A preacher was walking down the street when he came upon a group of about a dozen boys between 10 and 12 years of age. The group had surrounded a dog. Concerned lest the boys were hurting the dog, he went over and asked "What are you doing with that dog?" One of the boys replied, "This dog is just an old neighbourhood stray. We all want him, but only one of us can take him home. We've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to keep the dog." The reverend was taken aback. "You boys shouldn't be having a contest telling lies!". He then launched into a ten minute sermon against lying, beginning, "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie," and ending with, "Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie." There was dead silence for about a minute. Just as the reverend was beginning to think he'd gotten through to them, the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give him the dog."

Q. What do you call bunnies that march in long, sweltering Easter parades? A. Hot cross bunnies!