

# CPE Corner

## CPE Program News

The CPE program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center continues to grow in terms of quality and quantity! Since the commissioning service in January 2022, five chaplain interns of CPE 2022 Spring Extended Unit have been dedicating their time and energy to the CPE internship, including their compassionate pastoral/ spiritual care to patients, families and staff. We are very much appreciative of their commitment and dedication. Also, four chaplain residents have been completing their 2nd unit of CPE Residency, enhancing their capacity in spiritual care, receiving very positive feedback from patients, and families, touching “so many lives” as one of patients said. They met the committee of Consultation and Assessment (C & A) on March 8 and March 10, and received valuable feedback from the committee members. The C & A 2022 committee members were Chaplain Arelis Benitez (PAG Member) and five ACPE Certified Educators - Rev. Mary Stewart Hall, Rev. Peter Keese (Current PAG Chair), Chaplain Jan McCabe, Rev. Ida-Regina Oliver, and Fr. Steven Voytovich.

The chaplain interns and chaplain residents enjoy the new Center for Clinical Pastoral Education, which is now well equipped with new furniture including a brand-new conference table, chairs, desk top computers, a refrigerator, a micro-oven, a coffee maker and AV system with 60-inch monitor, thanks to the tireless advocacy of Terrell Smith, Sr. Director of Patient and Family Engagement. One of chaplain interns said that “it is SO nice to have our own educational space.” The collection in the library in CPE center is also growing. In March, Chaplain Amanda Borchik kindly donated very helpful fifteen (15) CPE curriculum books.

The prayer shawl ministry team at Grace United Methodist Church, Mount Juliet continue to donate prayer shawls. These prayer shawls are very much beneficial to the pastoral/ spiritual care of patients and families. Those who have received these shawls have been comforted and uplifted in their emotion and spirit. We are grateful for everyone who has contributed to the growth and success of the CPE Program, and to the enhancement of pastoral/ spiritual care at VUMC in such an altruistic mind! We trust that all the contributions will continue to blossom wonderfully to spread the fragrance of life within and beyond the wall of VUMC community!



Spring 2022 CPE Chaplain Intern Commissioning Service (left-right: Rev. Cordell Simpson, Rev. Erin Sears Lea, Chaplain Boris Becker, Chaplain Anthony “TJ” Piccolo, Chaplain Samuel Mullins, Chaplain Sharon Flenning, Chaplain Beth Duke, Chaplain Liza Hawkins, Rev. Young-ki Eun, Rev. Bryce Harcey, Rev. Lisa Hermann, Chaplain Woodretta Allen, Chaplain Serim Huh. They are all smiling behind their masks!) Photo by Boris Becker

“Sharing is a much better way to communicate than proving.”

-Yo Yo-Ma

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# CPE Classes at the NEW CPE Center!

All the CPE Classes are now being held in the new CPE Center, which is located at Oxford House (OH 1001). See below for pictures of the new CPE Center!



(Inner Office Workstations)



(Main Conference Room of CPE Center at Oxford House)



(Overnight Space)



(Additional Workspace)



(CPE 2022 Spring Extended Group)



(CPE 2021-2022 Residency Group)

# Chaplain Intern and Resident Reflections



Serving in Round Wings as a chaplain, I remember a wise eighty-nine-year-old man who was free enough to appreciate God's creation. He devoted himself to caring for his beloved wife. They would celebrate their seventieth anniversary this April. Standing on the fine line between life and death of his wife, he was sobbing with shaking his slender shoulders at her bedside. He was praying, "Hey, sweetie! Wake up! Wake up! One more summer, one more month, one more week, or one more day, whatever God you give us, we take it!" On the last day when his wife was scheduled to be discharged to In-Patient Rehab, I presented an origami wildgoose to him. It is my symbol of freedom and a symbol of my chaplaincy at VUMC as well. He recognized it and sang a poem:

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
of sun-split clouds,—and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air. . . .

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark nor ever eagle flew—  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

His spirit was flying in the sanctity of space and the freedom of grace. He ended, "The poet was a Canadian pilot. He sent this to his mom. And ... he didn't come back." We looked into each other's eyes. Silence intervened. Tears welled up in his eyes and so did mine. What did he mean by the tears? Why did I respond with tears? I know but wanted to keep it deep in my heart as long as I know the meaning of 'the face of God'.

The wind blows wherever it pleases. I hear its sound, but I cannot tell where it comes from and where it is going. The only thing I know is that it is the breath of life and that there is pain where a new life begins.

- Serin Huh (CPE Extended Unit Spring 2022)-



As a chaplain in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), I was given the gift of helping parents and infants to build trusting and loving relationships, imagining ways to connect, dreaming of their futures with hopes and dreams, validating the difficulty of the experience, and helping them to connect to their spiritual and religious traditions. Some days, this meant singing a song or reading a book with an infant whose parents had asked for a chaplain to provide support when they were not there. Other days, it meant being with a parent who talked about the desire to hold their child in their arms as they held their tiny hand. Then on other days, I helped families through creating sacred space in the hospital for spiritual rituals that marked and claimed their child as loved and beloved. In all that I did, my presence served as a reminder to the infant and their families that they were loved, cared for, and that their life mattered.

As I stood in the place offering this type of care to precious little children, I changed. Constantly reminding others that an infant's life mattered and that they were deserving of love reminded me that all our lives matter; we deserve love not for what we do but for the simple fact that we exist. Being transformed by love in this way changes how one sees themselves and others in the world. We all matter, and I hope to be someone who helps others to acknowledge and name the ways our lives matter. Another profound change that I noticed was that I was reminded of my interdependency on others. While I might want to think it is best to do it all alone, watching an infant and caring for an infant reminds me that we all need others. That does not make us weak but strengthens us. It helps us continue to foster trust and development every day of our lives.

So, as I step into a new role, I will carry with me the lives of the infants I cared for, their families' hopes, dreams, and pains, but most importantly the lessons they taught me. They have taught me that our lives matter, we are deserving of love just for being, and we need one another to survive. May this inform all the ways I attempt to be present with people as a chaplain, now and forever.

- Erin Sears Lea (CPE Residency 2021 ~ 2022)

“Beautiful are those whose brokenness gives birth to transformation and wisdom.”

-John Mark Green-



# Meet the Chaplin Interns

(CPE Spring 2022 Extended Unit January 17-June 3, 2022)



## **Liza Hawkins**

She holds an M.Div from Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX, where she focused her studies on justice for marginalized communities and a concentration in History, Theology, and Ethics. She enjoys the arts and the outdoors, and she feels a particular calling to work alongside youth, young adults, and children in their spiritual and emotional development.



## **Sam Mullins**

Sam will receive his Master of Divinity from Liberty University in May 2022. He currently serves with the United States Air Force where he plans to retire and become a hospital chaplain in a few years. He currently leads a Men's Small Group with River Oaks Community Church in Murfreesboro, TN.



## **Serim "Sam" Huh**

Serim "Sam" Huh (he, him, his) graduated from Vanderbilt University Divinity School with a Master of Theological Studies in the winter of 2019. The area of his pastoral care covers immigration, refugees, youth, young adults, and family. He has served as a pastor of the youth and family congregation at the Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church. He is the father of an immigrant family from South Korea. He is married to Soyoun Paik, and they have a daughter and a son. He likes coffee, Classical music, golf, and walking.



## **Sharon Fleming**

Dr. Sharon Fleming is certified by the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board and licensed by the Tennessee Board of Nursing. She completed her Doctoral degree in Nursing. She is an Assistant Professor and has been faculty at Vanderbilt University since 2006. She teaches in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program. She has specialized in pediatrics for more than 30 years in primary care and school health. She has two adult children and stepchildren, 2 grandchildren and 4 step-grandchildren.



## **T.J. Piccolo**

T.J. Piccolo is currently in his third year at Vanderbilt Divinity School where he is pursuing an MDiv. He is seeking ordination in the PC (USA). In his free time, T.J. enjoys running, creative writing, eating hot chicken, and attending ghost tours.

# Announcements and Updates

## New PAG Team Members

### **Keith G. Meador, MD, ThM, MPH**



Keith G. Meador, MD, ThM, MPH, is Professor of Psychiatry and Health Policy at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Professor of Ethics and Society at Vanderbilt Divinity School. He also serves as the Director of Integrative Mental Health, a national initiative to foster integration of chaplaincy services into mental health care within the Department of Veterans Affairs. He is a board certified psychiatrist with training in theology and public health and has served as the Director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society at VUMC since 2012. His scholarship builds on his clinical experience, research and teaching background in mental health and ethics, and work in practical theology and public health about which he lectures widely and has published numerous publications including the co-authored book, *Heal Thyself: Spirituality, Medicine, and the Distortion of Christianity*.

### **Vicky Oldfield, Parent Advisor**



Monroe Carrell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt

### **Rev. Jeff Streszoff**



Senior Pastor at Grace United Methodist Church, Mount Juliet, TN

### **Rebecca R. Swan, MD**



Dr. Swan is the William Long Director in Pediatric Medical Education and Vice Chair of Education for the Department of Pediatrics. In this role, she oversees all undergraduate and graduate medical education in the department, which includes 118 residents, 85 fellows and over 150 medical students who train in numerous student experiences, four residencies and fifteen fellowships, as well as provides support for faculty involved in education. After almost 20 years as the director for the Pediatric Residency Program, she continues to practice general pediatrics in the Vanderbilt Pediatric Primary Care Clinic, precepting residents in this clinic that serves a culturally diverse, socio-economically underserved population. Particular interests include communication and feedback.

“Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others.”  
- Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 BC- 43 BC)

# New Administrative Assistant

We are delighted that **Haley Fowlkes** joined the Department of Clinical Pastoral Education as a new Administrative Assistant



Haley has a background in not only administrative services but also substance abuse and alcohol recovery, as well as, working with children with a neurodivergent diagnoses. Her family, husband, and children are her reasons for her continuous push to accomplish her goals. She enjoys crafting, cooking, dancing, journaling, and spending time with family when she is not working. One of the most important things to her personally, is uplifting others. She found herself sharing many quotes, stories, and uplifting writings whenever possible.

## Special Thanks

**Leadership Support:** Janet Cross, Rev. Peter Keese, Andy Peterson, Terrell Smith

**Consultation and Assessment:** Chaplain Aly Benítez, PAG; Rev. Peter Keese ACPE Certified Educator & Current PAG Chair; Rev. Ida Oliver, ACPE Certified Educator; Chaplain Jane McCabe, ACPE Certified Educator; Rev. Mary Stewart Hall, ACPE Certified Educator; Fr. Steven Voytovich, ACPE Certified Educator

**Didactic Speakers:** Rev. Meredith Cox, Julie Garcia, Melanie Jane Assid, Prof. Tom Knowles-Bagwell, Rabbi Laurie Rice, Katie E. Beard, Dr. Heather Davidson, Dr. Andy Wooldridge, Rev. Lisa Hermann, Rev. Ian Cullen, Chaplain Duncan Gasson-Gardner, Philip D Walker, Deacon Joe Holzmer, Father Gervan Menezes, Imam Ossama Bahloul, Rev. Peter Keese

**Donation of CPE Curriculum books:** Rev. Amanda Borchik

**Donation of Prayer Shawls:** Grace United Methodist Church, Mount Juliet

**Mentorship:** Rev. Cordell Simpson, Rev. Patricia Shropshire, Rev. Beth Duke, Rev. Lisa Hermann, Chaplain Fred Brown, Chaplain Duncan Gasson-Gardner, Rev. Ian Cullen, Rev. Sherry Perry

**HR Support:** Kalandrian Davis, Sandy Few, Jaimie Glatt, Susie Lyons

## CPE Programs 2022-2023

CPE Programs 2022-2023 The VUMC CPE program is now accepting applications for the following programs:

- CPE Residency 2022-2023 (Sep 6, 2022 - Sep 1, 2023)
- CPE Fall 2022 Extended Unit (August 15 - December 31, 2022)

More information at <https://www.vumc.org/cpe>

## Virtual Ecumenical Services

*For patients, families, and staff*

Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92045193035>

Or use phone camera to scan the QR Code:



## Ecumenical Service Dates

### May 2022

May 4- Chaplain Sharon Fleming  
May 11- Chaplain Mary Murphy  
May 18- Rev. Rusty McCown  
May 25- Rev. Ian Cullen

### June 2022

June 1- Rev. Bryce Harcey  
June 8- Rev. Erin Sears Lea  
June 15- Chaplain Woodretta Allen  
June 22- Rev. Beth Duke  
June 29- Chaplain Boris Becker

### July 2022

July 6- Chaplain Tamika Robertson  
July 13- Rev. Cordell Simpson  
July 20- Rev. Patricia Shropshire  
July 27- Rev. Sherry Perry

