

*This bimonthly newsletter, produced by Pastoral Care Services/Office of Diversity and Inclusion, will highlight some of the spiritual and religious beliefs held by patients and their families, providers and others in the MUSC community. It will offer strategies for staff self-care as well as information to better address the spiritual needs of the diverse patients and families that we serve.*

#### Interfaith Calendar Highlights

- June 4. **Pentecost** (Christian). Celebration of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples of Christ fifty days after his resurrection. Many churches have baptisms and/or confirmation of new Christians.
- June 21. **Litha/Yule** (Wicca/Pagan) Celebration of summer solstice in northern hemisphere and winter solstice in southern.
- June 26-28. **Eid al Fitr** (Islam). Festival of thanksgiving at the end of the month of Ramadan.
- July 9. **Martyrdom of the Bab** (Baha'i). In commemoration of the death of Ali Mohammed at the hands of Persian authorities in 1850, followers abstain from commerce and work.
- July 13-15. **Obon** (Buddhism). Festival to honor deceased ancestors.
- July 23. **Khordad Sal** (Zoroastrianism). Anniversary of the birth of the prophet Zarathustra.
- July 24. **Pioneer Day** (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints). Anniversary of the first Mormon settlers' arrival at the Great Salt Lake in 1847.

Source: <http://www.interfaith-calendar.org>

## Spirituality Spotlight: Pentecostalism

by Chaplain Terry Wilson

Pentecostalism is among a group of Christian denominations with some unique beliefs and practices. Awareness and respect of different religious practices is one part of MUSC Excellence. Here are some practical points for non-Pentecostal health care providers in caring for a patient of Pentecostal faith.

- Pentecostal patients or their visitors may pray exuberantly. Noise concerns in a hospital can sometimes present a problem in this regard, but simply shutting the door to the patient's room can usually provide an adequate solution.
- Pentecostals may pray by "speaking in tongues" (also called "glossolalia") -- expression that is seemingly unintelligible to an objective hearer, but which holds very deep religious significance for worshippers. Praying in tongues is seen as the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit for all believers, and is an important part of communal worship and daily spiritual life for many Pentecostals.
- Patients or families may request that relatively large numbers of people be allowed in the patient's room for prayer. The prayers of the community and the laying on of hands are seen as essential for healing in

the beliefs of many Pentecostal patients and families.

- Patients or families may express strong belief in miraculous healing. This was one of the foundational beliefs of the earliest Pentecostal churches. Early in the 20th century, debates arose within these churches over whether it was acceptable for believers to receive modern medical treatment and medicines. Today, the International Pentecostal Holiness Church [statements of belief](#) include references to God's "law of recovery" at work through doctors and medicines, and specifically state that "Natural means viewed as a product of the law of recovery are not to be despised. Neither are we to look upon their use as sinful on the part of believers in Christ."

Though a few independent Pentecostal churches still eschew modern medical care, all Pentecostal denominations now see it as another means of divine healing, alongside the laying on of hands and prayer from fellow believers. Pentecostal patients and their families are our best guides for the kind of care they need and will accept.

Source: [http://www.ups.upenn.edu/pastoral/resed/diversity\\_points.html#pentecostalpoints](http://www.ups.upenn.edu/pastoral/resed/diversity_points.html#pentecostalpoints)



This monthly program provides a forum for MUSC care team members to debrief difficult cases and share strategies to support families, colleagues, and themselves. One (1) hour of Diversity Education will be provided. Participants must register via MyQuest.

The following programs are planned for June and July. Please join us as we learn from and

alongside each other.

### Spiritual Assessments: Helping Patients to Find Meaning, Purpose and Connection

June 13, 2017  
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
300 Clinical Science Building (CSB)

### Perinatal Loss: Grieving, Healing and Finding Hope

July 11, 2017  
1:30pm - 2:30pm  
300 Clinical Science Building (CSB)

## Celebrating a Milestone: The Americans with Disabilities Act

by Chaplain Chris Brown

This July 26<sup>th</sup> marks the anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was passed by Congress in 1990 and signed into law by President George H.W. Bush. The ADA prohibits unjustified discrimination based on disability and created standards for public places to provide access for people with disabilities\*. The law primarily guided employers and public facilities in providing more equal access for everyone.

Under the ADA, employers and businesses cannot legally refuse employment to a qualified person based solely on disability, and employers are required to provide reasonable accommodations for employees. Some of these "reasonable accommodations" may include special equipment that allows a disabled\* employee to perform job functions.

The ADA also covered access for people with disabilities to places such as public and commercial facilities and public transportation. Before the law was passed there was no uniform, across the board standard for disabled access in public places. Under the law, public buildings are required to have

access for persons using wheelchairs and to allow access to those using service animals. Access signs are required to mark special entrances and bathroom facilities for disabled persons.

The Americans with Disabilities Act marked an important milestone in making employment and access to public places easier for those with disabilities. Many people in the disability community have pointed out that there is still a long way to go to achieving truly equal access. Hopefully with each anniversary of the ADA, we will be able to see more and more progress toward that important goal.

*\* Editor's note: For many people affected by disabilities, terminology is important. Terms that were once common like "handicapped," "confined to a wheelchair," or "wheelchair-bound" are now considered outdated and offensive to some. The most commonly used descriptor now is "people with disabilities" (abbreviated PWD), though some people do prefer the term "disabled," both of which have been used in this article. The use of "person first" language is meant to be a reminder that the disability is only one aspect of someone's identity and does not wholly define them.*

## The Peace of Wild Things

A poem by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's  
lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water,  
and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of  
still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.



**Chaplains are available 24/7/365**

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

"Glossolalia" refers to the common Pentecostal spiritual practice of:

- A. Braiding hair.
- B. Speaking or praying in tongues.
- C. Foregoing medical treatment.
- D. Only eating after sundown.

The first team member to respond with the correct answer will be recognized in a future edition of the newsletter. Send responses to [sergents@musc.edu](mailto:sergents@musc.edu)



**Joseph Powe**  
Collector/Customer Service

Correct answer from the  
April-May issue:

D. All of the above



Do you have topic ideas for future issues or would like to provide general feedback about the newsletter? If so, send an email to [sergents@musc.edu](mailto:sergents@musc.edu)  
**Chaplain Stacy Sergent**  
Lawton, Editor

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